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Floyd protests break out into widespread rioting

Stores are vandalized and looted in wake of black man’s death at hands of Mpls. police

By JANE MCCLURE

Scores of businesses across the Villager area are still tallying the damage after four days of vandalism, arson and looting from May 27-30 following the death of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers. The black man’s death on May 25, with a police officer kneeling on his neck, was recorded by bystanders and subsequently posted on social media. It sparked days of peaceful protests and marches but also rioting that spread from the site of Floyd’s death in South Minneapolis throughout the Twin Cities.

The four police officers involved in Floyd’s arrest were fired by the department. One officer, Derek Chauvin, was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. The other three were later charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. By then, the Twin Cities had erupted in violence fueled by agitators in the crowd armed with rocks, bricks and incendiary material. The National Guard arrived late on May 28, but was not effectively deployed until May 29.

Some of the most intense confrontations played out late on May 29 when St. Paul police stopped protesters from crossing the Lake Street Bridge over the Mississippi River. The police made arrests and used tear gas to disperse the crowd and acted quickly to close other bridges into the city.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter praised residents and business people for helping out during and



Peaceful protesters paraded past the governor’s mansion on Summit Avenue on June 1 and hung a flag on his fence on the one-week anniversary of George Floyd’s death in South Minneapolis while under arrest for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. PHOTOS BY CASEY EK

after the riots and for complying with the nightly curfews that were imposed from May 29 to June 5. He said the police and firefighters served the city with “incredible distinction.” Acknowledging citizens’ grief, anger and trauma, he urged everyone to “take this energy and channel it towards building a better future.”

St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell called the level of arson, vandalism and looting “unprecedented” and said there would be consequences for those responsible. “We won’t tolerate people being injured in this city. We won’t tolerate buildings being burned down,” he said.

“It’s been an extraordinary week in many ways,” said St. Paul City Council president Amy Brend-



moen, who spent much of her time during the unrest at the city’s emergency command center. She and other members of the City Council have been out recording the damage, helping with cleanup and contemplating the steps the city can take to

PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT ▶4

Colleges prepare to welcome students back in fall

New policies, procedures are readied to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

By FRANK JOSSI

After two months of remote online learning this spring, all four local private colleges and universities have announced plans to bring their students back to campus this fall, but with new policies and protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Some of the institutions have more definitive plans than others, but all of them—Macalester College, the University of St. Thomas, St. Catherine University and Concordia University-St.

Paul—are awaiting the release of new guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Preliminary guidelines from the state are expected soon, and final guidelines by the end of June, according to Jason Rahn, the dean of students at Concordia.

Concordia has been discussing how to safely reopen college housing and resume classes, athletics and student food service with two state epidemiologists and representatives of the Minnesota Private College Council.

Even without final guidelines from the state, the four institutions are preparing for a very different learning environment. Classrooms have been reconfigured, plexiglass has been installed in frequently visited areas, and new signs are going up to encourage a minimum of six feet of social dis-

tancing. Some schools are splitting their semester courses into more intense half-semester courses for greater flexibility. Others are making plans to quarantine students who get sick.

“So much of this is about health etiquette training and washing your hands, staying six feet apart and reminding people to be considerate of others,” Concordia’s Rahn said. “We’re going to rely on more guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control for how we go forward.”

Concordia is well-positioned to manage a learning environment in a pandemic, according to Rahn. Faculty members already teach the same courses for both online and in-person classrooms. Two-

COLLEGE CAMPUSES REOPENING ▶2

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Council allows five-story Grand Ave. apartment project to proceed

By JANE MCCLURE

A five-story, 12-unit apartment building can be built at 1769 Grand Ave. after all. The St. Paul City Council on June 3 upheld an appeal by the developers and overturned an April decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to deny variances for the project.

Ward 3 council member Chris Tolbert, whose ward includes the site, acknowledged neighborhood concerns that the proposed building would be too tall and dense for the location. However, he said of the variances required, "height is not one of them."

The developer, Owatonna-based Good Timing LLC, had applied for three variances for the building. They included allowing 866 square feet of lot size per apartment unit instead of the 1,500 square feet required, having a 6-foot sideyard setback instead of the required 9 feet and providing 12 off-street parking spaces instead of 19.

The building will have 12 three- and four-bedroom units, most of them multi-level in design. Several floor plans will be offered. The developers said the units would ap-



Good Timing LLC is proposing a 12-unit apartment building at 1769 Grand Ave.

peal to families and provide flexibility for tenants wanting a home office, den or playroom. Monthly rents would range from \$2,500-\$3,400.

Neighbors disputed the contention that families would rent there, citing the high rents. They contended that the apartments would appeal to students who would split the rents.

In their appeal, the developers cited BZA staff support for the variances and said there

were unique circumstances that warranted their approval, including the narrow lot. Tolbert agreed and disputed the notion that the building would alter the character of the neighborhood.

"I don't particularly care for the design of the building," Tolbert said, but according to him, that was not a reason to deny the variances.

Tolbert added additional conditions to the project's approval, including no balconies or roof deck. Those conditions were meant to address fears that the building would become a student rental property.

Tolbert said the apartment building will provide greater housing density along the Grand Avenue bus corridor, which is being eyed for more frequent service.

Council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali, Rebecca Noecker and Nelsie Yang joined Tolbert in voting to uphold the appeal. Jane Prince cast the sole vote against it, and Dai Thao was absent.

Prince said the variances did not meet the required BZA conditions for approval and the building was too much for the site. She said the proposed number of bedrooms "just

makes me choke." Prince said she could support a building of around eight units.

The apartment building will replace a duplex that was built in 1916. The site is zoned for multifamily, medium-density housing (RM2). Developer Luke Wiborg and business partner Max Smith said they originally planned to remodel the duplex and rent it out, but found it to be too damaged by past tenants.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee supported the variances. Supporters cited the need for more housing in St. Paul and the added density the project will provide. They also cited its location along a bus line and its design features that incorporate environmental sustainability.

The Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association opposed the project, referring to it in a letter as "an eyesore at best and a stiff middle finger at worst."

The management company of the neighboring Regency Apartments, 1775 Grand, also objected to the appeal. They raised concerns about the area's existing parking shortage as well as the potential for water runoff into garden-level apartments in that building.

14 COLLEGE CAMPUSES REOPENING

thirds of the school's 1,500 students take at least some courses online, and Concordia already offers courses in both half semesters and full 15-week semesters.

"We deliver classes face to face and online; that has been our history for quite a while," Rahn said. "It depends on how students best learn and how to meet their goals most efficiently and effectively." That policy eased the transition to online classes in March, Rahn added, and if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in the fall, as some health experts predict, the university will be ready.

Five hundred of Concordia's students live on campus, some in dorms and others in apartment residence halls, but all buildings have the capacity for students to isolate themselves from others, according to Rahn.

Macalester is planning to have two 15-week terms of on-campus instruction in 2020-21, according to college spokesperson Joe Linstroth. However, this fall students will take two complete courses during the first 7½ weeks and two complete courses during the second 7½ weeks, Linstroth said.

Macalester's residential life department has been trying to "determine the safest, most effective ways to maintain social distancing in



Macalester College students pass by the campus' Old Main in a school year from earlier this decade.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

a community-living environment," Linstroth said. Meanwhile, the international exchange programs, long a strength of the college have been put on hold for 2020.

Like other schools, Macalester is awaiting final guidance from state health officials. The college's "faculty and staff have done a remarkable job stepping up to find the best ways forward that maintain the health and safety of the entire community while also continuing

to provide the top-tier education and services for which we're known," Linstroth said.

St. Thomas is also committed to reopening its St. Paul campus in the fall, according to its website. The university will be implementing several new health and safety protocols, including new plexiglass barriers in frequently visited areas and multiple hand-washing stations. Student move-in days will be staggered to avoid large congregations. The campus

wellness center will provide comprehensive testing for COVID-19, and an isolation area will be available to quarantine students who contract the coronavirus, according to the university's website.

St. Catherine University may use a hybrid of in-person and online learning this fall, according to its website. Social distancing measures will be in place for all activities. "While face-to-face instruction may be preferred," the SCU website states, "we want to reassure students that quality education remains at St. Kate's. We are developing guides and resources to enhance online learning."

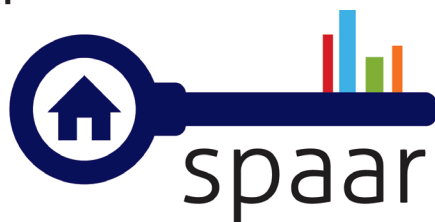
Minnesota colleges have a distinct advantage in having a close relationship with state health officials, according to Rahn. Concordia has campuses around the country, and officials at many of the other Concordia colleges have told him they have not received the same level of guidance from their home states.

"What others are seeing is that the way Minnesota is working with institutions of higher education is incredibly proactive," Rahn said. "A lot of other colleges feel like they're islands trying to figure this out on their own. At least we're coming up with a playbook. For a person in my role, that's reassuring. And it's a great thing for Minnesota."

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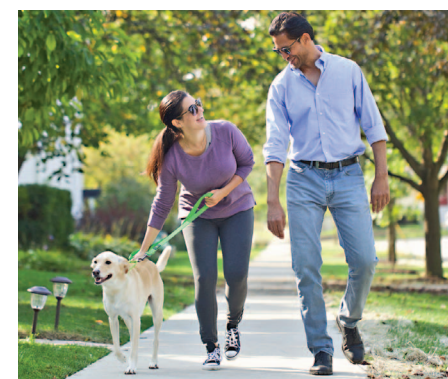
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VILLAGER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER SINCE 1953

Volunteers rally to help secure and restore neighborhoods

Neighborhood patrols kept watch at corners, may have prevented more damage

By JANE MCCLURE

The vandalism, arson and looting that wreaked havoc across St. Paul and Minneapolis on May 28 and 29 and shuttered businesses and institutions for several days—and in some cases, perhaps, forever—have given rise to voluntary efforts to keep neighborhoods safe and to support the businesses and organizations that are struggling to recover from the violence. Citizen patrols and virtual watch groups have formed in local neighborhoods. Several were operating already on May 29 and may have prevented additional damage and theft.

Volunteers were patrolling neighborhood streets in the wake of the initial violence and in violation of state-imposed curfews and a county state of emergency. Others kept watch from their yards and porches and checked in through neighborhood Facebook groups.

In Highland Village, a group called Highland Community Fire Defense worked with the Highland Business Association (HBA) to



Volunteers showed up on May 29 with their own equipment to help clean up University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway after the riots. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

organize one such effort. Its volunteers were stationed at street corners to keep an eye on properties in two-hour shifts on the nights of May 29, May 30 and June 1.

"We wanted to make sure our neighborhood businesses were OK. It was something that needed to be done," said Highland resident Tom Basgen, who started the group.

Basgen said the intent was not to patrol but to employ peaceful volunteers to serve as eyes

and ears on the street. The volunteers were unarmed, wore high-visibility vests and went through training before they took their posts. They were instructed not to confront anybody who looked suspicious.

Basgen and interim HBA director James Farnsworth said having volunteers visibly stationed on the streets made a difference and likely kept the damage from getting worse. "We wanted to be sensitive and create a community presence,"

Farnsworth said.

The Summit Hill Association and Grand Avenue Business Association worked together on a similar effort to make sure local businesses were secured against the rioting and to remove and recycle the plywood boards that went up over windows once they were no longer needed. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation organized a cleanup throughout the

West End on May 29.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce organized a virtual panel discussion on June 4 to help the owners of damaged businesses find the resources they needed to rebuild and resume operations. The Midway Chamber of Commerce, St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and St. Paul Downtown Alliance were setting up a business assistance fund late last week.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) and Hamline-Midway Coalition (HMC) recently announced that the Community Betterment Fund they have established with help from the Minnesota United FC Major League Soccer team has raised more than \$500,000, with more than \$400,000 coming in over the course of a single week.

Voluntary cleanup crews were out in force on University Avenue on the morning of May 29 with help from the HMC, UPDC and Frogtown Neighborhood Association. "There have been a lot of ways that people have stepped up to help," said UPDC board president Henry Parker. Volunteers cleaned up and boarded up local businesses. Others have helped at food distribution sites for the needy at Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue, University and Fairview, Celtic Junction and Bethlehem Lutheran Church-in-the-Midway.

