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Era of organized trash collection begins in St. Paul

Only hitch in first week are petitions for repeal

BY JANE MCCLURE

Despite an ongoing legal challenge and two petitions calling for a referendum on its repeal, the city of St. Paul's organized garbage collection program was rolled out on October 1. The Merriam Park, Macalester-Groveland, Lexington-Hamline and Snelling-Hamline neighborhoods were among the first to be served by the new system, and the West End and Highland Park followed suit on October 2.

Few problems were reported during the first week of collection. Some residents forgot that they had been assigned a new garbage pickup day. Others neglected to use the new city carts and placed their trash in their old garbage carts, some of which may not be picked up until November 2.

"Overall, I think things went well," said Ellen Biales, administrative program manager in the St. Paul Department of Public Works. "We haven't had many reports of garbage being missed, though I anticipate that there will be a few of those as drivers get used to their new routes."

About 73,000 new garbage carts were distributed across the city over the past several weeks, one cart for every housing unit

TRASH COLLECTION ►2



Mourning turns into celebration

Twins Goose and Billy March Troelich, 3, find the xylophone to their liking as dad Kurt carries supper during the unveiling of Vivienne's Playground in Boyd Park on September 30. At left, Julia Burgess opens the ceremony as husband Wade wipes away tears remembering their daughter Vivienne, who died in 2016 at age 3. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

CITY BEAT

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FORD TRAFFIC CONCERNS ►3

Ryan gives Ford site traffic studies another look

Developer is hoping to address concerns of future traffic congestion

BY JANE MCCLURE

A strategy for handling traffic in and around Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park following its future redevelopment drew more than 100 people to Highland Park Middle School on September 26. It was the third large public meeting on the Ford site conducted by master developer Ryan Companies, which hopes to complete its overall vision for the redevelopment project this month

and unveil it in November.

Ryan officials have said they intend to follow the master plan adopted by the St. Paul City Council last year, developing the recommended mix of multi-family housing, retail stores and office buildings and largely keeping the same street grid, park areas and bike and pedestrian trails. Ryan envisions no more than 4,000 new housing units on the site and new retail and office buildings that are at the lower end of what the city envisioned

"We want people to know that we've been paying attention," said Tony Barranco, Ryan's senior vice president for real estate development. "We've heard a lot of comments about traffic and density, but we don't have all of the answers yet."

Jared Olson, Ryan's director of civil engineer-

ing, said the developer has been carefully reviewing the traffic studies commissioned by the city over the past 10 years. Ryan is also doing its own traffic studies as part of an alternative urban areawide review. Traffic numbers will be compiled through the fall and winter. Computer modeling will assess the future impact on traffic.

Ryan is working with the St. Paul and Ramsey County departments of public works, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the consulting firm of SRF on the traffic studies. An open house on the results of the traffic studies is planned for the spring of 2019. The studies will estimate future traffic levels and traffic flow, comparing them with current and past traffic levels.

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Ideas abound for future use of Highland 9

By JANE MCCLURE

Space for sports fields, cross-country skiing, bike trails, a dog park and other recreational uses were among the ideas teed up for the site of the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course during a meeting on October 1 that drew more than 120 people to the Highland Park Community Center.

The meeting, which was hosted by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, produced a wide range of suggestions for the future use of the property. Parks staff hope to narrow the list to two or three ideas in time for a second meeting in November.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert said there is no timeline for the \$30,000 preliminary study, which is considering the nine-hole course only and not the adjacent Highland National 18-hole course. Even if there is agreement that the use of the nine-hole property should change, there is no additional money allocated for design or construction.

Tolbert requested the study because of the shortage of field space in Highland. "You name the sport, and I hear from the people involved," he said. "The common theme is that there's not enough recreational space."

He added that the land at the Highland 9-hole course would continue to be used for recreational purposes only, which is in keeping with a city policy that calls for no net loss of parkland.

Parks and Recreation project manager Brett Hussong said the intent of the current "visioning process" is to consider what other recreational uses could be incorporated on the site. He emphasized that any changes would be long-term and that the Highland 9 will be open for golf in 2019.

The 55-acre property was used for



Golf carts and flowers frame the first tee at the Highland 9. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ballfields and archery in the past, and only became a golf course in 1971. The 110-acre 18-hole course, in comparison, dates from the 1920s. Both properties were purchased by the city in 1925.

Hussong said the Highland 9 property will be looked at in the context of the area's entire recreational system in terms of such factors as project funding, operation and maintenance costs, and public comments.

"We lack adequately sized soccer and baseball fields," Hussong said. There is field space at the Highland and Homecroft recreation centers, but he said those fields are being "loved to death" and are in poor condition.

The need for additional field space has been raised by several local athletic groups, including the St. Paul Blackhawks soccer club, the Highland-Groveland Recreation Association, St. Paul Lacrosse, Highland Ball (formerly Highland Little League) and local schools.

The need is becoming more acute with the loss of field space at the former Riverside School site on West Seventh Street and Montreal Avenue due to its redevelopment as a senior housing complex. The fate of the Highland Ball fields on the former Ford Motor Company property also remains up in the air.

Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahm said St. Paul and Ramsey County are now in discussions about developing recreational fields on the site of Highland's southern water reservoir, but that

is seen as inadequate to meet current demands.

The city also plans to work with the St. Paul Public Schools to share more field space. Several people at the October 1 meeting commented on how there should be more public use of the fields at Highland Park High School and Middle School.

Golf groups say the existing Highland 9 is a unique resource and should be saved. "We need to have input, too," said Bill Feitzer, president of the Highland 9 Senior Golf League.

Other golfers said that today's busy schedules make a nine-hole course more practical than trying to find time to play 18 holes.

Cross-country skiers who use the course also weighed in, including members of the Highland Park High School Nordic ski team. "A wide demographic of people ski there," said Highland resident Jim Carlen. "We can't have a loss of ski trails in this area."

"I hope we can find a way to preserve ski trails," said Katie Sterns, whose son skis for the Scots. "It shouldn't be either-or."

Rob Spence spoke for the field needs of Blackhawks Soccer, which serves more than 1,000 young people. "We're now sending kids to Blaine and Hugo to play home games," he said.

More information about the study will be posted at stpaul.gov/highland9 as it becomes available.

1◀ TRASH COLLECTION

in every single-family home, duplex, triplex and fourplex in St. Paul. Some carts were delivered to the wrong address on a block. Other residences received more carts than they expected, such as single-family homes that are classified by the city as duplexes or triplexes. Many residents have been assigned a new garbage collection day, which caused some confusion. Most neighborhoods now have recycling picked up on the same day as garbage.

The city, under its contract with St. Paul Haulers LLC, has divided St. Paul among the private companies in the consortium according to their market share before organized collection began. When the contract was signed, there were 15 private haulers in the consortium. Now there are eight.

The contract allows the haulers to buy out other haulers in the consortium or purchase their client lists. East Metro Environmental sold its client list to Republic. R & S sold its client list to Republic. The two Garbage Man franchises sold their client lists to Waste Management, as did Walters Recycling and Refuse. Highland Sanitation took over the residential customers of Keith Krupenny and Sons. Highland also took over Triangle Sanitation's West Side clients.

Organized collection has been touted by its proponents for reducing truck traffic on streets and alleys, creating uni-

form rates citywide and reducing illegal dumping by requiring everyone to have trash service. Opponents have complained that the new system is dramatically increasing costs for residents who got a better deal under the old system, for those who used to share a trash cart with a neighbor, and for the owners of duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes who do not need or want a separate cart for every unit.

Highland Park resident Peter Butler's lawsuit against the city for imposing organized collection was dismissed on October 1 by Ramsey County District Judge Thomas Gilligan. Butler sued the city in May, contending that the pricing system for organized collection violates the state's Waste Management Act by creating a disincentive for St. Paul residents to reduce the amount of trash they generate.

St. Paul has four levels of garbage service—96-gallon, 64-gallon and 35-gallon carts collected weekly and a 35-gallon cart collected every two weeks. Though the rates are lower for a smaller volume of trash, Butler maintains they are not low enough. Gilligan disagreed, and Butler said he is appealing the judge's decision.

Meanwhile, the first of two petitions to repeal the organized collection system was delivered to Ramsey County elections officials on September 28. The petition has 5,887 signatures. It needs at least 5,000 signatures, or 8 percent of

those who voted in the last mayoral election. County elections officials have up to 20 days to verify the signatures.

If the petition is deemed to be invalid due to a lack of verified signatures, petitioners have 30 days to seek more signatures. If the petition is deemed to be valid, the City Council and City Attorney's Office will decide whether or not to place the issue on the ballot in 2019. City officials have argued that the new system cannot be put to a vote since the city has a contract with the consortium of haulers.

Each of the petitions focuses on one of the city ordinances used to set up organized garbage collection, according to Alisa Lein, a landlord and property manager and one of the leaders of the petition drive.

The second petition, which is still circulating, is expected to have enough signatures by the end of October. According to Lein, those signatures will be collected along with additional signatures for the first petition if more are deemed to be necessary.

Lein said the petitioners, under the name of St. Paul Trash, are concerned about the higher costs of garbage collection as well as the inability of neighbors to share garbage carts.

"I've talked to some older people on fixed incomes who are in tears about what their garbage disposal will cost," Lein said. "They don't know how they'll be able to afford it."

Ryan Cos. conducts its own tests of Ford site pollution levels

By JANE McCLURE

Ford Motor Company's ongoing effort to clean up the pollution at its former Twin Cities Assembly Plant to residential development standards continues to be reviewed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Meanwhile, Ford site master developer Ryan Companies is doing its own investigation to make sure the site can be developed in conformance with a city-approved master plan.

Ryan officials gave more than 100 local residents and business people an update on the status of the pollution cleanup on September 26. They are hoping to receive a certificate of cleanup completion from the MPCA by the end of the year and to begin construction in 2020.

"We're not interested in purchasing the site unless we feel that the site is safe for redevelopment," said Mike Ryan, market leader for Ryan Companies' north region. "We're as concerned about site conditions as anyone else."

Ford's soil cleanup work ended in June. That was for the 122 acres of the plant proper and does not include "Area C" below Mississippi River Boulevard, the site of a Ford and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers landfill. Nor

does it include the 13 acres of rail yard owned by Canadian Pacific. Ford contractors are now working with the railroad on the cleanup of that site.

While Ford has done extensive environmental cleanup and testing, "we don't accept Ford's work as fact," said Ryan Companies senior vice president Tony Barranco. "We've got an obligation to determine (site conditions) for ourselves."

Ryan has in-house environmental staff and has also hired consultants to do site testing and analysis. Mike Ryan said the additional testing will be "proof positive" to verify Ford's work. He expressed confidence in Ford's past efforts, and said that while the property will not be perfect, "we feel the risks of this site will be successfully mitigated."

Ford's soil cleanup work began in 2015 with the goal of ensuring that the site was clean enough to allow for residential use. Throughout the process, Ford has submitted reports to the MPCA. Those submissions are expected to continue this fall.

Ryan is working closely with the MPCA on soil testing and has placed the property in the MPCA's brownfields programs. "We'll continue to work with the MPCA going forward," said John Blaha, Ryan's lead environmental

scientist.

Blaha said it is standard procedure for Ryan to do environmental assessments with all of its construction projects. The company has had its own environmental staff for more than 25 years, and has a long record of working with the MPCA and other state and federal agencies.

Mike Ryan cited CHS Field in St. Paul's Lowertown as one Ryan project on a former industrial site. "It was a smaller site, but every bit as intense as Ford," he said.

Ford's three years of cleanup included 1,189 soil borings and the collection and analysis of 1,492 soil samples and 327 groundwater samples. Ford's contractor excavated contaminated soil at the site and took it to a licensed landfill for disposal.

The excavation of contaminated soil also addressed shallow groundwater impacts, Blaha said. According to the MPCA, the main contaminants of concern in the shallow groundwater were petroleum and solvents used in Ford's painting operations.

"The geology at the Ford site has largely protected the deep, regional aquifer from groundwater contamination," the MPCA stated. "One area of deep groundwater contamination has been identified along the

west property boundary, between the former plant and Mississippi River Boulevard. This contamination appears to be associated with nickel-plating operations that took place in the western portion of the building before the mid-1970s."

The metal-cleaning solvent trichloroethene and such metals as nickel, cobalt, copper, zinc and aluminum were detected in two deep monitoring wells in that area. Low concentrations of thallium in those same two wells may or may not be related to the nickel-plating operation. The MPCA has asked Ford to provide additional information on the specific type of nickel-plating solution used at the plant.

According to the MPCA, an evaluation is currently underway to determine if the aluminum poses a risk to the Mississippi River. "The other metals and the trichloroethene do not pose a risk to the river, based on an already-completed surface water evaluation," the MPCA reported. "The groundwater contamination does not pose a risk to people. All St. Paul residents get their drinking water from the city's supply system."

The MPCA's reports on pollution at the Ford site are posted on the MPCA website and on the Ford page on the city's website at stpaul.gov.

1◀ FORD TRAFFIC CONCERNS

City officials have long contended that by extending adjacent streets through the former Ford Plant property, traffic will be dispersed. The main thoroughfares through the Ford site will be Montreal Avenue, Cretin Avenue and Mount Curve Boulevard. The city's hope is that those connections will ease congestion on Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue. However, neighbors fear that the new homes and businesses on the Ford site will greatly increase traffic volume on all of these streets.

Local residents at the September 26 meeting asked Ryan Companies to work with Metro Transit on improved transit service to and

from the Ford site. Others requested that the costs of off-street parking be covered in the rent and purchase price of homes occupied by people who own cars. One person pleaded for streets that are designed to promote public safety and reduce traffic speeds. Olson and others from Ryan Companies said they have proposed ways for calming traffic on the Ford site but have received mixed reactions.

Barranco said that while most parking on the Ford site will be provided within buildings or in parking ramps, the plan is to have some on-street parking. "People expect some level of parking for visitors," he said. He estimated that over half of the new residential streets will have some parking along the curb.

New streets and utilities will be among the first improvements made on the Ford site, and they could start taking shape as soon as next year. Ryan officials said that while the streets will have sidewalks and boulevard trees, the extension of Mount Curve will not have the distinctive boulevard it has to the north of Ford Parkway.

Ryan officials were asked about the prospect of using Canadian Pacific's former railroad spur into the Ford Plant as a bike and pedestrian trail or a route for some form of transit. Barranco said that while Ryan is interested in those proposals for the railroad spur and has met with Canadian Pacific officials, no decision has yet been made on purchasing

Ford site update #4

Ryan Companies will hold its fourth public meeting on its plans for redeveloping the former Ford Plant site from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, in the Highland Park Middle School auditorium, 975 S. Snelling Ave. The developer hopes to complete its overall vision for the site this month and unveil it in November.

the railroad property. Ford Motor Company's contractors are currently working with the railroad to clean up pollution on that property.

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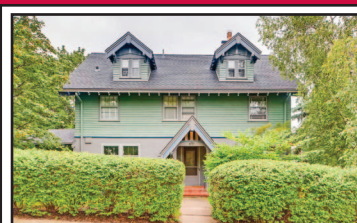
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Homeowners can expect a big property tax hike in 2019

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul property owners can expect to be paying more in property taxes next year. How much more may depend on where they live. The tax outlook for 2019 varies greatly from neighborhood to neighborhood with property tax increases on a median-value home ranging from 2.5 percent in St. Anthony Park to 21.3 percent in Frogtown where the market value of the median home has increased 16.3 percent over the past year.

However, these increases are projected without factoring in the St. Paul Public Schools' November 6 referendum on an \$18.6 million per year excess levy. According to the school district, the excess levy would increase property taxes on a median-value home by about \$135 per year.

St. Paul's median-value, single-family home has seen a 7.1 percent increase in market value over the past year, from \$173,900 to \$182,200.

The property taxes on that home were \$2,516 in 2018. In 2019 they would be \$2,699 without the school district's excess levy—a \$183 or 7.3 percent increase—or \$2,833 if voters approve the excess levy—a \$317 or 12.6 percent increase.

The city of St. Paul has proposed a maximum increase of 11.5 percent in the property tax levy for 2019. Ramsey County has proposed a maximum 4.3 percent tax levy increase for general operations and a 7.8 percent tax levy increase for regional rail. The St. Paul Public Schools has set its maximum tax levy increase at 3.9 percent for 2019 without the excess levy and 15.8 percent with the excess levy.

