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AUGUST 19 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

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St. Paul hotel fire ruled to be arson

Investigation continues into early morning blaze at Seven Corners Gateway

BY JANE MCCLURE

The fire that destroyed a five-story hotel under construction on the Seven Corners Gateway site across the street from Xcel Energy Center was intentionally set, according to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The fire was reported at 4:20 a.m. on August 4. Flames shooting into the sky were visible from miles away.

The scene of the fire was searched for four days using cadaver dogs and heavy equipment, but no human remains were found. Investigators also checked with local shelters, since the site is across from the Catholic Charities complex that offers a range of housing and services for homeless people.

Firefighters had to get onto the roof of adjacent buildings, including the Catholic Charities campus. Windows there were damaged and the “X” on the Xcel Energy Center sign was warped by the heat.

Neighbors said on social media that they could smell smoke and feel the heat from the fire. Ashes and debris were scattered throughout downtown and into the Irvine Park and West Side neighborhoods. Debris was found as far away as the High Bridge and West Saint Paul. Freeway ramps and downtown streets had to be blocked off during the

HOTEL FIRE ▶2



All the doings at Dunning. Dunning Park was abuzz with activity on a beautiful August 13 evening. Jenn Scott (above left) took the stage as part of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council’s two-hour Theater Festival that evening. Adler Goettl, 6, practiced pitching with his dad, Jeff. And Joe Dimeglio, a recent Central High School graduate, found a comfortable perch from which to take it all in. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

It’s full STEAM ahead for new UST science building

Nearly \$100M facility would require razing century-old Loras Hall

BY JANE MCCLURE

Plans are taking shape for another University of Saint Thomas science and engineering building, with a focus on the STEAM approach to learning. Almost 40 neighborhood residents and members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) discussed preliminary ideas for the building on August 11.

The building’s STEAM (science, technology, en-

gineering, arts and mathematics) programs and activities would have a strong focus on technical and digital literacy. University officials see it as a cutting-edge way to prepare students for careers in a wide range of fields and provide a unique educational option in the Twin Cities.

Amy McDonough, the university’s chief of staff, said UST is taking its ideas for the new facility to neighborhood groups this summer. Meetings have already been held with the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and the Union Park District Council’s Land Use Committee. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council’s Housing and Land Use Committee will review the plans on August 19. (Check macgrove.org for online meeting details.)

About half of the approximately \$100 million cost

of the building has already been raised, according to university president Julie Sullivan. The building plans could be ready by November. The preliminary location is on Summit Avenue west of the university’s Frey Science and Engineering Center.

Construction of the building would require the demolition of Loras Hall. It would also mean converting Parking Lot M to green space to create a quad similar to the one on the main campus. It is unclear how many parking spaces would be lost.

UST has parking capacity greater than what is required in its conditional use permit from the city. The university added about 200 parking spaces with the construction of new dormitories on the main campus, and has capacity to add two levels

UST SCIENCE BUILDING ▶2

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14 HOTEL FIRE

August 4 morning rush hour.

The ATF plans to continue investigating the incident with assistance from the Saint Paul Fire and Police departments and the State Fire Marshal. The determination of arson was made after investigating the scene, reviewing video footage and talking to witnesses.

“We’re pleased that the ATF was able to assist our local and state partners to bring us to this conclusion,” said special agent William Terry Henderson of the bureau’s Saint Paul Field Division. “We’ll continue to work this case to determine who might be responsible.”

The fire destroyed the 120-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel that was being built by the Kaeding Development Group of Bloomington. President Carl Kaeding said the developers plan to rebuild as soon as possible. As of last week, they were waiting for federal agents to release control of the property.

“We honestly don’t know the site conditions because we haven’t been able to get in there,” Kaeding said.

According to him, the hotel is believed to be a total loss, though an



More than 80 firefighters and chief officers responded to control the hotel fire on August 11 at the Seven Corners Gateway site on West Seventh Street in downtown Saint Paul. Crews reportedly were on scene for more than 13 hours. FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

adjacent six-story apartment building also under construction on the site appeared to be undamaged. Kaeding praised the Fire Department for its ability to protect the

apartment building and other adjacent buildings. He said the development team is thankful that there was no loss of life or injuries.

Groundbreaking for the \$69 mil-

lion development occurred last fall and Kaeding said the intent was to open the hotel in late March of 2021. A new construction and opening timeline has not been determined.

Before the fire, the hotel was fully framed. Windows had been installed and brick work was expected to start.

The development also will include retail and restaurant space on the 2.4-acre site. Doran Companies of Bloomington, which is the general contractor for the project, released a statement saying it was “reeling” from the fire’s impact.

City officials are eager to see construction resume. “That’s a key development site for downtown,” said City Council member Chris Tolbert, who chairs Saint Paul’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority board. “It’s in an area where we have so many visitors to Saint Paul.”

Kaeding said his company spent years planning the development. “It’s an important site because it’s a gateway to downtown,” he said. “We want to get right back at it.”

The development site and an adjacent block occupied by a municipal parking ramp were eyed for redevelopment since the 1980s. The remaining commercial buildings were torn down and the historic Armstrong-Quinlan House was moved to an Irvine Park site in 2005 to make way for development.

14 UST SCIENCE BUILDING

and 300 more spaces to the Anderson Parking Ramp on the west campus. However, adding to the ramp would require reopening the school’s conditional use permit, something some neighbors are reluctant to do.

The new building plans and a demolition permit for Loras Hall would require a review by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, since the site is within the Summit Avenue West Historic District. Loras was built as a Saint Paul Seminary dormitory in 1894 and is one of the oldest buildings on campus.

At the earliest, construction on the new building would begin in spring 2022 and end in fall 2024.

Adding STEAM facilities has been a priority at Saint Thomas for the past five years. The facility is mentioned in the university’s current master plan, which UST’s



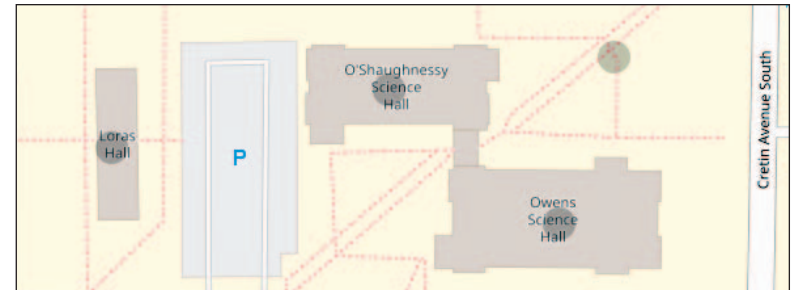
board of trustees approved in November 2016. The plan calls for a 137,000-square-foot facility, though the size is still being determined.

The master plan also refers to the possibility of moving Loras Hall 100 feet to the west. However, UST vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer Mark Vansguard said that has an estimated cost of \$13 million to \$18 million.

UST officials emphasized the new facility would not mean an increase

in overall enrollment. The university has seen its undergraduate engineering enrollment rise from around 200-300 students in 1997 to 1,600 today. Dean of engineering Don Weinkauff said there is a high demand for STEAM classes. Last fall, more than 90 companies sent representatives to the university to interview students for engineering jobs and internships.

The new facility would allow for hands-on learning and would also



Construction of the new Saint Thomas science and engineering building would require the demolition of Loras Hall, shown at left and located on the map above.

have a small performance area, art gallery and exhibit space to blend the arts, sciences and engineering. It would also allow for the addition of a nursing program and a college of health.

During the WSNAC meeting on August 11, questions from neighbors centered on the potential loss of trees, and traffic and parking impacts. Others asked about the university’s future in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and how higher education is faring generally.

University officials expressed confidence in the success of the programs the STEAM facility would support.

As of now, UST plans a mix of in-person and online classes this fall. However, that could change with the state of the pandemic.

Saint Thomas would next move toward developing the complex and its programs with employers and other partners, hosting design sessions with executives from top recruiting firms, and seeking comments from students and staff.



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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Here's what's happened.

Since our July 8th issue, Villager is no longer on newsstands. And since the August 5th issue, Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights can only receive Villager by paid subscriptions. Villager had been freely delivered west and south of the river since 1953 and 1959, respectively. Now, every day we receive more subscriptions from readers in these cities, as well as our still freely distributed areas. And we thank you.

What comes next?

It's entirely possible that we'll begin transitioning more neighborhoods away from free doorstep delivery toward U.S. Mail-based subscriptions. Meaning, with each issue, some nonsubscribers may no longer find their Villager on their doorstep.

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We're cautiously excited to be making this transition and hope you are too. In all ways, to all of our readers, we can't thank you enough. You're awesome and we find your support empowering and assuring that we at the Villager will keep bringing you the neighborhood information you've come to expect.