14 PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT

prevent more tragedies tied to police brutality.

St. Paul did not suffer to the extent that Minneapolis did from the arson, vandalism and looting. It helped that it had one more day to prepare with businesses and institutions throughout the city boarding up windows and doors. In the wake of the rioting, local district councils, business associations and other civic groups organized crews of volunteers to sweep up glass and pick up debris in the Midway area and Highland Village and on Grand Avenue and the West End.

University Avenue businesses sustained the heaviest damage on May 28-29. Midway Shopping Center was hit hard. The Foot Locker was looted and set ablaze. The neighboring Great Clips, Rainbow clothing shop, GameStop Midway and Peking Garden restaurant were heavily damaged. Big Top Liquor was looted and set ablaze.

On the north side of University, Midway Tobacco, DTLR, Sports Dome, Boost Mobile, Maxx It Pawn, Culver's restaurant and other businesses were left in ruins. Snelling Avenue Fine Wines and Spirits and CVS Pharmacy were vandalized and looted, as were Ax-Man Surplus and Metro Lighting and Sound to the west. Lloyd's Pharmacy, which had stood for 102 years at Snelling and Minnehaha avenues, was burned to the ground.

Businesses were looted and fires were set at Midway Marketplace. Cub Foods, Dollar Tree, TJ Maxx and the Healtheast Clinic were hit hard. At University and Hamline Avenue, a fire was set at the UPS Store, Discount Tire was

St. Paul did not suffer to the extent that Minneapolis did from the arson, vandalism and looting. It helped that it had one more day to prepare.

vandalized and looted, and America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses and LeeAnn Chin restaurant sustained heavy damage. Furniture Barn was looted and set on fire. Midway SuperTarget was looted and vandalized, as were the nearby Verizon store, Noodles and Company restaurant and Vitamin Shop. A shuttered BP service station was also vandalized.

Stores and restaurants on the first floor of an apartment building at University and Hamline sustained damage. The building at University and Syndicate Street that housed Bole restaurant, NAPA Auto Parts and Jackson Hewitt was destroyed by fire. Windows were smashed at the Goodwill Store. Enterprise rental car was damaged by fire. Ananya Dance Theater was vandalized. A wig shop was looted and set on fire.

Gordon Parks School was damaged by vandals and fire. Aldi grocery store was vandalized. The UnBank, White Castle restaurant and TCF Bank at University and Lexington Parkway were damaged. O'Reilly Auto Parts was vandalized and set on fire.

Speedway gas stations and convenience stores were damaged at Snelling and Portland avenues, Snelling and Ford Parkway and Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue.

The Speedway at Grand and Cleveland avenues was set on fire, as was the Speedway at University and Chatsworth Street. The Grand-Cleveland store is believed to be a total loss. Holiday Station Stores throughout the area were also vandalized and looted, with some of the worst damage to the store at Snelling and Iglehart avenues.

Small businesses on University all the way to the state Capitol sustained damage, as did the Uni-Dale Mall. The 7-Mile clothing



Early on the afternoon of May 29, a St. Paul firefighter trained a hose on shops that were torched the night before on University Avenue just east of Snelling. At right, a masked demonstrator at a peaceful protest in front of the state Capitol on June 2 advocated for activism.

PHOTO ABOVE BY BRAD STAUFFER AND AT RIGHT BY LOU MICHAELS

store at Uni-Dale was looted and vandalized.

Walgreens pharmacies at Randolph and Snelling, Grand Avenue and Grotto Street, and Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue were vandalized and looted, as were the CVS Pharmacy at 1040 Grand Ave. Grand and West 7th Pharmacy at 1106 W. Seventh St.

Many Grand Avenue businesses sustained property damage and looting, including Lululemon at Victoria Street, Gold'n Treasures at Avon Street, and First Grand Avenue Liquor Store at Milton Street.

Trader Joe's at Randolph and Lexington was vandalized and looted. Liquor Barrel at West Seventh and St. Clair Avenue was vandalized and looted.

Selby-Snelling area businesses reported window damage, as did businesses along Marshall Avenue. Further east on Selby, Mississippi Market and Claddagh Coffee sustained damage. Several businesses were damaged at St. Clair and Cleveland avenues. Willie's Guitars was hard hit with vandalism and looting.

A vehicle was set on fire in the TruStone parking lot in Highland Village. R.F. Moeller Jeweler, the Fixery and Verizon stores had rocks thrown through their windows and were looted. International Wine and Spirits



The Fixery in Highland Village was heavily damaged with extensive vandalism and looting on the night of May 28-29. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER



was vandalized and looted. Bakers Square restaurant was vandalized and set on fire.

The Fixery was extensively damaged. Long-time employee Mark Wilsey said that while the watches, clocks and jewelry dropped off by customers for repair were spared, the store's glass counters, cases and windows were all smashed and almost all of the store merchandise was stolen. "This was a major blow to our business," he said.

Wilsey has set up a GoFundMe page for the Fixery and owner Mark Kafka. As of Villager deadline the fund drive had raised almost half of its \$10,000 goal.



An artist's rendering of the seven-story, approximately 190-unit apartment building planned for 337 W. Seventh St., on the site of Bonfe's Auto Service Mechanical Center, looking northwest from West Seventh.

Council denies appeal of West 7th project

Neighbors concerned 7-story building is too tall for area, will add to parking problems

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted 5-1 on June 3 to deny an appeal by West End neighbors and uphold the Planning Commission's decision to approve a conditional use permit and variances for an 85-foot-tall mixed-use building at 337 W. Seventh St.

The building's height and concerns about spillover parking prompted the appeal. While acknowledging the appeal's "thoughtful and eloquent tone," Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker said she did not believe the commission erred in approving the project.

Council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali, Chris Tolbert and Nelsie Yang joined Noecker in denying the appeal. Jane Prince voted against denial and Dai Thao was absent.

Noecker conceded that the area has longstanding parking problems. She asked that the developers continue meeting with neighbors on the project, which is being led by Ackerberg Group and Northland Real Estate Group/Valerian LLC.

The conditional use permit allows a building height of up to 85 feet. The building will have one level of parking on the main floor and six levels of housing in a mix of apartment sizes above. About 190 apartments are planned, along with a 1,800-square-foot retail space fronting West Seventh.

There will be a total of 110 park-

"Every business wants the apartment building added to the West Seventh community," Tony and Tom Bonfe said in a letter of support.

ing stalls, 104 of which will be stacked. The requirement is for 137 spaces, so a 27-space variance was needed. A variance also was needed to increase the maximum floor-area ratio from 3.0 to 4.1.

A previously approved building plan for a 75-foot-tall building was shelved when the developers ran into problems with underlying bedrock, which affected stormwater drainage. A narrower, taller building was then proposed, which neighbors argued was too tall.

The appeal was filed by Elyse Jensen on behalf of 29 households around the site. The opponents believed the project is contrary to neighborhood and city plans. They expressed concerns about the height, inadequate off-street parking and the addition of almost 30 apartments to the building.

Opponents said they do not oppose workforce housing, which is what the developers say they are providing. The appeal stated that over the past 15 years that part of the city has seen more than 1,700 units of new apartments and condominiums, and two more housing developments are under construction.

However, the neighbors said the other developments have provided sufficient parking and have been con-

structed more in scale with surrounding structures.

The council received several comments in opposition, including one from former council member Dave Thune and his wife, Sue. They described the project as a "monstrosity" that will tower over a neighborhood overwhelmed with spillover parking.

The Thunes called the change in plans "hogwash" and said the developers should have known about the area's underlying bedrock. "Any competent planner, architect or engineer would take that into account before coming this far in the development process," they wrote.

The developers emphasized that they had to change their plans after the original Planning Commission and City Council approvals in late 2019 and early 2020 due to how the bedrock affected the way they were planning to handle stormwater.

The project had the support of the St. Paul Building and Construction Trades Council and the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation.

The City Council also received a petition in support of the building from Tony and Tom Bonfe, owners of Bonfe's Auto Service and Collision Repair, that was signed by more than three dozen local businesses. The Bonfes are selling their building on the development site and consolidating their operations to cut expenses. They said they were shocked to hear about the appeal.

"Every business wants the apartment building added to the West Seventh community," Tony and Tom Bonfe said in a letter of support. "It will add a much-needed residence for hospital employees who will now be able to walk to work, stores and restaurants."

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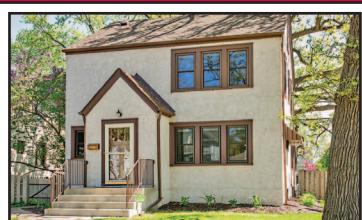
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Dining returns to bars and restaurants but at limited capacity

Sit-down service resumes indoors and out at tables spaced six feet apart

By CAROLYN WALKUP

Time was running out earlier this month on local restaurateurs whose indoor dining rooms have been closed since March 17 by order of Governor Tim Walz due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As many as half of Minnesota's hospitality businesses were "looking at closing in the next month or so," said Hospitality Minnesota spokesperson Ben Wogsland. "Their bills keep coming. They're running out of time and out of money."

Then Walz offered some relief with a new order on June 4 permitting bars and restaurants across the state to resume sit-down service indoors at 50 percent capacity beginning June 10. His earlier order, which took effect on June 1, had allowed sit-down service outdoors only, and that came as a great disappointment to local restaurateurs who after 2½ months of only takeout and delivery service had been hoping for more.

At least 39 states had allowed restaurants to resume indoor dining at some level prior to June 1, according to Wogsland. His trade association had been lobbying for similar accommodations in Minnesota. The hospitality industry generates 18 percent of the sales tax revenue received by the state of Minnesota, he



Lunch is served on the patio of Selby Avenue's Moscow on the Hill, though tables have been removed to allow for the recommended social distancing. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

said, and if half of the restaurants and resorts in Minnesota should fail, the state would lose about 150,000 jobs.

The decision to allow only outdoor dining in addition to takeout and delivery was made by people who know little about the restaurant industry, according to James Crockarell, president of Madison Equities, which owns eight restaurants in and around downtown St. Paul. "It's a plan that is doomed to failure," he said. "Restaurants must be at full capacity to make even modest profits."

Madison Equities is keeping its three restaurants in the Park Square Court Building — the Handsome Hog, Public Kitchen + Bar and the Green Lantern—closed for the time being while the building undergoes a \$36 million renovation. Meanwhile, it is rebranding its Fitz Restaurant at 173 N. Western Ave. as the Handsome Hog with a new patio in a former parking lot.

Outdoor service is limited to a maximum of 50 patrons at a time. The state is requiring that all diners, indoors and out, have a reser-

All diners must have a reservation. Tables must be spaced at least six feet apart. They are limited to no more than six patrons when all are from the same household; otherwise the limit is four.

vation, and tables must be spaced at least six feet apart to maintain the proper social distancing. Tables are limited to no more than six patrons when all are from the same household; otherwise the limit is four. Restaurant workers must wear facemasks. Patrons are encouraged to wear facemasks except when they are dining or drinking. Dining areas also must be regularly disinfected.

Many restaurants have little or no space for outdoor dining currently. However, the city of St. Paul recently expedited the process for requesting new and expanded outdoor service licenses (see story below). The city also eliminated some of the fees for such licenses. A May 27 City Council resolution permitted restaurants to apply for temporary street closures, expanded use of the public right-of-way and the use of on-street parking lanes to accommodate more outdoor dining.

The Highland Grill, 771 S. Cleveland Ave., has had only a few tables on the sidewalk out front. Co-owner Stephanie Shimp is hoping

SIT-DOWN SERVICE RETURNS ►7

St. Paul eases restrictions on restaurant patios and sidewalk cafes

New dining areas are allowed on parking lots, boulevards, even streets

By JANE MCCLURE

Governor Tim Walz's June 1 order allowing restaurants to resume outdoor dining had St. Paul officials scrambling to amend the city's licensing regulations and fee structures in order to ease the process for bars and restaurants that have suffered through 2½ months of sharply reduced sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The city has not only relaxed the regulations for sidewalk cafes and patios, it has allowed restaurants to

place tables on parking lots, boulevards and even streets.

