

# VILLAGER

AUGUST 1-14, 2018

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## Highland Fest marks its 35th

Owen Ray, aka Highland Park grad Owen Bacskai, belts out a rock 'n' roll tune with bassist Ted Tiedman during Highland Fest on July 21. At right, Therese

Verdeja snaps photos of Kate Munce and Ann Leimbach at the Friends of Highland Arts booth.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



## Neighbors push for changes to design of 5-story O'Gara's project

Public hearing set Aug. 1 on high-density rezoning

BY JANE MCCLURE

As the redevelopment of the O'Gara's Bar and Grill site heads to the St. Paul City Council for a public hearing on August 1, local residents continue to voice concerns about the design of the five-story building proposed for the southeast corner of Selby and Snelling avenues. More than a dozen neighbors attended the July 19 Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee meeting to object to the design of a structure they fear will tower over adjacent homes.

The City Council will be considering a request by O'Gara's and development partner Ryan Companies to rezone the various parcels from commercial and residential to traditional neighborhoods 3, which would allow a building height of up to 55 feet. A conditional use permit allowing a height of up to 63 feet was approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission in June pending approval of the rezoning.

The rezoning would clear the way for a mixed-use building with 163 housing units on five floors and 6,100 square feet of first-floor commercial space, including a new

O'GARA'S PROJECT ▶7

## Mississippi dams' future draws hundreds to hearing

### Army Corps explains their possible sale or removal

BY ROGER BARR

More than 300 people turned out on July 17 to learn about a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study that may determine the future of the three locks and dams on the Mississippi River between downtown Minneapolis and the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul. The public meeting at Highland Park High School was the second of two conducted by the Corps, which manages the locks and dams.

The Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam,

and Lock and Dam No. 1 just south of the Ford Bridge no longer fulfill their primary purpose of supporting navigation, according to the Corps.

An act of Congress closed the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock to navigation in 2015. No reason for the closure was given in the legislation, but many people speculate it was to prevent invasive carp from swimming further upriver.

Last August, the Corps decided to proceed with a disposition study of all three locks and dams to determine whether it is still in the public interest for the federal government to maintain the locks and dams, which costs taxpayers about \$1.5 million per year.

Federal guidelines limit the Corps' study to two possible recommendations: "no action" or maintaining the status quo; or a disposition of

the properties. The Corps will make a separate recommendation for each property. If it recommends disposal, the federal role would need to be deauthorized by Congress.

In the audience on July 17 were those who wanted to see the locks and dams maintained and those who would rather see them removed altogether and the river restored to its natural state. One audience member who has lived in the area for decades said that when he used to speak of the beauty of the Mississippi River gorge, his elders told him, "You should've seen the river before the dams were built."

Lock and Dam No. 1 beneath the Ford Bridge was constructed in 1917. The Lower St. Anthony

LOCKS AND DAMS STUDY ▶7



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### PRIMARY ELECTION AUG. 14

Candidates for City Council, Hennepin County Board discuss the issues ▶2-3

### EDUCATION



### The science of hip hop ▶12

### CITY BEAT

St. Paul approves makeover of permit parking rules ▶6

### ON THE TOWN



### Summer of '68 revisited ▶19

### SPORTS

Capitals claim seventh league title in men's amateur baseball ▶23

NEWS BRIEFS ..... 5  
VIEWPOINT ..... 8  
CRIME REPORT ..... 15  
KIOSK ..... 17  
DISTRICT COUNCILS ..... 18  
CLASSIFIEDS ..... 25

# City Council candidates discuss critical issues facing Ward 4

By ROGER BARR

Voters in St. Paul's Ward 4 will elect a new City Council member on August 14 to finish the 16 months remaining in the term of Russ Stark, who resigned last January to accept a position in Mayor Melvin Carter's administration. The council seat has been filled since then on an interim basis by Samantha Henningson.

Three candidates are in the running for the Ward 4 position: Shirley Erstad, Mitra Jalali Nelson and David Martinez.

Erstad, 51, a resident of Merriam Park, is married and the mother of three grown children. A graduate of South Dakota State University with a degree in political science and economics, she serves as executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County and is a former member of the Union Park District Council board.

Nelson, 32, lives in South St. Anthony Park. Married with no children, she works as a policy aide and outreach director for 5th District U.S. Representative Keith Ellison. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nelson said she is a lifelong Minnesotan, the daughter of immigrants, a renter a former teacher and a public servant with experience in day-to-day constituent services.

Martinez, 38, lives in Hamline-Midway. Married with two children, he was born in Puerto Rico and came to the U.S. mainland at age 7. He holds a bachelor's degree in global studies from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from Bethel University. Until recently he worked as a project consultant for the Minnesota Department of



Shirley Erstad



David Martinez



Mitra Jalali Nelson

Commerce.

The biggest challenges facing Ward 4, according to Erstad, are the need for more housing and economic development and the problem of top-down decision making. She said she believes in representative government, "but too often it seems as if it's for the special interests and the well-connected."

Erstad supports the city's Open for Business initiative. She said she would work to make St. Paul a great place to start a business and a place where a business can thrive. She also favors workforce training programs such as Right Track.

Nelson identified four key issues for Ward 4: affordable housing, building community wealth, promoting environmental sustainability through expanded transit, and promoting public safety through police accountability.

To create jobs and improve the business climate, Nelson would simplify the zoning code "to make the development of new business alongside housing easier." She believes "streamlining the permitting process, eliminating parking minimums and easing other burdens" would help small businesses get started in neighborhoods. She also endorses the city's Open for Business initiative.

According to Martinez, Ward 4's major challenges involve a lack of transparency in "everything the

city is doing" and the discriminatory enforcement practices of many of the city's departments. City leaders "are driving small businesses out of Ward 4 and out of St. Paul," he said. He criticized the incentives given to the owners of Minnesota United to entice the team to build the new soccer stadium in the Midway.

"The quality of life for all Ward 4 residents will be significantly improved if city leaders create favorable conditions for all small businesses to succeed," he said.

Martinez said his property taxes "have skyrocketed" and he has not seen an increase in city services. The city streets and public safety are all substandard, he said, and the "little guy is left paying the bill."

To rein in property taxes, Erstad would shift city priorities. "Great schools, great parks and great neighborhoods are what entice people to come, stay and invest in our city," she said. "By having policies that reflect that belief, rather than policies that subsidize large projects for the benefit of a few, we can stop this trend of ever-increasing taxes and ever decreasing city services."

According to Nelson, property tax increases can be held down if the city "strengthens its tax base through common-sense development." Besides large redevelopment projects like the Midway soccer stadium site and the Ford Plant site, she champions "medium-size" mixed-

use developments along major arterials like Snelling and University avenues and smaller mixed-use developments along neighborhood arterials like Hamline, Cleveland and Selby avenues. She advocates a "laser focus" on making new housing affordable and ensuring new developments benefit the surrounding neighborhood.

Erstad supports the recent City Council resolution that calls for the creation of an advisory body dedicated to housing stability and advocates that homeowners be included on the advisory body. She also supports the City Council's goal that over the next 10 years at least one-third of the new housing units in St. Paul be affordable to households making 30 to 50 percent of the area's medium income. "We'll never meet our affordable housing goals if we continue to approve luxury projects with nominal or no affordable components," she said.

Nelson said she favors zoning changes that would "help us convert existing homes into duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes. That's a great way to increase the number of units available while maintaining neighborhood character." She said she would leverage federal low-income housing credits to create more units for low-income families. "We should also use sparingly costly city processes like historic preservation reviews, studies and moratoriums that can stall the creation of more housing," Nelson said.

According to Martinez, "there's plenty of vacant property across Ward 4 and the city of St. Paul to create the housing the market is demanding. There's enough vacant property in Ward 4 to provide adequate housing for every homeless person in the vicinity."

Nelson said "it's imperative" for

the city to work hand in hand with Midway and surrounding neighborhoods to fulfill the economic development potential of the new soccer stadium and to ensure this growth benefits every resident of our city."

Erstad pledged "to work with neighborhood development groups and district councils to identify and market the unique aspects of neighborhoods." She would insist that development agreements include community benefits for local businesses. "The city has agreed to a voluntary community benefits agreement," she said. "I would have held us to the higher standard of a mandatory benefits agreement."

Martinez noted that when the City Council voted to move ahead with the soccer stadium, "what they didn't do was prepare for the consequences for Ward 4 residents." He predicted the evolution of an entertainment district within a one-mile radius of the stadium, and "that means property taxes and the cost of goods and services are going to go up."

In recent weeks, Martinez was involved in several altercations with local authorities. The first, on July 5 at the Latimer Library resulted in his being banned from the city's public libraries for a month. The second, on July 6 at Target Field, resulted in his being banned from the ballpark for a year.

On July 16, Martinez was arrested by St. Paul police on suspicion of the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, a felony. He was released without charges, though an investigation continues. Martinez said he is innocent of the charges and that the offending material on his campaign website was the work of hackers.

## August 14 ballot beckons to voters

Voters across the Villager area will go to the polls on Tuesday, August 14, to choose among candidates for federal, state and local elective offices. Their votes in the primary election will help determine which candidates advance to the general election in November. A special election is also being held in St. Paul's Ward 4 to fill out the remaining 16 months in a City Council term.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on August 14.

The candidates who will be on the primary ballot are listed below. (The incumbent, if any, is identified with an asterisk.) Only races that are contested in the primary are included on the list. Some races will appear on all ballots and others only on ballots in St. Paul or Minneapolis. (The contested races in Mendota Heights are all statewide races.)

All voters may choose among candidates in the local nonpartisan races. For the rest of the ballot, voters must decide whether they will cast their votes with the DFL or Republican parties, and once they do decide, they may not vote for a candidate of the other party.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a Minnesota resident for at least the preceding 20 days, and a resident of the precinct you are voting in.

If you are currently registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to a different address, have changed your name or have not voted in the last four years. The deadline for registering to vote before the primary election has passed. However, you may register to vote at the polls on

August 14 by showing a Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or state ID card (or a receipt for any of those documents) that includes your current address; a current college fee statement with your current address and a photo ID; a current student ID card with photo; or a tribal ID card with your name, address, signature and photo.

You may also register at the polls on election day by showing a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, tribal ID, Minnesota college student ID, or a Minnesota driver's license or ID card with a previous address as long as you also show a recent utility bill that includes your name and current address or show a current student fee statement that includes your name and current address.

Voters without any of those identifying documents may still register at the polls if a voter who is registered in the same precinct vouches for their residency in the precinct. Residents of nursing homes, shelters and certain other residential facilities may also register at the polls if an employee of the facility vouches for them.

Minnesota residents also may vote by absentee ballot by mail or in person, or they may take advantage of early voting between August 7 and 13 during specified hours at locations across their respective county.

For more information on early voting, absentee ballots, polling places and other voter services, visit your county's website or call 651-266-2171 in Ramsey County, 612-348-5151 in Hennepin County, or 651-438-4380 in Dakota County.

### St. Paul Ballots

#### RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Nonpartisan — Charles S. Barklind, James Jaeger, Rafael E. Ortega\*.

#### RAMSEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge 11 — Gregory J. Egan IV, Scott Michael Flaherty, Jeffry Martin, Adam Yang.

Judge 20 — G. Tony Atwal\*, Elliott Nickell, P. Paul Yang.

Judge 28 — Calandra Revering, Elena L. Ostby\*, Seamus R. Mahoney.

#### ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL (rank up to 4 choices including write-ins)

Ward 4 — Shirley Erstad, David Martinez, Mitra Jalali Nelson.

### Minneapolis Ballots

#### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5

DFL — Jamal Abdi Abdulahi, Bobby Joe Champion, Frank Nelson Drake, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Ilhan Omar, Patricia Torres Ray.

Republican — Bob "Again" Carney Jr., Christopher Chamberlin, Jennifer Zielinski.

#### HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

Nonpartisan — Angela Conley, Megan Kuhl-Stennes, Peter McLaughlin\*.

#### HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF

Joseph Banks, Dave Hutch, Rich Stanek\*.

#### MPLS. SCHOOL BOARD (at large)

Vote for up to two — Kimberly Caprini,

Sharon El-Amin, Rebecca Gagnon\*, Doug Mann, Josh Pauly.

### All Ballots

#### U.S. SENATOR (six-year term)

DFL — Steve Carlson, Stephen A. Emery, David Robert Groves, Amy Klobuchar\*, Leonard J. Richards.

Republican — Merrill Anderson, Rae Hart Anderson, Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente, Jim Newberger.

#### U.S. SENATOR (two-year term)

DFL — Ali Chehem Ali, Gregg A. Iverson, Nick Leonard, Richard W. Painter, Christopher Lovell Seymore Sr., Tina Smith.

Republican — Bob Anderson, Nikolay Nikolayevich Bey, Karin Housley.

#### GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR

DFL — Tim Holden and James P. Mellin II, Erin Murphy and Erin Maye-Quade, Olé Savior and Chris Edman, Lori Swanson and Rick Nolan, Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan.

Republican — Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom, Mathew (Matt) Kruse and Theresa Loeffler, Tim Pawlenty and Michelle Fischbach.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

DFL — Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Debra Hilstrom, Matt Pelikan, Mike Rothman.

Republican — Sharon Anderson, Robert Lessard, Doug Wardlow.

#### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 4

DFL — Muad Hassan, Betty McCollum\*, Reid Rossell.

# McLaughlin challenged in Hennepin Cty.

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

**F**ourth District Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, in his bid for re-election, is being challenged this year by fellow DFLer Angela Conley and Green Party endorsee Megan Kuhl-Stennes. The top two vote-getters in the August 14 primary election will advance to the November 6 general election.

**McLaughlin**, 68, has served seven terms on the Hennepin County Board. A resident of Minneapolis' Ericsson neighborhood, he is married and the father of one child. He holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Minnesota' Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

"The stakes in this election couldn't be higher," McLaughlin said. "Destructive racial and economic disparities divide us. I'm running to make sure Hennepin County is a model for progressive local government in creating a welcoming, equitable and just community."

"I've devoted my life to fighting for racial and economic justice," McLaughlin said, "in Spanish Harlem and Trenton, New Jersey, as a community organizer at the Urban Coalition in Minneapolis and as the chair for 12 years of PRG," a nonprofit housing program. As a Hennepin County commissioner, McLaughlin said, he has led efforts "to save and expand library services, build a 21st-century transportation system, expand early childhood education, fund a broad array of youth recreation facilities and slow the housing crisis."

In addition to defending the expansion of Medicaid and working for the defeat of Medicaid work requirements, McLaughlin is calling for the creation of a single-payer health care system.

"Deep racial, social and economic disparities" are the biggest problems facing his constituents, McLaughlin said, "and jobs, education and affordable housing are all key in the fight to end those problems. The county must create pathways to good jobs and careers through training, college credits, internships and access to jobs and career advancement and by expanding the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund."

**Kuhl-Stennes**, 34, a resident of Minneapolis' Phillips neighborhood, is married and the mother of one child. She holds a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Benedict with a major in Environmental Studies and a minor in Theology. She worked for a year in the St. Joseph Worker program and for 10 years for Eureka Recycling. She is a former chair of the Catholic Community Council of the Spirit of St. Stephen's Catholic Community and has served on the board of Eco Education and the Minnesota Environmental Fund.

"For the past 12 years, I've devoted my professional life to achieving zero waste," Kuhl-Stennes said. "The progress we've made shows that having a vision guided by values can lead to solutions not previously considered. I've also worked to support municipal governments' ability to represent the needs of our community by fighting preemption efforts at the state Legislature."

Kuhl-Stennes believes "gross disparities in the quality of life" is the most significant problem facing Hennepin County. "Ensuring that people have adequate health care and adequate



Kuhl-Stennes

Conley

McLaughlin

income to meet basic needs can drastically improve the quality of life," she said. "I'd like to pilot a Basic Income Guarantee for Hennepin County residents to give people the autonomy to utilize resources in the right way for their families."

"We need housing that takes into account incomes and not just what market forces are allowing," Kuhl-Stennes said. "We need additional housing (priced) at 5 and 10 percent of the area's median income."

Kuhl-Stennes supports a living wage for all workers in Hennepin County. She also has "a deep passion" for making the county more sustainable by achieving 100 percent renewable energy and zero waste, efforts that "will fight climate change, create jobs and address economic and environmental injustices."

**Conley**, 40, the mother of four children and a resident of Minneapolis' Bryant neighborhood, has a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in public administration. An operations coordinator in the Hennepin County Health and Human Services Department and president of the Bryant Neighborhood Organization, she worked for eight years as supervisor of food support in the state Department of Health and Human Services and for five years processing applications for public assistance in Hennepin County. Conley also volunteers in the county's Office to End Homelessness and for the Local Advisory Council on Adult Mental Health.

"I have a lifelong passion for community service," Conley said. "I know the transformational capacity of county government. For nearly 20 years, I've worked tirelessly to change systems at the state and county levels in ways that are holistic, person-first and seamless. I understand the county's role in our community, where it succeeds and where it fails."

"In Hennepin County, we're only doing as well as our most marginalized residents," Conley said. "We perpetuate poverty and injustice by creating barriers to safety, health and self-sufficiency. My work as a public servant has been to dismantle systemic barriers for communities that have been ignored. I envision a county where all of us are safe in our homes, workplaces and neighborhoods, where residents have equal access to opportunity, living wages and housing."

Conley supports a system of restorative justice for nonviolent, low-level offenses. "We can increase the availability of treatment for drug and alcohol offenses and end the system of cash bail," she said. "No one should be held in jail based on socio-economic status. I'm willing and ready to stand against mass incarceration and discrimination. My goal is to keep people out of jail who should not be there."

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## Developers save historic Iglehart house

BY JANE MCCLURE

**A** Merriam Park house designed by a prominent 19th-century architect is being moved to a new foundation near its current location. It will eventually be joined by three new homes, which will occupy what is now 1905 and 1911 Iglehart Ave. The two lots will be subdivided into four.

Father and daughter John and Allison Matherne of Roseville-based Equinox Construction plan to restore the historic house at 1905 Iglehart to its original glory after it is moved about 25 feet to the east. Work on the move began last week. A brick multifamily building at 1911 Iglehart that was built in 1885 was torn down in mid-July.

The Matherne are longtime local developers, with condos and townhouses in Highland Park and Summit Hill among the projects they have completed over the past two decades. They also have worked on renovations of historic buildings, including the conversion of a dilapidated Ramsey Hill carriage house into a home.

John Matherne said the company is more focused now on infill developments. Equinox is purchasing the two Iglehart Avenue properties from the Tierney family. “We’ve had our eye on the properties for some time,” he said, adding that 1905 Iglehart has many great features worth saving.

Neighbors and members of the Union Park District Council’s Land Use Committee praised Ward 4 City Council member Samantha Henningson and her legislative aide, Libby Kantner, for working with them and the Matherne on the development plan.

The house at 1905 Iglehart, which was built in 1900, was designed by architect Augustus F. Gauger, who is well-known in the Midwest for many institutional



The 118-year-old house at 1905 Iglehart Ave. before it was moved to another foundation around 25 feet to the east to make room for three new homes.

buildings. The house has been identified as a potential asset in a proposed Merriam Park historic district, but is under no current development moratoriums or protections.

