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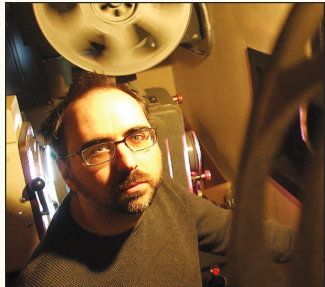


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Timber! First of city's 120,000 ash trees are felled by the tiny ash borer

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul work crews have been cutting down about two ash trees a day in a process known as destructive sampling. The effort is intended to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer, which city officials believe will eventually kill every one of the 120,000 ash trees in St. Paul and most of the 900 million ash trees in Minnesota.

In early December, ash trees began coming down along Pelham Boulevard and St. Anthony Avenue in Merriam Park, about a mile south of where the state's first emerald ash borers were discovered last spring. Since May, city staff have been working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to track the spread of the infestation.

Emerald ash borers are tiny, iridescent beetles that lay their eggs in the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch into larvae, which tunnel beneath the bark and feed there, cutting off the supply of water and nutrients to the rest of the tree.

Unlike other tree diseases and infestations that show up early as wilting leaves or dying branches, the emerald ash borer is rarely detected before it is too late, ac-

ASH BORER ►2



Over the sidewalk and through the Village. Dad knew the way to pull the sled through the white and drifted snow on Ford Parkway while out with his daughter during the first blizzard of the season. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Council trims less than merry 2010 city budget

By JANE McCLURE

It's crunch time for the St. Paul City Council. After four months of deliberations over Mayor Chris Coleman's proposed city budget for 2010, the council is scheduled to vote on a final budget and levy on Wednesday, December 16.

City officials dodged a bullet on December 8 when Governor Tim Pawlenty announced that he will not cut previously promised state aid payments to cities and counties this month, like he did last December. The state is facing a projected \$1.2 billion budget deficit, and Pawlenty had indicated he might withhold some of the \$437

million scheduled to go to cities, counties and townships across the state.

The governor's forbearance brought a sigh of relief from Mayor Chris Coleman. In a joint statement with Wadena Mayor Wayne Wolden, Coleman said, "we applaud and thank Governor Pawlenty for recognizing that Minnesota cities have hit the financial edge. Additional cuts would have jeopardized public safety and done further harm to our economy."

Still, the possibility of future cuts in Local Government Aid from the state has City Council members proceeding cautiously. "I think if unalotment happens again this year, then all bets are

off," said council president Kathy Lantry.

For the past several weeks the City Council has been looking at ways to add as much as \$819,524 into the budget proposed by Coleman last August. City Council budget analyst Margaret Egan has identified several new funding sources for the city, including upping the hotel-motel tax and tapping various budget reserves.

The council has also debated whether it should cancel proposed increases in storm sewer and sanitary sewer charges. Increases of from 6 to 7 percent have been proposed for storm sewer and

CITY BUDGET ►3

HealthEast comes to Grand

Victoria Crossing space gives clinic room for broader range of services

By FRANK JOSSI

The new HealthEast Grand Avenue Clinic is a decided step up from the health center's former digs. Its large windows are partially frosted to maintain the privacy of patients in the waiting room. The interior features carpeted floors in muted earth tones, backlit photos, floor-to-ceiling wooden beams, wide hallways, large exam rooms and an expansive laboratory.

"This gives us greater capacity to serve the community's growing needs," said interim manager Len Kaiser of HealthEast's decision to move from its former small building at Snelling and Portland avenues to a larger, tonier location at the southwest corner of Grand and Victoria.

The new 8,900-square-foot clinic opened on December 7 in the Grand Place retail space that originally housed Bound to be Read and, later, eq-life. A grand opening celebration is planned for late January.

The facility currently employs five family clinicians and a staff of



Medical director Dr. Laurie Radovsky joins interim clinic manager Len Kaiser at the entrance of the new HealthEast Grand Avenue Clinic. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

HEALTHEAST GRAND ►4

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1 ◀ ASH BORER

cording to state Department of Agriculture spokesman Mike Schommer. "That's why it's such a difficult pest to track," he said.

St. Paul has used two methods to track the insects—purple traps that are hung from ash trees during the growing season, and "trap trees" that are created by peeling a strip of bark around the trunk of an ash. Like the purple traps, trap trees give off a scent that attracts adult female emerald ash borers, Schommer said.

Not all of the ash trees that are being removed by the city are infested, according to Rachel Coyle of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. The intent of destructive sampling is to put distance between potentially infested and healthy trees in hopes of prolonging the healthy trees' survival. Though chemical treatments may also work for a time, they will not eradicate the pests. The long-term solution is to replace ash trees with other species and to eventually develop disease-resistant ash.

The removal and monitoring of ash trees is just part of St. Paul's plan to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer. Another part is a proposed ordinance that would declare the emerald ash borer a public nuisance and set up procedures to deal with diseased ash trees on both public and private property. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the ordinance at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 6. If adopted, the ordinance will allow city crews to remove diseased ash trees on private property and assess the property owner for the work if the property owner does not remove the tree first.

Local and state officials will be monitoring the ash borer infestation this winter in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Falcon Heights, according to Mark Abrahamson of the state Department of Agriculture. "The experience of other states tells us that we'll find emerald ash borers in other areas as well," he said.

The emerald ash borer was first discovered in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002. Since then, millions of ash trees have been lost in 10 states. The pests are believed to have been in the South St. Anthony Park area since 2006.

St. Anthony Park and the surrounding neighborhoods were surveyed for the emerald ash borer last spring. Sixty-eight infested trees were then cut down in St. Anthony Park. Another 46 trees were removed around the area of that initial outbreak, though only one of them was found to be infested.

The destructive sampling of ash trees began in September throughout St. Paul. One tree in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood was found to be infested just a block away from where an emerald ash borer had been caught in a purple trap. Eleven more trees in that area were removed in October, but none of them was found to be infested.

It was a different story in St. Anthony Park, where eight of 10 girdled trees were found to be infested.



A most unwelcome new resident: The emerald ash borer.

In a preemptive move in November, city officials worked with local residents to remove about 40 ash trees on two blocks of California Avenue near Como Park. Although the emerald ash borer had not been found in the area, the neighborhood was chosen because several of its ash trees were in declining health. The removed trees will be replaced with maples and lindens.

As the St. Paul City Council prepares to adopt the 2010 city budget on December 16, the money necessary to address the emerald ash borer looms large.

In mid-November, state agricultural officials found an infested ash tree on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Although the tree appeared to be healthy, it had attracted an unusual number of woodpeckers. The birds feast on ash borer larvae.

The transportation of ash wood continues to be banned in Ramsey and Hennepin counties. The ban is one of the best ways to slow the spread of emerald ash borers, according to Schommer and Abrahamson. "People should also continue to keep an eye on their trees," Abrahamson said, and they may want to consider chemical treatments to keep their ash trees healthy for as long as possible.

As the St. Paul City Council prepares to adopt the 2010 city budget on December 16, the money necessary to address the emerald ash borer looms large. Of the proposed 6.9 percent increase in the city's right-of-way maintenance assessments in 2010, about 1.2 percent will go to combatting the pest, according to Public Works director Bruce Beese. City officials are still awaiting word from state and federal officials on their request for financial assistance, Coyle said.

The city is planning to remove about 3,000 ash trees a year. The cost of monitoring, inspecting, treating and removing ash trees has been estimated at \$1.16 million in 2009 and \$2.81 million in each year thereafter. The 2009 figure does not include the cost of replacing the trees. Of the cost in 2010 and beyond, the largest portion is for tree removal, which is estimated at \$1.93 million per year.

In a normal year, the forestry section of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation has a budget of about \$3 million. That pays for the trimming of 10,000 trees; the removal of 2,500 dead, diseased or dangerous trees; the grinding of about 1,400 stumps; and the planting of about 1,600 trees.



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Counties quarantine all ash wood

To help prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer, a ban has been imposed on the transportation of ash trees, limbs or logs or untreated ash lumber with the bark attached outside of Ramsey and Hennepin counties. The ban also applies to firewood of any hardwood species.

To be in compliance, some trash haulers are no longer collecting tree waste. However, Ramsey County residents can hire a commercial tree or yard cleanup service to collect their tree waste or bring it to a Ramsey County yard waste site.

Ramsey County residents who live in zip codes 55103, 55104, 55108, 55113 and 55117

are being encouraged to take ash limbs and logs to the Ramsey County yard waste site off Pierce Butler Route and Prior Avenue to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer to other parts of the county.

The Midway site is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, January 9-10, February 13-14 and March 13-14.

The sites may be used by Ramsey County residents only and are free of charge. Proof of residency may be required, such as a driver's license, another state-issued identification card or a utility bill with a Ramsey County address.

Better Ballot is fined for shortcomings in campaign

Panel rules that IRV supporters made false claims of endorsement

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

The St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign took one on the chin on December 1 when a three-judge panel in the state Office of Administrative Hearings ruled that the campaign had committed "multiple and deliberate" violations of state election law in mailings to 40,000 St. Paul voters just prior to the November 3 election.

The campaign literature claimed that a "Yes" vote in St. Paul's referendum on instant runoff voting (IRV) had been endorsed by such national political figures as John McCain, Cynthia McKinney, Ralph Nader and President Barack Obama as well as the Minnesota DFL Party and the St. Paul League of Women Voters (LWV).

The three-judge panel concluded that the Better Ballot Campaign had claimed the endorsement of the Minnesota DFL and the St. Paul LWV knowing that the claim was false and that it had also failed to obtain the prior approval of the individual endorsees as required by state law.

"The timing of the mailings made it difficult for referendum opponents to respond before the election and created an unfair advantage," the judges stated. Though the "false claims...likely influenced some" of the 52.5

percent of St. Paul voters who supported the referendum on IRV, that influence could not be quantified, the judges stated, and they declined to overturn the voters' approval of IRV or to have the case referred to the county attorney for a criminal investigation.

The Better Ballot Campaign was fined \$5,000. Jeanne Massey, executive director of Fair Vote Minnesota, the parent organization of the Better Ballot Campaign, said she was disappointed by the ruling.

Both Massey and St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign chair Ellen Brown described the campaign's violations as "technical errors" and maintained that the organizations and individuals named in the mailings had all previously expressed their support for IRV.

"In the case of the state DFL, its support is plainly stated in the party's platform, and the support of President Obama, his election opponents and other national leaders is a matter of public record," Brown said. "We were disappointed that...the judges assessed such a large fine. The errors were technicalities and were certainly unintentional."

The judges disagreed. In their report, they stated that while the organizations and individuals may have generally supported the concept of IRV, they had not specifically supported approval of the St. Paul ballot question.

The St. Paul DFL considered endorsing the IRV ballot question at its 2009 convention. Though over half of the delegates voted to endorse IRV, it never reached the required threshold of 60 percent. As for the LWV, the

judges pointed out that "on October 28, after receiving the first postcard on which (the Better Ballot Campaign) claimed the endorsement of the LWV-St. Paul, LWV-St. Paul co-president Sigrid Johnson and member Marion Watson wrote a letter to the editor of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* requesting that (the Better Ballot Campaign) correct the error."

"In my 30-some years in politics, I've never seen more successful liars," said IRV opponent Chuck Repke, who had filed the complaint against the Better Ballot Campaign along with Dann Dobson.

Repke was disappointed that the judges hadn't at least referred the matter for criminal investigation. "They (the Better Ballot Campaign) are the most dishonest group I've run across in politics," he said. "They exaggerate about everything, including that IRV will improve voter turnout, will improve debate, will improve minority participation."

"Given enough information, voters will begin to realize that this is a bad system that adversely affects some voters," Repke said. "Minneapolis had a record low turnout (this November in its first election using IRV). Tacoma, Washington, voted 3-1 to repeal IRV after having spent \$1.6 million on the system. And using it once, Aspen, Colorado, passed an advisory resolution to dump IRV."

Brown acknowledged that "political opponents to IRV succeeded in getting their message out and won the repeal votes" in Tacoma and Aspen. However, she said, "the Minneapolis election went very smoothly overall, and there is much for St. Paul to emulate in terms

of voter education, ballot design and the rules and procedures for conducting an IRV election.

"The most important opportunity St. Paul has that Minneapolis missed is the potential of acquiring voting equipment for its first IRV election," Brown said. "It can partner with Minneapolis and work with the Minnesota secretary of state in securing equipment for the upcoming city elections in 2011. While a hand count is doable and inexpensive for St. Paul, machines should be feasible and St. Paul should aim to secure them for the 2011 election."

As for Repke's contention that voter turnout in Minneapolis was low because of IRV, Brown contended that turnout was low this November in both Minneapolis (19.6 percent) and St. Paul (21.6 percent) mainly because neither city had a competitive race for mayor. In 2005, when Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak was opposed by Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin and St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly was opposed by former City Council member Chris Coleman, the races were more competitive, she said. Voter turnout that year was 30 and 35 percent, respectively.

As of December 4, Fair Vote Minnesota had not decided whether to appeal the judge's ruling and "seek a fairer penalty," Massey said. In any case, she added, "the election is now official. The voters have spoken. It's time for the supporters and opponents to come together to make IRV work as smoothly and efficiently as it worked in the recent election in Minneapolis."

1 CITY BUDGET

sanitary sewer rates in 2010. However, adequate fund balances mean those rates could remain the same for 2010.

Another controversial topic is the sale of surplus city property to help balance the budget. The former Lexington Library, three former fire stations and two public safety buildings have been identified as being expendable. Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris has been pushing for the city to sell its surplus properties and return them to the property tax rolls. The six surplus buildings mentioned above have a total annual operating cost of \$235,752. However, other members of the City Council have balked at putting them up for sale.

The old Lexington Library is currently be-

ing used as a resource center for the Central Corridor light-rail project. A former East Side fire station is still being used for storage. The two West End fire stations slated to close next year—Station 1 near Grand Avenue and West 7th Street and Station 10 on Randolph Avenue—will be the focus of community planning processes if Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune gets his way.

Other ideas for amending Coleman's proposed budget for 2010 that are still being debated include:

- Restoring some public library hours. The mayor's budget calls for a total of 678.5 library hours citywide each week. There are a total of 730 library hours this year. The City Council is looking at adding \$350,000 to the library budget to bring the total hours per week to 389. The additional hours would be

distributed in one of two ways. The first option would add Sunday hours at the Dayton's Bluff and Rice Street library branches and 2.5 hours each week at the West 7th branch. The second option would restore Tuesday evening hours at all of the city's library branches and Sunday hours at five branches while reducing Friday morning hours. Though most libraries would have seen a net gain in hours under the second option, the Highland, Rondo and Sunray branches would each lose two hours per week because they were already slated to be open on Tuesday evenings and Sundays.

- Restoring \$250,000 to the Fire Department's budget for paying overtime. The Fire Department's ranks have been depleted by the call-up of military reservists, and St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler said his budget will need additional money for overtime.

- Retaining a Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) code inspector at a cost of \$81,237. City officials estimate that there are more than 4,500 buildings citywide in need of inspection. Of those, 2,732 are believed to be Class C properties, the ones most in need of repair or rehabilitation.

- Retaining a community prosecutor in the City Attorney's Office at a cost of \$73,287.

- Adding a bicycle/pedestrian coordinator at a cost of \$65,000. That position has been cycled in and out of the city's budget for several years. The coordinator would be assigned to writing grant proposals to help pay for the position. He or she would also work on plans for bicycle and pedestrian improvements across the city. One idea is to add the coordinator's position on a trial basis, at least initially, to see if it can pay for itself.

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HealthEast X-ray technician Pam Knight is shown the ins and outs of a new, filmless X-ray machine by NXG Imaging's Angela Stender in the radiology department of the new HealthEast Grand Avenue Clinic.

1 ◀ HEALTHEAST GRAND

20, ranging from receptionists to nurse-midwives. "We're not adding any clinicians yet, but we will once we begin to expand," Kaiser said.

Dr. Laurie Radovsky, the clinic's medical director, said the new health center is "a beautiful facility that makes it a joy for patients to be here and for us to work here," and a far cry from the cramped quarters of its former clinic.

Grand Avenue Business Association executive director David Regan is upbeat about HealthEast's arrival on the street. "The clinic is going to put more traffic on the avenue and create business for nearby restaurants, coffee shops and retail stores," he said. "It fills a missing part on the avenue."

The new clinic also fills all but 4,000 square feet that remain to be leased in Grand Place. Jim Stolpestad of Exeter Realty, the property manager for the retail building and

"It was a retail space in the past and we wanted that kind of flavor, as well as a higher-end look. We wanted to create an experience with the kind of exceptional quality that would attract people."

its adjacent parking ramp, said he has spoken to a handful of potential tenants for the remaining space, but for now is happy to have the vast majority of the space leased. He sees HealthEast's arrival as an asset to the neighborhood, and called the new clinic "the nicest health facility I've ever seen."

The clinic's interior was designed by HGA, one of the larger architectural firms in Minneapolis, to offer



Dr. Laurie Radovsky, medical director at the HealthEast Grand Avenue Clinic, checks Arlene Holden's blood pressure. Holden was the facility's first patient when it opened on December 7. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

patients a more attractive environment than what is typically found in hospitals and clinics.

"We're trying to create a retail-type experience here," Kaiser said. "It was a retail space in the past and we wanted that kind of flavor, as well as a higher-end look. We wanted to create an experience with the kind of exceptional quality that would attract people."

The clinic includes a conference room and larger than typical examination rooms. Kaiser said the conference room allows doctors to seat a family down for a discussion of medical issues, and the larger exam rooms have privacy curtains to separate translators from patients,

if needed.

The HealthEast Grand Avenue Clinic has on-site nurse-midwives to assist pregnant women. Kaiser said the combination of midwives and the water birthing that HealthEast offers at its St. Joseph's Hospital "make us unique" in the Twin Cities.

According to Kaiser, the clinic will eventually incorporate more alternative methods of delivering health care. That could include collaborating with nearby chiropractors, acupuncturists, yoga centers and even Cooks of Crocus Hill.

"This offers us a unique opportunity to partner with local businesses that our patients could use to learn

more about healthy food choices and the importance of exercise," Kaiser said.

HealthEast's move to Grand Place includes an agreement to use the basement area for storage only. Use of the basement by previous occupants was a sore point for the Summit Hill Association, which successfully blocked an attempt by phresh spa salon to open there in 2007 after eq-life moved out. Board members were concerned that continued use of the basement would increase the demand for parking.

Kaiser said patients will not have to worry about parking since the clinic is validating parking for clients who use the ramp.

Public to weigh in on Central Corridor streetscape assessments

BY JANE MCCLURE

University Avenue property owners will have a chance to comment on proposed assessments for streetscape improvements along the Central Corridor light-rail route at a public hearing on Wednesday, January 6, at St. Paul City Hall. However, at an estimated \$54.39 per linear foot, many property owners are already saying they cannot afford it.