"Time is of the essence," said Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker, referring to the urgency of offering relief to restaurants that have been forcibly closed or operating at just a fraction of their former sales levels with takeout and delivery service only.

The St. Paul City Council on May 27 unanimously passed a resolution that allows "expanded use of the public right-of-way, temporary street closures, on-street parklets and expanded use of park space" for outdoor dining. Mayor Melvin Carter signed an emergency declaration that same day allowing the measures. Minneapolis has implemented similar rules. All bars and restaurants in the two cities must still adhere to the state guide-

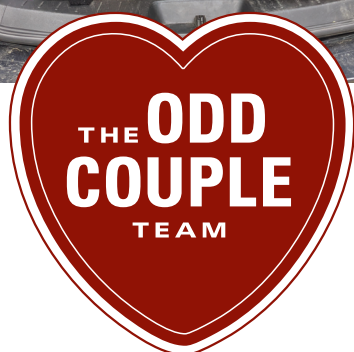
lines for safe outdoor dining that were issued on May 20 by Walz.

"We're working very hard on how to streamline the approval process and help restaurants expand their capacity," said Ricardo Cervantes, director of St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). "This sector of the economy has been extremely hard hit financially." The challenge, according to Cervantes, is to minimize the burden on restaurants without endangering the safety of restaurant patrons and employees.

Some bars and restaurants are seeking approval for sidewalk cafes for the first time. St. Paul's Department of Public Works and DSI have been working with them on site plans and insurance requirements. The usual neighborhood notification process has been

suspended. Additional fees and sewer access charges are being waived as are requirements tied to signage. However, if a restaurant wants to serve alcoholic beverages in an outdoor dining area for the first time, the city is not able to move the approval along as quickly.

"There are a lot of issues to balance," said St. Paul planning director Luis Pereira. The city wants to help restaurants, he said, but they also need to consider pedestrian safety and accessibility, especially in regard to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Sidewalk tables and chairs must not encroach on the space required for a wheelchair to safely pass. Although the city can waive off-street parking requirements, parking for people with disabilities may not be converted for dining.



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News Briefs

Rezoning sought for James- Lex apartments

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee will review plans for an apartment building at the southeast corner of Lexington Parkway and James Avenue during a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10. The plans call for rezoning 1074-1096 James Ave. from single-family residential to multifamily residential. Six houses would be removed.

The developers plan to construct a medium-density apartment building on the property in anticipation of pending changes to the city's residential multifamily (RM) zoning districts. The St. Paul Planning Commission is considering zoning code changes to allow more density in RM districts.

The preliminary plans for the development show three to four stories of apartments. The building would have 60 studio to two-bedroom units. Twenty surface and 60 underground parking spaces are being proposed.

A second phase of the project shows another apartment building at the northeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington. It would require the removal of three homes and a mixed-use building.

The project will be heard by the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18. The development team is Chet Funk, Nathan James and Erich Leidel.

Hearing on rules to protect tenants delayed

The passage of St. Paul's controversial SAFE Housing Tenant Protections Ordinance has been delayed. The City Council on June 3 postponed a public hearing and vote on the ordinance, which would mandate several measures meant to protect tenants from unfair rental practices.

Instead of June 10, the online public hearing is now set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 24. The council is expected to cast its final vote on the ordinance at 3:30 p.m. that day unless there are substantive amendments.

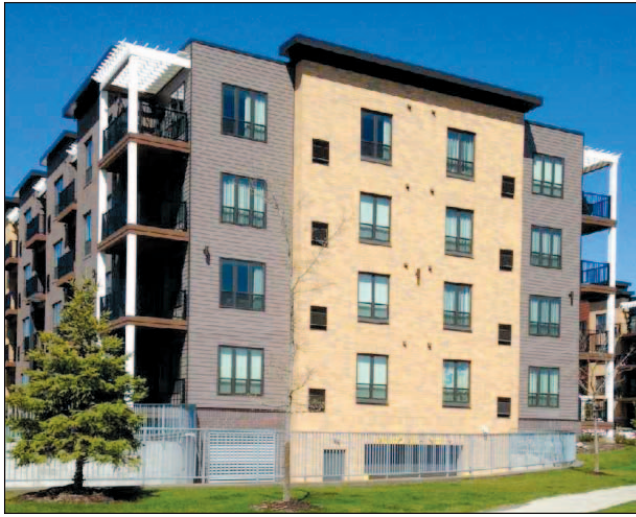
Speakers at the public hearing will be chosen by lottery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the council has been only allowing written testimony in the past few months. Written testimony will still be reviewed by the council.

Council president Amy Brendmoen has asked her fellow council members to bring in their amendments by June 10 and to be prepared to discuss them on June 17.

"I've heard from people on all sides of the issue," Brendmoen said. That includes tenant and landlord advocates and some council members who did not have their amendments finalized by June 3.

The vote to reschedule the hearing was 4-2, with Brendmoen joined in support by Rebecca Noecker, Jane Prince and Chris Tolbert. Mitra Jalali and Nelsie Yang voted against the delay. Jalali said supporters of the ordinance are eager to move forward.

However, other council members said they needed more time to work on their amendments. "My focus here is to be



A rendering of the apartments proposed at James and Lexington.

consistent, to be fair and to be transparent," Brendmoen said.

The SAFE (Stable, Accessible, Fair and Equitable) Housing ordinance has the support of many tenant-advocate, faith-based and social justice groups, but has drawn fire from landlords. The ordinance includes regulations on rental deposits, the sale of rental property and tenant notification, tenant screening and just causes for evictions.

If adopted, the ordinance would take effect on January 1, 2021.

Three new homes planned in Irvine Park

Bayport-based Sharkey Design-Build is seeking the city of St. Paul's approval to build three single-family homes on vacant property at 300, 302 and 304 Ryan Ave. in the Irvine Park neighborhood. The developer filed lot split and boundary adjustment plans with the city in May. Those requests will go to the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development for its review.

A house on the property was torn down more than a year ago after having been moved there in the 1960s. It had stood in the old Upper Levee neighborhood since 1900. According to St. Paul "house detective" Jim Sazevich, the house was moved when the Upper Levee neighborhood below the High Bridge was cleared.

Lot split and boundary adjustment decisions are made by the city's planning administrator. However, because the Irvine Park neighborhood is in a historic preservation district, the plans will also be reviewed by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC).

The HPC approved the demolition of the house at 302 Ryan in 2018 when it was owned by Merriam Park resident Fred Schmidt.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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the city will let the restaurant set up a few more tables in the parking lane in front of the business and on the sidewalk in front of neighboring businesses. The restaurant continues to offer takeout and delivery service, but the COVID-19 shutdown has taken a big toll on its sales and that of the half dozen other establishments operated by Blue Plate Restaurant Company.

Blue Plate has "laid off more than 500 employees and now has just 26 on the payroll," Shimp said. "We're losing thousands of dollars every week."

"I feel sorry for people who don't have patios," said Eugene Liberman, owner of Moscow on the Hill, 371 Selby Ave. Liberman's patio can seat up to 50 under the new state guidelines. The takeout and delivery business has been "OK," he said, "but it would have been better if we could have offered our specialty cocktails." The state has allowed restaurants to sell bottled beer and wine for takeout and delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, but not hard liquor.

Groveland Tap, 1834 St. Clair Ave., another Blue Plate restaurant, has expanded its sidewalk service by placing tables in the adjacent parking lot.

Shamrock's Grill and Pub, 995 W. Sev-

enth St., is adding a patio and has been working with the city to place more tables in space now used for parking. However, the outdoor areas do not come close to making up for business lost to the COVID-19 pandemic or to restoring employment to the 80 percent of the staff now out of work, according to co-owner Mike Runyon.

"Fifty diners doesn't do anything for us," Runyon said prior to the governor's latest order. "We still have to pay for all our utilities and staff and to plan food orders for how many people might show up. It's scary. But we're optimistic. Sometimes optimism is what keeps you going."

Outdoor dining is also coming to Mancini's Char House, the long-standing restaurant at 531 W. Seventh St. Mancini's has spruced up a little-used patio in the back and added tables in a portion of the vast parking lot that is next to the patio. Converting a large restaurant and lounge that hosted countless private parties to a small patio operation has not been easy, according to co-owner Pat Mancini. In addition to creating a new employee operations manual, he planted flowers throughout the patio and installed a giant canvas awning over the patio to keep out the rain.

Mendoberri Cafe & Wine Bar chef and

owner Robert Ulrich has "a bit of a patio" at his Mendota Heights establishment and is in the process of finishing a large patio at his new Foodsmith Pub on Smith Avenue in West St. Paul, which he opened just a week before COVID-19 shut it down. Ulrich is glad he has been able to rehire almost all of his laid-off staff. "I look at this situation as the glass is half full," he said.

On Grand Avenue, Tavern on Grand has no space for patio service, but has continued to offer takeout service. Across the street, Dixie's on Grand, Emmett's Public House and Saji-Ya have opened their existing patio and placed additional umbrella tables in the adjacent parking lot for more outdoor dining, according to co-owner John Wolf. Just 15 percent of the former staff has been working at the three restaurants this spring, he added.

Pajarito, 605 W. Seventh St., has no outdoor dining area and no plans to offer one, according to owner Steve Hesse. However, the contemporary Mexican eatery is expanding its takeout offerings from family-style meals to smaller a la carte orders as well, and Hesse hopes that will boost revenue, which he said is down about 67 percent.

"The neighborhood is helping us a lot," said Hesse. "Every little bit helps."

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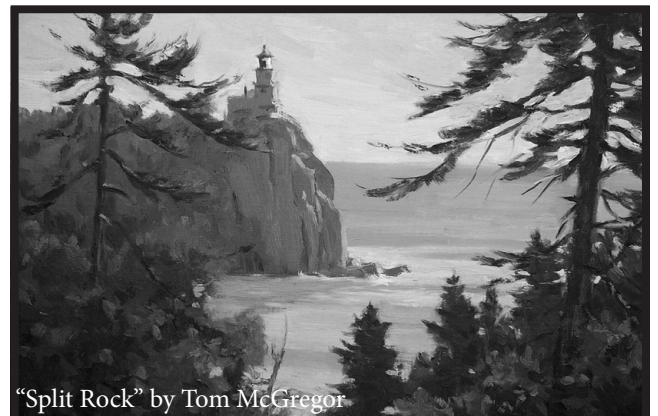
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VIEWPOINT

Bridging our racial divide begins with making a new friend

BY ANNE MURPHY

One night a few years ago, I made a new friend in the lobby of Mariucci Arena at the University of Minnesota. It wasn't a remarkable meeting for the location, but it was an important occasion for me.

I'm a white woman. My friend is a black man. Or at least he was. I don't know if he's still alive. We haven't seen each other since. Our friendship remains one of the moment—a brief shining moment, to call up the phrase given to John F. Kennedy's presidency, when the dark clouds of racial discrimination weighed heavily on our country and dreams of optimism overcoming that oppression were being invoked by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Every so often, I think about my friend from Mariucci, and never more poignantly than two weeks ago after George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis and I heard CNN's Don Lemon suggest that as one small measure of good, every white person find a new black friend and every black person find a new white friend—a friend with whom we

can find comfort in shared values.

Those are the values I found in my new friend from Mariucci. I was there with two daughters for a Gopher hockey game. It was a last-minute decision. By the time we arrived, the first period was almost over. There were few empty seats left together, and my daughters took two of them. I decided to stay in the lobby and read a book I had brought with me. I took a seat at an empty table there.

Not long after, an elderly man walked up to the table. He was a black man. He asked if I would mind if he sat next to me. He was working security at the game and he couldn't sit for long, he explained, but his knees were bothering him and he thought he could do a better job if he wasn't hurting.

Then he added, "You don't have to be afraid of me."

I knew he wasn't referring to his stature. He was talking, I was sure, from experience: Not all white women would feel comfortable in my position just then. I said I wasn't afraid, and I hoped that he could sense that I wasn't one of those women, and that I saw him as polite and kind and dignified.

I said, "Please, sir, sit down."

He was talking, I was sure, from experience: Not all white women would feel comfortable in my position just then. I said I wasn't afraid, and I hoped that he could sense that, and that I saw him as polite and kind and dignified.