The nonprofit group Historic St. Paul raised concerns about losing the house, as did the groups Save Our St. Paul Neighborhoods and Historic Hamline Village.

Christopher Keith, a St. Paul architectural historian who has studied Gauger’s work, was also pleased. “I feel that 1905 Iglehart was hugely important to preserve,” he said. “It’s one of the finest 19th-century homes in Merriam Park. It came close to being a house that we had to just let go because of its condition. Death by neglect is something I see far too often with historic architecture. The house is still solid and can be restored, but if it had been left much longer, who knows?”

Keith said the Matherne have the

experience needed to restore the house, and once it is finished will quickly find a buyer.

“As for 1911 Iglehart, that had to come down,” Keith said. “A huge misinterpretation is that we historians want to save every old building. We let 100-year-old buildings go all the time. We fight for the few that are important to the history of our city.”

Two developers had previously proposed knocking down both 1905 and 1911 Iglehart. St. Louis Park-based Dream Homes was notified in March that its request to subdivide the two lots was denied by the city’s Department of Safety and Inspections. In 2016, developer Jon Schwartzman of Hopkins was told he could not subdivide the lots and develop townhouses. Schwartzman recently tore down two houses at the northeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Moore Street to construct a five-story apartment building.

## Marshall Ave. rezoning recommended

BY JANE MCCLURE

**T**he proposed rezoning of properties along Marshall Avenue between Hamline Avenue and the Mississippi River heads to the St. Paul Planning Commission for a vote at 8:30 a.m. Friday, August 10. While the rezoning now includes many changes suggested by local residents and business people, there are concerns that other changes were not made.

The Planning Commission’s Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the proposed rezoning following a public hearing on July 25. The final decision is in the hands of the City Council.

Many of the 300-plus properties in the study area would see zoning changes. Generally, properties around the intersections of Cretin, Cleveland, Wilder, Prior, Fairview, Snelling, Pascal and Albert would be rezoned to allow for denser, mixed-use developments. Some areas where historic homes have been eyed for protection would be downzoned so that future developments could not be as tall as currently allowed.

Two commercial nodes are recommended for higher density than city staff initially recommended, at the request of the Kvasnik family. The Kvasniks asked for TN3 zoning for properties they own at the southwest corner of Cretin and Marshall and the southeast corner of Cleveland and Marshall, raising the maximum building height to 55 feet.

City staff had recommended TN2 zoning, which limits the maximum height to 45 feet.

Planning commissioner Luis Rangel-Morales cast the sole vote against the zoning recommendations. He was concerned about the change from TN2 to TN3 at the Cretin and Cleveland corners. “While I personally favor more density,” Rangel-Morales said, “if we change the zoning to TN3 now, we’ll take away the chance for the community to comment on redevelopment there in the future.”

Planning commissioners Kathy Mouacheupao, Lue Vang and Adrian Perryman supported the TN3 zoning. Perryman said the Cretin corner, with its direct access to I-94, is a logical place for denser zoning.

Another recent change to the proposed rezoning is that properties on the south side of Marshall between Snelling Avenue and Pascal Street would retain their industrial zoning rather than be rezoned for higher-density mixed-use redevelopment like the property directly across Marshall.

The properties on the south side of Marshall currently include a self-storage facility, an auto salvage yard and a veterinary clinic. Neighborhood residents who worked on the rezoning study wanted to see higher-density TN zoning there because of the site’s proximity to the rapid transit A Line bus on Snelling. However, the St. Paul Port Authority had recommended keeping the industrial zoning.

The public hearing on July 25 drew strong interest, with 17 speakers and 78 written comments. Supporters of the rezoning as proposed outnumbered those who sought greater density on Marshall.

One concern raised by local residents at the public hearing was that student rental houses, which are regulated under a separate zoning overlay district, could be expanded into duplexes if their underlying zoning was changed. However, city staff said they looked into that concern and found only one student rental house that could legally be converted to a duplex.

More than half of the properties along that two-mile stretch of Marshall are currently zoned for single-family housing. However, the underlying zoning in several areas allows buildings of up to five stories in height. That is what is happening at Marshall and Moore Street, where two homes were recently demolished to make way for a five-story apartment building.

The proposed zoning changes would help to preserve a six-block stretch of Marshall between Wheeler and Wilder streets where several homes are considered historic. A separate historic designation study is underway for those properties. City officials want to have the zoning changes and any recommendations for historic preservation adopted by October when a development moratorium in the six-block area ends.

# News Briefs

## Petitions seek referendums on organized trash collection

As the city of St. Paul moves toward the October start of organized residential trash collection, a group called St. Paul Trash is trying to get at least 6,000 signatures on petitions to force a vote on the city's new trash ordinances.

The City Council will hold public hearings on the ordinances at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 1, at City Hall. One ordinance prevents the sharing of garbage carts among households, and the other spells out the provisions of the coordinated collection system, including the types of garbage carts and bags to be used, the process for collecting delinquent fees and the rules for picking up larger items. The ordinances need to be in place before organized collection starts.

The petitioners include landlords concerned about having more garbage carts than they need or have space for as well as people who generate little trash. They are seeking a public vote on the ordinances either in a special or general election, and are urging the city to go back to the drawing board on the idea of organized collection.

St. Paul has had an open system of garbage collection for years, where residents choose their own trash haulers through private contracts. Proponents contend the current system fosters freedom of choice and lower costs. Opponents say it has resulted in a system with very different costs, more garbage truck traffic and the illegal dumping of trash.

Under organized collection, single-family homeowners and landlords with four or fewer units have to contract with a hauler assigned to their neighborhood by the city. The assignments will be known in the coming weeks. Cart delivery is to start in September.

For more information on St. Paul Trash's efforts, visit [stpaultrash.com](http://stpaultrash.com).

## City rezones former Riverside property for senior housing

The former Riverside School property at West Seventh Street and Lexington Parkway in Highland Park has been rezoned to make way for a senior housing complex. The St. Paul City Council on July 18 gave final approval to rezone the site from single-family residential to traditional neighborhoods 3 (TN3).

A conditional use permit (CUP) and variance for the first of two buildings planned for the site were approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission in June. The commission also joined the Highland District Council and the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation in recommending approval of the rezoning.

The St. Paul Public Schools is selling the 5.4-acre property to the nonprofit J.A. Wedum Foundation. The foundation is proposing to construct a five-story, 165-unit market-rate senior apartment building as the first phase. The majority of the units would be for independent living, but there would also be some assisted living and memory care units. One-bedroom, one-plus, two-bedroom

and studio units would all be in the mix.

The change to TN3 zoning allows building heights of up to 55 feet. The CUP was needed because the developers estimate that the first building will be about 58 feet tall.

The variance was needed to bypass the zoning requirement that the building have an entrance on a main thoroughfare. Instead, the main entry would be off of a dead-ended Lexington Parkway, with about 35 off-street parking spaces off a driveway. There also would be about 65 underground parking spaces.

A second senior building would be constructed closer to Albion Avenue. When that building goes up and what it looks like will be influenced by the demand for the first building.

## Plan to turn St. Paul's Church into concert venue advances

An effort to convert the former St. Paul's on the Hill Episcopal Church into a performing arts center is moving ahead. The St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee will consider developer John Rupp's request for a historic use variance for 1524 Summit Ave. on August 2 at City Hall.

Rupp received a recommendation of approval on July 25 from the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee. The committee is asking that Rupp be mindful of neighborhood concerns raised about parking and late-night noise that could potentially result. Some members of the committee pushed for Rupp to produce a parking plan. Talks are ongoing with nearby lot owners to see if shared parking can be arranged.

The church's two-story education building is already the new home for the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. The Planning Commission in March approved a conditional use permit for the school to move there.

Having the church used as a performing arts center requires a historic use variance, which is voted on by the Planning Commission, the Heritage Preservation Commission and ultimately the City Council.

The church building is currently used by Cities Church, whose congregation worshipped at Minnehaha Academy until a gas explosion extensively damaged its Upper School campus last summer. Rupp also wants to use the space for concerts and other arts events. The proposed ending time for events is midnight.

The 104-year-old church, which has long been known for its outstanding acoustics, is considered to be a historic landmark. It is located in the Summit Avenue West Historic District and was designed by Emmanuel Masqueray, who also designed the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis and the Cathedral of St. Paul.

St. Paul's Church closed in 2015 and the building sat vacant while the Episcopal Church in Minnesota put it up for sale.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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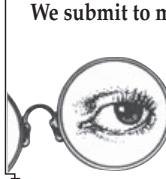
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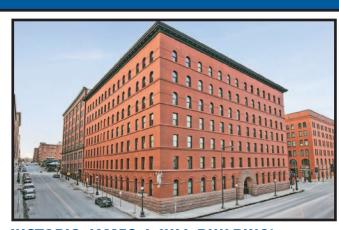


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# St. Paul alters permit parking rules

BY JANE MCCLURE

**A**fter almost two years of study, the St. Paul City Council approved on July 25 the first makeover of a residential permit parking program that has been in place for nearly four decades.

"It's been a long road," said Ward 4 council member Samantha Henningson. Though she and other council members had hoped for more changes, they are satisfied that key steps have been taken to streamline a complex and cumbersome system.

Many of the changes are technical, including rolling all of the city's 27 residential permit parking districts into one ordinance. The study, led by the St. Paul Department of Public Works, cost about \$47,000 and involved outreach to many neighborhood groups.

City staff had originally wanted to eliminate some districts, but met pushback. Residents and business owners in the West End and Merriam Park neighborhoods were among those whose spoke out, with changes to districts east of the University of St. Thomas drawing the

most objections.

For Merriam Park, the result is that its permit parking districts will not be combined as first proposed. Restrictions on Portland Avenue east of Cleveland Avenue will continue to ban parking from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. except by permit. Residents there had objected to changes due to spillover parking from the university.

Districts 16 and 17 north of the campus are already combined to an extent. That is a result of an agreement reached during the debate over Cleveland bike lanes when residents of an apartment building west of Cleveland were allowed to buy permits for the area east of that avenue.

Though time limits will still vary by area and by street, the changes approved by the City Council on July 25 will standardize other rules for the districts. From now on, up to three vehicle permits and two visitor permits will be made available to each household. Some districts, including ones in Irvine Park and Summit Hill, previously allowed as many as six vehicle permits per household.

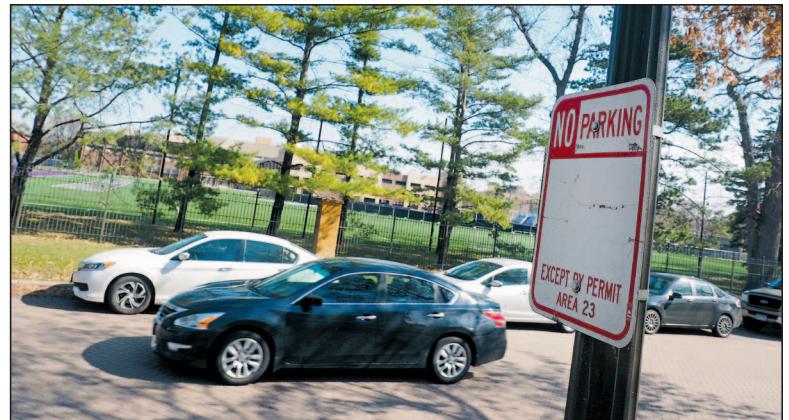
Residents will pay more for per-

mits starting in 2019. That includes increases from \$15 to \$25 for annual vehicle and visitor permits, from \$1 to \$5 for annual placards for non-profit organizations, and from \$1 to \$3 for one-day visitor hang tags. It will also cost more to get a new permit if one is lost or to replace one if a new vehicle is purchased during the year. Permits also will no longer be offered at prorated prices after May 1.

People who drive a leased vehicle will be able to buy permits for their home districts, which was not available before. Permits will be uniform in design for all districts.

Permits will continue to be unavailable to owners or employees of commercial buildings, despite some suggestions during the recent study to allow them.

Several changes are proposed by district related to time limits and streets where permit parking is allowed. One key change allows residents of multifamily buildings to sign petitions to seek permit parking. Property owners were the only ones who could sign before. Seventy-five percent of residents or property owners in a district must sign a petition for a permit.



No parking is allowed without a permit southwest of Goodrich and Cretin avenues near the University of St. Thomas. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ing enforcement.

Henningson said license plate reader technology would be a big step in enforcing residential permit parking. One complaint she has heard is that time limits are not enforced in areas where two-hour business parking is allowed in a permit district. Officers currently chalk tires and recheck after two hours.

The council also is asking the city's Innovation Team to immediately convene a working group to come up with a plan for using license plate reader technology to enforce permit parking regulations. Use of the new technology is expected to start in September 2019 in conjunction with a new online permit renewal system. The council is also asking the Police Department to increase the capacity of its park-

## Committee stalls decision on plan to ease traffic tie-ups at Starbucks

BY JANE MCCLURE

**P**roposed changes to the Starbucks drive-through at Snelling and Marshall avenues remain parked until August 2, when modifications to the coffee shop's site plan will return to the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee. The changes are being sought in an effort to address traffic backups, dangerous U-turns and vehicles blocking the Marshall Avenue bike lane.

The Zoning Committee voted 3-1 on July 19 to lay the matter over for two weeks. Members were split as to whether the proposed changes will make a difference.

Changes would be made to lengthen the drive-through lane and reconfigure parking, allowing up to 12 vehicles to wait in line. The original site plan only allowed 9-10 vehicles to line up. The changes have an estimated cost of \$100,000.

City staff recommended approval of the changes with two conditions. One was that Starbucks would continue to pay for a traffic control officer during peak morning hours. The other was that bollards be installed to provide an interim median on Marshall.

The project has generated 43 letters in opposition, many from bicyclists who have narrowly avoided collisions with cars while biking past the coffee shop.

"I've lost track of how many times I've almost been injured or killed trying to get to work," said Brian Fanelli, who lives in Minneapolis and uses Marshall to get to work in downtown St. Paul. "The sight lines are awful, cars stack in the bike lane, drivers pull dangerous U-turns to get back to Snelling, and the city still hasn't replaced the plastic bollards intended to keep cyclists at least marginally safer. It's a poor design at a bad location."

The Union Park District Council has

recommended denial of the changes and has pushed for the city to revoke the conditional use permit (CUP) that was issued in late 2015 for the coffee shop. The St. Paul Bicycle Coalition also is asking for the CUP to be revoked.

Senior city planner Josh Williams said the permit is not the issue before the Planning Commission. Commissioners can either approve the site plan changes as proposed or deny them and the site would stay the same.

The current configuration allows vehicles to enter Starbucks from Marshall and exit on Marshall and on Snelling. Vehicles entering the lot during busy times often block the eastbound Marshall vehicle and bike lanes. Some backups have extended around the corner, affecting northbound Snelling traffic as well.

Starbucks, Kimley-Horn engineering and the St. Paul and Ramsey County departments of public works have looked at ways to address the traffic issues since last year. They

have used different configurations of bollards to direct traffic and at one point eliminated the exit to Marshall.

Civil engineer Trisha Sieh of Kimley-Horn said the median on Marshall and drive-through improvements would eliminate the problems, but some Zoning Committee members said the changes appear to be only a marginal improvement.

Committee member Christopher Ochs, who cast the sole vote against the layover, said he does not believe the modifications would eliminate the spillback issues, but would be a step in the right direction.

Merriam Park resident Anne Burkhardt agreed that the Starbucks drive-through is a hazard. "There are too many bikers, pedestrians and cars to justify its existence," she said.

Highland Park resident Jeffrey Zaayer described the revised site plan as merely "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic."



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## 1 O'GARA'S PROJECT

4,100-square-foot O'Gara's. O'Gara's three buildings, along with three adjacent Hague Avenue homes, would be torn down to make way for the new building.

Neighbors are concerned about the mass of the proposed building, especially on the Hague Avenue side. They fear it will overshadow their homes and yards and invade their privacy. They are also concerned about a proposed "outdoor amenity area" on the second floor on the Hague Avenue side of the building and the potential for noisy late-night parties around that outdoor area's 10-by-12-foot plunge pool.

Neighbors and members of the UPDC Land Use Committee said they are getting frustrated with the developers. "When issues are raised, we hear that you're going to look into it," said Dean Nelson, who cochairs the committee. "We'd like a sense of what will happen, rather than just hearing 'we'll look into it.' We don't want another meeting where we hear 'we'll look into it' because we're running out of time."

O'Gara's co-owner Dan O'Gara said he has been assured there will be opportunities to change the project. However, Ryan Companies' Joe Peris praised the building's design as it is. He and others on the development team challenged objections to the outdoor amenity area and pool. According to Peris, the developers' goal is to see what can be done to accommodate neighbors. Comments made at the July 19 meeting will be reviewed to see what changes can be made to the design, he said.

Several neighbors cited the five-story Vintage on Selby on the northeast corner of Selby and Snelling as a design they would like to see emulated on the O'Gara's site. Unlike the proposed building, the Vintage's three upper floors are stepped back from the property line to reduce its perceived height.

## 1 LOCKS AND DAMS STUDY

Lock and Dam was completed in 1956, and the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam in 1963. The dams transformed what had been a stretch of whitewater rapids to a series of slack water pools that are not as habitable for the native species of paddlefish, sturgeon, smallmouth bass and eel, according to Olivia Dorothy of the environmental group American Rivers.

Cathy Geist, a professor of environmental science, asked why the presence of invasive carp was not included in the Corps' presentation. According to Judy DesHarnais, deputy district engineer for programs and project management for the Corps, the ecosystem of the river is crucial and will be addressed as the study continues.

Kirsten Lamppa, a member of the Minneapolis Rowing Club, asked the Corps how its lock and dam study will quantify the value of the recreational uses that would no longer be possible if the dams were removed. Others asked why the study was limited to only two possible recommendations.

To change the scope of the study requires an act of Congress, according to Corps officials. A massive bill with language about the "Minnesota locks and dams divestment study" is currently before the U.S. House and Senate.

Corps project manager Nan Bischoff was pleased with the two public meetings. "We were able to explain what our study was all about, and the public learned that we have to consider who is best qualified to maintain the dams if the dams are still going to be there," Bischoff said. "We learned that there is a lot of interest in the Corps examining the dam removal alternative. We also know there are organizations interested in ownership or in partnering in ownership of these locks and dams."

"I have to say, I'm really surprised at how this building is being designed," said Julie Shumsea. She and fellow Hague Avenue resident Ward Lenius said they would like to see more stepbacks in the O'Gara's building.

The developers plan to tuck the second-floor pool and patio area into an alcove on the Hague Avenue side. Lenius said that could create an "amphitheater" effect with noise bouncing through the neighborhood.

"Why do we need to have a pool there if the people who live there can only use it for three months of the year?" asked UPDC board member Noelle Jacquet-Morrison.

