

City Council considers new limits on the sale, marketing of tobacco

Retailers cry foul, question whether ordinance would have the desired effect

BY JANE MCCLURE

Saint Paul city officials have renewed their battle to keep tobacco out of the hands of children and people of color with new restrictions on the sale and marketing of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed restrictions at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 20.

The restrictions would create a separate tobacco shop license for stores where 90 percent or more of the sales are tobacco products. A separate tobacco sales license for convenience, grocery and liquor stores would also be established. The city would cap the number of tobacco shop licenses at 25. Tobacco sales licenses would be capped at 150.

Saint Paul has about 190 stores that are currently licensed for tobacco sales. Thirty-nine of those licensees are predominantly tobacco shops. The others are convenience, grocery and liquor stores. These shops and stores would not lose their licenses under the proposed caps, but new licensees would have to fit under those caps.

A minimum distance requirement of one-half mile between tobacco shops would also be created under the ordinance. Liquor stores could no longer sell menthol and other flavored tobacco products. A pack of cigarettes would have a minimum price of \$10, and discount coupons for tobacco products would be banned.

LIMITS ON TOBACCO SALES ▶5



Moving to the music.

Sousaphonist Greg McCool, wife Christine and their children Ben, 2, and Mary, 7 weeks, cheered on competitors in the 39th annual Twin Cities Marathon on October 3. The stretch near mile post 22 on Summit Avenue included a hydration station where a grateful Steven Wessling slowed for a quick drink of water.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Local businesses are struggling with shortage of workers

Stores have had to slash hours as they strive to attract new employees

BY CAROLYN WALKUP

Businesses across the neighborhoods served by *MyVillager* are struggling with staff shortages at a time when finding enough help has become a nationwide problem. Retailers and restaurants in particular have been using every conceivable method to attract new employees. Some have had to reduce their hours as the only way to give their otherwise over-worked staffs or owners a day off.

Three stores in the 1500 block of Selby Avenue have been sharing two clerks among themselves. Kristie Case, who owns Teeny Bee Boutique and Leo's Footwear, has been helping out at Spoils of War as well. "We can't find anyone to work for us," she said. "We had five people before COVID-19 struck, and now we have three."

Down the street at Tennis on Selby, 1599 Selby Ave., owner Deb Irvine recently closed her store for the weekend so she could take a few days off, resulting in an estimated loss of a few thousand dollars in revenue. "It's never been this bad before," said Irvine, who has operated the shop for 11 years.

Restaurants have been especially hard-hit by the labor shortage. Neighborhood

LABOR SHORTAGE ▶5

St. Paul debates merits of rent control measure on ballot

BY JANE MCCLURE

Saint Paul voters will be asked on November 2 whether the city should limit private landlords to annual rent increases of no more than 3 percent. Proponents say the measure is needed to keep housing affordable and protect tenants from large increases in rent imposed by "predatory" landlords. Opponents say it will discourage the building of new rental housing and the maintenance of existing rental housing, leading to an even greater shortage of affordable housing.

The Twin Cities have been experiencing a shortage in housing generally and affordable housing particularly in recent years. Tenant advocates contend that rents are rising faster than wages. Some tenants have faced rent hikes topping 30 percent, they said.

"For more and more tenants, housing is becoming out of reach," said Margaret Kaplan of the Housing Justice Center. "The 3 percent cap is pretty standard for our market. It's very reasonable, and it gives a level of predictability for tenants and for landlords."

Andy Anderson has rented in the Midway neighborhood for four years. "I've almost lost housing because (rent) is generally over 50 percent of my monthly income," he said. "A reduction in hours or a job change would make my situation precarious."

Tom Basgen of Highland Park has lived in five different rental units over the past 11 years. He has been forced to move twice in the face of rent increases he could not afford. "I'm very much in favor of a cap on rent," he said. A 3 percent cap on annual rent increases would provide stability and

predictability for tenants, according to him. "You shouldn't have to live your life worrying whether or not you can afford housing," he said.

Landlords are wary, however. Of more than a dozen interviewed, most said the ballot measure could backfire on tenants. Several landlords who own fewer than seven properties said if the ballot measure were approved, they could be forced to sell to large corporations, who may be less inclined to keep their units affordable.

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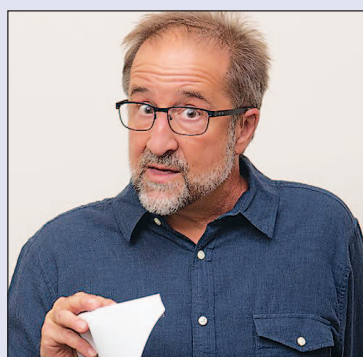
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Lack of progress on Saint Paul's vaccine mandate irks City Council

Complex impacts of the mandate have slowed negotiations with city employees' labor unions

By JANE McCLURE

A COVID-19 vaccine mandate for Saint Paul city employees is still on the drawing board and may not be formally proposed until mid-November. City Council members who passed a resolution calling for the vaccine mandate more than a month ago have expressed impatience with the delays and are seeking a progress report before the measure returns to the City Council on October 20.

Saint Paul was one of the first local units of government to adopt a vaccine man-

date, said Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, but it may be the last to implement one.

The mandate, which has the support of Mayor Melvin Carter, would affect the city's roughly 3,000 full-time and part-time employees. What has caused the delay are ongoing negotiations with the city's various labor unions and employee bargaining groups. The complexity of tracking who is and is not already vaccinated is another factor, according to city human resources director Toni Newborn.

"We have to negotiate in good faith

what impact such a policy would have on city staff," Newborn said. There needs to be a discussion of what refusing a vaccine means for an employee, she said. Newborn's department also must determine who would have access to what is considered to be private medical information.

"There's also a technology aspect to it," said Newborn. Her department does not have a mechanism in place to collect vaccine information on employees. It is working with the city's Office of Technology and Communications and the state of Minnesota to develop the needed software. Federal American Rescue Plan funds have been eyed to help cover the additional costs.

"I will say I'm disappointed," Tolbert said.

"I'm really deeply disappointed with the response (of city staff)," said Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince. "It is children in our community who are most at risk."

Prince pointed out the number of city employees who work with younger children who cannot be vaccinated or who have younger children themselves. According to her, the City Council has had no communication from the mayor's office since the resolution mandating vaccines was adopted.

Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalali said that while she appreciates the privacy issue, she questioned the need for more technology. Newborn said the technology is not something that can be bought "off the shelf," but needs to be custom-made.

14 RENT CONTROL ON THE BALLOT

Saint Paul's proposed rent control measure would be the most restrictive in the country, according to some observers. "Rent control in other cities is restricted to certain units or tenants," according to the Sensible Housing Ballot Committee. "But this measure covers all tenants regardless of income and all rental units regardless of building size. No one knows how much it would cost or how it would be enforced."

"I agree very much with the goal of the ballot question," said Jim McCorkell, who with his wife owns five rental properties in Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland, including the duplex they share. "But a hard cap on rent increases wouldn't have the desired effect." McCorkell believes that landlords would have to defer maintenance and building improvements because at 3 percent per year rents may not keep up with the rising cost of property taxes, utility bills, building materials and the like.

"It's not reasonable to be limited to a 3 percent increase per year," said Merriam Park resident Gisela Peters, who owns and manages half a dozen rental properties. Small landlords operate on thin margins, she said, and have been faced with steep increases in property taxes.

If it is approved by a majority of voters, the ballot measure would take effect in May 2022, giving city officials several months to determine how to enforce the 3 percent limit and when to grant exemptions.

Of the seven members of the City Coun-

cil, Amy Brendmoen, Jane Prince, Chris Tolbert and Dai Thao are opposed to the measure, Mitra Jalali and Nelsie Yang are in support, and Rebecca Noecker is undecided. Mayor Melvin Carter has not said where he stands. However, even with a majority opposed, the rent cap could not be repealed by the City Council for at least a year.

Housing Equity Now Saint Paul (HENS), a coalition that includes the Housing Justice Center, the Alliance and TakeAction Minnesota, collected more than 9,000 signatures to place the measure on the ballot. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, Frogtown Neighborhood Association and West Side Citizens Organization are among the neighborhood groups in support.

The majority of Saint Paul's residents are tenants, said Tram Hoang, an organizer for HENS. The coalition contends that the city is seeing an increasing number of corporate landlords who are imposing large rent increases on tenants.

According to HENS, rents have increased in neighborhoods where such new public amenities as better transit have been added. Gentrification has been a hot-button issue in neighborhoods along the light-rail Green Line, which opened in 2014.

Leading the charge against the ballot measure in Saint Paul and a similar ballot measure in Minneapolis is the Think Twice About Rent Control campaign organized by the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). That coalition includes the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, the International Union of

Rent control ballot question

Should the city adopt the proposed ordinance limiting rent increases? The ordinance limits residential rent increases to no more than 3 percent in a 12-month period, regardless of whether there is a change of occupancy. The ordinance also directs the city to create a process for landlords to request an exception to the 3 percent limit based on the right to a reasonable return on investment. A 'yes' vote is a vote in favor of limiting rent increases. A 'no' vote is a vote against limiting rent increases.

Operating Engineers, Minnesota Realtors, the Saint Paul Area and Minneapolis Area Associations of Realtors, the Minneapolis Downtown Council and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce.

MMHA president and CEO Cecil Smith said the ballot measure is "draconian" and "probably the worst solution (advocates) could propose."

Adam Duininck, director of government affairs for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, said the Saint Paul measure would have a "crippling, chilling effect" on new housing development. "All development will slow down if this is passed," he said.

Ramsey Hill resident Will Rolf, who owns and manages more than 70 rental units, believes developers will not build in Saint Paul if rent control passes. "Saint Paul is surrounded by markets where developers can go," he said. Instead of limit-

ing rent increases, Rolf said, the city should open up more land for multi-family housing construction and add housing of all types while protecting the older buildings that serve as naturally occurring affordable housing.

Ed Conley, co-owner of CCI Properties, said his company has focused on rehabilitating historic properties and keeping their rents affordable. Some of these buildings are in downtown and at the corner of Selby and Snelling avenues. The rent control measure on the ballot would prevent him from making those renovations and holding rents down at the same time. "This would stifle the development I do," he said.

Dayton's Bluff landlord Eric Foster supports the ballot measure. "For good landlords, this won't change things very much," he said. "It's really trying to get at the bad actors."

Several landlords said they defer or minimize rent increases for longtime tenants, only raising rents when an apartment opens up. The rent control measure would not allow them to do that anymore, they said, since their rent increases would need to be spread among all tenants.

Several landlords said their property taxes have more than doubled in the past five years. Joe Hughes of Union Park Management also cited the rising costs of labor, building materials and maintenance supplies. He said the ballot question deserved more discussion with landlords and others before appearing on the ballot. "There are ways to provide more affordable housing," he said, "but this isn't one of them."



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A 130-square-foot free-standing sign (left) and a 60-square-foot projecting sign (right) were approved for a new medical office building on the southwest corner of Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Boulevard.

Signs approved for new medical office building in Highland Village

By JANE McCLURE

With the approval on October 4 of four sign variances, a new medical office building is one step closer to a December groundbreaking at 2270 Ford Pkwy. The two-story, 60,000-square-foot building is 73 percent pre-leased with M Health Fairview as the anchor tenant. The remaining 16,200 square feet is available for three to five more medical offices.

Ryan Companies, master developer of the 122-acre Highland Bridge development project, is building the new medical office building. Ryan received zoning variances for the building itself earlier this year. It is the second major commercial development at the site, following the new Lunds and Byerlys store on the ground floor of a mixed-used building just to the east.

“With the anticipated population growth in the area, the Highland Bridge medical office building will help meet the increased need for health care services,” said Ann Duginske Cibulka, director of health care real estate development for Ryan. “This location is highly accessible, making it convenient for residents of the area.”

M Health Fairview will occupy 26,000 square feet, primarily on the second floor, with a pharmacy on the first floor. The clinic will provide primary care services, including family, women’s and pediatric care, and urgent care with extended week-day and weekend hours. M Health Fairview Rehabilitation Services, including physical therapy and sports medicine, will also occupy the new space.

A groundbreaking is planned for early December, with completion in the spring of 2023. The existing M Health Fairview clinic at 2155 Ford Pkwy. will remain open until the new facility is ready to see patients.

The four sign variances were approved by the Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals. The variances are to regulations tied to the building’s underlying zoning and to the Highland Village Special Sign District, which was adopted in 1986 to reduce sign clutter.

Plans call for five signs in all. A one-sided, free-standing, 13-by-10-foot sign will be located on the building’s east side along Mount Curve Boulevard. That is 106 square feet more than what is normally allowed in the special sign district.

Two 4-by-6-foot directory signs are planned on the buildings’ north and south sides.

The building will also have a 10-by-8-foot wall sign facing Gateway Park and a 12-by-5-foot projecting sign on the building’s northeast corner at Mount Curve and Ford Parkway. The zoning for the property limits the height of signs to 30 feet. Those two signs will have heights of 39 and 37 feet, respectively.

The special sign district limits the size of projecting signs to a maximum surface display area of 16 square feet per side. The projecting sign on the northeast corner will have a display area of 60 square feet per side.