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VILLAGER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER SINCE 1953

Primary voters set the ballot for Nov. 3 general election

BY DALE MISCHKE

Close to one quarter of registered voters turned out for the August 11 primary election in Minnesota, choosing their preferred candidates for federal, state and local offices and winnowing the field for the November 3 general election. Here are the unofficial results as of 3 p.m. on August 13 with 100 percent of the precincts reporting:

U.S. SENATOR

In the race for U.S. Senate, Republicans chose former Congressman Jason Lewis to be their standard bearer in the general election. Lewis bested the field of five GOP hopefuls with 78.1 percent or 191,290 votes. He will face incumbent Tina Smith, who topped the field of five DFLers with 497,498 votes (87.1 percent). Also on the ballot in November will be Kevin O'Connor of the Legal Marijuana Now Party and Oliver Steinberg of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

In the 4th District, 10-term incumbent

Betty McCollum tallied 77,393 votes or 84.4 percent against four opponents in the DFL primary. In November she will face Republican Gene Rehtzigel, who garnered 51 percent (9,058 votes) to Sia Lo's 49 percent (8,686 votes). Also on the general election ballot will be Susan Sindt of the Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party.

In the 5th District, first-term incumbent Ilhan Omar garnered 57.9 percent or 99,917 of the votes to turn back a strong challenge from Antone Melton-Meaux (66,791 votes or 38.7 percent) in the field of five candidates in the DFL primary. Omar will face Republican Lacy Johnson in the general election. Johnson topped the field of three in the Republican primary with 76.7 percent or 9,061 votes. Also on the November ballot will be Michael Moore of the Legal Marijuana Now Party.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

District 65 Senate—DFL incumbent Sandy Pappas turned back a strong challenge from Laverne McCartney Knighton. Pappas garnered 7,246 votes to Knighton's 4,053 (64.1 to 35.9 percent) to advance to the general elec-

ELECTION '20



tion where her bid for a 10th term in the state Senate will be challenged by Republican Paul Holmgren.

District 63A Representative—Ten-term DFL incumbent Jim Davnie tallied 11,038 votes to April Kane's 2,829 votes (79.6 to 20.4 percent) to advance to the general election where he will face Penny Arcos of the Republican Party and David Wiester of the Legal Marijuana Now Party.

District 63B Representative—In a race for the seat being vacated by longtime incumbent Jean Wagenius, Emma Greenman topped the

field in the DFL primary with 7,082 votes (64.2 percent) to Jerome T. Evans' 2,871 votes and Husniyah Dent Bradley's 1,078 votes. Greenman will face Republican Frank Pafko and Legal Marijuana Now hopeful Dennis Schuller in the general election.

DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

For the District 3 Dakota County Board seat, Laurie Halverson and Diane Anderson will advance to the general election with 4,222 and 1,673 votes, respectively. Rounding out the field of six were Seema Maddali (1,065 votes), Scott D. Johnson (743), Gary Huusko (670) and Janine Hudson (470).

MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOL BOARD

In the race for an at-large seat on the Minneapolis School Board, incumbent Kim Ellison and challenger Michael Dueñes will advance to the general election with 58,077 (57.64 percent) and 24,289 (24.11 percent) votes, respectively, in the field of five candidates. The nearest also-ran was Lynne Crockett with 11,713 votes (11.6 percent).

Saint Paul seeking ways to help the businesses damaged in rioting

BY JANE MCCLURE

Three hundred thirty Saint Paul businesses incurred \$73 million in property damage and \$8.8 million in lost inventory and other assets in the civil unrest that followed the death of George Floyd on May 25. Floyd's death while in the custody of Minneapolis police sparked weeks of peaceful protests and several nights of vandalism, arson and theft in the Twin Cities.

The damages in Saint Paul were widespread. Most of the losses were along University Avenue, although Grand Avenue, West Seventh Street, Highland Village, SunRay Shopping Center and the Payne-Arcade district were also hard hit. Minneapolis is still tallying its losses, but estimates are that more than 700 businesses in that city were damaged or destroyed.

Saint Paul economic development director Martin Schieckel out-



Firefighters douse the flames at Big Top Liquor on May 29. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

lined the losses on August 12 for the Saint Paul City Council, which was meeting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board. Thirty-seven Saint Paul businesses were totally destroyed, Schieckel said, but about half of those were national chains and have not sought the city's help.

"We at the city of Saint Paul might not have all the resources, we might not have the perfect resources, but we're here to help," said Ward 3 City Council member and HRA Board

chair Chris Tolbert. However, he and other City Council members said they were concerned about the limited resources available to do so.

The city's departments of Planning and Economic Development and Safety and Inspections have been contacting affected businesses, offering help in obtaining permits for repairs and demolitions, various kinds of financial assistance, help with relocation and insurance costs and legal, design, planning and business consultation

services.

The federal Small Business Administration is offering loans to businesses damaged in the rioting. Ramsey County is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses that sustained damages through a program that closes on August 21.

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation's We Love Saint Paul/We Love Midway program has received over \$750,000 for local businesses and nonprofit organizations damaged in the civil unrest. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available. On August 13, the chamber announced that a total of \$208,500 in grants had been distributed to 16 businesses, including Adam's Market, Asian Language Services, Ax-Man, Bolé Ethiopian Cuisine, Great Health Nutrition, Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest, Little Asia Cafe, Midway Grocery & Deli, Milligan Studio, MN Ice, Phenom Global, Sweet Corner, Saint Paul Clinic, Sunshine Hair Braiding

Salon, Tu Nails and Vig Guitars.

City Council member Mitra Jalali, whose Ward 4 was among the hardest hit in the rioting in Saint Paul, said the city is "desperately" in need of additional assistance from other levels of government.

In June, Minnesota lawmakers failed to pass a measure that included \$300 million in assistance. The Promise Act passed in the state House but stalled in the Senate.

In July President Donald Trump denied Governor Tim Walz's request for a federal disaster declaration and the financial support that comes with it to help clean up and repair damage from the rioting. In his letter to Trump, Walz is reported to have referenced more than \$15 million in damage and cleanup costs that could be eligible for federal reimbursement. In July the state was estimating total damages from the rioting at more than \$500 million.

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WE ARE OPEN

Senior housing at Ford site granted open space variance on appeal

CommonBond project will provide 60 units of affordable housing

By JANE McCLURE

CommonBond Communities may proceed with its plan to build a five-story, 60-unit apartment building for low-income seniors at 830 S. Cretin Ave. The Saint Paul City Council on August 5 voted unanimously to uphold an appeal by the Highland Park-based nonprofit developer and overturn a Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) decision to deny an open space variance for the project.

Work on the \$14 million building is expected to begin in the late summer or early fall of 2021. The building will be one of the first to rise at Highland Bridge, the newly christened site of the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Highland Park.

The building will be restricted to residents age 55 or older whose household incomes are at or below 30 percent of the Twin Cities area's median. The building will have 48 one-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom apartments. Monthly rents will be \$562 for a one-bedroom unit and \$675 for a two-bedroom unit under the current levels set by the Metropolitan Council. Seven apartments will be earmarked for people who have been homeless. Twenty-nine off-street parking spaces will be provided.

According to the master plan for the Ford site as adopted by the City Council, buildings



Located on the northeast corner of Bohland and Cretin avenues, CommonBond Communities' five-story apartment building for low-income seniors will face Bohland Avenue.

are limited in the amount of the lot they can occupy. Without a variance, a minimum of 25 percent of CommonBond's lot must be set aside for open space, whether it be gardens, a landscaped yard, walkways, patios, recreational facilities, play areas, decks or court-yards.

CommonBond has proposed devoting 16 percent of its 0.53-acre lot on the northeast corner of Cretin and Bohland avenues to open space. That is in addition to the surface parking lot that, while it does not meet the definition of open space, creates the appearance of open space, according to a city staff report.

"Part of the intent (of the open space requirement) is to not have large, monolithic buildings that fill entire lots," said Merritt Clapp-Smith, who served as the city planner for the Ford site for more than a decade, before leaving the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development in late 2017.

The open space variance had the support of the Highland District Council and local commercial property owners. However, the city

received 166 letters in opposition to the variance.

"I find the attempts very sad to further gobble up minimally required open space," writes Mount Curve Boulevard resident Renate Sharp. "The good health of our population and an attractive appearance of the neighborhood are indispensable to quality of life."

"Every single variance requested is a complete contrast to what was promised to the community," writes Pinehurst Avenue residents Laura and Tim Donovan.

In the appeal, CommonBond senior project manager Justin Eilers cited the difficulties of achieving the design goals of the Ford site's master plan. According to him, meeting the open space requirement is constrained by the dimensions of the lot, the street frontage, the relatively steep slope of the property and the underlying bedrock.

"The open space is limited largely because of the need to provide the required parking at the surface rather than structured within the building," Eilers said. "However, providing

structured parking in lieu of the current surface parking design would lead to a solution that actually compromises rather than enhances the site and building design."

Adding underground parking to meet the open space requirement would not only affect the building's design but add to construction costs, Eilers said. CommonBond has estimated the increased cost of adding underground parking at \$1,339,000, or \$22,317 per apartment.

One argument that BZA members made in rejecting the lot coverage variance was the desire to provide CommonBond's tenants with more open space. However, the variance will not affect the amount of public parks, trails and other open spaces that are planned for the 122-acre Highland Bridge, according to Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert. Due to the practical difficulties posed by the site, the variance is justified, Tolbert said.

While she supported CommonBond's appeal and the provision of affordable senior housing at Highland Bridge, Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince said city officials may want to revisit the zoning requirements in the Ford site's master plan. "We're seeing variance after variance after variance," Prince said. "Variances are supposed to be exceptions to the rule."