About 40 property owners attended a public meeting and workshop on December 10 with city staff to hear about the assessments. Two business groups—the University Avenue Business Association and the Asian Eco-

nomic Development Association—already have stated that they cannot support the assessments until the loss of on-street parking and other concerns are addressed. About 85 percent of the on-street parking on University Avenue will be lost when the light-rail line is built. The city has only been able to pull together about \$2 million to help address off-street parking needs. Business owners have said that is not nearly enough.

The City Council is looking to spend about \$18.8 million on University Avenue streetscape improvements, including lantern-style street lights, trees, benches, sidewalks, crosswalk pavers and planters. Those items are not included in the \$941 million that

the Metropolitan Council has earmarked to build the 11-mile light-rail line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The streetscape improvements would be paid for by a combination of assessments, tax increment financing, Sales Tax Revitalization funds and money from the city's Capital Improvement Budget. The city also plans to ask the Minnesota Legislature to chip in \$10 million. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners voted to support the request on December 1.

"We believe this is an appropriate request for the state bonding bill," said Nancy Homans, the city's senior policy analyst.

County commissioner Janice Rettman,

whose district includes neighborhoods along University, said businesses are already struggling in a weakened economy. "I just see no way many of them can handle this assessment," she said.

City Council member Lee Helgen, who chairs the council's Ad Hoc Legislative Committee, said he wants to see the assessment burden reduced. However, he admitted that the \$10 million request to the state is a long shot given Minnesota's projected \$1.2 billion budget shortfall for the current two-year budget cycle and the disagreement between Governor Tim Pawlenty and state lawmakers over the state bonding amount for 2010-2011.

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News Briefs

Council grants rezoning for Subway restaurant on Selby

A Subway restaurant will be allowed at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Victoria Street following St. Paul City Council approval on December 9 to rezone the property from community business to traditional neighborhoods. No timeline for the restaurant opening has been announced.

The zoning change was recommended for approval in October by the St. Paul Planning Commission and had the support of the Summit-University Planning Council. The City Council held a public hearing on zoning change in November, but the issue was laid over at the request of council member Melvin Carter III in order to get more information about trash pickup and measures to deter loitering around the property.

The building being considered for the Subway was originally a gas station and later an auto repair shop. It most recently was occupied by a motor vehicle escort service. The building is owned by Abdalla Tobasi, who plans to lease it to Subway franchisees Jeff and Jackie Lunde. The couple also own Subway restaurants at Grand and Fairview avenues and on University Avenue near Vandalia Street.

The restaurant has generated controversy in the Summit-University neighborhood for several months. Some residents argued that the corner needs a more distinctive business and did not want to see Selby Avenue become a fast-food corridor.

Supporters felt the restaurant would provide a needed dining option on Selby and that redevelopment of the corner ought to be encouraged.

St. Paul revises regulations for electronic sign displays

After several weeks of debate, the St. Paul City Council adopted a revised set of regulations on December 9 that will require wording on electronic signs to be at least 15 inches high. Messages and images on the signs also must remain constant for at least 12 seconds before changing.

Other regulations include a 1-mile minimum distance between electronic billboards. Electronic business signs must be at least 75 feet from a residential district measured along the road. Signs within 100 feet of a residential area must not scroll and must be turned off



Goldy Gopher led a conga line of skaters during the official opening of the Palace Recreation Center's new refrigerated outdoor rink on November 30. Cutting the ribbon at right with Mayor Chris Coleman are City Council member Dave Thune, Goldy, Mike Hahm from Parks and Recreation, and members of the U.S. National Women's Hockey Team.

PHOTO BY CHAS JENSEN



between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Business signs must have no more than 200 square feet of electronic display area and may occupy no more than 20 percent of the total signage on the property. Other changes address sign malfunctions and brightness and color of signs.

The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended approval of the new regulations in August and the City Council held two subsequent public hearings on the issue. Electronic signs that provide only time and temperature are excluded from the new regulations, which will take effect in January.

The discussion of electronic signs prompt-

ed the City Council on December 2 to ask the Planning Commission to study signs that are displayed inside store windows, the illumination levels of signs and how gross surface display areas of signs are measured.

Site plan extended for Midway area home improvement store

The site plan for the construction of a long-delayed home improvement store on the northwest corner of at Pascal Street and St. Anthony Avenue was extended by the St. Paul City Council on December 9. In ex-

change, the council is asking property owners Rein Midway Limited Partnership and RK Midway LLC for two access easements across their property to the vacant land to the west. Council member Melvin Carter III is hoping the easements will aid in opening up the former Snelling Bus Garage property on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues for development.

"There has been strong interest in seeing something happen with the old bus barn site," Carter said, "but without access easements from the east, it's essentially landlocked."

State transportation officials have balked at the notion of providing more access to and from Snelling due to the heavy traffic volume on that street. St. Anthony is a one-way, west-bound street, which also presents access challenges to the former bus barn site.

About 30 acres of vacant land are located south of Midway Center between Pascal and Snelling. The easternmost portion of the property is owned by Rein Midway and RK Midway. They presented plans for a home improvement store on that site five years ago, but it never came to fruition. The most recent site plan extension expired on June 29.

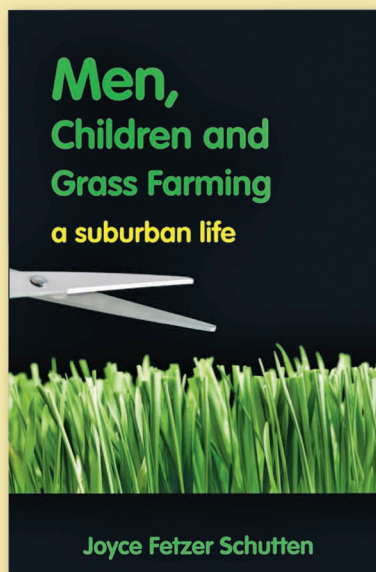
The western part of the property is owned by Metro Transit, which operated the Snelling Bus Garage there for many years. Various developments have been discussed for that site, including a transit hub, retail stores, a National Guard armory and offices. However, Metro Transit officials do not want to sell the property until a new St. Paul site for a bus garage can be found.

Part of the early negotiations to develop the home improvement store was the city's agreement to forgive about \$670,000 in environmental remediation loans for the site. The property underwent extensive cleanup in the 1990s. "We agreed to that in exchange for \$4 million in development, which hasn't happened yet," Carter said.

Instead, RK Midway and Rein Midway have sought a series of extensions of the site plan. The extensions were approved despite protests from the Union Park District Council and University United, which want to see transit-oriented development on the entire 30 acres. Both organizations passed resolutions last spring calling for any development to be consistent with recent land-use planning tied to the Central Corridor light-rail line and its Snelling Avenue transit station.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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FHSM-Highland Clinic Welcomes Sarah C. Bull, PA-C

Family Health services of Minnesota – Highland Family Physicians is pleased to introduce Sarah C. Bull, PA-C, our new Physician Assistant.

A graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College with a bachelor's degree in biology, and of Central Michigan University with a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies. Sarah is a Certified Physician Assistant and a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, as well as the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants.

Sarah's clinical interests are in adolescent/adult medicine, women's health and preventive care. She also enjoys the full scope of Family Practice.

Physician Assistants are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. They are qualified to perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions.

The main difference between a PA-C and MD is that a physician has complete responsibility for the care of the patient, whereas a PA shares that responsibility with the supervising physician.

Highland Family Physicians is excited to have the privilege of Sarah joining our team.



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Viewpoint

Costs vs. benefits of light rail

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

From the outset—that would be about 25 years ago—I’ve been among the diehard agnostics on the costs versus benefits of the proposed \$941 million Central Corridor light-rail line. And in the end, what benefits would accrue to those who live near, work near and travel along the designated University Avenue route are still offset in my mind by the costs that the light-rail line would exact on local residents and businesses.

The benefits that your tax dollars and mine would buy with the light-rail line on University are supposedly these:

- Fewer cars and more transit riders.
 - A more attractive streetscape.
 - A safer, more pedestrian-oriented avenue.
 - More multi-family housing on and near University.
 - More revenue to the city due to increased property values.
- On the other side of the ledger are the costs:
- The loss of 85 percent of University’s on-street parking and the effect that would have on the many commercial properties with no off-street parking to offset it.
 - The four-year construction timeline and the effect that extended disruption will have on local businesses.
 - The impeded pedestrian and vehicular access to local businesses once the tracks are laid.
 - Degraded bus service on the Twin Cities’ most highly used bus line by those who are most transit-dependent.
 - The specter that increased property values and resulting property tax increases will price businesses and residents out of the neighborhood.

The one thing I always viewed as an unequivocal benefit from the light-rail line was the sorely needed improvements to the gritty University streetscape. That’s something local residents and businesses have been advocating for decades, only to be told to wait—that the federal government and Metropolitan Council would pick up the tab for those improvements with the light-rail line’s construction.

As it turns out, the cost of the streetscape improvements will now be picked up largely by the city of St. Paul (read, local taxpayers), plucked from a variety of municipal pockets, and by the “benefiting” abutting property owners in the form of \$2.9 million in special assessments. There is no money in the \$941 million light-rail budget for such niceties.

The St. Paul City Council is now contemplating spending \$18.8 million on University streetscape improvements—down from an initial \$22.1 million—including the cost for installing new sidewalks, decorative street lights, trees, benches, crosswalk pavers and planters. The streetscape improvements would be paid for by a combination of assessments, tax increment financing, city sales tax funds and the city’s Capital Improvement Budget. The city also plans to go hat in hand to the Minnesota Legislature during the upcoming session to seek \$10 million from a state that is running a \$1.2 billion deficit for the current biennium.

Opposition to the assessments against University commercial property owners surfaced last week when it was announced that the cost to them would be \$54.39 per front foot, payable over 20 years, to raise 15 percent of the total \$18.8 million. Those businesses that lease their properties would of course see the assessments passed through to them.

Though in these economic times no added cost of doing business is welcome, a little perspective is in order here. Twenty-five years ago the Highland Village business district went through a major makeover to its public right-of-way, much like what is contemplated for University. The commercial property owners on Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue agreed to pick up 75 percent of the cost over and above what the Minnesota Department of Transportation was planning to spend at the time to reconstruct Ford Parkway, a state highway. That translated to \$175 per front foot in special assessments, which is \$350 per front foot today as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

University businesses, in other words, are getting a steal.

Of course, Highland Village property owners and businesses actually *asked* the city to impose those special assessments at the time, rather than have them imposed by governmental fiat. There’s a lesson in that for all concerned.



Inbox

Growing support for market

The Highland Business Association wishes to thank the *Villager* for featuring our upcoming farmers’ market in a story in its December 2 issue. We’ve gotten some very positive feedback from local business owners and residents and have even received donations from the community. We appreciate the support of both our neighborhood and our local newspaper.

*Shelly Harris, Executive Director
Highland Business Association*

A Christmas wish

With the holiday season, I find myself dreaming of an impossible Christmas present: a world without our invasion of Iraq. I envision life for thousands of dead Americans and Iraqis, for thousands of families no longer caring for an injured loved one and for millions of displaced Iraqis now back in their homes.

Awake, I tally the support for education, health care and our decaying infrastructure that the wasted trillion dollars could supply, or the possibility that an earlier focus on Afghanistan would have eased that crisis. Imagine having the world’s support instead of its disdain, and our country ruled with reason, able to invest in the long-term care of our environment and infrastructure.

Let’s hope that our current leaders will heed President Truman’s words to the closing session of the United Nations’ founding convention in 1945. Truman said, “We all have to recognize, no matter how great our strength, that we must deny ourselves the license to always do as we please.”

*Rolf E. Westgard
Macalester-Groveland*

A useless ban on texting

A law took effect in Minnesota on August 1, 2008, that deemed texting while driving a primary offense. Everyone knows that using a cell phone while driving is going to lead to no good. It’s just common sense. But as you can hear from countless reports, actually enforcing this law is almost too difficult to be of any use. Most texting is done out of view, and even if you were pulled over for suspicion, who’s to say you weren’t just checking the time or looking at your GPS map?

What people don’t want to realize is that the only effective way to stop cell phone distractions while driving is to ban the use of the things all together. It’s all or nothing. If we really want to try to lessen the number of cell phone-related accidents, we need a clear and easily enforceable law like a ban on using cell phones while driving.

Sorry, Minnesota, but just touching on the tip of the iceberg won’t get us anywhere.

*Leo Wexler-Mann
Macalester-Groveland*

Favored by voters who count

Bill Hosko would have us believe that St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman’s re-election was not impressive because “82 percent of eligible voters did not elect him into office” (*Villager* Inbox, December 2). This would mean something if all of those voters had actually gone to the polls, but only 34,042 (21.6 percent of registered voters) voted that day. Of that number, Mayor Coleman received 23,380 votes or 68.8 percent.

Hosko might compare those numbers to the votes received by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2006. Of Minnesota’s 3,118,398 eligible voters on election day, 2,202,577 actually voted (70 percent). Pawlenty received 1,028,568 votes or 46.69 percent of the votes cast, while Mike Hatch received 1,007,460 or 45.73 percent. Mayor Coleman therefore received a full 22 percent more of the votes cast than did Pawlenty.

The important factor in an election is turnout, not what those who don’t bother to vote think.

*Bernice Vetsch
Macalester-Groveland*

A selfish and greedy act

On Saturday, December 12, the kids and I walked to Merriam Park for our first sledding day of the year. As we inched our way up the side of the hill, we were shocked to see that someone had cut down two of the beautiful evergreens. The first was a very large one that must have been too heavy to carry because it was left sitting at the top of the hill to rot. The second was a smaller one that was cut down and dragged out of the park. You could see the path in the snow where the thieves took the tree out of the park.

Vandal casts a shadow over family's holiday

BY CRISTY GAFFNEY KRUSE

On Thanksgiving Day, after the dishes were washed and put away, my husband took our two children outside to decorate the house for the holidays. The kids were especially excited about the 16, 3-foot-tall lighted candy canes we bought last year to line our walkway. The house looked so nice. The kids loved seeing our house as a little wonderland.

It lasted eight days.

On the morning of Saturday, December 5, we discovered that someone had ripped out and destroyed the candy cane lights. They didn't just pull them out of the ground, but ripped the wires out and smashed the candy canes all over our walkway. Even the police were stunned.

I cannot even begin to understand why anybody would destroy someone's holiday decorations. Unfortunately, this type of misbehavior is not unknown in our otherwise quiet neighborhood. Though I cannot say for sure who committed this pathetic crime, I am willing to wager that it had something to do with the parade of drunken college students who think that our neighborhood is nothing more than a passageway between their dorms or apartments and the bars.

The University of St. Thomas has attempted to address the problem, but has clearly failed, and we and our neighbors are tired of it.

I was a college student once, not that terribly long ago. Yes, I drank, and yes, I occasionally acted irresponsibly. That is part of growing up. But I never vandalized someone's home.

I have now turned off all of the holiday lights on our house. As

of last week, I had not yet even bothered to clean up the shattered remains of the candy cane lights. Our house is dark, but for a sign, lit by a spotlight, questioning why somebody would do such a thing.

I should not have to explain to my young children why people do horrible things and why there will likely be no consequences. I do believe in some form of karma, though. So vandals, if you are reading this, I am confident that one day you will get what you deserve. When that day comes, and your head is in your hands and you are wondering, "Why me?," think of my two disappointed children, confused and upset as to why someone would damage their home. Think of what you gained by trespassing in my yard and smashing our decorations. And ask yourself if it was worth it.

I would like to think that you feel a tremendous amount of guilt, but I know better. I doubt you remember anything, since I have to assume that a person would have to be heavily intoxicated to do such a thing. In that case, I hope you seek out the help you need for your drinking problem and for the anger issues you clearly have.

The police have assured us that patrols will be increased in our Merriam Park neighborhood, but our remaining holiday decorations will remain dark, at least until December 18 when St. Thomas wraps up the semester and sends its students home to their own neighborhoods, where I would hope they make a miraculous transformation and act like civilized adults under the closer watch of their parents.

Although I do believe the community, the police, the district councils and mostly the University of St. Thomas have a role in working together on this issue, I am frustrated that we are forced to baby-sit people who should know better. It is the students themselves who must start acting less like delinquents and more like adults.

8◀ INBOX

Who would be so selfish and greedy as to remove two trees from our beloved Merriam Park? Who would put a few weeks of pleasure for their household over the years of pleasure those trees would have provided to the many families who make this neighborhood their permanent home?

If you know who cut down those trees and vandalized our neighborhood park, I urge you to call the police.

*Beth Rozga
Merriam Park*

Obama's vulnerability

Borrowing from the words of other wartime presidents during his Afghanistan speech, President Obama easily wrested the title of the Great Communicator from Ronald Reagan. Starting first and using often the words of George W. Bush, Obama offered, "We did not ask for this war." Then, also from Bush, he added that he has seen the ravages of war. Yet like most recent presidents, he has only seen those ravages far from harm's way, a distinction likely not wasted on those assembled cadets soon to be deployed.

Though I agree with Obama that Afghanistan is no Vietnam, he nevertheless echoed Lyndon B. Johnson's expressions that "this will not be easy" and "we have no interest in occupying their country."

Lastly, Obama represented that the Afghanistan election

was "marred with fraud." Yet, referencing the election without acknowledging the skepticism of the many senators who do not trust Afghan President Hamid Karzai to take charge of his country's security, seemed simply to be a leftover from the president's "hope and change" beginnings and thus diminished the legitimacy of his presentation.

What surprised me most in this speech was the near constant use of phrases like "America's place in the world" or our "moral compass," a form of evangelizing I don't remember hearing from Democrats. Maybe it was expected that the "Yes, we can!" deification would come to an end. Yet, it hardly seemed possible that Obama would look so vulnerable so soon.

*Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland*

Poking fun at pro football

The Vikings, should they move to Los Angeles, would represent a recurring theme in the National Football League. The Cardinals are a good example. They moved from St. Louis to Arizona with the bird flying with them. Wouldn't it have been better for the team to have a name befitting the franchise, such as the Arizona Cacti. Then owner Bill Bidwell could call himself the Big Prick.

*Steven Hubbell
Downtown St. Paul*

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Change in home values spares some from tax increase

Despite overall increase in levy, some homeowners will see their tax bill shrink

By JANE MCCLURE

Changes in the property taxes levied on individual homes in Ramsey County "will vary significantly this year," according to Chris Samuel of the Ramsey County Department of Property Records and Revenue. A soft real estate market and falling home values in some neighborhoods have led to shifts in how the overall tax burden will be borne next year by commercial and residential property owners across the county.

All three major taxing jurisdictions in St. Paul are poised to increase their levies in

2010—the city by 6.1 percent, the county by 2.7 percent and the St. Paul Public Schools by 3.05 percent.

Owners whose properties increased in value over the past year, stayed the same or even slightly decreased in value will see higher property taxes next year relative to the taxes levied on the owners of properties that saw greater decreases in value.

Based on the notices of estimated taxes mailed out by the county in November, 44.8 percent of Ramsey County homeowners will see their property tax bill decrease next year, 46.4 percent will see moderate increases, and 8.8 percent will see increases of greater than 10 percent. The owners of most commercial, industrial and multi-family residential properties will also see moderate tax increases in 2010, Samuel said.