Properties across the city are seeing varying increases in market value based on the sale of comparable properties in the neighborhood. Large increases in market value generally result in larger percentage increases in property taxes. What follows are property tax estimates

for median-value homes in each of the city's neighborhoods that receive the *Villager*. None of the estimates includes the St. Paul Public Schools' excess levy should it be approved by voters on November 6.

- In Highland Park, the median home increased in value from \$292,900 in 2018 to \$313,600 in 2019, a 7.1 percent increase. The property taxes on that home would increase from \$4,620 to \$4,930, an increase of \$310 or 6.7 percent.

- Macalester-Groveland's median home increased in value from \$308,400 in 2018 to \$329,000 in 2019, a 6.7 percent rise. Property taxes on that home would increase from \$4,894 to \$5,200, a \$306 or 6.3 percent rise.

- In Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline, the median home increased 4.7 percent in value, from \$287,600 to \$301,200. Property taxes on that home would increase from \$4,525 to \$4,714, a bump of \$189 or 4.2 percent.

- In Summit Hill, the median home value went from \$367,600 in 2018 to \$381,500 in 2019, a 3.8 percent increase. The property taxes on that home would increase from \$5,940 to \$6,117, a bump of \$177 or 3 percent.

- In the West End, the median home saw its value increase from \$162,600 in 2018 to \$176,250 in 2019, an 8.4 percent increase. The owner of that home paid \$2,317 in taxes in 2018 and would pay \$2,531 in 2019, a \$214 or 9.2 percent increase.

- In Summit-University, the median-value home saw its value increase from \$199,000 in 2018 to \$213,800 in 2019, a 7.4 percent increase. The owner of that home paid \$2,960 in taxes in 2018 and would pay \$3,186 in 2019, a \$226 or 7.6 percent increase.

- Downtown's median-value home increased from \$160,200 to \$169,500, a 5.8 percent change. Property taxes on that home

2019 TAX LEVY IMPACTS ►5

City Council searching for ways to lower 11.5% levy increase

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-1 on September 26 to approve a maximum property tax levy for 2019 of \$157.5 million—a \$16.4 million or 11.5 percent increase over 2018. However, most council members said they want to reduce that number before approving the final city levy and budget in December. The levy would increase from \$141.2 million in 2018 to \$157.5 million in 2019.

Mayor Melvin Carter had proposed the 11.5 percent increase as a way to pay for street work and other infrastructure improvements that are long past-due, to help increase the

supply of affordable housing, and to address various staffing needs. Most City Council members said that while they support the goals of Carter's budget, the property tax increase is too steep in light of the property tax increases that have also been proposed by Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools. After the council's vote, Carter issued a statement saying he will continue to work with the council this fall on the budget.

City Council president Amy Brendmoen emphasized that the city's maximum tax levy is not final and that she and her colleagues are working on ways to reduce the levy.

Ward 6 council member Dan Bostrom cast the sole vote against the levy increase. He said

Bostrom said the increase "just seems to be higher than we can go," but he expressed skepticism that the council would be able to make the necessary cuts.

the increase "just seems to be higher than we can go," and he expressed skepticism that the council would be able to make the necessary cuts.

"I think this levy is higher than what it needs to be," said Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert.

Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker said that while she would like to see the 11.5 percent increase reduced, "today I don't have an alternate proposal to present."

Mayor Carter's proposed general government and library budgets total \$606.2 million for operations and \$48.1 million for capital improvements. Under that budget, the city's share of property taxes, fees and charges for the typical St. Paul homeowner would increase by \$99, from \$1,612 in 2018 to \$1,711 in 2019.

The city's share of property taxes would increase by \$76, from \$760 to \$836. Right-

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4◀ 2019 TAX LEVY IMPACTS

would increase from \$2,274 to \$2,412, a bump of \$138 or 6.1 percent.

The aggregate assessed market value of properties in Ramsey County is at an all-time high at \$52.7 billion with the continuing recovery from the 2008 recession. According to county assessor Luis Rosario, the aggregate market value of St. Paul properties, which had peaked at \$23.5 billion in 2007, is now at \$25.2 billion, up from \$17.8 billion in 2012.

Many factors determine just what St. Paul homeowners will pay in property taxes in 2019, ranging from shifts and changes in the property tax system to what the city receives from the regional fiscal disparities pool, according to Ramsey County auditor-treasurer Chris Samuel.

The fiscal disparities pool is a tax-base sharing program among the seven counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It is meant to spread the benefits of commercial and industrial growth

throughout the region by reducing property taxes in cities that are not seeing as much growth.

St. Paul's share from the fiscal disparities pool will increase from \$25 million in 2018 to \$30 million in 2019. The large jump in the fiscal disparities benefit for St. Paul is partly due to the recent shift of right-of-way charges from a city assessment to the property tax, according to City Council president Amy Brendmoen. However, that jump will not be seen in subsequent years, Samuel noted.

St. Paul homeowners will see their 2019 property tax bill reduced by \$23 thanks to the fiscal disparities pool, changes in the homestead exclusion benefit and other tax shifts and changes.

The city's median-value commercial property is seeing a 6.1 percent increase in market value, from \$466,750 for taxes payable in 2018 to \$495,450 for taxes payable in 2019. The property tax bill on that commercial property would increase from \$16,478 in 2018 to \$17,220 in 2019 without the school district's ex-

cess levy (a \$722 or 4.5 percent increase) or to \$17,579 with the excess levy (a \$1,101 or 6.7 percent increase). The fiscal disparities pool and other tax shifts and changes would lower those 2019 tax bills by \$14.

St. Paul's median-value apartment building will see a 15 percent increase in market value, from \$714,000 in 2018 to \$821,100 in 2019. Its property tax bill will increase from \$14,333 in 2018 to \$16,251 in 2019 without the excess levy (a \$1,918 or 13.4 percent increase) or to \$16,844 with the excess levy (a \$2,511 or 17.5 percent increase). The fiscal disparities pool and other tax shifts would raise those 2019 tax bills by another \$698.

Ramsey County will send out its annual truth-in-taxation notices beginning November 10. In St. Paul, those notices will estimate the cumulative impact of the county, city and school district's maximum levies in 2019 along with any increases in assessed value due to the real estate market and any improvements made to the property.

4◀ ST. PAUL CITY LEVY

of-way maintenance assessments would increase from \$92 to \$97. Sanitary sewer charges would rise from \$287 to \$296, and storm sewer charges would increase from \$95 to \$98. Recycling fees would remain flat at \$58, as would the \$25 residential waste administrative fee. Charges for water would increase from \$295 to \$301.

The City Council approved a \$4.45 million maximum levy for the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for 2019. That is up \$667,000 or 16.7 percent from 2018, an amount the council would also like to reduce.

City Council members began review-

ing possible reductions in the general government and HRA levies on October 3. They learned that reducing the general government levy increase from 11.5 to 9.5 percent would mean cutting \$2.8 million from the mayor's proposed budget. Trimming the levy increase to 10.5 percent would mean cutting \$1.46 million. Those cuts become more challenging when City Council members add their own spending proposals to the mix. At this point, the list of budget additions contemplated by the council total \$1.53 million.

Carter's budget includes the promotion of six police officers to commander and investigator positions. Brendmoen said that proposal takes six officers off

of the streets. Replacing those officers would cost between \$774,477 and \$1.2 million, depending on how many personnel are hired.

Cutting the HRA levy may be easier, as a wave of retirements and other staff departures could lead to as much as \$500,000 in salary and benefit savings. That and higher than anticipated city sales tax proceeds could help in cutting the HRA levy, Brendmoen said.

The proposed 2019 HRA budget is about \$8 million. It is one of the most complex city budgets, drawing on several funding sources. If changes are not made in how it is funded, it could be operating at a deficit by 2021, according to city budget director John McCarthy.

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A year later, St. Paul still looking to wrap up new regulations for to-go containers

By JANE MCCLURE

A ban on plastic carryout food and beverage containers is still on the table in St. Paul. The City Council laid over a proposed ordinance on October 3 that would prohibit restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, convenience stores and delis from using to-go containers that cannot be recycled or composted.

The ordinance will be taken up again on November 7. Council members Jane Prince and Mitra Nelson are still working with the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) and Mayor Melvin Carter's administration on a timeline for implementing the new regulations.

A year ago, council members defeated a proposed ban on a 2-5 vote. The council majority was concerned about how it would affect small businesses that were already struggling with other city-imposed regulations. A resolution was passed to revisit the issue in a year.

"That sure came up fast," said council president Amy Brendmoen. She supported the lay-over, saying the city needs to pass a ban that makes sense.

Brendmoen and then-council president Russ Stark supported the ban last year. Stark, who is now the mayor's chief resiliency officer and leads city efforts on environmental issues, said he is encouraged to see the measure being considered again. "I think we're on good footing to figure out how to do this," he said.

What needs to be done prior to the November 7 vote is still taking shape. Last year, the resolution postponing the ban called for outreach and educational efforts to help businesses prepare for the ordinance's eventual passage. However, then-Mayor Chris Coleman balked at having staff do such work without an approved ban.

Prince noted that many businesses have already made the switch to recyclable and compostable carryout containers, and more of them are likely to follow suit as costs decrease. Her prediction is that the ban would not be phased in until at least 2020.

At this point it is unclear how many council members support the ban. The ordinance voted down last year came at about the same



St. Paul seeks to ban carryout containers that cannot be recycled or composted.

time that the council had approved earned sick and safe time rules as well as regulations on the sale of menthol tobacco products. A majority of council members questioned whether it was reasonable to pass even more regulations for businesses at that time.

The ordinance called for banning plastic foam or polystyrene carryout containers and cups, black plastic containers, waxed paper takeout boxes and other packaging that cannot be recycled or composted. One intent was to require to-go containers that can be accepted in the city's residential recycling program.

The ordinance was under study for about 18 months. DSI, which led public meetings and business outreach, proposed giving businesses up to one year to use up their existing carryout containers.

Several district councils and environmental groups lined up to support the ban. The Minnesota Restaurant Association, small business groups and manufacturers of containers either opposed it or asked for modifications.

St. Paul passed a strict packaging ordinance back in 1989, but it has never been implemented. That ordinance prohibited a wide range of businesses from selling or providing food wrapping and packaging that was not environmentally friendly. The ordinance included plastic tableware, bottles, cups, bowls, plates and food wrapping, as well as plastic bottles, jugs and containers.

That led to an outcry from manufacturers, fast food chains, grocery stores, delis and convenience stores. The plastic packaging ban was to take effect in July 1990, but was repeatedly delayed to allow for a statewide law to be considered instead.

When the businesses, environmental advocates and recycling firms could not agree on what a state law would look like, those efforts stalled at the Capitol and the city ordinance faded away. DSI staff say any new ordinance would replace the 1989 measure and be less restrictive.

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Amendments would increase density of Marshall rezoning

By JANE MCCLURE

Last-minute changes to a plan for rezoning more than 200 properties along Marshall Avenue between Hamline Avenue and the Mississippi River will be the subject of a public hearing before the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 17. The changes, which were introduced on September 19 by newly elected Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Nelson, would allow greater density at some intersections and remove proposed protections for historic homes on the six blocks between Wilder and Wheeler streets.

The proposed rezoning has been in the works for close to a year. City staff and Merriam Park neighborhood volunteers worked on an ordinance that they thought struck a compromise between those on both sides of the debate over promoting increased density.

The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended the proposed ordinance on a 6-5 vote last month and forwarded it to the City Council for review and a public hearing.

According to senior city planner Kady Dadlez, the intent of the zoning ordinance was to retain Marshall as a street with a wide range of housing, from high-density apartments to single-family homes, and to use Traditional Neighborhood mixed-use zoning at busy intersections and in parts of the industrial area east of Snelling. The overall effect, according to principal city planner Allan Torstenson, was to reduce density on the six blocks between Wheeler and Wilder streets

and increase density at key intersections.

Nelson introduced her changes before the ordinance's second public hearing, withdrew them, and then introduced a second set of changes on October 3. According to her, the changes would increase development opportunities along Marshall, allow developers to add "desperately needed housing" and maximize the potential of future transit along that corridor.

Nelson thanked those who had devoted so much of their time on the rezoning plan. However, she added, "we need to maximize our opportunities along this very essential corridor." She cited Marshall's importance as a transit corridor. The street has two east-west bus routes, is crossed by four north-south bus routes, and has been proposed as a future bus rapid transit route.

Merriam Park residents who had worked on the rezoning plan were disappointed with the changes. They had hoped to downzone parts of the six blocks between Wheeler and Wilder, which are included in a year-long moratorium on development that expires in mid-October. The residents were awaiting the completion of a survey of homes in the area to determine their suitability for historic protections. However, the delay caused by Nelson's proposed amendments means the moratorium will expire before the rezoning ordinance can take effect, opening up historic properties to possible redevelopment.

The study area for the Marshall rezoning included 22 blocks where the interest in redevelopment has been strong. In fact, the study

"We recognize and support the need for more density," Allchin said, "but (council member Nelson's proposed amendments) are big changes that got very little community input."

was prompted by the development of a five-story apartment building on the site of two century-old houses on the northeast corner of Marshall and Moore Street. Local residents contend that Nelson's proposed amendments will make Marshall more vulnerable to the teardown of homes and their replacement by large multi-family buildings.

Nelson's amendments would upgrade the proposed rezoning of property on the southwest corner of Marshall and Cretin Avenue and the southeast corner of Marshall and Cleveland Avenue from mixed-use Traditional Neighborhoods 2 (TN2) to TN3, allowing building heights of up to 55 feet without a special conditional use permit. Those properties are owned by the Kvasnik family, which wanted the TN3 designation.

Nelson proposed change also would promote more density and higher buildings on the two blocks between Cretin and Cleveland and on the 10 blocks between Wilder and Fry streets. Those changes would allow buildings of up to three stories in many areas.

The handful of Merriam Park residents at the City Council meeting said they felt blindsided by the changes introduced by Nelson and were frustrated that many months of work on the ordinance had been disregarded.

Carroll Avenue resident Douglas Allchin said the zoning changes approved by the Planning Commission and shaped by months of deliberations by the Union Park District Council and local residents would have tripled if not quadrupled density along Marshall. "Why that isn't adequate isn't clear to anyone," he said.

According to Allchin, the proposed ordinance that won neighborhood and Planning Commission support was reached through consensus and compromise. "We recognize and support the need for more density and for redevelopment of the commercial and transit corners," he said, "but (Nelson's proposed amendments) are big changes that got very little community input."

Marshall Avenue resident Dean Nelson is concerned that Nelson's amendments would put three-story buildings next to single-family homes, including homes that are being studied for historic designation.

At the September 19 public hearing, Marshall resident Scott Van Vert emphasized the months of work that went into the rezoning plan. That included fliers to all property owners, neighborhood meetings and walking tours of Marshall. "We attempted to be creative in our outreach," he said. "We didn't want to have one singular viewpoint dominating."

Council awaits DSI's inspection of new accessory dwelling regs

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on single-family properties throughout St. Paul must wait until at least October 18 for final adoption. For the second time in a month, the St. Paul City Council on September 26 laid over final adoption of an ordinance that would allow the units to be built above garages, in back yards or inside existing homes.

The additional layover was needed to allow for amendments being sought by the city's Department of Safety and Inspections. DSI would issue building permits for the units and would be in charge of building code compliance and fire safety inspections. The proposed amendments are not expected to trigger the

need for another public hearing.

The layover disappointed members of the faith-based advocacy group ISAIAH and members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Aging. In written comments to the council, committee member Edie Meissner of the West End said ADUs would allow older adults to age in place, which "is a viable alternative to institutionalization."

Council member Jane Prince acknowledged that many people are anxious to see the ordinance adopted. However, additional coordination is needed between what the ordinance would allow and how the units would be built and inspected. The units would require certificates of occupancy separate from the main dwelling on a property.

"When we do this, we do need to do it

right," Prince said.

Council member Rebecca Noecker and council president Amy Brendmoen also said the review by the DSI is needed. Brendmoen said that step may have been missed in the council's enthusiasm to move the zoning change forward.

St. Paul has only allowed the units in the past in neighborhoods with carriage houses or within a half mile of the light-rail Green Line between Lexington Parkway and the western city limits. Supporters contend that allowing the units citywide would add needed housing density and allow family members to live together while retaining some privacy. Opponents have raised objections about parking congestion and the prospect that the units would add to the city's problems regard-

ing rental properties.