The open space lot coverage variance is one of two variances CommonBond requested for the project. The BZA in June approved a setback variance along the north property line between the CommonBond building and a larger proposed mixed-use building to the north. A four-foot setback is required and a two-foot setback was approved.



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Commission supports loosening residential design standards

Changes would affect infill homes, additions in Highland, Mac-Grove

By JANE MCCLURE

Years of discussion may come to an end this fall when the Saint Paul City Council acts on revisions to residential design standards in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. The city's Planning Commission on August 7 unanimously recommended support of the changes and forwarded them to the City Council.

The council will hold one more public hearing before acting on the standards and possibly adopting them as part of the city code. No hearing date had been set.

The changes, which have the support of the district councils from both neighborhoods, were the topic of a public hearing in late May before the Planning Commission. Only one Highland resident wrote to the commission asking that the city uphold the intent of the

standards. The commission is only taking written testimony at its hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The residential design standards regulate the heights and setbacks of new dwellings and additions as well as sidewall articulation. They were adopted in 2015 to address the growing trend of tearing down older homes in Highland and Macalester-Groveland, and constructing larger houses and home additions that often dwarfed adjacent residences.

Neighbors complained the "McMansions" blocked light and air and often caused drainage problems. Some said they found themselves looking out their windows at large expanses of blank walls of the new homes and additions. Others complained that the large new homes did not fit with the character of their neighborhoods, and that the teardowns were reducing the affordable housing stock.

In his report to the Planning Commission, senior city planner Mike Richardson said that, in general, the standards have been successful. Many homeowners and developers, however, have sought variances for building heights and sidewall articulations. One intent

One big change would mean that some smaller projects would not need neighborhood-level and BZA approval, and could be reviewed by city staff.

of the proposed changes is to reduce the number of variance requests to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Several technical changes are proposed for the design standards. One big change would mean that some smaller projects would not need neighborhood-level and BZA approval, and could be reviewed by city staff. New residential construction and large additions would still fall under the guidelines.

Another major change would 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, 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 also 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 address issues created by modern truss systems and smaller residential yards.

The HDC asked for and got one proposed ordinance change removed that would have potentially allowed some smaller home additions to be as high as 30 feet. It contended that it was too lenient and could create situations where additions with even a small footprint could still tower over neighbors' yards.

City, county support replacing outdated artwork in chambers

By JANE MCCLURE

Installing more inclusive artwork in the chambers of Saint Paul City Hall and Ramsey County Courthouse is moving forward, but not without sharp disagreements among City Council members. After more than an hour of debate on August 12, the council voted 5-1 to install new artwork to cover murals that have been deemed racist by some.

The Ramsey County Board also debated

the artwork and the selection process before voting on August 11 to move ahead with the project, which was led by a joint city-county task force. The process has drawn criticism from Dakota artists who said they were not included in it.

Four new works will be unveiled this week, covering murals by John Norton that have been in place since the building was constructed in the 1930s. The murals have been criticized for featuring white men towering over Native Americans and Black laborers.

Council member Jane Prince voted against the new artwork and council member Dai Thao abstained. Both spoke for hearing from Native American leaders before displaying the new art, citing the Dakota's role as the first people in the region. Council member Nelsie Yang joined Thao and Prince in a failed effort to delay approval of the art installation for a week.

City and county leaders have worked on plans for the new artwork since late 2018. At that time, some Dakota members objected to

a previous proposal to put new art beside the existing art. They then opted out of the group working on the artwork.

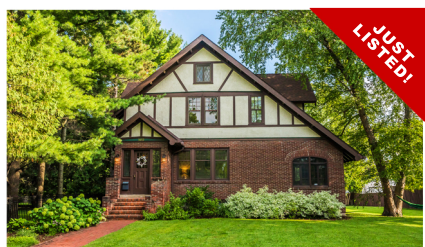
The Ramsey County Historical Society led the process. The artists selected for the new works were Leah Yellowbird of Grand Rapids, Emily Donovan of Saint Paul, the Latinx Mural Apprenticeship Project organized by the Latino nonprofit organization CLUES, and Adam Swanson of the Fond du Lac Reservation near Cloquet. In the long term, the intent is to rotate artwork in and out of the chambers.

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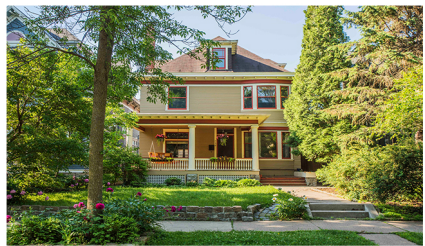
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VILLAGER

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Local projects compete for CIB funds focusing on safer St. Paul

By Jane McClure

About three dozen submissions from Saint Paul citizens and neighborhood groups are in the running for funding through the city's 2021 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). The CIB Committee will view video presentations of the proposals in late August, with the goal of completing its rankings by September 7. The committee's recommendations will then go to the mayor and City Council for final action.

Almost 100 ideas were submitted this spring in hopes of getting a share of \$1 million that will be awarded as part of the 2021 city budget. Seventy-six proposals were deemed eligible and of those 33 opted to submit applications when contacted this summer.

The city launched its new streamlined CIB process last year, replacing a system that had been in place for more than three decades. Under the new process, city departments submitted projects in 2019 for construction beginning this year, while all others submitted requests this year for funding in 2021.

Those who submitted the 2020 applications were asked to focus on Mayor Melvin Carter's goal of improving public safety. The city's departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation reviewed the 33 projects this summer to prepare cost estimates, said city budget analyst Madeline Mitchell. District councils will also be asked to review and rank the projects in their neighborhoods.

Presentations on the projects will be recorded and put online for the public to weigh in since the city is not holding in-person public hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. CIB Committee members will also view the presentations before making their rankings electronically.

One major local project would reduce Hamline Avenue from four lanes to three between I-94 and Grand Avenue. That proposal also includes the addition of pedestrian islands.

The Highland District Council (HDC) is seeking funds for design work on the Highland Park Community Center ballfields. A proposal to replace the fields and playground was submitted during the 2016-2017 CIB cycle, but only the playground was funded at that time.

Another HDC request is to make pedestrian crossing and accessibility improvements on the Sam Morgan Trail at Shepard Road and



The Highland District Council is seeking CIB funds to redesign the ballfields at the Highland Park Community Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Rankin Street.

A CIB request in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods is for a phased left-turn signal at Cretin and Randolph avenues to reduce traffic backups.

Funding requests also are being sought for Mississippi River Boulevard. One is for a painted crosswalk at Highland Parkway, while another would widen the existing shared bike and pedestrian trail.

In the West End, there is a request to redesign the Shepard Road-Butternut Street area. Residents there would like to see safety measures implemented on a two-block stretch where homes are close to vehicles traveling at high speeds on Shepard.

Several requests were submitted for Macalester-Groveland projects. One would redesign a Snelling Avenue pedestrian crossing between Macalester College and the neighborhood to the east. Another would make safety improvements on Saint Clair Avenue to serve Groveland Elementary School and the Groveland Recreation Center. Corner bumpouts and other changes also are being sought on Grand Avenue for Ramsey Middle School students.

Two requests came from the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood. One is to make pedestrian safety improvements at Selby Avenue and Saratoga Street, and the other would add a sidewalk at the southeast corner of Pascal Street and Concordia Avenue.

Several proposals center on lighting, including three from local neighborhoods. One is for high-efficiency, lantern-style street lighting on Cleveland and Bayard avenues. Another is for improved lighting at Cochrane, McQuillan and Boyd parks and the Holly Tot Lot in Ramsey Hill.

Two Merriam Park projects also are in the mix. One is for improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on Gilbert Avenue between Prior and Cleveland avenues. The other is for sidewalk improvements along Fairview Avenue where it passes under I-94.



Ground has been broken for the Linden, a 48-unit luxury apartment building for people 55 and older that will also include a main-floor restaurant just northeast of Highway 62 and Dodd Road.

Luxury senior housing coming to Mendota Hts.

By Dale Mischke

Construction began August 13 on the Linden, a 48-unit luxury apartment building for people age 55 and older on Linden Street just northeast of the intersection of Highway 62 and Dodd Road in Mendota Heights.

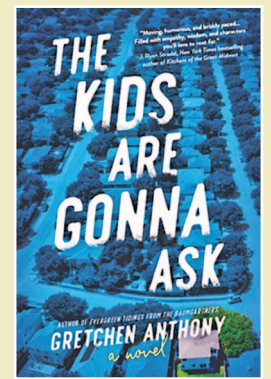
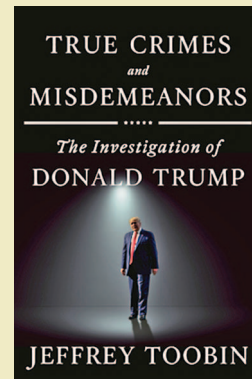
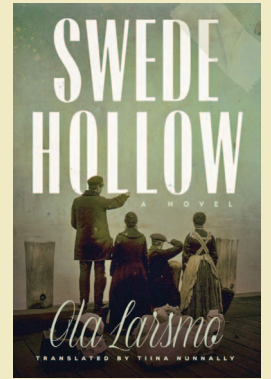
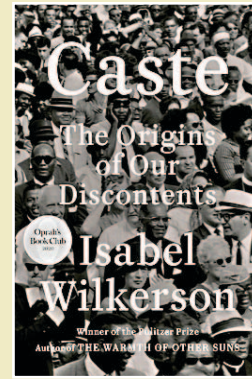
The Linden will offer a variety of open floor plans with high ceilings and top-of-the-line finishes in one-bedroom, two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus-den layouts. Residents will have access to a spacious community room with full kitchen, rooftop deck and grill-

ing station; heated parking; a fitness center; and a state-of-the-art golf simulator.