The assessed value of more than 81 percent

of the residential properties in Ramsey County decreased over the past year. Meanwhile, the estimated market value of 64 percent of the county's commercial and industrial properties and 45 percent of its apartment buildings stayed the same.

The market value of the median-priced single-family home in St. Paul decreased about 8.2 percent over the past year—from \$183,200 to \$168,000. The property taxes on that same home are expected to decrease in 2010—from \$2,034 to \$2,025.

Samuel identified the various factors that contributed to that \$9.00 decrease. The first is gains in homestead credit resulting from the decreased market value of homes. That, together with gains in fiscal disparities and other tax shifts, will lead to a decrease of \$117 in that median-valued home's property taxes in 2010. However, that is before the increases

in the city, county, school district and other special taxing districts are factored into the equation.

The 2.7 percent increase in the county levy will raise that median-priced home's tax bill by \$24. The 6.1 percent increase in the city's levy will raise that home's tax bill by \$43. A 4.4 percent increase in the St. Paul school district's levy would have raised that home's 2010 tax bill by \$27; however, the School Board was expected to approve a lower 3.05 percent increase in the school district levy on December 15, after this issue of the *Villager* went to press. That reduction would provide for about a \$20, rather than a \$27 increase, in that median-valued home's property tax bill.

Other special taxing districts, such as the local watershed district, will account for a \$14 increase in the median-priced home's property tax bill.

Pain of tax levy increase is felt most keenly by businesses

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul property owners will see the smallest percentage increases in the local property tax levy in several years in 2010. However, if comments made at Truth-in-Taxation hearings over the past three weeks are any indication, the increases will be painful.

Instead of holding a single joint Truth-in-Taxation hearing as in years past, the city, county and school district held multiple hearings in October, November and December. Most were sparsely attended. About 100 people attended Ramsey County's 2010 budget hearing on November 30, about two dozen attended St. Paul's 2010 budget hearing on December 2, and close to 20 turned out for the St. Paul Public Schools' budget hearing on December 1.

Some speakers were unhappy about having to attend three separate hearings. "You're wasting our time and you're wasting our money," said Bruce Gaarder of Highland Park, who also complained about having to pay to park downtown to attend the City Council's hearing.

The tax hearings were the last chance for property owners to sound off on the way local officials are setting their budgets for 2010. The

St. Paul City Council, Ramsey County Board and St. Paul School Board were scheduled to adopt their tax levies for the coming year on December 15 or 16.

The city's proposed budget for 2010 is \$538 million, a decrease of 0.5 percent from 2009. The city levied \$89.2 million in 2009 to support general government, library and Port Authority operations. The proposed levy for 2010 is \$94.6 million, a 6.1 percent increase.

Ramsey County prepares its budget every two years. Its proposed budget for 2010 is \$569.4 million, an increase of \$4.6 million or 0.8 percent over 2009. Its proposed budget for 2011 is \$582.6 million, an increase of \$13.2 million or 2.3 percent over 2010. The county's proposed tax levy in 2010 is \$259.9 million, a 2.7 percent increase over 2009. The proposed tax levy increase for 2011 is also 2.7 percent. The county levy for regional rail operations is expected to stay the same in 2010 and 2011 as it was in 2009—\$19.9 million.

Although several people asked the Ramsey County Board to restore previous cuts to human services and other programs, most of the comments at both city and county budget hearings were about unnecessary spending and high taxes and fees. Speakers scolded elected officials for various projects, includ-

ing the county's proposed \$12 million makeover of Keller Golf Course and the additional \$200,000 the city spent this year repaving a two-block section of Goodrich Avenue with bricks.

Many speakers pleaded for tax relief, citing a tough economy, job losses and pay cuts. "Please slow down the increases. We can't keep up," said Andre Gambino, the owner of a hair salon and second-story apartments at 1472 Grand Ave. Gambino said his property taxes have increased dramatically in recent years, to about \$1,200 per month.

Other commercial property owners on Grand Avenue are also having a hard time paying for the steep increases, according to Gambino. When it comes to property taxes, "it's not just about residents," he said. "We (business people) count, too. We have no way to recoup our losses." In the current economy, Gambino said, he cannot raise the rent on his tenants or the cost of his services at the salon.

Theodore Kvasnik, another local commercial property owner, described the property tax increases as "crushing. People who rent from us can't take any more increases," he said.

Local officials should not be spending money on any extras in 2010, Kvasnik said, such as

off-leash dog parks or the planned Pedro Park in downtown St. Paul. The conversion of the former Pedro Luggage site from retail to park space takes a large downtown parcel off the tax rolls, Kvasnik noted.

Jeff Otto, who has owned a North End pallet recycling business for more than 30 years, said his business is struggling to survive and higher taxes and city fees are not helping. "At a certain point, people are going to say 'uncle' and they're done," he said.

Homeowners are also feeling pinched. "I don't know what you expect us to do," Lorraine Sullivan of Hamline-Midway asked local officials. Eighty-four years old and still working, Sullivan said she is worried that she will not be able to afford to keep her home.

In addition to the increased property tax levy, St. Paul property owners are seeing a 6.9 increase in right-of-way maintenance fees. Those fees cover everything from snow plowing to tree trimming.

"A fee is a tax," said Jacqueline Heintz of the North End neighborhood. "That's how the city has been hiding tax increases for several years. If I truly believed you were spending my tax money wisely, I would say, 'Go ahead.' But you're not showing me how you're spending this money."

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With deficit looming, School Board increases its 2010 levy by 3 percent

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The St. Paul School Board was able to skate through its annual Truth-in-Taxation hearing on December 1 without having to face the taxpayer acrimony of years past. One reason may have been the relatively modest 3.05 percent increase in the school district's property tax levy for 2010. The School Board was expected to approve a \$110.24 million property tax levy for next year on December 15, after this issue of the *Villager* went to press. That is up from \$106.98 million in 2009.

Last September, the School Board had set a maximum tax levy increase for 2010 at 4.4 percent, but ultimately chose the smaller increase. "The board is mindful of the tough economic times," said School Board chairwoman Kazoua Kong-Thao, "and we wanted to keep the levy reasonable."

Another reason for the relative calm at the Truth-in-Taxation hearing may have been the state law change that allowed the St. Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County and the city of St. Paul to hold separate Truth in Taxation hearings this fall rather than the single joint hearing that in years past has drawn scores of irate property taxpayers.

Fewer than 20 people showed up at the School Board's tax hearing, which lasted all of 30 minutes. Two members of the audience spoke, one who praised the board for hiring Valeria Silva as the new superintendent of schools and another who asked the board to keep a close eye on their debt service limits.

The school district's \$110.24 million property tax levy for 2010 includes the annual \$29.4 million excess levy approved by voters in 2006. The excess levy, which is determined by enrollment and is adjusted annually for inflation, is set to expire in 2012.

The St. Paul Public Schools has a total K-12 enrollment of 38,082 this year, or about 454 more students than were projected last June. The school district's total budget for the current school year is \$641.7 million.

Enrollment in the 2010-11 school year is expected to drop by about 516 students. That, on top of employee salary and benefit in-

Last September, the School Board set a maximum tax levy increase for 2010 at 4.4 percent, but ultimately chose the smaller 3.05 percent increase. "The board is mindful of the tough economic times," said School Board chairwoman Kazoua Kong-Thao, "and we wanted to keep the levy reasonable."

creases and a projected 5 percent increase in transportation costs, is largely the reason for a projected \$23 million to \$28 million deficit for 2010-11, according to St. Paul Public Schools finance chief Michael Baumann.

"We don't anticipate any help from the Minnesota Legislature this session," Baumann said. "We just hope they don't cut any more funding."

As a cost-saving measure, the School Board has already decided to close two elementary schools in June: Longfellow Humanities Magnet School in Merriam Park and Roosevelt West Side School of Excellence. The board has said it will close a third elementary school, but that decision is not expected until spring.

The School Board is also contemplating large-scale changes to its transportation program, possibly dividing the school district into two or three regions and offering free transportation only to those students who attend a school within their region and live more than a mile away from that school. Under that plan, popular magnet programs that are now offered citywide would be replicated in each region, and transportation would still be available citywide for a half dozen other magnet programs that would not be replicated.

Conlon doesn't stick in Tar Heel state

Former School Board member is back in Minnesota running for state auditor

Tom Conlon, a 17-year member of the St. Paul School Board who resigned six months ago to take over the operation of a bed-and-breakfast inn in North Carolina, is back in Minnesota and campaigning for the Republican Party's nomination for state auditor in 2010.

Conlon, who has continued to operate his photography business in St. Paul and to teach on-line courses in management for Metropolitan State University, said he decided to move back after finding it too difficult to maintain those commitments while running the North Carolina B&B.

Conlon, 49, resides in St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. Following his graduation from Highland Park High School and four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, he earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science and a master's degree in public administration at the University of North Carolina and a Ph.D in work and human resource education at the University of Minnesota.



Tom Conlon

Incumbent state auditor Rebecca Otto, a DFLer, is expected to seek re-election. Other Republican candidates who are campaigning for state auditor include Jeff Wiita, a certified public accountant who has worked in the state auditor's office for 26 years, and Randy Gilbert, a professional auditor and the mayor of Long Lake, Minnesota.

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Financing falling into place for Carondelet Village senior housing

By JANE MCCLURE

The Carondelet Village senior housing and health care complex in Highland Park, which has been on the drawing board since 2005, took a big step toward its anticipated groundbreaking in March with the St. Paul City Council's approval this month of the issuance and sale of \$30 million in conduit revenue bonds.

A project of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the \$62.4 million Carondelet Village will be constructed on a 5.6-acre site at the southwest corner of Fairview and Randolph avenues. Although the 259 units of senior housing have yet to be marketed to the public, 175 of them have been preleased. The developers are expecting 84 percent of the units to be occupied in its first year.

Just over 100 of the occupants are expected to be elderly members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, some of whom are now living in nearby Bethany Convent.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have been working with Presbyterian Homes and Services on plans for Carondelet Village. Of its 259 units, 149 will be independent living, 46 will be assisted living and 19 will offer memory care. A 45-bed nursing home and a host of senior health and recreational programs are also planned for the facility.

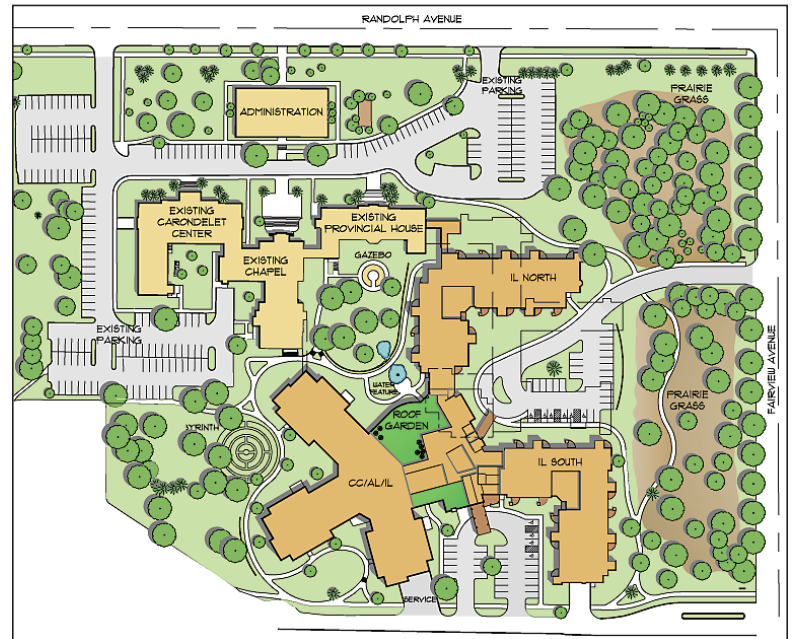
The Sisters of St. Joseph are actually requesting \$50 million in conduit revenue bonds. However, the most that can be issued in any one year by the City Council, acting as the board of the St. Paul Housing and Revenue Authority (HRA), is \$30 million. A decision on the remaining \$20 million could come back to the HRA in January or February.

Conduit revenue bonds do not constitute indebtedness, liability or a pledge on the faith or taxing power of the HRA or the city. The bonds will be the responsibility of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Another option for the city in helping to finance the project is tax-



An artist's rendering of the entrance to the new Carondelet Village (above) and its situation (right) southwest of the corner of Randolph and Fairview avenues.



increment financing. The HRA will most likely be asked to review that option early next year. Though the site of Carondelet Village is currently tax-exempt, the new development will be taxable except for the nursing home portion.

The site was recently rezoned for medium-density multifamily residential use, and a conditional use permit has been granted for the nursing home and assisted-living portions of the facility. Once Carondelet Village opens, Bethany Convent will be razed.

Religious Notes

"Christmas Presence," a musical program about shopping, feasting and finding Jesus, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 18, at the Virginia Street Church, Selby Avenue and Virginia Street. Jeanne Rogers will perform. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for the church.

Superconscious Meditation I will be taught from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at the Institute of the Himalayan Tradition, 1317 Summit Ave. Cost of the workshop is \$35-\$40. Call 651-645-1291.

The Festival of Carols will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The annual festival will be led by the Cathedral and the St. Cecilia choirs, and will be repeated at 10:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Call 651-228-1766.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St., will present a service of nine lessons and carols at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20. The St. John's choir will sing anthems for the season, and the congregation will be invited to join in popular Christmas carols. The handbell choir will also perform. A reception will follow. Call 651-228-1172, ext. 38.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave., will hold a service of lessons and carols for Advent at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20. Walk a candle-lit path into the church for a program of music and readings foretelling the birth of Christ. A traditional English Christmas feast of pork, minted peas and holiday desserts will follow. Admission is free, though donations will be taken. Visit www.saintmary-sepiscopal.org or call 651-646-6175.

A Blue Christmas Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. The candlelight service will include songs and a comforting message for those feeling lonely or in need of some quiet celebration this holiday season. Call 651-224-5809.

A Winter Solstice service will be celebrated at 7:15 p.m. Sunday, December 20, at Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave. The service will be led by Abby Struck, one of the fellowship's founding members. A potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 651-699-2920 or visit www.grovelanduu.org.

A Celtic Christmas Eve candlelight service will be celebrated at 6:51 p.m. Thursday, December 24, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. The service will be led by Dick

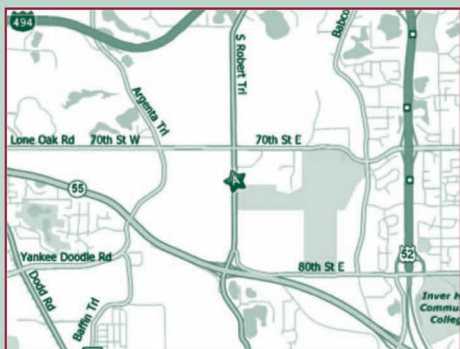
Hensold on Northumbrian smallpipes and the Pilgrim Celtic music ensemble, and will be followed by Nisse's Feast (hors d'oeuvres for all). Call 651-699-6886.

The Temple of Aaron Synagogue will co-sponsor a free Yiddish Farbrengen gathering at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 28, at the Shalom Home East campus, 740 Kay Ave. Call Betty Agranoff at 651-698-8275.

Twin Cities StoryFest will be held from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, January 17, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St., Minneapolis. A storytelling workshop will be followed with music by the Show'd Up Band from the University of St. Thomas. The last hour will feature homegrown tales by members of Cygnus Storytelling. Admission is free. Call Mike Mann at 612-724-7074.

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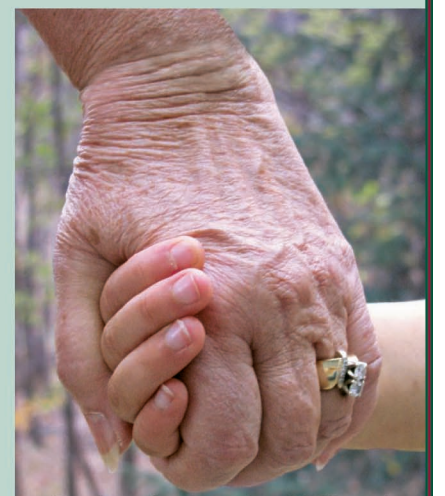
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City buys Midway Chev lot in hopes of selling it for affordable housing

Council is banking on the value of parcel to rise with the coming of light-rail line

By JANE McCLURE

The site of the former Midway Chevrolet used car lot and repair shop at 1433 University Ave. has been bought by the city of St. Paul. The purchase is part of a new city initiative to acquire property along the route of the planned Central Corridor light-rail line before property values rise too far and then sell it for new affordable housing, according to St. Paul Planning and Economic Development director Cecile Bedor.

The City Council developed the so-called LAAND Program a year ago and, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, unanimously approved the purchase of the Midway Chev property on December 9.

The city is using \$580,000 in loans to buy the four lots on University. The city has not selected a developer for the site, but the plan is that whoever is selected will repay the LAAND loan and agree to make at least 30 percent of the new housing units affordable to people earning no more than 60 percent of the Twin Cities median household income.

"We think it's a nice opportunity to create affordable housing in an area where it's needed," said City Council member Russ Stark, whose Ward 4 includes the site on the northeast corner of University and Albert Street.

Building housing on the 19,168-square-foot site will require changing its zoning from general business to residential. The commercial building on the site was recently torn down.

Construction of the Central Corridor light-rail line is scheduled to start in 2010 and be complete by 2014. One concern often raised about the proposed line is that it will raise property values, property taxes and rents, forcing out many of the low-income people who currently live along the route.

The city had set aside \$2 million to buy and retain land along University for affordable housing. Half of the money is from the non-profit Family Housing Fund and the rest is from the Metropolitan Council. In September, the city used about \$1.4 million from the fund to buy the former Saxon Ford site further east on University. Thus, the purchase of the Midway Chev site has exhausted the \$2 mil-

lion, and more will be needed if the LAAND program is to continue.

In fact, an additional \$57,350 is needed to cover the holding costs for the property. That money will come from Invest St. Paul, a city program that was established to revitalize neighborhoods that have been struggling in the wake of the housing crisis. The University Avenue site is not in the area served by Invest St. Paul, so the money from that program will need to be repaid.

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No one appeared at the HRA meeting to oppose the Midway Chev purchase, unlike the purchase of the former Saxon Ford property. A neighboring business owner, residential neighbors and the Thomas-Dale Community Council all criticized city officials for not informing them of the Saxon Ford purchase. They only learned about it by reading the HRA agenda.

Some Frogtown residents contend that their neighborhood already has enough affordable housing. However, since September Frogtown residents have been working with Episcopal Homes on plans for building new senior housing on the site.

Stark said he notified the Hamline-Midway Coalition of the pending purchase of 1433 University. However, he added, the city likes to keep purchase negotiations confidential so that the value of the property does not inflate. There already has been some land speculation along University in anticipation of the Central Corridor's construction.

LAAND loans can only be used for property acquisition, so any other costs such as demolition have to be covered in other ways. One risk for the city is that LAAND loans have to be repaid within five years.