Pete Clasen, whose family owns an apartment building across Hague from the proposed building, said that he and his neighbors would prefer to see the upper apartments in the new building set back from the street. Otherwise, "we'll be looking at them and they'll be looking at us," he said.

Members of the development team said the building is designed in a way that puts more massing along Snelling. For the outdoor amenity area, a series of screens and planters are planned to block views and mitigate noise.

Another deterrent to any late-night noise will be the presence of new apartments adjacent to the pool and patio area. Tenants using the pool and patio area late at night will get two warnings about noise and be evicted in the event of a third incident, the developers said.

The developers are hoping to break ground on the new building this fall and complete construction in 2019. The City Council could approve the rezoning as early as August 8. However, construction cannot move ahead until the site plan and a traffic management plan is completed and approved by city staff. The traffic management plan will be discussed by the UPDC's Transportation Committee during a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 13, at the Griggs-Midway Building, 1821 University Ave.

Commercial traffic on the Mississippi above the mouth of the Minnesota River has dropped precipitously since the Upper St. Anthony Lock closed in June 2015. Bischoff noted the local concerns that ever since, the navigation channel has not been maintained. "Some stakeholders rely on those markers (of the 9-foot channel)," she said. "Someone from one of the rowing clubs noted that the channel markers are used to mark positions on the river and are a safety measure."

Written comments on the Corps' lock and dam disposition study as well as letters of interest from prospective new owners are being accepted through August 20 via email to [MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil](mailto:MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil) and by mail to District Engineer, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, Regional Planning and Environment Division North, 180 E. Fifth St., St. Paul, MN 55101-1638.

A draft report with the Corps' recommendations will be available for public review and comment next spring. A final report will be made by the St. Paul District of the Corps around the end of 2019. That report will be reviewed by the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division and its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., which will make a final recommendation to Congress.

If Congress approves the recommendation to dispose of the properties, the Corps would no longer be authorized to operate the locks or dredge the channel. Congress would order the General Services Administration to dispose of the properties. The locks and dams would first be offered to other federal agencies, then to state and local agencies, before they would be put up for public auction or sealed bids. The process could take years to complete.

For more information, visit <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition>.



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# Viewpoint

## Amendments could open door to more billboards

BY GERALD MISCHKE

How foolish does Bill McGuire think St. Paul is? The city provided millions of dollars to redevelop the site around his Major League Soccer team's \$200 million stadium at Snelling Avenue and I-94. Now he wants the city to give him more.

When the St. Paul City Council agreed to spend \$18 million on infrastructure improvements around the soccer stadium, one significant benefit for the Midway neighborhood was the elimination of five billboards on the former bus barn property. The Metropolitan Council, which owns the bus barn site, agreed to that in the ground lease that was signed in 2016. A few months later (but only recently revealed to the public), an amendment was made to the ground lease between the Met Council and the city of St. Paul. The amendment, which was made without the knowledge or consent of the City Council, turned over control of the billboards at St. Anthony and Snelling avenues to McGuire.

The strange thing is, McGuire doesn't even want the billboards there. What he really wants is a two-sided digital billboard at St. Anthony and Pascal Street, which would give people who live within eyesight a view of brightly lit digital advertising message that changes every 12 seconds.

There's just one thing standing in McGuire's way, namely St. Paul's sign ordinance, Chapter 64 in the city's zoning code. It identifies billboards as nonconforming uses, a designation that should prevent the creation of new billboards and the moving of old ones.

The sign ordinance does allow billboard companies to erect "dynamic" digital billboards, but only if they are located within 330 feet of I-94 or I-35E north of I-94, are at least one mile from any other billboard that has a flashing digital display on the same side of the freeway, and are not visible from the windows of any home. Furthermore, to receive a city permit for a dynamic digital billboard, the billboard company must agree to permanently remove other billboards in the city. For each square foot of new digital billboard, the company must remove six square feet of illuminated billboard or eight square feet of non-illuminated billboard.

There are people working for the city who want to amend this ordinance, not only to smooth the way for McGuire's new billboard, but allow new digital billboards on the former Macy's department store in downtown where the Minnesota Wild have their practice facility. A public hearing on a proposal to scrap major portions of the sign ordinance, so that a few millionaires and billionaires can make more money, will be held before the City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 1. This is a textbook example of what is wrong with how decisions are made in City Hall. Where were our elected representatives when these proposals were first made? Where are they now on this issue?

When it comes to billboards, St. Paul has made real progress in the last 20 years. Nearly 200 billboards have been removed. The city still has 431 billboards, 44 percent of them in Wards 1 and 4, the wards adjacent to the new soccer stadium. The Midway area has more than its share of this form of visual blight, though I doubt McGuire cares about that. Certainly, the Met Council doesn't care.

So why do I care? And why should you? Because the last time something like this happened—when flashing digital display signs were added on two sides of Xcel Energy Center—an outdoor advertising company sued the city and was then allowed to build additional billboards in the city.

Would St. Paul residents be adversely affected by new flashing digital displays downtown and in the Midway? If these digital billboards go up, how many other billboards will come down as currently provided by the sign ordinance? More to the point, how many more billboards will go up because of the changes to the sign ordinance? Until we know the answers to these questions, why are we rushing to change what has been working for the past 20 years? And what exactly is St. Paul getting from this deal other than new flashing signs and more distracted drivers?

My problem isn't with McGuire. He's a businessman, and he'd be a fool to turn down a chance from the city to make more money. My problem is with the unelected officials and staff of the city of St. Paul, the Met Council and the St. Paul Port Authority who seem to have forgotten who they're supposed to be serving.

In their haste to change the city's sign ordinance for the benefit of a few, they are harming the rest of us.

Gerald Mischke, a resident of St. Paul's North End, is a member of Scenic St. Paul.



Doug Hennes, who died unexpectedly on July 19, is shown here in 2014 after writing a biography of I.A. O'Shaughnessy titled *That Great Heart*. He is pictured with a bust of O'Shaughnessy in the benefactor's namesake library on the University of St. Thomas campus.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Hennes was face of UST for nearly 30 years

BY JANE MCCLURE

Doug Hennes, who died suddenly at his home in Mendota Heights on July 19 at age 63, was an institution unto himself. Whether you knew him as the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* metro editor or as the face of the University of St. Thomas for almost three decades, Hennes was a force. He was part of my life for more than 30 years, first as a journalistic colleague and later as a news source. I keep expecting a phone call from him about an upcoming meeting or a question about something going on in St. Paul. It's sad to realize those calls have come to an end.

Hennes, a 1977 graduate of what was then the College of St. Thomas, was the university's vice president for government relations and special projects at the time of his death. He helped guide the university through the creation of two master plans, and the long and controversial process that culminated in the 2004 conditional use permit (CUP) that allowed the university to expand its campus onto the two blocks bounded by Summit, Cleveland, Grand and Cretin avenues. He also shepherded through the \$15 million federal grant that helped get the Frey Science and Engineering Center built on the university's south campus in 1994.

Even though Hennes and I locked horns at times, we had a lot in common. We'd talk about first getting into journalism at our hometown and college newspapers. Hennes' career started at the *Owatonna People's Press* and continued at the *Aquin*, St. Thomas' student newspaper. He also worked for the St. Thomas news bureau during his college years.

Hennes was a journalist's journalist. He spent 14 years at the *Pioneer Press*, including the last six years as metro editor. He was involved as the editor of two Pulitzer Prize-winning projects: a 1985 series on a Minnesota farm family and a 1987 series about AIDS in the Midwest.

Ward 4 St. Paul City Council member Samantha Henningson said she was surprised to learn of Hennes' involvement in the latter series, which was about a cousin of her father's. She was sorry that connection wasn't made until after Hennes' death.

Henningson worked with Hennes as a City Council member and Ward 4 aide for a decade. "We didn't always agree," she said, "but I was always happy to see him and I'll miss him very much."

Hennes returned to St. Thomas in 1990 as executive director of university relations, and became an associate vice president in 1994 and vice president in 1997. He was put in charge of government relations and special projects last year.

One of the most challenging tasks for Hennes was neighborhood relations. Colleges based in residential areas are required to have a CUP to establish campus boundaries, regulate enrollment and set other standards. St. Thomas' first permit process in the late 1980s was a "check your sidearms at the door" kind of affair. The Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association

and the Merriam Park (now Union Park) and Macalester-Groveland district councils mixed it up with Hennes' predecessors on a regular basis back then.

Hennes inherited a challenging situation, which blew up when the university eyed expansion onto two blocks south of Summit Avenue. Years of meetings, litigation and marathon negotiations led to a new CUP in 2004. That also led to the formation of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC), a group of university and neighborhood representatives that works on campus and neighborhood issues to this day.

Current and former WSNAC members were stunned by Hennes' death, including founding member Scott Banas, a longtime Merriam Park resident and former district council president. The two of them worked together on neighborhood issues for years and had met for lunch just days before Hennes died.

"We certainly had our differences, but I considered him a great friend," Banas said. "We could fight it out at a meeting and go to O'Gara's afterward for a beer and talk things through. His death is a huge loss for the entire community."

"Both UST and, frankly, the whole neighborhood have lost powerful institutional memory with Doug's untimely passing," said Macalester-Groveland resident Alyssa Rebendorf, who represents Neighbors United on WSNAC. "Although I think it's fair to say we in the neighborhood sometimes knew him as an adversary, we always worked together to achieve a spirit of professionalism in our engagements. I compliment Doug for that. For my part, I wish Doug could have enjoyed years of retirement, spending more time with his family and a good Scotch in the evening, rather than attending another community meeting."

Hennes was protective of St. Thomas' image. I sometimes had to remind him that the university's interests were not necessarily those of this newspaper. It got to the point where he'd say, "I know you're going to tell me not to manage the news."

But we also enjoyed talking about writing, what's happened to print journalism in the digital age, and how what we did for a living has become a dying art. Many of us were proud of his championing journalistic opportunities with the ThreeSixty Journalism Program at St. Thomas, which fosters opportunities for young journalists of color.

The university also benefited as Hennes continued to write for a myriad of St. Thomas publications. He was justifiably proud of his 2014 book about I.A. O'Shaughnessy, one of St. Thomas' earliest and most generous financial supporters. The book's title, *That Great Heart*, could also apply to Hennes' life and devotion to St. Thomas, his family and friends.

Hennes will be missed by his wife, three children, four stepchildren, eight grandchildren and countless others. I'd echo Rebendorf when she said, "Rest in peace, Doug. I hope they have good Scotch in heaven."

# Inbox

## For new housing we can afford

I've seen a large number of articles recently on new housing units being built along Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. From what I've seen, around 600 new units will be built, and few to none will be affordable. I've repeatedly heard that new housing is needed to stabilize the rental market and to keep the city affordable. This is true, but thinking market-rate apartments are the solution to high housing costs is an overly simplistic view of the housing market. The fact is, if you want to ease the demand on affordable housing in the next 20 to 30 years, you need to build units that are in the affordable price range.

Another argument made for more market-rate apartments is the need to increase the vacancy rate in the metro area. Building more luxury apartments will likely increase the vacancy rate, but it won't lead to lower rental prices. That's because vacancy rates aren't necessarily linked to housing costs. Some of the most expensive rental markets in the U.S., such as San Francisco and Seattle, have higher vacancy rates than the Twin Cities' 3.5 percent. The Twin Cities must learn from the failed policies in other metro areas where luxury apartment booms have left housing prices high and thousands of people with nowhere to live.

I understand the value that market-rate housing brings to St. Paul and the wealth that can benefit our community. However, lower- and middle-income residents need housing they can afford. The studies I've read link exorbitant housing prices not to supply and demand but to land speculation. In order to stabilize the housing market, more affordable units must be built and preserved.

**Joe Smith**  
Macalester-Groveland

## We need Erstad on City Council

In the race for the Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council, an issue that comes up again and again is the nature of development and how it affects our neighborhoods. Candidate Shirley Erstad has taken a balanced approach that defies easy labels. More density is both desirable and inevitable. It can enhance, she believes, by bringing more foot traffic and street life, and it can distort with outsized buildings and oppressive traffic. Everything depends on the details.

We need a Ward 4 City Council member who understands our neighborhoods for having lived in them, who knows that they must be preserved and who has the experience and patience to question, analyze and sometimes doubt the claims of developers. That's Shirley Erstad.

**Vanessa Martin**  
Merriam Park

## Candidate is ready to serve Ward 4

Shirley Erstad will hit the ground running as the new St. Paul City Council member for Ward 4. She understands the issues as well as the patience it takes to do the research and get things done. That claim is based on her record: decades of study, hard work and exercising the responsibility of leadership in Ward 4 and all of St. Paul.

In her work on the Union Park District Council and as executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, Shirley has demonstrated common sense and leadership. She continues to testify before the City Council, advocating for

urban planning that includes parks and trails, most recently at the Ford Plant site. Shirley has also pressed the City Council to honor the original intent of the Pedro family's parkland gift to the city. She understands issues surrounding housing density and the practical realities of development, but her allegiance will be to the people of Ward 4 and St. Paul, not the real estate community.

Shirley Erstad doesn't need on-the-job training; she can just point to her record of service in St. Paul and get to work the day after we elect her on August 14.

**Jim Hulbert**  
Macalester-Groveland

## Erstad understands Ward 4

I heartily endorse Shirley Erstad as the St. Paul City Council member for Ward 4. Shirley is a long-time resident of Merriam Park who knows and understands the needs of the neighborhood. She supports a reasonable development strategy that accommodates growth and preserves the best features of our neighborhoods. She will make an excellent City Council member.

**Shaun McElhatton**  
Merriam Park

## A stark contrast for Ward 4 voters

Good city government requires a balance between the executive powers of the mayor and the legislative powers of the city council. This is tough to achieve in St. Paul, where the mayor has an army of full-time staff and appointees and the council members are part-time with minimal staff. This imbalance makes it vital that every City Council member be strong and independent.

In the August 14 special election for the Ward 4 seat on the City Council, the choices are stark. The DFL-endorsed candidate is a recent arrival to our city, has a scant record of civic engagement here, and has zero experience in city government. But she is the mayor's hand-picked choice.

Shirley Erstad, by contrast, has a long record of service to our city—on the Union Park District Council, in St. Paul Strong and with Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. She is a 25-year resident of Ward 4. She also knows her way around City Hall.

Ward 4 voters have a choice between a political newcomer beholden to the mayor and a veteran neighborhood leader beholden only to the voters. It's Good Government 101.

**Kathy McGuire**  
Macalester-Groveland

## Educators for Murphy

We support Erin Murphy for governor because she is truly an advocate for the schools our children deserve. Throughout her 12 years in the Legislature, she has consistently supported full, equitable and reliable funding for public schools. She understands that students, to be successful, must receive the support of their community through adequate nutrition, housing, and physical and mental health services.

INBOX ►10

# VILLAGER

Volume 66, Number 12

**Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991**

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myvillager.com  
651-699-1462

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

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**CIRCULATION**  
The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. The paper has a press run of 60,000, including 50,000 copies delivered to households and businesses and another 10,000 copies distributed via newsstands. Mail subscriptions are available at \$38 per year for those living outside the area.

**Next Issue: August 15**

Visit [myvillager.com](http://myvillager.com) for deadlines.

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# What's in a school name? The identity of a neighborhood

BY CHARLES E. KATH

I am a 1958 graduate of Monroe High School and have vivid, wonderful memories of St. Paul's West End where I lived at the time. Two weeks ago I attended the meeting at the Palace Community Center concerning a possible name change for Linwood-Monroe, the grade school that was formed through the merger of Linwood Elementary and Monroe Community School.

The facilitator at the meeting limited discussion of the subject at hand to "what is community?" We broke off twice into small groups to discuss the subject. The West End is the best end: Virtually everyone in attendance was in agreement on that. And regardless of age, we all had the feeling that the name Monroe is synonymous with the West End. Monroe is a big part of what the West End is all about.

I asked the facilitator just when we would be given the reasons why the name of Linwood-Monroe School should be changed or when we would hear from proponents of the change. No date was given. Monroe graduates and West Enders deserve to hear publicly why the name should be changed. I was hopeful that a St. Paul School Board member would attend the meeting. None was present, so the School Board will have to depend on a secondhand report. A secondhand report will not be adequate to reveal the mood of those who attended the meeting.

The argument for removing the Monroe name is, as I understand it, because the school's namesake, President James Monroe, was a slave owner. As repugnant as that

## 9 INBOX

For too many years, educators have been asked to fix the problems of society in the classroom as funding for special education and support services stagnated. Murphy understands that the problems of society need to be fixed to allow students to reach their full potential. She is directly addressing the impact of systemic racism on students and the lack of services available to students who live in poverty. She sees how the pieces connect because she has visited our schools, sat in our classrooms, and worked with us on education policy. She advocates for wrap-around services in the schools, including school nurses, counselors and social workers of sufficient numbers to meet student needs.

One of the casualties of insufficient funding has been smaller class sizes. While many policymakers try to rationalize that class size doesn't affect learning, we in the classroom know it affects our ability to build relationships with students, give them timely feedback and differentiate learning experiences.

Murphy proposes to raise teachers' salaries, especially in Greater Minnesota, where they are so low that they discourage college graduates with loan debt from considering a career in education. We need to attract more teachers. We also need to retain teachers, ensuring they not leave the profession because they are stressed from working multiple jobs to make ends meet.

All of this takes money, and Murphy has specific plans for how to pay for sustainable and equitable funding of education. She knows the state government and budget. She has pledged to make public schools a priority.

Kaye Peters, teacher  
St. Paul Public Schools

Carrie Asmus, counselor  
St. Paul Public Schools

*Editor's note: The letter was also signed by six other teachers from Minnesota.*

## A bright future with Tina Smith

I am a college graduate who has spent the past year living and working in St. Paul. I have lived in Minnesota my entire life and have been involved in Minnesota politics for many years. I am voting for U.S. Senator Tina Smith in the DFL primary election on August 14 because she knows how to take action on the issues I care about.

I have become increasingly concerned with how our state supports its students. The cost of a college education continues to rise for more and more students, but mental health resources are severely lacking. I fear that we are failing to care for the people building the future of our communities by not providing the support and information they need to cope with the stresses that affect so many of us.

Senator Smith has proven herself to be a champion on both of these issues. Since her first day in office she has been working with students, listening to the issues regarding their ability to pay for college, and she has introduced legislation to address the mental health issues facing young people across the state.

Senator Smith is a thoughtful listener, a hard worker and a fierce advocate for all Minnesotans. I am confident that with



James Monroe served the U.S. as president from 1817-25.

sounds, slaveholding was a sign of the times. Twelve U.S. presidents were slave owners, including the father of our country, George Washington. I don't mean to sound casual, but lots of people in those days owned slaves. Slavery was not abolished in our country until 1865. Today, worldwide, there are anywhere from 45 million to 70 million people who are enslaved or the victims of human trafficking.

Of course, I am curious as to what the proposed new name of Monroe would be. The only name I have heard being considered is that of Clarence Wigington, the St. Paul city

Senator Smith in the Senate, the future of Minnesota will remain bright for generations to come.