City staff recommended approval of the variances, citing the size and scale of the building and the need for directional signs in a multi-tenant office building. Tia Anderson, who oversees site plan reviews for the city, said most of the signs would be internally lit to minimize glare. The free-standing sign would have a spotlight on it. According to Anderson and Duginske Cibulka, the site’s 10-foot grade change is also a factor in the sign variance requests.

The Highland District Council’s Community Development Committee recommended approval of the variances, as did the Highland Business Association.

Council tables large grant for food shelf

The Saint Paul City Council laid over a proposal on October 6 to provide \$902,255 in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) related to COVID-19 to the proposed Keystone Community Services food shelf at University and Beacon avenues in Merriam Park. The proposal will return to the council on October 20.

While council members agreed that the food shelf is a worthy endeavor, they want more information. They also questioned why the funds are not being awarded through a competitive process and why an expenditure of almost \$1 million appeared on the consent agenda.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated CDBGs

for decades. The additional funding is specific to needs related to the pandemic and comes through the federal CARES Act.

Because the food shelf has provided a much higher volume of services since the start of COVID-19, city staff and Mayor Melvin Carter’s administration deemed Keystone eligible for the funding.

The nonprofit is consolidating its food shelves and adding space by converting two longtime commercial buildings into a bigger food storage, handling and distribution center. Keystone, which serves people throughout the city, has held 21 drive-up food distribution events, and has seen great increases in the number of people served in 2020 and 2021.

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St. Paul's poorer areas may see steepest property tax increases

Higher home values come at hefty price if levies aren't pared

BY JANE MCCLURE

Unless the city of Saint Paul, Ramsey County or the Saint Paul Public Schools decides in the months ahead to lower its projected tax levy for 2022, the owners of a median-value home in Saint Paul can expect to see an 11 percent increase in their property taxes next year.

Meeting as the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee, city, county and school district officials reviewed their respective maximum levies for 2022 and approved a joint maximum levy on September 27.

Truth in Taxation notices will be mailed out to all property owners in Ramsey County between November 10-24 with estimates of their 2022 property taxes should the maximum amounts prevail. Truth-in-Taxation public hearings will be held by each of the governmental jurisdictions in late November or early December.

The prospect of double-digit tax increases is a concern for elected officials. However, the estimated percentage increase for property owners varies greatly from neighborhood to neighborhood. What a property owner actually pays in taxes is based on the value of the property and the change in value from the previous year as reflected by the sale price of comparable properties in the neighborhood and any improvements that were made to the property over the past year.

Ramsey County's property tax levy will be increasing a maximum of 1.5 percent in 2022. The Saint Paul Public Schools' levy will be increasing a maximum of 3.15 percent. The city of Saint Paul's levy will be increasing a maximum of 6.9 percent.

The value of the median-priced home in Saint Paul increased 6 percent over the past year—from \$215,800 to \$228,700. The property taxes on that home will increase \$338 or 11 percent in 2022—from \$3,079 to \$3,417—if the maximum is levied by the city, county and school district.

The median-value apartment building in Saint Paul increased 0.4 percent over the past year—from \$1,024,000 to \$1,028,100. The property taxes on that apartment building will increase 4.1 percent—from \$19,252 to \$20,038—under the 2022 maximum levies.

The median-value commercial property decreased 1.1 percent over the past year—from \$486,600 to \$483,000. The property taxes on that property will decrease 1.2 percent—from \$15,876 to \$15,687—under the 2022 maximum levies.

Homeowners who can expect to see the largest percentage increases in property taxes in 2022 are in those neighborhoods that have been the slowest to recover from the housing market crash and recession of 2007-2008. Those neighborhoods—Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen, Greater East Side, North End, Frogtown and Sunray-Battle Creek-Highwood Hills—have seen the largest percentage increases in property value over the past year.

The highest percentage increase is in Dayton's Bluff, where the market value of the median-price home increased 16.5 percent—from \$178,500 to \$194,700. The

property taxes on that home will increase \$508 or 25.1 percent—from \$2,026 to \$2,534—if the maximum is levied by city, county and school district.

Saint Anthony Park is at the other end of the spectrum. The market value of the median-price home there decreased 0.3 percent over the past year—from \$390,800 to \$389,800. However, the property taxes on that home will increase \$207 or 3.5 percent—from \$5,987 to \$6,194—under the maximum 2022 levies.

Summit-University has seen its median-value home increase by 3.4 percent—from \$242,200 to \$250,500. The property taxes on that home will increase by \$275 or 7.8 percent under the maximum levies—from \$3,518 to \$3,793.

Summit Hill has seen its median-value home increase by 3.4 percent—from \$474,550 to \$490,850. Property taxes on that home will increase by \$557 or 7.5 percent—from \$7,379 to \$7,936—under the maximum levies.

The median-value home in Highland Park increased 1.7 percent—from \$353,900 to \$359,800. Property taxes on that home will increase by \$306 or 5.7 percent—from \$5,374 to \$5,680—under the maximum levies.

The Union Park neighborhoods of Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline have seen their median-value home increase by 1.1 percent—from \$335,100 to \$338,700. Taxes on that home will increase by 5 percent or \$251—from \$5,062 to \$5,313—under the maximum levies.

Downtown's median-value home increased 1 percent—from \$459,800 in 2021 to \$464,350. Taxes on that home will in-

City Council seeks comment on St. Paul's budget for '22

The Saint Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed city budget for 2022 at its meeting at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 13, at the Como Lakeside Pavilion.

The hearing is being held in addition to the city's annual Truth-in-Taxation hearing, which will be held in December, shortly before the 2022 budget is adopted. The public can testify in person at the hearing, which is being held outdoors. The meeting will also be streamed live on Facebook.

Citizens are invited to comment on the spending plan at a time when budget decisions are being made. Those who testify will be given two minutes to speak. The City Council is also conducting a budget survey online. It consists of a dozen questions. To access the survey, visit tinyurl.com/nsadfuv6 by November 30.

crease by 4.8 percent or \$354—from \$7,134 to \$7,479—under the maximum levies.

In the West End, the median-value home increased by 0.6 percent—from \$203,400 to \$204,700. Taxes on that home will increase by 4.6 percent or \$131—from \$2,873 to \$3,004—under the maximum levies.

Macalester-Groveland's median-value home increased by 0.3 percent—from \$360,00 to \$361,550. Taxes on that home will increase by 4 percent or \$222—from \$5,485 to \$5,707—under the maximum levies.

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14 LABOR SHORTAGE

Cafe, 1570 Selby Ave., recently reopened after being closed for over a year due to the pandemic. Though three of owner Kris Masanz's cooks returned to work after the long break, three cooks did not. As a result, the restaurant is no longer open seven days a week. Masanz has also had to eliminate dinner service and is now only open for breakfast and lunch from Wednesdays through Saturdays.

"We're good," she said, "but if I want to open more hours I'll need a couple more cooks. I thought we'd be blown away with applications when unemployment ended, but that hasn't happened."

Masanz was referring to the \$300 federal unemployment benefit that up until September 4 was available on top of the unemployment benefits provided by the state of Minnesota. Thanks to the federal bump, many people were earning more money being unemployed than employed.

Other reasons cited by employers for the labor shortage include ongoing fears of COVID-19 exposure, the seasonal unavailability of high school and college students and an increase in early retirements. The number of Americans over age 55 who are working has declined by 2.5 million or 5 percent since the pandemic began, according to the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis.

Brian Ingram, an owner or partner in several local restaurants, including Gnome Craft Pub on Selby Avenue and Hope Breakfast Bar and Woodfired Cantina on West Seventh Street, has offered several new benefits as a way to attract more employees, including flexible hours. Ingram has yet to replace the students he employed



Business partners and neighbors Jill Erickson and Kristie Case have been sharing staff among their Selby Avenue shops: Teeny Bee Boutique, Leo's Footwear and Spoils of Wear. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

over the summer, but as of early October he had not had to reduce operating hours except at his Purple Ice Cream kiosk at Keg and Case Market on West Seventh.

Rusty Taco, which has multiple locations in the Twin Cities, including 508 S. Lexington Pkwy., could use 10 to 15 more full-time and part-time employees, according to manager Natasha Brew. Staffing was not a problem when the restaurants operated with takeout orders only, Brew said, but it has become an issue since the restaurants reopened for indoor dining.

Senior assisted-living facilities, including Episcopal Homes at 1860 University

Ave. and Carondelet Village at 525 S. Fairview Ave., are offering hiring bonuses and other incentives for nurses aides and food service staff.

Episcopal Homes also has a day care center and is offering scholarships to employees there who want to continue their education. "We're figuring out how best to support them," said spokesperson Cindy Iverson.

National retail chains are also experiencing a shortage of job applicants. Walgreens is looking for pharmacy technicians, beauty consultants and shift leaders. In-store brochures tout the benefits the drug store

provides, including paid on-the-job training, flexible scheduling and competitive pay.

Minneapolis-based Target Stores is hoping to hire 100,000 employees nationwide before the holiday shopping season begins. The retail giant is offering permanent positions, flexible scheduling and free tuition for certain undergraduate and associate degree programs.

Advertising on Instagram and Facebook are among the methods Becca Hall has been using to attract new hires at her Ten Thousand Villages store at 520 Selby Ave. She and her two employees are working many more hours than they used to. In the meantime, she has had to reduce store hours and is now closed on Tuesdays.

Melissa Paulson, manager of Paper Source, said applications are just starting to trickle in for openings she has had for some time at the store at 857 Grand Ave. "COVID has put a strain on people coming back to work," she said.

Salon 760 at 760 S. Cleveland Ave. has had to close on Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to a shortage of hair stylists. Owner Jamie Callies opened the salon 10 years ago, and she is hoping to find at least two more stylists. "The neighborhood supports small businesses like ours," she said. "We're really blessed. We just need more people."

Sweatshop Health Club, 167 N. Snelling Ave., is looking to hire pilates trainers and guest services staff. "It's really challenging," said owner Gayle Winegar. "We had three people quit with no notice after two or three months of training. The twenty-something generation has no qualms about quitting without giving notice. They have a lot of choices."

14 TOBACCO SALES LIMITS

The penalties for license holders who sell tobacco to underage customers or who sell flavored tobacco products would be increased from \$200 to \$500 for a first offense, from \$400 to \$1,000 for a second offense, and from \$800 to \$2,000 for a third offense. The licenses of repeat offenders could be suspended or revoked.

The proposed restrictions have been hailed by health care providers and anti-tobacco activists, including the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR). They have raised red flags for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association and the Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers.

The coalition—which is made up of the Minnesota Service Station and Convenience Store Association, Minnesota Retailers Association, Minnesota Grocers Association and the Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association—has challenged the restrictions under the Minnesota Unfair Cigarette Sales Act. The 1960s statute established minimum cigarette price markups to prevent predatory pricing and the sale of cigarettes as a loss leader in retail stores.

"A city should not engage in what is essentially price fixing," a coalition letter stated. "To our knowledge, the city of Saint Paul does not fix the prices of any other consumer products, and neither should it start to do so with cigarettes."

The coalition questioned whether underage youths take advantage of tobacco sales promotions or coupons. "This simply does not happen," it stated. "All this provision will do is raise the cost of legal tobacco products to Saint Paul residents."

ANSR-Minnesota has worked on the proposed ordinance for the past few years. According to the organization, 2018 tobacco companies spent \$9.1 billion in 2018 to reduce the price of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco for consumers. "Coupons and discounts undermine smokers' attempts to quit and hook young people into starting," ANSR stated. "In Minnesota, adult smokers who redeemed cigarette coupons were less likely to quit smoking than those who didn't use coupons."

"Price is the most effective tool in reducing smoking in adults and preventing youth from starting," ANSR stated. "Tobacco is a leading cause of premature, preventable death in Minnesota. Despite

Minnesota's progress in reducing smoking among youths and adults, an increasing percentage of youths are still using many of these products."

"Everyone I know has bought something they didn't need, and in the end didn't want, because the price was just too good to pass up," said Jeanne Weigum, president of ANSR-Minnesota and a Merriam Park resident. "Saint Paul's ordinance will stop that kind of predatory pricing by eliminating tobacco coupon redemption and setting a minimum price on cigarettes and chewing tobacco."

Saint Paul officials have targeted tobacco and vaping products for years. Candy products that mimic tobacco products, including bubblegum cigars, candy cigarettes and Big League Chew gum, were banned in 2009. Flavored tobacco products were banned from convenience stores in 2016. The minimum age to buy tobacco products was raised from 18 to 21 in 2019. That year the City Council also set the tobacco license cap at 242.

Some of the measures have backfired. A 2017 city ordinance that restricted the sale of menthol and flavored tobacco products to tobacco-only shops resulted in the reno-

vation of many convenience stores with separate tobacco-only spaces. Twenty new licenses were granted to tobacco-only shops after the ordinance passed, and by late 2019 the city had 42 tobacco shops.

The Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers wants to know whether or not the city's previous efforts to keep tobacco out of the hands of youths and people of color have worked.

"To our knowledge, the city has not provided any evidence that such restrictions and prohibitions have met the goals that the actions were supposed to achieve," the coalition stated. "Does the city have any empirical evidence or data that show the goals of the restrictions and prohibitions have been accomplished? If not, then the City Council should pause and determine what the impact of the restrictions and prohibitions on retailers and the public have been to date."