Volunteers

Highland Park Junior High School, 975 S. Snelling Ave., is seeking volunteers for its Bridges to Success Mentoring and Tutoring Program. The program matches adults with students who need extra support in school, both academically and socially. Volunteers work with their student during the school day for no more than an hour every two weeks. Contact Megan Sprangers at 651-293-8950, ext. 223, or megan.sprangers@spps.org.

The Greater Twin Cities United Way is providing \$300,000 in seed money and conducting a holiday campaign to raise donations to help provide shelter, food and safety to those in need. People may visit www.WarmSafeFed.org through December 31 to learn more and to make a donation.

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County is encouraging the public to consider a gift of a Tribute Tree this holiday season. The person to be honored will receive a hand-stamped holiday card announcing the gift and later a map showing the location of the tree after it is planted next spring. Trees may be planted in Ramsey County parks or

in a variety of city parks, including ones in St. Paul and Mendota Heights. The cost is \$75 per tree or \$200 for three trees. Call 651-698-4543 or visit friendsoftheparks.org.

The Metropolitan Council is now taking applications to fill seven positions on the Transportation Advisory Board, a 33-member body composed of elected officials, representatives of government agencies involved in transportation issues, citizen members, and members who represent transportation modes. Completed applications are due by December 31. Visit www.metrocouncil.org/news/2009/news_666.htm.

Volunteers are needed to tutor elementary students in reading and math in the St. Paul Public Schools. Under the guidance of a classroom teacher, volunteers assist students individually or in small groups. Volunteers age 55 and older are eligible to receive free supplemental insurance, mileage reimbursement and other benefits through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Contact Connie at 612-617-7807 or cerickson@voamn.org.



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District Council News

Highland Park

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Home invasion robbery—Shortly after 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, St. Paul police officers were called to a home on the 1100 block of St. Paul Avenue where they met a relative who was checking on the welfare of the 81-year-old female resident. The relative had noticed a window broken near the front door of the home. Officers entered and found the woman bound by her hands and legs, but uninjured. The woman had been tied up by a man who had broken into the home earlier that morning. He had rummaged through the home for about an hour and had left with a small amount of cash and jewelry, including the watch and rings the woman was wearing. Before leaving, he reportedly called 911 and gave the operator the wrong address for the robbery. The suspect was described as a dark-skinned black male in his 30s, of average height and chubby build. He was wearing a white stocking cap with lettering, white mittens and a black jacket. Anyone with information regarding the suspect is asked to call 651-291-1111.

Crime prevention tips—Senior citizens are encouraged to heed these tips to protect themselves from crime when they are at home: Use a peephole to see who is at the door before opening it; ask for proper ID from strangers; if a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call yourself; keep your doors and windows locked; don't leave notes on the door when going out, leave lights on at night; keep the curtains closed at night; and notify neighbors and police when going on a trip.

Farmers' market fundraiser—A holiday party will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, at Tiffany's Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy., to raise money to bring a farmers' market to Highland Village next spring. Tickets are \$15 and are good for appetizers and all the wine and beer you care to drink. For reservations, contact the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042 or sharris@highlandba.com.

Red Cross blood drive—A blood drive will be held by the American Red Cross from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 6, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For appointments, call Denise at 651-291-4639.

Home improvement fair—Sponsor and exhibitor applications are now being accepted for the 18th annual Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park Home Improvement Fair on April 10 at Cretin-Derham Hall. Visit www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org/home-improvement-fair

Snow emergency updates—St. Paul residents may sign up to receive snow emergency alerts via e-mail by visiting stpaul.gov/snowalert.

Mark your calendar—Farmers' market fundraiser, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, Tiffany's Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy.; HDC board meeting, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 7, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

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Quarterly neighborhood rep meetings—Have any great ideas or burning questions that could be answered at an upcoming neighbor rep meeting? Contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org to share your ideas.

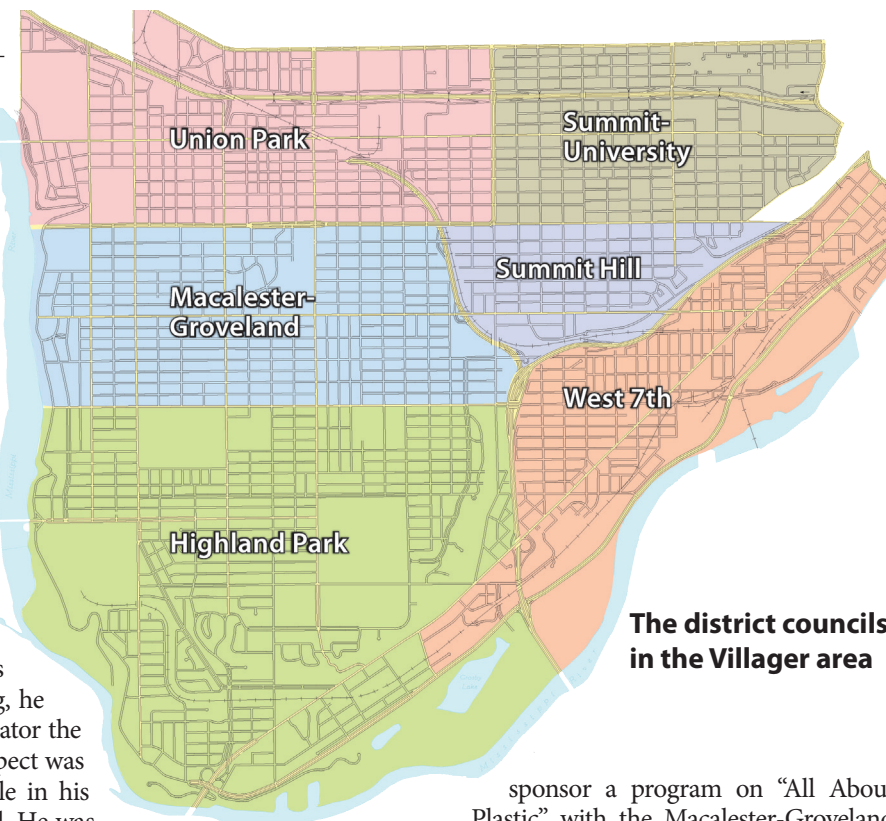
KidsPark enrollment—KidsPark, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's drop-in child-care program, is now accepting enrollment at its new Desnoyer Park location. KidsPark gives children a place to play in a supervised environment while their parents take a class, shop or exercise. To learn more about the program, visit www.kidsparkedropin.org.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA annual fund drive—The annual Summit Hill Association fundraising campaign is well under way. Tax-deductible contributions to the SHA will be invested directly in the neighborhood.

Environment Committee—The SHA's Environment Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 11, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The committee will discuss ways to become "greener" during the winter months. The committee will co-



The district councils in the Villager area

sponsor a program on "All About Plastic" with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday,

January 26, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs Street. Participants will learn about recycling plastic and making greener choices from experts at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the University of Minnesota and Eureka Recycling.

Join the SHA Facebook page—The SHA has joined the world of social networking with its newly launched Facebook group. The page will provide an ongoing discussion about the neighborhood, along with videos, photos and news to supplement the association's newsletter and website. Sign up at www.facebook.com and search for the Summit Hill Association.

Pedestrian safety ideas sought—The SHA's Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee met in early December to gather ideas on ways to increase pedestrian safety within the Summit Hill neighborhood. Those who were unable to attend and have some ideas, concerns or want to help work on pedestrian-safety projects, please call the SHA office or e-mail summithill@visi.com.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Board members—The Union Park District Council is seeking neighborhood representatives to serve on its volunteer board of directors. Openings are available in grids 13, 15 and 16, as well as for an at-large business representative and an at-large nonprofit representative. A grid map may be found on the district council's website. For more information, call the UPDC office or e-mail board president Glen McCluskey at glen@unionparkdc.org.

Alley snowplow coordinators—The UPDC is looking for ways to make the job easier for alley snowplow coordinators. Those who are currently undertaking that task are being asked to participate in a short survey by visiting the district council's website or e-mailing board member Tim Thoreen at tim@unionparkdc.org with their name and contact information, the blocks they represent, their current alley plower, a brief description of their experience and suggestions for making the job easier. The UPDC hopes to use the information to create a resource for new alley snowplow coordinators and a database on snowplowers who serve the neighborhood.

Pride in Neighborhood Housing—The UPDC and the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation are partnering to offer a Pride in Neighborhood Housing no-interest, forgivable home improvement loan program. Eligible properties must be located in Union Park and can be owner-occupied or privately owned residential rental buildings. One- to four-unit properties and townhouse/condominium units are eligible. The loans may be used for exterior improvements, basic interior repairs, energy conservation work and accessibility modifications. Maximum loan amounts range from \$2,800 to \$7,000, with required owner matches of 50-80 percent. The maximum household income is \$96,485. For information, call the Housing Resource Center-St. Paul at 651-228-1077.

Lex-Ham Theater—The Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of *The Last Cyclist* played to large audiences last June in several locations around the Twin Cities. For those who missed it, the production will be shown on St. Paul cable access Channel 15 at 10:00 p.m. Saturday, December 19, and at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, December 20.

Names in the News

Joel Sarapas of Merriam Park earned Champion Supreme status for Grade 4 6/8 march by the Midwest Pipe Band Association. He is a piper with the Minnesota Police Pipe Band, which received Grade 3 Champion Supreme status by the association. The band placed third at the U.S. Open Pipe Band Championships in Michigan last spring and next summer will send two groups to the world championships in Scotland. Visit www.mppb.org.

Open Cities Health Center, 409 N. Dunlap St., received the Betty Hubbard Maternal and Child Health Community Award for providing health services to area residents since 1967. More than 50

percent of the center's patients are women and children. The award is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health and named in honor of Hubbard, one of the original members of the state Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force.

Scott Strand of Highland Park has been chosen as the new executive director of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, following a nationwide search. Strand served 17 years as assistant attorney general and deputy counsel at the Minnesota Attorney General's office. He followed that by becoming an equity partner at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi before opening his own law of-

fice three years ago. The center, which is celebrating its 35th year, works to defend Minnesota's environment in the courts, before state agencies and in the Legislature.

Michael Smith, a Highland Park Senior High School graduate, participated in the St. Olaf College Christmas Festival, one of America's longest-running celebrations of Christmas. Smith, a junior who sings bass in the college's Cantorei choir, appeared in four performances on December 3-6. The Sunday performance was broadcast live to a national audience and will be available online through Minnesota Public Radio after December 17.

Senior News

The **Aging Splendidly** series at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave., will continue on Thursday, January 14, with a discussion about "The Old Immigration and the New." Mark Granquist of Luther Seminary will talk about how Scandinavian Lutherans had to work hard to build up their churches after immigrating to America. An optional health check will be offered at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and the speaker at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$7.00. For information, call Russ Carlson at 651-699-5560.

Volunteers are needed to tutor elementary students in reading and math in the St. Paul Public Schools. Under the guidance of a classroom teacher, volunteers assist students individually or in small

groups. Volunteers age 55 and older are eligible to receive free supplemental insurance, mileage reimbursement and other benefits through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Contact Connie at 612-617-7807 or cerickson@voamn.org.

Foot care will be provided by a registered nurse between 9:30 a.m. and noon on Thursday, December 17, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The cost is \$28. To register, call 651-298-5493.

Winter Carnival Senior Royalty candidates are now being sought. People age 55 and older who live in Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington or Dakota county are eligible to apply. Three men and

three women will be chosen in January as the 2010 Senior Royalty and will represent St. Paul throughout the year at parades, festivals and other events. The application deadline is December 21. Call 651-266-6447 or e-mail mary.livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us. 2009.

An AARP safe driving refresher class for older adults will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to noon Thursday, January 14, at the Ford plant, 966 S. Mississippi River Boulevard. The class is for older drivers who have previously taken the full eight-hour class and qualify for a refresher every three years. Those who take the class can receive a discount on their car insurance premiums. The cost is \$12-\$14. To register, Call T. Austen at 651-695-3502.

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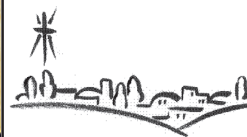
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10:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:00 a.m. - Holy Communion and Carols

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10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.

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Lynda and Phil Jorgenson will lead a
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Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Carillon Recital, David Johnson, carillonneur.
4 p.m. Afternoon Christmas Service for all ages—
child-friendly.

5:30 p.m. Traditional Tableaux Service.

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9:30 p.m. Carillon Recital.

10 p.m. Instrumental Prelude.

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service.

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Aaron David Miller, organist.
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Sunday, December 27: One worship service at 10 a.m.
David A. Van Dyke, preaching.

Sunday, January 3: One worship service at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion.
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December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

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Mass: 5 p.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

December 27 — Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany

January 3 — Mass: 10:30 a.m.

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Christmas Day Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Spirit: Christmas Eve Carols at 4:00, Mass at 4:30 p.m., Carols at 9:30 and Mass at 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Nativity of Our Lord:
Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00, one in the main church and one in the school auditorium, 5:30 in the main church, and Midnight Mass with music starting at 11:30pm. Christmas Day Masses at 7:00, 8:15 and 11:00. No 5pm Mass.

St. Mark's: Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30 p.m., Carols at 11:30 p.m. and Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m.

St. Thomas More (East Church):
Christmas Eve Masses at 4:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Carols at 9:45 p.m.). Christmas Day Masses at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. (Carols at 10:15 a.m.)

EPISCOPAL

St. Mary's Episcopal:
Christmas Eve Service with Pageant at 4:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service with Carols at 10:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN

St. Luke: Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Gloria Dei: Christmas Eve Family Service at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.; Services at 8:00 and 10:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Immanuel Lutheran: Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.



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Study released on \$118 million UST campus renovation

Comment sought on impact of new student center, sports complex

By JANE MCCLURE

An environmental assessment worksheet for the University of St. Thomas' new sports complex and student center has been released. The EAW, which was prepared by SRF, an engineering consulting firm, makes several recommendations for addressing motor-vehicle and pedestrian traffic around the campus. However, members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) are questioning whether the recommendations adequately address future traffic and parking demand, especially for any special events at the two facilities.

Copies of the EAW are now available at the Merriam Park Library, at St. Thomas' O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library, on WSNAC's website at www.wsnac.net and on city of St. Paul's website under Planning and Economic Development. Written comments on the EAW will be accepted through January 13. The public may also comment at an open house and public hearing on Tuesday, January 5, in the auditorium of the Macalester College Campus Center. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the hearing will begin at 7:00.

Some WSNAC members were surprised to learn that the EAW does not include a study of special event parking and traffic. The new student center on the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues will replace a 400-space parking lot that served the adjacent O'Shaughnessy Stadium. St. Thomas opened a 725-space parking ramp at Cretin and Grand avenues last February to make up for the lost parking, but the ramp is over 600 feet from the stadium, and because of that St. Thomas will need a parking variance from the city.

According to SRF, special event parking was not within the scope of the EAW. The document's scope was set by the state of Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board to assess the potential impact of the two projects on traffic, groundwater, noise, air quality and the character of the West Summit Historic Preservation District.

Depending on the comments received on



The \$66 million Anderson Student Center on the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues is planned as a new gateway to the University of St. Thomas' St. Paul campus.

the EAW, St. Paul Planning and Economic Development director Cecile Bedor will decide in January if the EAW adequately addresses the environmental impact or whether more study is needed. The information contained in the EAW will also be used during reviews of the student center's site plan by city officials and the St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission.

Some WSNAC members have expressed concerns about the cumulative impact of the two facilities. The 190,000-square-foot sports complex is already under construction on the campus and is scheduled to open in August. If no further environmental studies are needed, construction of the 210,000-square-foot student center could begin in the spring of 2010 and be complete by January 2012.

The \$52 million Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex is not much larger than the facilities it is replacing, according to Doug Hennes, St. Thomas' vice president for inter-governmental relations.

Plans for the \$66 million Anderson Student Center were formally approved by UST's Board of Trustees on December 3. It will include three major dining areas, a four-lane bowling center, a large multipurpose room, a dance floor, a recreation area with game tables and flat-screen televisions, a permanent gallery for the American Museum of Asmat Art, a student clothing and supply store, meeting rooms, offices and 30 underground parking

The new student center, sports complex and parking ramp together represent the largest building project in the University of St. Thomas' 124-year history.

spaces.

St. Thomas plans to seek silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the new student center. Under consideration are energy-efficient mechanical systems, water-conservation measures, highly insulated exterior walls and roof, special lighting controls and the use of as much natural light as possible.

The spaces in the new student center will not differ substantially from the spaces in the university's current student center in Murray-Herrick Hall, Hennes said. Though special events will be held in the new sports complex and student center, they will not be scheduled at the same time as most classes, Hennes said.

"The issue with special events is that they bring in people who aren't used to coming here," said WSNAC member Marc Manderscheid. "The issue a lot of us are looking for information on is how parking demand will be redistributed (by the two new campus fa-

cilities)," Manderscheid said.

WSNAC members would like to see St. Thomas improve how visitors are directed to campus parking areas. Having visitors hunting for parking spaces on neighborhood streets rather than in campus lots and parking ramps can have a "significant impact" on the surrounding neighborhoods, Manderscheid said.

WSNAC members have also raised concerns about traffic flow, especially where Cretin Avenue intersects with Summit and Grand. Left turns at Cretin and Summit can already be a problem, and traffic at Cretin and Grand is expected to increase once the new facilities are open.

The EAW recommends that St. Thomas develop a plan to better manage campus parking, promote bicycling and the use of mass transit, reduce motor vehicle use and take advantage of such innovations as the Hour Car vehicle-sharing program.

As for pedestrian traffic, the EAW suggests that improvements will be needed at the Cretin and Summit intersection. It recommends additional pavement at the corners and on the Summit Avenue median, better pedestrian signals, more education on the use of pedestrian-activated signals, the employment of public safety officers at the intersection and directing more pedestrians to cross the street at Cretin and Grand.

The new student center, sports complex and parking ramp together represent the largest building project in St. Thomas' 124-year history. The facilities are all named for Lee and Penny Anderson, whose \$60 million donation for their construction is the largest single contribution by an individual or a couple to a college in Minnesota.

The Opus Corporation is the contractor and architect for the student center and sports complex. Opus has designed or constructed more than 20 buildings on the university's campuses over the last 50 years.

For more information on the EAW, contact Josh Williams at josh.williams@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Written comments on the EAW may be e-mailed to Williams at that address or mailed to him c/o the city of St. Paul, 25 W. 4th Street, 1100 CHA, St. Paul, MN 55102.

Comments that are submitted electronically should include "UST EAW comments" in the subject line.