The main level of the Linden will feature a 5,000-square-foot family restaurant operated by local restaurateur Paul Dzubnar of Green Mill Restaurants, Crooked Pint Ale House and Town Hall Brewery.

The building is slated to open in September 2021, according to Judd Fenlon, the lead developer and founder of Grand Real Estate Advisors. Several members of the development team are from the area, including Brian Kuepers, a longtime resident of Mendota Heights.

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VIEWPOINT

Societal changes reveal shortcomings in Ford site plan

BY CHARLES HATHAWAY, KATE HUNT AND JEAN HOPPE

Things have changed. Fifteen years ago, when Ford Motor Company decided to abandon its assembly plant in Highland Park, people asked: What will happen next? Covering roughly the equivalent of 50 city blocks of prime real estate, situated on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, convenient to both downtowns and the airport, and flanked by desirable neighborhoods, its fate was clearly consequential.

How the site would evolve was a matter of much discussion. Many ideas bubbled up: a park or natural area; a university, medical or corporate campus; a center for light or heavy industry. Saint Paul's mayor opened discussions with Ford. The city's planning department became involved and a community task force was formed to help guide the redevelopment. Neighbors expressed a preference for redevelopment that would complement and enhance the surrounding neighborhoods.

The city had its own ideas, however, and pushed them forward over neighborhood opposition. The city's concept for the site was an ultra-dense collection of high-rise apartment buildings with space for retail stores and professional offices but with limited park space and without public facilities such as schools, recreation centers or libraries. Everything would be efficient. There would be apartments, not single-family homes, so that each person's real estate footprint would be small. Heating, cooling and electricity use would be minimized. Tenants would mostly be without cars;

they would rely on more efficient public transportation. Homeownership, a family-friendly setting and a thriving middle class were not part of the city's vision.

That vision would work well for the construction industry, assuring that there would be construction jobs for many years to come. And the developers would profit by selling the buildings to wealthy out-of-state or foreign investors. Tenants' rent checks—money that might otherwise be re-invested in the local community—would be cashed in Boston, New York or Beijing.

With the high density would come high property tax revenue. Or such was the hope. On top of the millions the city had spent on planning, the city was willing to pay out hundreds of millions in tax-increment financing (TIF) subsidies for the project, gambling that property values would keep going up. But things have changed. The pandemic and nationwide protests over societal systems have brought an awareness that business as usual is no longer acceptable.

Crowding people into constricted apartment buildings and elevators, into buses and light-rail cars, into brew pubs or small parks and walkways is increasingly understood to be unhealthy. People have developed a renewed appreciation for spending time outdoors, in open spaces, in nature and away from crowds. And with epidemiologists warning that COVID-19 could be followed by other epidemics yet unimagined, demand for ultra-dense housing may wane. So after having committed hundreds of millions of dollars of TIF financing to the high-density plan, it is looking more and more like the city has placed a bad bet.

Meanwhile, the civil unrest sparked by the death of George Floyd has gone well beyond demands for police reform.

Cries are heard not just for criminal justice, but for social and economic justice. It is particularly jarring, therefore, that the plan for the Ford site should be predicated on the assumption of a dystopian future without a middle class. Within this vision, a large group of less affluent citizens will be squeezed into a constrained living situation with the profits and benefits flowing up and out. Absent is any provision for thriving families or a focus on the conditions that would promote a healthy and fulfilling existence.

However, things have changed. This is a moment for us to pause and reconsider our trajectory. Bulldozers are already rumbling at the Ford site, but so far little has actually been built. We should take the COVID crisis and the current civil unrest as an opportunity to step back and reimagine the future at the Ford site. For the Ford site, the primary design question should be, how do we create habitat for humans that is healthy, beautiful, generative and enriching?

Let us create a place where buildings are constructed at human scale, where there is plenty of opportunity to enjoy parks and open space and nature, where people can invest in their own home and their neighborhood, building a life for themselves and their families. Let us create a place of beauty, where a strong sense of community will prevail. Our city will be stronger and better for it. Long after we are departed, future generations will thank us.

The writers are all residents of Highland Park.

INBOX

Something rotten in Saint Paul

I read with dismay the letter concerning the Ford site ("Open space sacrificed at Ford," *Villager* Inbox, August 5). If the Saint Paul City Council received 175 comments opposing the zoning variances and eight comments in favor, what is the problem? Is the City Council representative of citizens or is it basically a tool to advance its own agenda?

Since when do City Council members not represent the city in which they reside? Something is rotten when city councils attempt to regulate law. Are we as citizens pawns of the autocratic thinking that is prevalent in our society? This is a democracy. It's time we look at what that concept means.

*Ellen Reynolds
Macalester-Groveland*

Back to school at a distance

In reporter Frank Jossi's story, "Public schools may return to distance learning in the fall" (*Villager*, August 5), he states that in a recent survey by the state's teachers union, Education Minnesota, about half of the 20,000 teachers who responded preferred all distance learning. Let's be clear: It isn't half of the teachers in Minnesota that want distance learning, it's half of the teachers who took the survey.

*Mark Lehner
West End*

Waiting for a tree

I called the city of Saint Paul's Forestry Unit in April 2018. My 40-plus-year-old boulevard maple tree was dying and dropping large branches in high winds. The city came out, inspected the tree and painted a red circle around the trunk. They took the tree down the following month. I waited until September to call and ask when they would be replacing it. I was told they waited one full year before replacing trees. That October they also took down my neighbor's boulevard tree, so now the shade that tree provided was gone, too.

Last summer the Forestry Unit ground the stumps, and I thought, "Oh good, they're getting ready to plant some new trees." Nothing was planted. I called this spring to ask if they would be planting trees this year. I was told my area was not scheduled for tree planting until 2027! Why? The reason, I was told, was because of the emerald ash borer. We had that issue way before my tree was cut down. The woman I talked to said if I wanted a tree sooner I could fill out a form on the city's website. If it was approved, I could have a licensed tree service come out and plant a tree at my expense.

I've lived in this house and paid property taxes for 43

years and now I either have to wait another seven years or jump through hoops and pay to get a tree sooner. I called the Mayor's Office and got a call back from a woman named Betty. She called the Forestry Unit to see if they could help me. Two days later I got a call back from Forestry. A man named Dan told me he'd put me on a list, and if they have any trees left over from the fall plantings I might get one.

I'm hopeful, but I'm not holding my breath. I don't understand why I should have to wait so long for a boulevard tree. I'm not that young and not sure that I'll live here or even be alive in 2027.

*Faith Kruger
West End*

The harm of pandemic pods

Our society is living in uncertain times. COVID-19 has taken its toll on families all around. In March every educator had to transition to a crisis learning model. This was a new experience for most educators, and families had to make adjustments fast.

In March I was a paraprofessional at a charter school in Saint Paul. I clearly remember the transition of going to school on a Friday and then never coming back. I watched my colleagues frantically flip the rest of the year to online learning. I watched teachers do their best with Zoom meetings and watched other paraprofessionals step up to help tutor students who were struggling to adapt. I have spoken to parents who were overwhelmed, struggling financially, moving to new houses or apartments and not knowing how best to help their children.

Now in August, I have transitioned to being a teacher of English as a Second Language at an elementary school in Saint Paul and decisions are still being made. Should we do distance learning this year? Should we adopt a hybrid model or try to do in-person classes five days a week? School districts are able to make their own decisions following data-driven guidelines based on COVID-19 outbreaks. With the Twin Cities area looking towards all online learning, there is a lot of fear surrounding what should be a joyful time.

Parents all over the United States have been pooling together to form "pandemic pods" where classes of up to 10 students, usually in the same neighborhood, are taught by a private teacher. These are usually privately funded, with some teachers charging almost \$500 a week for attendance. The *New York Times* is calling this "the 2020 version of the one-room schoolhouse." Judging by the Highland Park neighborhood's Facebook page, this is a popular idea among parents. On the surface, it looks like a great idea. If students cannot go to school, then families can bring the teachers to their homes.

I urge parents to reconsider this option. Pulling students from regular public schools or public charter schools will decrease state and federal funding to our public school

system and widen the achievement gap. With pandemic pods costing families a lot of money, there is a clear segregation of education happening. The truth is, this idea puts lower-income families in the Twin Cities and around the U.S. at a disadvantage and will clearly affect our students and families of color. These pandemic pods will also put families and students whose first language is not English at a disadvantage.

No parent should be shamed for making educational decisions for their children, especially in this time of uncertainty. However, pandemic pods will have long-lasting impacts on education and students, especially our marginalized communities. I urge families to stand in solidarity with our public schools and educators as we band together to navigate through this COVID-19 pandemic.