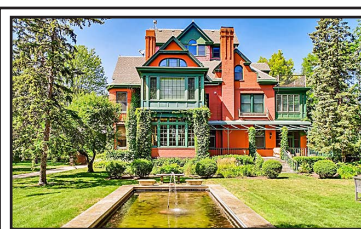
"The City Council needs to be accountable to the retailers and residents of the city that the ordinances it enacts have the intended impact," the coalition stated. "In the absence of such evidence, any further amendments to the tobacco licensing ordinance should be postponed."

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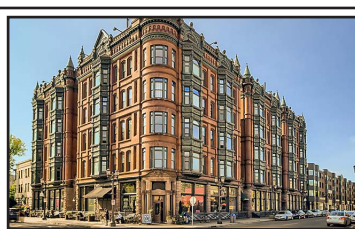


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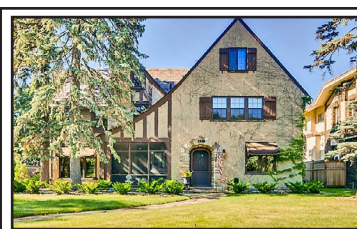


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Melvin Carter



Miki Frost



Dino Guerin



Bill Hosko



Dora Jones-Robinson



Paul Langenfeld



Abu Nayeem

Candidates tout their qualifications for St. Paul's top post

Mayoral hopefuls lay out their priorities for city in next four years

BY DALE MISCHKE

First-term incumbent Mayor Melvin Carter is facing seven challengers this fall in his bid for reelection in Saint Paul. Miki Frost, Dino Guerin, Bill Hosko, Dora Jones-Robinson, Paul Langenfeld, Abu Nayeem and Scott Evans Wergin have all thrown their hat in the ring.

This marks the third mayoral election in which Saint Paul is using ranked-choice voting, so all eight candidates will appear on the November 2 general election ballot. Voters will be asked to rank them in their order of preference. To help readers sort through the candidates' personal strengths and policy positions, *MyVillager* asked them about their qualifications for mayor, their top priorities for the city and

how they would spend the \$166 million the city is receiving through the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) for pandemic relief:

Melvin Carter, 42, a former City Council member, served as chair of the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhoods, director of the state Office of Early Learning and executive director of the Minnesota Children's Cabinet prior to being elected mayor in 2017.

"Saint Paul is larger, more diverse and more prominent than ever," he said. "As our community reinvents itself, we must reinvent the services, systems, processes and resources we leverage to govern. My administration has led that work with a focus on equity. We passed a \$15 minimum wage, eliminated library late fines, tripled free recreation center programs, established a dedicated fund for bikeways, eliminated minimum parking requirements and created a \$50 college savings account for every child born in Saint Paul."

Carter said he would help the city recover from the pandemic by investing in job creation, services for the homeless and affordable housing, and by ensuring access

to fair and stable housing. "We'll invest \$40 million in ARP to ensure safer neighborhoods through our Community-First Public Safety program," he said.

"With the investments we've made in emergency responders, youth and families, alternative responses and our new Office of Neighborhood Safety, our city is on track for a most comprehensive, coordinated and data-driven approach to public safety," Carter said. "We can discourage criminal activity by making public spaces more visible, creating natural ways to safely access outdoor spaces and buildings, creating natural separation between public and private spaces and making public spaces more welcoming and accessible."

Miki Frost, 49, is director of the 8218 Truce Center with locations in Summit-University and the East Side. The nonprofit organization encourages youths to make positive choices and promotes conflict resolution by teaching communication skills.

"My strong ties to the community have provided me with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the needs of the com-

munity," Frost said. "I'm able to build relationships and make connections within a diverse population, providing me with the skills to bridge gaps."

Public safety, mental health, education and economic development are Frost's top priorities for using ARP funding. "I would invest in criminal justice system reform by restructuring training programs for law enforcement," he said. "I'd support law enforcement officers with new equipment, such as Shotspotter. I'd look to rehire officers lost during the current administration, as well as expand community outreach. I'd create programs where mental health professionals are collaborating within schools and other community programs."

"City government must work for the people and respond to community needs," Frost said. "This includes affordable housing, homelessness, road maintenance and infrastructure. As mayor, I would assemble a panel of experts to execute plans guided by community input, while working with

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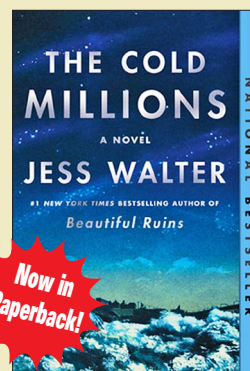
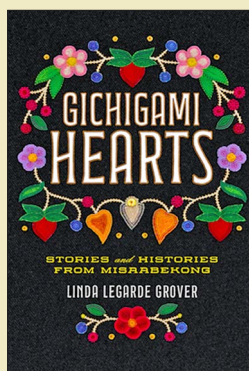
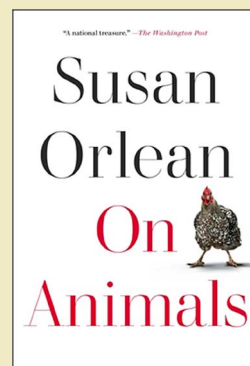
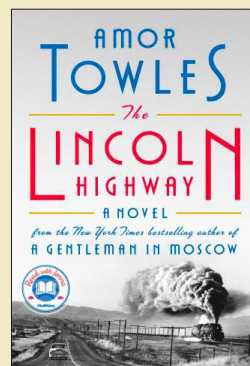
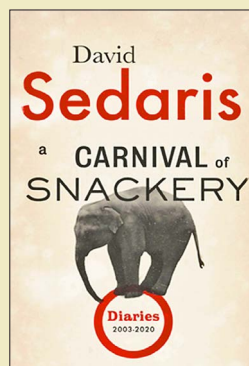
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64 ST. PAUL MAYOR'S RACE

the private sector to develop and redevelop the riverfront and underutilized areas."

Dino Guerin, 62, works as an investigative assistant in the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. He served for 31 years in the Saint Paul Fire Department as a firefighter, EMT, fire captain and district fire chief. He also served three terms on the City Council and one term on the Ramsey County Board.

"I have a strong working knowledge of the county and city," he said. "I served as lead City Council member with the mayor to recruit the Minnesota Wild. I led economic development efforts, including the building of RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center. I assisted the Police Department in creating the Force Unit. I oversaw the city-county mergers in public health, elections and printing, saving costs and improving services."

Guerin said he would focus ARP funds on property tax relief, debt relief, a renovation of parks and recreation centers, graffiti removal and the remediation of blighted properties. "We'll add police officers to combat rising crime, establish a curfew center and increase funding to youth organizations," he said. "I'll add customer service employees to the Mayor's Complaint Office to ensure citizen concerns are addressed."

"My top goal as mayor is to reestablish safety and security for all residents, visitors, employees and businesses in the city," Guerin said. "Law enforcement officials must be supported and allowed to do their job. I'll launch a back-to-the-basics campaign, instilling pride and ownership in our neighborhoods and eliminating graffiti and litter. Together, we'll set the tone and expectations for a clean and peaceful environment."

Bill Hosko, 58, is an architectural artist and the owner of Hosko Gallery & Framing and Music Forest Cafe in downtown. "I've served on three district council boards," he said. "I excelled in cleaning up and untangling bylaws and in getting new people to attend meetings and to run for board and committee positions. I've run for City Council five times, placing second four times."

"Thousands in Saint Paul are disappointed in how little they're getting for their ever-higher tax dollars and fees," Hosko said. "ARP funds should go toward the needless massive backlog in basic city services, maintenance and repair work. We'll also work to institute policies to ensure these conditions are not repeated."

"It's time for a change at City Hall," Hosko said. "It's time we place Saint Paul back on a higher track. Restoring the public's faith in City Hall and reversing policies harming our quality of life will occur, including getting crime and a growing lack of accountability under control and reversed. As a nonpartisan mayor who isn't a politician, who has had a wonderful 30-year career as a small-business owner and volunteer, I'll bring back the fun, enjoyment and excitement that Saint Paul once possessed. I've door-knocked 75 percent of this city since my campaign began on February 25. I intend on lit-dropping the balance until election day. This work ethic will continue if I become mayor."

Dora Jones-Robinson, 56, is the founder and CEO of Mentoring Young Adults and the founder of the gun violence prevention program Guns Down Saint Paul. "In my volunteer time, I've made a life of assisting in repairing the lives of many," she said.

Jones-Robinson said she would allocate ARP funds for the safety of children, the support of the family and the security of the community. "I'll develop and support programs for residents who've been overcome by unemployment resulting in poverty, gun violence and mental illness," she said. "Having a community of people



pursuing more education and employment opportunities with healthy minds and bodies is how I envision a better community for us all.

"My top goal as mayor would be public safety," Jones-Robinson said. "We need to clean up crime, corruption, gun violence and child neglect. I'd listen to the community and invest in giving all people a seat at the table to have their issues heard. The coronavirus pandemic has created disparities in quality of care, not just in the medical field but in a general overall sense. We need to help the most vulnerable and protect first responders as well."

Paul Langenfeld, 58, founded the Langenfeld Foundation in 2006 and serves as the president of the nonprofit organization, which works to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. He is a former member of the Highland District Council board of directors. He graduated from the University of Saint Thomas and has a master of divinity degree from Saint Thomas' Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. He said he has received numerous awards for his public service.

"The ARP funds provide Saint Paul the opportunity to offset the negative economic impacts of COVID-19," Langenfeld said. "This includes the ability to help small businesses. The path to recovery begins with a strong small-business sector."

Langenfeld said his top priority as mayor would be law and order. "It's time to prioritize the freedoms of our citizens and their businesses over the freedom of criminals," he said. "As mayor, I'll work with current funding to restore law and order in our city. Our community cannot thrive economically without first having safe streets."

Abu Nayeem, 33, has a master's degree in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California-Berkeley. A former data analyst for South Washington County Schools and founder and lead programmer of the Saint Paul Open Data Initiative, he is working as the lead organizer of cleanup groups in the Frogtown and Midway neighborhoods.

Nayeem said he would use the ARP funds to jump-start the economy, build digital infrastructure for citizen engagement and address public safety. "I agree with the problem Mayor Carter's administration is trying to address with the Office of Neighborhood Safety, which is to send non-police officers on low-priority calls to free up police officers to handle higher-priority calls," he said. "However, they haven't provided a solid proposal, won't collaborate with the police and aim to make officers' jobs even more stressful. Instead, I would provide a solid proposal to reduce officer workload, freeing up time for patrol officers to engage the community they serve."

"My goal has always been to increase citizen capacity and agency in making our city better," Nayeem said. "People want to contribute to their community in their own way, which builds community pride. I want to connect people's assets to existing or new organizations to build stronger and more connected communities. I'd build a digital network platform to advance civic engagement, democracy and community building. I'd partner with district councils to reach out to all residents via door-knocking."

Scott Evans Wergin could not be reached for comment.

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VIEWPOINT

Before you vote, consider unintended consequences of rent control

By JOE HUGHES, ED CONLEY, WILL ROLF,
BILL DUNNIGAN AND MATT JACKSON

We are less than a month away from Saint Paul voters deciding if the city will be burdened with the toughest rent control law in the country. The ordinance, initiated by Housing Equity Now Saint Paul (HENS), is well-intentioned, as are those who support it. Unfortunately, the ordinance is flawed and will be harmful to the residents of Saint Paul.

As property owners, we know and deeply care about our BIPOC residents. There have been a lot of generalized statements regarding how housing providers treat BIPOC residents, with no supporting evidence. We embrace all residents, especially those who bring diversity to our community.

HENS has made broad allegations of unjust rent increases, but has not shown any Saint Paul data. Meanwhile, property owners have faced historically large increases in operating expenses (e.g., property taxes, wages, insurance and materials). This needs to be considered when discussing rent increases.

We believe our city has a stable rental market that reflects rising costs. If a

housing provider proposes an unfair rental increase, tenants often move to a different apartment. Housing providers don't want to lose tenants. If a tenant can't afford to move to a different apartment or can't afford market rent, that is often an issue with income, not rental practices. We all need to help those in need, but those efforts should be led by the city. That does not mean we need rent control.

Saint Paul needs to maintain our existing older apartment buildings. Rent control has a history of discouraging investments in those buildings. Most of the apartment units in Saint Paul are between 50 and 100 years old. These buildings need constant maintenance and updating. With rent control, housing providers would be handcuffed deciding between paying their monthly bills and upgrading their buildings.

Our city needs to welcome new apartment development. The HENS ordinance would push housing development out of our city. Less development means fewer apartments and lower property tax revenue. Both of these would be terrible for homeowners and renters alike, forcing tough choices between raising taxes or cutting budgets.

Housing and income inequality are real and complex issues.... Private-market housing providers should never be forced to bear the entire burden of solving these deep social issues.

The value of existing apartment buildings would be negatively impacted by this ordinance. While proponents may not care about this impact on larger corporate housing providers, there are many mom-and-pop property owners who would be negatively impacted.

The 3 percent cap on rent increases is ridiculous. The current inflation rate is 5.3 percent. Expenses are consistently increasing more than 3 percent per year. And everywhere else in the nation, rent control increases are tied to the consumer price index or are set at a much higher rate. We all have seen and heard about huge increases in real estate taxes, wages, material costs, insurance, etc. Three percent does not come close to matching the increases we are experiencing now and are likely to experience in the future. HENS has made many inaccurate

investment assumptions and anecdotal generalizations about rent control outcomes and effects that should not be taken seriously by the public.