*Laura Squillace  
Highland Park*

## Elect Egan district court judge

Ramsey County would be well-served if Greg Egan is elected a district court judge on August 14. He is a seasoned lawyer with experience as both a defense attorney and a prosecutor. He also has experience as a civil litigator. He is the only candidate vying for the open seat who practices exclusively in Ramsey County.

In addition to skill, Greg Egan has compassion for his community. His community service includes pro bono assistance to family law clients, working with churches that reach out to new immigrants, teaching English at the Rondo Library and serving as a youth mentor at CLUES.

Greg Egan is a family man with a wife and young son who live in St. Paul. He is humble, patient and kind. His humility and family values lay the necessary foundation for a judge who is tasked with making tough decisions. I urge you to vote for him in the primary on August 14.

*Connie Iversen  
Roseville*

## Judging Kavanaugh

Trump did it again. He nominated a judge to the Supreme Court who might decide cases based upon the law, the facts and the Constitution. I say "might." Some nominees have gone on to the Court and turned out to be chameleons. Witness Justice Souter.

The left is apoplectic. It demands a judge who writes opinions like Justice Sotomayor, based only upon political objectives and preferences. What is the real litmus test for the left? That the nominee professes complete and unwavering devotion to the principle that any woman at any time and for any or no reason can order a qualified medical professional to kill her yet unborn baby.

God bless America.

*T. J. Sexton  
Highland Park*

## Impressed by the local press

Two important news stories that have appeared in neighborhood newspapers but not on TV or in the *Star Tribune* or *St. Paul Pioneer Press* underscore just how important neighborhood newspapers are. It seems the major newspapers are oblivious to significant and newsworthy stories because of their emphasis on sports and human interest stories.

The first story that did not find its way into the major newspapers was St. Catherine University's financial difficulties (*Vilager*, June 6), which portend difficulty for smaller colleges unless they have extremely large endowments. The second story was about Luther Theological Seminary's sale of buildings and land and offer of free tuition featured in the *Park Bugle* newspaper.

architect in the early part of the 20th century who designed the Harriet Island Pavilion, the Highland Water Tower and other public buildings that are still standing in the city.

James Monroe was the fifth president and one of the founding fathers of our country. He fought in the Revolutionary War, was a U.S. diplomat and congressman and played a significant role in the Louisiana Purchase. The Monroe Doctrine bears his name, as President Monroe proclaimed there would be no more European colonies in North and South America. I feel it is the highest honor to have our school named after this outstanding American.

Although Monroe had slaves, he supported a means of gradually reducing and eventually abolishing slavery in the United States. In 1817, Monroe's first year as president, the American Colonization Society was formed for the reparation of freed slaves who wished to return to Africa. The country of Liberia was established as a place for the freed slaves to settle, and its capital, Monrovia, was named in Monroe's honor.

To be consistent in removing or erasing part of America's history, everything related to those who owned slaves should be erased and the names changed. The Washington Monument should be renamed. The capital of our country should be renamed, as should the state of Washington, to be consistent with this aberrant thinking and rationale.

Please, let us be careful when considering something so important and so significant.

*Charles Kath is a resident of Merriam Park.*

Neighborhood newspaper owners should never doubt the critical importance of their newspapers. The *Vilager's* reporting of crime is very important. I also see neighborhood newspapers creating cohesiveness in the community, which major newspapers are unable to do because they target the larger city.

*Reverend Wm. Vadim Hillebrand  
North End*

## You don't have to shout

As I travel through Highland Park on the way to the University of St. Thomas, I'm confronted by yards with political signs that are very, very large. I see yards with two, three or more of the same political signs. When you cover your yard in excessively large signs, inappropriate to the neighborhood, or fill your yard with too many signs, some duplicates, you're in effect yelling at the rest of us. Let us know what you think, but please don't shout.

I'm not really interested in your opinion to start with, but I respect your right to present it. However, at some point your screaming just coarsens the culture, and don't we get enough of that from Washington already? So be kind to your neighbors and our guests and keep the lawn signs simple and few with no shouting.

*Paul Putzier  
Burnsville*

## Vaccines keep us healthy

As a proud resident of Macalester-Groveland, I invite my neighbors to recognize National Immunization Awareness Month in August. The best way to recognize the month is to ensure that all of us are up to date on our vaccines. Immunizations work to keep us healthy from birth through our golden years. Pregnant women should receive vaccines to protect their new babies from influenza and pertussis. Babies and young children can be protected from 14 dangerous illnesses. Teenagers can get vaccines that prevent six cancers and meningitis. And adults can seek protection from pneumonia and shingles. Immunizations protect our most vulnerable citizens, including newborn babies and people with suppressed immune systems.

Thank you to all my neighbors who are getting vaccines.

*Jessica Griffith  
Macalester-Groveland*

## Ode to the Mpls. 2040 Plan

*(With apologies to Pete Seeger)*

Where have all the houses gone,  
Long time passing?  
Where have all the gardens gone,  
Long time ago?  
Where have all the families gone?  
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When will they ever return?  
No, they will never return.

*Norm Spillett  
Keewaydin, Minneapolis*



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# Education

## Science of hip hop

### Rhythms of nature are rapped in the lesson plans of Renee Swanson

By ANNE MURPHY

There is a quote that has continued to resonate with me throughout my years of teaching," Renee Swanson said. "Fair is not equal; fair is making sure everyone gets what they need."

Swanson teaches science at the High School for the Recording Arts, 1166 University Ave., and she was a finalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award in 2018. With a new school year about to begin, she said, she is more determined than ever to meet her students' needs, due in part to the inspiration that came with the award.

The Teacher of the Year award is sponsored by Educate Minnesota, the statewide teachers union. Swanson was one of 12 finalists for the 54th annual award and the only one from St. Paul. All were selected last spring from a pool of more than 160 nominees and 40 semifinalists.

Swanson, who lives in Highland Park, has been teaching at the High School for the Recording Arts for the past 10 years. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in genetics, cellular biology and development, she first toured the school while she was studying for a master's degree in teaching at Hamline University.

"I noticed something special and unique about the high school," she said, "and it just so happened that upon completing my licensure and master's at Hamline, they'd posted a biology teacher position."

*"I'm not a hip-hop artist, but I've learned to integrate the culture into my classroom. Science and hip hop both have a fundamental underlying value of observing, analyzing and decoding the nature of what's happening in our world."*

The High School for the Recording Arts has a strong hip-hop component, and in her classes Swanson often links science with hip-hop music.

"I'm not a hip-hop artist, but I've learned to integrate the culture into my classroom," Swanson said. "It's about understanding the fundamental pillars of hip-hop, music, art and dance and incorporating kinesthetic movement in learning, keeping it fresh, real and authentic for students. Science and hip hop both have a fundamental underlying value of observing, analyzing and decoding the nature of what's happening in our world. And when I can get my students to see that connection, they get invested in what they're learning and we're able to move toward our project goals."

"There are so many dynamics in education today," Swanson said.

"What works for some students doesn't work for others. Education needs to be culturally relevant and equitable for all students, but relevance and equity vary from community to community."

"The students I work with have high needs," Swanson said. "They're dealing with very adult and difficult situations. I teach urban youths who've experienced incomprehensible trauma and adversity. Some are facing multiple factors that influence their ability to attend school, such as homelessness, the criminal justice system, working to support their families or themselves, and caring for their own children or siblings. These experiences have shaped them, but shouldn't define them."

"Students with deep-seated trauma cannot thrive in a one-size-fits-all education model," Swanson said. "They deserve a classroom where education is differentiated for their hierarchy of needs and their strengths become the fundamental pillars of their work."

Swanson said she always asks herself, "How do you get a student interested in science when they don't know where they're going to sleep that night, they're worried about their court date, or where to get resources for their baby? Once I can get them invested in the topic, I step aside and let them take it from there."

Among the projects Swanson's students have completed are hip-hop videos titled, "Clean Up the



Teacher of the Year finalist Renee Swanson teaches science at the High School for the Recording Arts on University Avenue in St. Paul.

Air," "Feeding Nine Billion" and "Climate Change."

It was a presentation that Swanson gave on hip-hop education in science that inspired Hamline University associate professors Letitia Basford and Joe Lewis to nominate her for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. "Renee's classroom is dynamic," Basford and Lewis wrote. "Students are fully engaged in learning about science, often in a variety of ways in one class session. She uses classroom and online technology in creative ways to meet the needs

of students with widely divergent prior experiences in science. She is highly effective at differentiating her instruction to meet the needs of different types of learners."

"Students who come to the High School for the Recording Arts are hoping for an opportunity to succeed," Swanson said. "They often bring a connection to the therapeutic world of hip hop, music and art as a way to share experiences with those who are living through the

RENEE SWANSON ▶14

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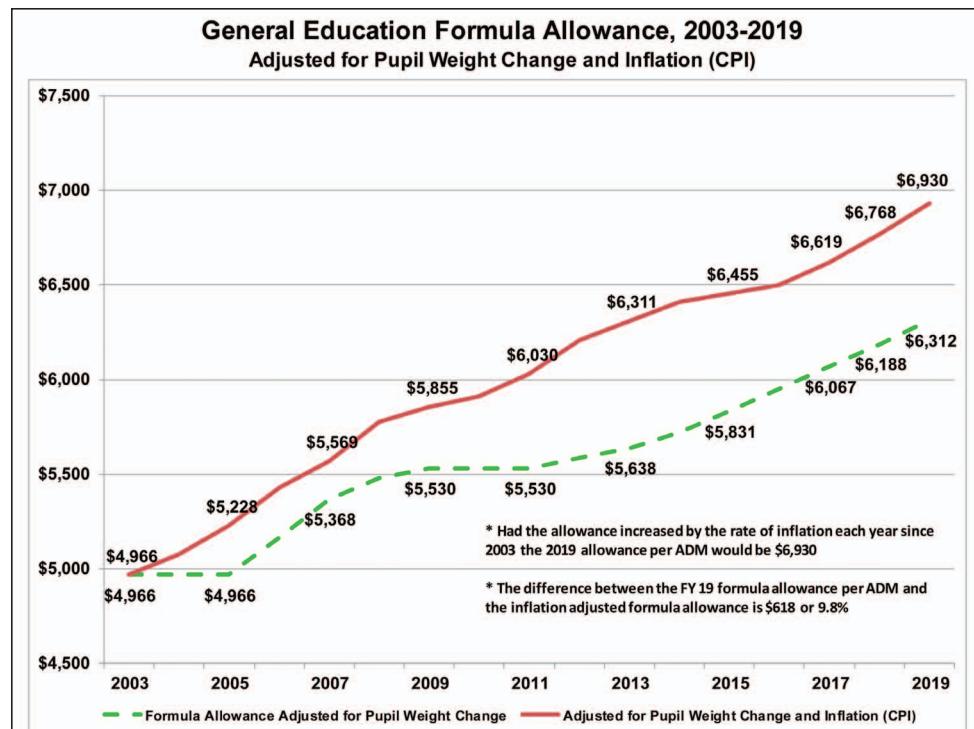
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This chart from the Minnesota Department of Education shows the biennial increase in per-pupil aid from the state from 2003-19 with the dotted green line. How that per-pupil aid would have increased if it was tied to the rate of inflation each year is shown in red.

## St. Paul school district to ask voters for \$18.6M increase in excess levy

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

The St. Paul School Board voted unanimously on July 17 to ask voters in the November 6 general election to approve an \$18.6 million per year increase in the school district's excess property tax levy. The measure would also renew the school district's current \$27.6 million per year excess levy, which is set to expire in 2022. The two levies would be extended to 2028 and would be increased annually according to the inflation rate.

"Federal, state and local funding are not keeping pace with the needs of students and the increasing costs of providing educational programs," said Superintendent Joe Gothard. According to him, the special education programs the district is required to provide cost \$42 million more than the district receives each year in government funding for that purpose.

That shortfall has led to the cutting of more than \$50 million in expenditures over the past three years, Gothard said. For the coming school year, the district has had to cut \$17 million in expenditures out of a total budget of about \$750 million.

The increase in the excess levy would raise property taxes by \$136 per year for a home valued at \$175,000.

If the excess levy referendum fails, Gothard said, the district will see cuts to programs that help students struggling with basic academic skills, cuts to staff and academic programs in all schools, cuts in the number of administrators, classroom aides, clerical, custodial and support staff, and severe limitations in the district's ability to implement its new Strategic Plan.

The state of Minnesota has increased its annual allotment of per-pupil aid to public schools from \$4,966 in 2003 to \$6,312 in 2018. That 27 percent increase over 15 years was not enough to keep pace with inflation,

*The increase in the excess levy would raise property taxes by \$136 per year for a home valued at \$175,000.*

according to school district officials. Meanwhile, the St. Paul Public Schools' enrollment has dropped—from 39,263 students in 2012 to 36,915 in 2017.

"There are multiple factors that are considered when building a budget," said Marie Schrul, the school district's finance chief. "An increase by the state in revenue at 2 percent does not cover the total cost of inflation for salary, benefits and non-salary expenditures. There are fixed costs such as utilities and infrastructure that also have inflationary factors the district is subject to each fiscal year."

Districtwide enrollment is expected to increase slightly this year, according to Schrul. That increase may be partly due to the efforts of the district and the St. Paul Federation of Teachers to band together, going door to door recruiting new students and those who have left the district to come back.

"It's been successful," said federation president Nick Faber, "but it's not going to be enough. The school district has had to take \$43 million in special education funding from its general fund because the federal and state governments are not sending their promised portion. If the Legislature agreed to fund special ed, that would be transformational."

School Board vice chair Steve Marchese expressed frustration with "the consistent lack of funds each year. Even this past session, Governor Mark Dayton wanted to use part of the state's surplus to help schools across the state, but House Republicans refused. We need the funding. We need to use it wisely. We need to use it strategically and effectively."

## Central concert celebrates Castile's life

The third annual Central Honors Philando benefit concert will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, August 19, at the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave. Music will be performed by Aaron Rice, A-Quil & Alibi of Purest Form, Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, Voice of Culture Drum+Dance, and Heiruspecs. There will be food for purchase, raffle prizes, kids' activities, art and more.

The event is organized by Central High School alumni with guidance from the family and close friends of Philando Castile, a Central graduate who was fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop in July 2016. The event celebrates Castile's life and to date has raised more than \$100,000 for scholarships in his memory.

For further information, visit [central-honorsphilando.org](http://central-honorsphilando.org).

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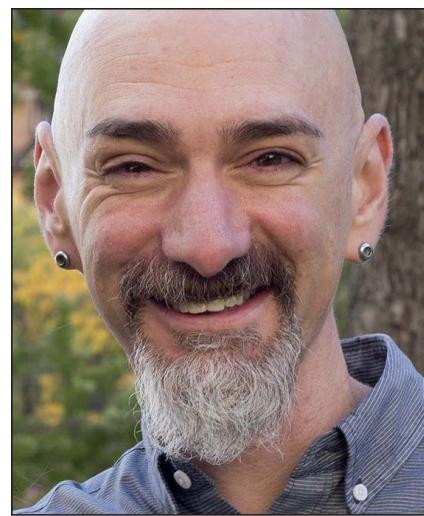
## Teacher of year semifinalist credits Central

By ANNE MURPHY

Central High School social studies teacher Ethan Cherin has learned that as a semifinalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award in 2018, he can teach others about all that his school has to offer students.

"Beyond being embarrassed by the attention," Cherin said, "I think the biggest thing I've wrestled with is the idea that I should be honored as an individual when I know my success as a teacher comes from being part of an amazing team of teachers and staff at Central. I've tried to use this as an opportunity to talk up all of the wonderful things that happen at Central and around the St. Paul Public Schools."

"Our students win awards in second-language proficiency and music every year, and we produce top athletes, debaters, thespians and artists," he said. "All this on top of helping students learn what they need to know about math, science, English and social studies in order



Ethan Cherin

to meet state graduation standards and be prepared for whatever they choose to do after high school. It's easy to look good as a teacher when you're surrounded by caring, committed, inspiring colleagues."

Cherin has taught at Central for the

past 18 years. Originally from Atlanta, he moved to the Twin Cities to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. "I completed all of the coursework and examinations for a Ph.D. in political science, but I chose to leave before finishing my dissertation," he said. "My goal became to teach in an urban environment, and I feel strongly about the mission of Central."

"Central has real strength in the diversity that exists because of the neighborhoods it includes," Cherin said. "I think every school in the city does great things, but Central offers a world-class education. And there's something very special, very humanizing about democratizing education for students who aren't all the same."

"I see students not as cogs in a machine, but as individuals on a journey to figure out what it means to be human," Cherin said. "My job as a teacher is to partner with them on that journey. I feel blessed to work at Central, and I look forward to many great years ahead."

### 12► RENEE SWANSON

same adversities and trauma. The High School for the Recording Arts uses that as a means to reengage students.

"Students with a hip-hop mind set who are being educated traditionally can present themselves as disengaged and disinterested," Swanson said. "In reality, they have inspiring strengths of analyzing, self-advocacy and survival. My students have done some amazing work putting high-level concepts of science into a language their peers can understand."

Swanson and her husband Matt are the parents of two children, Adam and Clare. Adam will be a sophomore this fall at Central High School, and Clare will be in eighth grade at Highland Middle School.

Being named a finalist for Teacher



Renee Swanson at work after hours in her high school classroom.

of the Year "has helped me reflect on what's important in the world of education," Swanson said. "When you see each student as an individual, develop a relationship with that student and are able to design educational opportunities that are relevant to that student, you start to see students who'll be successful."

## School Notes

The National History Day competition on June 10-14 at the University of Maryland included the following local winners: Anindita Rajamani and Katie Nguyen of Highland Park took second in senior group website, Soren Eversoll of Highland placed third in senior individual performance, Ella Hoch Robinson of Sandford Middle School took first in junior individual website, Sofia Fish and Azalea Rohr of Sandford took first in junior group website, Kathleen Grube of Roosevelt took first in senior individual exhibit and Lucy Phelan of Cyber Village Academy received a special award in the George Washington Leadership in History category.

Henry Sibley High School's Marching Band was named Grand Champion at the 34th annual Vikingland Band Festival in June, a feat the Mendota Heights school last accomplished in 1986. The competition was stiff this year. Seven marching bands scored above the 80-point mark. Henry Sibley scored 87.2 to claim the top honor, followed by Mankato with 85.4 and Waconia with 85.3.

The St. Thomas More School team of principal Pat Lofton, administrative assistant Laurie Barrett, and facility and maintenance director Tom Kohler has received the Dandy Award from the National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion. They were recognized for their efforts in making the Summit Avenue school a welcoming place for everyone.

Grace Jurkovich, a St. Paul resident and graduate of Visitation School, has been offered a Fulbright Student award to be an English teaching assistant in Spain for the 2018-19 academic year. Jurkovich graduated this year from Bates College in Maine with majors in politics and women/gender studies.

Minnehaha Academy student Emma Melling has been recognized as a top 10 winner out of 675 submissions in the *New York Times'* first student podcast contest. Melling's podcast, "August 2 Stories," features interviews with students and fac-

ulty members who were at the scene of last summer's natural gas explosion at the academy's Upper School. The winning podcasts can be heard at [tinyurl.com/y7cre9ew](http://tinyurl.com/y7cre9ew).