*Amanda Cummings
Highland Park*

Change laws, not place names

Rename Saint Paul (*Villager* Inbox, July 22)? Rename the several thousand U.S. place names that honor Christian saints and religious leaders such as Luther or Wesley? This would be a big project indeed. I suppose non-Catholics can debate whether saints are or were forces for good in the world or tools of what became an aggressive empire. Locally, before we argue the merits of Paul, or Saul of Tarsus, maybe we should consider renaming places named for folks like Alexander Ramsey (urged extermination of all Sioux in Minnesota) or Charles Lindbergh (anti-Semitic admirer of the Nazis).

The main point is, after we spend years changing names, will the U.S. be more just? A more loving community? Will we have promoted life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Or will we have merely antagonized a great many people?

I am happy to see the name Lake Calhoun replaced by Bde Maka Ska and happy for Cesar Chavez Street and Old Rondo Avenue. We can do more name changing that honors people or communities worth remembering. But still, we're just playing with words. To promote justice for all, we need to change laws, not place names.

*Dutton Foster
Macalester-Groveland*

The Villager welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and provide a phone number for verification purposes. You may send your letter to the Villager at 757 S. Snelling Ave., email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it on our website at myvillager.com/editorial. The Villager reserves the right to edit all commentary for grammar, spelling and length.



Bicycle parts were collected for recycling at the 2005 fall cleanup in Highland Park. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Saint Paul discards citywide drop-offs due to pandemic, outlines other options

By JANE MCCLURE

Anyone who has been saving a stack of shingles or a broken stove for a Saint Paul neighborhood cleanup may have to wait until 2021 or seek other options for their disposal. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of all four of this year's previously scheduled citywide drop-off events, including the one typically held in September on Shepard Road in Highland Park.

The cancellations were a disappointment, but not a surprise to local cleanup volunteers and users. Highland District Council executive director Kathy Carruth said her office has already been hearing from senior citizens who need to have items picked up. "We're not sure how the seniors will be helped," she said.

Last year, vendors reported collecting 265 tons of waste for disposal and 189 tons of items that could be recycled during the drop-off events. The events drew a total of 3,147 vehicle loads. Highland had the second-largest event with 915 vehicles, behind the State Fair event with 1,070 vehicles.

The material collected last year included 136 tons of construction or demolition material, 128 tons of general refuse, 55 tons of electronics, 42 tons of appliances, nearly 20 tons of mattresses, 10 tons of shredded paper, 176 small engines and 183 bicycles.

Macalester-Groveland resident Cynthia McArthur, a longtime cleanup volunteer who collects bikes and bike parts for the Center for Victims of Torture, has seen a trend toward fewer volunteer helpers and fewer groups coming in to collect and reuse items. She would like to see more of a focus on reusing

items and on teaching younger people the value of recycling.

McArthur wondered if there was a safe, low or no-contact alternative for residents to dispose of materials now that the drop-offs are canceled. "There's been no direction from the city on what to do with such items," she said.

Lisa Hiebert of the Saint Paul Department of Public Works said residents should watch their mailboxes for details on how to dispose of bulky items and materials that typically go to the drop-off events. Residents are also being encouraged to check the city website at tinyurl.com/y44dv86e for disposal options, including garbage transfer stations, household hazardous waste disposal sites and charities that accept reusable items.

Hiebert also reminded residents that they can have bulky items and electronics picked up with their trash. Residents of buildings with no more than four units can have two to three bulky items picked up each year at no charge, depending on the size of the trash carts they have selected. They need to arrange for the pickup of bulky items and electronics in advance with a their hauler. There are fees for additional items, which can be found at stpaul.gov/bulky.

Seniors and people with disabilities who need assistance can contact the new Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, Hiebert said. In partnership with Cities of Service and AARP, the program uses volunteers to safely support those who require help with basic needs due to their age, mobility, income or other factors. For more information, visit stpaul.gov/serve/neighbors-helping.

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EDUCATION

Playing it safe

Daunting logistics convince district to open year with distance learning

BY FRANK JOSSI

The Saint Paul School Board voted 5-1 on August 5 to approve Superintendent Joe Gothard's recommendation and open the new school year on September 8 with all students taking classes from home via the Internet. However, school district officials held out hope for a return to in-person instruction later this fall if the risk of COVID-19 infection abates.

Gothard and his staff have been working with the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education on a safe way to reopen the schools. A recent increase in COVID cases statewide combined with a lack of classroom space for social distancing and the prospect of increased costs persuaded district officials to opt for all distance learning, he said.

Gothard told the School Board he would reevaluate the situation as the school year progresses and announce on September 25 or October 14 whether or not the school district is ready to fully reopen or at least partially reopen with a hybrid of in-person and distance learning. An announcement on September 25 would address a possible reopening on October 19 following the four-day MEA weekend. An announcement on October 14 would address a possible reopening on November 16, the first day of the winter term.

School Board member Steve Marchese, who cast the sole vote against the resolution for distance learning, proposed an amendment that would encourage the district to create optional in-person learning opportunities for families struggling with distance learning.

Those options would be helpful for students in special education or English Language Learner programs for whom distance learning is especially difficult, he said.

"In this environment, with everyone's circumstances being so different, I felt like the district should make available limited options to those families," Marchese said. According to him, offering in-school teaching for a select number of students could provide the district with guidance on how to return to broader in-person instruction at a later date.

Reopening the schools to in-person instruction with the necessary safety precautions would be costly, even with a hybrid approach, according to Gothard. School buildings and buses are limited to 50 percent capacity under Governor Tim Walz's COVID-19 guidelines, he said, and just one quarter of the classrooms in the district's middle and high schools could accommodate students with the required social distancing. Elementary schools would require an additional 1,200 staff members for a full reopening and an additional 300 to 400 staff members for hybrid instruction, he said.

"The amount of precision necessary to effectively plan a hybrid schedule is incredible in a district like ours," Gothard said.

Another problem involves transportation. School buses were used to bring food to low-income students learning from home last spring, Gothard said. Under a hybrid learning model, buses would be needed to transport students to and from school while also delivering meals to the many other students who are learning from home.

The school district has promised several



In a practice run, custodian John Washington disinfects a classroom set up for social distancing if and when in-person instruction returns to Jie Ming Academy in Highland Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

improvements to the distance learning model that was used last spring. The new approach, called Distance Learning 2.0, will provide instruction that is more personal, consistent, robust and engaging, Gothard said. Though few specifics were offered on how the district will do that, academic support centers will be available in schools throughout the city, according to him. Gothard has also promised refinements in attendance taking, grading expectations, the number of assignments given in a day or a week and the introduction of more synchronous instruction.

Teachers and students will be better prepared for distance learning this fall, he said. According to him, they will have all of the technology they need, and schools will have additional staff on hand to support students remotely.

Many volunteers and retired teachers contacted the district last spring offering to assist

with distance learning. Gothard said he was not able to enlist their help, but this fall he plans to make use of that help.

When deciding how students can eventually return to in-person instruction, Gothard said he wants flexibility. One grade or the pre-kindergarten and elementary grades may return first with other grades to follow. "We don't want to box ourselves in," he said. The size of individual schools will play a role in the decision, since social distancing will remain in place and not many classrooms have enough room to accommodate that.

For Gothard, the situation is far from ideal. COVID creates the kind of social distance and isolation that detracts from the sense of community that schools build, he said. "But I remain hopeful, optimistic and energized to make this the best it can be for our students, family and staff," he added.

Concordia taps '79 grad as new president

Friedrich comes home to university well positioned for future

BY ANNE MURPHY

The picture hanging in the office of the Reverend Dr. Brian Friedrich is worth 1,000 words about his connection to Concordia University-Saint Paul and why he elected to become its president in January. Framed with Friedrich are his grandfather, father, two uncles and a brother—all graduates of Concordia. With a legacy like that, it was impossible for Friedrich to say no when he was approached about becoming just the 10th president of a school that was founded in 1893.

In truth, "I wasn't so sure I wanted to come back," said Friedrich, a 1979 graduate of

Concordia-Saint Paul (CSP). After serving as president of Concordia University-Nebraska since 2004, he and his wife Laurie, also a CSP graduate, were looking forward to retirement. "But God had other plans," he said.

Now settled in his home in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, Friedrich said, "we love many things about Saint Paul—the beauty of the city, the majestic homes, the tree-lined summits, flowing river, kind neighbors, diverse citizenry, entertainment, the arts, sports, parks, walking and bike paths, ease of transportation, four seasons and the rich resources provided by the numerous institutions of higher education.

"There's also a great sense of nostalgia

here," said Friedrich, who grew up outside of Marcus, Iowa. "This is where Laurie and I met, fell in love, made lifelong friends, many of whom still live and work in the metro area and with whom we're excited to connect with on a much more routine basis."

The Friedrichs have three grown children and one grandchild. Laurie earned a degree in elementary education at CSP and went on to receive a master's and Ph.D. She is a member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "but her teaching assignment for the coming year is primarily online," Friedrich said, "so she'll be able to live in Saint Paul while teaching for UNL."