We exchanged names and information about ourselves—our spouses, grown children, why I happened to be sitting at that table, why he happened to be working security. He said it was a retirement job, to make sure that he and his wife had enough money in their old age. He told me he sometimes worked at other sports venues, which brought up the ticket prices that were projected at the yet-to-be-completed Vikings stadium. Wouldn't some of the money being spent on building the stadium have been better directed toward education? he asked. Yes, I agreed. On the need for books and new

technology in the schools, especially for underprivileged students, we also agreed.

Conscious of his time, my friend said it was a pleasure to meet me and returned to his post near an entryway to the arena. It wasn't long, however, before a commotion erupted in our end of the lobby. A young white man was being alarmingly vocal about not being allowed to enter the arena without a ticket. His ticket, he said, had been lost. He said he had connections and should be allowed in. As other security personnel tried to calm the young man, my friend walked back to our table and said he thought I should move. He was doing his job, and doing a good job, I thought, watching out for a friend.

This is a story of a friendship that came out of nowhere and everywhere and has remained with me ever since. So much so that I hope Joel Smith reads this column or someone who knows him does. If he is still here, I want Joel to know that I remember meeting him and if I met him today we'd have more thoughts to share. One of them being the importance of making a friend who may not be like you in some ways, but who you will like and will stay with you.

INBOX

Hard decision had to be made

As a business owner and longstanding vendor at the Minnesota State Fair, I was disappointed with comments made by Republican Party of Minnesota chair Jennifer Carnahan regarding the closing of the 2020 State Fair. Anyone associated with the State Fair shares the disappointment and frustration of it being canceled. But it's not about our personal disappointments, frustrations or even financial losses. It's about the decision that the State Fair board and staff had to make to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved. As general manager Jerry Hammer stated, "It wasn't a tough decision; it was the only decision" they could make.

In her comments, Ms. Carnahan was quick to shame several people. She should look in the mirror and shame herself for her thoughtless and sophomoric comments. Maybe a more appropriate approach would have been something like this: "It is with great sadness to hear the official announcement of the cancellation of the Minnesota State Fair. Although there will be many disappointed attendees and lost revenue, it must have been a difficult decision for all involved. I commend them for their courage and thank them for placing the health and well-being of the millions of attendees above revenue."

*Dave Cavallaro
Mendota Heights*

Editor's note: The writer operates a cheese curd stand in the Food Building at the Minnesota State Fair.

Act now for better kidney care

Since 2009, I have served as my father's in-home caregiver as he undergoes dialysis treatments. In that time, we've had the incredible fortune of working with supportive and attentive medical staff who helped us as we learned about life with dialysis. Because of the great medical care, my father was, until a recent amputation, able to maintain an active lifestyle as a pastor and enjoy his favorite outdoor activities like fishing. There was a lot of work involved for me early on in the process as his caregiver, including asking the right questions, managing medications and ensuring the doctors had access to the information they needed.

While I was able to be there for my father, I know that not every dialysis patient is able to have a caregiver to help manage appointments, medications and medical information. That's why dialysis patients need U.S. Representative Betty McCollum and other members of Congress to support a bill called the Better Kidney Care Act. It would allow all of a patient's doctors to share information and work together to help their patients receive the high level of care they need.

Advocating for dialysis patients is something that I hold close to my heart. I want to be sure all patients have access to well-coordinated treatment plans. The Better Kidney Care Act would be the best path to achieving that.

*Ramona Banks
Payne-Phalen*

Ayd Mill trail is too dangerous

Why would you put a bike path and a pedestrian path next to busy Ayd Mill Road? It's too dangerous. Besides, there are plenty of bike paths.

And why don't bicyclists pay an annual fee to build and maintain all of their trails, the same as motor vehicles do for their roads? Then maybe bicyclists would be more likely to follow the rules of the road, too.

We should just resurface Ayd Mill Road, especially now with the coronavirus and the extra costs associated with it.

*Al Prusinske
Macalester-Groveland*

Let's do as FDR did

I was raised during the Great Depression in the 1930s. My parents were poor, but I don't ever remember being hungry. President Roosevelt started two jobs program to get the country working again. They were the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. They constructed many public works during the Depression, and there is no limit of needs in the public sphere today. My father and my wife's father worked in these programs.

If Congress and the Trump administration don't develop a jobs program at this time, we'll never get out of the current depression. If they want to make "America Great Again," they better do this.

*Lyle Nelson
West Side*

For a primer in public health

When I was at the University of Minnesota in the 1960s, I took a two-credit course in public health. The class was mandatory for undergrads regardless of whether you were majoring in engineering, liberal arts, forestry, home economics or pre-med. In a way, the class provided a sense of unity. It was the only class that every student had to take in order to graduate.

I don't know whether the University of Minnesota still requires a public health class, but I hope so. I would like to see every college, high school and university in the U.S. provide a basic class in public health. Maybe if we did that, we wouldn't

have so many personalities like Dr. Phil, Dr. Oz and the reality TV star in the White House giving foolish advice and taking counterproductive steps in the face of a global pandemic.

I think proficiency in public health should also be a prerequisite for running for public office in Minnesota. By the looks of it, many on the Republican side of the aisle have a limited understanding of the subject.

*M.L. Kluznik
Mendota Heights*

Who is that masked kid?

With guidelines being made for the partial reopening of our state, we're all going to have to be extra cautious about COVID-19 transmission. The advice now is for everyone who's out to wear a mask. Please, parents, provide your children with masks and show them how to wear them properly. The latest research is showing that children can go about symptomless while being carriers of a form of COVID and spreading the virus to any in their vicinity. If your child complains, please explain that their brief discomfort is a small thing when compared to infecting and possibly killing an elderly neighbor. Additionally, the form of virus showing up in children doesn't necessarily kill, but it can impair organ function with lifelong consequences.

Please help your children stay healthy through informed choices.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

A woman's right to abortion

Ann Redding makes an error in logic common among the anti-choice people ("A bigger threat to human life," *Villager* Inbox, April 1). She assumes the fetus is a baby. This is not a proof. What is true, however, is that women deserve control over their own bodies and their own destinies, without which they are second-class citizens. Men have this control and are first-class citizens.

The anti-choice people should stop spreading false information. For example, saying that there is a fetal heartbeat 18 days after conception. This can't be true because the heart does not develop till later on. I lectured on this for years in front of pre-med students.

*R. W. Myster
Summit Hill*

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Variances OK'd for 5-story Selby-Dale project

By JANE MCCLURE

Several variances were unanimously approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission on May 29 for TJL Development's plan to construct a five-story apartment building at 594 Selby Ave. Commissioners also supported rezoning an adjacent property at 156 N. Dale St. from business to Traditional Neighborhoods 3 (TN3). That part of the project involves converting a former auto repair shop into possibly a hair salon. The rezoning will be taken up by the City Council for final approval this summer.

The apartment building will have about 80 units ranging in size from studios to three bedrooms, with 110 parking spaces underground and on the first floor. A second-floor deck will be located on the west side of the building.

The development team is currently considering what levels of rent to charge. The Summit-University Planning Council voted in April to ask that some affordable housing be created as part of the project based on the Twin Cities' median household income level. However, developer Jim LaValle has asked city officials that affordable housing not be required as a condition for the project.

The apartments would front 594 and what was 600 Selby. The latter lot housed a convenience store until it was demolished in 2005. The lots at 156 N. Dale and 600 Selby were combined in 2016 after a prospective developer considered converting the former auto repair shop into a restaurant.

Most of the apartment building will be in an area already zoned for RM2 multifamily use. The rest will be in the area to be rezoned TN3. "It's very complicated," said city planner Tony Johnson.

The Planning Commission approved the following vari-



A drawing of the apartment building proposed at 594 Selby Ave.

ances for the apartment building: 22 units on one part of the property instead of a maximum of nine allowed; no front setback on Selby instead of the 20 feet required; a 5-foot setback on the property's east side instead of the 9 feet required to allow room for balconies; a 21-foot setback instead of the 25 feet required for four balconies at the rear of the building; a 53-foot height instead of the maximum 50 feet allowed in an RM2 district; 58 percent lot coverage instead of the maximum 35 percent allowed; and access to parking from both Selby and the Selby-Hague alley.

A variance also was needed for the former auto repair shop on Dale in order to allow two off-street parking spaces in front of the building. TN3 zoning does not allow front-yard parking, but there has been parking in front of the garage ever since it was built in 1915.

The original development plan called for the former garage to be demolished to make way for part of the apartment building, but that was rejected by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission. The HPC was involved because the development site is in the Historic Hill District.

Commission favors plans for Marshall Ave. Flats

By JANE MCCLURE

A 97-unit, six-story apartment building proposed for the southeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Fry Street won the unanimous support of the St. Paul Planning Commission in May for a zoning change, a conditional use permit and a front-yard setback variance.

The commission's decisions on the use permit and variance are final. The City Council will hold a public hearing on June 17 before voting on the request to change the zoning from Traditional Neighborhoods 2 to TN3.

The city's zoning administrator also must approve a reduction in the off-street parking requirement for residential uses in a TN3 district. The apartment building, which will have 45 below-ground and 16 surface parking spots, would ordinarily require 91 spaces.

The Planning Commission added a

condition that a minimum of five units of the building be affordable for residents earning up to 30 percent of the Twin Cities area median household income (AMI), which is \$100,000 for a family of four. The remainder of the units must be affordable for household's earning 50-70 percent of the AMI.

The Marshall Avenue Flats project is being led by developer Richard Pakonen of PAK Properties. The apartment building would be built on a parking lot and green space north of the former Richards Gordon School at 1619 Dayton Ave. The former school building will be remodeled as part of the project and will continue to house offices after the apartments are built.

Even with a zoning change, a conditional use permit was needed to allow a building of up to 75 feet in height. The 5-foot front-yard setback was approved instead of the 10 feet normally required for the building and its balconies

along Marshall.

The Union Park District Council supported the project on the condition that it provide "deeply affordable" units in the 30 percent of AMI range.

Most of the apartments would be one- and two-bedroom units with monthly rents ranging from \$937-\$1,575. A handful of three-bedroom units would rent for about \$1,800.

Public financing is being sought for the project. The site is located in a qualified census tract where incomes are lower than in other parts of the neighborhood. The ongoing 2020 U.S. Census could change that status, so the development team is working quickly on its requests. A mix of tax credits for low-income housing, bonding tied to those credits and tax increment financing is being proposed. Those requests will be considered by the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority board.

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Editors

Dale Mischke • John Wadell
news@myvillager.com

Letters to the Editor
letters@myvillager.com

Display Advertising Sales
Tim Carroll
displayads@myvillager.com

Classified Ads & Legal Notices
Jennifer Gordon
wantads@myvillager.com

Graphic Designers

Craig Schuster • Jennifer Gordon

Administration

Jennifer Gordon
jgordon@myvillager.com

Publisher

Michael Mischke
mmischke@myvillager.com

Subscriptions

subscriptions@myvillager.com

CONTRIBUTORS: Roger Barr, Matthew Davis, Casey Ek, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Anne Hauth, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Mary Maguire Lerman, Jane McClure, Lou Michaels, Steve Michaels, Anne Murphy, Melenie Southeray, Brad Stauffer, Jennifer Stewart, Bill Wagner, Carolyn Walkup, Leslie Walters, Tilly Wilson, Dave Wright.

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Candidates file for August 11 primary, November 3 general election

BY DALE MISCHKE

The two-week candidate filing period closed with a flurry on June 2, setting the stage for primary and general election contests for a host of federal, state and local offices. Minnesotans will go to the polls on August 11 and November 3 to decide among candidates for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state senator and state representative. Races have also commenced for seats on the Minnesota Supreme Court and the various district courts.