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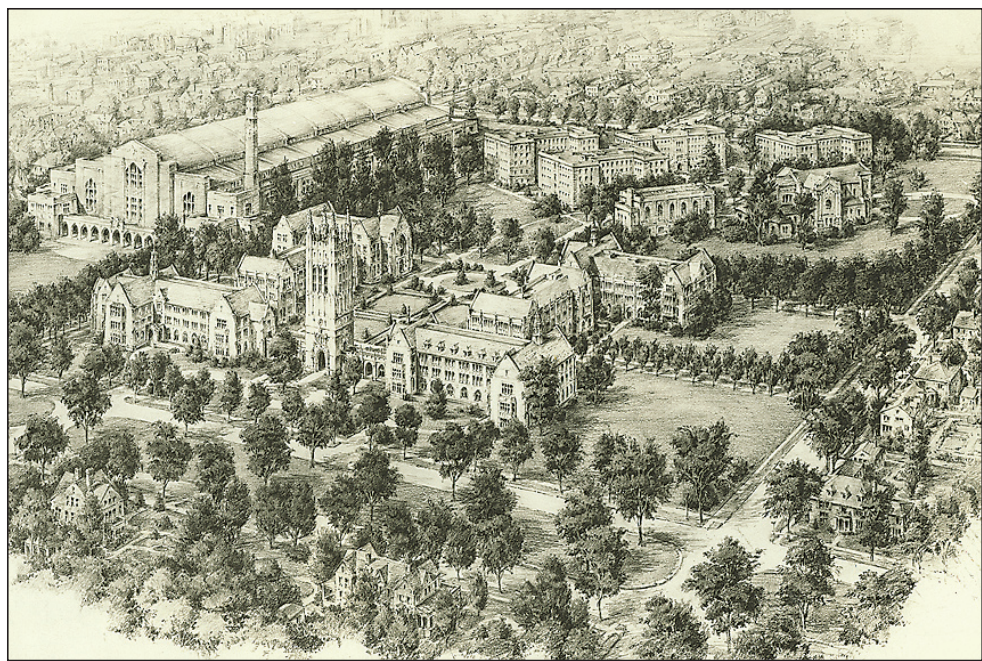
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Boston architects Maginnis and Walsh drew up this master plan for the University of St. Thomas in 1930. It included upper and lower quadrangles, a dome over O'Shaughnessy Stadium in the upper left and a six-story tower facing Summit Avenue.

A turn in Tommie history EAW study recalls Holy Cross Fathers' influence on university

By JANE MCCLURE

As part of the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) prepared for the University of St. Thomas' new student center and sports complex, a study was conducted of the historical resources on and around the St. Paul campus and the impact the new buildings would have on them. The study determined that 70-year-old O'Shaughnessy Hall can be torn down without adversely affecting the historical character of the campus. It also recommended that the city consider establishing a new historic preservation district west of the campus.

SRE, the engineering consulting firm that is overseeing the EAW, worked on the historic preservation study with consultants from the 106 Group. In addition to campus structures, the study looked at almost two dozen properties in the city's Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District and homes in the surrounding neighborhood. Among other things, the consultants recommended that eight homes on Mississippi River Boulevard north of Summit Avenue be considered for a new historic preservation district.

St. Thomas officials and members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee said they have not heard many comments from people who want to save O'Shaughnessy Hall. "I think there's a feeling that the building has served its purpose," said Doug Hennes, the university's vice president for intergovernmental relations.

O'Shaughnessy Hall, which was built in 1939 as the campus' athletic center, was erected as just one component of a long-term plan for the campus created by the prominent Boston architectural firm of Maginnis and Walsh. At the time, Maginnis and Walsh had designed master plans and individual buildings for more than two dozen college campuses across the county, including the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, and Duke and Yale universities.

The architectural firm was asked to design the master plan for St. Thomas by the Holy Cross Fathers. According to a University of St. Thomas history, the Holy Cross Fathers, who

ran the University of Notre Dame, were asked in 1928 by Archbishop Austin Dowling of St. Paul and Minneapolis to run what was then known as the College of St. Thomas. The college had apparently fallen on hard times following the death of its founder, Archbishop John Ireland.

The Holy Cross Fathers' five-year contract ended in 1933. By then, St. Thomas' academic standing had been restored, and Archbishop John Gregory Murray decided to return St. Thomas to the administration of the archdiocese's own clergy.

Maginnis and Walsh's master plan for St. Thomas was never fully realized, according to Greg Mathis of the 106 Group. However, some

of its elements remain, including St. Thomas' upper and lower quadrangles and the many campus buildings designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. Features in the plan that never came to fruition included a prominent tower on the Summit Avenue side of the campus and a hipped roof over O'Shaughnessy Stadium. The roof would have given St. Thomas the distinction of having the first domed stadium in Minnesota.

As for O'Shaughnessy Hall, the 106 Group stated that "although the build-

ing is associated with Maginnis and Walsh, it departs from the master plan envisioned and designed by the architects."

O'Shaughnessy Hall was named for I.A. O'Shaughnessy, a St. Thomas graduate who after earning a fortune in the Oklahoma oil and gas industry, donated \$8.5 million to the university, including contributions to the construction of O'Shaughnessy Stadium (1940), Albertus Magnus Hall (1947), O'Shaughnessy Library (1959) and the O'Shaughnessy Education Center (1968).

O'Shaughnessy Hall is slated to be demolished in stages over the next three months. Removal of asbestos will begin in January and the building itself will be razed in March.

Members of WSNAC asked if some the more outstanding architectural details of O'Shaughnessy could be saved and reused. However, architects from Opus Northwest have indicated that is not feasible.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—A woman was robbed on the 2000 block of Saunders Avenue at 3:00 a.m. Friday, November 27.

Burglary—A home on the 2100 block of Bayard Avenue was broken into between noon Friday and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, November 20-22.

—A home on the 2100 block of Hartford Avenue was broken into between noon and 6:45 p.m. Saturday, November 21.

—The glass front door was smashed and two bottles of vodka were stolen from International Wines & Liquors, 710 S. Cleveland Ave., at 3:00 a.m. Sunday, November 22. The front door was also smashed and two bottles of white wine were stolen from the same shop at 12:15 a.m. Sunday, November 29.

Theft—Three women stole multiple boxes of shoes from Famous Footwear, 2022 Ford Pkwy., at 9:45 a.m. Friday, November 27. The suspects fled east toward Kenneth Street and got into a maroon Ford Explorer. They were described as black women in their late teens to early 20s with medium builds, and they were all wearing black jackets.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—An 18-year-old man and two juveniles ages 16-17 were arrested for auto theft on

the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue at 9:30 p.m. Monday, November 23. The car they were in had been stolen in Merriam Park.

—Police cited a girl for possession of stolen property at Abra Auto Body, 1190 University Ave., at 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 30. She was found to be in possession of multiple stolen credit cards.

Miscellaneous—A man in a red pickup truck appeared to be following a young girl as she walked to her school bus stop at Dunlap Street and Portland Avenue at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, December 4. The suspect was described as a black male, 35-45 years old, with short black hair and driving a truck with a broken rear window covered with cardboard and duct tape.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Jewelry, clothing and a TV set were stolen from a home on the 1200 block of St. Clair Avenue between 2:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Monday, November 28-30.

Theft—Money was stolen from the copy machine in McNeely Hall at the University of St. Thomas between November 15-27.

—A car was broken into and a laptop computer was stolen on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard around 4:15 p.m. Monday, November 30.

—A wallet was stolen at a dance class at Macalester College around 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 1. Another victim had her laptop computer, wallet and iPod stolen from her bookbag around the same time.

Miscellaneous—Windshields on four vehicles were broken near Snelling and Randolph

avenues between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. Monday, November 23.

—A suspicious man entered the back door at Snuffy's Malt Shop, 244 S. Cleveland Ave., at 3:45 p.m. Saturday, November 28. The same man reportedly tried to enter through the locked back door at Rocco Altobelli's Salon, 665 S. Snelling Ave., 15 minutes earlier.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A person was robbed at Wendy's, 1780 University Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 25.

—Marshall Stop, 2057 Marshall Ave., was robbed at gunpoint at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, December 1. The two male suspects then ran south on Cleveland. They implied they had a gun, but none was seen.

—A man was sprayed with mace and robbed in an apartment on the 400 block of Pierce Street at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 2. Soon after, police arrested four men at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues for robbery and drug possession. The victim also was arrested for drug possession after police found a handgun, cash and a large amount of methamphetamine in the apartment.

Burglary—About \$5,000 worth of items were stolen from a residence on the 2100 block of St. Anthony Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and noon Monday, November 23. The front door was forced open and the house was ransacked.

—A window was broken out and about \$100 in change was taken from a home on the 1700 block of St. Anthony Avenue between 7:45 p.m. Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. Thursday,

November 25-26.

—A commercial burglary occurred on the 1700 block of Selby Avenue at 8:30 a.m. Monday, November 30

—The Box Shop, 1828 Feronia Ave., was broken into at 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 1.

Theft—A wallet was stolen from a purse at the Fine Grind, 2038 Marshall Ave., at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, November 28.

—Items were stolen from Cooqi Gluten-Free Delights, 2186 Marshall Ave., between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 1.

Miscellaneous—Three greens were damaged at the Town and Country Club between 9:00 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday, November 27-28.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of Rainbow Foods on University Avenue at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 3. The suspect stole the victim's cigarettes and lighter and fled on foot.

Miscellaneous—Criminal damage to property occurred at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 113 N. Saratoga St., between 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday, November 28-29.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A man was robbed at knifepoint on the 900 block of Grand Avenue at 11:00 p.m. Monday, November 30.

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue between 5:00 and 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, De-



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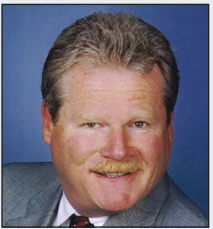
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ember 2. The key to the house was taken from a lock box.

Theft—A wallet was stolen from a residence on the 1200 block of Grand Avenue between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 21. A stolen check card was then used fraudulently.

—Police cited a woman for stealing a bottle of bronzing cream from Palm Beach Tan, 1059 Grand Ave., at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 29.

Summit-University

Robbery—A resident was robbed of a leather coat and two video game systems at an apartment building on the 300 block of North Dale Street at 5:15 p.m. Saturday, November 28.

Burglary—A home on the 800 block of Dayton Avenue was burglarized between 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 20.

—The St. Paul Curling Club, 470 Selby Ave., was broken into between midnight and 5:00 a.m. Friday, November 20. Cash drawers were found lying on the office floor.

—A garage on the 800 block of Holly Avenue was burglarized at 2:15 a.m. Saturday, November 21.

—Statera Fitness, 755 Selby Ave., was broken into and cash was stolen between 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 11:45 a.m. Sunday, November 21-22.

—A home was broken into on the 500 block of Holly Avenue on November 21-27.

—Tools were stolen from a basement storage room of a commercial building on the 600 block of Selby Avenue between November 23 and 30.

—La Grolla Italian Restaurant and the School Law Center, 452 Selby Ave., were broken into between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 26.

—Items were stolen from Selby Wine and Spirits, 778 Selby Ave., at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 1.

—Cheeky Monkey Deli, 525 Selby Ave., was broken into at 6:15 a.m. Wednesday, December 2.

Sex crime—Police officers arrested a 28-year-old Summit-University woman for prostitution on the 400 block of Dayton Avenue at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 2.

West End

Robbery—Mississippi Market, 1500 W. 7th St., was robbed at gunpoint at 8:00 p.m. Monday, November 23. The suspect tried to take the money from the till, but the register jammed and he fled before the cash drawer opened. The suspect was described as a black male, 19-27 years old, tall and thin.

Burglary—Computer items were stolen from Wise Guyz, 895 W. 7th St., between 8:00 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, November 20-21.

—The Liquor Barrel, 665 W. 7th St., was broken into at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, December 3.

—White Way Cleaners, 286 W. 7th St., was broken into and cash was taken from the register between 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and 4:00 a.m. Thursday, December 2-3.

—Grand 7 Saloon, 315 W. 7th St., was broken into at 3:00 a.m. Friday, December 4.

Assault—A 20-year-old West End woman was arrested for assault and criminal damage to property on the 200 block of Goodrich Avenue at 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 23. She had smashed house and car windows and damaged a sculpture in a neighbor's backyard. She also struggled with police when they arrived.

Sex crime—A 35-year-old West End man was arrested for indecent exposure at Tom Reid's Bar, 258 W. 7th St., at 1:00 a.m. Monday, November 16. After failing to pay his bill, the man exposed himself to the staff.

Theft—A man stole nine steaks from Cooper's SuperValu, 633 W. 7th St., at 9:30 a.m. Monday, November 30. Employees chased the suspect to Banfil and Richmond streets, but he escaped. Some of the steaks were recovered.

Lilydale

Sex crime—A 40-year-old St. Paul man and a 66-year-old Hugo man were cited and a 59-year-old Inver Grove Heights man was arrested for indecent conduct after they were found engaging in a sex act at Lilydale Park at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, November 14.

Fire Calls

The following calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Macalester-Groveland—A 19-year-old woman was struck while crossing the street at Goodrich and Snelling avenues at 8:22 p.m. Thursday, November 12.

—A faulty light fixture caused a fire that did an estimated \$350,000 damage and left 11 people homeless at an apartment building on the 1300 block of Grand Avenue at 4:16 a.m. Friday, November 20. When firefighters arrived, the second floor of the two-story building was heavily engulfed in flames. No one was injured. The Met Council provided a bus to keep the displaced residents warm until the Red Cross arrived.

—A 63-year-old female had to be extricated from her vehicle after a traffic accident at Cretin and Jefferson avenues at 7:54 a.m. Tuesday, December 1.

Merriam Park—A 35-year-old male bicyclist was struck by a motor vehicle at 7:12 a.m. Tuesday, November 17, at Snelling and University avenues.

—A fire in a workshop caused an estimated \$400 damage to a 27-unit apartment complex on the 1900 block of Marshall Avenue at 5:18 p.m. Wednesday, November 25. The fire started on a workbench. A hot stove burner element had been placed on the workbench, but careless smoking may have caused the fire.

Making homes safe havens

The St. Paul Fire Department is inviting homeowners to take part in Project Safe Haven. Those who are interested will receive a safety checklist and a short form to fill out. Afterward, firefighters will make a house call to make sure the smoke alarms work and the home is safe. If needed, they will install a free smoke alarm and a digital carbon monoxide detector and present the homeowner with a certificate and gift.

The program is free and open to all St. Paul owner-occupied, single-family residences, including town-homes and condos. For information, call 651-228-6273 or e-mail fireevents@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Summit-University—Paramedics found a 42-year-old male with stab wounds at 2:26 p.m. Saturday, November 21, on the 900 block of Dayton Avenue.

—A dryer fire was reported in a two-story house on the 900 block of Laurel Avenue at 7:34 p.m. Wednesday, November 25. Damage was estimated at \$2,000.


West End—A broken fuel line caused a generator fire at 1:19 a.m. Sunday, November 29, on the 500 block of Shepard Road.


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Horace Mann Elementary School principal Jim Litwin chats with Avery Hackbarth, 2, and her mom Lisa Paschke at last January's Parent Information Fair.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

St. Paul Public Schools present annual Parent Information Fair

The St. Paul Public Schools will hold its annual Parent Information Fair on Saturday, January 9, where parents can find all the information they need to select among the more than 100 school programs for the 2010-11 school year.

The free event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of St. Paul's RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Parents will be able to meet the staff from individual schools, learn more about what each school has to offer their children and get their questions answered. Children will be invited to take part in entertaining and educational activities.

Interpreters can be enlisted at the information booth to assist those who are deaf

or hard of hearing and those who speak Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Oromo, Amharic, Khmer or Karen.

Free parking will be available at the Sears parking lot at 425 Rice St. and at the St. Paul Public Schools Administration Building at 360 Colborne St. A free shuttle service will run between the parking lots and the fair.

The school district's Student Placement Center staff will also be available at the fair to help parents with the school application process. The St. Paul Public Schools' application deadline for the 2010-11 school year is February 28 for secondary students and March 5 for elementary students.

For more information about the fair, call 651-632-3701.

School Notes

The Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Minnesota will offer a class on "2016 Energy: From Fossil Fuels to Yucca Mountain" from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning January 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Instructor Rolf Westgard will review the chemistry of hydrocarbons, oil, gas and coal, as well as biofuels, wind and solar energy, the physics of nuclear energy, Iran's potential as a nuclear power, climate change and global warming. A field trip may also be taken to the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant, which is owned by Xcel Energy and operated by the Nuclear Management Company. Call 612-624-7847 or e-mail ollimlb@umn.edu.

Highland Park High School's class of 1999 will hold its 10-year reunion at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 26, at Shamrocks, 995 W. 7th St. Visit the reunion's website on Facebook or call Eric Kraushar at 1-320-234-4152.

Sunny Hollow Montessori, 636 S. Mississippi River Blvd., serving children ages 33 months to 12 years, will hold an open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 14. Call 651-690-2307 or visit www.sunnyhollow.com.

St. Thomas More Grade School, 1065 Summit Ave., was recently recognized by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports as the Physical Fitness Champion for Minnesota for 2008-09. Last year more than 49 percent of St. Thomas More's students received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award, given to those who rank in the 85th percentile or higher in all five events—pull-ups, curl-ups,



St. Thomas Academy senior Daniel Freund (above) has been promoted to cadet colonel, the highest rank in the school's corps of cadets. His lieutenant colonels for the current year are Michael Neuberger, Robert Wankel, Daniel FitzPatrick, Conor McFadden and John Garry.

shuttle run, endurance run/walk and V-sit or sit and reach. It is the fourth time in seven years that the school has had the highest percentage of Presidential Physical Fitness Award recipients in Minnesota.



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Food



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

The Bulldog's beer is even better than its bite

Bulldog co-owner Jeff Kaster is pleased that the art hanging on his Lowertown bar and restaurant's west wall provides welcome exposure for local artists. He's happy with the bar's location at the corner of Wacouta and 6th streets where at night, the large windows frame a glowing Mears Park. But if you really want to hear some love in his voice, ask him how many tap handles he has for beer in the bar.

"There are 40 of them," he said. "It's a thing of beauty."

Kaster's attitude toward the Bulldog's plethora of beer choices is understandable given the provenance of the bar-restaurant. His business partner, Matt Lokowich, has fond memories of a bar in Amsterdam called the Bulldog, which offered many different Belgian beers. "Matt really likes Belgian beer," Kaster said. "So do I. It's strong and hoppy."

Kaster, 36, and Lokowich, 42, met over a decade ago when they both tended bar at William's Pub in Minneapolis' Uptown. Kaster went to college before moving on to positions at Old Chicago, the Loon Cafe and Dixie's at the Calhoun Beach Club. Seven years ago, they opened their original Bulldog Restaurant on Lyndale Avenue in South Minneapolis. A second location followed in Northeast Minneapolis before the St. Paul Bulldog premiered in October 2008.

Lokowich lives in a loft directly across from the Lowertown bar and jumped on the location when it became available. Kaster has since become so smitten with St. Paul that he and his wife are thinking about moving across the river as well.

But don't think because you've been to one Bulldog, you've been to them all. Sure, the focus at all three is on dogs and burgers, but the menus at the three locations vary significantly around the fringes.

Let's face it, though. These are bars that serve food. The beverage menu is the story here, and it's no short story. It's more like a novel. Not to push the metaphor too far, but I've seen smaller phone books.