The St. Thomas Academy Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT) finished fifth in the world in the 2018 Shell Eco-marathon Drivers' World Championship on a sweltering, sun-drenched day on July 8 at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. It was the team's third-consecutive trip to the competition after placing first in the Shell Eco-marathon Americas Drivers' World Championship in Sonoma, California, in April. The team members in London included seniors Joe Zirnhelt, Devin McGill, Nicholas Kern, Alex Moeller and Zachary Keller, and juniors Joe McMahon and Peter Holmes.

Hiawatha Academies, which runs a network of K-12 college preparatory charter schools in South Minneapolis, has named Colette Owens as its new executive director. Owens, a 15-year educator and administrator, will succeed Eli Kramer. Before serving as interim director of curriculum and director of strategy and special projects for St. Louis Public Schools, Owens was a special education teacher and went on to hold several senior leadership positions for Teach for America—St. Louis.

The University of St. Thomas launched the Dougherty Family College last fall on its Minneapolis campus. The college offers an Associate of Arts degree for economically disadvantaged students and is designed to set them up for transitioning to a four-year institution. Dougherty students must demonstrate a high financial need, solid academic achievement and a drive to succeed. They are given a unique level of support to reach that goal, including internships. The cost depends on need, but some students paid as little as \$1,000 with financial aid. Applications for the 2018-2019 class are still open. An informational session will be held from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, August 1, in the Murray Herrick Campus Center on the St. Paul campus. For information, visit [dfc.stthomas.edu](http://dfc.stthomas.edu).

# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery occurred near the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., at 5:08 p.m. Friday, July 20.

**Theft**—The principal of Highland Park High School reported to police on June 26 that a former male employee of the school was refusing to return more than \$500 in school property.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1800 block of Graham Avenue between 2 a.m.-12:21 p.m. Saturday, July 21.

—A trailer was stolen on the 500 block of Montcalm Place the evening of July 21-22.

**Assault**—A 34-year-old man was cited for felony domestic assault at 11:03 p.m. Tuesday, July 17, on the 2200 block of West Seventh Street. He threatened a woman and tried to kick in the door of her apartment. The suspect tried to flee into the woods on West Seventh, but eventually surrendered.

—Police received a report of a male beating a pregnant woman in a vehicle behind Jiffy Lube, 2379 W. Seventh St., at 11:46 a.m. Tuesday, July 24. Gas also was poured on clothes and set on fire, which was extinguished by firefighters. The male suspect ran off before police arrived.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported at 8:50 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, on the 2000 block of Edgcumbe Road.

—A rape was reported at 12:47 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, on the 2000 block of Worcester Avenue.

**Weapons**—An unknown male pulled a gun on a victim at Montreal and Snelling avenues at 7:46 p.m. Thursday, July 12.

**Miscellaneous**—Police were called to Edgcumbe Road and Highland Parkway at 9:51 a.m. Sunday, July 15, on a report of a male on a bike yelling racial slurs and profanities.

—A male refused to leave and threw merchandise inside SuperAmerica, 1580 Ford Pkwy., at 10:41 a.m. Tuesday, July 17.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery occurred at Aldi, 1134 University Ave., at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

—A male had his cellphone stolen and suffered a cut near his eye during a strong-arm robbery at 7:44 p.m. Tuesday, July 17 on Concordia Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

**Burglary**—A 56-year-old man was arrested for felony possession of burglary tools after he tried to ride off on a bicycle stolen from the Midway Target at 3:22 p.m. Friday, July 13.

—Two males stole four computers and the mascot's costume at Concordia University during the evening of July 19-20.

**Theft**—A female was cited for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target on July 13. More than \$500 in merchandise also was stolen there on July 18.

—A woman reported the theft of her wallet and cellphone at the Midway Target at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Central High School between 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

—Medical equipment was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1100 block of University Avenue at 6:11 p.m. Thursday, July 19.

**Assault**—Security at the Midway Target were trying to detain a shoplifter when he pulled out a knife and threatened them at 6:34 p.m. Saturday, July 14. The suspect jumped into a silver vehicle and drove off.

**Miscellaneous**—Police received a report of several juveniles trying to open the doors of vehicles on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue at 2:10 a.m. Monday, July 16. Three suspects were eventually located, but police were un-

able to prove their involvement. The suspects were taken home and turned over to their parents.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., was robbed at gunpoint at 2:38 a.m. Monday, July 16.

**Burglary**—An apartment break-in was reported on the 100 block of Macalester Street at 10:33 a.m. Tuesday, July 24.

**Theft**—A vehicle was stolen on the 1200 block of St. Clair Avenue between 5:10-6:08 a.m. Tuesday, July 24.

## Mendota Heights

**Officer Patrick memorial**—A dedication ceremony for a stone memorial to Mendota Heights police officer Scott Patrick was to be held on July 30 at Market Square Park in the Village at Mendota Heights. The day marked the fourth anniversary of when Patrick, 47, was fatally shot by a suspect during a traffic stop near Dodd Road and Smith Avenue in West St. Paul. Brian Fitch Sr. was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the case and was sentenced to life in prison.

**Theft**—A man said he was called by someone claiming to work for the IRS who told him he would be arrested if he did not buy more than \$7,500 worth of iTunes gift cards and give them the codes at 9:27 p.m. Tuesday, July 17. The victim complied and then called the police, who told him it was a scam. He was going to try to terminate the transaction.

—The tailgate was stolen from a Ford truck at a loading dock on the 1400 block of Northland Drive at 2:50 p.m. Thursday, July 19.

**Miscellaneous**—A police officer was dispatched to Somerset Road at 10:38 a.m. Friday, July 13, on a report of a missing elderly man. The wife of the man said her husband was charging the car battery when he drove off. He had not driven in over a year and suffers from dementia. She later received a call from a gas station in Minneapolis that her husband was there and seemed confused. She drove to the station to get him.

—A golf ball smashed the rear window of a vehicle in the parking lot of the Mendakota Country Club at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, July 14. No information was left by the golfer for the vehicle's owner.

## Merriam Park

**Burglary**—Several items were taken during a home break-in on the 600 block of Desnoyer Avenue the evening of July 13-14.

—A complainant saw suspects try to enter his garage and confronted them on the 1900 block of Selby Avenue at 11:17 p.m. Wednesday, July 18. The suspects fled before police arrived. They are believed to have also burglarized a garage on the 1900 block of Dayton Avenue.

**Theft**—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 1800 block of Portland Avenue on July 14-15, on the 200 block of North Snelling Avenue on July 23-24 and on the 200 block of Exeter Place on July 23. The latter vehicle was recovered in a parking lot a mile away.

—Mail was reported stolen on the 1600 block of Portland Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Friday, July 13.

—Papers were reported stolen from a vehicle on Howell Street and Selby Avenue at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, July 19. The loss was valued at more than \$1,000.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle parked at the Fairview Avenue Villas, 451 N. Fairview Ave., at 12:25 p.m. Sunday, July 22.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Theft**—A wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked at Sea Foam Stadium, 281 N. Hamline Ave., between 5-10 p.m. Sunday, July 15.

—A gold wedding band was stolen from a vehicle on the 1400 block of University Avenue between 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

—A stolen vehicle was reported on the 1500 block of Portland Avenue at 3:15 a.m. Friday, July 20.

—A 16-year-old girl was arrested for assault and tampering with a motor vehicle at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., at 7:43 p.m. Friday, July 20. A 13-year-old girl also was arrested at the scene for tampering with a vehicle.

—Two laptop computers were stolen at the Midway Walmart, 1450 University Ave., on Friday, July 20.

—A 54-year-old man was cited after police responded to an assault involving employees at the Midway Cub Foods, 1440 University Ave., at 10:04 a.m. Saturday, July 21.

—A cellphone was stolen from a display at the Sprint Store, 1360 University Ave., around 7:28 p.m. Tuesday, July 24.

**Assault**—A male victim was taken to the hospital after being struck on the back of the neck by two unknown male suspects on bicycles near the Midway Cub Foods at 5:46 p.m. Saturday, July 14.

—A man was arrested for shoplifting and a woman was arrested for felony drug possession outside the Holiday Stationstore, 1345 Marshall Ave., at 11:30 a.m. Friday, July 20.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported at midnight Thursday, July 5, on the 1400 block of Selby Avenue.

**Weapons**—A male victim was approached by an unknown male suspect who requested food at the Midway Cub Foods at 3:27 p.m. Tuesday, July 17. When the victim refused, the suspect pulled out a large knife and started chasing him. The victim called 911 and the suspect fled.

—An assault with a dangerous weapon occurred at Selby and Snelling avenues at 7:28 p.m. Friday, July 20. Minor injuries were sustained by the female victim.

**Miscellaneous**—A 34-year-old man was cited for drinking in public near the Midway McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.

## Summit Hill

**Burglary**—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle inside a garage on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue at 11:58 a.m. Friday, July 13.

**Theft**—Mail was stolen on the 600 block of Lincoln Avenue between June 21-24.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 100 block of South Dunlap Street on July 11-13 and on the 200 block of South Lexington Parkway on July 24.

—A moped was reported stolen on the 700 block of Summit Avenue at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 22.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A woman was robbed at gunpoint at the Tobasi Stop gas station and convenience store, 809 Selby Ave., at 8:27 p.m. Tuesday, July 24. The suspect came up behind the woman, pointed a gun at her head and stole the wallet from her hand. He fled north on Fisk Street and was seen getting into a Chevy pickup truck. Police later stopped the vehicle and arrested a 20-year-old man for armed robbery. The suspect also had an outstanding felony warrant for burglary.

**Burglary**—A vehicle was stolen from a garage on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue between 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, July 13.

**Theft**—A guitar and a crate of rodent repellent were reported stolen from a vehicle parked at Christ's Household of Faith, 355 Marshall Ave., at 9:35 a.m. Thursday, July 12.

—A cellphone was reported stolen on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at 1:57 p.m. Friday, July 13.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 200 block of

Dayton Avenue on July 11.

—An iPhone was stolen at Nathan Hale Park, 401 Summit Ave., at 4:44 p.m. Sunday, July 15.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Selby Avenue and Virginia Street between 7:30-9:52 p.m. Monday, July 23.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported at 5:55 p.m. Sunday, July 1, on the 700 block of Selby Avenue.

**Weapons**—Police received a call about an elderly man armed with a gun who was threatening to shoot a female inside a residence on the 800 block of Concordia Avenue at 2:37 a.m. Tuesday, July 17. The suspect was disarmed and taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

—A 19-year-old man was arrested for possession of a gun by an ineligible person during the Rondo Days festival at 5:44 p.m. Saturday, July 21, on Concordia Avenue and Dale Street.

—A domestic assault with a gun was reported on the 800 block of Selby Avenue at 1:16 p.m. Monday, July 23. Police were called to the scene on a report of a fight involving two females and a male. The male and one of the females fled in a vehicle, but were later arrested. The gun was recovered.

**Miscellaneous**—Police were summoned to the Pioneer Club, 344 N. Milton St., because of a disturbance involving people loitering outside the club and vehicles blocking the road at 9:04 p.m. Friday, July 13.

—A 19-year-old man was arrested for felony drug possession and a 20-year-old man was arrested on an outstanding warrant after officers saw them sitting in a vehicle smoking and snorting drugs at 11:24 a.m. Sunday, July 15, on the 300 block of Dayton Avenue.

## West End

**Burglary**—Tools and copper wire were stolen from the construction site at Linwood Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave., between 1:42-2:44 p.m. Tuesday, July 24.

**Theft**—Credit cards were stolen on the 200 block of North Smith Avenue between 10-11:44 a.m. Wednesday, July 11.

—The catalytic converter was cut off of a vehicle on the 700 block of Randolph Avenue during the evening of July 12-13.

—A wallet was reported stolen from an apartment on the 100 block of Forbes Avenue at 6 a.m. Saturday, July 14.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 800 block of Monroe Court on July 17 and 24.

—A motorcycle, lawnmower and other yard equipment were stolen on the 400 block of Bay Street between 8:27-9:19 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.

—A wallet was reported stolen from a vehicle at J R Mac's, 1420 W. Seventh St., at 11:57 a.m. Friday, July 20.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported at 10:39 p.m. Monday, July 9, on the 800 block of Randolph Avenue.

**Weapons**—A person was trying to break down a gun when it accidentally discharged, striking another person, at 3:41 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at a residence on the 200 block of Colborne Street. The injury was not life-threatening.

**Miscellaneous**—A 53-year-old man who had previously been banned from United Hospital property because of his aggressive panhandling was cited for harassing people while begging for money inside the hospital's lobby at 2:59 p.m. Saturday, July 14.

—Graffiti was reported scrawled on the back wall of Chiropractic Health Care, 1386 W. Seventh St., and on the northwest wall of the Keg and Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St., on Monday, July 16.

—Someone sliced open the cover of a pickup truck's bed on Douglas Street and Forbes Avenue between 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, July 23.



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# Paster eyes Aldi grocery as part of \$10M update of Sibley Plaza

Renovation could also bring new restaurant to former Champps space

BY JANE MCCLURE

**A**bout \$10 million in renovation work is expected to open the door next year for a new Aldi supermarket in the Sibley Plaza Shopping Center in Highland Park. Site work is to start in early fall, and Aldi is expected to open sometime in 2019, depending on how ongoing lease negotiations shake out.

The project was reviewed by the Community Development Committee of the Highland District Council (HDC) on July 19, the same day as the site plan for the property was reviewed by city staff. Though committee members said they were pleased to see something happening, there was some disappointment that earlier plans for a \$50 million mixed-use redevelopment of Sibley Plaza by owner Paster Properties had been shelved.

"We want to bring life back to the shopping center," said John Kohler, vice president of construction and development for Paster. "We'd like to fill it up again."

Paster is still negotiating a lease with Aldi and hopes to have an agreement in the next couple of weeks. The Germany-based discount supermarket chain has about 1,800 stores in the United States and 17 in the Twin Cities, including one at University Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Paster also is currently working with Aldi as part of a development being planned south of Lake Phalen on St. Paul's East Side.

Aldi would replace Cooper's Foods, which closed its Sibley Plaza store last October after having operated there for 15 years. Cooper's still has a St. Paul store at 633 W. Seventh St.

The lack of a grocery store at Sibley Plaza hit the neighborhood hard, especially the 2,000 or so residents of the Sibley Manor Apartments across West Seventh Street. Some of those residents have had to rely on local food shelves and a Mobile Market operated by the Wilder Foundation to get their groceries.

HDC committee member Kathy Soderberg, who is the property manager for Sibley Manor, said a new supermarket would be a welcome addition at the strip center.

A sidewalk connection to Aldi will be part of the Sibley Plaza parking lot's rehabilitation. The former grocery store space will be renovated and its loading dock reconfigured.

The former 7th Street Tavern (and before that Champps) restaurant in Sibley Plaza's

smaller building will also be gutted and prepared for a new tenant. The space has been vacant since 2015.

The smaller building has housed a restaurant for more than 40 years, including the first Champps in Minnesota and before that the Jockey Lounge. The Concourse 7 West also at one time occupied space within the building. Kohler and Paster leasing manager Mike Sturdivant said the high ceilings and other features of the former Tavern/Champps space should be attractive to a new occupant.

HDC committee members said they are hoping to see a brew pub or another restaurant there. "We desperately need a new restaurant," Soderberg said.

The entire strip center will also be getting a facelift. The faded metal awnings will be removed, the exterior will get a fresh look, and landscaping and drainage improvements will be made to the parking lot. During the city staff's site plan review, bike racks were suggested as well as protections for the existing boulevard trees.

Current tenants—including Yarmo Liquors, United Family Medicine, Tuesday Morning, Family Dollar and 5 Star Cafe—will stay and access to them will be maintained during the renovation work, Sturdivant said.

Sibley Plaza was built in 1955 and currently has 94,714 square feet of land with 453 parking spaces.

In 2014, Paster and housing developer Bader Development announced plans for a major makeover of the property. The plans called for razing the entire strip center and replacing it with a five-story building with retail on the ground floor and 120 market-rate apartments above. The project was to be anchored by a Fresh Thyme grocery store and a fitness center.

At the time, Paster and city officials clashed over a proposal to change the property's zoning from commercial to traditional neighborhoods. One sticking point for Paster was that it wanted to retain the surface parking in front of the rebuilt center. The St. Paul City Council agreed in early 2015 to not change the zoning.

Businesses slowly moved out of the center as leases were not renewed, but no redevelopment work proceeded after negotiations with the proposed anchor tenants fell through. Sturdivant and Kohler cited several challenges with the site, including bedrock just 7 feet below ground level. The 2014 plan called for 200 underground parking spaces.

Last fall, Paster jump-started redevelopment talks with the HDC. At the time, many people clamored for a supermarket to replace Cooper's.

## Grand Avenue rolls out the welcome mat for shoppers on two legs and four

**S**t. Paul's Grand Avenue will celebrate the dog days of summer with its 13th annual Paws on Grand event from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, August 5. Pet owners and their pooches are invited to perambulate the length of Grand, taking advantage of all of the attractions for those on two legs or four.

Grand Avenue Business Association members will roll out the welcome mat that afternoon with dog treats and dog-friendly patios. These can be found at Colossal Café, Toppers Pizza, Bibelot, Salut Bar American, Red Balloon Bookshop, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Grand Ole Creamery, Golden Fig and Dixie's on Grand.

Paws on Grand's designated charity this year is People and Pets Together, a program that enables families to keep their pets through times of transition. During Paws, People and Pets Together will hand out 300 doggie bags at three information booths along the avenue. The bags will be filled with doggie

treats and surprises from Grand Avenue businesses. While it is not required for a doggie bag, a \$5 donation is suggested for People and Pets Together.

Other Paws on Grand activities include pet photos and a free flower boutonniere at A. Johnson & Sons Florist, Disc Dogs at Ramsey Middle School, pet portraits by a professional artist at Wet Paint, live music by the Workin' Dogs Band and doggie treats at Grand Groomers, pupcicles and pawdicures at Phresh Salon Spa, a Blessing of the Animals at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, a Dogs of Literature Costume Contest at Red Balloon Bookshop, pet photos and doggie treats at Coldwell Banker Burnet, canine expert and author Donna Chicone at Coulee Bank, and a fundraiser at Dixie's on Grand for Jackie Le Vintre to help her in her fight against Hodgkin's Lymphoma with face painting, a bouncy house, chair massages and the band Boogie Wonderland.

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(And 10 out of 10 would welcome some home improvement.)

The Villager's upcoming Home Improvement issue will reach over 104,000 readers at a time when they're ready to start getting busy around the house. According to a recent survey of Villager readers,\* 49% planned to purchase home furnishings in the next 12 months, 44% home improvements, 31% home heating and air conditioning, and 39% landscaping. And they'll be looking to the Villager for ideas on where to go to purchase them. Placing your ad in front of them now would be like hitting the nail on the head.