The academic life at CSP today looks very

different from when he first moved onto campus as an undergraduate, but Friedrich is confident in the ability of the university and the Twin Cities as a whole to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that followed the death of George Floyd. As of early August, he said, "we're still planning to start our traditional undergraduate classes face-to-face on September 8. The state Department of Health (MDH) requires colleges and universities to present a reopening plan before the institution is allowed to conduct face-to-face classes. CSP has done so, and our plan exceeds MDH guidelines."

DR. BRIAN FRIEDRICH ▶ 11

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Business Briefs

Dr. Lauren Haverly of Macalester-Groveland has opened Prism Eye Care, 272 S. Snelling Ave., Suite 300. The recipient of the Minnesota Optometric Association's Young Optometrist of the Year award in 2016, Dr. Haverly serves patients of all ages and all visual needs. She has a special interest in helping her patients slow down the progression of near-sightedness.



specific needs. Volunteers who can speak Hmong, Somali, Oromo, Spanish and Karen are especially being encouraged to apply. The program is sponsored by the city of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, African Economic Development Solutions, Hmong American Partnership, Latino Economic Development Center, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers and Neighborhood Development Center. For information, visit saintpaulchamber.com/payitforward.

Colin Anderson, owner of Eureka Compass Vegan Food, 629 N. Aldine St., has been named 2020's Business Person of the Year by the Highland Business Association and Saint Paul Sunrise Rotary Club. Eureka Compass is a bodega that sells unique hot meals and hard-to-find vegan items, produce, pastries and pantry staples. Anderson was recognized for his relationship-building, zero-waste approach to food, support of other small businesses, donations to nonprofits and response to the coronavirus pandemic.

We Love Saint Paul/We Love the Midway Fund has been awarded a \$200,000 challenge grant from Travelers. The funds will be used to rebuild businesses damaged in this summer's rioting and to promote racial equality. Distribution of the fund proceeds are being led by the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Midway Chamber of Commerce and Saint Paul Downtown Alliance. All donations are tax-deductible. Donations may be made online at WeLoveStPaul.com or WeLoveTheMidway.com or mailed to We Love Saint Paul, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 401 N. Robert St. Suite 150, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

Burger Dive will open its first stand-alone restaurant on August 19 in the former Bay Street Grill at 731 Randolph Ave. After running a successful pop-up eatery at Tony Jaros Rivergarden in Northeast Minneapolis and operating inside the Potluck Food Hall at Rosedale Center, owners Josh Thoma, Kevin Fitzgerald and Nick O'Leary thought the Bay Street Grill space was the perfect fit for a brick-and-mortar expansion. "We're excited to add another Burger Dive location, especially in Saint Paul," Fitzgerald said. "Josh and I are both from here, so opening a classic bar with Nick's amazing food in our own backyard is pretty special." Guests can expect to find burgers, pull tabs, weekly meat raffles and trivia games. Unlike other Burger Dive locations, the Bay Street Burger Dive will also serve breakfast.

Mentors to small businesses are needed to help them navigate the grant and loan application process for COVID-19 relief. Volunteers with business and financial expertise will be screened, trained and then matched with local business owners to assist with their



Concordia University-Saint Paul's new president Dr. Brian Friedrich is looking forward to welcoming students back to campus for in-person classes beginning on September 8. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

10◀ DR. BRIAN FRIEDRICH

CSP was well-poised for the online learning that was instituted last spring, according to Friedrich. Online learning has been a strong component of the school for years, he said, and when the state mandate for closing was issued on March 12, classes were cancelled immediately. By March 16 they were being offered to students online.

Despite COVID-19, Friedrich is confident that enrollment at CSP will be strong this year. Fall 2019 figures showed over 5,000 undergraduate, graduate and online students from 49 states and over 20 countries, he said.

"By design, intention and commitment, CSP is an urban university that takes pride in its location in the Midway district of Saint Paul," Friedrich said. "We serve best by fulfilling our mission and promise, both of which speak to current societal challenges. CSP is a place where all are welcome and Christ is honored. We seek to prepare students for thoughtful and informed living, for dedicated service to God and humanity and for enlightened care of God's creation, all within the context of the Christian Gospel.

"Our tuition is among the lowest of any private college in the country, and when coupled with generous scholarship support from federal, state and university resources, CSP is affordable and accessible for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds," Friedrich said. "We believe providing an affordable higher education rooted in practical application that prepares students for jobs and vocations is the best way we can address issues of inequity in our society and world.

"One of the many blessings for all who serve and study here is the community in which we're located," he said. "We have wonderful neighbors and want to be a wonderful neighbor. The current crises, more than ever, require us to listen to, communicate with, empathize alongside, work hand in hand with and care for all in our community.

"Saint Paul is an amazing city, and our diversity and differences make us strong and vibrant. By caring for our neighbors, we learn that our differences can unite us and make us stronger and more dynamic.

"We often say that the people here are lovable and loving," Friedrich said. "Saint Paul is a hidden jewel."

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday, July 28.

Burglary—Commercial burglaries occurred on the 2400 block of West Seventh Street on July 18, the 2200 block of Ford Parkway on July 20, the 2500 block of Stewart Avenue on July 27, the 2300 block of West Seventh on July 30, and the 800 block of South Cleveland Avenue on August 1.

—Residential break-ins were reported on the 2000 block of Pinehurst Avenue at 5:31 p.m. Sunday, July 19; and on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue at 12:20 a.m. Monday, August 3.

Theft—Two vehicles were stolen on the 1000 block of South Prior Avenue on July 16, and four vehicles were stolen on the 700-900 blocks of South Cleveland Avenue between July 17-19.

—Vehicles also were reported stolen on the 1700 block of West Seventh Street on July 25, the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on July 30, the 1800 block of Graham Avenue on July 30, the 2100 block of West Seventh on August 3, the 1700 block of Graham on August 3 and the 1700 block of Yorkshire Avenue on August 4.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on the 2500 block of West Seventh Street at 2:13 a.m. Monday, July 27.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 1400 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard at 10:57 a.m. Wednesday, August 5.

Arson—An arson fire was reported on the 1300 block of East Maynard Drive at 7:31 a.m. Thursday, July 23.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 1300 block of University Avenue on July 29 and August 5, and on the 1100 block of Hague Avenue on August 1.

Theft—Three vehicles were reported stolen on the 1100-1300 blocks of University Avenue on July 23.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—Robberies at gunpoint were reported on the 2000 block of Grand Avenue at 3:51 and 5:39 a.m. Saturday, August 1.

Burglary—Commercial break-ins were reported on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue at

Man charged with toppling Columbus statue at Capitol

Michael Anthony Forcia, 56, of New Brighton was charged by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office on August 13 with felony criminal damage to property in connection with pulling down the Christopher Columbus statue in front of the state Capitol.

According to the complaint, the Minnesota State Patrol received information on the morning of June 10 that Forcia organized a 5 p.m. event via social media to topple the statue. When troopers arrived by 4 p.m., they observed Forcia and another individual by the statue holding a flag.

Forcia reportedly stated that requests by Native Americans to have the statue removed had been ignored for 20 years. He was informed by a patrol captain about the process for removing monuments on the Capitol complex, but Forcia insisted that the statue would come down that day.

By 4:52 p.m. a large crowd had gathered around the statue and by 5:01 p.m. it was pulled to the ground. Forcia reportedly declined to name others involved in the protest. The estimated cost to repair the damage was \$154,553.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board is reviewing artwork at the Capitol and is expected to vote to remove or replace the Columbus statue. If removed, the Minnesota Historical Society reportedly will take possession and determine the statue's future.

8 p.m. Monday, July 20; the 200 block of South Hamline Avenue at 11:53 p.m. Saturday, July 25; and the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue at 11:45 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 1400 block of Randolph Avenue at 4 a.m. Tuesday, August 4.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 1800 block of Goodrich Avenue on July 26, and on Cretin and Grand avenues on July 31.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from two vehicles on the 1400 blocks of Palace and Berkeley avenues on July 28-29.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A burglary took place on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 4.

Theft—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Chippewa Avenue at 12:17 p.m. Monday, August 3.

—Several items were reported stolen from a trailer on the 1400 block of Highway 13 at 2:24 p.m. Tuesday, August 4. The loss was estimated at \$1,500.

—All four wheels were stolen from a vehicle on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue during the evening of August 4-5.

Sex crime—A woman said that she was walking on Lilydale Road when a male jumped out of the woods and exposed himself at 2:39 p.m. Wednesday, August 5. The woman was able to give a detailed description of the man and he was cited for indecent exposure.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1700 block of Selby Avenue at 4:32 p.m. Monday, July 20; and on the 2300 block of Marshall Avenue at 6:30 a.m. Monday, July 27.

—A commercial break-in was reported on the 2000 block of Marshall Avenue at 3:30 a.m. Monday, August 3.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue on July 22, the 1900 block of University Avenue on July 24, the 400 block of North Wheeler Street on July 25, on Cleveland and Selby avenues on July 30, the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue on July 31, on Cleveland and Ashland avenues on August 2, and the 2000 block of Dayton Avenue on August 5.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A robbery at knifepoint was reported on Pascal Street and Saint Anthony Avenue at 1:27 a.m. Tuesday, July 21.