One feature that actually began at the Lowertown Bulldog but is now spreading to the Minneapolis locations is beer flights. The Bulldog offers nine different flights (priced from \$6.00-\$16), each of which consists of five four-ounce servings of five different beers. For example, there's the Dark Beer Lovers flight (\$7.00), a generous sampling of Youngs Double Chocolate Stout, Hacker-Pschorr Dark, Tilburg Dutch Brown,



A Chicago Dog served with one of seven varieties of tater tots at the Bulldog in Lowertown. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

Entire Butte Porter and Maredsous 8. I'm not a connoisseur of beer, but the flights appear to be an easy way to sip your way around some of the world's finer suds without ever leaving home.

The Bulldog is equipped with a dozen television sets, a nifty 22-foot hand shuffleboard court and dart boards. And depending on the time of day, it can be loud. My friends and I met there around 6:45 p.m. on a Sunday. Guests seat themselves, and of the half dozen booths and 10 or so other tables, there was just one available. Nothing was blaring, but between the music and conversation bouncing off the exposed brick and glass, it was hard to carry on a conversation.

We ordered the Rasta Dip (\$8.00) as an appetizer. A combination of cheesy jalapeño and crab served with tortilla chips, it struck us initially as being a bit bland, but, lo, we cleaned the plate and afterward agreed that it was OK. We also had a cup of beef chili (\$3.00) and a cup of the soup of the day, which was wild rice with chicken (\$3.00). Neither one got a ringing endorsement.

Our main courses took 45 minutes to arrive—a bit too long in my stomach's opinion. I had the Which Came 1st? (\$8.00), a sandwich of shredded chicken, fried egg, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato and onions with garlic mayo on a potato bun. I'm guessing it was the combination of shredded chicken and egg that made the sandwich too mushy to eat without a fork.

While I liked the taste, I think a solid filet of chicken might have made it more enjoyable to eat.

The Bulldog boasts seven different kinds of tater tots. Why? "Because it's a traditional Minnesota food," Kaster explained. So I tried the Cajun tots (a \$2.00 upgrade from the chips that come with the sandwich). I liked them.

My friend ordered a Rachel (\$8.50) with the garlic tots. The Rachel was OK, but he really liked the tots.

My friend's date let us talk her into trying one of the entrées. The Bulldog's dinner menu offers pot roast, meat loaf, hard shell tacos, open-faced turkey and a tater tot hot dish, each for \$10. She chose the tater tot hot dish, a mixture of ground beef and cream-of-something soup covered in tater tots. She enjoyed it.

I went back to the Bulldog a few days later with a couple of other friends, and am I glad I did. Though it was Happy Hour (3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday) with half-off appetizers and drink specials, the place was neither crowded nor noisy. We could talk without shouting, and we were served right away.

We ordered the Bavarian Pretzels as an appetizer, two pretzels served with spicy mustard (regularly \$4.50) with a cheese sauce (\$1.00) for dipping. The pretzels were warm, salty and chewy—perfect in every way. I also ordered the Tillamook & Bacon burger (\$8.50), which comes with the smoky cheddar cheese from Oregon and double-smoked bacon. I probably should have asked for medium-rare instead of medium, but it was tasty. I stuck with the fries instead of upgrading to tots, and they were yummy as well.

My friend, a true sport, ordered a hot dog. We wanted him to tackle the most expensive hot dog on the menu—the Homewrecker (\$11), a half-pound hot dog with cheese sauce, chili, diced onions, sport peppers, crushed potato chips and shredded cheddar. Eat three of these in a half hour, and you get an official Bulldog "Home of the Homewrecker" T-Shirt.

As sporting as he is, my friend wimped out and ordered the Mac N Dog (\$5.50), a hot dog covered with macaroni and cheese. The dish looked good, and he said it was fine.

My other friend ordered the Portabella (\$8.50), a sandwich of grilled portabella mushrooms, roasted red peppers, provolone cheese, sprouts and pesto. He got it with a side of tater tots that had been sautéed in truffle mushroom extract. That may have been a bit too much mushroom for one sitting. We definitely preferred the Cajun and garlic tots.

The next time I visit the Bulldog, I'm going to try the Game of the Week special. It's a rotating menu item processed by Venison America in Hudson, Wisconsin. The week I was at the Bulldog, antelope sausage (\$7.50) was the Game of the Week.

Kaster is pleased with business so far at his Lowertown location, so much so that he and Lokowich plan to open a beer, wine and cheese shop just a block away in January. The shop is going to have 1,000 different kinds of beer for sale.

"Crazy, huh?" Kaster said.



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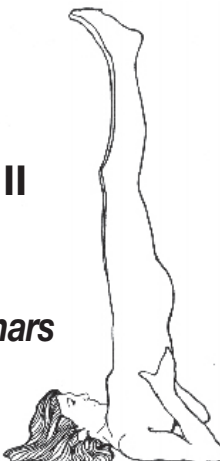
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St. Paul passes food allergy ordinances

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-0 on December 9 to become the first city in the state to require restaurants to display posters promoting food allergy awareness. Failure to display the poster could result in a fine or a city license suspension.

The council also voted 5-1 that day to offer restaurants a 7 percent discount on their license fees if they provide their employees with additional food allergen training. Restaurant owners or managers would have to watch a training video and provide written policies on how to handle allergic customers.

The ordinances, which go into effect next December, were proposed by council member Melvin Carter III, whose young daughter has a severe allergy to peanuts. He originally proposed requiring restaurants to create handbooks listing every ingredient used in every item on the menu. However, that provoked an outcry from restaurant owners, who said it was impractical and would force them to disclose proprietary recipes.

Carter worked with restaurant owners and hospitality industry representatives for several weeks to come up with the wording for the posters, which are to be displayed where employees work. However, the morning before a public hearing on December 2, he e-mailed a proposal to instead use language for the

"We've only been able to eat out once in a restaurant," Max said, and that happened only because their mother was able to talk to the chef beforehand.

posters developed by the Food Allergy Awareness Network.

Restaurant owners and industry representatives balked at the change. Some argued that the new language could open businesses to increased liability if a customer had an allergic reaction. After more than an hour of debate, Carter brought back the original language.

Children and adults with food allergies lobbied for passage of the poster requirement in some form and the incentives for additional training. They described reactions to common food allergens, including those in nuts, milk, wheat, soy and shellfish.

Max and Rob Narvaez, who could barely see over the speakers' podium, told the council how their allergies prevent them from eating out with their family. "We've only been able to eat out once in a restaurant," Max said, and that

happened only because their mother was able to talk to the chef beforehand.

Their mother, Nona Narvaez, leads the 4,000-member Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota, 300 of whom live in St. Paul. "Families like ours dream of going to restaurants," she said. According to her, promoting awareness of food allergies is a first step in helping families like hers enjoy dining out.

As for the license fee discount for training, some industry representatives questioned whether the additional training was worth the potential liability to a restaurant.

"We understand it's voluntary, but it's fair to say that none of them will avail themselves of the discount—zero," said James Erickson, who works with Taco Bell and Sonic franchise owners, among others.

"I'd bet no one participates (in the training) because the liability would be too great," said Buzz Anderson of the Minnesota Retailers Association.

Council member Lee Helgen cast the lone vote against the second ordinance. He said he was concerned about the impact offering discounts would have on the revenue the city derives from its restaurant licenses. City staff estimated that if every eligible St. Paul business went through staff training and got the discount, the city would be out about \$35,000 a year.

Business Briefs

Tiffany's Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy., recently completed 18 months of renovations. In addition to new awnings, tables, seating, restrooms and televisions, Tiffany's has a new menu and a new kitchen that is five times the size of its previous kitchen.

The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance is now offering advice to those who plan to donate money, gifts or their time this holiday season. For information, visit www.bbb.org/charity or call 651-699-1111.

Play by Play Theatre Bookstore, a new bookstore specializing in new and used books about the performing arts, has opened at 1771 Selby Ave. In addition to books and gifts, the store has free wi-fi and serves complimentary coffee to browsers. Costume renderings by

prolific Twin Cities costume designer Sonya Berlovitz are on display at the bookstore through February.

Pediatric Acupuncture and Wellness Center has opened at 2388 University Ave. Operated by nationally certified acupuncturists Nancy Bierma and Lisa Bransford, it is reportedly the first Twin Cities acupuncture clinic to specialize solely in the treatment of children and adolescents.

Wells Pianos has opened at 1330 Grand Ave. Owner Kieran Wells has partnered with Keys 4/4 Kids, a local charity specializing in used pianos. The shop also offers new pianos and will host ongoing concerts.

"Belly Dance for Wellness" will be offered at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays

beginning January 9 at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave. The eight-week exercise class will be taught by Shari Jeziorski in conjunction with HealthPoint Oriental Medicine. Call 651-698-1404.

Father and son Bob and Shawn Cheney have opened their third Wireless Zone franchise at 2034 Ford Pkwy. A retailer of Verizon Wireless products and services, Wireless Zone was founded in 1988 as the Car Phone Store. It is reportedly the nation's largest wireless retail franchisor with close to 400 locations.

Rick Linsk of Macalester-Groveland has joined the Minneapolis law firm of Lockridge Grindland Nauen. A former staff writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Linsk was previously employed as a law clerk for the Minnesota Supreme Court.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday, December 16

CHILD'S TOURS of the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St., will be offered at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 this evening. The mansion will be decorated for Christmas, including many of the dolls in the Ramsey collection. Hot cider and cookies will be served. Participants are encouraged to bring a doll and dress in holiday attire. A holiday craft activity will be available in the Carriage House. The cost is \$9.00-\$10. Call 651-296-8760.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 1:00 to 6:00 this evening at the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation, 411 Main St. Call 1-800-448-3543.

VANOCA (CHRISTMAS BREAD) will be on the menu at a bake-and-take class from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening at Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St. Hana Matousek and the Sokol cooks will lead the class. The cost is \$18-\$20. Cooks should bring their own apron, mixing bowl, large spoon and bread board or baking sheet. Call 651-452-6240.

Thursday/December 17

THE ST. PAUL METRO LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening. All expectant and nursing mothers and their babies are welcome. Call 651-645-8516.

AN ANXIETY AND PANIC SUPPORT group will meet at 6:30 this evening, and on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at Gloria Dei Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota at 651-645-2948, or visit www.namihelps.org.

FREE LAW CONSULTATIONS will be offered today at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. There will be consultations on immigration law from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and family/criminal law from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. To register, call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215.

Saturday/December 19

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES will be offered from 1:00 to 5:00 this afternoon at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The rides leave every 15 minutes and take in scenic Irvin Park. The cost is \$10-\$12. Call 651-296-8760.

Sunday/December 20

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS STORIES will be told at 6:00 this evening and again on Sunday, December 27, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Costumed actors will perform works by Mark Twain, Willa Cather, O. Henry and Charles Dickens. Admission is \$6.00-\$8.00 and includes light refreshments and tours of the mansion, which has been decorated for the holidays. Call 651-297-2555.

A WINTER SOLSTICE PEACE VIGIL will be held by Merriam Park Neighbors for Peace at 5:30 this evening at the corner of Snelling and Summit avenues. The public is invited to bring a candle and light it for peace on the darkest night of the year. After the vigil, participants may warm up and socialize at a local Grand Avenue restaurant or coffee shop (to be determined). Call 651-641-7592 or 651-647-0580.



Happy holidays to all!

Bagpiping Santa Tim Fitzgerald entertained shoppers outside Irish on Grand during the 37th annual Grand Meander on December 5. (Photo by Brad Stauffer) Below, pictured clockwise from upper left, Raphy Gendler, Liam Spilker, Sam Levine, Esther Gendler, Heny Miazga, Sam Dowd and Jesse Schwartz spin their dreidels as part of a Hanukkah celebration at the Jewish Community Center on December 13. (Photo by Anne Brandrud)



A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION will be held at 1:00 this afternoon at Coldwater Spring in South Minneapolis. Participants should dress for the outdoors, bring a gift for the land (sage, flowers, tobacco, etc.) and a chair. Visit friendsofcoldwater.org/home.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at 663 S. Sumner St. for a hike through the Highland Park neighborhood. Call 651-455-0052.

Monday/December 21

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF SUICIDE will hold a Survivors of Suicide support group meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening, and the third Monday of each month, at Twin Cities Friends Meeting, 1725 Grand Ave. Call 651-642-1313.

A LEGO MODEL of the state Capitol will be on display from today through January 3 (except Christmas and New Year's Day) at the Capitol. Built by Roy Cook, the 6-foot-long model is made up of more than 70,000 bricks and took more than 150 hours to build. Free guided tours of the Capitol take place at the top of each hour from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sundays. Call 651-296-2881.

Tuesday/December 22

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will host two hikes in Highland Park today: one at 11:30 a.m. from the condos at 1800 Graham Ave. and another at 7:30 p.m. from the Charles M. Schulz Ice Arena on Snelling and Ford Parkway. Call 651-699-2790.

A FREE LECTURE on the health benefits of transcendental meditation to reduce stress, normalize blood pressure, and decrease heart attacks and strokes will be offered at 7:00 this evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The movie *Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)*, an Academy Award nominee for best foreign film, will be shown. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Tuesday/December 29

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON holiday party will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The public is invited to come and celebrate even if they have never been to a salon. Call 651-227-3228.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 11:30 this morning at Goodrich Avenue and West 7th Street for a residential hike in the West End. Call 651-455-0052.

Wednesday/December 30

BABYSITTING TRAINING for teens in grades 7-12 on caring for children with special needs will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$36-\$54. Call 651-698-0751.

THE NIGHT BEFORE NEW YEAR'S Eve Party will return to the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis, from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening. The 10th annual party is sponsored by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Activities include hayrides, bonfire and marshmallow roasting, games with prizes, crafts, fortune telling, a fish pond, live music and magic. KidsDance DJs will be spinning music and holding contests and prizes for kids of all ages. Refreshments include hotdogs with all the fixings, hot chocolate and 1919 root beer. The evening will conclude with a traditional New Year's countdown complete

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Thursday/December 31

A NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Como Zoo. Families and friends can rock in the new year with live entertainment, crafts, activities and a countdown to noon. Call 651-487-8229.

FAREWELL TO 2009 candlelight tours of the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St., will be offered at 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30 this evening. Luminarias will line the path to the front door and guides dressed for a New Year's Eve ball will lead visitors through the candlelit mansion. There will be a sing-along around the piano, and cake and punch from Mrs. Ramsey's recipes will be served. The cost is \$8.00-\$10. Call 651-296-8760.

A BLUE MOON gathering at Coldwater Spring near Fort Snelling in South Minneapolis will take place at 5:30 this evening. There will be toasts with water from the spring to the new year and what is billed as a "traditional group howl." Visit friendsofcoldwater.org/home.

Friday/January 1

"THE PLEASURE OF YOUR CALL is Requested" is the theme of a program that will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Visitors will learn about

the Victorian ritual of calling on friends and learn how Minnesotans celebrated New Year's Day in the 19th century. Admission is \$3.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

Saturday/January 2

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and noon to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays, music will be playing on the 1875 Steinway piano, fresh cookies will be served from the wood-burning stove and hot cider will be available in the Carriage House. Admission is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760

AN INTRODUCTION to the Minnesota Historical Society Library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., will be given at 9:15 this morning. The library contains sources for finding family history, researching a term paper, looking into the history of a building or neighborhood, or finding out more about Minnesota's rich past. The free class is held on Saturdays year-round. Call 651-259-3300

Saturday/January 9

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY classes will be offered this morning at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Learn how to use wills, probate and guardianship records to solve family history problems at 10:00 a.m. and then discover different kinds of family history and genealogy reports at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$28-\$32 for the two-class program. Call 651-259-3300.

WINTER TRAILS DAY will give children and adults a chance to try snowshoeing and other outdoor winter activities for free from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park. REI experts and local outdoor nonprofit organizations will offer snowshoe demos, geocaching for beginners, naturalist-led hikes, cold weather camping information, skijoring and dogsledding information. There also will be a big bonfire, hot cocoa and a chance to win a new pair of snowshoes. A state parking sticker is required. Call 612-725-2389.

Monday/January 11

DATING FOR NERDS will host another event for smart singles from 7:00 to 10:00 this evening at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. The evening will include board games, nerd-themed trivia, drink specials and casual conversation with brainy bachelors and bachelorettes. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit www.nerdsatheart.com or call 1-312-265-6085.

Wednesday/January 13

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Members will peruse seed and tool catalogs, swap favorite seeds for spring planting and discuss their upcoming gardening plans. Participants are encouraged to bring gardening books to exchange. The meetings is open to the public.

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Dental patients today are increasingly asking for metal-free restorations. Dr. Fischbach and his staff employ many alternative materials in CAD/CAM technology, including Leucite, Ceramic, Zirconia, Glass Ceramic, Feldspar Ceramic, Fine Grain Translucent Porcelain, and Yttrium-Stabilized Zirconium. The wide range of materials allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to select the one that is best suited for you. Most other dentists use a technique that fits all patients with just one material.

CAD/CAM dentistry was originally developed for making single crowns. This technology can now be used to make bridges, inlays and onlays (fillings), veneers and even gold crowns. These all can be done without impressions and if not fabricated at the appointment, can be



Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

fabricated in a day or two. CAD/CAM technology also allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to save teeth that most other dentists would extract.

Dr. Fischbach and his staff are in the business of saving teeth, re-establishing function and perfecting glowing smiles. They are also in the business of educating their patients. Dr. Fischbach's office has movies of almost every dental treatment available. The short movies can be burned to a CD and given to you to take home and review with family members before any decision is made. The explanations of the various treatments are also available on Dr. Fischbach's website at

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On the Town

Screen gems

Kryshka's intimate Trylon mines best of a century of moviemaking

BY BOB GILBERT

Barry Kryshka loves watching old movies, especially on a big screen in a dark theater with other movie buffs. That's why he built the Trylon, a new 50-seat "microcinema." Since July, his two-year-old nonprofit company Take-Up Productions has been showing classics of the silver screen in a converted warehouse at 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

"I consider myself a curator of old classic films," said Kryshka, 38. "While it isn't terribly skilled work, it is my passion."

Kryshka recently expanded his schedule, screening 30 different films in the coming three months on Mondays and Wednesdays as well as Fridays and Saturdays. Among the offerings is "Brit Noir," an eight-week Monday evening series at the larger Heights Theater in Columbia Heights that will open December 21 with one of Kryshka's personal favorites, director Carol Reed's *Odd Man Out* (1947) starring James Mason.

"I don't think movies were any better 50 years ago," Kryshka said. "It's just that the filter of 50 years has weeded out the bad ones. They probably made as many good films in 2009 as they did in 1949, but we know about all the bad ones in 2009 while

the bad ones of 1949 have been forgotten."

Small film festivals built around a particular theme are Kryshka's bread and butter. He schedules one every three months or so. Los Angeles film noir was the focus of one such festival last winter. It included *Sunset Boulevard* (1950) starring William Holden, *Chinatown* (1974) with Faye Dunaway and Jack Nicholson, and *L.A. Confidential* (1997) starring Kevin Spacey.