The city's Planning Commission and planning staff brought forward several restrictions on the units: Properties must be in areas zoned for single-family use, with a minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet; and they must be occupied by a family, which under the city's legal definition can include two unrelated persons. Other conditions would have to be met on building heights and setbacks. An ADU atop a garage or in a back yard could not be taller than the main house on the property.

The units also need to be owner-occupied, with deed restrictions filed with Ramsey County. Opponents, including council member Dan Bostrom, have questioned how that will be enforced.

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Viewpoint

Our kids', our community's future depends on tax levy's passage

BY JOE GOTHARD

Every day more than 37,000 students come to the St. Paul Public Schools ready to learn. Every day our dedicated staff members teach them, feed them, transport them, make sure their classrooms are clean, or provide support for their education in other important ways. As the school district's superintendent, I have the privilege and honor in leading this work. My job is to provide the vision, the support and the resources needed to help each student achieve his or her educational dreams.

Unfortunately, as in many Minnesota school districts, funding for the St. Paul Public Schools is not keeping up with the costs of educating our kids. As a result, we have cut more than \$50 million in the past three years and approved cuts of \$17.2 million for this school year. These cuts are in response to the following:

- Inadequate state and federal funding that is not keeping pace with inflation or our students' educational needs.
- Mandated special education services that cost the St. Paul Public Schools \$42 million more than it receives each year.

These financial pressures make it more and more challenging to provide what our students need and what our community expects.

To help address this challenge, the St. Paul School Board unanimously approved asking voters in the November 6 general election to consider a request for increased school funding through an increase in the school district's operating levy. Even though St. Paul is the second-largest

St. Paul Public Schools Excess Levy Referendum

The school board of Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul Public Schools, has proposed to revoke the school district's existing operating referendum revenue authorization of \$704.52 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,179.52 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the school district's existing operating referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul Public Schools, be approved? Yes or No.

school district in the state, we have one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies when compared to the state's 10 largest school districts and neighboring metropolitan school districts. These property tax levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instructional materials, teachers, support staff and other school operating costs.

If voters approve the levy request, we will be able to invest more in schools and students at all grade levels, while implementing our strategic plan to increase student achievement across the board. The estimated property tax impact on the owner of a median-priced home would be

about \$11 per month. If the levy increase is not approved, our schools will face continued multimillion-dollar budget deficits, resulting in cuts to educational programs and staff members who work with students.

We know students at all ages would benefit from more mental health and social-emotional learning support. We know that creating a true middle-school model focused on the specific needs of that age group would help set students on a solid path for high school and beyond. We know that effective and culturally relevant instruction is critical for meeting students' individual learning needs. And we also know that students need opportunities to envision and explore careers before graduating from high school.

All of these things require resources, which are in increasingly short supply.

We need to prioritize how we spend our limited resources and focus on achieving the long-term student outcomes outlined in our strategic plan. Additional funding would help us do these things. Without it, our budget cuts will continue and our ability to respond to student needs will be greatly diminished.

Our community knows that strong public schools are linked directly to the well-being of our city. I encourage you to learn about our school funding request at spps.org/referendum2018 and make an informed vote on November 6. These are our kids, our community and our future.

Joe Gothard is superintendent of the St. Paul Public Schools.

Inbox

A new vision for Marshall Ave.

For a year or so, city staff, city officials and interested citizens living on or near Marshall Avenue labored over the thorny issues of rezoning Marshall between Hamline Avenue and the Mississippi River. After much contention, they reached a complicated compromise that respected various interests. In late summer, the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee recommended approving the rezoning.

When the plan came before the City Council in late September, new Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Nelson, who participated in none of the earlier meetings, introduced an amendment to throw out all the work that had been done before her election and replace it with her vision: a single zoning designation, RM1, that would permit block after block after block of fourplexes lining Marshall as far as the eye can see. Homeowners, after all, are the problem.

Citizens of Ward 4, you may now relax. There is no need to attend meetings, study reports, debate, contend, advocate or compromise, or even pay attention to city issues. A Superior Wisdom has arrived to lead us. Mitra knows best.

*Paul Nelson
Merriam Park*

Reward the car-free at Ford site

Ryan Companies held its third public meeting about the Ford site redevelopment on September 26. One of the questions was, what disincentives to car ownership can Ryan offer? Ryan's answer was, we need to include parking in order to sell or rent units.

Highland Village offers restaurants, retail stores, clinics, groceries, drug prescriptions and much more within easy walking distance. Mass transit, car sharing, taxis and cycling could provide rides in and out of the area. New streetscape amenities and public spaces in the Ford redevelopment will offer exercise, recreation and other outdoor activities. All of this is especially suitable for seniors with low or moderate incomes and young people with non-driving lifestyles, but not if seniors and young adults with limited means cannot afford to live here.

One attendee on September 26 compared the Ford site plans to Manhattan. This is nonsense, of course. St. Paul will never come close to the realities of Manhattan. But it is instructive to note that at the lower end, the cost of a structured parking space in Manhattan averages \$136,000.



What will be the average cost of a structured parking space in the Ford site? Ryan could slice that off the price for buyers and renters without cars.

Ryan Companies vice president Tony Barranco said that Ryan loses money on every parking space it builds. So set aside at least part of the development, at lower cost, for those without cars. According to AAA, such buyers will have on average \$10,000 more per year to spend on that housing or other needs. Why should that go to subsidize neighbors who drive? Why should Ryan and other developers provide every unit with parking on which they lose money?

Truck and car owners use public roads and off-road infrastructure far more than non-drivers per capita and per wheel, yet these impacts are not fully built into the various taxes they pay—fuel tax, sales tax, property tax, etc. Driving produces approximately 25 percent of the greenhouse emissions that are changing Minnesota's climate. It's time to give non-drivers the break they deserve.

Most people still use a personal vehicle, but with the A Line rapid bus, HourCar, taxis, new bicycling routes and growing pedestrian amenities, it is possible to choose otherwise, especially in Highland. Ryan and its developers can and should offer such a choice at lower prices for those who do not and will not own a car. Is Ryan willing? Are the city, county and school district willing to help?

I live two minutes by foot from most Highland businesses, and eight bus lines use the streets bordering my block. I'd like to transition to senior housing in the Ford site, but not if I have to subsidize others who drive everywhere.

*Mathews Hollinshead, Transit Representative
Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board*

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

8◀ INBOX

Give kids a chance to succeed

We hear a lot about declining enrollment in the St. Paul Public Schools, but what's often overlooked in such discussions is the fact that the school district still educates over 60 percent of St. Paul's school-age children. That's about 37,000 kids.

St. Paul's is the second largest school district in Minnesota, but when compared to neighboring districts and the state's 10 largest districts, we have the second-lowest voter-approved operating levy—at \$705 per pupil. That compares to the metropolitan average of \$1,022 per pupil. Compare us to Minneapolis, with a voter-approved operating levy of \$1,637 per pupil, and we're starting to look ridiculous.

Like many St. Paul homeowners and voters, I have my criticisms of how recent school district administrations and School Board members have managed the challenges of increased competition from charter schools and open enrollment. That said, I feel the district finally has its ducks in a row—a new superintendent, a new chief of staff and an experienced board. Soon, they'll be adding to that a new strategic plan for the district and, hopefully, more fresh ideas in the upper ranks.

To give this new team and new strategic plan a fighting chance, I plan to vote "yes" for the school levy on November 6. By giving the district a chance to succeed, I'm giving the lion's share of St. Paul kids a chance to succeed, too.

*Melissa Dangaran
West End*

Future of Mendota Hts. is now

Who Mendota Heights chooses to represent it as mayor and city council members this fall matters more now than it has in a long time.

Were you surprised to see the huge apartment building go up in Mendota Plaza? Liz Petschel voted for that. Do you know the hotel and greenhouse property at Highway 13 and Acacia Boulevard will soon be the site of two 70-unit apartment and commercial buildings? Neil Garlock and Liz Petschel voted for that.

Do you know the Mendota Heights Planning Commission is proposing that a portion of land on Victoria Curve be categorized medium-density, which will allow multi-family units to be built? Do you know there is currently only one low-density residential lot category of 15,000 square feet and that the Planning Commission is proposing the addition of a 5,000- and a 9,000-square-foot lot category, which will allow your neighbor to split his 15,000-square-foot lot into three 5,000-square-foot lots and put up two more homes?

Neil Garlock and Liz Petschel have supported increased density that has resulted in an increase in traffic congestion, a decrease in roadway safety and an increase in the burden on our city services. It seems reasonable to expect them to support the Planning Commission's proposals to increase density as well. Our property taxes have increased more in the past two years than ever before, with an even larger increase projected for next year.

If you want people who will retain what is left of our spacious character and who will make decisions that do not adversely affect our financial well-being, you must act now. Vote for Jill Smith, Jonathan Zagel and Ultan Duggan on November 6.

*Tamara Will
Mendota Heights*

Three to elect in Mendota Hts.

I'm supporting Jill Smith for mayor and Ultan Duggan and Jonathan Zagel for City Council in Mendota Heights.

My wife and I moved to Mendota Heights in 1957. We observed and participated in its careful, spacious, well-planned growth over the years. Careful planning provided for a well-located industrial district separated from a diverse and well-planned mixture of residential housing that maintained neighborhood compatibility. Commercial facilities in the city were located for the convenience of residents. This careful planning kept traffic under control and made Mendota Heights a highly desirable community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Unfortunately, over the last few years a majority of our city council has abandoned attention to that careful planning. In September 2017 a majority of the council voted to rezone land surrounded by twin and single-family homes to permit the construction of a 140-unit apartment building. A Dakota County court found that the council action violated a city ordinance and declared it void. And last year in another lawsuit, a court overturned the council's refusal to grant a variance.

The council approved The Reserve, a 138-unit apartment building at Highway 110 (now Highway 62) and Dodd Road, knowing that it would add significant traffic to an already badly congested Dodd Road as its own traffic study shows. Council member Duggan, who steadfastly opposed the rezoning, should be re-elected. Smith, who formerly served on the council for eight years and who has been a leader in our community, should be elected mayor to provide badly needed leadership. And Zagel has the much-needed business background to replace council member Liz Petschel, who appears to be leading the effort to increase density and its related impacts on traffic.

*Bernard P. Friel
Mendota Heights*

Nepotism in Mendota Heights?

It seems to me that close relatives of elective officials or managerial staff in a city should not be eligible for city commissions. However, that is currently the case in Mendota Heights where City Council member Liz Petschel's son is serving on the Mendota Heights Planning Commission. The appointment of a close relative to a city commission, regardless of whether there is a council vote on the appointment, is blatantly unfair. It gives the impression of cronyism and looks as if the official is grooming a relative to create a family dynasty.

To avoid the appearance of an attempt to stack the deck in favor of any elected official's decisions or business, the Mendota Heights City Council and city councils throughout the state should develop strict rules that prohibit nepotism. Please do the right thing, Mendota Heights voters, and vote for candidates who will bring integrity to our city government.

*Linda Limback
Mendota Heights*

Embarrassed by the president

The current president of the United States possesses many flaws. One, which I have never seen except in depictions of sociopaths and such, is the inability to feel any sense of embarrassment. Instead, I

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West End neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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9◀ INBOX

cringe, shudder and shake my head at the words and actions that he tweets, speaks aloud, yells over any voice conveying disagreement or writes in, say, formal letters to the leader of North Korea.

If only I weren't so sensitive.

Amy Adams
Ramsey Hill

Profits and the minimum wage

Have any of the "business savvy" City Council members in St. Paul, especially Chris Tolbert, considered profit sharing as a way to increase employees' annual income? Or are they just going to say "tough luck" to businesses that really can't afford to pay a \$15 per hour minimum wage?

Bob Grossman
Highland Park

Who will carry your standards?

It has been 27 years since I listened with great interest to the U.S. Senate hearings connected to the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. Because I believed that all the Senators were men of stature, I remember thinking that they were searching for the truth. How naive!

Ever since, I have been searching for candidates who share my values. In the past year, I joined with a group called Isaiah. We have sought out candidates to interview before the primary. We have shared our values and asked them to make commitments to stick with those values during the heat and pressure of political wars ahead. In order to enhance accountability and assure greater transparency, we have pledged to work with them and for them as they face difficult challenges.

As you look ahead, please look for candidates who are most likely to share your values for the long haul.

Phil Ledermann
Highland Park

Will candidates let people vote?

The Minnesota Let People Vote Coalition believes the right to vote is fundamental to our democracy and that it should be easily accessible to all citizens. For this election, we have developed a set of questions for candidates on the issues of voting and the electoral process:

1. Do you support the restoration of voting rights to people with felony convictions who have served their time of incarceration and are on parole or probation?
2. Do you support the establishment of a non-legislative, independent, nonpartisan process for redistricting after the decennial census?
3. Do you support automatic voter registration at age 18? If not, why not?
4. Will you work to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote for elections after they turn 18?
5. Will you work to improve in-person early voting?
6. Do you support Minnesota joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, whereby our Electoral College

electors would cast their votes for the winner of the national popular vote?

7. What will you do to ensure Minnesota is prepared for the next U.S. census? Will you support Minnesota's participation in the suit opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question?

8. How will you work to protect Minnesota's electoral systems from cyber-hacking and other threats?

A fair, open and trustworthy process of electing our government representatives is a critical element to sustaining a functional democracy.

Gary Fifield
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The letter was signed by nine other members of the Minnesota Let People Vote Coalition.

A regressive tax on parking

St. Paul's 48-hour parking limit ordinance costs violators a \$41 fine plus towing fees of about \$500. The ordinance applies to vehicles, trailers and storage containers.

Didn't know about this ordinance? It is only "posted" on the city of St. Paul website under Parking Rules and Overnight Visitors: "Do not park on the street for more than 48 consecutive hours." Does posting on a website qualify as "posting" under Minnesota law? The driver's manual does not list the ability to access a web site as a requirement for a driver's license. According to the Ramsey County dispatcher, to avoid a ticket, "the vehicle must be moved at least 1 inch to reset the parking clock."

Three days after a snowfall, it is easy to spot cars parked for more than 48 hours. I received a waiver to park for a week from the St. Paul Police Department when I repaired the interior of my travel trailer.

What is wrong with this ordinance, other than being unethical by not being posted? It discourages walking, biking, bus use and car sharing. It encourages vehicle use, which pollutes the most at startup, especially older vehicles. It is a regressive tax on those unable to afford off-street parking.

Jerry Kettunen
Macalester-Groveland

Vote for Judge Jesson

I urge voters to support Judge Lucinda Jesson for the Minnesota Court of Appeals by voting for her on November 6. Judge Jesson has served as one of 19 Minnesota Court of Appeals judges for over three years. Prior to that, she was the commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Human Services for five years, the chief deputy attorney for Hennepin County, a member of the faculty of Hamline University School of Law, the deputy Minnesota Attorney General and a leading lawyer in private practice.

I have had the good fortune of having Cindy (as family and friends call her) as a dear neighbor and friend for over 21 years. We have raised our families together. She is a devoted mother to four sons and has been married to her husband, Peter, for over 30 years. Cindy is an exceptional role model and vital member of our community. She is highly regarded for her kind, caring, generous and compassionate spirit.

Cindy has done extensive community service and pro bono work for various organizations and she serves on several statewide nonprofit boards.

Judge Lucinda Jesson exemplifies the highest degree of integrity and wisdom. Her knowledge, years of experience and even-handed approach make her a valued and respected member of the court. Please vote on November 6 for Judge Lucinda Jesson to continue her service on the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Sara Renartz Mountain
Macalester-Groveland

Re-elect Judge Millenacker

As a lawyer, friends and neighbors often ask me who I'm supporting in the judicial races. In general, I tend to support incumbents, provided they have demonstrated the skill, intelligence, impartiality and good judgment that we want in our judges.

One incumbent I will be voting for is Judge Robyn Millenacker, a sitting judge on the Ramsey County District Court. I have worked with Judge Millenacker, and I count her as a friend of many years. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, she has over 30 years of combined experience as a practicing lawyer, a federal prosecutor and a judge. I find her to be smart, fair, dedicated to the rule of law, and someone who deserves to be re-elected.

Diane Gerth
West End

It's time we tried something new

I support Jeff Johnson for governor of Minnesota. As a parent and grandparent, my concern is the education of our children. Tim Walz is against school choice. He is funded by public-sector unions that oppose parental choice and innovations that improve educational outcomes.