Finally, why was there no community engagement before drafting this ordinance? Many local housing providers, homeowners and others in Saint Paul would have welcomed being part of a dialogue.

Housing and income inequality are real and complex issues that should concern all Saint Paul residents. Solving these issues should be led by city, county and state government. Private-market housing providers should never be forced to bear the entire burden of solving these deep social issues.

There is a clear understanding from nearly all non-biased economists that rent control does not relieve housing shortages. Our valued renters need help from our community in the form of more housing options, more rental vouchers and better jobs. Rent control is not the answer.

Let's help Saint Paul and vote "no" on rent control on November 2.

The writers all own multifamily rental housing in Saint Paul.

Masks protect schoolchildren

I am writing because of a letter to the editor I saw ("The madness of masks," *MyVillager* Inbox, September 29). I disagree in every possible way. Even though we have to wear masks, we are still very friendly to each other and have lots of emotions (we are not turning into robots). I get to see my teacher smile every day at recess. The mask protects us from most viruses, including COVID-19. On my volleyball team, we have so much fun even though we have to wear masks. And since I'm 10, I'll be getting my vaccination soon. The masks are actually protecting us and not hurting us.

*Esme Murray, Grade 5
Macalester-Groveland*

Vote 'yes' for housing stability

Every Saint Paulite deserves housing stability. It creates a strong foundation for families to thrive. It's critical to both stable employment and student achievement. Yet under the current system, renters' ability to stay in their home is subject to speculation and price gouging by predatory landlords. When families are displaced, it disrupts our community, including people getting to work and to school. Immigrants and people of color are experiencing this displacement disproportionately.

Like the majority of Saint Paulites, I am a long-time renter. I am voting "yes" for the rent stabilization ballot initiative.

*Sarah Mullins
Summit-University*

Vote 'no' on rent stabilization

The rent stabilization ordinance being considered by Saint Paul in the November 2 general election is not a solution to the city's housing affordability crisis. Decades' of economic research have demonstrated this. If there is one thing economists agree on it is that rent control is counterproductive.

First, it leads to a decreased supply of new apartment units. It decreases investor yields, and consequently investors put their money elsewhere. In this way, it worsens the housing shortage and leads to higher rents in surrounding communities. People who have rent-controlled units also benefit to the detriment of others, who must look elsewhere for housing. As demand in surrounding communities increases due to this displacement, rents increase commensurately.

Second, rent control leads to a deteriorating stock of existing apartments. As their investment returns are

INBOX

capped, landlords are no longer willing to make necessary repairs and improvements to their properties. In this way, buildings fall into disrepair.

These two phenomena have been demonstrated again and again in every city that has tried rent control. A much better approach is direct aid to low-income renters.

*Paul Stearns
Highland Park*

Plea from a retired surgeon

To the letter writer who claims that a school probably didn't prevent the spread of the coronavirus by limiting spectators at a sports event and the letter writer who claims that non-medical masks have almost zero effect in halting the transmission of the virus (*MyVillager* Inbox, September 29): Where have you been living for the last year and a half?

Minnesota has had more than 700,000 cases of COVID-19 and 8,100 deaths due to COVID. Nearly 800 Minnesotans are hospitalized with COVID today. Any literature search shows that masks work well to keep respiratory virus from spreading. And although their death rate is far lower than the older population, 26 percent of the infections since late June have been in people younger than 19 years of age.

As for the letter writer who praises the unvaccinated for keeping our economy afloat and mocks us health professionals for our burnout and supposed lack of sympathy at the preventable loss of life, perhaps he'd like to work a shift or two in a COVID ICU and try to keep up with the work load. Watching previously healthy people die despite heroic care and notifying their families via phone or iPad is awful. We all thought that this tragedy would ease with the vaccine. Of course we saw self-inflicted disease and suffering in the past. That's why we promote healthy diets, smoking cessation, daily exercise, routine medical care, dental health, etc. That's why we promote the vaccine.

A plea to my neighbors from this retired surgeon: Get your information from actual medical and scientific sources, not social media. The novel coronavirus has killed millions of people. The delta variant is far more transmissible than the virus we first encountered in March 2020. COVID vaccines are free, safe and incredibly protective against serious illness and death. We share less air outdoors, so events are safer outdoors than indoors, especially for longer periods of time.

Kids are resilient and can wear masks while learning and playing. They can play sports and compete perfectly well without parents screaming in the stands. Adults should model the same intelligence and pluck, keeping their families safe while this pandemic works its way among us.

Stop fighting the health professionals, agencies and schools that are doing everything they can to keep us safe while we all try to get back to a more normal social life. The sooner we embrace the solution, the sooner the masks can come off.

*Dr. Cheryl Bailey
Merriam Park*

Masks do work

Ms. Fuller makes several unsupported claims in her letter, "The Madness of Masks" (*MyVillager* Inbox, September 29). As a recently retired health care provider, I have spent 40-plus years providing science-based care to my patients. Masks clearly decrease transmission. We need everyone to wear one when it is proven to slow the spread. That is backed up by the science and public health experts. The delta variant of COVID-19 continues to cut swathes through the U.S. population. If we are to get back to a new normal, the science needs to be respected and followed.

*James Levi
Summit-University*

The insanity of a moratorium

The article on those vying for Saint Paul School Board (*MyVillager*, September 29) was illuminating in at least one respect: whether the candidate opposes charter schools. It was nearly comical but actually sad to read the reasons given by those who oppose charters. My goodness, mom should be able to send her child to the school of her choice? When will the insanity end?

*T.J. Sexton
Highland Park*

***MyVillager* welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. However, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a phone number for verification purposes. Send yours to *MyVillager*, 241 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105, email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it via our website at myvillager.com/editorial.**

Spirited events are on tap this Halloween

Several events are being scheduled this year for those who are looking to scare up a happy and healthy Halloween. Here are a few of the local ones:

Haunted walking tours of Summit Avenue will be offered at 5 p.m. every Friday through Sunday in October (except Halloween) by CynCity Tours. The guided strolls will feature ghost stories and history, seasoned with tingles, laughs and maybe a shiver or two. Tours start at Overlook Park on Summit and Ramsey Street. The cost is \$25. Register at cycitytours.com.

Sister Celeste's All Hallows' Eve Tour will be offered from 7-9 p.m. on most Thursdays through Sundays, October 14-30, at the Celeste of Saint Paul Hotel & Bar, 26 E. Exchange St. Sister Celeste will share stories about the hereafter, the history of Halloween and spiritual activity on the site of the hotel and in the neighborhood. The tour includes a select spirit in the Celeste Bar. The cost is \$25-\$27. Visit tinyurl.com/3bu5pbs5 or call 651-253-0937.

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth will offer Halloween-themed creativity for kids in grades K-5 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, October 21-22, at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Youngsters can create a spine-chilling play on Thursday and transform the 100-year-old theater into a haunted house on Friday. At the end of both days, family and friends are invited to check out the results. Participants pay as they are able. Visit tinyurl.com/kfwrykrt.

A free Halloween party for kids of all ages will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, October 22, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. There will be games, crafts and other fun. Call 651-298-5677.

Sibley Hauntings will take place at 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Saturday, October 23, at the Sibley Historic Site on Highway 13 in Mendota. Groups will walk through the dimly-lit Faribault and Sibley houses and meet "ghosts" from the 1890s when the site was used as an art school. There will also be s'mores by a campfire. The cost is \$8-\$10 a person. To guarantee a spot, register at dakotahistory.org.



Craig Johnson is the host of Theatre of the Macabre at Park Square Theatre.

A Trick or Teeing event will be held from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, October 23, at the Mendota Par 3 Golf Course in Mendota Heights. Visit four golf holes for a treat and enjoy games, arts and crafts, and a costume contest. Cider and snacks will be available. The event is geared for children 13 and younger with adult supervision. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3edjycx9>.

Pumpkins and Power Drills, the Minnesota Tool Library's fifth annual jack-o'-lantern carving fundraiser, will take place from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, October 23 at the Bauhaus Brew Labs, 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis, and from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at the Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St., Saint Paul. Admission is free, kids are welcome and costumes are encouraged. People can buy a pumpkin there or bring their own. Reserve a spot by visiting mntoolibrary.org or emailing programming@mntoolibrary.org.

The Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at Landmark Center. There will be live entertainment, crafts, treats and a costume parade. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

The Mysterious Old Radio Listening Society will get into the Halloween spirit with an in-person and streaming performance at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 25, at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The society presents classic plays in the style of a vintage radio broadcast. The cost is \$28. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St., will play host to hour-long Halloween programs beginning at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 27. A variety of game stations and a Beat the Creep Room will be among the activities, along with lots of treats. Attendance is limited. Pre-registration is required. Call 651-695-3711 or visit stpaul.gov/parks.

An MJM Halloween Bash for the Merriam Park, Jimmy Lee and Martin Luther King recreation centers will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, October 28, at Merriam Park, 2000 Saint Anthony Ave. There will be a petting zoo, jump castle, haunted house, food, costume contest and more. Visit stpaul.gov/halloween.

Gangster Ghost Tours featuring characters playing Saint Paul criminals, G-men and judges will take place from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, October 28, at Landmark Center. Groups will be guided through the center's shadowy halls, stopping to hear from ghosts such as Police Chief "Big Tom" Brown, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis and Ma Barker. Tickets are \$10. Register at landmarkcenter.org or 651-292-3063.

Theatre of the Macabre, a night of storytelling and readers theater, will be hosted by director Craig Johnson at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The evening will include ghost stories, songs, classic literary scenes and storytelling. Tickets are \$16-\$30. For information, visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Trick or Treat in Highland will be celebrated from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, October 30, in Highland Village. The Highland Business Association will once again feature a one-way, staggered scavenger hunt for kids. Trick-or-treating will take place along a route that begins at Langford & Karls Chiropractic, 730 S. Cleveland Ave., and ends at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. There will be photo stops and other activities along the way. Visit highlandba.com.

(Note: Some indoor venues require facemasks, proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 tests for admittance.)

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NEIGHBORHOOD

Volume 69, Number 17

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

241 Cleveland Ave. S., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105-1208
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MyVillager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. We have a press run of about 42,800 and serve the Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University, Summit Hill and West End neighborhoods of Saint Paul, along with Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights. Annual subscriptions may be purchased for \$59.88 by visiting MyVillager.com or sending a check to MyVillager, 241 Cleveland Ave. S., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105-1208.

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District 197 election set

10 competing for 3 School Board seats

By JOHN WADELL

Voters will have their choice of 10 candidates seeking to fill three open seats on the West Saint Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area School Board during the November 2 general election.

Incumbents John Chandler and Marcus Hill are seeking re-election, while Maureen Ramirez is not. Also running for the four-year board seats are Timothy Aune, Stephanie Auran, Mark Grondahl, Sarah Larsen, Robert Reese, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel and Elena Villarreal.

The candidates were asked about what they saw as the most important issue facing the district and why voters should choose them. Here are their responses:

Timothy Aune, 58, of Mendota Heights is currently retired and has a bachelor's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He said the top issue facing the district is being clear that there still is a pandemic. "Normal is not yet an option," Aune said. "The best option for close to normal begins with students safely in school. That requires continuing to implement best practices for students and staff, and doing everything possible to encourage everyone to get vaccinated."

Aune pointed to his executive and board experience as reasons why he should be elected. "An effective board member works in concert with board members, staff and the community to establish policy and goals," he said. "You engage the teachers and staff working to achieve those goals, and you encourage the community to become partners in our students' success."

Stephanie Auran, 52, of West Saint Paul is a recruiter who has some college education and served in the U.S. Air Force. She said the most important issue facing the district is the "widespread use of theories and ideologies throughout the curriculum that takes the focus off academics (reading, writing, math, science, history, etc.)

causing division by focusing on students' differences such as skin color, social status and sexual identity."

Auran said she is running for the board as a concerned parent whose goal is to help guide the district in becoming a safe place for learning. "Enable educators to teach their subjects and parents/guardians to handle personal subjects as they choose," she said. "Ensure tax dollars are spent equipping our children with knowledge and skills for their future goals."

John Chandler, 52 of Mendota Heights is the director of development for Scholarship America. He was an Army National Guard officer, has had executive roles with such nonprofits as the Dodge Nature Center and holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. Chandler said community engagement is the top issue facing the district. "We need to find better ways to communicate with the community as many are frustrated with current processes," he said. "Resuming hybrid School Board meetings is one way to be more accessible and transparent."

Chandler has served two terms on the board and said he has demonstrated a will-

ingness "to speak with community members to ensure all voices are heard. I have 20 years of military experience serving in strategic roles and am an experienced strategic leader. I have two current District 197 students and one 2021 graduate."

Mark Grondahl, 50, of Mendota Heights is a risk manager with a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Saint Thomas and an MBA from the University of Minnesota. He counts the budget and referendum process as the top issue facing the district. "Referendums should be voted on only in years of presidential elections, when the most voters cast their votes," he said. "The voice of the people should be followed. The 2014 rejection (of a stadium levy) and the 2018 revote was embarrass-

ing as the board forced its wishes on the people."

Grondahl said he is neither a politician nor beholden to a party or special interest group. "That may be good or bad," he said. "I'll let the voters decide. Some decisions that are best for the students may be contrary to what I'd personally decide. However, my job would be to vote with the students. I think this is a critical difference between me and other candidates."