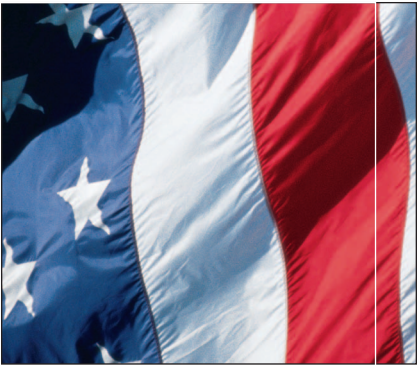
Local ballots will feature the following candidates and contested judicial races:

U.S. Senator—Two-year incumbent U.S. Senator Tina Smith will face four challengers in the DFL primary in August: Steve Carlson, Ahmad R. Hassan, Paula Overby and Christopher Lovell Seymore Sr. Competing in the Republican primary will be John L. Berman, Bob “Again” Carney Jr., Cynthia Gail, Jason Lewis and James Reibestein. The winners of those contests will advance to the November general election and also face Kevin O’Connor of the Legal Marijuana Now and Oliver Steinberg of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis parties.

U.S. Representative, District 2—First-term DFL incumbent Representative Angie Craig will face Tyler Kistner of the Republican Party and Adam Charles Weeks of the Legal Marijuana Now Party in the November general election.

U.S. Representative, District 4—Ten-term DFL incumbent Representative Betty McCollum will face four challengers in the DFL primary in August: Tiffini Flynn Forslund, Alberder Gillespie, Reid Rossell and David

ELECTION ’20



Sandbeck. Competing in the Republican primary will be Sia Lo and Gene Reichtzgel. The winners of those contests will also face Susan Sindt of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party in the general election.

U.S. Representative, District 5—First-term DFL incumbent Representative Ihlan Omar will face four challengers in the DFL primary in August: Les Lester, John Mason, Daniel Patrick McCarthy and Antone Melton-Meaux. Competing in the Republican primary will be Dalia Al-Aqidi and Lacy Johnson. The winners of those contests will also face Michael Moore of the Legal Marijuana Now Party in the general election.

Minnesota Supreme Court—Incumbent Associate Justice Paul Thissen will face Michelle MacDonald in the general election.

Ramsey County Second District Court—Incumbent Judge Patrick Diamond will face Ngozi Akubuike in the general election.

MINNESOTA SENATE

District 52—First-term DFL incumbent Senator Matt Klein, a doctor from Mendota

Heights, will face Republican Tomas Settell, a small-business owner from Inver Grove Heights, in the general election.

District 63—Four-term DFL incumbent Senator Patricia Torres-Ray of Minneapolis’ Bancroft neighborhood will face Republican graphic designer Diane Napper of Minneapolis’ Nokomis East neighborhood and Corcoran neighborhood resident Chris Wright of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party in the general election.

District 64—The seat now held by retiring Senator Dick Cohen will go to the winner of the November general election among former DFL Representative Erin Murphy of Summit Hill, Republican Sharon Anderson of St. Paul’s East Side and Ramsey Hill resident Patricia Jirovec McArdeU of the Legal Marijuana Now Party.

District 65—Nine-term incumbent Senator Sandy Pappas is being challenged by fellow DFLer Laverne McCartney Knighton of Summit-University in the August primary. The winner will face Republican Paul Holmgren of the Frogtown neighborhood in the general election.

MINNESOTA HOUSE

District 52A—Eight-term DFL incumbent Representative Rick Hansen, a small-businessman from South St. Paul, will face West St. Paul Republican Mariah de la Paz, a 20-year health care professional, in the general election.

District 52B—First-term DFL incumbent Representative Ruth Richardson of Mendota Heights will face Republican Cynthia Lonquist, an IT sales professional from Mendota

Heights, in the general election.

District 63A—Ten-term DFL incumbent Representative Jim Davnie of Minneapolis’ Cooper neighborhood, a personal finance educator for Lutheran Social Service, is being challenged by fellow DFLer and Northrup neighborhood resident April Kane in the August primary. The winner will face Republican Penny Arcos and David Wiester of the Legal Marijuana Now Party in the general election.

District 63B—DFLers Jerome T. Evans of Minneapolis’ Minnehaha neighborhood, Husniyah Dent Bradley of Richfield and Emma Greenman of Minneapolis’ Northrup neighborhood will face off in the August primary for the seat now held by retiring DFL Representative Jean Wagenius. The winner will face Richfield resident Frank Pafko of the Republican Party and Richfield resident Dennis Schuller of the Legal Marijuana Now Party in the general election.

District 64A—First-term DFL incumbent Representative Kaohly Her of Merriam Park will face Republican Sherry Schack of Merriam Park in the general election.

District 64B—Three-term DFL incumbent Representative Dave Pinto will face fellow Highland Park resident and Republican Georgia Dietz in the general election.

District 65A—Five-term DFL incumbent Representative Rena Moran of Summit-University will face Republican Amy Anderson of Summit-University in the general election.

District 65B—Sixteen-term DFL incumbent Representative Carlos Mariani of the West Side will face Republican Margaret Mary Stokely of the West End in the general election.

St. Paul still looking to loosen its residential design standards

BY JANE MCCLURE

Changes to residential design standards in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods are expected to win St. Paul Planning Commission support in June and then go on to the City Council for final approval.

The changes, which have the support of the district councils from both neighborhoods, were the topic of a public hearing on May 29 before the Planning Commission. No one else weighed in on the changes.

The original residential design standards for the two neighborhoods were adopted in 2015 to address the growing trend of tear-

ing down older homes and constructing larger houses and home additions that often dwarfed adjacent residences. Neighbors complained of the “McMansions” blocking light and air, and in some cases causing drainage problems. Neighbors said they often found themselves looking at the large blank walls of the new homes and additions.

The new design standards regulate the heights and setbacks of new dwellings and additions as well as sidewall articulation. Most district council members said they want to maintain the intent of the standards, but they also want to see fewer variances, thereby reducing the money and time spent by property owners and the city.

It is being recommended that additions of less than 50 percent of a home’s existing footprint would not have to meet the design standards, which is expected to be a key change in reducing the number of variance requests.

New residential construction and larger additions would still fall under the guidelines.

The proposed changes provide more leeway on sidewall articulation, which involves breaking up a large wall by adding projecting bays or other architectural details. The current standard of articulation from “grade to eave” would be changed to at least one story tall, starting at or below the first floor. Another change would give more flexibility to city staff to determine what a sidewall articulation

could be to create consistency for approvals.

Features such as roof line changes, chimneys, variations in siding, windows and other design features could be used to meet the articulation requirement.

Projects that maintain the same building footprint, such as a second-story addition, would be exempt from sidewall articulation requirements, but would have to meet other design standards.

Another recommendation is to increase the height limit in the single-family residential R4 district from 22 feet to 24 feet. That would help accommodate issues created by modern truss systems and smaller residential yards.

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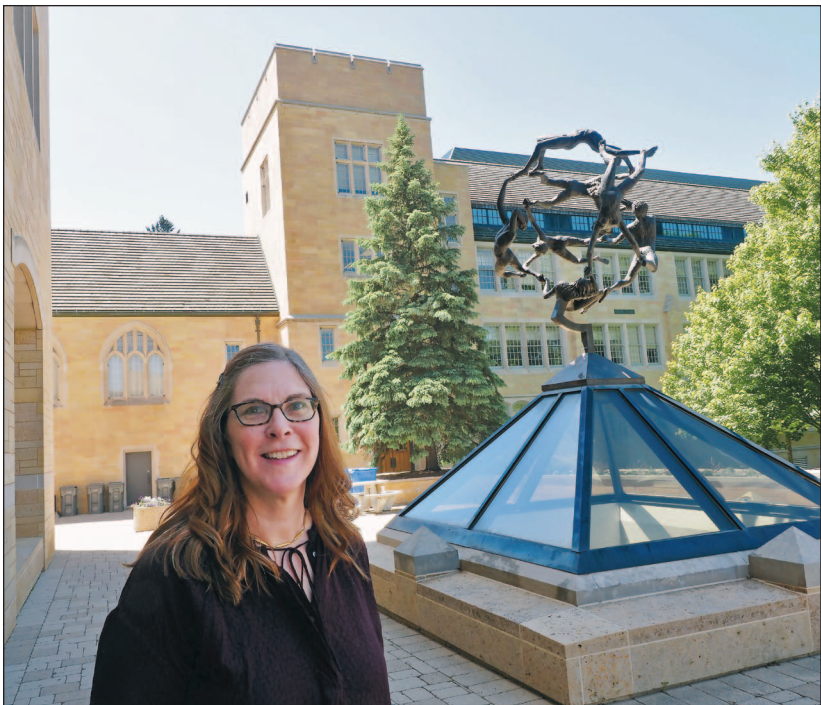
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University of St. Thomas Art History Professor Victoria Young, the new president of the Society of Architectural Historians, poses outside O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library on the UST campus where she has worked for the past 20 years.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

Professor has built a career around the impact of architecture in history

By ANNE MURPHY

As an architectural historian, University of St. Thomas Professor Victoria Young said she understands “the power of buildings and spaces to define and redefine race, politics and social identities.”

Young, who is the chair of St. Thomas' Art History Department, has just begun a two-year term as president of the Society of Architectural Historians. The international society is devoted to the history of architecture and how the built environment shapes contemporary life, “and being president is one of the greatest moments of my academic life,” she said.

Young has been thinking much in recent weeks about the rioting that destroyed so much of the Twin Cities since George Floyd's death while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers.

“I've been devastated by the murder of George Floyd,” she said. “Unfortunately, this is part of a longstanding tradition of inequality. As an educator and parent, I think about how to change the conversation so that all voices are constantly and equally heard. When immigrants' businesses on Lake Street and elsewhere were being demolished, one has to realize that a part of a person's identity is lost with that destructive act. When citizens from all walks of life then come out to help sweep up the glass and debris from these buildings, a small part of the healing begins.”

“I have friends who, like many other citizens, stayed up all night (during the riots) protecting their homes, schools, libraries, religious institutions, community centers, grocery stores, post offices, pharmacies and more,” she said. “These institutions are just bricks and mortar, but they provide places for us to gather as a common humanity. They also become markers of determination and survival, just as St. Paul's Cathedral did for London when it survived the German bombings of World War II. Our buildings give us strength, and we can use that as one small part of the equality and justice we must have for all.”

Young grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota and attended New York University and the University of Virginia. “An architect is someone who is trained in the process of designing buildings; there's a lot more science and math,” she said. “I always thought about history and art history. Then I saw some Frank Lloyd Wright buildings for the first time, and I thought this could be fun. I'm trained in using the building landscape to better understand history.”

In 2000, after completing her Ph.D. at Virginia, Young made her way back to Minnesota. A colleague at St. Thomas told her of an opening at the university, and she has worked there ever since. Throughout that time, she

has been active in the Society of Architectural Historians. She has also been involved in the master plan for the St. Thomas campus and in the design and construction of new buildings, including dormitories, the renovation of the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas and the soon-to-be-completed Iversen Center for Faith.

The chapel and Iversen projects have been especially meaningful for Young. “About five years ago, when we did a campus master plan, I was picked as the faculty representative,” she said. “That was great because the things I'm teaching all the time I'm now actually doing.”

“The chapel is Catholic and the Iversen is a multi-faith space,” she said. “We have a statue of St. Thomas Aquinas coming for the north plaza of the chapel. For the Iversen, we wanted to be careful not to have artwork that looked too Catholic or too Buddhist or too Jewish. Figuring out how all that would play out was tough.”

The Aquinas statue is by world-renowned sculptor Timothy Schmaltz. The art selected for the Iversen includes “Tell Me A Story,” a series of prints by St. Olaf professor emeritus Mary Griep based on drawings of sacred spaces from around the world, and a painting by Missouri artist Kelly Kruse with six panels representing the mind, body and soul as depicted in Greek literature.

Kruse's work “will convey the idea of holistic human design that speaks to all, regardless of race, gender, age or religious background,” Young said. “This type of thing makes a difference in how you feel when walking around campus.”

Young is the author of *St. John's Abbey Church: Marcel Breuer and the Creation of a Modern Sacred Space* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), about the architectural masterpiece at St. John's University in Collegeville. Among her latest projects is a new guidebook to the architecture of the University of St. Thomas and a new course on the architectural history of St. Thomas.

“Architecture speaks to the identity of so many things—a college, state, nation, religious order,” Young said. “As human beings, beauty matters to us. The beauty of a campus is about the care and consideration that goes into the buildings.”