**UPCOMING HOME IMPROVEMENT ISSUE:**  
August 29, September 12 & 26  
**Reservations due: August 23, September 6 & 20**  
To reserve your advertisement, call 651-699-1462  
or e-mail [displayads@myvillager.com](mailto:displayads@myvillager.com)

# VILLAGER

Serving the St. Paul neighborhoods of Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University, Summit Hill, West End and Downtown; the Minneapolis neighborhoods of Hiawatha and Minnehaha; and suburban Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale.

# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/August 1

THE LAKE HIAWATHA Neighborhood Festival will be held from 5-8 p.m. on the grounds at 2701 E. 44th St. in Minneapolis. The 23rd annual event will feature canoe rides, a water slide, moonwalk, children's games, face painting, hair coloring, a caricaturist and other vendors. Registration is now open for the talent contest and family fitness challenge. For more information, visit lhrc.freeservers.com.

CLIMATE CHANGE, cultural genocide and the legal actions that could result will be discussed by a panel of experts from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-695-7621 or visit worldwithoutgenocide.org.

## Thursday/August 2

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES and bread will be distributed free of charge from 4-6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The bounty is available for anyone, though it is especially intended for the many lower-income families in the area who do not have easy access to fresh produce. A collaboration among the JCC, the Fabulous Friends Club and Second Harvest Heartland, the free produce will be available during those same hours every other Thursday through October 4.

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS, a barbecue picnic, will be served up by the St. Paul Police from 5-7 p.m. at Palace Community Center, 791 Palace Ave. Get acquainted with the officers in blue who work to protect the peace and maintain the public's safety in the capital city and enjoy a free meal and children's activities in the company of neighbors.

HOMEMADE PIE AND ICE CREAM will be served at an old-fashioned ice cream social from 6-8 p.m. outside Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Meet your neighbors and have a slice and a scoop with coffee or lemonade for \$5.

WANT TO IMPROVE your speaking skills in a light-hearted and supportive atmosphere? Join Midway Toastmasters. The club meets from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at Seventh Street Social, 2176 W. Seventh St. No reservations are necessary.

THE SYRIAN CONFLICT and the Syrian-American Medical Society's mission in refugee camps there will be discussed by medical missionary Lindsey Smith from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-695-7621 or visit worldwithoutgenocide.org.

## Friday/August 3

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

## Saturday/August 4

ST. LUKE FARMERS' MARKET is



**Feet beat.** Clogger Kim Roe goes airborne with her percussive dance to the delight of the crowd attending the Roe Family Singers concert on July 26 outside of the Wellington residence in Highland Park. Caroline Stone (right) and mother Sally Wells enjoyed the show with friend and former caregiver Missy Creevy.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

open from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. today and every Saturday through early October in the parking lot at 1807 Field Ave. Fresh produce and baked breads are available. In July the produce offerings will expand and beef and bakery items will be added. Cash and EBT, debit and credit cards are accepted.

HISTORIAN JOSEPH MCGILL will give a presentation on the Slave Dwelling Project, his effort to relate stories of buildings that were once the homes of slaves, from 2-3 p.m. at Historic Fort Snelling. McGill will lead a Slavery at Fort Snelling tour from 7-9 p.m. and then stay overnight in a space at Fort Snelling where historians believe slaves Dred and Harriet Scott lived. For information, call 612-726-1171.

## Sunday/August 5

A FARMERS' MARKET is available from 9 a.m.-noon every Sunday in the parking lot of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Portland Avenue and Kent Street. Hmong-American farmers from Holy Apostles Parish will be there selling fresh produce, herbs, and flowers. Donations at the market also support the Fields to Families program, which buys fresh produce from the farmers and delivers it to local food shelves.

## Tuesday/August 7

GUIDED TOURS of the governor's residence at 1006 Summit Ave. will step out every 10 minutes between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Admission is free, but visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Second Harvest Heartland. Reservations are recommended, though walk-ins are welcome if space is available. Email residence.gov@state.mn.us.

A MENTAL HEALTH support group for adults ages 18-30 meets from 6-7:30

## Friday/August 10

HIDDEN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS of the Victorian era will be revealed in a 75-minute program offered at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. A guided tour of the mansion will highlight the technological advancements of the era in kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and parlor, some that did more harm than good. The cost is \$11, \$10 for seniors and college students. Call 651-296-8760 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

## Saturday/August 11

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. While walk-ins are welcome, reservations are recommended. Call 800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

CARNIVAL GAMES, a rock climbing wall, the sPARK-it pop-up trailer and other free family fun will be featured at the Wilder Block Party running from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the offices of the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. A variety of refreshments will be available along with coupons for free giveaways. Visit wilder.org/blockparty.

A 90-MINUTE TOUR of the state Capitol that shows the methods that went into building the structure in 1905 and restoring it in 2017 will be offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Learn about the Capitol contractors, politicians and visitors over the years and of architect Cass Gilbert who at 35 years of age created one of the most magnificent public buildings in the U.S. The cost is \$10, \$9 for seniors, veterans and college students, \$8 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3015 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

## Sunday/August 12

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather at 2:30 p.m. in Lilydale for a five-mile hike on paved trails along the Mississippi River. New members are welcome. For more information, call Charlotte Svobodny at 651-455-0052.

## Tuesday/August 14

THE ADVANTAGES of breastfeeding for mother and child and overcoming any difficulties will be discussed from 7-8:45 p.m. by the Como-Midway group of La Leche League. Pregnant women, mothers and their children are invited to attend. For information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

“WOMEN IN THE WOODS With Wine,” a nature program for women ages 21 and older, will be offered from 7-9 p.m. at the Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature with a glass of wine before Pam the naturalist shares tips and tricks for fire building. The cost is \$15. Call 651-455-4531 or visit dodgenaturecenter.org.

## Thursday/August 16

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS, a barbecue picnic, will be served up by the St. Paul Police from 5-7 p.m. at Oxford Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy. Get acquainted with the officers in blue who work to protect the peace and maintain the public's safety in the capital city and enjoy a free meal and children's activities in the company of neighbors.

# District Council News

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**National Night Out**—Highland Park residents are being encouraged to find a block party in their neighborhood to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7. If one has not been scheduled, they can always schedule one for another date. Visit [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/national-night-out](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/national-night-out).

**Movies in the Park**—The last two local movies of the summer offered by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation are *Moana* at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 16, at Sibley Manor, and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* at 6 p.m. Friday, August 17, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center. The public is invited to bring along a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a starlit night of fun with friends and family. All children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Upcoming meetings**—Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 14; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, August 28. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For other meetings, see the calendar on the HDC website.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Mac-Grove Fest**—The annual Mac-Grove Fest will be held from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 8, at Groveland Park on St. Clair and Prior avenues. Those who attend can visit local businesses, organizations and artists at the Mac-Grove Marketplace; savor local fare from food vendors; and enjoy an afternoon of music by local acts. Participants are being encouraged to walk, take public transit or bike to the festival, and to bring a blanket. Visit [macgrove.org/macgrovefest](http://macgrove.org/macgrovefest) for more.

**Mac-Grove garage sale**—Registration is open through August 6 for the Great Macalester-Groveland Garage Sale that will take place rain or shine from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, August 25. The fee is \$20 for households and \$30 for businesses, and includes a garage sale sign and inclusion in all advertising. Register at [macgrove.org/garagesale](http://macgrove.org/garagesale) or pick up a form in the office at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

**Neighborhood cleanup**—Volunteers are being sought for St. Paul's next citywide neighborhood cleanup, which is scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, September 29, on Shepard Road between Alton and Davern streets. Those who work a three-hour shift will receive lunch and a \$20 voucher for disposing of items. Contact [mgcc@macgrove.org](mailto:mgcc@macgrove.org) to learn more.

**Upcoming meetings**—No committee meetings will be held in August.

## Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**Paws on Grand**—Celebrate the dog days of summer with the annual Paws on Grand from noon-3 p.m. Sunday, August 5, along Grand Avenue. The event, which is sponsored by the Grand Avenue Business Association, will feature giveaways, pet-friendly restaurant patios, pet adoption information, support rescue groups, a pet photo contest and more. All proceeds from the event will go to People & Pets Together, which enables families to keep their pets during times of transition.

**Summit Hill House Tour**—Volunteers are needed to work three-hour shifts during this year's Summit Hill House Tour on Sunday, September 30. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the tour, with a special pass that lets them jump to the head of the line before or after their shift, a T-shirt and an invitation to a post-tour party. Volunteers also are needed to serve as house captains, to do various jobs as needed, to assemble guest packets and to help with packet pickup. Register by visiting [summithillassociation.org/volunteer-sponsor](http://summithillassociation.org/volunteer-sponsor).

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Puppet show in the parks**—“The Sleeping Child,” a story about a child who is guided in her dreams by a magical sprite and helps her family find a home, will be presented at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, August 8, at Dunning Park. The show is a new production of an original script and music by Marya Hart with puppets created by Margo McCreary. The performance is suited for families with young children and will include a

snack served at 1:15 p.m. for youths 18 and younger.

**Skyline Tower night out**—This year's Skyline Tower National Night Out event will take place from 4-6 p.m. Monday, August 6, at the new Midway Peace Park on Griggs Street north of St. Anthony Avenue. The UPDC and the St. Paul Police Department will be there to help paint a mural with neighbors. All are welcome to participate.

**Ice Cream, Peanut Butter and Jam**—The UPDC's sixth annual Ice Cream, Peanut Butter and Jam will be held from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, September 15, at Merriam Park.

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 1, 1821 University Ave., Suite 330; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 13, location to be announced; and Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, Merriam Park Recreation Center.

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

## West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**Board update**—At its July 9 board meeting, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation heard a presentation about the study of new uses for the Canadian Pacific Rail/Ford spur from Mike Richardson of St. Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development. The board also heard a presentation about the city's changes from the Capital Improvement Budget process to the new Capital Improvements Plan from city budget analyst Abdiwahab Ali. The board's next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, September 10, at the federation's office, 974 W. Seventh St. There is no August board meeting.

**West Seventh's future**—Those who live, work or own property in the West Seventh area are invited to take a short survey to help the federation plan for the neighborhood's future. The survey can be found at [surveymonkey.com/r/NT38DRY](http://surveymonkey.com/r/NT38DRY).

**Stay in touch**—Neighbors are invited to “like” the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on its Facebook page and subscribe to its e-newsletter on its website.

## WARD 4

### Special Election Information

Saint Paul Ward 4 has a special election on the primary ballot to fill a vacancy on the city council. Ward 4 voters will use the ranked voting method to vote for their city council member. All other races on the ballot use the traditional voting method.

#### Ranked voting has a new look!

There is a new ballot design for 2018. A first choice vote is indicated in column 1, a second choice vote is indicated in column 2, etc.

To vote for your first choice candidate, fill in the box **1** (column 1) in the same row as the candidate's name.

If you have a second choice, fill in the box **2** (column 2) in the same row as that candidate's name. Continue this process to pick your remaining choices, if you have any.

In this example ballot, the voter made **Candidate B** her first choice, then made **Candidate A** her second choice, and finally made **Candidate C** her third choice.

City Offices			
Council Member			
Ward 4			
City of Saint Paul			
Vote for One			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	2	3	4
Candidate A			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	2	3	4
Candidate B			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	2	3	4
Candidate C			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	2	3	4
Write-in, if any.			

See your sample ballot:  
[myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us](http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us)

For voting options:  
[rclections.org](http://rclections.org)

RAMSEY COUNTY  
Elections Office

# EDUCATION



Over 42,000  
Villager Readers  
Will Spend Money on  
Education This Year

So you might call an  
ad in our Education Section  
“Smart Marketing 101”

And that's not just an educated guess.  
Education is highly valued in our neighborhoods.  
There's a college, high school, elementary school or  
other learning center virtually everywhere you look.

And when the Villager publishes its Spotlight on  
Education section August 15, our readers will be  
perusing them with above-average interest.

#### UPCOMING EDUCATION SECTION:

August 15 Villager  
Reservations due August 9, final art August 10

To reserve your advertisement, call 651-699-1462  
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# On the Town

## Clearing the way

'Purple Haze' helped define the summer of '68 and launch a couple's film careers

By DAVE PAGE

Even after 36 years, husband and wife David Burton Morris and Victoria Wozniak get requests for copies of their 1982 movie *Purple Haze*.

"Columbia Pictures, the distributor, didn't bother to secure music rights for home entertainment purposes," Morris explained, so there are no commercially available copies on videotape or DVD.

That's the bad news for fans of the cult classic, which was filmed in the Twin Cities. The good news is that the Walker Art Center is screening *Purple Haze* as part of its 50th anniversary retrospective of films either made or set in 1968. *Purple Haze* will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, August 1 and 3, at the Walker in Minneapolis. Admission is \$8-\$10. Director Morris and writer/producer Wozniak will be at the screenings to introduce the film.

The program is co-sponsored by the Minnesota History Center, which is currently featuring an exhibition on 1968. It was the year of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam and several high-profile assassinations, including those of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy.

Morris, a 1966 graduate of Highland Park High School, and Wozniak, a 1968 graduate of Visitation School, met in 1970 when Wozniak was thumbing a ride along the Mississippi River. They had grown up near each other in the Macalester-Groveland and

Highland Park neighborhoods.

The two soon discovered their mutual interest in film. At the age of 13, Morris had begun making Super 8 movies with his Macalester-Groveland friend Steve Greenberg, who lived across the street. Greenberg would later write the song "Funkytown," which became an international hit. The pair reunited in the late 1990s to work together on a film about rock bands, also called *Funkytown*.

"It was supposed to do for aspiring musicians what *Hoop Dreams* did for aspiring basketball players," Morris said.

Meanwhile, Wozniak was making documentaries at the University of Minnesota, which Morris also attended for a time and from which Wozniak graduated with a degree in art. They were married in 1974 and moved to California, where Morris studied filmmaking at UCLA.

Morris and Wozniak's first movie, *Loose Ends*, was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, but it was their second film, *Purple Haze*, that really got them noticed. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in 1983.

The late Roger Ebert handed them their prize. "It was stunning," Wozniak said.

*Purple Haze* is a coming-of-age story about a college student named Matt Caulfield who, after being kicked out of Princeton University, bums around the West Bank, climbs under bridges on the Mississippi River and faces being drafted for the Vietnam War. Morris had read *Catcher in the Rye* as



Victoria Wozniak and David Burton Morris gather beneath the Ford Bridge where they shot a memorable segment for their award-winning film *Purple Haze*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

a student at St. Paul Academy and gave his male protagonist the surname of that novel's main character.

Morris groans when J.D. Salinger's book is mentioned, but he can't shake the comparison. Even the Walker's website calls the film an "homage to *Catcher in the Rye*."

"It's as much based on my life as Holden Caulfield's," Morris said. "I was kicked out of college and used to hang out under the Ford Bridge. In hindsight, it was a mistake to call him Caulfield."

"I told him not to," Wozniak said.

Their banter is friendly, especially given how transformational the film and its Sundance award were for the couple.

"Because of the award, we got an agent and a lawyer who negotiated with Columbia

Pictures," Morris said.

The success of *Purple Haze* had as much to do with beginners' naiveté as knowledge of the art form. "It was quite ambitious for two independent filmmakers," Wozniak said, especially the soundtrack.

Having already selected songs by legendary artists such as the Animals, Buffalo Springfield, Cream, the Byrds and Jefferson Airplane for the film, Wozniak spent hours on the phone trying to retroactively get the rights to such songs as "When I Was Young," "Magic Carpet Ride" and "A Whiter Shade of Pale."

"I don't know what we would've done if we hadn't gotten permission," Morris said.

'PURPLE HAZE' ▶ 22

## Music lovers find enchantment beneath branches of ancient oak

By MIMI GELLER

When Tim Hawkins and Sean Kershaw moved into their 154-year-old house on St. Paul's West End in 1996, they didn't think it would become something of a neighborhood landmark. But after they exchanged wedding vows in 2013 under the nearly 250-year-old oak tree in their backyard, the Cactus Blossoms delivered a magical musical performance. Hawkins wanted to replicate that magic.

The couple's house is located on a double lot at 273 Goodhue St., near the edge of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. They wanted to enliven the neighborhood with regular musical performances beneath the branches of that old tree.

Thus was born the Grand Oak Opry. "It was Tim's idea," Kershaw said. "We were inspired by the Grand Old Opry, and he thought the tree was such a centerpiece of the yard. If the oak tree wasn't here, it wouldn't be as fun."

From its beginning in 2014, the Grand Oak Opry has attracted a growing number of music lovers. In recent years, it has come with T-shirts designed by a neighbor, a website created by another neighbor, and six local sponsors. When the audience has gotten especially large, the couple's next-door neighbors have opened their yard for the overflow.

"It's actually nice because cleaning up our yard is not that big of a lift," Kershaw said.



A rapt audience sat beneath the 250-year-old tree that gives the West End's Grand Oak Opry its name while Anj and the Ranch Hands performed on July 28. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"It's not fancy; it's comfortable. You can use our bathroom."

"It's really just kind of like having a little party with some friends over," Hawkins said. "How you prepare for that, that's kind of what we do."

Hawkins and Kershaw believe their house is the 12th oldest house still standing in St. Paul. According to them, it was built by the St. Paul city jailer right before he left to fight in the Civil War.

"The homes in this neighborhood were

originally the homes of cigar makers and barrel makers, so the deep history of the neighborhood is creative people who made stuff," Kershaw said. Today, the neighborhood is home to musicians, graphic designers and other creative types who give the area a vibrancy you don't find in every neighborhood, he added.

Admission to the Grand Oak Opry is by donation. That money goes directly to the musicians, and since Hawkins and Kershaw host the event on their property, a city permit isn't required, they said. At the same time, they're well aware of their neighborhood's limitations and work to minimize any inconvenience.

In fact, it's neighborhood volunteers who make the concerts possible. They greet patrons, take photographs and sell merchandise. Hawkins and Kershaw's children, Grace and Aiden, hand out popsicles. Peg Brown, who lives around the corner, has served as "chief bouncer," she said. However, that's a bit of a misnomer. "I'm not a bouncer because everybody is so respectful, nice and fun," Brown said. "Usually it's breaking up fights between kids more than anything."

To show their gratitude, Hawkins and Kershaw open each show with a message of thanks for their neighbors and for the musicians. This summer's lineup has included Chastity Brown, King Courteen, and Ang and the Ranch Hands.

GRAND OAK OPRY ▶ 22

# On the Town Briefly

## Books

**Poetry in the Park** will hold a gathering from 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, August 4, under the trees near the boat launch in Hidden Falls Park. Bring a lawn chair, water and poems to share, or just come and listen.

**SubText Books**, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings and discussions with authors Kimberly J. Brown and her book, *The I-35W Bridge Collapse: A Survivor's Account of America's Crumbling Infrastructure*, on August 16; Jacqueline Bussie and her theological reflection, *Love Without Limits*, August 20; poet and graphic designer Chaun Webster and his book, *GeNtry!fication*, August 23; and Cecilia Konchar Farr and her book on literary criticism, *The Ulysses Delusion*, August 30. The programs begin at 7 p.m. Call 651-493-2791.