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 1400 block of University Avenue at 11:38 a.m. Thursday, July 16; the 1400 block of Summit Avenue at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, July 26; and the 200 block of North Snelling Avenue at 10:29 a.m. Wednesday, July 29.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue on July 17.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was

reported on Grand Avenue and Milton Street at 8:02 a.m. Tuesday, July 29.

Burglary—A residential break-in was reported on the 300 block of Grand Avenue at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16.

—Commercial break-ins were reported on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 18, and the 700 block of Grand at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on Lincoln Avenue and Lexington on July 19 and 20, the 900 block of Linwood Avenue on July 27, and the 100 block of South Dunlap Street on July 28.

Summit-University

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 300 block of North Lexington Parkway at 8:13 a.m. Friday, July 17.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 300 block of Laurel Avenue at 10:43 p.m. Thursday, July 23.

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue at noon Friday, July 24; and on the 800 block of Hague Avenue at 9 p.m. Sunday, August 2.

Assault—Aggravated assaults with a gun were reported on Kent Street and Portland Avenue at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21; and on Louis Street and Marshall Avenue at 1:35 a.m. Thursday, July 31.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on Summit Court near Summit Lane on July 18, on Concordia Avenue and Grotto Street on July 18, the 200 block of Dayton Avenue on July 22, the 1000 block of Carroll Avenue on July 25 and 28, the 800 block of Holly Avenue on July 31, the 300 block of Lexington Parkway on August 1, on the 400 block of Ashland Avenue on August 2, the 300-500 blocks of Dayton on August 3 and 4, and the 700 block of Carroll on August 4.

West End

Burglary—Two commercial break-ins were reported on the 200 block of Grand Avenue during the early mornings of August 4 and 5.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 100 block of West Seventh Street on July 28, and the 100 block of Forbes Avenue on July 31.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 200 block of Goodrich Avenue on August 3, and the 200 block of Spring Street on August 5.

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ON THE TOWN

A writer and a teacher

Holbrook tells of her own redemption while laying a path for others to follow

BY ANNE MURPHY

I have always believed in the healing power of telling one's story," said Carolyn Holbrook, whose new book *Tell Me Your Names and I will Testify* speaks volumes about the trials she faced in becoming an author, arts advocate and educator. "While reliving some of the memories I write about was difficult, there was also relief in opening up and telling those stories."

Tell Me Your Names "is a memoir of connected essays," said Holbrook, 75. "I've been writing essays for 20 or 30 years, and it was time to compile them." Collectively, they chronicle how Holbrook relied on heart, soul, a resolute spirit and the support of her ancestors to build the kind of life that in her early years seemed improbable if not impossible.

If there is one thing Holbrook can bequeath to her five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, she said, it is "the knowledge that when they experience difficult times, they can push through with the help of their parents, each other and the knowledge that their ancestors made it through enormous difficulties. Therapy, journaling,

knitting, chocolate and good friends" help as well, she added.

A resident of Saint Paul's South Saint Anthony Park neighborhood, Holbrook dedicated *Tell Me Your Names* to her mother and stepfather and to "my ancestral mothers on whose shoulders I stand," she writes. Her mother was an independent businesswoman who owned beauty shops in Minneapolis. Her stepfather was the first Black auditor for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. "I come from a long line of role models," she writes. "Black women entrepreneurs and educators...it's because of their legacy that I've been able to achieve as much as I have."

Holbrook will discuss *Tell Me Your Names and I Will Testify* (University of Minnesota Press, 200 pp.) in a free program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 26, through Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. To register for the online program, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Holbrook was persuaded to begin writing about herself and her family in 1993 after being visited by the spirit of a woman who told her, "I am Liza. You have to tell our story." A cousin confirmed that their family had an ancestor named

Eliza. Later, while going through family photographs, Holbrook found one of the woman who had appeared to her. "Visits from loved ones who had passed were not new to me," she writes. "But this was the first time a spirit showed up with an explicit command."

Holbrook's life had given her much to write about. "By the time I reached my mid-teens, I was mad at the world, determined to do the opposite of anything my parents wanted me to do," she writes. At 16, she was single, pregnant and incarcerated for driving the getaway car for a boyfriend in an attempted robbery. Years later, she left an abusive marriage and as a single mother of five children grew determined to not only become financially independent, but to do so through writing what she had harbored in her soul.

Holbrook went to work as a secretary and typist to support herself and her children. She began writing for her neighborhood newspaper. She took creative writing classes and with fellow writers founded the Whittier Writing Workshop and its mentoring program for Black writers. For that effort, she received the 1985 Leader Lunch Award for Neighborhood Impact from the



Carolyn Holbrook's new memoir is a collection of essays that offer snapshots from her long effort to build the life that her ancestors had modeled. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

YWCA, as related in her essay "The Award."

In another essay, "Coming Clean," Holbrook writes about her experiences teaching a creative writing class through the Mother Infant Care Education Program. Her students were initially uninterested in writing. Then she told them her story. "I definitely had the young parents' attention then," she writes. "Questions flowed one after the other, most centering on why I had stayed in an abusive relationship for so long, how I dug myself out of poverty, and how I got where I am now."

Serving as a teacher and mentor has been a large part of Holbrook's life. She was the first person of color to serve on the staff of the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. In 1993, to make the literary arts accessible to a wider audience, she created SASE: The Write Place and served as its leader until 2006.

Now an adjunct professor of creative writing at Hamline University where she has taught since 1997, Holbrook is a staunch believer in writing as a source of well-being. "I try to demonstrate

CAROLYN HOLBROOK ▶14

'25 Questions' is Jewish Theatre's answer to the pandemic

BY FRANK JOSSI

Private yards and other outdoor spaces will serve as stages during the 25th anniversary season of the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Dubbed "Theater Six Feet Apart," the four-play package opened on August 15 with a two-week run of *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* by Kate Moira Ryan and Judy Gold. The comedy will be presented in the backyards of local homes, on a Harriet Island stage, at Wolfe Park Amphitheater in Saint Louis Park and on the field outside the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul.

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the Minnesota Jewish Theater, which has been based at the Highland Park Community Center for most of its 25-year history. Last season ended early because of the pandemic, and founder and artistic director Barbara Brooks felt compelled to continue with live performances as soon as possible. "I guess I'm forever the optimist," she said. "I thought I'd take these challenges and create opportunities. I wasn't going to not do a season."

In 2014 the Jewish Theater produced the play *Rose* in several private Twin Cities homes. Patrons told Brooks they enjoyed the domestic setting, and that gave the company confidence that the backyard venues could work. The backyards and larger outdoor venues provide enough space for social distancing, Brooks said. Theater-goers will be required to wear masks, and audience traffic will be dispersed to avoid any choke points.



Kim Kivens (left) and Laura Stearns rehearse their roles as daughter and mother in *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother*. The first production in the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's 25th anniversary season is playing now through August 30 at outdoor venues across the Twin Cities.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"It's of the utmost importance to us that everyone is safe, both the audience and the actors," Brooks said.

25 Questions for a Jewish Mother explores the love and angst of the children of Jewish mothers. Based on five years of interviews with mothers and children, the play stars Kim Kivens and Laura Stearns and is directed by Highland Park resident Jennie Ward.

According to Ward, the rehearsals were difficult. "There's nothing in life that isn't challenging now," she said. "Going to the

grocery store is challenging." However, she added, theater professionals are "pretty resourceful and flexible."

Rehearsals for *25 Questions* began remotely on a digital platform before moving outdoors. For the actual performances, the actors will be the only people not wearing masks, but they will have hand-held microphones to avoid spreading any aerosols, according to Ward, and will be situated at least 20 feet from any audience members.

25 Questions addresses the cultural

stereotypes of Jewish mothers, how those stereotypes came about and whether or not they fit the reality of "having and being a Jewish mother," Ward said. "The reality is more rich and varied than you might have imagined. And it's really funny."

Next up for the Minnesota Jewish Theater is *Operation: Immigration*, a drama that will be presented online from October 17-25. Written and performed by Avi Aharoni, the play tells of a young Minnesotan's search for the truth of his late father's immigration and assimilation into American society. A hit at the 2019 Minnesota Fringe Festival, *Operation: Immigration* has been expanded and updated for this production.

The third show of the season is *Musical Revue* featuring the songs of such Jewish American composers as Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim and Bob Dylan. Developed by Brooks and Kevin Dutcher and directed by Dutcher, the original production will be presented online from February 13-21.

The theater's final production of the season, *The People's Violin*, will be performed from April 25-May 15 at a venue yet to be determined. Written by Charles Varon, the play tells of a filmmaker, the son of a famous Jewish writer, and his quest for the truth about his family and the mysterious violin that emerges as a touchstone for the family's history.

For information on show times and venues or to purchase individual or season tickets, visit mnjewishtheatre.org or call 651-647-4315.

ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Author John-Ivan Palmer will discuss *Master of Deception*, his new memoir about growing up in a traveling variety show with his magician father and magician's assistant mother, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 26. To register for the free online program, visit subtextbooks.com or call 651-493-2791.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to a free online discussion with author Brian F. Harrison and his book, *A Change Is Gonna Come: How to Have Effective Political Conversations in a Divided America*, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 1. To register, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Exhibits

"Shine a Light," a free, multimedia exhibit showcasing the window displays of four theater designers, is on view through August 30 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyn-dale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Featured is the art of Sarah Bahr, Chelsea Warren, Mina Kinukawa and Catalyst Arts' Bayou and the artistic responses of E.G. Bailey, H. Adam Harris, Isabella Star LaBlanc and Eric Sharp. Additional content is available online. Visit jungletheater.org.