The University of St. Thomas was founded by Archbishop John Ireland on Summit Avenue for a reason, Young said. “He knew that buildings in good locations mattered. This speaks volumes about excellence, and it has never been left behind.”

The architecture at St. Thomas also represents the university's respect for the city of St. Paul, Young added. “That's why the door of the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas faces away from the campus and toward downtown,” she said. “We're part of the neighborhood.”



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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on the 2500 block of West Seventh Street at 7:47 a.m. Wednesday, May 20.

—A home burglary was reported on the 1400 block of Alaska Avenue at 12:11 p.m. Sunday, May 24.

—Three residential break-ins were reported on South Mississippi River Boulevard on Tuesday, May 26, including at 3 a.m. on the 1500 block, 4 a.m. on the 1600 block and 8:30 a.m. on the 600 block.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 1300 block of Davern Street on May 15, the 2000 block of Montreal Avenue on May 16, on West Maynard Drive and West Seventh Street on May 19, on Madison and West Seventh streets on May 19, the 1200 block of Scheffer Avenue on May 22, the 1700 block of Field Avenue on May 22, the 2200 block of Rockwood Avenue on May 23 and two on the 2100 block of Eleanor Avenue on May 27.

—Several items were reported stolen from three vehicles on Saturday, May 16, including at 4:30 a.m. on Bayard Avenue and South Griggs Street, at 5:24 a.m. on the 700 block of South Griggs and at 10:45 a.m. on the 1700 block of Scheffer Avenue.

—Thefts from vehicles were reported on the 2200 block of Stewart Avenue at 11:14 a.m. Saturday, May 23; and on the 2700 block of Gannon Road at 7:22 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.

Weapons—Gunfire erupted on the 1300 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard at 12:21 a.m. Wednesday, May 27.

Miscellaneous—Felony vandalism was reported on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue at noon Friday, May 22.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—A theft of items valued at more than \$1,000 was reported on the 400 block of North Griggs Street at noon Saturday, May 23.

—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue at 5:32 p.m. Saturday, May 23; and the 1100 block of Dayton at 2 p.m. Monday, May 25.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1900 block of Lincoln Avenue at 4:35 p.m. Friday, May 15; the 1200 block of Palace Avenue at 7:47 p.m. Saturday, May 23; and

the 300 block of South Lexington Parkway at 7:55 p.m. Sunday, May 24.

—A commercial break-in was reported on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue at 10:27 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Theft—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 200 block of Macalester Street at 2:24 a.m. Thursday, May 14; and the 1800 block of Sargent Avenue at 11 p.m. Friday, May 15.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 2000 block of Grand Avenue at 6:27 a.m. Monday, May 18; the 1600 block of Stanford Avenue at 7 a.m. Tuesday, May 19; and the 2000 block of Jefferson Avenue at 9:24 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Sex crime—An attempted rape was reported near the monument on Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue at 3:52 p.m. Friday, May 22.

Weapons—Gunfire was heard on Fairview and Lincoln avenues at 1:39 a.m. Saturday, May 23.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported on Brimhall Street and Lincoln Avenue at 1:39 a.m. Saturday, May 23.

Mendota Heights

Robbery—A male said he was robbed of clothing at gunpoint on the 500 block of Mears Avenue at 12:36 p.m. Monday, May 25.

Burglary—A commercial burglary was reported on the 2000 block of Dodd Road at 6:42 a.m. Friday, May 22.

Theft—A woman was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle on I-35E and Highway 62 at 9:05 a.m. Tuesday, May 12.

—A wallet and car keys were reported stolen from the 1000 block of Wagon Wheel Trail at 9:34 p.m. Friday, May 15.

—Tools were reported stolen from a truck on the 1500 block of Commerce Drive at 9:50 a.m. Thursday, May 21.

Assault—Officers responded to a report of a male and female fighting in a parking lot on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue at 4:28 p.m. Friday, May 22. The female was arrested for domestic assault.

Weapons—Five occupants of a vehicle were taken into custody and a man was arrested for carrying a gun without a permit after police responded to an assault on the 1300 block of Northland Drive at 2:59 p.m. Thursday, May 28.

Miscellaneous—Potentially dangerous dogs were reported running at a large on the 2000 block of Patricia Street on Monday, May

18, and the 600 block of Mulberry Lane on Tuesday, May 19.

—Vehicles were seen racing in excess of 100 mph on I-494 near Pilot Knob Road at 11:13 p.m. Friday, May 22. One driver was arrested for reckless driving.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 400 block of Dewey Street at 1:14 p.m. Thursday, May 21.

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1800 block of Laurel Avenue at 9:57 p.m. Wednesday, May 20; and the 1700 block of Selby Avenue at 11:50 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Theft—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1800 block of Laurel Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 15; the 2200 block of Marshall Avenue at 9 p.m. Sunday, May 17; and the 1800 block of Marshall at 1 a.m. Tuesday, May 19.

—The theft of several items with a value of more than \$1,000 was reported on the 1600 block of Spruce Tree Avenue at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 400 block of North Wilder Street at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on the 400 block of North Roy Street at noon Friday, May 22.

Miscellaneous—Criminal damage to property was reported on Wednesday, May 27, at 1 a.m. on the 1800 block of Feronia Avenue and at 8:15 a.m. on the 1600 block of University Avenue.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on the 1300 block of University Avenue at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A strong-armed robbery was reported on the 1000 block of Summit Avenue at 4:59 p.m. Monday, May 18.

Burglary—A residential break-in was reported on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue at 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 9:12 a.m. Monday, May 18.

Sex crime—An attempted rape was reported on the 900 block of Summit Avenue at 10:28 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Summit-University

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 300 block of Concordia Avenue at 10:08 p.m. Thursday, May 21.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 500 block of Laurel Avenue at 7:32 a.m. Friday, May 22.

Burglary—Commercial burglaries were reported on the 100 block of North Victoria Street at 5:41 p.m. Saturday, May 16; and on North Milton Street and Ashland Avenue at 11 a.m. Monday, May 18.

—Residential burglaries were reported on the 900 block of Laurel Avenue at 12:54 p.m. Saturday, May 23; and on the 500 block of Ashland Avenue at 2:37 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue on May 14, the 300 block of North Lexington Parkway on May 15, the 200 block of Marshall Avenue on May 16, the 400 block of Holly Avenue on May 16, Dale Street and Holly on May 17, the 400 block of Marshall on May 23 and the 300 block of North Western Avenue on May 26.

—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 200 block of Mackubin Street on May 16, on Concordia Avenue and Grotto Street on May 19, on Chatsworth Street near Portland Avenue on May 23, on the 100 block of North Victoria Street on May 26 and on the 1000 block of Ashland Avenue on May 26.

Weapons—At least 15 reports of gunfire were made in the Summit-University neighborhood between May 2-27.

West End

Robbery—A strong-armed robbery was reported on the 1400 block of West Seventh Street at 8:34 p.m. Monday, May 18.

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on the 1100 block of West Seventh Street at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 900 block of West Seventh Street on May 16, the 100 block of Goodrich Avenue on May 18, two on the 500 block of Harrison Avenue on May 24, and the 200 block of West Seventh on May 27.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue at 9:45 a.m. Monday, May 25.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on Randolph Avenue and West Seventh Street at 10:44 p.m. Saturday, May 16; and on the 200 block of Wilkin Street at 3:29 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.

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— Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1861

BY CAROLYN WALKUP

At a time of great fear over the deadly COVID-19 pandemic and widespread rioting over the killing of a black man while in police custody in Minneapolis, two local artists are about to unveil a public sculpture that is meant to brighten the mood of its viewers. Titled “Better Angels,” from a line in President Abraham Lincoln’s first inaugural address, the sculpture is made up of thousands of blue and white pinwheels arranged in a gigantic arc, evoking angels’ wings fluttering in the breeze.

“I think it’s time that people want a little bit of joy,” said Nicole Milligan, who created the sculpture with her husband, Alan.

The sculpture, which measures 20 feet long by 10 feet wide by 14 feet high, is scheduled to be installed in the coming week on the grassy plaza between Landmark Center and St. Peter Street in downtown St. Paul. “It’s something that can be managed in this time of social distancing,” said Amy Mino, executive director of Landmark Center, which sponsored the artwork along with the St. Paul Downtown Alliance and the Rice Park Association.

Mino credits the Milligans with coming up

with the idea for the sculpture. The couple actually proposed it before the coronavirus closed all of the indoor art galleries in the Twin Cities.

The Milligans have created much public art in the United States and Europe, including “Oarsman Before the Sun” on St. Paul’s Raspberry Island, “Samuel Beckett Chess Set” exhibited in Belfast, Dublin and Paris, and the recently completed “Cloud Horse” in Sisseton, South Dakota.

“Public art is a way that people can participate and remind themselves that there’s still beauty in the world,” Nicole Milligan said. “And this is a way for us to give back to the community. I wanted to make something beautiful for my city. I’ve lived all over Europe and met my husband in Ireland, but I’ve always come back home.”

Nicole grew up in St. Paul, just down Selby Avenue from the couple’s home and studio in Ramsey Hill. When she is not creating art, Milligan is writing it. She is the author of 10 novels, including *White Truffles in Winter* and



Alan and Nicole Milligan pose with one of the pinwheels for “Better Angels,” their new sculpture scheduled to be installed on Landmark Plaza in downtown St. Paul later this week. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

In the Company of Angels. She has won many awards for her work, including a fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

The Milligans have lost a lot of art commissions this year due to the coronavirus. “We were going to have our biggest year,” Nicole said. “I still have hope it will all work out. Americans rebuild. That’s who we are.”

The Milligans build their sculptures with

help from first offenders of nonviolent crimes who are on parole. Through Project Remand, the parolees learn about construction, welding and concrete making, among other skills. “They get a sense of ownership from working on public art,” Nicole said. “We can help these people shift their lives a bit.”

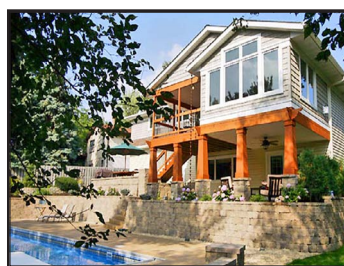
The Downtown Alliance is paying half of the costs of the “Better Angels” project with the support of private foundations, according to its president, Joe Spencer. The Downtown Alliance was familiar with the Milligans’ work through a previous sculpture, “Uplift,” a depiction of hot air balloons that was chosen last year over 70-some other proposals for the same St. Peter Street space, according to Spencer.

“We wanted to give more vitality to the downtown streetscape,” Spencer said. “When we have these kinds of visual engagements, like murals and farmers’ markets, they create a strong sense of place.”

“Better Angels” is just one of several public artworks the alliance had planned to install downtown this year. However, all but one of the others were put on hold due to the pandemic.



A model of the Milligans’ sculpture as viewed from the side of the 20-foot long archway.



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ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

“Writing the Hard Books for Hard Times” will be discussed by St. Paul author Kao Kalia Yang and Minneapolis author John Coy at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 25, in a virtual program sponsored by the Loft Literary Center. Yang will read from her new children’s book, *The Shared Room*, in which a family struggles to move forward following the loss of a child. Coy will read from his book, *If We Were Gone*, which imagines a world without people. The cost for the hour-long program is \$10 or whatever you can afford. Visit loft.org/events/upcoming-events.

Exhibits

Landmark Center is offering a variety of online programs. Virtual expeditions to the African countries of Senegal and Sierra Leone are available through June 15 through articles, videos and other cultural links. “Evidence of Humanity,” a photography exhibit curated by Wing Young Huie to illustrate the efforts of people to communicate with others or express their connection to those around them, is on view through June 26. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

The Minnesota Museum of American Art is offering online tours through its M at Home page at mmaa.org. Among the current offerings are “A Choice of Weapons: Honor and Dignity,” featuring the photographs of Jamel Shabazz and the late Gordon Parks; and “Gordon Parks: A Homecoming,” featuring the work of the former staff photographer for the African American-owned Twin Cities newspapers the *St. Paul Recorder* and the *Minneapolis Spokesman*.

Theater

Romeo and Juliet, Park Square Theatre’s 2015 production of the tragedy by William Shakespeare, is available for streaming online through June 30. Adapted and directed by David Mann, the drama was filmed by Michael Hanisch. For the password to stream the video, email education@parksquaretheatre.org.