Half of the graduates of the Minneapolis Public Schools are functionally illiterate, and the achievement gap for minority children is one of the highest and most persistent in the nation. We cannot allow more generations to fail. The trend in public education is social justice training, not the basics to be a successful adult and citizen.

Jeff Johnson's "A Better Way Forward" gives school choice through vouchers. Parents can send their children to the school that best suits their child. Respect for parents, training for high-paying jobs, elimination of unproductive mandates, support for two-parent families and weaning our citizens off welfare are integral to his plan.

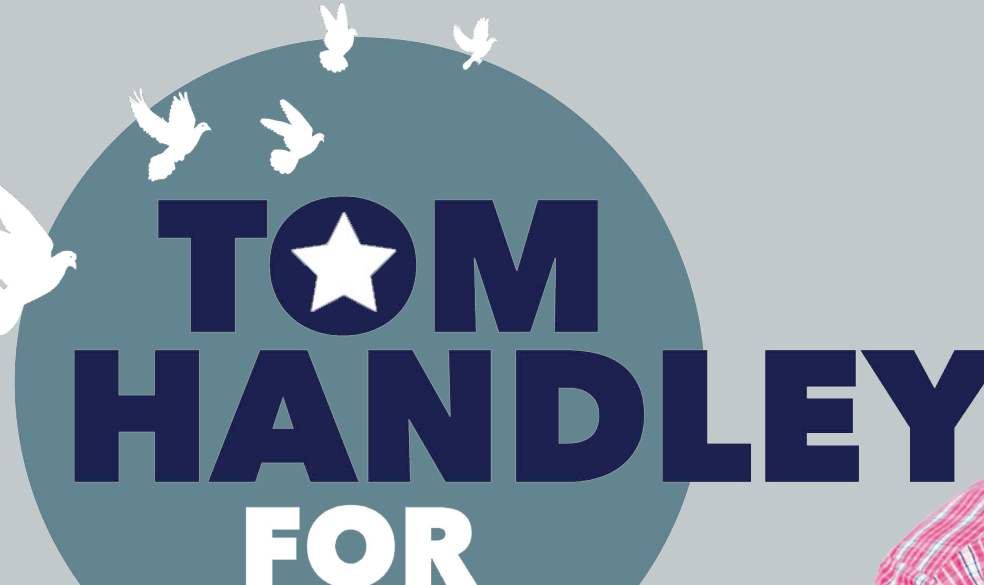
Isn't it time we tried something new?

Nina Bourque
Hiawatha, Minneapolis

Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a telephone number for verification purposes. You may send your commentary to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, or email it to letters@myvillager.com.

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There'll be an extra chill in the air this Halloween

There are more spirited events on tap than you can shake a broomstick at this Halloween. Here are some of the frightfully festive happenings taking place locally:



There's plenty to do this month for those looking to scare up a little Halloween fun. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The Sibley Haunting will be held on Saturday, October 13, with

tours beginning on the half hour from 7-9 p.m. at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Hwy. 13, Mendota. Visitors will depart by flashlight to a dimly lit Sibley House where they will hear about the site from historical characters. Afterward, s'mores will be made at a bonfire. Admission is \$8-\$10. Some content may not be suitable for children under age 13. Visit dakotahistory.org to register or call 651-552-7548 for information.

A Halloween story and play hour for families with babies and toddlers will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 16, at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5105 Minnehaha Ave. in Minneapolis. Veterans will read Halloween-themed books, while songs and play time will be led by a recreational therapist. Costumes are encouraged and Halloween treats will be available. Call Casey Bakewell at 612-548-5754 for information or to register.

The Master of Illusion, a live performance, will be given at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, October 17-18, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Artist and performer Michael Callahans will present the ultimate in illusions, the sawing of a woman in half, which was first performed by magician P.T. Selbit in London in 1920. The program is suitable for ages 18 and older. The cost is \$18-\$20. Call 651-259-3015.

Shadows and spirits will stalk the halls of the restored state Capitol during tours on the half-hour from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, October 18-20 and 25-27. Tourgoers will meet historical "spirits," including a night watchman, a Civil War veteran and a woman suffragist, who will tell tales of the Capitol's early years. The cost is \$12-\$15. Call 651-259-3015.

The Barebones Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza will be presented for the 25th year at 7 p.m. October 20-21, 26-28 and 31 in Hidden Falls Park. The shows feature illuminated puppets, stilt walkers, fire performers, aerialists and a live orchestra. Donations are suggested. Visit barebonespuppets.org.

Gangster Ghost Tours will return from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at Landmark Center. Groups will be guided through the building's shadowy halls while stopping to talk with the costumed ghosts of such characters as "Big Tom" Brown, John Dillinger and Ma Barker. Tickets are \$10 and space is limited. Register at 651-292-3063.

St. Paul plans smaller Pedro Park

The controversial sale of St. Paul's former Public Safety Annex on 10th and Robert streets will go before the City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), for a vote at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at City Hall.

The Minneapolis-based Ackerberg Group, which was granted tentative developer status by the HRA last November, plans to buy the annex for around \$1.4 million and redevelop it as office space. It also has agreed to work with the city to develop the vacant land next to the annex as Pedro Park, and contribute \$40,000 annually for the park's maintenance for 20 years.

City plans released in early October show the development of a playground and a water feature in the park, along with multiple seating areas. The improvements have an estimated cost of about \$3.8 million. Building sale proceeds, parkland dedication dollars and other funds would be used to create the park. The goal is to have the park and the building ready at the same time next year.

Downtown residents who have long wanted a larger park in that area are fighting the sale of the annex. They contend that the city is going back on its commitment to tear down the annex and combine it with the former Pedro store property to create the larger Pedro Park.

Neighbors, including the group Friends of Pedro Park Expansion, and a surviving Pedro family member sued the city in August, saying the city reneged on its promise to create the larger park. The Pedro family donated the .45 acre site of its former luggage and leather store to the city in 2009 for the project. The Pedro building came down in 2011.



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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Ford site presentation—Ryan Companies will hold its fourth meeting regarding its plans for redeveloping the former Ford plant site from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, in the Highland Park Middle School auditorium, 975 S. Snelling Ave.

Turkey Trot—The seventh annual Highland Park 5K Turkey Trot will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving, November 22. A shorter 1K Gobble Wobble will start at 8 a.m. For information and to register, visit highlandparkturkeytrot.com.

Mark your calendar—Trick or Treat in Highland will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, October 27. Kids are encouraged to dress in costume and stop at participating businesses in the Village for treats.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee featuring updates on both the Albion Street and Ford sites, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 16; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, October 23. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Science of saving—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is offering a chance to save on visits to the Science Museum of Minnesota. Thanks to a partnership with the museum, coupon holders can receive discounted entry to the permanent exhibits and Omnitheater for as little as \$3-\$5. Sign up by stopping at the community council's office in the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Office hours are 3-6 p.m. Mondays and noon-3 p.m. Thursdays.

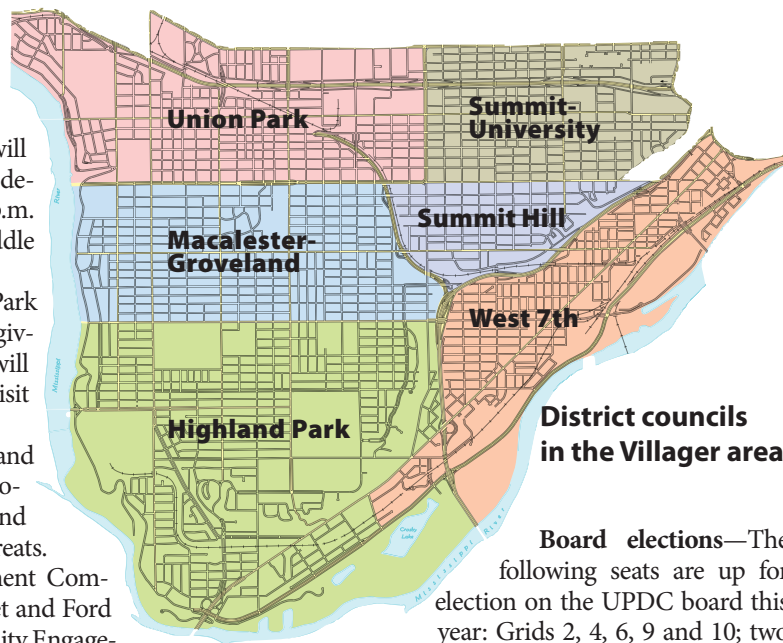
Get involved—The community council has openings on its board for at-large residential and at-large student representatives. It also has four standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members.

Upcoming meetings—Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 18, Edgumbe Recreation Center; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 22, Edgumbe; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, Groveland Recreation Center.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Annual meeting—The Union Park District Council will hold its annual meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 25, in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. There will be a community forum on restorative justice and Union Park residents and business owners will vote on board seats that are up for election. Visit unionparkdc.org/our-people for details about the candidates.



District councils
in the Villager area

Board elections—The following seats are up for election on the UPDC board this year: Grids 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10; two at-large seats; at-large business representative; and at-large nonprofit representative. The only contested position requiring election by secret ballot this year is the Grid 9 seat. All those 18 and older who live in, own property in or own a business in Grid 9 and are unable to attend the annual meeting can vote early for the seat between October 17-24. Visit unionparkdc.org/news-and-events/2018-annual-meeting for early voting times and locations.

Environmental concerns—Representatives of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will attend the meeting of the community council's Committee on Land Use and Economic Development that will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, at 1821 University Ave. The MPCA will discuss the potential environmental impact of Cooperative Plating Company, 271 N. Snelling Ave.

Other upcoming meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. In lieu of the monthly board meeting, the UPDC will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, October 25.

Stay in touch—The public is invited to "like" the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter at @UnionParkDC and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing alexa@unionparkdc.org.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Annual meeting—The annual meeting and elections for the Summit Hill Association's board of directors will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 11, at Dixie's on Grand, 695 Grand Ave. The election is being held to fill 10 open seats on the board. Attendees will be able to meet the candidates and help choose who will fill the open seats. They also can meet current board members and find out more about volunteering with the SHA. For information, visit the SHA website.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—The dental office of Dr. Tom Vukodinovich, 542 S. Snelling Ave., was broken into the evening of September 14-15.

—A home was broken into on the 600 block of Montcalm Place during the evening of September 21-22.

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on Norbert Lane and St. Paul Avenue on the evening of September 12-13.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 2300 block of Rockwood Avenue on September 15-16, on the 2400 block of West Seventh Street on September 20 and on the 2100 block of Stewart Avenue on September 24-25.

—A MacBook was stolen from a vehicle at the Highland Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave., between 7-9 p.m. Sunday, September 16.

—A purse and cellphone were stolen from a vehicle on Ford Parkway and Mississippi River Boulevard between 1-3 p.m. Saturday, September 22.

—Three cellphones were stolen from the Verizon Wireless Zone, 2034 Ford Pkwy., on September 25 and two cellphones were taken from T-Mobile, 2110 Ford Pkwy., on September 29.

Miscellaneous—Police received a call about a burglary and discovered an intoxicated man passed out in the backyard of a residence on the 2000 block of Bordner Place at 2:42 a.m. Friday, September 28. He was taken to detox.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint at 4:45 a.m. Saturday, September 15, on Griggs Street and St. Anthony Avenue.

Theft—A 54-year-old man was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle at 1:42 a.m. Sunday, September 16, on Lexington Parkway and University Avenue.

—Tools worth \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue at 9:57 a.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Central High School between 3-3:45 p.m. Thursday, September 20.

—A 29-year-old man was arrested for trying to steal \$877 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 10:57 p.m. Thursday, September 20. A vehicle also was stolen there between 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. that day.

—A woman whose purse was stolen at the Midway Target at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 22, was able to track the suspect to Skyline Tower, 1247 St. Anthony Ave. A 41-year-old female resident there was cited for theft after she admitted to stealing the purse and throwing it down the trash shoot of the hi-rise.

Assault—A security guard was taken to the hospital after being assaulted at the Midway Target at 7:31 p.m. Tuesday, September 18.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery occurred on the 1500 block of Randolph Avenue at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, September 13.

Burglary—A home was burglarized on the 1300 block of St. Clair Avenue during the evening of September 13-14.

Theft—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was stolen from a dorm at Macalester College between September 10-14.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1500 block of Fairmount Avenue on September 12-13, on the 1500 and 2000 blocks of Jefferson Avenue on September 14-15, and on the 1900 block of Grand Avenue on September 21.

—Two electrical testing tools and a multimeter were stolen from an apartment on the 1200 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of September 13-14.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Randolph and Snelling avenues between 9:15-9:35 p.m. Friday, September 14.

—A trumpet and case were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of James Avenue at 12:03 p.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—A laptop computer, headphones, keys and student ID were stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue, during the evening of September 19-20.

—A laptop computer and other items were reported stolen from a vehicle at the Green Mill, 57 S. Hamline Ave., at 10:42 p.m. Sunday, September 23.

—A computer was stolen from a vehicle on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard between 11 a.m.-noon Friday, September 28.

—A purse, laptop and computer tablet were stolen from a vehicle on Brimhall Street and Randolph Avenue between 11:10-11:45 p.m. Friday, September 28.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A break-in was reported on the 700 block of Highway 62 at 3:13 a.m. Friday, September 21.

—Two sets of golf clubs were reported stolen from a garage on the 2200 block of Copperfield Drive at 8:42 p.m. Wednesday, September 26.

Theft—Electronics and credit cards were reported stolen from three vehicles on the 1300 block of Highway 13 at 8:48 p.m. Monday, September 17. The following evening a computer was reported stolen from a vehicle in that same area and two other vehicles also were broken into.

—A wallet was stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Lexington Avenue during the evening of September 17-18.

—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 2300 block of South Lexington Avenue at 12:46 p.m. Friday, September 21. A vehicle also was stolen from a garage in that area on September 24-25.

—A trailer was reported stolen on Highway 62 and Dodd Road at 10:45 a.m. Monday, September 24.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Two construction jacks were stolen from a garage on the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue during the evening of September 14-15.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 1800 block of Laurel Avenue on September 13 and on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue on September 14.

—More than \$1,000 in tools were stolen from a truck on the 2100 block of Iglehart Avenue at 9:47 a.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—Up Six, 189 N. Snelling Ave., reported more than \$1,000 in merchandise was stolen at 4:29 p.m. Tuesday, September 25.

—A 22-year-old woman was arrested for auto theft on the 1600 block of University Avenue at 10:40 p.m. Friday, September 28.

Miscellaneous—The tires of two vehicles were reported slashed on the 500 block of Desnoyer Avenue at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday, September 11.

—Police responded to a report of a large fight at Wendy's Restaurant, 1770 University Ave., at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, September 15.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A man was robbed of his cellphone by three males as he walked out of LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., at 8:18 p.m. Tuesday, September 25.

Theft—Two juveniles were arrested for shoplifting, assault and obstructing the legal process at the Midway Walmart at 9:34 a.m. Monday, September 17.

—A female who was wearing a Walmart vest but was not an employee walked out of

the Midway store with a stolen TV at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, September 19.

—Drills, saws and chargers were stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Cub Foods at 1:22 p.m. Thursday, September 20.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1300 block of Marshall Avenue between 1-1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 22.

Assault—A female asked an employee at McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., to call 911 after a male struck her head with a shovel at 1:37 a.m. Sunday, September 23.

Weapons—A woman was assaulted at gunpoint on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues at 8:27 p.m. Saturday, September 15.

Miscellaneous—A 20-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct after causing a disturbance in the Midway Cub Foods lot at 11 p.m. Tuesday, September 18, and trying to kick out a window of a squad car.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A 34-year-old man was arrested for attempted robbery in an alley on the 700 block of Grand Avenue at 11:47 p.m. Friday, September 14.

Burglary—Apartments were burglarized on the 100 block of South Dunlap Street during the evenings of September 17-18 and September 27-28.

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 900 block of Grand Avenue at 3:49 a.m. Saturday, September 15.

—Luggage was stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, September 15.

—Prescription drugs were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Grand Avenue at 11:25 a.m. Monday, September 17.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a vehicle on Avon Street and Grand Avenue at 10:23 a.m. Tuesday, September 25.

—A checkbook, computer speakers and paperwork were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 200 block of South Grotto Street at 1:36 a.m. Sunday, September 30.

Summit-University

Burglary—An apartment was burglarized on the 700 block of Selby Avenue between 12:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, September 21.