Marcus Hill, 56, of West Saint Paul is a data manager and has a bachelor's degree in business administration. He said keeping students, teachers and staff safe and healthy is a priority as COVID-19 still dominates. He said the district should continue to focus on supporting teachers and staff; Social-Emotional Learning; its strategic framework; recruiting, developing and retaining top talent that is reflective of the community; and implementing systems of equity.

"I bring a fresh perspective based on lived experiences," Hill said. "I'm a proven coalition builder (and) a champion for diversity, inclusion and instilling equitable systems. I believe in the value of making data-driven decisions. I want to make student-centered decisions, focused on student achievement."

DISTRICT 197 ELECTION ►11



Timothy Aune



Stephanie Auran



John Chandler



Mark Grondahl



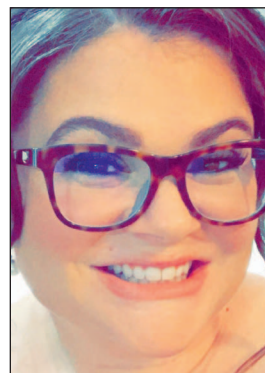
Marcus Hill



Sarah Larsen



Robert Reese



Morgan Steele



Jon Vaupel

District seeks renewal of its operating levy

During the November 2 election, voters will be asked to renew District 197's current operating levy, which was approved in 2011 and will expire this year.

The current levy provides the district with \$224.48 per pupil or around \$1.3 million a year. If renewed by voters, the levy would be in effect for 10 years, beginning in 2022, and would increase each year by the rate of inflation.

District officials say renewal of the levy will not increase a homeowner's property taxes in 2022. The district plans to use the money to sustain current programs and services, and to maintain class sizes.

A public meeting on the ballot question will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 13, at Heritage Middle School, 121 W. Butler Ave., West Saint Paul. For information, call 651-403-7008 or visit isd197.org/2021Levy.



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Commission tweaks charter change wording

By JANE McCLURE

The Saint Paul Charter Commission had hoped to take a final vote on September 27 and send a proposed charter amendment on administrative citations to the City Council for action. However, because a clause was missing in the language voted on September 13 following three hours of debate, the matter was laid over again for final Charter Commission action on October 18.

The ordinance would allow the city to impose administrative citations and fines for an array of ordinance violations instead of criminal charges. If City Council members unanimously approve the measure, it would become part of the charter. If they cannot agree, the proposal could be placed on an election ballot in 2022 or later.

Council approval would also start a process of working with city departments to decide when administrative citations should be implemented for various violations. The penalties could be used for everything from animal control complaints to situations where employers try to skirt the city's minimum wage or earned sick and safe time requirements.

Proponents of administrative citations contend that fining violators is a way of ensuring compliance with city regulations without going through

a sometimes lengthy criminal court process. Criminal charges also can affect a person's search for housing or employment.

Opponents question whether administrative citations would create more problems than they would solve, and would unfairly discriminate against people in low-income neighborhoods.

Mayor Melvin Carter asked for a change in the current proposal to address some of the issues raised. The Charter Commission on September 13 adopted his proposal that any administrative citations and fines be made with an eye toward equity and the violator's ability to pay.

Department of Safety and Inspections director Richard Cervantes said the DSI monitors complaints closely to see if someone is unfairly targeted. That is a concern raised by several groups. The Summit-University Planning Council has cited instances where people of color and immigrants were targeted by neighbors for minor property code issues.

More than a dozen people attended the September 13 Charter Commission hearing. Half a dozen people signed up to testify, most of them raising technical issues in opposition to the proposal.

Highland Park resident Patricia Hartman said she does not see a compelling need for the charter change,

saying the city has more important issues to address. Others said they believe a court process would be more fair than going through a city-run legislative hearing process.

Jack Cann of the Housing Justice Center said that while the Carter amendment is a step in the right direction toward equity, there is still the potential for people to face expensive fines as well as the cost of hearings in an administrative citations process.

"Someone could seek a reduction in a penalty and wind up paying more," he said.

Some commissioners also were not mollified by the explanation that the City Attorney's Office made an error by having the City Council request Charter Commission action on administrative citations in a resolution, not an ordinance form.

Commissioner Bruce Clark said the matter should go back to the City Council for more work before the Charter Commission votes it up or down. However, votes to send it back to the council and to request an ordinance instead of a resolution failed to win support from a majority of commissioners.

The commission also voted down an amendment that would have had administrative citation hearings go to a neutral, non-city employee for consideration instead of a legislative hearing office.

HPC suggests steps to preserve history of Marshall-Fry site

By JANE McCLURE

After more than an hour of debate over plans for the Marshall Avenue Flats, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission made several recommendations on October 4 that could mitigate the impact of the six-story apartment building on what was once the playground of the former Richards Gordon School at 1619 Dayton Ave.

The commission is suggesting that

the school building be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. It is also asking developer PAK Properties to commission a history of the building, create a virtual or physical exhibit of the school, and make a plaque or historic display of the limestone retaining wall that was built around the property in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration.

The recommendations now go to the State Historic Preservation Office, which reviewed the project ear-

lier this fall. The Union Park District Council voted in support of the project on October 6, including taking steps before deteriorated sections of the wall are replaced.

The 98-unit Marshall Avenue Flats has been on the drawing boards for months. The building is to be constructed at the southeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Fry Street. It would be situated just north of the former school, which is now used as offices.

10-DISTRICT 197 ELECTION

Sarah Larsen, 45, of Mendota Heights is a supervisor at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with a bachelor's in chemistry from the College of Saint Benedict and a master's in public health from the University of Minnesota. Larsen said Social-Emotional Learning is a critical issue facing the district after navigating a pandemic and distance learning. "Our School Board needs to provide personal development for staff and a SEL advisory group," she said. "The ability of our students to make responsible decisions, manage emotions, establish healthy relationships and self-regulate are key to their success."

Larsen said her experience in the district sets her apart from other candidates. "I've been a member of the district Parent Ambassador Network, the Strategic Planning Core team, and have volunteered in our district schools doing everything from math tutoring to book fairs," she said. "I love our schools, and this is my next step in service to our community."

Robert Reese, 62, of Sunfish Lake is a vascular surgeon and clinical assistant professor of surgery who recently retired. "With only 29 percent of Two Rivers High School seniors demonstrating academic proficiency in 2020, it's time to return to placing

the emphasis of education on the core studies of reading, English, math and science," he said. "To continue the current academic slide will only negatively impact your child's opportunities and future success."

Reese said his extensive background in surgical education and leadership positions can help create necessary educational change. "I'll work to re-establish the educational excellence that once was a cornerstone of living in Minnesota," he said. "In doing so, your child will feel the pride of accomplishment and have their best chance of future success in life."

Morgan Steele, 36, of West Saint Paul is a French teacher and instruction leader at Richfield High School. She has a bachelor's degree in French and secondary education from Cornell College, and a master's in teaching from Grand Canyon University. She said continuing equity work and ensuring that programs are accessible and affordable are two of the top issues facing the district. "Focusing on each individual and on Social-Emotional Learning also needs to be a priority as we continue through a pandemic and unrest due to civil rights violations," she said.

Steele is the parent of a student at Somerset Elementary and a child who will be there in two years. She has been teaching grades 5-12 for 15 years.

"I believe in public education and that the best way to invest in our future is to invest in our students," she said.

Jon Vaupel, 45, of Mendota Heights works for the Minnesota Department of Education in the Early Learning Services Division. He has a bachelor's degree in public policy and economics from Syracuse University, a master's of public policy from American University and a master's in education from Johns Hopkins. He said COVID-19 is the top issue facing the district. "We must continue the mitigation strategies we have in place (including masks) and support/encourage vaccinations," he said. "A higher vaccination rate will keep our students safe in school and limit future disruptions. We should think about our approach in a way that values, supports and embraces all students."

Vaupel said he has spent his career fighting to strengthen the public education system at the "federal (U.S. Senate, U.S. Department of Education), state (Minnesota Department of Education), and local (kindergarten teacher, special education program manager, college and career coach) levels. I also have a steadfast commitment to equity, diversity and inclusivity."

Elena Villarreal of West Saint Paul could not be reached for this story.



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Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For more, see MyVillager.com.

Highland Park

Burglary—The maintenance shop was broken into at the Pointe at River Crossing, 1375 Davern St., between September 27-30.

—The Highland 9-Hole Golf Course clubhouse, 1797 Edgumbe Road, was broken into at 12:24 a.m. Thursday, September 30.

Theft—Police arrested a 50-year-old man for theft and drug possession after he was found inside a stolen vehicle on Homer Street and Shepard Road at noon on Tuesday, September 28.

—Trailers were reported stolen on the 1600 block of Watson Avenue and the 500 block of South Snelling Avenue on Thursday, September 30.

Assault—Assaults were reported at Ras Ethiopian Restaurant, 2516 W. Seventh St., on September 30, and at Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., on October 3.

Arson—A fire was reported at the Marjon Terrace Apartments, 2390 W. Seventh St., at 11:41 p.m. Wednesday, September 22.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—Two men, ages 24 and 30, were arrested for driving a stolen vehicle in the Midway Target parking lot at 6:12 p.m. Friday, September 24. The older suspect also was arrested for drug possession, DWI, trying to flee police and outstanding warrants.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home was burglarized on the 2100 block of Jefferson Avenue around 2-3 p.m. Thursday, September 23.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was taken to United Hospital with minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle at 9:35 a.m. Friday, September 24, on Snelling and Randolph avenues.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—Computers, money, pills and a vehicle were reported stolen on the 1400 block of Mendota Heights Road at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, September 18.

—An electric bicycle was reported stolen from a storage room on the 1700 block

Shootout at West End bar kills one, injures 14 others

Marquisha D. Wiley, 24, of Saint Paul was pronounced dead and 14 other people were injured as a result of gunfire at the Truck Park bar, 214 W. Seventh St., around 12:15 a.m. Sunday, October 10.

Investigators arrested three men involved in the shootings, including Terry Lorenzo Brown Jr. 33; Devondre Trevon Phillips, 29; and Jeffrey Orlando Hoffman, 32. They were in custody and in the hospital being treated for injuries suffered during the incident.

“My heart breaks for the woman who was killed, her loved ones and everyone else who was in that bar this morning,” said Police Chief Todd Axtell in a statement. “In an instant, they found themselves caught in a hellish situation.”

This was the 32nd homicide of the year in the city. Anyone with information is asked to call 651-266-5650.

of Lexington Avenue at 1:07 p.m. Tuesday, September 21.

—Several items were reported stolen from at least three vehicles in an underground garage on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue on Saturday, September 25. Items also were reported stolen from an apartment in that area on Tuesday, September 28.

—A burglary was reported in an underground garage on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 7:22 p.m. Tuesday, September 28.

Theft—A golf cart was reported stolen from the Mendota Par 3, 1695 Dodd Road, during the evening of September 17-18.

—Lawn equipment was reported stolen at a residence on the 1800 block of Orchard Hill at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, September 19.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a construction site on the 900 block of Mendota Heights Road at 12:26 p.m. Friday, September 24.

—A trailer was reported stolen on the 2400 block of Enterprise Drive during the evening of September 26-27.

Sex crime—A report of criminal sexual conduct was reported near Watersedge Terrace by Hagstrom King Park during the morning of Sunday, September 26.

Merriam Park

Weapons—Police arrested a 17-year-old boy for illegal gun possession after he was seen stashing a pistol in a backyard on the 400 block of North Wheeler Street at 10:53 a.m. Friday, September 24.

Miscellaneous—A man who was found inside a resident's apartment was arrested for felony drug possession at 6:21 p.m. Monday, September 27, on the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A burglary was reported at Crosstown Auto, 1440 Marshall Ave., at 7:46 p.m. Friday, September 24.

Assault—A 35-year-old man and a 30-year-old woman were arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon after harassing a man at the Midway Cub Foods and then driving into his vehicle when he tried to leave at 5:14 a.m. Thursday, September 30. The male suspect had reportedly followed the complainant around the store and accused him of being a police officer. When he left, the couple followed him, drove into his car on Saint Anthony and Snelling avenues, and then chased him on foot. They were arrested a few blocks away and cited for criminal damage to property, drug possession, driving after revocation of a license and other offenses.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Cuyler Mason Howard, 20, of Summit Hill was charged by Ramsey County District Court with assaulting and trying to disarm an officer at 12:30 a.m. Friday, September 24, near Osceola Avenue and Avon Street. According to the criminal complaint, Howard tried to break into occupied homes on the 700 block of Linwood Avenue and the 200 block of South Grotto Street, but left when confronted by the homeowners. When an officer tried to arrest him, Howard punched him multiple times, tried to gouge his eyes, bit him and attempted to get his gun. Howard said he wanted to kill the officer and admitted to

being at the two homes, but said he was just looking around.

—Burglaries were reported at the Summit Terrace Apartments, 26 S. Dale St., on September 25, and the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., on October 3.

Theft—A trailer and snowmobile were reported stolen on Western Avenue and Maiden Lane on September 27-28.