Kryshka will often throw an underrated modern film into the mix, one that he feels never got the notice it deserved. The L.A. film noir series, for example, included the 2005 mystery *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* starring Robert Downey Jr.

"Doing classic films in a series is what works best," Kryshka said. "You pick a few titles that people will recognize and some that are obscure so that the audience can see a film they never knew about."

When the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis produced a play by science fiction writer Phillip K. Dick last spring, Take-Up Productions hosted a festival of films based on Dick's books, including *Blade Runner*, *Minority Report* and *Total Recall*.

Take-Up Productions recently showed the films of Richard Widmark, a native Minnesotan and former giant of the silver



Take-up Production's Barry Kryshka in the Trylon's projection room. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

screen. The series included Widmark's debut in *Kiss Of Death* (1947), a popular film noir starring Victor Mature; *Don't Bother To Knock* (1952) co-starring Marilyn Monroe; the western *Yellow Sky* (1948); *Slattery's Hurricane* (1949) co-starring Veronica Lake; and *Panic in the Streets* (1950) directed by Elia Kazan.

"I try to show films that aren't on DVD," Kryshka said. "People will come out to see a movie that is rare. Ethan Coen showed up for our screening of *Panic in the Streets*."

A graduate of Macalester College, Kryshka

got his start in movies programming the films shown in Olin Hall on the Macalester campus. He later worked at Oak Street Cinema on the University of Minnesota's East Bank, helping to select the films shown there from 1995 to 2005.

Bob Cowgill, the founder and executive director of Oak Street Cinema from 1995-2002, has attended several of Take-Up productions' screenings. "I'm glad Barry is doing this and I applaud him for it," Cowgill

THE TRYLON ► 30

Ballet's 'Toyshop' is enchantment for family of performers

BY CHAS JENSEN

When the stage lights go up this week for St. Paul City Ballet's production of *The Enchanted Toyshop*, dancers Audrey and Eloise Berdahl-Baldwin will not have to peer into the darkness to find their father sitting somewhere in the audience. He will be standing right there on stage with violin in hand as part of the musical accompaniment.

"I don't plan to be in costume—there hasn't been any talk about that yet," said John Baldwin two weeks prior to the opening of the show. "I'm not much for dressing up."

Nevertheless, Baldwin is excited to be a part of the production. It has allowed the Macalester-Groveland resident to take part in an activity that has been wholeheartedly embraced by his daughters, both of whom are students at Mounds Park Academy.

"I love music, and dancing is a great way to visually express it," said Audrey, 16, who in *The Enchanted Toyshop* is cast in the role of the Christmas Sprite. Audrey has been taking classes with St. Paul City Ballet for the past six years, and with rehearsals this fall has been dancing as much as six days a week. On top of her voice lessons, yoga classes and high school homework, how does she find time for friends? "When you dance as much as I do with this group of girls, they become your friends," she said.

Sister Eloise, 11, is cast as a Jester in *The Enchanted Toyshop*. "My schedule isn't that full though," she said. "Two days a week of dance class and one day for rehearsal. That leaves me time to practice my knitting and take viola lessons."

The performers in *The Enchanted Toyshop* are student dancers as well as professionals.



Eloise and Audrey Berdahl-Baldwin and their father, John Baldwin, will all be appearing in the St. Paul City Ballet's production of *The Enchanted Toyshop*. PHOTO BY CHAS JENSEN

Set in a magical toy store, the ballet features dolls, snowflakes and a prince who dance across the stage to the music of Tchaikovsky, Respighi and Rossini.

"We have had five choreographers and two musicians working together to produce the show," said Georgia Finnegan Amdahl, the artistic director for St. Paul City Ballet. "Ted Sothorn has done the sound engineering, and (Baldwin) and Bridget Higgins are in the roles of musician and singer."

Performing together for St. Paul City Ballet has been "good for us as a family," Baldwin said. "Audrey and Eloise's mother, (University of Minnesota anthropologist) Daphne

Berdahl, died two years ago after an eight-year battle with breast cancer. I was worried how we'd handle it."

Baldwin volunteered his musical talents for this year's show in appreciation for the benefits his daughters have realized through dancing with St. Paul City Ballet. Based in the former Andahazy Ballet studio on Grand Avenue, St. Paul City Ballet has continued Andahazy's long tradition of teaching classical ballet along with contemporary and sacred dance to both adults and children.

"Dancing has helped me with the emotions of losing my mom, and the teachers have been great," Eloise said.

"Dancing helps me have a well spirit," Audrey said.

After all that their family has been through, the dance classes "have been the one thing you know is a good thing," Baldwin said. "The teachers have been so nurturing and supportive. I wanted to give back, and with my music I'm able to. I'm happy to have a chance to do something for the company after all they've done for my girls."

Baldwin is no stranger to the stage. As a violinist, he toured with Frank Sinatra and has played with both the Boston Philharmonic and the Chicago Philharmonic orchestras. Though he makes his living now selling violins, he said, "there's something beautiful about live performance. We should never take it for granted."

"I love performing," Audrey said. "I may have some butterflies at first, but once I'm out there, they go away."

Eloise, who has performed with the Highland Park-based Circus Juventas for the past five years, said she is "not super nervous" about appearing on stage.

"This is the first year that I have had Eloise as a student," Amdahl said. "She's one of my most attentive students and always kind and respectful. And Audrey holds a special spot in my heart. She has a kindness that exudes from the core of her being. In fact, the whole family brings a joyful spirit to St. Paul City Ballet."

The Enchanted Toyshop will be performed on December 18-20 in E.M. Pearson Theater at Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25, \$18 for children age 12 and under. Call 651-690-1588.

On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Sisters of Swing, a toe-tapping tribute to one of the most successful female groups of all time, is playing through December 20 at the History Theatre stage, 30 E. 10th St. Ruthie Baker, Stacey Lindell and Patty Nieman star as Patty, Maxene and LaVerne Andrews, the Minnesota sisters who went on to record 45 top-10 hits between 1937 and 1950. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$28-\$32, \$25-\$30 for seniors, \$15 for students, \$10 for children. Call 651-292-4323.

Fezziwig's Feast, Jon Cranney's adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, is being served through December 20 by Actors Theater of Minnesota. The holiday story comes complete with roaring fire, hot-spiced cider, Victorian carolers and a seven-course meal in Wigington Hall on Harriet Island. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$74.50, \$39.50 for children age 12 and under. Call 1-800-982-2787.

A variety show in the tradition of Carol Burnett, Andy Williams and Sonny & Cher, *Spiked! Put Some Punch in Your Holiday!* is being presented through December 20 by Tablesalt Productions. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Lab Theater, 350 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Visit www.TableSaltProductions.com.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, the flip side of the Dickens' classic featuring Jim Lichtscheidl in all 18 roles, is playing through December 20 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$36 and \$40 with discounts for seniors and anyone age 30 and under. Call 651-291-7005.

Sister's Christmas Catechism is playing through December 27 at the Ordway's McKnight Theatre. The sequel to *Late Nite Catechism* stars Kimberly Richards as the irrepressible nun who employs methods she learned from the TV show "Forensic Files" to discover the whereabouts of the Magi's gold. Tickets are \$40.50. Call 651-224-4222.

Holy Bells: A Deer Camp Christmas, a new holiday musical that pits the 500,000-



The Classic Nutcracker, Ballet Minnesota's annual holiday production, returns December 18-20. Professional dancers Oksana Konobeyeva and Alexey Agudin will play the lead roles with the support of 130 amateur dancers from across the Twin Cities. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-690-6700.

member ACLU against four beer-swilling guys from Elmwood, is being performed through January 2 by Actors Theater of Minnesota. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$29-\$39. Call Ticketmaster at 612-673-0404.

Black Nativity: A Season for Change, a newly revised gospel musical that celebrates family, faith and tradition, is playing from December 16-27 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Greta Oglesby, Ginger Commodore, Iman Fears, Nicole Foster and Jennifer Whitlock star in this story of a grieving widow and the family that sustains her through the holidays. Tickets are \$38, \$10 for students. Call 651-224-3180.

An Eventually Christmas, a historical drama culled from the pages of the Washburn Crosby mill's employee newspaper, *The Eventually News*, is playing weekends through December 27 at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. Local playwright Joseph Scrimshaw penned the script. Show times are 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on December 18, 19, 20, 26 and 27. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 6-17. Call 612-341-7555.

Beauty and the Beast, a new version of the classic tale about a hideous beast who

is transformed into a prince through a young woman's love, has opened at the Ordway. Jeremiah James, Laurine Price, Bradley Greenwald, Wayne Morton, Sally Ann Wright, Christina Baldwin and Jonathan Burgard star. Evening and matinee performances are scheduled Tuesdays through Sundays through January 3. Tickets are \$63.50-\$80.50. Call 651-224-4222.

Minnesota Shakespeare Company will open the bard's tragedy *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* on January 8 at the Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St. Directed by Mikel Clifford, it stars Nick James as Hamlet and Rob Gardner as Claudius. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 6:00 p.m. Sundays through January 31. Preview performances will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, January 6 and 7. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for the previews. Call 651-786-9102.

Exhibits

A Victorian mansion decorated for the holidays is yours to tour between now and January 3. The Minnesota Historical Society has spruced up the Alexander Ramsey House as Anna and Alexander might have for Christmas back in 1875. A costumed guide will lead visitors through the house, telling holiday tales from the Ramsey's own journals and letters. Period music will be playing on

the 1875 Steinway piano, and hot cider and cookies will be served. The tours are offered between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and between noon and 3:00 p.m. Sunday. The cost is \$9.00, \$7.00 for seniors and students, \$6.00 for children ages 4-17. Call 651-296-8760.

"Realism and Stylization: Six Views," jewelry, paintings, drawings and collage by Janet Donaldson, Pat Williams, Michaelynn McCarron, Anita White, and Ed and Marge Bohlander, are on view through January 9 at Bohlander Arts Gallery, 3011 36th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-721-6438.

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," a 5,000-square-foot exhibit on the 17th century American businessman, scientist and statesman and his journey from teenage runaway to founding father, is on view through July 4, 2010, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and college students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17 and free for children age 5 and under. Call 651-259-3000.

The bustle of Christmas in a Summit Avenue mansion circa 1900 is brought to life in weekend tours through December 27 at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Based on letters and oral histories of the people who worked for the Hill family, the one-hour program begins every 30 minutes between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, \$6.00 for children ages 6-17. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

The Como Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show, featuring hundreds of poinsettias in a variety of colors, is on view from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through January 18. On view through January 19 at the Conservatory is "The Last Polaroid Show," surrealistic and impressionistic images of the conservatory created by Mark D. Roberts and Denise Rouleau through the manipulation of the dyes in SX-70 Polaroid film.

Books

Victorian Christmas stories will be told by costumed actors Craig Johnson and Kirby Bennett beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sundays, December 20 and 27, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. In addition to tales by Mark Twain, Willa

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Cather, Charles Dickens and O. Henry, the pair will discuss the rapid development of Christmas traditions during the 19th century. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and college students, \$6.00 for children. Light refreshments and tours of the Hill House are included. Call 651-297-2555.

Stories and poems by Edgar Allan Poe will be recited by Macalester-Groveland actor Jake Esau in the character of Poe confidant N.P. Willis on Tuesday, January 12. The free program marking the American writer's 201st birthday begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

Music

Works by John Harbison, former creative chair of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, will be performed by the SPCO on December 17 and 19. SPCO director of New Music Projects Mark Russell Smith will conduct the concerts, which will feature Harbison's wife, Rose Mary Harbison, on violin in Crane Sightings; Snow Country with Kathryn Greenbank on oboe; Exequien for Calvin Simmons; Fantasia on a Ground; and Umbrian Landscape with Saint. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday in the Music Room of the SPCO Center, 408 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$10, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

The Rose Ensemble returns on December 18 and 19 with carols and motets by English Renaissance composers Thomas Tallis, Robert Parsons, William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons. "Christmas in Elizabethan England" will be re-created in song beginning at 8:00 p.m. Friday at Nativity Church, 1600 Wellesley Ave.; and at 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$17. Call 651-225-4340.

Mandolinist and violinist Peter Ostroushko will present his annual Heartland Holiday Concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. For ticket information, call 651-290-1221.

Family

"The worst kids in history," the Herdman children somehow turn the town's holiday play into *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* The holiday drama is playing through December 22 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Friday, 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Saturday, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, December 21 and 22. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins is playing through December 22 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre's stage at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. It tells of a traveler who is enlisted by the people of Helmsbergville to battle the goblins that for years have prevented them from celebrating Hanukkah. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Sunday and Tuesday through Friday mornings. For tickets, priced at \$16, call 651-647-4315.

"Saturday Live," free entertainment for children, is offered at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The schedule includes the Minnesota Zoomobile, December 19; and magician Star Michaelina, December 26. Visit www.sppl.org.

Train rides will be boarding on the half hour between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20, at the Jackson Street Roundhouse, 193 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 10:30 each morning. Interactive railroading exhibits, live musical



Curtis Blake and his band Greazy Gravy will play host to three hours of blues music beginning at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 23, at Skinner's Pub, 919 Randolph Ave. Backing up Blake and his soulful harmonica will be Gravy guitarist Jerry Maynard, bass player John Heck and drummer Gregg Schuke. Admission is free. Call 651-228-1947.

entertainment and refreshments will also be featured. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for children, \$35 per family of up to two adults and four children. Call 651-228-0263.

The African-American holiday of Kwanzaa will be celebrated on Sunday, December 27, at the Minnesota History Center 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Scheduled from noon to 4:00 p.m., the event will focus on the principle of self-determination. Featured will be craft activities, storytelling sessions beginning at 12:15 and 1:45 p.m., West African music by Kenna Sarge and Voice of Culture at 1:00, a fashion show by African Global Roots at 2:00 and a performance by the Tiyumba Dance Company at 3:00. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and college students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

A special story time tour featuring such children's classics as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Why Evergreens Never Lose Their Leaves." will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 29, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$5.00. At 1:00 that afternoon, an "Art Explorers: Angels and Dragons" tour focusing on the many creatures found in the Hill House's art collection will be offered. After the tour, children may create their own art inspired by the creatures. The \$6.00 fee includes supplies. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

Mr. McGee and the Biting Flea will open on Tuesday, January 12, at the Children's Theatre, 2400 3rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The collection of six whimsical stories by Pamela Allen is told in witty harmonies by Australia's Patch Theatre. Forty hour-long performances are scheduled through February 21. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 612-874-0400.

Film

The 65th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge will be marked with a showing of *Battleground* (1949) on December 16 and 19 and 20 at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The movie stars Van Johnson, John Hodiak, Ricardo Montalban, George Murphy and Marshall Thompson as a band of American soldiers who engage the Germans in the snow and fog outside the Belgian village of Bastogne. Nominated for six Academy Awards, it won for Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography. The film will roll at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday and noon Sunday. A question-and-answer session with Minnesota veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge will follow each screening. Tickets are \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and students. Veterans, anyone over age 70, and children under age

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Concordia, UST end on high note

Remarkable seasons for two teams at two local colleges ended within a couple of hours of each other earlier this month. One team's season ended with a victory and a national championship. The other team's season ended with a loss, but still left the school with its head held high. In both cases, the stories had a common theme—a program that had once been considered down had risen to national prominence.

Case No. 1 was the Concordia University volleyball team. The Golden Bears took just 65 minutes to dispatch West Texas A&M in a 3-0 match and claim their third consecutive NCAA Division II volleyball championship on December 5. Concordia completed a perfect 37-0 season this year and in the process extended the school's remarkable 74-match winning streak.

It's little wonder that coach Brady Starkey seemed to be running out of superlatives to describe what his team, composed entirely of Minnesota natives, had achieved.

"We try in games to emulate what we do in practice," Starkey said before a raucous full house on the home court at Gangelhoff Center a few days after winning the national title. "And we practice hard."

Accordingly, Starkey takes a hands-off approach during matches and simply lets his athletes do their thing. It may not work for every team, but the Concordia players have advanced to such a level that when something does go awry, as happened when Cal State San Bernardino won the first game of the semifinal match 25-20, the Golden Bears don't flinch. They promptly won the next three matches and moved on to the finals.

That's exactly the way former Concordia volleyball coach Geoff Carlston envisioned it. A decade ago, Carlston took over a program that had made a rough transition from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to NCAA Division II. The Golden Bears had failed to win a single conference match in 1999. Carlston then took over the team, totally dismantled the roster and started the rebuilding process. Three years later, the Golden Bears came close to a conference title. Carlston then left for a Division I job at Ohio, and Starkey stepped in. From there, the numbers speak for themselves.

From all reports, Starkey doesn't seem interested in following Carlston's lead. His wife, Penny, teaches at St. Paul College. His 2010 team will be minus three all-Americans, but Starkey seems pumped to meet the challenge.

Case No. 2 is the University of St. Thomas football team. Despite a slew of head coaches—from DuWayne Dietz in the 1970s to Mal Scanlan in the 1990s—the Tommies were unable to unseat St. John's University at the top of the MIAC heap with any regularity over the past 40 years. Mark Dienhart had modest success coaching the Tommies for a

WRIGHT CALL ► 34

Prep basketball preview

Coaches size up teams as boys hit the court

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Agility, speed and quickness are all valuable assets on a basketball court, but there's no doubt that a good big man is worth his weight in points.

Just ask Highland Park coach Charles Portis, whose school is marking the 10th anniversary of the Scots' first and only state boys' basketball championship. That title team's fortunes were aided by a host of talented big men. "We had good-size players all the way around," Portis said, "even on the bench."

Portis hastened to add that teams can win with less size, but they have to be quick. "And they have to pay attention to defense, limit turnovers and have good outside shooting, because they're not going to get a lot of second shots," he said.

St. Paul Academy coach Kevin McKenzie has decent size on his team this year. Having those big men "helps us with our rebounding, helps with defending the post," he said. "But it's more important that they're experienced guys than that they're tall."

Central, which is playing a tough non-conference schedule this year, will go toe-to-toe with teams like Woodbury, which has three or four players who are 6-foot-6 or taller, coach Scott Howell noted. Howell's biggest player is 6-foot-4, and he knows his Minutemen will have their work cut out for them.

"When you have a big guy in the middle, it makes a huge difference," Howell said. "And you can't teach size."

Height doesn't always translate to good performance, but it's "the great equalizer," Portis said. "When it's time to get the rebound at the end of the game when the legs are gone, the guy who's 6-foot-6 is still 6-foot-6. And the guy who's 6-foot-2 and was trying to guard him all day—it's going to be more of a task."

Here's how the local boys' basketball teams look as the season gets under way:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 19-7

Coach: Scott Howell

Key players and their strengths:

- LeDarian Horton, senior forward. A big, physical power forward who averaged 12 points a game last year.
- Taylor Smaller, senior guard. Scored



Highland Park senior center Ryan Delaney goes up for a rebound during a 69-65 win over Minneapolis Southwest on December 10. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

12.8 points a game last season. Should be one of the team's leading scorers again.

- Eric Grice, senior center. Has decent size. Poised to be the team's top rebounder.