—Multiple items, including furniture, were reported stolen from a residence that was broken into on the 300 block of Ramsey Street at 3:09 p.m. Sunday, September 23.

Theft—A laptop computer, calculator and textbooks were stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 7:30-9:18 p.m. Thursday, September 13.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle at the Happy Gnome, 498 Selby Ave., on September 16, and a backpack was stolen from a vehicle there on September 24.

—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle at Summit Church, 845 Summit Ave., at 12:46 p.m. Monday, September 17.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue at 11:44 a.m. Monday, September 17.

—A computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, September 27.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue at 10 p.m. Saturday, September 8.

Weapons—About 20 gunshots were reported on the 900 block of Carroll Avenue at 11:34 p.m. Monday, September 17.

—Police received a call about two people shooting at each other in a parking lot at 754 Concordia Avenue at 4:23 a.m. Saturday, September 22. Blood, shell casings, two handguns and other evidence were found at the scene. Around that same time, a male victim arrived at Regions Hospital with gunshots to the face and foot. The injuries were not life-threatening.

West End

Robbery—Two people were robbed at gunpoint near Denny's, 1664 University Ave., at 12:30 a.m. Friday, September 21.

Burglary—Home break-ins occurred on the 700 block of Goodrich Avenue on September 11-14 and on the 800 block of Tuscarora Avenue on September 30.

—Multiple items were stolen from a home on the 900 block of Tuscarora Avenue between 5:48-9:11 p.m. Sunday, September 16.

Theft—Roller blades, rock climbing gear and other items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 700 block of South Victoria Street at 12:23 p.m. Wednesday, September 5.

—An amp/subwoofer was stolen from a vehicle on the 1100 block of Pleasant Avenue during the evening of September 5-6.

—Three bicycles were stolen on the 200 block of West Seventh Street between September 14-17.

—A backpack, laptop computer and headphones were stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of West Seventh Street between 4-6:25 p.m. Friday, September 14.

—A firearm was stolen from a room at the Hampton Inn, 200 W. Seventh St., between September 14-16.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a vehicle at Mancini's, 513 W. Seventh St., at 11:23 p.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 100 block of Goodrich Avenue between 9:30 a.m.-5:20 p.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—A computer was reported stolen from a vehicle on West Seventh Street and Goodhue Avenue at 9 p.m. Tuesday, September 18.

—Tools and equipment valued at \$25,000 were stolen at Fun Run Party Buses, 533 Randolph Ave., between September 19-20.

Sex crime—A 34-year-old man was arrested on a felony warrant for failing to register as a sex offender after police were called to Goody's Hot City Pizza, 1017 W. Seventh St., regarding an intoxicated man who refused to leave at 9:08 p.m. Friday, September 28.

Assault—A victim was injured from an assault at SuperAmerica, 1734 W. Seventh St., at 3:35 a.m. Saturday, September 15.

Weapons—A man was taken to the hospital following a shooting at an apartment on the 200 block of South Western Avenue at 9:57 p.m. Sunday, September 9.

Fire Calls

The following were gathered from reports by the St. Paul Fire Department and other sources.

Highland Park—Police received a report of trash cans being set on fire on the 1700 block of Sheridan Avenue at 11:17 p.m. Saturday, September 29.

Lexington Hamline—A boy sustained minor injuries in a hit-and-run incident on Concordia Avenue and Lexington Parkway at 4:53 p.m. Friday, September 21.

Macalester-Groveland—A bicyclist was injured in a hit-and-run incident at 2 p.m. Monday, September 17, on Cretin and St. Clair avenues.

—A pedestrian suffered minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 27, on Snelling and Summit avenues. The driver was cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian.

Merriam Park—A woman was taken to the hospital after her own vehicle ran over her leg at Arby's, 1810 University Ave., at 12:01 p.m. Monday, September 17.

—A bicyclist was involved in a hit-and-run accident at 7:02 a.m. Tuesday, September 18, on Cleveland and Portland avenues.

—A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle on Fairview and University avenues at 10:09 a.m. Thursday, September 27.

Boomers & Beyond

Living on the upside of 50

Stories told from the inside: Roetzel relates values of a more charitable time

BY MELENIE SOUCHERAY

Calvin Roetzel enjoyed a long and accomplished career as an educator, minister, New Testament scholar and author of several books, including *The Letters of Paul*, now in its eighth printing. Last spring, the Macalester-Groveland resident published a memoir, *I Knew We Wuz Poor: Coming of Age on an Arkansas Farm in the Great Depression*.

"I didn't want to write that book, I didn't need (another) book," said Roetzel, 87, who had committed to finally retiring.

For 35 years, Roetzel taught religious studies at Macalester College. He then held the Sundet Chair in New Testament and Christian Studies at the University of Minnesota for parts of eight years. After more than 42 years of working, "I thought that was the end," he said.

Then the University of Chicago called. Roetzel asked the dean if the university's job offer included money to cover a divorce. His wife, Caroline, "had threatened me," he said. "The dean said, 'Well I don't know about that; they can be expensive. What about a trial separation?' So I went down there for a year. They asked me to stay, but I'd failed retirement already—twice. I wasn't going to fail a third time."

It was time to enjoy life in St. Paul and on the North Shore of Lake Superior with his family—wife Caroline, three children and one grandson.

However, a U of M colleague suggested Roetzel write about the 20th century, something he found "scary, because I didn't know anything

about it. But the more I thought about it, with all the things that are happening in the world, the more I realized that I needed to reconsider it."

Roetzel reflected on today's religious, social and political discord, a rising distrust of intellectuals and the need to balance individualism and a sense of community. "Then, to have this whole idea of xenophobia—hating the other—that hurt me deeply," he said. "All of those things combined convinced me that I had something to say from (my childhood during) the Great Depression. That was a very different era when people didn't lie, at least not in my experience. They cared for each other, even the stranger who would show up, the hobo from the railroad or whoever needed help. They got help."

Roetzel believes there are periods in history when either individualism or communitarianism is in ascendancy. He thinks that individualism—"the cowboy motif and the belief that we shape our own destiny"—is currently on the rise.

Roetzel grew up with three older brothers, a sister, and parents who had little formal education but a strong work ethic. His German ancestors had settled outside Russell, Arkansas, 65 miles northeast of Little Rock. They came by railroad when the U.S. government was handing out homesteads to encourage the settling of the young nation. The Roetzel farm, with its board-and-batten house and unpainted barn, was on the site of a former Quapaw Indian campground. The White River was one mile behind the home, the Ozark Mountains one

mile in front.

"I hear people say, 'We didn't know we was poor,' but as a child I did," Roetzel said. "When we went to town, I could see that other people lived in painted houses. Some people had barns that were painted red. I asked my dad if we could do that. He avoided the question entirely. I could see that the boys in town wore pants with belts, and they wore shoes year-round. I wore Tuf Nut overalls with patches on the knees. From April to October we were barefoot."

In his book, Roetzel does not romanticize the Great Depression. He tells of learning to respect the land and the animals, sharing and scrimping, and working hard in school. Through personal stories of farm and family life, he describes the tough times between the two world wars and tells of the values that were handed down to him from his family and neighbors.

"Without any television or radio, one of the main means of entertainment was storytelling," he said. "That was often associated with food. Food and storytelling: All the great world religions connect those two things. We didn't know that we were connecting with that tradition, but it was the tradition I grew up in as a child."

Roetzel's parents, especially his mother, pushed their children to get an education after high school. He said it was hardly an accident that he went to college, completed a Ph.D. and spent 42 years of his life "working on stories from the ancient world. The Bible is a storybook. It's a collection of stories, poems and other things—the family



Calvin J. Roetzel holds a likeness of Bud, the mule that saved his life when he was 11, drawn by daughter Lisa and used for the cover of his new book, *I Knew We Wuz Poor*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

stories."

Roetzel is taking time now to share his personal stories, poems and illustrations with his grandson, Anthony. He is handing down his values, too. When *I Knew We Wuz Poor* was launched on Memorial Day in Arkansas, the boy stood on the spot where it all had happened. Anthony met relatives, some of whom he will never see again. "He was totally embraced in love," Roetzel said. "He was so happy. That's the teaching I think that's emerging."

Roetzel's new book was also written with members of his own generation in mind. When he meets with his contemporaries, as he did

recently at Highlands of St. Paul, a senior residence in Highland Park, he encourages them to make notes or recordings about their own experiences. "In 10 years, this will only be a whisper," he tells them. "What you have to share is the whole shape of American culture. Please, if you can, try to keep a record."

Memories are important, Roetzel said, especially in light of the sharp discussions and deep divisions so prevalent between various groups today. Stories told from the inside, by someone who actually experienced them, are a lot more important than stories told by an outsider, he said.

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CENTER FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE RESEARCH, UMN

Mac-Grove's Dan Hill shares his secrets for reading others

By FRANK JOSSI

The recent Senate hearing on the charges against U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh drew the attention of facial recognition expert and author Dan Hill of Macalester-Groveland.

"There was a lot of anger on his face with his lips tight," Hill said, "but the most interesting thing was when he was trying to give the denial, the corner of his mouth was holding down slightly, which shows disgust and sadness. But facial coding only tells you what someone feels, not why they feel it. I'm left to speculate that the disgust could be about process and the sadness might be about how he has been implicated."

Hill, 59, will talk about facial coding during a lecture from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, October 20, at the Art Academy, 651 S. Snelling Ave. Hill will use celebrity photographs and famous paintings to provide insights for artists as well as the general public on reading people's faces. Admission is free, but people must pick up a ticket at Wet Paint, 1684 Grand Ave., to secure a spot.

Hill got his start in facial coding in the 1990s after reading about new discoveries in the neurosciences. A writer and essayist with a master's degree in creative writing from Brown University and a Ph.D. in literature from Rutgers University, Hill worked in communications before starting the facial coding company Sensory Logic Inc. in 1998.

He has several patents on scoring and analyzing facial coding data and has consulted with many of the world's top companies on how to use the information to quantify emotional responses to products and advertising.

Faces do not lie, Hill said, because they are the only part of the body where the muscles attach directly to skin. The brain has billions of neurons and the face has 44 muscles, he noted.

"It's quick, real-time data. You feel how you feel," Hill said. "The data come to us with greater accuracy and greater actionability because we can see what's happening with split-second timing."

Clients supply streamed videos or his firm installs cameras to film focus groups, advertisements and retail stores to determine how well products, messaging and customer experiences are received.

Hill's many books and research on the



Dan Hill, the face behind facial coding.

subject have led to plenty of media coverage, including interviews by the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *New York Times*, *MSNBC*, *CNN* and *Fox*.

His latest book, *Famous Faces Decoded: A Guidebook for Reading Others*, was released in September. It relates how to spot primary emotions by analyzing the facial expressions of more than 170 celebrities in movies, music, sports, the media, politics and business. Hill said celebrities make facial decoding "fun and relatable" for readers who have seen their images for decades.

O.J. Simpson is shown, for example, with a lot of fear in his face even prior to his famous trial. Elvis Presley often revealed disgust with a curled upper lip. One of the happier celebrities he profiles is Ellen DeGeneres, who Hill said has a "true smile" that results when the muscles around the eyes relax and create a "twinkle that you can't force."

According to Hill, lying is impossible to detect just from looking at someone. "There's no lying muscle in the face," he said. "If it was that simple, everyone would try to coach their way out of it or they'd go to a plastic surgeon."

Celebrities who are lying show fear, sadness and indignation, according to Hill. Presidents Richard Nixon and Donald Trump, both accused of being somewhat loose with the truth at times, are ranked first and second in scoring high on sadness in the book, Hill said.

FAMOUS FACES DECODED ► 16

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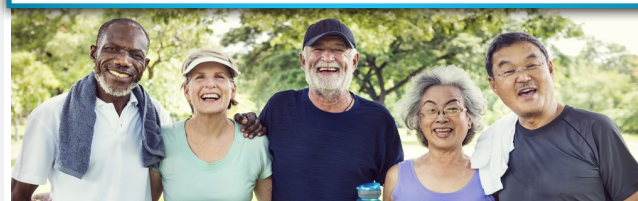
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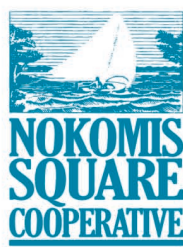
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15 FAMOUS FACES DECODED

Famous Faces Decoded features Minnesota celebrities such as Prince, Bob Dylan, Judy Garland and Charles Schulz. Prince, not surprisingly, was filled by a sense of anger and superiority, Hill said. Schulz, who looked sad early in his career before he showed joy and pleasure, is on his list of the top 10 celebrities who rarely look angry.

Hill concedes that celebrities have public and private personas. He used photographs in the book from Getty Images for consistency and avoided "staged, preening" moments in favor of candid ones. He tracked emotions across many years and found little difference between the four generations he covered—The Silent Generation (1928-45), Baby Boomers (1946-64), Generation X (1965-80) and

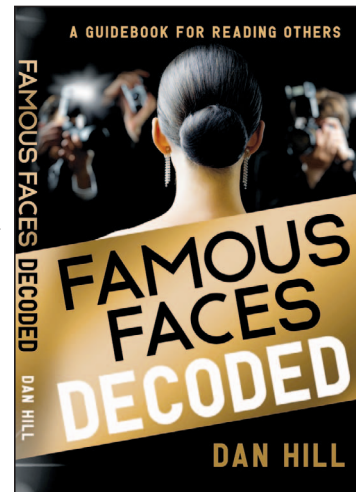
Millennials (1981-96).

Hill also wrote a supplement to the book called *Decoding Faces*, which focuses on situations people encounter in their everyday lives, from work to dating, marriage to handling the kids.

Now semi-retired, Hill continues to pursue facial decoding through his writing. His upcoming projects include a book on decoding famous art pieces and another on presidents and global leaders.

For regular folks, he suggests looking closer at the people they deal with, even more so than listening to them. "In the book, I survey people on what they thought

were the dominant emotions of celebrities, and they were 34 percent accurate," Hill said. "We look away from people and think about what we want to say next. We're not Sherlock Holmes, we're Watson."



Words to the Wiser

The Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane in West St. Paul, is offering the following: a waffle breakfast fundraiser and craft sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, October 14 (\$9 for waffles, free for kids under 5); a TED Talk discussion on nightmare videos on YouTube Kids from 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 16 (\$1 donation); a look at the Landmark Tours being offered in 2019 at 1 p.m. Monday, October 15; a presentation on the Brooklyn Bridge from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, October 17 (\$10); a Discover Group discussion from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 17 (\$1 donation); and the ABCs & D of Medicare from 1-3 p.m. Monday, October 22 (\$3). Call 651-403-8300.

The University of St. Thomas Selim Center for Lifelong Learning is offering fall programs on "Jazz: Bebop to Fusion" from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, October 17-November 7; "Privacy & Security in the Digital Age" from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, October 19; and "Making Sense of the 2018 Elections and Beyond" from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, November 8. Visit stthomas.edu/selimcenter.

The St. Paul Neighborhoods ACT on Alzheimer's will hold its fall meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 16, at Carondelet Village, 525 S. Fairview Ave. For information, visit ACTonALZ.org/st-paul-neighborhoods or call Meghan Constantini at 651-695-5014.

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Thursday/October 11

THE ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS will hold an informational session on the school district's proposed \$18.6 million per year excess levy that will be on the ballot on November 6. The session will run from 6-7:30 p.m. in the district's Administration Building, 360 S. Colborne St. Visit spps.org/referendum2018 or call 651-767-8157.

“DEVELOPMENT, SEXUALITY and Your Child,” a parent program conducted by the Family Tree Clinic, will be offered by the Jewish Family Service of St. Paul from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Newman School, 768 S. Hamline Ave. Contact Jodi Saltzman at 651-313-6623 or jsaltzman@jfsps.org.

THE GERMAN POW CAMPS of World War II will be discussed by Nazi Prisoners of War in America author Arnold Krammer in a History Roundtable from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

Friday/October 12

SOME OF THE BEST STORIES from 140 years of Minnesota Gophers sports will be told by historian Ryan Barland from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the DuPuis House at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. Light refreshments will be available. Admission is \$20, which includes a free drink. Call 651-452-1596.

Saturday/October 13

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

DAYTON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN Church is moving. The congregation will say farewell to its historic building at 217 Mackubin St. with an open house from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A worship service with guest speakers and special music will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, October 14, followed by a reception.