## Theater

**Circus Juventas**, the Highland Park-based youth circus, takes audiences on a journey through the fertile imaginations of writers H.G. Wells and Jules Verne in *Steam*, its summer show running through August 12 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. Set in 1890s Paris, the high-flying adventure plunges 20,000 leagues under the sea, rises into the stratosphere and travels to distant times with the help of such acrobatic apparatuses as the wheel of steel, Russian cradle, Spanish web, wall trampoline and teeter board. Seventeen shows are scheduled at 1 and 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$18.50-\$45. Visit [circusjuventas.org](http://circusjuventas.org) or call 651-699-8229.

**What makes the Minnesota Fringe Festival** in 2018: Over 1,000 artists in more than 132 productions in 650-plus performances from August 2-12 at 15 venues in Minneapolis. The 25th annual Fringe Fest drew more than 500 applicants. The 132 featured productions were selected by lottery, but theater-goers may be more choosy. For more information on the shows, their times and locations and the various ticket deals, visit [minnesotafringe.org](http://minnesotafringe.org).

**Hand to God**, a comedy that traces the fragile nature of faith and morality through the story of a mild-mannered teenager and



**The sound and sass of the '80s.** Obsession, the Minneapolis quintet that won Minnesota Music Awards in 1985 for Best Heavy Metal Band and Best Heavy Metal Lead Singer, will perform a reunion concert at 9:30 p.m. Friday, August 10, at Amsterdam Bar & Hall, 6 W. Sixth St. Led by guitarist Bryan Arens (right), a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, all five original members will be back, including (from left) drummer Todd McNurlin, lead guitarist Jeff Loven, lead singer Neal Sundet and bassist Greg Eidem. Tickets are \$18-\$23. Visit the Electric Fetus or [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com).

his spectacularly foul-mouthed puppet, is being performed through August 19 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Christina Baldwin directs the Twin Cities premiere of playwright Robert Askins' raunchy and irreverent drama about a young man whose relationships with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door and his mother are thrown into upheaval when his puppet takes on an impudent and scandalous personality. Riley O'Toole stars. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30

p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$37-\$47. Call 612-822-7063 or visit [jungletheater.com](http://jungletheater.com).

**Houdini**, a new play about the renowned escape artist of a century ago, will be performed on August 15-18 by Sandbox Theatre outdoors with live music and the help of a 24-foot-high aerial rig. The Hungarian-born Harry Houdini spent his life in pursuit of escape—on stage in his legendary shows and offstage as he sought to escape poverty, anti-Semitism and death itself. The play explores the human desire for metamorphosis. Mark Benzel, Michelle De Joya and Sarah Zuber

star. Show times are 7 p.m. Wednesday outside of the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave., and 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday outside the home at 1966 N. Chatsworth St. in Roseville. Audience members are invited to bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating. Tickets, available one hour before curtain, are by donation with \$10 suggested for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and older. (The show is not recommended for young children.) In case of inclement weather, the show will be canceled. For information, call 612-584-1815.

## Music

**Como Lakeside Pavilion's Spring Cafe**, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., will play host to free concerts by the following performers, all at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated: St. Anthony Park Community Band, July 31; Minnesota State Band, August 1; Twin Cities Show Chorus at 3 p.m. and John Philip Sousa Band at 7 p.m. August 5; Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, August 6; Sing United, August 7; Minnesota State Band, August 8; Windjammers Community Band, August 9; The Dollys, August 10; Hawaiian Luau Collective, August 11; Honeywell Concert Band at 3 p.m. and Lex-Ham Community Band at 7 p.m. August 12; Kenwood Symphony Orchestra, August 14; and the Minnesota Band, August 15.

**Mill City Live** kicks off a new season on August 1 with the New Orleans jazz of the Southside Aces in the first of five concerts from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays in the courtyard of Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. The schedule also includes Ben Weaver, Mike Munson, Strong Buffalo and guests in an evening of song, poetry and stories on August 8 and singer-songwriter Mary Bue on August 15. Tickets at \$6 include museum admission. Call 612-341-7582.

**Gina Forsyth and the Mid-City Aces** will perform the music for Cajun-style dancing on Friday, August 3, at the Eagles Club, 2507 E. 25th St. in Minneapolis. The doors open at 7 p.m., a Cajun dance lesson begins at 7:15 and the music commences at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20.

**Music in the Cafe**, Landmark Center's free lunchtime concert series, returns at

## Graham Place Senior Apartments 55 & Over Senior Living

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**Lyra Baroque Orchestra** will open its season with "A Sumptuous Keyboard Feast" featuring soloists Sungyun Cho, Donald Livingston and Jacques Ogg at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 11, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes C.P.E. Bach's Concerto for Two Harpsichords in F Major and Concerto for Harpsichord & Fortepiano in E-flat Major, and Mozart's Concerto for Three Harpsichords and Keyboards in F Major. Tickets are \$5-\$25. A pre-concert talk will precede the show. Visit [lyrabaroque.org](http://lyrabaroque.org).

"**Swing and Sonquette**" an evening of solo acoustic guitar by jazz and flamenco artist Ben Abrahamson, will be presented at 7 p.m. Sunday, August 12, at Zorongo Flamenco, 3012 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12. Call 612-234-1653.

## Exhibits

"**All About St. Paul**," watercolor paintings of the capital city by local artist Jeanne Kosfeld, are being displayed through August 31 in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. Kosfeld is a former newspaper illustrator and faculty member at the University of Alaska who led the design department at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts for 18 years. She will offer free, two-hour sketching workshops in downtown St. Paul at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 11, and 1 p.m. Sunday, August 19. For workshop reservations, call 651-292-1239.

The paintings of Lorraine Omley will be displayed from August 2-26 at the AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, August 3. The gallery is otherwise open from 5-8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Visit [theazgallery.org](http://theazgallery.org).

**Summit Avenue Walking Tours** highlighting the Gilded Age mansions that line the street and the people who built and owned them, are being offered through September by the Minnesota Historical Society. The 90-minute tours step out at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and noon and 2 p.m. Sundays from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$14, \$12 seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit [mnhs.org/calendar](http://mnhs.org/calendar).

A two-hour walking tour of Lowertown that delves into the history of the neighborhood, from its days as sleazy river port and bustling rail hub to industrial center, arts enclave and urban village, will step out at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 4, from the corner of Kellogg Boulevard and Robert Street. Explore the area's architectural gems and learn of the barons, thieves, capitalists and hipsters who made a living here. The tour costs \$14. Visit [cart.mnhs.org](http://cart.mnhs.org).

**Explore St. Paul's** historic downtown and riverfront areas on free, guided walking tours beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays through September. The area around Rice Park will be explored on August 8. The Heart of the City Tour will travel down St. Peter Street past some of the city's most famous landmarks and influential buildings on August 15. The Great River Tour, highlighting the role the river played in St. Paul history, will follow the mighty Mississippi on August 22. Reservations are required. Call 651-292-3063.

**Relive Minneapolis railroad history** during a 105-minute walking tour of the city's riverfront stepping out at 1 p.m. Sunday, August 12, from the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. From the laying of Minnesota's first railroad in 1862 to the building of the Stone Arch Bridge and Milwaukee Road Depot, learn about the products and people that filled the freight and passenger trains. Along the way, discover clues to the vanishing of the trains and learn about the future of rail. The cost is \$14. For reservations, call 612-341-7582.

## Film

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy these movies under the stars compliments of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation: *The Karate Kid* (2010), August 3, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; *The Secret Life of Pets*, August 10, Langford Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park; and *Moana* on August 11 at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., and on August 16 at Sibley Manor, 1300 W. Maynard Drive. The screenings are free and will begin around dusk.

**Here to be Heard: The Story of the Stills**, William E. Badgley's documentary about Punk music of the mid-1970s from a woman's point of view, will be screened by Sound Unseen and Extreme Noise Records at 7 and 9 p.m. Wednesday, August 8, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St.,



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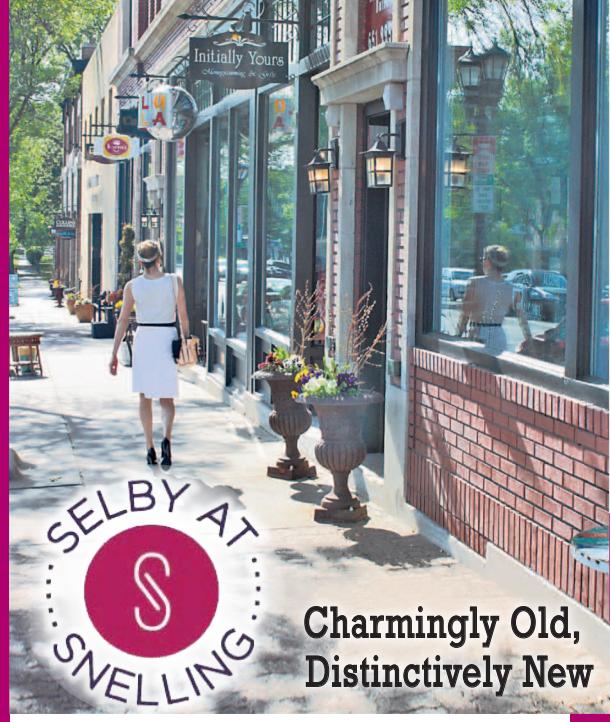
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Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance at [soundunseen.com](http://soundunseen.com).

**Beyond the Barbed Wire**, a documentary about the Japanese-Americans who came to Minnesota because of World War II, will be shown in a free program at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 11, at Historic Fort Snelling. Approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent were forced into internment camps after Pearl Harbor. Many relocated to Minnesota after the war, some to pursue a college education and others to attend the Military Intelligence Service Language School. A panel discussion with the filmmakers will follow the screening. Call 612-726-1171.

**Silent films** from the Walker Art Center's Ruben/Bentson collection will be shown with a live score by electro virtuoso Martin Dosh and the Dosh Quintet in a free program at dusk on Thursday, August 16, in the Walker's Wurtele Upper Garden, Groveland Terrace and Lyndale Avenue in South Minneapolis. Bring a blanket, pack a picnic supper and head to the hillside for an evening of new music and avant-garde films, including *Lichtspiel: Opus I, II, III and IV* and *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* by German filmmaker Walter Ruttmann, *Manhatta* by American filmmakers Charles Sheeler and Paul Strand, and Winsor McCay's animated documentary, *The Sinking of the Lusitania*.

## Family

**Highland Park Library**, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: baby storytime, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays; Maker Camp, hands-on activities for children ages 7-11, 2 p.m. Wednesdays; Nature Smart, a trading post in natural history, biology and geology, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Createch,

high-tech fun for teens, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; Brodini's Comedy Magic Show, 6 p.m. Thursday, August 2; Yarn Night, fiber craft for all ages, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, August 2; children's storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; and Schiffelly Puppets in an episode of *The Little Mermaid*, 6 p.m. Thursday, August 9. Call 651-695-3700.

**Merriam Park Library**, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Board at the Library, games of Clue, Apples to Apples Jr., chess, checkers and more, 2-4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; Paw Pals, a chance for children ages 6-12 to read to a friendly dog, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, August 2; Family Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m. every Friday; Maker Camp, hands-on activities for children ages 7-11, 3-5 p.m. Fridays and Mondays; Woodland Puppets in "Ollie's Garden," 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday, August 7. Call 651-642-0385.

**James and the Giant Peach** will be staged by the Highland Park Community Theater on August 2-4 at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. Based on the book by the same name, the musical tells of a boy who is sent by his aunts to chop down an old fruit tree only to discover a magic potion that sends him on a fantastic journey. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are \$10. Visit [tinyurl.com/hpcctheaterprogram](http://tinyurl.com/hpcctheaterprogram).

**Family Fringe**, a juried theater festival geared to children, will be presented on August 2-5 and 9-12 by four local and two national companies at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The lineup includes Afoutayi Dance, Music & Arts in *Konesans*, a vibrant celebration of Haitian culture; the Fourth Wall Ensemble in *Fruit Flies Like a Banana*, a mad mix of music, theatre and dance; CAAM Chinese Dance Theatre in *Dragons*,

*Lions & Keepsakes*, a production set in the Qing dynasty and beyond; Hit the Lights Theatre Company in *Horsetale*, a shadow play that is wilder than the Wild West; Mikes Brass in *Medusa*, a retelling of the Greek myth from the Gorgon's perspective; and SteppingStone Theatre in *Egg is...*, an immersive, sensory-charged exploration of unexpected friendships using music and movement. Tickets are \$5-\$10 and available at the door or online (with a \$3 reservation fee) at [minnesotafringe.org](http://minnesotafringe.org). Tickets are also good for admission to Family Fringe Central at Can Can Wonderland across the street where Siama Music, Duke Otherwise and the Bazillions will be performing and a Pledge Party Team Dance Party will be held.

**Red Balloon Bookshop**, 891 Grand Ave., will play host to the following free events: Where's Waldo Party with Waldo-themed games and activities, photo ops and snacks, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 2; and Good Dog & Lots of Cats storytime with Cori Doerrfeld and E. Dee Taylor, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 11. Call 651-224-8320.

**Alice in Wonderland** will be performed on August 8-11 by the Highland Park Community Theater. The musical adaptation was written by Sharon Holland and Victor Zupanc. Show times are 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are \$10. Visit [tinyurl.com/hpcctheaterprogram](http://tinyurl.com/hpcctheaterprogram).

**Insect Safari**, a journey through woods and prairie with nets, will be taken from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 9, at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$7 per child accompanied by an adult. To register, call 651-455-4531.



A still from the film *Purple Haze*, which will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, August 1 and 3, at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES

## 19► GRAND OAK OPRY

Jessica Callahan and her husband Kevin Conroy bought a house across the street from Hawkins and Kershaw a year before the Grand Oak Opry's debut. It was the first home they'd ever owned, Callahan said, and they immediately felt welcome. "We were invited to three parties before we even unpacked a box," Callahan said. "And two of the parties had to do with Tim and Sean."

Ever since she heard the music from the first Grand Oak Opry show in 2014, Callahan has wanted to volunteer for the event, which she did in 2015. She hopes the backyard gig will enchant others as it did her. "You can drive by a house a million times without knowing what's in it or behind it," Callahan said. "It's like opening up a secret garden; it's a lovely spot."

Hawkins and Kershaw are the heart and brains of the Grand Oak Opry, according

to neighbors and volunteers. Kershaw, the former executive director of the Citizens League, is now a vice president of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. Hawkins has worked in schools for 16 years, particularly in special education. He is currently employed at Stogies on Grand Avenue.

"Sean is the (unofficial) block captain. He's very organized and ambitious," Brown said.

"I call Tim Gladys Kravitz," Callahan said, referring to the nosy neighbor on the old "Bewitched" TV show. "He always knows what's going on. They both do. There's a lot of people in the neighborhood who see them in a leadership role."

The enchantment doesn't stop with the audience. Artists seek out the Grand Oak Opry for its intimacy. Quillan Roe of the Roe Family Singers met Kershaw while leading the music at their church, and he leapt at the opportunity to perform there in 2015.

## 19► 'PURPLE HAZE'

"We needed the songs to place the film in European festivals, and we needed the money from the festivals to pay for the songs."

"Jimi Hendrix's agent was the first to agree," Wozniak said. "After that, I think other agents took us on as a special project."

In the end, 20 of some of the greatest rock 'n' roll songs ever recorded made it into the soundtrack, although Minnesota native Bob Dylan's "Forever Young" was bumped by Hendrix's "Star Spangled Banner" for the film's ending to make it edgier.

Since Dylan has to sanction all film scripts that include any of his songs, Wozniak sent him a copy. "I was very nervous to think my script was in Dylan's hands," she said. However, in the end he approved.

Columbia Pictures' soundtrack for *The Big Chill* came out around the same time, so the studio never released a soundtrack for *Purple Haze* to avoid competing with itself.

"But the *Purple Haze* soundtrack is better," Morris said.

The popularity of *Purple Haze* led to

"They're really great guys," Roe said. "They made us feel welcome. I like old architecture, so they took the time to give me a tour of the house and introduced us to the kids."

The dangling lights, colorful doors and whimsical oak tree captivated the Roe Family Singers. They agreed to do a second performance in 2016 and, as an election year special, led the audience in a sing-along of "This Land Is Your Land." Music has the power to unify people, Quillan said, and that night reaffirmed it.

"What they've done with the Grand Oak Opry doesn't just happen," Roe said. "But at the same time, you can't plan it. What has happened there is, of course, because of Hawkins and Kershaw. But it's also a product of the community and of the environment."

A descendant of one of the original owners of Hawkins and Kershaw's house was seated in the audience at the Roe Family Singers concert in 2016, and had brought a photo

**Gibbs Farm**, a museum of pioneer and Dakota life at 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., will serve old-fashioned ice cream along with tours of the farm, garden and prairie between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 12. Patrons will be invited to make their own sundaes, which are free with the admission of \$8, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children ages 4-16. Visit [rchs.com/gibbs-farm](http://rchs.com/gibbs-farm).

## Et cetera

**Applause Community Theatre** will hold auditions on August 6 and 7 for *The Shadow Box* by Michael Cristofer, winner of the 1977 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 1977 Tony Award for Best Play. Gary Davis will direct this show about three terminal cancer patients, their family and close friends: Agnes and her mother Felicity; divorced couple Brian and Beverly and Brian's lover Mark, and parents Joe and Maggie and their teenage child. The auditions run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Wonderlust Productions, 550 N. Vandalia St., Suite 253, with call backs on the evening of August 8. The show will be performed on September 27-30 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. For information, email [applausemn@gmail.com](mailto:applausemn@gmail.com).

**Singers may audition** between August 6 and 24 for a place in the St. Catherine University Choral Society, a large mixed-voice choir composed of St. Catherine students, faculty and staff and experienced singers from across the area. This fall the Choral Society will perform Vivaldi's Gloria, Mendelssohn's Heilig and Michael Fink's Jubilate Deo accompanied by a professional orchestra. Rehearsals begin September 6. For more information or an audition appointment, contact Patricia Connors at 651-690-6688.

successful careers for Morris and Wozniak in both the television and motion picture industries, including seven Emmy nominations.

Currently, Morris is co-adapting Daniel Lowe's 2017 novel *All That's Left to Tell* and making an album with his band, The Constant Sorrows, which was named after the song on *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Wozniak is working on a series for television called "Sweethearts of the Rodeo," a sort of *League of Their Own* for female rodeo competitors.

Morris and Wozniak have spent the last two years living in Wayzata. However, even during the 20 years they lived in Los Angeles, they were constantly returning to Minnesota to make movies.

"I directed four films in Minnesota," Morris said, "just because I wanted to come back here as often as I could."

"I'd write scripts that included places I was familiar with in St. Paul," Wozniak said. "When we shot films here, everybody in St. Paul was very generous, very accommodating."

of the first family to live in the house and a record the family recorded. They were a folk band just like the Roe Family Singers.