Arson—Four teenagers set a trash can on fire inside the main door of the Lincoln Court Apartments, 93 S. Lexington Pkwy., at 7:16 p.m. Sunday, September 26.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was taken to the hospital after being struck by a vehicle on Grand Avenue and Victoria Street at 7:13 p.m. Saturday, October 2.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man was pistol-whipped and robbed of his wallet near the Commodore, 79 N. Western Ave., at 1:41 p.m. Sunday, September 26.

Burglary—More than \$1,000 in new clothing was reported stolen at Black-Blue Clothing, 614 Selby Ave., at 5:39 a.m. Sunday, September 26.

Theft—Felony theft from a construction site was reported on Concordia and Western avenues the evening of October 1-2.

West End

Vehicular assault—Jaquan Lamar House, 24, of Saint Paul was charged with felony second-degree assault after driving a Mercedes SUV into a 21-year-old woman at the Saint Paul Tap, 825 Jefferson Ave., at 8:45 p.m. Sunday, September 26. She was taken to Regions Hospital and suffered two broken legs. Two men in her group fired a gun at the vehicle. A short time later, House was dropped off at Regions with two gunshot wounds to his shoulder. House is reportedly a member of the Ham Crazy gang. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Theft—A storage container belonging to the Nativity Groveland football program was ransacked and damaged by fire at the Saint Clair Recreation Center, 265 Oneida St., at 1:23 p.m. Wednesday, September 22.

Assault—A 22-year-old man was arrested for punching another man in the face at Freedom House, 296 W. Seventh St., at 6:56 p.m. Friday, September 24.



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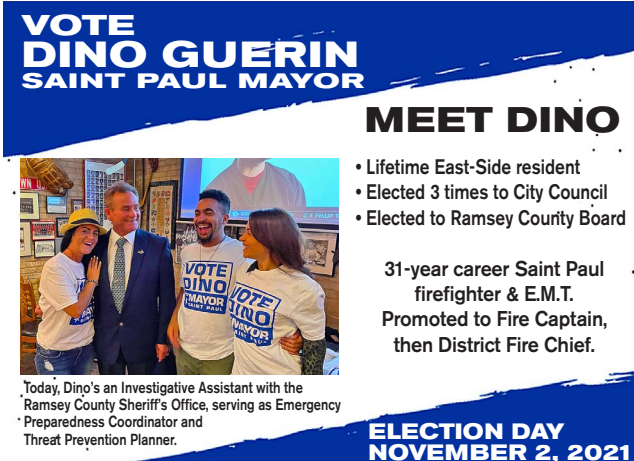


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ON THE TOWN

Lies my father told me

Six Points addresses identity in first play under new name

BY ANNE MURPHY

The importance of identity takes center stage at Six Points Theater. The former Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company changed its name last summer to reflect its commitment to stories from a Jewish perspective that promote understanding among all people. And in its upcoming production, *The People's Violin*, opening Saturday, October 23, Six Points tells a story about personal identity and finding one's truth in the context of culture and family.

"The six points represent the Star of David, the Jewish star," said Barbara Brooks, founder and still artistic director of the 27-year-old theater. "We also have six values at the core of our organization—integrity, artistic excellence, trust, innovation, fiscal responsibility and *tikkun olam*, or working to repair the world. We believe the new name remains true to our mission while acknowledging our evolution as an organization and our dreams for the future."

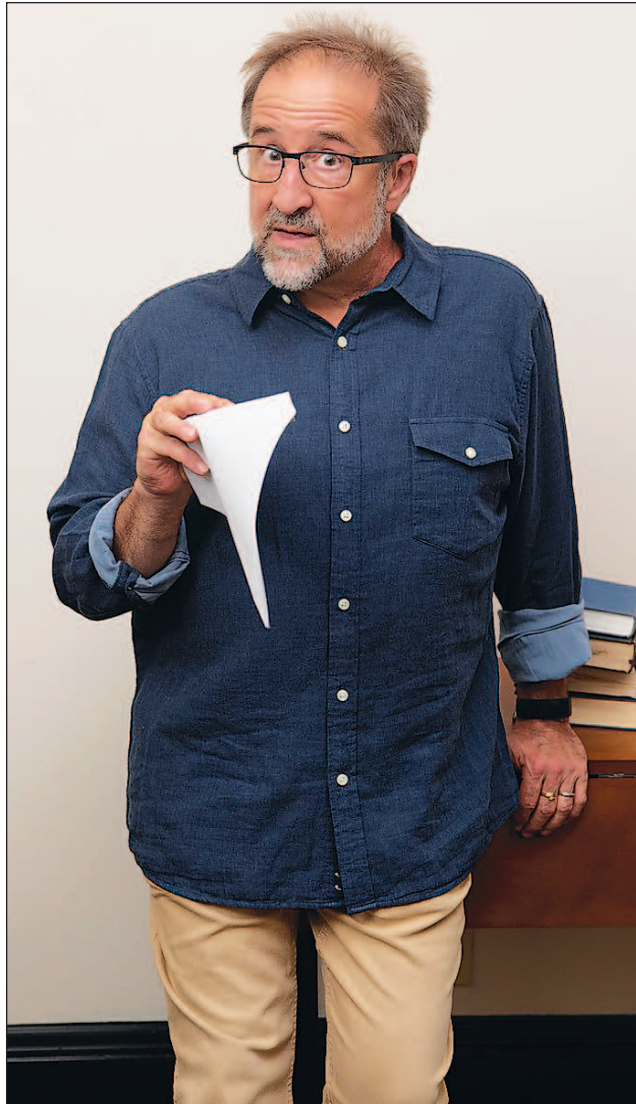
The People's Violin was penned in the early 2000s by San Francisco playwright and actor Charlie Varon. It tells the story of filmmaker Sol Shank, who is making a documentary about his father, a successful Jewish author and therapist for Holocaust survivors. The unexpected appearance of a violin leads to the discovery of an unknown family history.

"I've read a few other Charlie Varon pieces," Brooks said, "but this is my favorite. It's very well written and the story mysteriously unravels, so it's very engrossing."

In the original production, Varon played all 20 of the characters. Other theaters have chosen to have several actors play multiple roles. "We made some adjustments because of COVID," Brooks said. "Originally planned for five actors, I wanted to make the move to live performance as safe as possible, so we'll only have three actors on stage. I don't want to give too much away, but the production incorporates video."

The People's Violin is directed by Warren C. Bowles, whose 50-year career in theater has included stints with Mixed Blood, Park Square, the Guthrie and Ten Thousand Things theaters. Bowles said he was attracted by the play for how it explores that "we sometimes know only a fraction of the history of those closest to us and who it is that defines our own identity or truth."

"There are an extremely large number of characters in



J.C. Cutler as Sol Shank in *The People's Violin*. PHOTO BY SARAH WHITING

the show," Bowles said. "When Varon first performed the piece, the audience quickly learned and accepted the convention that one person was playing multiple roles. Though our audience should soon accept this convention as well, it may take a moment for them to be clear that an actor is playing a different character than she or he was playing five minutes earlier. But COVID protocol demands that we keep the actors, audience and technicians safe."

"My character goes through a real soul journey as he discovers much about himself," Cutler said. "What does it mean to be a son, a father, an artist, a husband, a narcissist, and how does the creation of something of artistic value help in these discoveries?"

Some stagings that were available to us two years ago are just not appropriate now."

Veteran actor J.C. Cutler is making his debut at Six Points as Sol Shank. Audiences may recognize Cutler from his 35 years performing with the Guthrie, Jungle, Cricket, Park Square, Illusion, Mixed Blood, History and Children's theaters. The cast also includes Kim Kivens in the roles of Nirit and Nicole, and David Coral, Tony Larkin and Patty Mathews in multiple roles.

Cutler was attracted to the play because of its complexity. "On the one hand, it's an investigation of the life of Sol's father," he said. "But in the process, my character goes through a real soul journey as he discovers much about himself. What does it mean to be a son, a father, an artist, a husband, a narcissist, and how does the creation of something of artistic value help in these discoveries? I think the story speaks to the challenges of today—in life, in families and in the world."

The People's Violin will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays through November 14 in the auditorium of the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Additional shows are scheduled at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 24, and at 1 p.m. Tuesday October 26.

Strict COVID protocols will be in place. No more than 55 seats will be sold for each performance. Masks are mandatory for the audience, and so is proof of COVID vaccination. All actors and crew, whether on stage or backstage, will also be vaccinated.

Tickets are priced from \$15-\$38. For reservations, call 651-647-4315.

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Books

Open a new chapter in your literary life at Rain Taxi’s Twin Cities Book Festival scheduled from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, October 16, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Progress Center. In addition to a Book Fair with displays by more than 100 publishers, literary organizations and book dealers, the free event will feature author readings and a used book and record sale with thousands of titles. A free raffle will also be held for signed books, event tickets, gift certificates, T-shirts and more. Visit twincitiesbookfestival.com.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings and discussions with James Beard Award winner Sandor Katz and his book, *Fermentation Journeys*, in a virtual program at 6 p.m. Monday, October 18; contributors to the anthology, *A 21st Century Plague: Poetry From a Pandemic*, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 21; author Sarah Stonich and her novel, *Reeling*, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 27; and Dan Hill, Howard Moskowitz and *Blah, Blah, Blah*, their snarky guide to office lingo, at 5:30 p.m. Friday, October 29. For information or the required advance tickets, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Author, atheist and chaplain Vanessa Zoltan will discuss her new book, *Praying with Jane Eyre*, in a virtual program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 26. In this collection of essays, Zoltan explores topics ranging from the trauma she inherited as the granddaughter of four Holocaust survivors to finding hope, meaning and magic in deeply fractured times. Visit subtextbooks.com.

F. Scott Fitzgerald in Minnesota author Dave Page will discuss the Jazz Age novelist and his early associations with the Nushka Club and the Saint Paul Winter Carnival at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at the Griggs mansion, 476 Summit Ave. The talk will also touch on the Civil War, real estate scandals and ghosts. The cost is \$25. Wine and snacks will be provided. For reservations, visit carolynkleinberger.com

Exhibits

“Complexity Made Simple,” the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Rube Goldberg (1883-1970), will be displayed from October 14 through December 20 in the Fine Art Gallery of the Minnesota JCC’s Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. The exhibit will focus on his political cartooning and ability to distill a complex geopolitical landscape into a single image. Also featured will be a Rube Goldberg-inspired machine created by Minnesota

kinetic artist Robin Schwartzman and a documentary film by Geoffrey George that highlights how Goldberg was a man of his times whose work has remained relevant today. For gallery hours, call 651-698-0751 or visit minnesotajcc.org.

The 30th annual Saint Paul Art Crawl continues on October 22-24 with 27 local artists showcasing their work in the Head House of Saint Paul’s Union Depot. Painting, photography, jewelry, pottery, sculpture and mixed media will be displayed from 6-10 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday.

“The REDress Project,” an installation by artist Jaime Black featuring hundreds of red dresses suspended in public spaces to mark the absence of indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered, will be displayed from October 23 through November 14 in the outdoor quad on the campus of Saint Catherine University. The project creates space for the families of these victims to tell their story and find support in the struggle for justice. Admission is free. A virtual artist talk is scheduled from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, November 10. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

Dance

Ananya Dance Theatre will present the new work, “Dastak: I Wish You Me,” at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, in the O’Shaughnessy at Saint Catherine University. Choreographed by Ananya Chatterjea, the evocative work focuses on freedom and injustice, borders and belonging, loss and liberation. Tickets are priced from \$30 to whatever you can afford. Call 651-690-6700 or visit oshag.stkate.edu.

Music

Works by Mendelssohn, Puccini and others will be played by the Minnesota Sinfonia in free concerts on October 15 and 17. The music begins at 7 p.m. Friday at First Covenant Church, 1280 Arcade St., and at 1:45 p.m. Sunday at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. Visit mnsinfonia.org.

Walker-West Music Academy, 760 Selby Ave., is presenting a host of virtual concerts this fall. The Rondo Community Music Series will feature the Selby Avenue Brass Band with singer Thomasina Petrus on October 15 and the Kevin Washington Quintet on October 29. The concerts begin at 7 p.m. They are free, although donations are welcome. Visit walkerwest.org.

Minneapolis singer-songwriter Mary Bue will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, October 15, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Land-

mark Center. Known for melancholy piano poems as well as electric guitar licks, Bue merges piano and guitar in songs of spiritual longing and real-world sorrow in her latest album, “The World is Your Lover.” The concert will be preceded by a cocktail hour with a cash bar. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call 651-292-3276 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

Highland Park Harmonies returns to the Highland Park picnic grounds on Montreal Avenue from 1-6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 16. The free music fest will feature four bands—the Gripickers, Hell Burnin’ Sinners, Foragers and Bad Companions—playing a mix of Americana, bluegrass, old-time, country, folk, rockabilly and blues. Two food trucks will be available. Patrons are asked to bring a donation of nonperishable food or paper products for the Open Hands Midway food shelf.

Native Irish guitarist and singer Dáithí Sproule will appear with the Lost Forty duo in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 16, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The Lost Forty, multi-instrumentalists Brian Miller and Randy Gosa, have revived the Irish-influenced songs of workers who plied the Great Lakes region in the days when pine was king. All tickets for the hour-long concert are reserved. Face masks and proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within the previous 72 hours are required. Visit mnguitar.org.

The late Judy Dayton will be celebrated in a Chamber Music Society of Minnesota concert featuring works by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Steve Heitzeg and Brahms at 4 p.m. Sunday, October 17, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students, free to children with an adult. For reservations, visit chambermusicmn.org.