Theater Thursday, a free video replay of historical dramas produced in previous years at Landmark Center, may be viewed on Thursdays, June 11, 18 and 25. A different production will be posted each week. The plays feature prominent members of the Twin Cities legal community in historical roles. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

The Mysterious Old Radio Listening Society returns to Park Square Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 15. In addition to a prerecorded show from the golden age of radio with imagined commercials, eerie music and live sound effects, the online presentation will include a live introduction and post-show discussion. Featured on June 15 will be two audio plays adapted from classic literature: “The Great God Pan” from the Weird Library and “The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb” adapted from the short story by Agatha Christie. Eric Webster, Shanan Custer, Joshua English Scrimshaw and Tim



Sweetland: The Musical will be streamed online from June 12-25 by the History Theatre. Written by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge with music by Dina Maccabee and choreography by Joe Chvala, the premiere production from 2017 tells of a German woman who immigrates to America to marry a bachelor farmer sight unseen in the years following World War I. It is based on a film by the same name by Ali Selim and on Will Weaver’s short story “A Gravestone Made of Wheat.” For tickets to the streaming, visit historytheatre.org.

Uren star. Those who purchase a \$15 ticket will be emailed an invitation to the Zoom presentation on the morning of the show. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Music

The Minnesota Opera is offering a series of past performances as audio recordings that can be streamed online. The schedule includes Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* now

through June 28; Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell’s *The Shining*, based on the novel by Stephen King, now through July 5; Massenet’s sensual and melodic *Thaïs*, now through July 12; and Joel Puckett and Eric Simonson’s *The Fix*, an epic tale set against the backdrop of the national pastime, now through July 19. Visit mnopera.org.

The Center for Irish Music’s 12th annual Minnesota Irish Music Weekend will be held online on June 13 and 14. Traditional Irish musical concerts and workshops for instrumentalists of all ages will be featured with such world-class artists as Matt Cranitch (fiddle), Conal Ó Gráda (flute, whistle), Benny McCarthy (accordion), Pauline Connelly (banjo), Brian Ó hAirt (concertina), Danny Diamond (fiddle) and Seán Gavin (uilleann pipes, flute). Live-streamed concerts will feature the Center for Irish Music’s Advanced Youth Ensemble, June 10; McCarthy, June 11; Ó Gráda, Seán Gavin, Danny Diamond and Brian Miller, June 13; and Cranitch, June 14. A Great Session Experience on June 12 will invite the audience to play along from home. The concerts are free, though donations will be accepted. For information, visit centerforirishmusic.org.

Et cetera

Union Depot’s Train Days event has moved online this year. The virtual experience will feature a six-part video miniseries highlighting memories of St. Paul’s magnificent train station, the history of locomotives, interviews with railroading experts and more. The first video is now available at uniondepot.org/traindays. There, artists of all ages may register for a coloring contest and the chance to win up to \$250 in prizes.

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SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Good reads to fill your sports need

The past two weeks have been exhausting for just about everyone. The murder that sent protesters into a rage, erupted in wanton destruction and had business owners boarding up their storefronts occurred in the Twin Cities, but it could've easily happened in just about any metropolitan area in the country.

By the time people read this, one hopes things will have calmed down, but life as we knew it has been changed—perhaps forever.

We've never needed sports more than we do now.

Sports have always been a refuge from the real world. During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt made a point of telling Major League Baseball that it needed to keep playing. It didn't matter that many of the top players of that era were already serving in the military.

The St. Louis Browns, one of the most hapless baseball franchises ever, snuck through the depleted field and won the 1944 American League pennant. It helped the Browns that big names like Bob Feller, Joe DiMaggio, Hank Greenberg and Ted Williams were serving in the military and not playing for opposing teams. Nevertheless, America still had baseball games to fall back on. The World Series—no matter who got in—was still a big deal.

As of now, we don't have baseball to look forward to. Moreover, we're still not sure when, or even if, we'll have any games, at any level, in any sport, this calendar year.

Although they're more than well-compensated at the professional level, we ask a lot of our athletes. We ask them to help us take our minds off our problems. We need them back so we can focus our attention on something other than the haunting image of police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on the late George Floyd's neck. For at least a couple of hours, we need to turn off the phone and the television and think of things other than death, disease and destruction.

It helps that some local bars and restaurants have finally been able to reopen their patios. That's a start. But it's perhaps even more important than ever that we find a way to get our youth sports teams up and running again. Naturally, we need to be smart about it. Taking a chance that risks a burgeoning pandemic obviously isn't worth it. At the same time, it's become incumbent on all of us to find a solution.

At the high school level, that means finding something that makes it acceptable for students to take the field again. At the college level, it means coming up with a solution so the University of Minnesota can fill at least part of its 50,000-seat football stadium and St. Thomas can come up with a way to host football games at O'Shaughnessy Stadium this fall. The same holds for our pro teams. It would be nice if they could play here in Minnesota, but that doesn't matter as much because television will take us wherever the games are held.

While there currently are no games to watch, here are two worthy books to help feed the sports need for local fans.

It's generally known that the Town & Country Club, founded in 1893, is Minnesota's oldest golf course. But did you know that for a while it had company just a short distance away?

Roadside Gold Club, 1195 Summit Ave., sprang up in 1897. It was a 12-hole course intended primarily for women who wanted to play golf, but couldn't afford to join the private Town & Country. Alas, the growth of St. Paul dictated that Roadside close by 1903.

By then, there was another option for players. The Merriam Park Golf Club was founded in 1900 near Dayton and Fairview avenues. It wasn't a long course—a newspaper reported its length at only 2,677 yards—and it had a short lifespan as well. By 1906, it also went out of business.

Those two courses and several other links are featured in Joe Bissen's book *Fore! Gone: Minnesota's Lost Golf Courses, 1897-1999*. Bissen, who is now an editor at the *Star Tribune*, tells the tales of long-forgotten courses that range from Jackson to Tower, Minnesota. St. Paul leads the pack with five former courses, including the nine-hole Quality Park, a

WRIGHT CALL ►16



Macalester College head football coach Tony Jennison stands in the school's stadium with a few players. The program is returning to the MIAC in 2021. With him, from left, are Grady Munro, Pierce Lundt, Josh Wink, Jeffrey Jorgensen, Brady Thompson and Kian Sohrabi.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

Mac's coming back to play MIAC football

BY DAVE WRIGHT

The upcoming season will be the last one in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) for charter Division III member the University of St. Thomas, which is looking to move up to Division I. However, the MIAC announced on May 28 that the 2021-22 season will see the return of Macalester College's football program after a two-decade absence from the league and the addition of St. Scholastica in 20 sports, including football.

The MIAC has not had a football participant from Duluth since the University of Minnesota Bulldogs left after the 1975 season. St. Scholastica had been competing in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference for all sports except hockey, in which it competed in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.

St. Scholastica has been a regular opponent for MIAC schools for nonconference games in several sports. The Saints are a relative newcomer in football, having competed for just a dozen years. They will get a feel for MIAC gridiron action when they face Hamline in a non-conference game for their 2020 season opener in September.

The Scots played football in the MIAC from the first year of the league in 1920 until 2001. They won just two MIAC championships (1925 and 1947) and often finished in the bottom of the conference beginning in the early 1970s. They played as an independent team from 2002 until joining the Midwest Conference in 2014. There they enjoyed immediate success, winning the conference

championship that year and appearing in a first-ever NCAA Division III playoff game at Wisconsin-Whitewater.

St. Norbert had announced it will leave the Midwest after this season, which set the wheels in motion. One phone call led to another and the Scots were told 2020 would be their last in the Midwest Conference for football. Thus, they will return to their old conference in 2021.

"The timing worked out," said Macalester athletic director Donnie Brooks. "We've been doing well in nonconference games against Carleton and Hamline (they are scheduled to play both again this fall). We've also scrimmaged Augsburg and Bethel in recent years. We know what we're getting into."

Since 2011, the Scots are 9-9 in non-conference games against teams that will now become conference foes.

When the Saints and Scots march in, they will be looking at a different format for football. The league will follow a pattern started in other conferences by splitting into two divisions. Macalester will join Augsburg, Bethel, Hamline and Concordia in the Skyline Silver Division. St. Scholastica will join Carleton, Gustavus Adolphus, St. John's and St. Olaf in the Northwoods Green Division.

Each school will play everybody in their own division and three schools in the other one. The final conference game will have the two first-place teams competing for the league title and an automatic berth in the NCAA Division III postseason. The second- through fifth-place teams from each division will also face each other.

"Geographically, this all makes sense," Brooks said. "Even though we get a lot of players from all over the country, it'll still be a lot easier for their parents to attend games around the state."

That will be a major change from 2020, which has the Scots playing conference games at Mount Vernon in Iowa, Lake Forest in Illinois, and Ripon and DePere in Wisconsin.

However, moving to the MIAC for football does pose its challenges. St. Thomas may be out, but the MIAC had St. John's and Bethel ranked among the Top 25 teams in the nation in Division III, with Concordia not far behind.

"The current difference between the top five and bottom five in the league is large," Brooks conceded. "That's the challenge. We know we have to up the ante. It'll take us a little time. We need to be smart."

Tony Jennison has posted a 60-59 record since becoming Macalester's head football coach in 2008. He was an assistant to current UST head coach Glenn Caruso prior to that.

"This is an exciting time for Macalester football as we go back to our historical roots and rejoin the MIAC," Jennison said. "I'm excited for the challenge of competing in one of the best and most prestigious athletic and academic conferences in Division III."

"With any challenge there comes great opportunity," he continued. "I take great pride in knowing where our football program came from when I first arrived at Macalester 15 years ago, to where our program is now to be able to make this move."

Bike club keeps rolling to aid food shelves

BY BILL WAGNER

The Hiawatha Bicycling Club has spent the last two decades fostering friendships and raising money for good causes. But like so many other organizations these days, it has had to get creative to maintain social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're really quite a social club," said Dawn Wilson, a retired nurse and Highland Park resident who, with her hus-

band John Hardy, has been a longtime member of the club. "Now is not the time to do group rides, but our solo rides are one way for members to remain in contact with each other."

The nonprofit club used its rainy day fund to create a ride to benefit food shelves through Second Harvest Heartland. Members were encouraged to get out and ride solo or with others from their household and to report their mileage. For every mile reported, 50 cents

was added toward the \$2,000 goal.

More than 50 members accepted the challenge and in less than three weeks rode more than 4,000 miles to meet the goal. Club members were especially motivated to help people whose lives have been affected by the pandemic and the state's stay-at-home order.

HBC president Lisa Soldat of Southeast Minneapolis said it would take more than the virus to dim the HBC's

HIAWATHA BICYCLING CLUB ►16

15◀ HIAWATHA BICYCLING CLUB

camaraderie. “People who’ve been longtime members of the club will find ways,” she said. “You’re not going to stop being friends with people just because there’s a pandemic.”

Soldat said club members have continued to take part in rides and are being encouraged to make personal donations to the food shelf based on their mileage on behalf of the club. She said she personally logs around 1,700 miles a season.

According to Wilson, biking provides a treasure trove of memories for members both young and old. A club member since 2001, she met her husband John, who is originally from Pennsylvania, on a bike trip in Vermont years ago.

The nonprofit Hiawatha Bicycling Club, founded in 1999, has 270 members who ride both for pleasure and adventure. Wilson recalled one ride was a 41-mile trail excursion between Red Wing and Cannon Falls. Another club member rode 24 miles through the

Twin Cities while checking out some of the places that mobster John Dillinger frequented in the 1930s.

Wilson explained that the routes are laid out on the club’s website with GPS technology. She personally rides an average of 25-30 miles per day, three or four times per week, but she said one need not be a marathon bike rider to get a kick out of the HBC.

“We have a lot of people in their ’50s and ’60s who haven’t ridden that much,” Wilson said, “but they want to stay in shape.”

Members like to think that the club’s membership dues of \$25 per year for individuals and \$35 for households are a fair entertainment value.

Normally, the HBC holds a public bike ride every Fourth of July in the West Metro area. That ride will not happen this year because of the pandemic, but that hasn’t cast a shadow on Wilson’s sunny outlook.