PILGRIM LUTHERAN will present a Fall Festival from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. Craft activities, a bake sale, soup and sandwiches, dessert samples and prize drawings for a quilt and gift cards will be featured. Proceeds will go to the students of Luganga Lutheran Church, Pilgrim's sister congregation in Tanzania.

“A HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN Party,” from Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan, will be told by Boston College professor Heather Cox Richardson in a 90-minute forum beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Tickets are \$16. Visit cart.mnhs.org.

FELINE RESCUE, a shelter for homeless and endangered cats at 593 N. Fairview Ave., will hold a Glitter Ball fundraiser this evening at the MidPointe Event Center, 415 N. Pascal St. The cat-themed soiree will include a presentation by cat behaviorist and “Animal Planet” host Galaxy Jackson, a silent auction, raffle, live music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets are \$100, \$150 and \$250. Visit feline rescue.org.



He and his arrow. With his friends looking on, Finn Gjered, 7, takes aim with a Nerf crossbow, hoping to win a prize at the Flea Market and Kids Carnival on September 28 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Sunday/October 14

A BANDCAKE BREAKFAST will be served by the Cretin-Derham Hall Band from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the high school, 550 S. Albert St. Tickets are \$5-\$7. A great breakfast is promised along with live music and a prize drawing.

A FALL FAMILY PICNIC will be held by TriDistrict Community Education and the city of Mendota Heights from 1-3 p.m. at Henry Sibley High School, 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights. There will be a DJ spinning party tunes, a performance by Twin Cities Magic & Costume and other surprises. The cost is \$10-\$30 per group. Register at tridistrict.ce.eleyo.com.

RHYTHMS FOR THE TREES, a family-friendly celebration of the sustainability of trees with live music and environmental education, will be presented by the Women's Drum Center from noon-3:30 p.m. in Newell Park, 900 N. Fairview Ave. Various workshops, exhibits, drum circles, crafts and children's activities will be featured. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of the Upper Midwest will hold its annual meeting at 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. A new exhibit on the history of Jewish Community Center of St. Paul will be unveiled. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 952-381-3360 or email history@jhsum.org.

Monday/October 15

HAVE PANTS THAT NEED hemming? A button missing from a sweater? A stuffed animal that is ripping at the seams? Get it fixed for free from 5:30-7:30 p.m. when Mobile Menders visits the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Folks may bring up to three clean items for mending. For more information, email mobilemenders2017@gmail.com.

THE GARDEN CLUB of Ramsey County will meet at 7:25 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Cindy Wellman, a specialist from Gertens Nursery, will discuss fall cleanup. Admission is free and open to all. Visit ramseygardeners.org.

Tuesday/October 16

JOURNALING 101, a free workshop in lettering basics and layouts on dot grid paper, will be offered at 6 p.m. at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.

THE PAX CONVERSATIONAL SALON returns with an open discussion about anything under the sun beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Mississippi Market, 1500 W. Seventh St. Admission is free, though donations are appreciated. Call 651-227-3228.

THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall of the Gardens at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Layne Kennedy will discuss the good, the bad and the ugly of entering photography competitions. New members are welcome.

“WHEN REPUBLICANS Were Progressive” will be addressed by former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger and *Star Tribune* reporter Lori Sturdevant in a free program at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The GOP's shift away from progressive principles and toward smaller government and lower taxes will be covered along with the rise in partisanship and how a cure for what ails democracy might be found in Minnesota's past. Call 651-259-3000.

Friday/October 19

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE will be collected free of charge by Ramsey County from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and October 26 and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays, October 20 and 27, in the parking lot of the Highland Ice Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave.

FRESH PRODUCE from Second Harvest Heartland will be distributed free of charge to people in need beginning at 4 p.m. at Ebenezer Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 3418 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. For information, call 612-722-1890.

“FROM WHERE DO EMOTIONS Come—Brain, Body or Both?” will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. by Justin Sipla of the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine and Jonathan James of the Minnesota Department of Health. Sponsored by the Institute of Theological

and Interdisciplinary Studies, the free program will open at 6:30 p.m. with a free buffet in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. For reservations or more information, call 651-430-0361 or email alan@astonishme.org.

Sunday/October 21

SOUTH AFRICA'S young democracy, once considered the most robust in Africa, is facing all kinds of stresses. A 20-minute film and audience discussion on the topic will be offered at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-363-3040.

Monday/October 22

ST. MARK'S, the preK-8 Catholic school at 1983 Dayton Ave., will kick off Open House Week today. Prospective students and their parents may schedule hour-long personalized tours between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. For reservations or more information, call 651-644-3380 or visit markerspride.com.

“U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS, Past, Present and Desired Future” will be addressed by Miguel Fraga, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., since 2015, in a free program at 4:45 p.m. in the Olin-Rice Center at Macalester College. Call 651-696-6395.

Tuesday/October 23

LUNCH, LEARN AND LAUGH with Episcopal Homes from 11:30-1 p.m. in the Seabury building, 1830 University Ave. A meal of chicken wild rice salad, garden salad and breadsticks will be served for \$8 (cash or check only). A TED talk will follow with Jane Fonda on how the older generation can reimagine the new phase in their lives. For reservations, call Kire Meyer-Quist at 651-379-5102 by October 19.

THE ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER will be served this evening at Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Seatings are available at 5:15 and 6:30 p.m. for a spread of roast beef and turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy and homemade pumpkin pie. A variety of homemade baked goods and peanut brittle will also be for sale. Meal tickets are \$16, \$5 for children ages 5-11. For reservations, call 651-699-1335.

Wednesday/October 24

A CHILI FUNDRAISER for the benefit of the firefighters of Station No. 19 will be held from 4-6 p.m. at Highlands of St. Paul, 1925 Norfolk Ave. Enjoy several of the best chili recipes around along with fixin's, cornbread, fruit and dessert. The cost is \$5. Reservations are requested by October 19. Call 651-699-4038.

A TURKEY DINNER, an autumnal tradition at St. Paul's United Methodist since 1922, will be served this evening at the church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Sit down to a plate of roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, fresh rolls, cranberry sauce and pie. Seatings for the dinner are available at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Homemade delicacies and crafts will be for sale from 4-7 p.m. Take-out dinners may also be ordered for pickup at 5 and 6 p.m. Meal tickets are \$14, \$6 for children ages 3-10. Reservations are a must. Call 651-452-5683.

Focusing on the possible

Ironman is latest in a long run of efforts by Highland's McGee to inspire others who are blind

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Before he was old enough to vote, Highland Park resident Louie McGee had competed in a triathlon, started his own non-profit organization, won a presidential award and appeared on the cover of a national publication.

That's just a small sample of what the Cretin-Derham Hall senior has accomplished—and he has done it all while living with blindness.

McGee, 18, is now preparing for his next big adventure. He'll soon be heading to Louisville, Kentucky, where on October 14 he'll compete in a full Ironman Triathlon, a grueling event that includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run, done in that order.

There aren't any known databases of blind Ironman athletes, but it's probably safe to say it's a small group. As far as McGee can tell, only 15-20 blind athletes have ever conquered an Ironman and there's "about a 99 percent chance I'm the youngest," he said.

McGee was inspired to take on the challenge, in part, after reading a book about Erik Weiheymayer, the first blind person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. Just as Weiheymayer inspired him, McGee wants to motivate other blind athletes to stretch their limits.

"I'm taking on this challenge to encourage other kids with blindness to find their own adventure," he said. "I spend my life focusing on possibility rather than disability."

McGee has lived up to that can-do philosophy since he was diagnosed at age 5 with Stargardt disease, simi-

"After training for a few months, I was like, 'Uh-oh. What have I gotten myself into?'" McGee joked.

lar to macular degeneration, which results in loss of vision from the center out. In the months and years that followed the diagnosis, he did a lot of traveling with his family, made connections with other people living with blindness, and leaned on the support of family and friends.

He also got involved. From 2010-13, he was the youth chair of the Twin Cities Vision Walk for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. He has raised more than \$100,000 for the cause and has spoken to countless young people as part of his service with the foundation.

During the past five years, he has been featured in numerous local and national publications, including *Time Magazine for Kids*, and has earned a trophy case full of honors and awards, such as the 2013 Presidential Award for Service from Barack Obama.

As a sophomore in high school, McGee started a nonprofit foundation, known as Louie's Vision, which offers everything from donations of tandem bikes to golf and skiing lessons for kids with blindness.

Through it all, McGee has been an ordinary teenager who enjoys swimming, running, skiing and other activities. He competed in



Louie McGee, 18, trains in the Highland Park neighborhood he calls home for the Ironman Triathlon he plans to tackle this month in Louisville, Kentucky. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

his first triathlon last year, and for the past six months has been training for the next level of endurance sports.

McGee's parents, Greg and Annie, weren't thrilled when he first brought up the idea of competing in the Ironman. After all, he was busy with his senior year in high school, not to mention the huge time and cost involved in such an undertaking.

"Our response was a pretty strong 'No,'" Greg recalled. He floated the idea of perhaps considering a half-Ironman and was caught off-guard by his son's response.

"He said, 'Doing half of something isn't very inspirational.' We thought he was onto something," said Greg, who added that both he and Annie are "super-proud" of their son.

At the Ironman event, McGee will compete in the physically challenged class. He and a guide, Woodbury resident Milan Tomaska, will be tethered together for the swim and run, and will ride together on a

tandem bike.

McGee has long been an accomplished swimmer, but not a particularly avid biker or runner. Before he started training, his longest run was about 7 miles and he hadn't gone more than 30 miles on a bike, he said.

"After training for a few months, I was like, 'Uh-oh. What have I gotten myself into?'" McGee joked.

But the months of training paid off. As he heads into the Ironman, he's now running more than 20 miles at a time and logging 100 miles on the bike. After a recent run of 20 miles, he felt strong enough to "tack on another mile," he said.

As for the cycling part, McGee said that's "more of a mind game" because the biggest challenge is to keep mentally strong while sitting on the bike for hours.

"It's kind of boring to sit there for that long," he said. "The nice thing is I'm on a tandem, so I can talk to my guide the whole time."

McGee said growing up with blindness has taught him a lot

about service to others. "I often rely on others for help and the people around me have to be open to providing that help," he said. "That network of positive energy allows for the best to be brought out in people. A good leader cannot rise alone and that, I think, is where my strength lies."

As for the future, McGee said he looks forward to finishing his last year of high school and making the transition to college. He's undecided on a major, but he's contemplating psychology and perhaps going on to law school.

Whatever his future holds, he intends to keep working on behalf of blind people.

"I'll use my Ironman experience as a platform to speak and show others with blindness that so much is possible," he said. "Even if we don't find a cure for blindness and I lose more of my vision, I know I'll continue to have the opportunity to do more great things and help other kids like me get the most out of life."

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On the Town

To entertain and educate

SteppingStone Theatre opens its 32nd season with firmer foothold in mission to serve youths

BY ANNE MURPHY

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development has served as a pathway to the stage for Twin Cities children since 1987. With the houselights about to go up on its 2018-19 season, the theater finds itself with an increasingly firm foothold in that mission under artistic and executive director Mark Ferraro-Hauck.

When Ferraro-Hauck took the helm in 2016, SteppingStone was operating with a deficit of nearly \$700,000. Today it is back in the black and offering new shows and educational programs to inspire the creativity and self-confidence of youths as never before. That effort will begin anew with *Fly Guy: The Musical*, an adaptation of the book series by Tedd Arnold opening on October 12 on the SteppingStone stage at 55 N. Victoria St.

"*Fly Guy* is part of a new initiative for us—plays based on books for young people," Ferraro-Hauck said. "These are books that children want to read over and over again. The intent is to honor the impulse to read for fun."

Following *Fly Guy* in SteppingStone's new season will be *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, an adaptation of the original show that will appeal to people of all faiths, according to Ferraro-Hauck; *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter*;

An African Tale, based on the Caldecott Award-winning book by John Steptoe with an original musical score rooted in hip hop, rap and spoken word; *Dandelion Girl*, a SteppingStone and Theatre Mu commission written by Twin Cities playwright May Lee-Yang; and *Junie B. Jones: The Musical Jr.*, adapted from the best-selling series by Barbara Park.

The five productions represent a lot of what has been accomplished since Ferraro-Hauck came on board. "As artistic director, I'm working with an incredible group of individuals who have been leading me," he said. "My job is to say 'yes.' SteppingStone has always been a place that embraces diverse cultures, and now we have new conversations taking place about greater ways to accomplish this."

Bringing SteppingStone's bottom line back into the black involved saying 'no,' too. As Ferraro-Hauck recalled, "my first two years were about extreme austerity. Anything we didn't have to spend to keep going, we didn't. The staff pitched in and cleaned so we wouldn't have to hire a cleaning service. Everyone was remarkable. We needed to shore things up and begin paying our bills."

"We're also fortunate because our longtime donors stuck with us," he said. "While other theaters in financial trouble had to shut their

Bringing SteppingStone's bottom line back into the black involved saying 'no,' too. As Ferraro-Hauck recalled, "my first two years were about extreme austerity."

doors, we remained open. And for two years we've been in the black. Maybe not a lot, but in the black."

A big part of the conversation about financial stability involved the maintenance of the theater's home in the historic, 110-year-old church building where it has been for the past decade. "We've made some necessary improvements already," Ferraro-Hauck said, noting the entryway where 300 schoolchildren pass en masse for matinee performances. "We're committed to being good stewards of the building."

SteppingStone has a two-fold mission—to entertain and educate. "We believe that every young person is an artist, and we want all the young people who come to us to realize that they have much to give," Ferraro-Hauck said. "We try to accomplish that through both performance and education."

In addition to appearing in mainstage productions, children can enroll in classes and programs throughout the school year and in SteppingStone's summer camps. Forty theater artists from across the Twin Cities serve as instructors, joining the theater's year-round staff of 10. "Some of our artists teach a lot, and some teach a little," Ferraro-Hauck said, "but they all help us accomplish our mission."

Singer, songwriter and actor Atim Opoka has been teaching at SteppingStone for the past three years and has witnessed the theater's transformation. "Change and growth are hard," she said. "It means being able to step out of yourself and say, 'I'm ready to be open and take feedback, even if it's negative, in order to grow.' Mark is willing to take that step with SteppingStone. He's willing to have the hard conversations."

"I think all of our young people, especially the teens that have been coming to SteppingStone for a long time, can sense the positive changes happening," Opoka said. "Our Core Company—our teen acting company—is the direct result of such positive change."

Ayme Zemke, whose son Graham, 15, is a member of the Core Company and of the *Fly Guy* cast, would agree. "Our family has been involved with SteppingStone since late 2016 when our son was

cast in his first mainstage show," she said. "He's now in his fourth production. We've seen firsthand how Mark and his team bring the theater's mission to life. They empower creativity and confidence in youths by letting them really explore what it means to create art and work collaboratively."

That collaborative spirit is nurtured at SteppingStone, according to Ferraro-Hauck. As parents quickly learn, the help SteppingStone youths receive from the older children, their ability to collaborate on a production, and the friendships that develop all have a huge impact, he said.

"Everyone has been smiling ear to ear through the rehearsals for *Fly Guy*," Ferraro-Hauck said. "We have 12- to 19-year-olds in the cast of 14, and all of them have become friends."

"*Fly Guy* is a delightful story about a little boy who wants a pet fly," he said. "In the musical, we incorporate the plots from three or four of Arnold's books. The play teaches how not to worry about boundaries and barriers. It's about friendship and bravery that friends can inspire."

Fly Guy will be presented through October 27 in 17 morning, afternoon and evening performances. For tickets, call 651-225-9265 or visit steppingstonetheatre.org.



SteppingStone Theatre artistic and executive director Mark Ferraro-Hauck poses with cast members during rehearsal for the new season's first production, *Fly Guy: The Musical*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Sometimes There's Wine, comedians Shanan Custer and Carolyn Pool's followup to their 2014 production *Two Sugars, Room for Cream*, is being performed by Custer and Pool through October 21 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military personnel and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Ntozake Shange's choreopoem, for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf is playing through October 21 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. The 1974 Obie Award-winning drama portrays the pain and jubilation that women of color can experience throughout life. Show times are 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-224-3180.

The Visit, a drama by Swiss playwright Friedrich Durrenmatt about an unwed and pregnant woman who was driven out of her small town as a youth and returns years later as the wealthiest person in the world, is being performed by Frank Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 21 at the Minnesota Transportation Museum, 193 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Tickets are \$25, \$22 for students and seniors. Call 612-724-3760.