West End singer-songwriter Martin Devaney will celebrate the release of his new album, “Dispatch,” in concert at 9 p.m. Saturday, October 23, at the Aster Cafe, 125 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. Joining him on the bill is indie songwriter Bev. Tickets are \$15. Visit astercafe.com.

The Bach Society of Minnesota returns to live performance with the chamber concert “Morning Has Broken” at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 29, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Works by J.H. Schmelzer, C.H. Abel, Bach, C. Dieupart, Telemann and Matthias Maute will be performed by Maute on recorder, Margaret Humphrey on violin, Rebecca Humphrey on cello and Paul Boehnke on harpsichord. Tickets are \$30, \$5 for students, free for children age 12 and under. A live stream is also available. Visit bachsocietymn.org or call 612-440-6219.

Organist Stephen Self, retired professor

of music at Bethel University, will help dedicate the newly renovated Moller pipe organ with a recital at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 30, at Bethlehem Covenant Church, 3141 43rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The public is invited. Light refreshments will follow the recital.

Theater

Not in Our Neighborhood!, a story of courage, faith and love in 1920s Saint Paul, will open on October 14 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Written by Tom Fabel and Eric Wood, the drama tells of Nellie and William Francis, Black residents of the Rondo neighborhood who bought a home in all-white Macalester-Groveland. Although William was a successful lawyer and prominent Republican Party member and Nellie a leader in the women’s suffrage movement, they faced threats and racist protests from their new neighbors. Erin Nicole Farsté and Darius Dotch star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through October 24. For information on tickets and COVID protocol, visit historytheatre.com or call 651-292-4323.

The Hound of the Baskervilles, a new adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes novel, will be staged by Classics Lost ’n’ Found Theater at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 15-16 and 22-23, at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St. in Minneapolis. Adapted for the stage by Steven LaVigne, the play is directed by Dan Dyke. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for students and seniors. For reservations and information on COVID protocol, call 612-724-4539.

Film

The Shining will be screened at dusk on Friday, October 15, in Mears Park, Sixth and Sibley streets. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Visit stpaul.gov/moviesintheparks.

The Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival, nine feature-length films and a host of film shorts from around the world, will be presented virtually from October 16-31 by the Minnesota JCC. Among the Jewish-themed narratives and documentaries are *Here We Are*, about a father and his autistic son; *The Two Lives of Rube Goldberg*; *Kindertransports to Sweden*, on the fate of four Holocaust survivors; *They Ain’t Ready for Me*, about a Black rabbinical student who leads the fight against gun violence in Chicago; the comical fantasy *If You See My Mother*; and *Persian Lessons*, a drama set during the Holocaust. For a complete schedule, individual tickets or festival passes, visit tcjfilmfest.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCTOBER 13

BURGLARY PREVENTION is the subject of an open house scheduled from 6-8 p.m. at the Saint Paul Police Department’s Western District Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The session will cover lighting, landscaping, fencing, cameras, security systems and other improvements to make homes safer. For information, call Patty Lamers at 651-266-5455.

THURSDAY/OCTOBER 14

MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTERS will be accepting blood donations from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. To make an appointment to donate, visit mbc.org.

FRIDAY/OCTOBER 15

MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTERS will be accepting blood donations from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. To make an appoint-

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ment to donate, visit mbc.org.

MONDAY/OCTOBER 18

A HIGHLAND BRIDGE project update will be offered by master developer Ryan Companies at 6 p.m. The virtual presentation will be followed at 7 p.m. by a 30-minute question-and-answer session. Participants are asked to submit questions in advance by emailing jennifer.seidel@ryancompanies.com. To register for the link, visit tinyurl.com/rb3az7wz.

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 24

AFGHANISTAN, GENOCIDE and the International Criminal Court will be addressed in a virtual program from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10, \$5 for students. For in-

formation and to register, visit worldwithoutgenocide.org/afghanistan.

THURSDAY/OCTOBER 28

FRENCH-CANADIAN FAMILY connections will be discussed by genealogy expert Paula Stuart-Warren in a virtual program from 7-8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Dakota County Historical Society, the genealogy presentation is free, though donations are welcome. To register, visit dakotahistory.org/events.

SATURDAY/OCTOBER 30

THE HISTORY OF THE FUR TRADE and the area the Dakota people called Bdote will be featured in a Dakota County Historical Society tour beginning at noon at the Sibley House Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. The cost is \$7, \$6 for children age 5 and under. For the required reservations, visit dakotahistory.org or call 651-452-1596.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Docherty had a very fast-paced weekend

Fall is a busy time for many Minnesotans, with lots of football and soccer games to watch or play, cabins to shut down for the winter, and the last of summer-like weather to enjoy. However, it's fair to guess that nobody had as busy a first weekend of October as 31-year-old Summit Hill native Danny Docherty.

All Docherty did in a span of roughly 48 hours was win three races covering a total of 19.3 miles during the Twin Cities Marathon weekend and take part in all the festivities of his sister Laura's wedding.

The hectic docket started on Friday, October 1. Docherty dutifully attended the pre-wedding dinner, but checked out a little earlier than most since he had a busy Saturday planned. At 7:15 the next morning, he laced up his shoes and was off and running with 1,407 other early risers for the first event of the weekend—the 10K (6.2 miles).

"The pace was easy," Docherty said. "I got into a rhythm and just ran." In fact, he ran away from the field, finishing in 31:57, more than two minutes ahead of the second-place runner.

Docherty, who had started running as a kindergartner at Saint Luke's School during a fundraiser ("I think I ran a lap," he said), rested for an hour, then lined up with 1,219 other runners for the 5K (3.1 miles). Docherty breezed to victory in that race as well. His time of 15:07 was nearly two minutes faster than anyone else.

"I was done by 9 a.m.," he said. "Plenty of time to get ready for the wedding."

The wedding went smoothly, with Docherty serving as an usher. He chowed down on pulled pork at the reception, but excused himself early again to get to bed by 10 p.m. He had a big task on his plate on Sunday.

Although he had run the Twin Cities Marathon before, Docherty opted for the TC 10 Mile on October 3 along with 2,341 other men and 4,167 women. "I was worried a bit about that one," he said. "I knew it would be more competitive and I was out to win it."

Thirty-one doesn't seem so old, but age can become a factor as the length of a race expands. Of the top 12 finishers in the TC 10 Mile, 10 were ages 24-28.

Unlike a lot of runners, Docherty took off not wearing headphones. "It's more meditative for me," he said. "I just let my thoughts flow."

Docherty, who was a top distance runner at Cretin-Derham Hall and later for a conference championship team at Loyola University Chicago, is a competitive sort. When push came to shove, he stepped on the gas, winning the 10 Mile in a time of 49:19—the fastest time recorded in the past seven years. It was nearly an hour ahead of the average running time of 1:40 and 41 seconds better than the runner-up. All of which pleased Docherty and his running mates with the Saint Paul-based El-Jefe running group.

What did Docherty's body feel like after completing the three wins? "My feet hurt a bit," he said. After a brief respite, Docherty will lace up his shoes and run a 10K race in Florida in mid-November.

With the busy weekend behind him, Docherty, who majored in English and psychology at Loyola, buckled down to work on what he needs to earn his master's in sports and exercise science at the University of Minnesota. He also spends time as director of operations for track and baseball for the Highland Groveland Recreation Association and is an assistant cross-country



Danny Docherty

Triple threat

Ball sisters lead talented Nova volleyball team

BY BILL WAGNER

The Nova Classical Academy volleyball team has shown over the course of this season that height isn't everything in that sport. In fact, it hasn't stopped the Knights from being 18-4 overall and 5-2 in the Skyline Conference through October 7.

Coach Thomas Dobbs said that the team has been getting votes for inclusion in the top 10 in Class AA, but he wouldn't be upset if that doesn't happen. Like many coaches, he said his club really doesn't need the extra attention. "I'd just as soon not have a target on our back," he said.

Though they aren't that tall, the Knights are fundamentally sound, maintain good ball control and have that often undefinable something known as chemistry.

"I couldn't ask for a better group," Dobbs said. "There's not a lot of drama. They play every point out and they play together. Everyone plays her position very well."

Nova, which usually goes about eight players deep in its rotation, has some pretty impressive athletes who play a lot bigger than their listed heights. And it's no coincidence that the team has beaten some of the state's elites this fall.

Perhaps the keynote accomplishment was winning the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (WEM) Invitational in early September. The Knights defeated the host WEM team, which was then rated among the top 10 in Class AA, in straight sets. In that same competition, they bested Cleveland, a top 10 team in Class A. And in perhaps their five-star feat, they ousted Minnetonka, then seventh in Class AAAA.

Also on the list of Nova victims have been DeLaSalle and New Life Academy. The New Life triumph was significant because it came right after a tough defeat at the hands of Legacy Christian.

"We have quick arms and can score from a lot of different locations," Dobbs said. "And we compete. We bring our best every time."

Much of what the Knights do



Nova Classical Academy's sister act on the volleyball court includes junior twins Allison (11) and Samantha Ball (10) flanking freshman sibling Ava (13). PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

involves twin juniors Allison and Samantha Ball and their freshman sibling Ava. Allison, a 5-foot-6 setter, is the catalyst in Nova's 5-1 offense. As this was written, she had amassed 483 assists to lead the team.

Dobbs firmly believes that Allison has a bright future ahead of her in college volleyball. "She's fundamentally sound," he said. "She's very grounded and steady, and she's very much a leader."

Five-foot-10 Samantha is the prime recipient of those setups, logging 289 kills to lead the team. Ava is second with 261 kills. They both play outside hitter. At press time, Dobbs said that both Samantha and Ava were in the state's top 20 in that category.

On defense, Nova boasts four players—the Ball girls and junior Katya Morse—who are in double figures in digs. That starts with Samantha with her 206 digs and works down to Allison with 127. No matter how opponents construct their offense, they're in for some headaches.

Morse, a 5-foot-6 libero, has also posted 497 service receptions against only 39 receiving errors. As of the end of September, Dobbs said she was among the best in the state in those categories. "(She makes) some incredible digs and passes," he said.

Cordelia Thomas, a junior 5-foot-10 right-side hitter, has good athletic skills and strong arms that make her invaluable as a blocker.

Fern Fisher, a 5-foot-9 sophomore middle player, has adapted well to the position after playing the right side last season.

Junior 5-foot-8 middle back Bella Arco, sophomore 5-foot-8 middle back Haven Purviance and junior 5-foot-5 defensive specialist Ashlynn Eull also fill their roles well.

Nova will face a rugged test when the Section 4AA playoffs begin on October 22. Dobbs likes his squad, but noted that making a good run in post-season play will require tenacity.

"We'll have to be at the top of our game," he said.

Central girls claim conference tennis title

BY BILL WAGNER

The Central High School girls' tennis team had already accomplished a major goal this season when it captured the Saint Paul City Conference championship for the first time since 2013 with a perfect 6-0 record.

Then on October 4, the Minutemen achieved another goal with a 4-3 victory over Highland Park in the first round of the Section 3AA playoffs. However, Central came down to earth the next day with a loss to Cretin-Derham Hall in the second round.

Coach Garry Clark appeared resigned to the fact that his charges

simply didn't have the staying power to keep up with the Raiders. Despite the loss, he said, the season was already a success since his team had been chasing the conference title for quite some time.

"We were able to pull it off this year," Clark said. "It's been a really successful season."

The Minutemen finished 9-5 overall following a loss to Washburn in the Twin Cities championship game on October 6. The Section 3AA individual tournament begins October 18.

Central lost only three regular-season matches this fall. That included defeats to Minnehaha Academy and CDH in mid-September, and to Saint

Paul Academy at the end of that month.

For the most part, Central showed it could win the close ones, including four matches by 4-3 against mostly conference foes. Central also defeated Highland Park 5-2 during the regular season before edging the Scots in sections.

Clark said the team has ridden most of the year on the strength of its top four singles players—junior Maren Wiebach, eighth-grader Claire Macedo, senior Emma Clift and sophomore Ani Holland. Clift had been the No. 1 singles player last year, and Wiebach

15◀ CENTRAL GIRLS' TENNIS

and Macedo split time in that spot this fall.

Clark couldn't say enough about the foursome. "I'd say that my top four singles players can compete with just about anybody," he said.

Holland had been getting the job done at fourth singles throughout the fall. However, in a 4-3 win over DeLaSalle on September 29, she emerged from a grueling tiebreaker with a wrist injury and hasn't played since. She was expected to be out for the year. It was too bad for Holland, too, because she was a fighter that day against the Islanders, enduring a singles match that took two and a half hours to complete.

"Her injury really put a damper on the season," Clark said. "We needed her for sections."

Clark said a lot of the team's triumphs this season were due to singles players Wiebach and Macedo. "That was key for us when Claire and Maren took over the top two spots," he said. "That was the key to our depth and it helped us become a more successful team."

Wiebach enjoyed a solid season for the Minutemen, but she is an exchange student and is expected to return to Germany for her senior year. Macedo will provide Central with an already-seasoned player at No. 1 singles next season.