- Cameron Smith, senior guard. An outside sharpshooter.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Minutemen are quick and have accurate outside shooting, but they lack depth and size.

Outlook: Central will be tested early with a tough nonconference schedule. Johnson stands in the way of a conference championship. "I think we'll be very competitive," Howell said. "Our goal is to win the City Conference and do well in the sections as usual."

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 13-14

Coach: Jerry Kline

Key players and their strengths:

- Seantrell Henderson, senior forward. A top-rated football star with great size and talent. Led the Raiders with 13.9 points per game in 2008-09.
- Rajion Kelly, junior guard. Scored 13.2 point per game last season.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Cretin-Derham Hall has good talent and size. The team is young. Six seniors are on the roster, but the juniors and sophomores will also have to contribute.

BOYS' HOOPS ► 32

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31 ◀ BOYS' HOOPS

Outlook: The Raiders look to be competitive in the always tough Suburban East Conference. The team got off to a good start with an 82-80 win over Champlin Park on December 12.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 27-3

Coach: Tom Dasovich

Key players and their strengths:

- Jake Kreuser, senior center. A 7-footer with outstanding talent. Is committed to Division I Lafayette College.
- Mike Rostampour, senior forward. Another good big man (6-foot-8) who averaged 8.1 points a game a year ago.
- Three talented guards should also be big contributors: seniors Jimmy Ryan and Jordan Jackson, and sophomore Dante Grant.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley is loaded with gifted players. "Our size and athleticism is as good as it's ever been," Dasovich said. Some players will have to adjust to new roles, however.

Outlook: The Warriors were seeded second in last year's state Class AAAA tournament, but lost to Bloomington Jefferson by four points in the opening round. They could win the whole thing this year and have been among the state's top teams in preseason rankings.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 7-18

Coach: Charles Portis

Key players and their strengths:

- Miles Davison, senior guard. Scored 9.5 points a game last year and was one of the team's most consistent shooters.
- Jimmy Sauser, senior guard. Another good outside shooter who averaged 10.7 points a game last winter.
- Eric Pressley, senior forward. One of the team's better defenders.
- Ryan Delaney, senior center. Wide a wide body, he's solid in the low post.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland has more experience and depth than it did last year. Defense and shooting are also strong suits. However, the Scots don't have a lot of size.

Outlook: Highland hopes to finish toward the top of the conference; Central and Johnson are the favorites. Portis said he wants his players to "play as hard as they can and see where that takes us."



Highland junior forward Cordero Washington (31) battles Southwest's Isaiah Wilson for ball control.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 26-3

Coach: Lance Johnson

Key players and their strengths:

- Taylor Hanson, senior forward. Was all-conference last year. Averaged 13 points and five rebounds a game.
- Parker Hines, senior guard. Another all-conference player who averaged eight points and three rebounds a game last winter.
- Austin Brown, senior guard. A gifted athlete who is strong in the back court and was all-conference honorable mention last year.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha has a strong senior class and talent up and down the roster. However, the Redhawks will have to replace four seniors who were high fliers last season. Some players who didn't see a lot of varsity time last year will have to step up.

Outlook: Minnehaha expects to compete with DeLaSalle for conference bragging rights. The

inexperienced players "will be fine after the first month or so," Johnson predicted.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 6-22

Coach: Dennis Stockmo

Key players and their strengths:

- James Smith, senior forward. A four-year starter, strong rebounder and capable scorer.
- Calvin Jenkins, junior guard. Averaged 9.6 points a game last year and will be the Teddies' top offensive threat this winter. Can shoot from the outside and pound it inside.
- Karl Wiley, junior forward. Quick and can drive the lane.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Teddies have some quickness and emerging talent. However, the team is very young with only two seniors. A pair of sophomores and a pair of freshmen are on the varsity roster.

Outlook: Roosevelt is likely to go through some growing pains, according to Stockmo.

The coach hopes to see his young team play better by the end of the season. "Hopefully we can gain experience quickly and be able to compete," he said.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 13-13

Coach: Kevin McKenzie

Key players and their strengths:

- Evan McMillan, senior forward. Will be the school's all-time leading scorer by the end of the season.
- Santano Rosario, senior point guard. The team's MVP last year is closing in on the 1,000-point career scoring mark.
- David McVeety, senior shooting guard. Led the team in three-point shooting (44 percent) last season.
- Harry Whitaker, senior center. Has decent size and improved a lot over the summer.

Team strengths/weaknesses: With 11 seniors, SPA has considerable experience. The team also has decent size and firepower. More consistency off the bench would be a plus.

Outlook: Expectations are high for SPA this winter. Tri-Metro favorites Minnehaha and DeLaSalle cannot overlook this dark horse, which returns some of its top scorers from last season.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 18-10

Coach: Mike Sjoberg

Key players and their strengths:

- Billy Chapman, senior guard. Adept at three-point shots and defense. Averaged 12.8 points a game last season.
- Charlie Aslesen, senior guard. Scored 10 points a game in 2008. Can shoot the three and rebound.
- Danny Abbott, senior guard. A good floor general who can hit from behind the arc.
- Will Barth, senior forward. A solid, all-around player.
- Will Patt, senior center. A 6-foot-7 force to be reckoned with inside.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Cadets will shoot well from the perimeter and will have a formidable presence in the paint. There's not an abundance of varsity experience on the team, which graduated eight seniors.

Outlook: Although STA lost some talented players to graduation, it returns two of its top three scorers from last year. Tartan and Sibley will provide the stiffest competition in the conference.

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Resilient Hansen points the way for Redhawk hoopsters

BY BILL WAGNER

Minnehaha Academy senior Rachel Hansen has a promising college basketball career to look forward to today. However, less than two years ago it looked as if her playing days might be finished because of an extremely bad break.

While competing in the state tournament during her sophomore year, the gifted 5-foot-10 point guard tore her anterior cruciate ligament while driving to the hoop in heavy traffic. The knee injury required six months of rehab following surgery and kept her sidelined for almost the entire fall soccer season her junior year. "I only got to play in the last three games," she said.

Basketball coach Josh Thurow had watched Hansen progress from the time she established herself as a regular on the varsity as an 8th-grader. He wasn't sure if she would ever return to play at the level she was at before the injury. However, time has shown otherwise. "We were concerned about that," he said, "but she looks as good as new."

Hansen rebounded nicely last winter, scoring nearly 16 points a game to lead the Redhawks to a 27-3 season and a second straight trip to the state tournament. "Today I feel the same as I did before I got hurt," she said. "In fact, I'm probably stronger."

And she appears to be getting better and better. Hansen is averaging nearly 21 points an outing so far this season and is among the Twin Cities metro area's top scorers. Along with scoring 62 points, grabbing 19 rebounds and dishing off six assists in Minnehaha's first three games, she has shown that she can play shutdown defense.

Hansen's offensive skills are multifaceted. She can drive to the hoop, pull up for a jumper and hit three-pointers. Though she is listed as a point guard, Thurow noted that Hansen is one of those players who can play anywhere on the floor. "She's an all-purpose guard for us," he said.

Hansen was all-conference honorable mention as a freshman, and all-conference and the team's assist leader as a sophomore. Last season she was all-metro and all-state, led her team in assists and scoring, and hit the 1,000-career point mark.

Thurow said there are not many holes in Hansen's game. "She sees the floor better than any player I've ever coached," he said. "She can drive and she passes well. She plays outstanding defense. She has those quick hands. She



Minnehaha Academy senior guard Rachel Hansen hones her skills on the Redhawks' home court. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

can rebound, too. She's an all-around player."

She also doesn't sit much. "She'll average about 34 minutes a game," Thurow said.

"I like making those around me better," Hansen said, "but it's also nice to make the big shots."

One of Hansen's biggest shots last year when she hit a game-tying three-pointer with 12 seconds remaining in the section finals against Hill-Murray. The Redhawks went on to win in overtime and advance to the state tournament.

Hansen's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by college scouts. She has signed a letter of intent to play Division II basketball for Concordia University-St. Paul next season. "I like the coaching staff there," she said, "and I like the fact that the school was close to home."

Hansen still has a goal to reach in high school—a state title this year after two previous trips to state came up short. "If we keep improving, we have a chance to accomplish some things in the postseason," she said.

As for her personal game, "there's always room to improve, but I'm playing pretty well right now," she said. "And I'm having fun."

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The World's Toughest Rodeo will ride into the Xcel Energy Center with shows at 7:30

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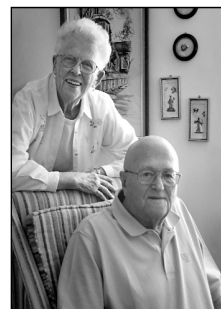
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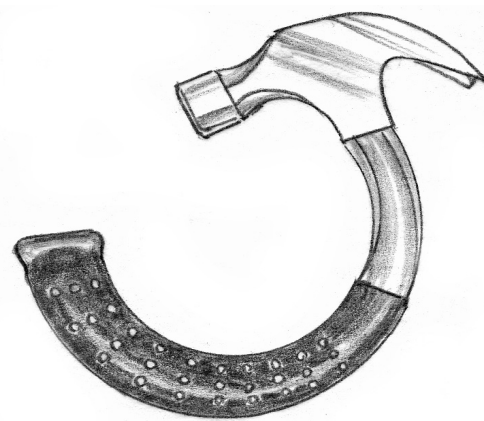
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31 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

while in the 1980s, including a couple of postseason appearances and one notable romp over the archrival Johnnies in Collegeville. But when Dienhart left for athletic and administrative pursuits, St. Thomas returned to the lower echelon of the MIAC.

Two years ago, Glen Caruso, whose only head coaching experience had been at Macalester College, took over the reins for the Tommies. Caruso refused to accept the status quo and his players apparently bought what he was selling. The Tommies went from a 2-8 record in 2007 to 11-2 in 2009. Their only two losses this year were a nail-biting overtime affair at St. John's on October 17 and a 31-20 game in the NCAA Division III quarterfinals at Linfield, Oregon, on December 5. The fact they went that far that fast, and won a playoff game at home for the first time in school history—a 34-7 victory over Coe, which had taken out the Johnnies the week before—turned the campus on its ear. With 20 of 22 starters returning next year, Caruso can hardly be blamed for wishing the 2010 season could start next week.

The general sentiment around the league was that St. Thomas always had the talent, but could never capitalize on it to its full extent. In the past, an overtime loss at St. John's would have been chalked up as a good try. This year, the Tommies were downright mad about it. As Caruso noted after the Linfield loss, "The pain they feel is good. We control our own results."

The challenge for Caruso now will be to take his team a step farther. He has accomplished one notable thing already. A longtime St. John's fan was talking shortly after the overtime game in Collegeville. "It was a great game and I'm glad we won," the SJU booster said, "but—and I don't remember the last time I felt this—I hope

we don't have to play them again until next season."

Sometimes fear can be the greatest compliment.

Gopher football footnote

The University of Minnesota football team will play Iowa State in the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Arizona, on December 31. If this were a regular-season game, it might rank above South Dakota State but below Air Force in local interest. By itself, that speaks volumes about the Gophers. In Division II or III football, a .500 season would prompt a plea from the equipment manager for the players to turn in their uniforms. In Division I, it gets the players a post-season game on the NFL Network in warmer climes.

Here's the stark reality:

- Southern California went 8-4 this season and considered it an off year. The Trojans will play Boston College the day after Christmas in a bowl game in San Francisco and people across the country will pay attention.

- Notre Dame went 6-6, fired its coach and said no way to bowl games this year.

- Cincinnati, Boise State and Texas Christian—three schools nowhere near the University of Minnesota's size—found a way to get to the Bowl Championship Series this year.

- Minnesota, by contrast, talks about how wonderful it is to have 15 more practices to get ready for 2010 and views the Iowa State game as a reward. Only in Division I football could 6-6 teams be considered worthy of rewards.

Minnesota's 6-6 season record isn't shameful, but it's also nothing to brag about. Until the Gophers get to the point where they understand that, they're destined to be a footnote on the Twin Cities sports scene.

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



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Sophomore lifeguard Katie Zeuli, sitting against the wall in the distance, had no one to watch during open swim at the O'Shaughnessy pool last week. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Farewell to O'Shaughnessy Hall St. Thomas prepares to pull plug on longtime pool, athletic building

BY DAVE WRIGHT

The phrase "They don't build 'em like they used to" was never more true than in the case of the O'Shaughnessy pool at the University of St. Thomas. The Tommies held their farewell meet in the 68-year-old pool last Friday against Gustavus Adolphus. Never again will MIAC swimmers be treated to the pool's odd starting blocks, tight five-lane track, gutterless ends, and chlorine odor that permeated nearly the entire building.

The pool, which was first used in 1941, is scheduled to be razed in mid-January as part of the destruction of O'Shaughnessy Hall, the longtime base for the university's athletic programs. Also coming down is the third-floor gym that served as the university's primary basketball court from 1939-81. For several months, the athletic department will have to operate out of temporary offices.

St. Thomas' new aquatic center—part of the \$52 million Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex set to open in August—will be a significant improvement over O'Shaughnessy's pool.

"But it must have been quite the place when it opened in 1939," said St. Thomas athletic director and men's basketball coach Steve Fritz.

Fritz, who has been on campus for 40 years as a player and coach, used to work out in the old pool a lot. His predecessor, Tom Feely, also had his players swim there as part of pre-season training. Legend had it that 7-foot-4 center Bob Rosier, who played for the Tommies in the early '70s, made quite a splash at O'Shaughnessy. "Some people said he could actually stand up in the deep end and have his head above the water," Fritz said. "I never saw it, but it was possible. Even then, the water depth tended to vary."

Bob Pearson, who has been coaching at Macalester for the past two decades, chuckled at the thought of the O'Shaughnessy pool. "I swam for Hamline, so I was used to that pool when I started coaching," he said. "It never bothered me much, but we've had a few folks who struggled there. It was a very different place to compete at."

Because it was only a five-lane pool, "that automatically meant the scoring was different," Pearson said. "You only got points for the first three places in an individual race instead of five places in an eight-lane pool. A one-two finish could kill you."

Swimmers also had to modify their technique at O'Shaughnessy. In most pools, the gutters are at the end where swimmers make their turns. O'Shaughnessy's gutters are on the sides.

Several years ago, the pool's deteriorating condition caused the university to move diving elsewhere. It was an inconvenience, but few people complained.

"It probably was state of the art in its day," said Tom Hodgson, who has been coaching swimming at St. Thomas for 31 years. "But I always liked the atmosphere in the old place."

In the early days, students frequented a second-floor bowling alley at O'Shaughnessy. It was removed in favor of a weight room. For now, the weight room will move to the bowels of the football stadium.

Next year, the Tommies will be swimming in a nifty eight-lane, 25-meter aquatic center. The center will feature a separate area for diving surrounded by a heated floor. "As currently planned, there will be two levels of seating with capacity for about 500," Hodgson said. "We've included a state-of-the-art timing system, and integrated video and TIVO for diving and swimming."

The new athletic complex will also feature a 200-meter track, fitness center and 2,000-seat basketball and volleyball arena. Basketball games were moved to the then-new Schoe-necker Arena in 1982 (the arena was recently razed to make room for the new athletic complex). O'Shaughnessy remained the home for the school's wrestling team until that sport was dropped. It has also been used for intramural sports and other school events.

By the end of its lifetime, there were probably more dead spots than live ones on the O'Shaughnessy basketball court, and the Tommies used it to their advantage. It was charming, raucous and fun, but roundballers felt like they were playing basketball in the attic of a house.

In the early 1970s, the Tommies were a basketball power in the old NAIA. The NAIA saw the possibility of bigger crowds come playoff time. Accordingly, when it was the MIAC's turn to host the playoff games that would send the winner to the 32-team tournament in Kansas City, St. Thomas had to abandon its home court in favor of larger quarters, namely Macalester and Hamline.

Although it was inconvenient, the Tommies survived to advance to Kansas City twice.

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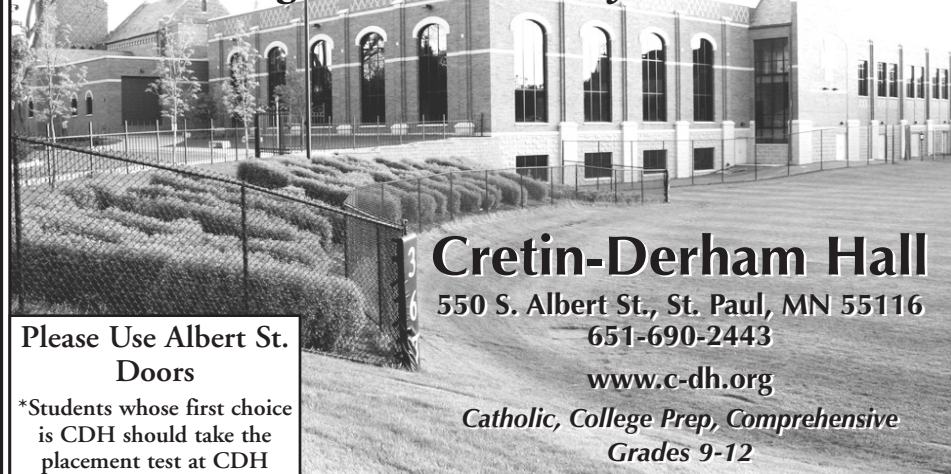
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Moving/Misc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autos, Boats, Mtrcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Services | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Residential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy | <input type="checkbox"/> House/Pet Sitting | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Beauty/Massage | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing/Embroidery | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housecleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Video | <input type="checkbox"/> Roommates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn, Landscape & Snow | <input type="checkbox"/> Piano Tuning/Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Personals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Income Tax & Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found |
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Continued page 38

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2010 Villager publication dates and deadlines

JANUARY
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Jan. 13: Education
Health and Fitness
Jan. 27: Education

FEBRUARY
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28

Feb. 10: Summer Camps
Valentine's Day
Feb. 24: Seniors

MARCH
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

Mar. 10: Home Improvement
St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 31: Home Improvement Fair
Easter

APRIL
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

April 14: Home Improvement
April 28: Real Estate Guide
Mother's Day

MAY
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

May 12: Gardening
Health & Fitness
May 26: Gardening, Grand Old Day, Graduation

JUNE
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

June 9: Father's Day
June 23: Seniors
Fourth of July

JULY
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

July 7: Highland Fest
July 21: Summer Sales

AUGUST
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

Aug. 4: Education
Aug. 18: Education

SEPTEMBER
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

Sept. 1: Real Estate Guide
Primary Election
Sept. 15: Home Improvement
Sept. 29: Home Improvement

OCTOBER
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Oct. 13: Seniors
Oct. 27: Election Guide
Halloween

NOVEMBER
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

Nov. 10: Holiday Gift Ideas
Nov. 24: Holiday Gift Ideas
Grand Meander
Hanukkah Greetings

DECEMBER
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

Dec. 8: Holiday Gift Ideas
Dec. 22: Christmas Greetings
Last Minute Gift Guide
Health & Fitness

● Villager Publication Date ▲ News Deadline ○ Want Ad Deadline □ Display Ad Deadline

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