The Great Society, part two in playwright Robert Schenkkan's trilogy about the turbulent presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson, is playing at History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. An exhilarating portrait of political power,



'The Agitators.' Emily Gunyou Halaas and Mikell Sapp star in *The Agitators*, a play by Mat Smart about the tempestuous friendship between civil rights activist Fredrick Douglass and women's rights advocate Susan B. Anthony. The drama is playing through October 28 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$25-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military personnel and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org. PHOTO BY PETRONELLA YTSMA

morality and societal change, the drama looks back at the war on poverty, the conflict in Vietnam and the struggle for civil rights. Ron Peluso directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 28. Tickets are \$25-\$56 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 651-292-4323.

Grand Opening, a stage adaptation of Jon Hassler's novel about the light and dark sides of small-town life, will open on October 12 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The most autobiographical of Hassler's works, the story opens in 1945 when a family moves from Minneapolis to rural Minnesota to operate a grocery

store. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through November 4. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's drama of star-crossed lovers, will be staged by Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater Company at 7 p.m. October 19-21 and 27-28 at the Walker Church, 3104 16th Ave S. in Minneapolis. Steven LaVigne directs. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for students and seniors. Call 612-724-4539.

The Last Schwartz, a comedy-drama by Deborah Zoe Laufer that explores Jewish identity and cultural continuity in a family of four siblings, will open on October 20 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Directed by Warren C. Bowles, the play stars Laura Stearns Adams, Matt Sciple, Heidi Fellner, Corey Dinardo, Damian Leverett and Emily Dussault. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays through November 11, and at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 21, and 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 23. Tickets are \$23-\$38. Call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.

All the Great Books (Abridged), a fast-paced comedy from Actors Theater of Minnesota that condenses 89 volumes into one funny drama, will be staged on weekends from October 20 through November 24 at Camp Bar Cabaret, 490 N. Robert St. From Harry Potter to Homer and Dante to Dickens, the quick-witted show promises belly laughs to more than just English majors. Tickets are \$19.50-\$30. Call 800-838-3006.

The Candidate, a madcap farce about the absurdity of politics today, will be performed by Dangerous Productions at 6:30 p.m.

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Books

Nationally acclaimed authors Leif Enger, Lisa Genova, Casey Gerald, Jane Leavy and Lisa Wingate will reflect on their writing process, inspiration and love of the library at the Opus & Olives gala presented by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library on Sunday, October 14, at St. Paul's RiverCentre. A cocktail reception, dinner, author meet-and-greet and book signing will be featured. Tickets start at \$150. Proceeds support the St. Paul Public Library. Visit thefriends.org or call 651-222-3242.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and environmentalist Gary Snyder, 88, will present "Minding the Wild: An Evening of Poetry and Discussion" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, in Kagin Commons at Macalester College. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Call 651-696-6000.

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with poet Adrienne Novy and her collection, *Crowd Surfing With God*, 3 p.m. October 20; and author Sarah Stonich and her novel in stories, *Laurentian Divide*, 7 p.m. October 23. Call 651-225-8989.

Dance

Caller Sue Hulsether and the band George Paul and Potent Brew will lead a weekend of contra dancing on October 13-14 at Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Saturday's schedule includes a contra dance from 9-10:45 a.m. (admission is \$12); a beginners workshop in flatfoot dancing at 11 a.m. (\$8); a square dance from 1:30-3:30 p.m. (\$8); a waltz from 3:30-5 p.m. (\$8); and a concert at 7 p.m. followed by a contra dance from 8-11 p.m. (\$15). Sunday will feature an intermediate workshop in flatfoot dancing at 9 a.m. (\$8); a waltz at 9 a.m. (\$5); a contra and square dance from 10:15-noon (\$12); and a contra dance from 1:30-3:30 p.m. (\$12). Weekend passes are available for \$60. Call 612-722-2914.

Susan Kevra and the Olde World Charm School trio will lead elegant social dances from the 17th and 18th centuries during the English Country Dance Weekend on October 19-21 at Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis. The schedule includes a dance from 6-11 p.m. Friday (admission is \$15), two-hour workshops at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday (\$15 each), an English Country Ball from 8-11 p.m. Saturday (\$30), and a morning dance from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday (\$15). Weekend passes are available for \$100. Call 612-722-2914 or visit tapestryfolkdance.org.

Exhibits

"**Charles Beck: An Artist for All Seasons**," a retrospective of the work of the late Fergus Falls artist, is on view through February 24 in the gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The exhibit includes more than 40 works by Beck documenting the natural world in prints, paintings and wood carvings. Admission is \$2, or free with a paid tour of the Hill House, which costs \$10, \$8 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-297-2555.

Global Day of Clay, a free hands-on opportunity to explore ceramic sculpture and meet the artists who practice it, will be offered

from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, at the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Juss Heinsalu, a liaison for the current exhibit, "Under the Black and Baltic Deep," will present the interactive experience "From Clay-Myth to Clay-Light" in the center's library from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Artist in residence Bryan Czibesz will conduct a demonstration and workshop from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Studio D.

The St. Paul Art Crawl will open the door to artists studios and art galleries across the city on October 12-14. Hundreds of artists are taking part in the show and sale, which will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. For information on the various locations and related events, visit saintpaulartcrawl.org.

Film

Francois Truffaut's *The 400 Blows* (1959, in French with English subtitles) will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 11, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St, Minneapolis. Sponsored by Sound Unseen, the program will include a discussion of the film and an acoustic performance by Justin Pierre to mark the release of his debut solo album, "In The Drink." Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Food For Change, an 82-minute documentary that tracks the ups and downs of food cooperatives as an economic system and social movement over the past century, will be shown on Wednesday, October 17, in a program sponsored by the Mississippi Market, Wedge and Linden Hills food co-ops and Valley Natural Foods. The program will run from 7-9 p.m. at the Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Following the screening, director and producer Steve Alves will lead a Q&A session. Tickets are \$5, \$3 for co-op members.

Music

Traditional Irish harpist and singer Hannah Flowers will celebrate the release of her debut album, "Amhrán na Cruite" (Song of the Harp) in concert on Friday, October 12, with guitarist Dáithí Sproule, flutist and whistle player Cory Froehlich and fiddler Danielle Enblom. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Celtic Junction, 824 N. Prior Ave. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, free to children. Visit celticjunction.org.

Northrop Auditorium's restored Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ will be celebrated by the Minnesota Orchestra and organist Paul Jacobs in concerts at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 12-13, at Northrop. The program will feature Bach's Chaconne, the world premiere of John Harbison's "What Do We Make of Bach?" and Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3. Tickets are \$30-\$97. Call 612-624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu.

No Exit New Music Ensemble of Cleveland will share the stage with St. Paul's Zeitgeist in concerts at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, October 12-14, at Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. For reservations, visit zeitgeistnewmusic.org.

Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko, Gold Medal Winner of the Van Cliburn International Competition in 2013, will perform in a Chopin Society recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 14, in Mairs Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The program includes works by Prokofiev, Scriabin and Ravel. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123.

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota will celebrate composer John Harbison's 80th year with an all-Harbison program at 4 p.m. Sunday, October 14, in Sundin Concert Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Harbison will join the

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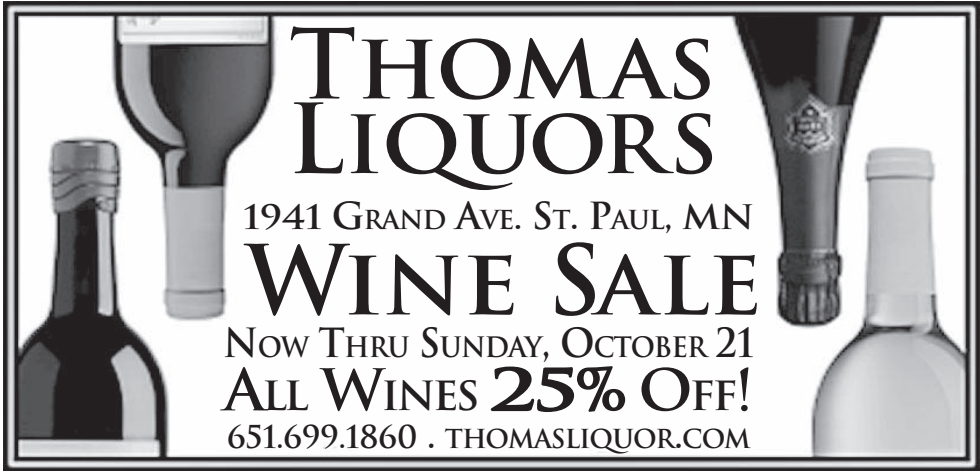
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The Hill House Chamber Players will perform masterworks that explore the diverse repertoire for various trios of piano, violin, viola, cello, and clarinet from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, October 15, in the art gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. A concert preview with the musicians and music blogger Emily Hogstad will be offered at 6:45. Tickets are \$23, \$12 for students, which includes refreshments and a tour of the Hill House. Call 651-297-2555.

The choral ensemble Border CrosSing will present 500 Years of Latin American Music in a family concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students and children ages 6 and older. Visit bordercrossingmn.org.

American Housewife, the duo of Stephanie Paquin and Maureen Rudd, formerly of the Midwest bands Space Heater, Sundogs and Big Citizen, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, October 19, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Accompanying them will be guitarist Geoff Shodde, formerly of the Rathbones and Nodding Begonias, and drummer Ken Goldman of Dizzy Hat. Leslie Rich will open the show. A cocktail hour with cash bar will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

The men's vocal ensemble Cantus will open its 24th season on October 19 with "Alone Together," a series of six concerts that explore the struggle to build meaningful relationships in a world that has never been more connected. The program features three works written for Cantus—Steven Sametz's "We Two," set to a Walt Whitman poem; David Lang's "Manifesto"; and the Libby Larson commission "You," set to the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Edna St. Vincent Millay—along with works by Lennon and McCartney, Beethoven, Dave Matthews, Saint-Saëns, Jennifer Higdon, Arcade Fire, Simon & Garfunkel and others. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. October 19 in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center in Minneapolis, 3 p.m. October 21 at Wayzata Community Church, 11 a.m. October 25 at Colonial Church of Edina, 7:30 p.m. October 26 in the Ordway Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m. October 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater and 2 p.m. November 4 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. For ticket information, call 612-435-0055.

The Minnesota Bach Ensemble will open its 2018-19 season on October 20 and 21 with concerts featuring Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 with trumpet soloist Lynn Erickson, Biber's Battalia à 10, and works by Fasch, Conti and Zelenka featuring flutist Adam Kuenzel and soprano Linh Kauffman. The music will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. Tickets at \$30, \$10 for students, are available at mnbach.org and at the door.

A blend of world music from China and the Middle East will be presented by Gao Hong on the pipa and Issam Rafea on the oud in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 20, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The duo will be joined by students in the Macalester Asian Music Ensemble. Call 651-696-6808.

Soulful Dublin singer Liam O'Maonlaí and his Hothouse Flowers bandmate Peter O'Toole will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 20, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The concert will be preceded by a free showing of a documentary on Hothouse Flowers from 6-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance, free to children. Call 612-874-8892.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will treat its audience to "A Day in the Country" at 1 p.m. Sunday, October 21, at Landmark Center.

Free and open to all, the concert will feature Copland's "Buckaroo Holiday" from Rodeo, D'Indy's Symphony on a French Mountain Air with pianist Michael Kim, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 8.

Family

Preschool children and their caregivers are invited to stop by SteppingStone Theatre at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for 30 minutes of stories, songs and creative play and 30 minutes of hands-on experience in creative dramatics and art making. The drop-in program runs weekly from October 10 through December 19 at Steppingstone, 55 N. Victoria St. The cost is \$10 per family. For more information, call 651-225-9265.

Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer the following: Whooo Are You?, a meeting with a live owl and program about this creature of the night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11 (cost is \$7 per child accompanied by adult); Chickens, Chickens Everywhere, a barnyard program with live hens and roosters, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, October 13 (\$7 per child accompanied by adult); Nature Day Camps in campfire cooking, creepy creatures and outdoor skills for grades K-8, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, October 18 and 19 (\$55 with scholarships available). Call 651-455-4531.

The Playful Learning Lab, an introduction to Codes and Chords, will be offered at 3 p.m. Friday, October 12, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The free program offers hands-on experience in the new Processing software. In the process it will teach them about music's color, pitch and amplitude. Call 651-642-0385.

Which Witch is Which?, an interactive ballet filled with mystery and magic, will be presented from October 16-21 by Brit-tany and Matthew Keefe's DanceCo. The curtain will rise at 10 a.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and noon and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Avalon Theater, 1500 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for children ages 3 and older. Wand-making and dance lessons will precede the show. Visit dancecomn.com.

Free workshops for children ages 7-11 will be offered on October 18 and 19 at St. Paul Public Library branches: Young Dance, an exploration of social justice, identity and collaboration through creative movement, from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday at Merriam Park and 1-2:30 p.m. Friday at West 7th; Media Arts, the making of stop-motion animation on iPads, 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday at Rice Street and 2-3:30 p.m. Friday at Rondo; ¡Dia de los Muertos!, a bilingual puppet show and puppet workshop, 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday at Sun Ray, 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday at Arlington Hills and 1:30-3 p.m. Friday at Riverview. Visit sppl.org/break.

Et cetera

Slavnost, a celebration of the centennial of Czechoslovakia, the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring and the 25th anniversary of the separate Czech and Slovak republics, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 13, at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St. In addition to appetizers, desserts and Czech wine and beer, the evening will feature a performance by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, a rendition of Dvorak's "Song to the Moon" by Lisa Butcher of the Minnesota Opera, a contemporary dance duet by Joe Chvala that celebrates immigrant roots, an exhibit on the history of Czech and Slovak currency, games, a silent auction and dancing to the live music of SlovCzech. Tickets are \$35 at the door, \$25 in advance at sokolmm.org.

Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Twins' brain trust makes its move

Generally speaking, when a Major League Baseball team finishes a season for which some thought it had a shot at post-season play—but instead sputters and comes in six games under .500—it quietly goes into hibernation and allows the other sports around town to take the spotlight. However, as the political landscape has shown us this fall, these are not quiet times.

What started as a celebration and a possible fond farewell for hometown hero Joe Mauer when he stepped behind the plate for a ceremonial pitch in the Twins' season finale was quickly doused when the management team announced two days later that manager Paul Molitor had been fired.

In hindsight, we should have seen it coming. Derek Falvey and Thad Levine, who oversee the Twins' baseball operations, inherited Molitor when they joined the club two years ago. Both men come from the New Age version of baseball wisdom, where analytics govern just about every decision. Things like a manager sensing when a player needs a rest or when he's ready to bust loose are considered passé these days. Indeed, the very instincts that made Molitor a Hall of Fame player turned out to be his downfall.

The brain trust had to bite their tongues a year ago when Molitor maneuvered the Twins into a wild card berth. This year, when a variety of events sent Minnesota into an early tailspin, the duo saw the opening they'd been looking for. It was fairly obvious that the Twins weren't going to be able to hang all year with Cleveland in the Central Division. The fact that Detroit and Chicago were undergoing overhauls helped Minnesota win a few more games and complicated matters.

The reality was that all the defensive shifts in the world couldn't disguise a lineup that was missing three guys who, last January, were expected to be offensive stalwarts. Toss in a regular starting pitcher who made just five starts and a series of uninspired free agent signings and it's a minor miracle Minnesota won as many games as it did.

The brain trust chose a handy bromide to sweep Molitor away. "It was about where our club is for the present and the future. This wasn't about our record this year," Falvey said at a press conference announcing the decision. "We just feel a change in voice and potential style with some of these younger players could be of benefit to us."

Translation: The 62-year-old Molitor wasn't the right guy to connect with today's young players on how to play a game that has made only incremental changes in the past 150 years.

During the recent season, Molitor had to make due with a lineup that was often missing center fielder Byron Buxton, who ended with just 94 big league at-bats. Third baseman Miguel Sano resembled a water buffalo when he arrived at spring training. Eventually, he was demoted to AAA Rochester to slim down and wise up. In 299 big league at-bats this year, he had more strikeouts than hits and walks combined.

WRIGHT CALL ► 24

Wolfpack gridders remain undefeated

BY BILL WAGNER

There haven't been many surprises so far this fall for the SMB Wolfpack. The cooperative football team made up of players from St. Paul Academy, Minnehaha and Blake was supposed to be a tough and skilled outfit this year—and it has been.