“We’re still a way for people to ride and be part of a club,” she said.



Hiawatha Bicycling Club president Lisa Soldat is joined by fellow members Nanette and Kent Malcomson in Minnehaha Falls Park, where they often go for a ride.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

15◀ WRIGHT CALL

675-yarder that opened in 1925 and sat where the Midway Target is now.

“The Depression, World War II and the growth of some cities caused many of these courses to close,” Bissen said. “Courses began to spring up again in the 1950s, but later fell to construction projects that were more profitable.”

The stories of the heyday of these courses are great fodder for a summer night read while lounging on the deck. Bissen has a second book, tentatively titled *More! Gone*, that will be published later this summer.

Tom Kelly is remembered fondly in these parts for managing the Minnesota Twins to a pair of World Series championships. Two decades before that first title, Kelly was one of many farmhands in the Seattle Pilots’ system.

The Pilots were a one-year MLB outfit that begat the

current Milwaukee Brewers. *Inside Pitch*, written by Rick Allen, details the Pilots’ 1969 season. It’s a tale of impressive mismanagement that allowed Bud Selig, who had failed to keep the Braves from moving to Atlanta, and others to swoop in and save the American League from embarrassment.

“If *Moneyball* (a book on the Oakland A’s) is how to run a baseball team, this is the opposite,” Allen said.

Dewey and Max Soriano, who had run a successful AAA franchise in Seattle, were in way over their heads running the Pilots, but the American League needed a second team to go with expansion Kansas City in 1969. Kelly, drafted out of high school in the eighth round in 1968 by the Pilots, is one of many foot soldiers who were bounced around as this cash-strapped organization scrambled to stay one step ahead of the debt collectors.

Allen describes the series of business misadventures that led to Selig and friends taking over and moving the team to

Milwaukee. Although the details get glossed over, Allen notes that Selig was one of the instigators in the failed plot to move the Twins out of Minneapolis.

Well-known names such as Lou Piniella and Bob Lemon make appearances, but Allen has the most fun telling tales such as the one about the seamstress who had to remove the Pilots’ logo and quickly sew on the Brewers’ logo in time for opening day in Milwaukee in 1970.

“Once I got going, it was amazing how many people remembered the Pilots and had stories to tell about them,” Allen said.

Jim Bouton’s *Ball Four* detailed the misfortunes of the Pilots on the field. Allen’s book shows how badly things went off the field as well. It makes one appreciate Twins’ owners like Calvin Griffith and Carl Pohlad all the more.

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

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Pulling together—The Highland District Council has extended its thanks to all of the neighbors who helped board up businesses and to Tom Basgen and James Farnsworth for organizing a neighborhood watch following the devastation that erupted on the heels of George Floyd’s death.

James Avenue project—The owners of properties on the south side of James Avenue and Lexington Parkway are proposing a rezoning to allow for the construction of a three- to four-story multifamily housing development with underground parking. Though the properties are located in Macalester-Groveland, the building may have an impact on all those who travel through the Randolph Avenue and Lexington intersection. Those who are interested in attending a virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, to learn more about the project may email Alexa Golemo at alexa@macgrove.org for the meeting ID and password.

Ford update—To receive updates from master developer Ryan Companies on the progress being made at the site of Ford Motor Company’s former assembly plant in Highland Park, visit tinyurl.com/ybnq9k43.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9; Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, June 22. All meetings of the council are being held online these days. Links to access the meetings and updates are posted on the HDC website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

James and Lexington project—Join the Macalester-Groveland Community Council for an online meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, to discuss plans for rezoning properties at James Avenue and Lexington Parkway for a three- to four-story multifamily housing development. Visit macgrove.org/development for more details and email alexa@macgrove.org for the meeting ID and password.

Annual meeting and elections—The community council’s annual meeting and board elections will be held online throughout July and August. Check macgrove.org/annual-meeting for updates.

Join meetings online—The public can tune into the community council’s committee and board meetings via Zoom. Council staff will send out meeting links to all those who are interested a few days in advance. Email mgcc@macgrove.org to get on the list. Upcoming meetings include: board of directors, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 22; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24.

COVID-19 resources—Visit macgrove.org/2020resources for an updated list of current offers, activities and other ways to support one another during this uncertain time. Those who have information to add may forward it to mgcc@macgrove.org.

Get involved—The community council has three standing committees that meet once a month on different aspects of making Macalester-Groveland a great place to live, work, learn and play. See more at macgrove.org/committees.

Office closed—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council office remains closed. Email mgcc@macgrove.org for information.

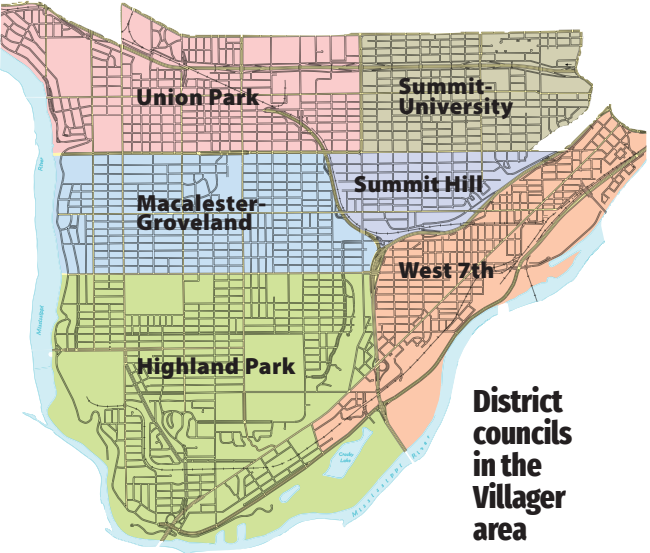
Union Park

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COVID-19 resources—Those who need assistance or informational resources pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic are invited to call the UPDC office or visit its website.

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

Upcoming online meetings—Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 15 (email brandon@unionparkdc.org to join these meetings). Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, and Neighborhood Involvement Committee (email wako@unionparkdc.org to join these meetings).



West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board elections—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation’s board elections are being held online and by mail this year due to COVID-19. People can vote online on the website through June 13 or print out and mail in a ballot that can be found there. The first board meeting for elected board members will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 15, via Zoom.

Rescheduled events—The 13th annual West End Neighbors’ Garden and History Tour that was to take place in June has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12. West Seventh Community Service Award recipients will be honored on Wednesday, September 16, at Mancini’s Char House.

COVID-19 resources—For information on ways people in the West Seventh neighborhood can support one another, visit fortroadfederation.org/community-resources.html.

Upcoming virtual meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, June 15; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 8 a.m. Thursday, June 18. Information on how to connect to the Zoom meetings can be found at fortroadfederation.org/calendar.html.

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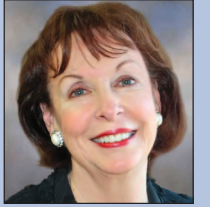
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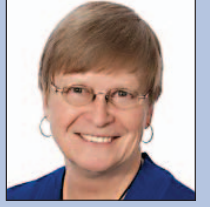
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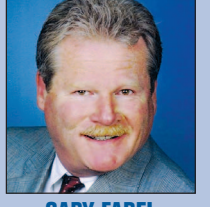
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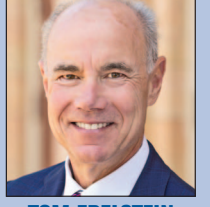
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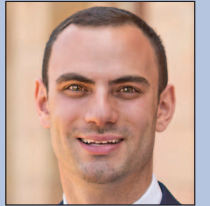
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651-335-6619



STEPS TO THE RIVER! 2152 BERKELEY AVE

This classic MacGroveland home combines charm with original details. Hardwd flrs, natural wdwrk thru-out. Three BR, 2BA's, lg LR with wd burning FP. Cozy sun rm/natural light. Half BA first floor. Brand new 3 car garage.

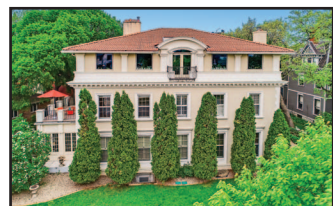
NANCY K MAAS
VIRGINIA SPANIOLO
651-235-8581
\$414,900



INSTANTLY APPEALING!

Exceptional 3BR, 3BA gem is accented with vaulted ceilings, family room with fireplace & great outdoor living spaces. Well-designed kitchen, dining room with access to the deck. Owner's suite, fenced backyard+. 8400 Jergen Avenue S. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS
651-270-1667 • \$325,000



421 SUMMIT AVENUE #2, SAINT PAUL MN 55102

Stunning condo on historic Summit Avenue! Premier location across from University Club. Lovely open kitchen with Wolf and Sub Zero appliances, and butler's pantry with wet bar! Showing availability per CDC Guidelines only.

MYA HONEYWELL
651-329-3619 • \$800,000



AMAZING!!!

295 Salem Church Rd: Spectacular Sunfish Lake home offering 12,447 sq ft to be used for your largest entertainment need but designed for comfortable everyday living as well. Quality construction and finishes.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$3,499,000



JUST LISTED!!!

4888 Bisset Ln: Immaculate end unit townhome all freshly decorated and new carpet installed. Bright open kitchen, entertainment sized rooms, king sized master suite, 2nd floor laundry, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths and double garage.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$239,900



SPECTACULAR VIEWS!!!

615 Concord: Immaculate 3 bedroom end unit townhome featuring a spectacular view of the Mississippi River Valley. The kitchen offers high end appliances and quartz stonework, there are master suites on both floors and decks on both levels.

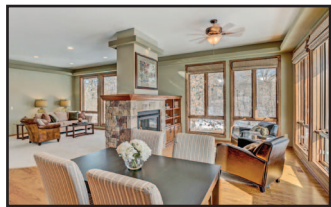
JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$259,900



324 SUMMIT #103, SAINT PAUL MN 55102

This stately condo occupies the top two floors of the Lightner-Young Mansion and has an additional apartment accessible by private elevator. It features vaulted ceilings, multiple decks, and panoramic views. Showing availability per CDC Guidelines only.

MYA HONEYWELL
651-329-3619 • \$950,000



DETACHED TOWNHOME

Main floor living in this custom built detached townhome with an open floor plan, hardwood floors, two-sided fireplace between the great room and hearth room. One owner home that has been meticulously maintained. www.NorthOaksTownhome.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$675,000



CASUAL ELEGANCE & MAIN FLOOR LIVING

You'll find main floor living at its best with a spacious main floor master suite, family room off the kitchen, and bright rooms with floor to ceiling windows. Architectural details found throughout. www.NorthOaksDream.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$1,100,000



STORY BOOK CHARMER

Welcome home to this Storybook Charming in a preferred location close to Pleasant Lake in North Oaks. 6 bedrooms, 5 baths, large kitchen with hearth room. 2 car attached garage and 3 car detached garage. www.NorthOaksCharm.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$635,000



1671 PINEHURST

First offer in 44 years! Lovingly maintained and updated is this large 30's built Tudor style 4 bedroom (on one floor) 3 baths 2 storey with entertainment sized space plus finished lower level. Premier Pinehurst Avenue.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$650,000
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697 • \$650,000



STUNNING NEW TUDOR JUST STEPS TO THE RIVER...

2182 Stanford - 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3rd floor master suite. Newer Marvin windows, new kitchen and baths. Sun-drenched space is lovely and totally renovated. Back yard oasis with limestone and paver patio - state of the art mechanicals. Call Lolly for details!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$669,000



NEW HIGHLAND LIST!

1646 Niles is a 3 bedroom classic Dutch Colonial in mint condition. Beautiful appointments include hardwood floors, new kitchen and bath, new roof and patio. Walk to the Village from this quiet little pocket of Highland! Call Lolly for details.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$359,900



ONE LEVEL LIVING!!!

58 Thompson is delightfully updated with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and a one car attached garage, with courtyard and private entrance. Near all the best of West St. Paul. Over 55+ community awaits - carefree living! Call Lolly for details!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$185,000



BRYAN BEDESSEM
612-382-8415



JIM BURTON
651-690-8556



MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



CLAIRE BISANZ DISTAD
651-307-7260



MICHELE DUMOND
651-283-7996