"This Land Is Your Land" was the first song on the record album," Kershaw said. "We never mentioned it, but that night the Roe Family Singers played that song."

Perhaps it's the fireflies on a summer evening. Perhaps it's the ancient oak tree. Whatever the graces, each concert seems to cast a spell on the crowd.

"Maybe there's something about the tree that's sort of symbolic," Brown said. "It creates an air of warmth and welcome and community. People respect that."

Upcoming performances of the Grand Oak Opry will feature the Akie Bermiss Trio on August 4, Maria Jette and Dan Chouinard on August 11, and We Are the Willows on September 1. People begin gathering at 6:30 p.m., and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Visit [grandoakopry.wordpress.com](http://grandoakopry.wordpress.com).

# Sports



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

## Williams inspires at Wimbledon

**I**t was a rare sporting event in which both competitors could justifiably be declared the victors. Angelique Kerber of Germany hit the most winners to take the women's title with a 6-3, 6-3 verdict at the prestigious Wimbledon tennis tournament in London on July 14. However, her opponent on that day probably was the topic of more discussion—and admiration.

Kerber earned her first Wimbledon title by beating Serena Williams, 36, who was playing only her second major tennis tournament since giving birth last fall. Williams' ranking had plummeted to 181st in the world, but she exited in second place, winning more admirers along the way. Then again, there's very little Williams does that surprises these days.

Becky Cantellano is executive director of the USTA Northern section that covers Minnesota and the Dakotas. Before that she was the executive director of the St. Paul Urban Tennis program, which has been encouraging and teaching players of all ages since its inception in 1991. Cantellano watched Williams' performance with awe.

"It was an amazing effort," she said. "Considering all she's been through, to play at that level for that long (the tournament lasted two weeks) was really something."

Williams and her sister, Venus, had been at or near the top of the tennis world in singles and doubles almost from the start of their professional careers two decades ago. Some people thought that might change last September when Serena gave birth to a daughter. As it developed, there were complications after the delivery, including a pulmonary embolism that left Williams bedridden for six weeks.

She didn't get back on the court until February when she and her sister played a doubles match. A couple of months later, she went to the French Open where she won three matches before being forced to withdraw due to injury.

Wimbledon marches to its own drum when it comes to seeding. Despite her overall low standing on the world stage, Williams was ranked 25th for the tournament. She justified the selection, losing just one set in her first five matches. She won her semifinal handily before giving way to Kerber, who had lost to Williams in the 2016 Wimbledon championship.

Cantellano watched the 2018 final with admiration for the caliber of play as well as something that didn't show up on the stat sheet. Cantellano, who was a topnotch player at Mounds View High School and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, is also a mother of two. She was impressed with Williams' energy level.

"When you start playing again (after giving birth), you find you get tired quicker," Cantellano said. "You start to wonder what you can accomplish."

Williams made Kerber, who is six years younger, work hard the entire time, prompting Cantellano to note, "She's the greatest tennis athlete I've ever seen."

But there was more than just the court play and energy that stood out. The end of a championship match at Wimbledon is not the end of the day for the players. There is an extensive period of time taken where British monarchy, in this case Prince Phillip, come to the court for a ceremony. The ball boys and umpire are feted. Players are interviewed for everyone to hear. Through it all, Williams, who had won the title seven times, politely stood and watched it unfold.

"I thought she was very gracious about it," Cantellano said.

In a world where coaches and players often snarl in defeat, the lengthy Wimbledon post-match ceremony was a pleasant thing to observe, a lesson that programs like Urban Tennis try to pass on. Cantellano's hope is that Williams' overall performance will serve as a role model for future players.

"Tennis is a sport that teaches life lessons," she said.

It's also a sport where women and men don't need to

## Class A all the way

### Capitals claim seventh league title in men's baseball

BY BILL WAGNER

**T**he St. Paul Capitals continue to show that they are a force to be reckoned with in Minnesota Class A amateur baseball. The team clinched the St. Paul League title with a 5-3 come-from-behind win over Highland Park at Toni Stone Field on July 22, and all signs point to another promising playoff run.

Of course, fans are accustomed to seeing the Caps either near or at the top of the standings. The team has won seven league titles since it was established in 2010, and captured the state championship in 2014.

The victory over Highland earned the Caps a first-round bye when the post-season began late last month. At press time they were 23-7-1 overall and 14-1-1 in league competition with one game to go in the regular season.

This has all been accomplished despite a few challenges. Player-coach Phil McDermott admitted he is constantly recruiting new talent to keep the team's roster stable. He said this year's roster turned over by 45 percent from last year's for a variety of reasons, including guys getting older and players having to move because of their jobs.

"You spend a lot of time on the phone," said McDermott, one of only four original Capitals still with the club, "but I've got a pretty good network to draw from."

Nearly every time the opposition had the Caps on the hook this season, the team has escaped. The Highland victory came after the Caps fell behind 3-0 early, but then mounted a five-run outburst in the fifth inning. Also in late July, the Capitals overcame a 4-0 deficit to league runner-up the Rosetown A's 7-6. And early in June, the Caps trailed the St. Paul Shamrocks 2-0 in the seventh, but scored six runs in one inning to notch the win.

McDermott said it's never easy to mount a playoff run, but he has a pretty good read on his squad when it comes to vying for the state championship. "We'll be in the mix," he said.

The Capitals are in good shape with Matt Halloran, a former Gopher, at catcher. He can hit, catch, throw and run. "He's one of the best, if not the best, catchers in amateur baseball," McDermott said. "He can do it all."

The team has a pair of twin aces in the hard-throwing Josh Kubitschek and Ty McDevitt. Both pitchers roared into late July with ERAs below 2.50, and Kubitschek, a former University of St. Thomas player, led the team in wins with five.

If the Caps need a closer, left-hander Tom Petersen is their guy. The former Augsburg player's ERA was about 1.00, and he pitched four innings of shutout relief to help lock down the win over Highland.

The Capitals also have plenty of young pitching depth courtesy of a few additions this year. Included are former Minnehaha Academy ace Jesse Retzlaff, North Dakota State's Gabe Pilla, Connor Hurley of Concordia-St. Paul and Mitch



Josh Kubitschek pitched six scoreless innings to lead the St. Paul Capitals to a 7-0 win over the Twin City Saints on July 24. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Nordin from Mahtomedi. Retzlaff in particular has stepped right in, logging the second-most innings pitched on the staff.

This pitching depth has helped offset the loss of John Straka, who hurled effectively for the Capitals early this season before being signed by the St. Paul Saints.

McDermott said last year's club relied a lot more on the long ball for its offense. Now, not so much.

Petersen, when he's not pitching, plays first base and is a feared hitter (.328) who can drive in runs batting cleanup or fifth in the order.

Around the infield, Tanner Vavra, Derek Jacobson and Kevin Walek trade off at shortstop and second. Vavra, son of former Twins and current Tigers batting coach Joe Vavra, played with the Saints last year. In late July, he was leading the team in hitting (.478) and had a .500 on-base percentage.

Jacobson has a steady veteran hand and Walek had stolen six bases, which ranked just behind Aaron Pfaff's nine and Halloran's seven.

At third base is the reliable vet and former Gopher Ryan Abrahamson, who was leading the team with four homers and was hitting .369 with 16 RBI in late July.

In the outfield, the club is fortified with left fielder Dan Petersen, who was hitting .328 and had a team-leading 20 RBI.

Center fielder Pfaff knows how to use his speed and can throw runners out. He is also a good leadoff hitter, batting .356.

McDermott admitted that he hasn't been the offensive force he used to be as a part-time right fielder. "I'm contributing offensively," is about as far as he would go.

He does call on Connor Schaefer, another former Gopher, to log time in right. Mark Groebner, an original Cap and former Big 10 Tournament MVP with the U of M, provides outfield help off the bench.

Designated hitter Rick Tossey, who came out of St. Paul Johnson, has the second-highest average on the team at .375 and normally bats second or third in the order.

This year's state tournament will be held August 9-19 at the Dunning Sports Complex in St. Paul and Red Haddox Field in Bloomington.

Like most good teams, the Capitals appear to be peaking at the right time. "We're a different team than we were last year," McDermott, said, "but we always seem to find ways to get the job done."

# MN Vixen finish second at nationals in women's pro football

BY BILL WAGNER

The Minnesota Vixen just ran out of time in their 27-21 loss to the New York Sharks in the Women's Football Alliance Division II championship game on July 27 in Atlanta. The Vixen finished with a 9-2 overall record after going 7-1 through the regular season.

"These athletes have worked so hard," said Vixen coach Laura Brown afterward.

The Vixen played far too much of the game chasing after the Sharks, who led 13-7 at the half and 27-14 midway through the fourth quarter. Minnesota looked to be launching a winning rally more than once in the game, but New York made the big plays when needed.

Minnesota had one last opportunity to pull ahead with the ball near midfield with two

minutes to play, but the New York defense stiffened and the Vixen were forced to go for it on fourth down. The Sharks held that running play short and were able to run the rest of the clock out for the win.

"It was a great game. New York came out hard," Brown said. "It did a good job of studying film on us. We got the first lead, then they tied it, and after that they got the lead and made it hard for us to catch up."

The turning point of the game occurred in the third quarter when the Vixen had the ball on their own 40. A bad snap out of the shotgun formation was the culprit. Vixen quarterback Kiersten Hansen tried to retreat and recover the errant snap, but the Sharks grabbed it instead for a key turnover.

"That was kind of a killer for us," Brown said.

Just the same, the Vixen still had a lot of fight left in them. "Our defense made a great stop in the fourth quarter, and we blocked a field goal," Brown said. "That field goal would have made it a three-score game, but this gave us a chance."

She cited three of her players—defensive end Chelsea Swanson, running back Grace Cooper and quarterback Hansen—for performances above and beyond the call of duty versus New York.

"Chelsea didn't get any sacks, but she got good pressure on the quarterback," Brown said. "Grace was her usual solid self. Kiersten (Hansen) had a solid game, too."

There was still some unfinished business for Brown, who remained in Atlanta to coach in the Division II All-Star game that weekend. "That's our Pro Bowl," she said.

The Vixen placed five players in that game, including quarterback Hansen, running backs Cooper and Jeanette "Tank" Nelson, wide receiver Sam Barber and nose tackle Cynthia "Red" Bryant. Bryant is an original Vixen, having just completed her 20th season with the club.

This season the Vixen home games were played at Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights, but Brown said it was too soon to tell if they would be returning there in 2019. She did say that their home games would be somewhere within the metro area.

Going into the playoffs, the Vixen had scored 249 points, while allowing just 84. They beat the Wisconsin Dragons 35-7 in the first round of the playoffs and then the Mile High Blaze 29-6, both at home, before advancing to the championship game.

## 23 WRIGHT CALL

compete with each other for attention. They both have their own fans and their own set of stars.

"For young girls, this (match) was a great thing to see," Cantellano said. "This is what tennis needs."

## ALS fundraiser is August 4

Five years ago, John Cronin had an idea. A relative of his had ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. There's no known cure for ALS, which gradually takes over a body, rendering those who are afflicted by it virtually immobile.

Cronin wanted to raise money to help fund research of the disease. However, when you're only 14 years old, your resources are rather limited. So he created a Wiffle Ball tournament that was played in his backyard. Four teams participated, raising \$700 for the day. The next year the field grew to six teams and \$1,400 was raised.

The field eventually expanded too much to be held in Cronin's backyard. This year's event will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 4, at Harmon Park in West St. Paul. Cronin is expecting 40 teams to participate, but there are still openings available.

"I could see maybe 50-60 teams overall," said the Henry Sibley High School graduate. "The goal is to raise \$5,000." (Last year's tourney, with 33 teams, netted \$3,100.)

The rules are simple. There are three to five players on a team. Fences are 90 to 100 feet from home plate. The pitchers use a slow-pitch delivery with no called balls or strikes. There is no stealing bases and no corked bats are allowed. The games go five innings with the usual three outs per side. The age of the players ranges from 10 to 60 years old. Instead of umpires, the team captains arbitrate any disputes.

The cost is \$50 per team, and Cronin noted there's still time to register at alswoffleball.com.

Michael Brandt, Cronin's relative who was the original inspiration for the tournament, passed away in 2014. Steve Lufkin, a former teacher at Sibley who was diagnosed with ALS four years ago, is the current inspiration for the event. Sadly, there likely will be others. However, with the help of Cronin and his supporters, progress is being made.

## Fall sports season is (gulp) almost here

If you happen to run across a lot of adults making last-minute runs to the lake cabin in the next two weekends, a little understanding is in order. It'll be the last break for high school and college coaches before going back to work.

The prep fall sports season kicks into gear on August 13 when football, soccer, volleyball, cross country and girls' swimming and tennis practices begin. The first football games for local prep teams is August 30. Soccer starts even earlier with games on August 23.

College practices start at the roughly the same time, with the first games set for the weekend before Labor Day.

## Tommies heading to U.S. Bank Stadium

The University of St. Thomas men's basketball team will be the opening hoops act at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis when the Tommies face Wisconsin-River Falls at 6 p.m. Friday, November 30. The University of Minnesota will follow with a game against Oklahoma State at 8:30 p.m. Two more games are set for the next night.

The games are a test run of sorts for the NCAA Division I men's Final Four that will be played at the same stadium next April.

It'll be the second time UST has played in downtown Minneapolis. The Tommies played Concordia at the Metrodome in a similar situation in 1999 when the NCAA Final Four was to be played in that building.

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

# Sports Shorts

**Jeanne Arth**, the 1959 Wimbledon doubles champion, visited the St. Paul Tennis Club in Summit Hill on July 14 where she learned to play. It was on the day of the women's championship matches at Wimbledon and was Arth's first visit to



Jeanne Arth

the 106-year-old club since its grand reopening in May following a \$1.7 million reconstruction of its tennis courts and swimming pool. Arth, a Central High School and St. Catherine's graduate, retired after a long and successful career as an educator. She still lives in the Twin Cities and keeps up with childhood pals from the club, including Mike Murphy, Gus Metzger, and Dan and Tom Dwyer. The Arth Family lived at 1083 Osceola Ave., four doors west of the club. Arth and her late sister, Shirley Arth-Loeding, played under the watchful eye of their dad, Len, who served as the club's semi-official pro. The sisters dominated women's tennis in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest in the early 1950s. Arth's progress continued, and she went on to develop what was described as one of the hardest serves in tennis. She became an internationally ranked player, and she and her doubles partner Darlene Hard won the U.S. Championship in 1957 and 1958, and Wimbledon in 1959. When she retired from the international circuit at age 26, Jeanne was ranked fifth in the world. While invited to Wimbledon every year as a past winners, Arth returned just once in 1989. She said she will always treasure the chance she had to walk onto Centre Court outside of match play, and that she was able

to spend a few minutes reflecting on what she had experienced 30 years before. "I've had a good life, on and off the courts," she said.

**St. Thomas Academy coach John Barnes** has been named the National Coach of the Year in swimming and diving by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. He beat out seven other finalists from across the nation. Barnes' teams have won more state swimming titles (14 at STA and one at Minnetonka) than any other coach's in Minnesota. His dual-meet record of 144-3-1 also is one of the highest in the state. During his career, he has coached eight Olympic-trial qualifiers, 15 national qualifiers, 36 junior national qualifiers, 26 high school all-Americans, two World University Game gold medalists and two national age group record relays (boys ages 13-14). He was named Minnesota High School Coach of the Year in 1996, 2014 and 2015.

**Concordia University-St. Paul** was awarded with the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's 2017-18 Sportsmanship Award by commissioner Erin Lind during the league's annual Hall of Fame banquet. The award is voted on by head coaches and a student advisory committee member based on the sportsmanship of players, fans, staff and coaches.

**Jamal "Shango" James** will return to the ring on August 24 for a nationally televised night of boxing at the historic Minneapolis Armory. The 6-foot-2 Roosevelt grad boasts a 23-1 record and is ranked third in the welterweight division by the World Boxing Association. In his most recent fight on April 13 at the Armory, he dug deep in front of thousands of cheering fans to record a majority decision win over Abel Ramos of Arizona. Also on the



The iron nine of Highland Catholic School captured the Catholic Athletic Association's eighth-grade championship this spring with a dominant performance in the playoffs. The team blanked Nativity School 4-0 in a semifinal and then topped Transfiguration 5-0 in the title match. Pictured with coach Bob Tschida are teammates (back row) James Walsh, Owen Vitek, Eric Stomberg, Sana Anetipa, Will Haider, Jake Giuliani, Josh Taylor; (front row) Luke Leonidas, Will Meyer. Missing is coach Rudy Janetto.

August 24 card is a super middleweight fight between "Golden" Caleb Truax of Osseo and the upset-minded Fabiano "Pit Bull" Pena of Brazil. Tickets are on sale at ArmoryMN.com or ticketmaster.com.

**Joy Tietz** has been added to the coaching staff of the Concordia University-St. Paul volleyball team for the 2018 season. Tietz (formerly Wubben) is a Golden Bear volleyball alum, graduating in 2005 with a degree in early childhood education and parent education. During her volleyball career at Concordia, she was a three-year captain, a two-time all-American and the 2004 NSIC Player of the Year. She helped the team reach its first NCAA

Division II National Championship game in the 2003 season. Tietz remains the school's all-time leader in total blocks (540), is second in block solos (119) and points (2,073.5), and fifth in kills (1,603).

**The Susan G. Komen Twin Cities 3-Day** is a 60-mile walk on August 17-19 for those wanting to help end breast cancer. Participants raise a minimum of \$2,300 and walk an average of 20 miles a day for three consecutive days. The closing ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, at Harriet Island. For updates, become a fan on Facebook or visit The3Day.org.

# Classifieds

## SALES

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Housewares, books, furniture and more. 33 Langer Circle, West St. Paul. 9am-5pm Thursday-Saturday, August 9-11.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE. Games, furniture, household, children's books. August 10, 8am-2pm. 1716 Bohland Avenue.

MOVING SALE. Household goods, furniture and miscellaneous. No Clothes. Friday, August 3, and Saturday, August 4, 8am-4pm. 384 Holly Avenue.

## CRAFT SALES

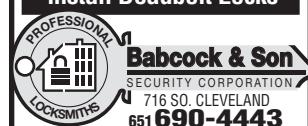
\*CREATIVITY SUPPLIES SALE\* August 16-17, 9am-6pm, August 18, 9am-4pm. Art supplies, costumes and more! St. Albert's Church, East 29th St. at 32nd Ave. South Minneapolis.

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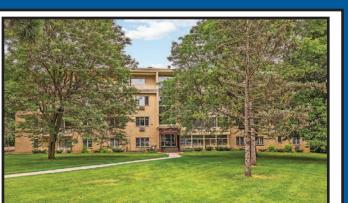
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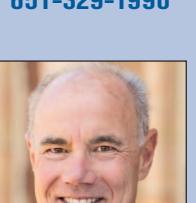
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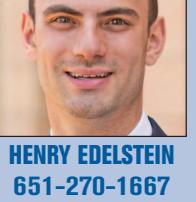
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