Through October 5, the Wolfpack were 6-0 overall, undefeated in the Twin City Maroon Conference, ranked fourth in the state in Class AAAA and looking every bit like a postseason contender. Coach Colin Quinn has been pretty low-key about it, but he knows just how good the team is.

"We have a long way to go and want to continue to get better," he said, "but our kids are putting in the work, so I feel good about our chances."

Through the first five weeks, the Wolfpack have outscored their opponents by a staggering 176-41. That includes a shutout over Academy Force in the season opener, strong wins over St. Croix Lutheran, Fridley and Washburn, and a blowout against Highland Park.

During that stretch, SMB had run up an average of 254 yards rushing and around 100 yards passing per game. On defense, the Wolfpack have 10 sacks and five interceptions.

Individually, juniors Craig McDonald and Kaden Johnson had rushed for 355 and 128 yards, respectively. McDonald also had thrown for 217 yards and junior Jalen Suggs for 178. Suggs missed some early action at starting quarterback because of a stress fracture in his leg, but McDonald assumed the role of signal-caller quite capably.

On defense, senior middle linebacker Bennett Theisen was leading the team with 38 tackles, followed by classmate Andrew Mollison's 32 and Johnson's 26. Coach Quinn said he likes Theisen's thinking-man's game, always anticipat-



SMB's Kevvan Anderson closes in after ripping the ball from Highland running back Robert Caldwell Jr. on September 29. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ing what the opposing offense is going to do.

McDonald had two interceptions to lead the team in that category, while Johnson tops the club with two sacks.

The Wolfpack's win on September 29 at Highland Park saw the upset-minded Scots jump off to an early 6-0 lead. However, those would be the only points SMB would surrender on the day.

Highland then got a glimpse of the Wolfpack's potent dual-attack of McDonald and Suggs. First it was Suggs, now healthy again, throwing to McDonald from 40 yards out for a touchdown. Then it was McDonald taking off on a 54-yard run to paydirt. After that it was a reversal of the first combo, with Suggs catching a 14-yard touchdown strike from McDonald.

The Wolfpack defense also flexed its

muscles for the last two scores on the day. Junior Cole McKinney scored on an 11-yard fumble recovery, then Theisen intercepted a pass and went 43 yards for a TD. Junior kicker Theo Crosby was a perfect five-for-five on extra point attempts. The Wolfpack led 21-6 by the half and finished with a 35-6 victory.

SMB also answered the bell in the third game of the season with a 28-14 win against Fridley. Both teams went into the contest with 2-0 records and the Tigers got out of the blocks well by taking a 14-0 lead.

But the Wolfpack clawed back. First it was McDonald throwing to junior Devin Casadecalvo for a 13-yard score with 8:18 to go in the third quarter. Then senior Bobby Chancellor scored two touchdowns, putting his team ahead for good with a 25-yard gallop that came after Fridley fumbled a kickoff.

McDonald had a big interception that iced the game toward the end. He had 122 yards rushing on the night, with Chancellor pitching in another 70.

That game remains the only loss suffered by top 10-ranked Fridley this season. SMB's victory was even more impressive since it was achieved with both Suggs and senior rusher Siegel Howard out with injuries. Quinn later said that such a performance was typical of his team's "next guy up" attitude in dealing with adversity.

Quinn, who doesn't mind employing his linemen on both sides of the ball, has some skilled athletes in the trenches. They include senior guard/defensive tackle Isaac Reed, senior defensive end Mollison, sophomore tackle Kevvan Anderson and senior center Riley Tietel.

The coach likes the way his club has played so far this season and he's enjoying coaching this group, now in its fourth year as a combined team.

"The kids have fun playing the game and they support each other," he said.

Scots again rule conference in volleyball

BY BILL WAGNER

The Highland Park High School volleyball team continues its dominance in the St. Paul City Conference with a combination of height, strength and quickness. Through October 4 the Scots were 13-6 overall and 9-0 in league play. Their conference winning streak now extends nearly three years.

"We just want to continue to improve as a team," said coach Toua Lee, "but this

is an enjoyable group to coach."

The Scots got off to a slow start this season, dropping matches to Henry Sibley and Hastings before going on a tear during which they won 10 of their next 11 contests. That includes going 3-0 against Harding and Central twice and Johnson once, their closest conference rivals. The only league match in which Highland has not won in straight sets was a 3-1 victory over Como Park in early September.

But Highland has also shown it can

win tight contests. The Scots edged Mounds Park Academy in a 25-19, 16-25, 15-13 dogfight and went on to outlast South St. Paul 28-26, 25-22 during the Visitation Tournament on September 8. The only defeat during that stretch of 10 wins was against Holy Angels in the first round of that same tournament.

Highland had a tougher go of it in the Blaine Tournament on September 29, losing to Greenway, North St. Paul and

HIGHLAND VOLLEYBALL ► 24

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23◀ HIGHLAND VOLLEYBALL

Legacy Christian Academy before beating Minneapolis Washburn in two sets.

Against Harding at home late last month, Highland dominated against a conference foe that was right on its heels. Harding never could make a run, however. The Scots did the Knights in 25-6, 25-15, 25-18.

In the first set, 5-foot-7 senior outside hitter Alandra Hickman furnished the two biggest strikes, first with a kill that brought Highland's lead to 16-5 and then with a spike that provided the winning point.

Harding started playing better defense in the second set and closed to within 13-9, but the Knights could get no closer. This time it was Highland senior right-side hitter Rachel Savage who did the crowning damage. First, she spiked a winner to make it 16-9 and then served an ace that brought the Scots' lead to 20-9.

The Scots play well as a team, which coach Lee said reflects their coachability and competitiveness. "We're the sum of our parts,"

he said.

Those parts are still pretty good individually. Hickman, a team captain, is the model of consistency. "She has a very high game," Lee said. "She's a true leader and a student of the game."

Hickman and junior outside hitter Annika Mattick led the way in the 3-0 win over Johnson on September 20, both recording seven kills in one set. Mattick finished with 14 kills.

Lee said Mattick is "our hardest hitter; we try to set her up." At 5-foot-11, she is the second tallest player for the Scots, and her jumping ability can look positively intimidating to opponents on the other side of the net.

Sophomore setter Annika Mechelke is a workhorse and the conference leader in assists. "Against Humboldt, Mechelke served 25 straight points," Lee said. "I've never seen that, and she plays great defense for a setter."

Senior middle hitter Eva Bacskai is a 5-foot-8 team captain and Lee also likes what she brings to the court. "She plays a lot bigger than her height," he said.

Freshman middle-hitter Braiziah Dixon is

Highland's tallest player at 6 feet and brings a fearsome presence to the front row.

"She's still young," Lee said, "but I can see her playing Division II or perhaps even Division I. You see players dodging her ball when she hits it."

Right-side hitter Savage, who did so well against Harding, is a solid player with a strong all-around game. Lee also has two good options off the bench in senior outside hitter Jane Iverson and sophomore outside hitter Deji Martens.

"Iverson is a solid passer who hits hard. It's hard to block her," Lee said. "Martens is our best passer. She's not afraid of a spike."

The Scots have also overcome what could have been a big obstacle this fall. They have been playing without senior libero Chloe Smith, who went out with a high ankle sprain in mid-September. It's questionable whether she'll return in time for the Section 3AAA playoffs that begin on October 23.

Still, Lee likes the way his team has responded to Smith's absence and believes that bodes well for the postseason.



Highland's Braiziah Dixon blocks a shot against Harding. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

23◀ WRIGHT CALL

For different reasons, it took half a season to get shortstop Jorge Polanco and pitcher Ervin Santana on the roster. Polanco did fine batting .288, while Santana started five games and disappeared.

This was laid at Molitor's feet. So too was the failure of free agent signings Logan Morrison, who batted .186, and pitcher Lance Lynn, who compiled a 5.10 earned run average before being dispatched to the Yankees.

The New Age geniuses study charts, not people. They would likely never have done what an old baseball man named Mayo Smith did 50 years ago this month.

Smith was managing Detroit, which had won the American League easily and was heading to the World Series to face a very good St. Louis team. But he had a problem. His regular starting shortstop, Ray Oyler, was excellent defensively but had a .135 batting average. This was in the days before the designated hitter. Smith had four good outfielders who rotated around. One of them was Mickey

Stanley, the team's best athlete. Smith told Stanley that he wanted him to play shortstop—a position he had played just once in his life—in the World Series. The move allowed Al Kaline, a longtime star for Detroit who had been injured for part of the season, to play outfield. Stanley fielded well and Kaline had hit .368 that shortened year.

As a final bold move, Smith sent Mickey Lolich to the mound on two days of rest in Game 7. Lolich bested flamethrower Bob Gibson 4-1.

The New Agers likely would not have approved of Tom Kelly leaving Jack Morris on the mound in the 10th inning of a scoreless Game 7 in the 1991 World Series. Kelly is reputed to have said, "What the hell. It's only a game."

And what a game it was.

Molitor listened to Falvey and Levine and, like any good employee would, tried to accommodate his bosses. He just didn't have the horses to win.

So Molitor is gone now and a number-crunching zealot armed with charts will take his place next spring. That new manager may do well or, if the center fielder continues to

pout and the third baseman continues to eat, he may well fall victim to Molitor's fate.

Either way, good luck selling fans that it'll be worth shelling out thousands of dollars in advance for season tickets.

Mauer quickly became an afterthought

Perhaps equally tragic as the Molitor firing was that it overshadowed a rare move by fellow St. Paul native and Cretin-Derham Hall star Joe Mauer. Mauer has always gone about his baseball business quietly, but as it turns out he has a bit of a showman in him after all. The hint should have been when his twin daughters joined him at first base for the usual Sunday anthem ceremonies during the Twins' season finale. Folks watching on TV were tipped off in advance to stick around after the eighth inning ended. Sure enough, Mauer came out in his catcher's gear. He caught one pitch and left to a thunderous ovation. If it was his curtain call, it was a beauty.

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



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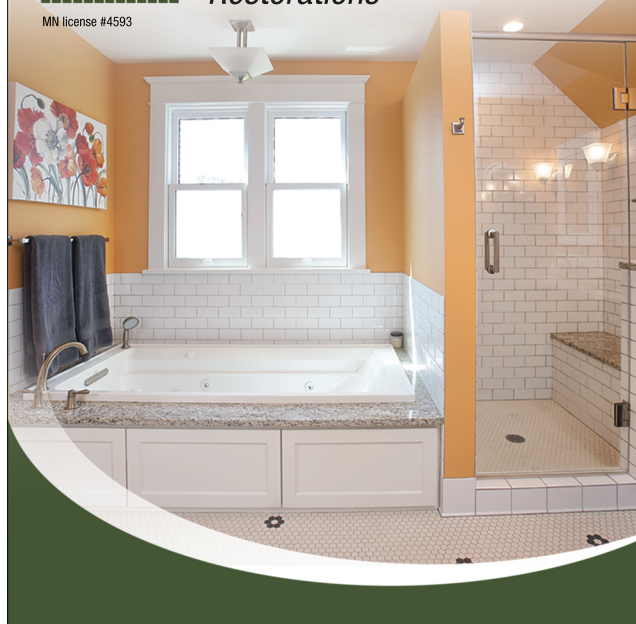
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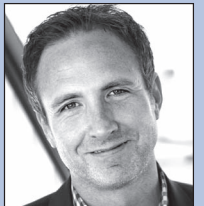
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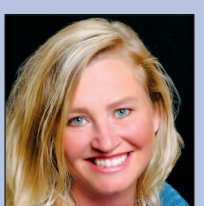
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TOM EDELSTEIN CRS, ABR
651-695-4300 • \$224,900



EXQUISITE MAC-GROVELAND GEM!

3BD/2BA home that has been expertly maintained. Hardwood floors, fire-place, spacious backyard w/brick-inlay patio, 2GA, eat-in kitchen, and beautiful sunroom! Transform the LL into an ideal family room. Nearby shops, restaurants. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS
651-270-1667 • \$485,000



CATHEDRAL HILL!

Smashing 3BR/4BA home with high end finishes. This unique property was built in 1997 and is part of an association. No need to worry about snow and lawn care! 484 Laurel Ave. AnotherHomeSoldByMary.com

MARY KNUDSEN CRS
651-335-6619 • \$525,000



1835 JULIET AVENUE

Stately English Tudor on beautiful street in prime Macalester Groveland. Wood burning fireplace with wall of built ins-hardwood floors, formal dining room and kitchen with updated counter tops cute eat-in area. Finished 3rd floor office & basement basement rec room.

KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245/CALL/TEXT



FABULOUS WEST 7TH NEIGHBORHOOD!

Tempting 2BR in a convenient location, just minutes to downtown St. Paul. Beautiful hardwood floors, formal dining plus sun-splashed eat-in kitchen. Main floor laundry, C/A, garage & large deck. 870 Palace Ave. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

JOE UEBEL ABR
651-695-4304 • \$189,900



HOME NESTLED IN NATURE!

Beautiful 3BD, 2BA home in a wonderfully convenient location! Enjoy a gas fireplace, finished lower level, and a deep and lush backyard oasis. Miles of biking and walking trails along the Miss. River just steps from your front door. 691 Woodlawn Ave. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS
651-270-1667 • \$375,000



PERFECT 1930 EXPANSION BUNGALOW!

Located in the heart of Mac-Grove. One level living with huge unfinished expansion. Everything is new from the roof, stucco, landscaping, beautiful 30's charm with formal living and dining rooms all new kitchen, two fireplaces, custom bath, California closets. Stunning!! 1238 Berkeley.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$345,000



HEART OF MACALESTER GROVELAND!

4BR, 2BA American Four Square is now available! Loved by current owner for the past 30 years! All the charm of era you would expect plus many updates & all in demand Mac Grove! Kitchen and master addition, beautiful hrdwds & corner cabinets await!!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$379,900



2001 CUSTOM BUILT TWO-STORY!

Stunning four bedroom, four bath in the heart of Mendota Heights. Updated kitchen with granite, walk in pantry and stainless steel appliances. Wonderful entertaining and family spaces. Unbelievable backyard oasis!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$599,900
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697 • \$599,900



PERFECTION!!!

295 Salem Church Rd: Spectacular Sunfish Lake home offering 12,447 sq. ft. to be used for your largest entertainment need but designed for comfortable everyday living as well. 5 fireplaces, 9 BA's, and an 8 car heated garage.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$3,999,000



445 VIEW

Great west 7th location walking distance to Palace Rec Center. Rare 4 bedroom, 2 full bath two story. The home features updated windows, new stucco and newer roof.

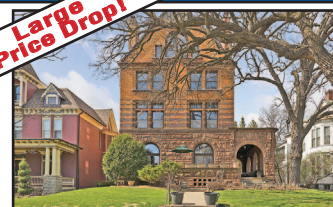
MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$209,900



1789 JAMES

Rare 4 bed, 3 bath under 400K in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood. The home has a newer two car garage, central air, updated kitchen and tons of original charm. Great rental potential. Walking distance to St. Kate's!

MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$289,900



HISTORIC 251 SUMMIT!

Unbelievable opportunity to live in the Summit Ave. Historic District! This condo is part of the Horace P. Rugg Mansion built in 1887 and boasts 4000 sq. ft. with 3 spacious BR's on one level with 3 baths and a separate 2 car garage. A must see!

MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$715,000



503 WARWICK STREET

You will want to make this house your home!! Perfect condition throughout, featuring hardwood floors, natural woodwork, built-in buffet, porch, eat-in kitchen, oversized two car garage and a fenced-in yard perfect for summer entertaining.

NANCY K MAAS
651-235-8581 • \$275,000



CLASSIC ST. PAUL CONDO!

Open and airy, sunny and bright. This 2BR, 3BA condo features spacious rooms, hrdwd floors, a 4 season sun room, butler's pantry, fireplace and fabulous built-ins. Great location, close to everything. 56 Arundel Street.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$360,000



STUNNING 3RD FLOOR CONDO!

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

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$430,000



HISTORIC JAMES J. HILL BUILDING!

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

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$525,000



1711 BAYARD

Wonderful 2400 sq. ft. Highland Park home with a beautifully remodeled kitchen, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, plus a three season porch, office and a finished basement! www.katielearyhomes.com

KATIE LEARY
651-600-5604 • \$400,000



MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



JENNIFER DEUTSCH
651-447-9776



HENRY EDELSTEIN
651-270-1667



TOM EDELSTEIN
651-695-4300



GARY FABEL
651-334-3659