The Minutemen had some trouble at doubles throughout this fall, though those tan-



Central junior Maren Wiebach concentrates on a return during a September 30 match against Saint Paul Academy. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

dems still had their moments. In a 7-0 win over Johnson on September 17, Central's No. 1 doubles team of seniors Harper Danielson and Ava Brown, the No. 2 team of junior Isabel Drexler Booth and sophomore Eva Marullo, and No. 3 team of senior Christine Horchner and freshman Mia Berndt all recorded victories.

Clark was especially enthused about the Horchner-Berndt tandem and what they have accomplished. He also is excited about next year's team, despite losing four seniors plus Wiebach.

15◀ WRIGHT CALL

coach at DeLaSalle High School. Next spring, he'll be back as an assistant track and field coach at Visitation School.

Expectations are in the mind of the beholder

P.J. Fleck and Glenn Caruso, who coach the only two Division I football teams in Minnesota, share something else in common: Both are irrepressibly optimistic, even when faced with a losing effort. Both the universities of Minnesota and Saint Thomas were 2-2 as of this writing, but the reactions of their fans to those records were decidedly different.

Fleck's followers were not too disturbed by a season-opening loss to Ohio State. After all, the Gophers scored 31 points against a highly touted foe. The loss of the team's top running back to a season-ending injury dampened a few spirits, but the effervescent Fleck promised better things to come. So the believers believed. A 30-0 road win at Colorado helped foster the belief that all was right in Gopherville.

With Bowling Green coming in for the U of M's homecoming, everybody was ready to party hardy. However, the Falcons spoiled the fun with a solid defensive effort that throttled the Gophers at every turn. A 31-point favorite ended up on the short end of the stick and there were suddenly a lot fewer people rowing the boat.

In football, however, one game's nightmare can easily be erased by success the following week. So it was that the Gophers went to Purdue, got a late interception to snuff out a

final threat, and came home with a conference win. With a week off to refresh the troops, hopes are now high again. They will stay that way at least until October 16—the next scheduled game.

Caruso is charged with leading Saint Thomas out of Division III and into the limelight playing with the big boys. A season-opening win at Michigan Tech drew happy headlines. Sure, the new D-I team only managed 12 points against a mediocre D-II school, but it was a win nonetheless. The next game was a 44-3 loss at Northern Iowa, but it was spun as a positive with Caruso maintaining that he was "wildly proud of our defense." The first half ended with UST down 17-3. Giving up 27 second-half points without scoring any of its own was glossed over because... well...Northern Iowa is very good.

A decisive victory at home over Butler brought unbridled joy. The fact that the Bulldogs haven't had a winning season since 2013 didn't matter. The Tommies then stood toe to toe for some time at San Diego before losing 27-24. The Toreros had won the previous five Pioneer League titles. Thus, this negative could be also viewed as a positive. What was not noted was that it was San Diego's first win in 2021.

If the Gophers finish with a .500 record, there'll be considerable moaning and groaning. If the Tommies finish at .500, there could well be a parade down Summit Avenue. It's all of matter of expectations.

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

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Business of the Month—Quixotic Coffee, 769 S. Cleveland Ave., is the Highland District Council's neighborhood business of the month for October. The coffee shop, which opened in December 2014, sells beverages and pastries. An interview with the owner is posted on the HDC website. Mention the HDC in October for a discount.

Blood and donation drives—A blood drive and donation drive will take place from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. In addition to giving blood, items will be collected for the Francis Basket Food Market in Highland. For information and the link, see the HDC website.

Living in Highland—The HDC has scheduled two events to hear from residents about living in Highland Park. Coffee and donuts will be served from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, October 16, at the Crosby Park Pavilion, 2595 Crosby Farm Road; and happy hour appetizers will be served from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, at Tiffany Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. Residents can also fill out a survey by October 31 at surveymonkey.com/r/HDCinput.

Highland Bridge virtual update—Ryan Companies will host its final Highland Bridge virtual project update of the year at 6 p.m. Monday, October 18. Participants may submit questions in advance by emailing jennifer.seidel@ryancompanies.com. Visit highlandbridge.com/news.

Rent stabilization panel—The Highland, Macalester-Groveland and other local district councils will host an informational panel on the city's rent stabilization ballot question at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, held via Zoom and live-streamed on Facebook. Register at rentstabilization.eventbrite.com.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Fall cleanup—Macalester-Groveland's Community Building Team and volunteers will gather for a fall cleanup from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, October 16, along Grand and Snelling avenues. Sign up at macgrove.org/events.

History Theatre viewing—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is purchasing group tickets to stream the History Theatre's production of *Not in Our Neighborhood* free of charge. *Not in Our Neighborhood*, which runs from October 14-24, tells the story of Nellie and William Francis, a prominent couple who purchased a home in Macalester-Groveland in 1924 and faced racism and protests. A discussion will be held via Zoom at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 24. Learn more at macgrove.org/events.

Blood drive—A blood drive will be hosted by Brian Wagner and Sarah Kinney of Coldwell Banker Realty from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, October 15, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. To learn more and register, visit facebook.com/macgrovecc.

Business roundtable—The community council's business representatives will host a fall roundtable for local business leaders at 8 a.m. Wednesday, October 27, via Zoom. RSVP to mgcc@macgrove.org.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Fall Festival—The Summit Hill Fall Festival will be held from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 Saint Clair Ave. The outdoor festival will feature live music, food trucks, pumpkin decorating, bounce houses, luminarias, apple cider, cocoa, local sponsors and crime prevention tips. Updated details are available at SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.

Annual meeting—The Summit Hill Association's annual meeting will take place at the October 14 festival. Voting for new and returning board members will take place from 5-7 p.m. An announcement of results and a short meeting will follow from 7:15-7:30 p.m. For questions regarding the election, contact executive director Monica Haas at 651-222-1222 or info@summithillassociation.org.

Summit Avenue trail—The Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation is drafting a master plan for Summit Avenue from the Mississippi River to downtown. Public comments are being requested by November. To take a survey and see the most current list of planning events, visit tinyurl.com/23jhnruh.

Fall safety walks—The SHA will hold two fall safety walks to identify areas that require maintenance for those on foot, bike, scooter or in vehicles. Volunteers will gather at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 21, and Tuesday, October 26, at the Linwood Recreation Center to canvas the neighborhood. Sign up at info@summithillassociation.org.

Call to action—The Racial Dialogue and Action Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, October 18, via Zoom. For details, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Volunteers—The Union Park District Council is canvassing its neighborhoods to inform residents of upcoming activities and is in need of considerable volunteer assistance. Those who are willing to help distribute flyers are being asked to email jonah@unionparkdc.org.

Board elections—This November, the UPDC will be holding elections for the majority of seats on its board of directors. That includes neighborhood-based grid seats as well as at-large seats. For information, contact jonah@unionparkdc.org or wako@unionparkdc.org.

Air pollution—This month, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is reviewing the emissions at Cooperative Plating Company on Snelling and Iglehart avenues. At its meeting on October 20, the UPDC's Environment and Parks Committee will solicit comments on the matter and issues of air pollution in the neighborhood.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

West Seventh recipes—Recipes are being collected from local residents for a West Seventh/Fort Road Federation cookbook that will be sold as a fundraiser for the organization. Recipes may be sent for consideration to fortroadfederation.org/cookbook.

Upcoming meetings—Community Engagement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 21; and Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 3. See fortroadfederation.org/calendar for details.

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CRAFT SALE at Hamline HiRise. 777 N. Hamline Avenue in St. Paul, 55104. 1 block North of Minnehaha. Friday, 10/22, 1pm-6pm; Saturday, 10/23, 11am-5pm.

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Next Issue: October 27 Deadline: October 20

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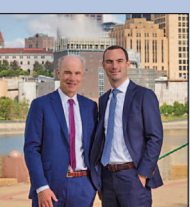
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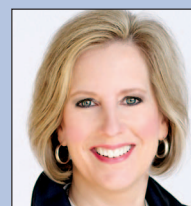
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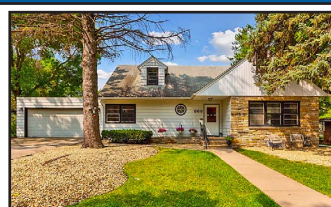
1934 TWIN CIRCLE DRIVE
Wonderful Mendota Heights rambler on a quiet street with a cul-de-sac feel. Three bedrooms on main level, private master bath, attached heated garage, spacious back deck private dec. Finished lower level and LOTS of storage.
GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com

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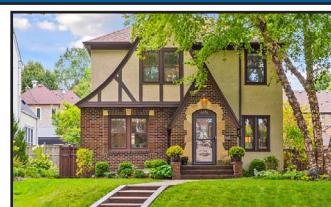
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Loved for over 30 years by the same owners, this captivating 4BR, 4BA boasts gleaming hardwood, fireplace, inviting sunroom, main floor den. New lower level carpet, backyard oasis with patio. Attached 2-car+. 669 Howell St. S. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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Discover this enchanting 3BR, 2BA Tudor gem, accented with elegant formal dining, sun-drenched kitchen with nook, sparkling sunroom. Fenced backyard, paver patio, 2-car with climate-controlled garage loft! 1676 Eleanor Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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Location, location!! Carefree living just steps to Highland Village and the river is this 2 or 3 bedroom bright and clean townhouse with updated everything!! Hardwood floors, newer appliances, 1 car garage space and just minutes to the airport and both downtowns.

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From first floor Riverain unit at 1021 Sibley Memorial Hwy. Expansive green space outside your patio door to the bluff. Second owner has just completed over \$40k in improvements w/improved owner's suite & decor + granite kitchen, newer appls, gas FP & wet bar. Lovely neutral decor for 2BR's, 2BA's - just under 1600 sqft. Call Lolly for details!

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NEW PRICE FOR EXECUTIVE RAMBLER IN WEST ST. PAUL!
Sprawling executive all-brick rambler offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, including main floor owner's suite with connecting sun room and porch. Lower level family room with gas fireplace, 3 bedrooms, plus extensive landscaping with private patio. Call Lolly for details!

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F. SCOTT FITZGERALD BROWNSTONE!
Once the home of F. Scott Fitzgerald, this fabulous end-unit brownstone is in like-new condition! Beautifully designed craftsman style interior and luxury finishes throughout! Professionally update from top-to-bottom with spectacular owner's suite including jetted tub, walk-in tiled shower, double vanities, customized closets and walk-out to your own personal outdoor oasis! Call for details.



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RIVER FRONT END-UNIT TOWNHOME!
With amazing views of the Mississippi & High Bridge, this one is a WOW! Completely updated to perfection featuring 2 gas fireplaces, 4 decks, 3 overlooking the river, endless built-ins, electronic blinds, surround-sound, spa-like master & sensational new chef's kitchen w/stunning granite throughout. All near the best in St. Paul's nightlife, river walking trails & much more! Call for details.



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1289 BAYARD AVENUE
Darling 1.5 story bungalow in demand Highland Park. 4BR/1.5BA/3 car garage. Two main floor bedrooms! All new windows. Hardwood floors & classic built-ins. Bright, spacious kitchen with stainless steel appliances & tile floors.

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651-755-6669 • \$349,000



1173 VIRGINIA ST.
Classic bungalow on quiet street. Two main floor BRs. Large BR on the UL. Updated BAs on main floor & LL. Hrdwd flrs. 3 season porch. Corner lot w/fenced yard. Storage shed & single car gar. Newer roof & furnace. Excellent buyer opportunity to build equity as a homestead, or investment potential.

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651-755-6669 • \$235,000



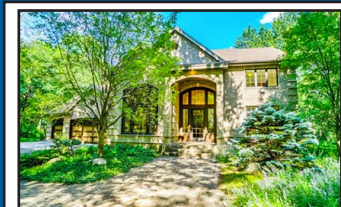
3713 LYNDALE AVENUE S - MINNEAPOLIS
This updated classic home was renovated by a DIY cable network team in 2010. High ceilings, quality materials, clean lines & unique spaces thru-out this home. Inviting 3-season frnt porch. Main floor features a large LR, formal DR & den. Original wdwrk, wainscoting, built-in buffet, & French drs. Modern kitchen. Full tiled full bath on each level.

TJ PIERRET
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1009 GRAND AVENUE
Fantastic opportunity to live in the midst of Summit Hill and enjoy all that this vibrant neighborhood has to offer. Stunning 3BR/3BA home with gorgeous features.
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MARY KNUDSEN CRS
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EXECUTIVE BUILT 2 STORY IN LAKE ELMO!
Welcome home to privacy and seclusion in this beautiful 10-acre estate situated perfectly on Veronica Pond in the heart of Lake Elmo. This two-story home features an open floor plan, main floor den, hardwood floors & much more!
www.TraditionalTwoStory.com

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STUNNING SUMMIT HILL TOWNHOME!
You'll love the open, spacious floor plan that moves seamlessly to the outdoor spaces. The kitchen has high end appliances, including a Dacor 6-burner gas range and additional wall oven with warming drawer, Subzero refrigerator, custom cabinetry and much more! Remodeled private owner's suite. This meticulously maintained property includes a large fenced yard with patio and deck. Move in and enjoy!

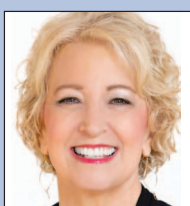


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MINNEAPOLIS LAKES CHARMER!
This Minneapolis Lakes Charming sits between the west side of Lake Bde Maka Ska and the main entrance of the Minikahda Club. A one-of-a-kind property that has been entirely updated both inside and out and meticulously maintained.
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