"Votes for Women," an online exhibit commemorating the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that granted women the right to vote 100 years ago, will be launched on August 26 on the Minnesota Historical Society's website at mnhs.org. Developed in partnership with the League of Women Voters, the exhibit tells the stories of more than 40 Minnesota women who took their civic duty especially to heart. Special programs on voting rights will be offered throughout the fall, including



Live at Landmark. Music From the Porch will continue with the world music of Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton and his accordion on August 19 and former Heiruspecs songwriter Martin Devaney (above) on August 26. The free concerts begin at noon on Wednesdays on the front porch of Landmark Center. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a bag lunch and enjoy the rhythms in Rice Park across the street. Face masks are encouraged. Social distancing will be the rule.

a Facebook live event at 7 p.m. August 26 with Lori Sturdevant and former Minnesota Secretary of State Joan Growe, authors of the new book *Turnout: Making Minnesota the State that Votes*.

Family

Virtual Family Day, a collection of free concerts and arts experience in the mold of the Flint Hills Family Festival, will be presented by the Ordway online from August 29 through September 7. Mini-concerts, sing-a-longs, magic tricks, art activities and artist interviews are all on tap. Among the performers are Sons of Mystro, two

brothers who use their violins to interpret reggae classics, American pop and their own creations; children's performers and jazz artists Dan and Claudia Zanes; the Native American dances, regalia and music of Native Pride Arts; and the Mexican folk dance group Los Alegres Bailadores. Visit FlintHillsFestival.Ordway.org.

Music

Jazz Fest Live, a summer series of free online performances, continues on Thursdays from the patio of Crooner's Lounge and Supper Club in Fridley with trombonist Dave Graf at 7:30 p.m. August 20 and singer Robin Robertson at 7 p.m. August 27. Visit twincitiesjazzfestival.com.

Theater

"Raw Stages," a monthly reading of new scripts by Minnesota artists, is being streamed by the History Theatre. The series continues with *Diesel Heart* from September 4-10. Each program includes the reading, a short interview with the creative team and a live discussion with the audience. Tickets are \$15-\$50. Visit historytheatre.com.

Fast Fest, the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres' biennial short-play festival, will be held online on Saturday, August 22. The virtual festival will open with morning workshops on the creative process followed by the plays from 1:30-9 p.m. Among the shows are *A Minnesotan Soap Opera*, or *the Cold and the Uff-da-ful* by County Seat Theater; *Will (ful)(ly)* by Ole Olson Onstage; *Bonnie and Clod* by Marshall Area Stage Company; *The Wild* by Merlin Players; *The Aunt and the Sluggard* by Little Theatre of Owatonna; *Match Dot Bomb* by Taken for Granite Players; *In a Time of Masks*

by Pargeter Players; *Slimm, Jim and the VI* by Mindless Mirth Productions; *Twelfth Night* by Classics Lost 'n' Found Theatre; and *Bad Mystery Suspense/Science Fiction Theater* by NKB Productions. Tickets are \$12 for the workshops, \$15 for the afternoon session, \$15 for the evening session and \$25 for the festival package. Visit mact.net.

"JFS-on-a-Schtick," a free variety show, will be presented online at 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 26, by the Jewish Family Service of Saint Paul. Emceed by Caleb McEwen of Minneapolis' Brave New Workshop, the show will feature comedienne and actress Jackie Kashian; entertainer Sandy Atlas and his song "Never Thought," lamenting the changes brought on by COVID-19; and Gilad Paz of Voce Nova performing the aria "Nessun Dorma" from the opera *Turandot* and "We Are the Champions." To request the Zoom link, visit jfssp.org/contact-us.

Et cetera

Ramsey County Master Gardeners is offering advice for gardening problems, information about best garden practices and help identifying plants and insects from 11 a.m.-noon on Saturdays in August and September. The online program is held via Zoom. Join by visiting umn.zoom.us/j/97696903081 or by calling 651-372-8299 and entering meeting ID 976 9690 3081. For more information, visit bit.ly/2UNB6GY.

Creating a welcoming society for migrants and refugees will be addressed on Monday, August 31, by Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The free online program will run from 7-8:30 p.m. To register, visit cabrinimn.org/tegeder-talks.

13◀ CAROLYN HOLBROOK

that to my students through assignments and readings," she said. Writing about pain can help one grieve, she said. "You cannot just get over things. No one should be told to 'just get over it.' You need to work it out. And that's what writing can do."

Holbrook reflects on her own experiences as a student in the Minneapolis Public Schools in the 1950s and '60s in the essay "Expectations and Assumptions." As she

often does in her book, she begins the essay with a quote from another writer. In this instance, it is from Sally Rudel, a former assistant principal at Minneapolis South High School: "Low expectations are the worst form of racism."

Holbrook recalls how she and fellow Black students were treated differently than white students at her school and maintains how important it is for teachers to respect all young people equally. "I urge teachers to have a sense of humor and to be flexible

enough to understand that if a student's learning style is different from what you are comfortable with, they should not be rendered unteachable," she writes. "I am constantly surprised by the number of students in my college freshman composition class who are convinced that they do not have the ability to write well. On closer investigation, it becomes clear that their fear of writing is based on the discouragement they experienced from a teacher."

In 2015 Holbrook founded the organization

More Than a Single Story, where people of color can discuss and write about issues of importance to them. In her book's final essay, "Sticks and Stones," she writes: "For Black women, loving ourselves and passing that self-love down to our daughters and our granddaughters is a difficult task. Centuries of negation often make us feel like we need to adopt a hard, protective shell, which is either praised as strength or dismissed as hostility. In short, we turn ourselves into stone."

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SPORTS



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

High schools take their turn figuring out fall activities

A week after the fact, Minnesota State High School League president Erich Martens was still trying to piece things together. After the MSHSL decided it was safe for soccer, cross country, girls' tennis and girls' swimming seasons to proceed with a shortened fall season—with coronavirus health precautions in place—it fell to Martens to get together with school administrators to try to make sure things run smoothly.

That's easier said than done. "There are a lot of movable parts here," Martens said. "We're working right now on modifications that vary from sport to sport."

Complicating the issue is the fact that the needs of a small high school like Ely's are vastly different than ones like Saint Paul's Central or Highland Park. "We have smaller schools with very low infection rates," Martens said. "It's a case of opportunity versus safety."

There's also the matter of how to deal with schools that may be able to have most, if not all, of their students on campus on a daily basis as opposed to schools that will be doing online learning from home in some way, shape or form.

"It's a complex problem," Martens said. The decision to move the prep football and volleyball seasons to the spring came as no surprise. Many college conferences had already done so. Exactly how that will work at the high school level remains to be seen, but the MSHSL is allowing football and volleyball teams to have a dozen practices this fall between September 14 and October 3.

Putting together an abbreviated spring schedule is a stickier wicket. So is the problem of the football or volleyball player who is used to playing a regular spring sport having to decide on playing one sport or the other.

Spring also is prime time for volleyball players to join club teams and for recruiters to get an updated look at college prospects. Having to choose between their school or club volleyball teams may lead to some interesting discussions around the kitchen table once it's determined how the high schools will proceed.

"Club volleyball is huge," said a college coach who wished to remain anonymous. "The clubs will just have to work around this."

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. The immediate issue before Martens and his colleagues is how to proceed with the sports on tap this fall.

Take soccer. "The contact with other players is obviously less than football, but it's still there," Martens said. True, but there's also the matter of headers and players picking up balls for throw-ins. The flip side is the game is played outside where COVID transmission is less likely to occur.

As noted before in this space, cross-country has some unusual issues that need addressing. Martens has been watching some of his fellow high school league administrators around the country. "There are changes from

WRIGHT CALL ▶16



Maddie Haider boots the ball to fellow Cretin-Derham Hall sophomore Elisa Veglia as the two trained last week for the start of girls' soccer practice. They were making use of the open playing fields at Minnehaha Academy since they live nearby. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

League lays down rules to restart prep sports

Football, volleyball moved to spring, others OK'd for fall

BY BILL WAGNER

When the Minnesota State High School League made its ruling earlier this month on how fall high school sports would look this year, it turned out there was still some clarity that needed to be provided.

At the time, the MSHSL preserved the fall season for boys' and girls' soccer and cross-country, and girls' tennis and swimming/diving, with limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The league also elected to move football and volleyball into a shortened season beginning next March, after winter sports end and before spring sports begin.

But there was also the matter of how the new seasons would be conducted. On August 11, the MSHSL clarified that football and volleyball teams could practice this fall, but only for 12 sessions between September 14-October 3. It will also allow 12 practices between October 5-24 for next year's spring sports, which were cancelled this year due to the pandemic. For all sports this fall, no scrimmages with other schools or captains practices are allowed.

Practices for the approved fall sports officially began on August 17. The first competition date for girls' tennis is August 24, with soccer, cross-country and girls' swimming/diving to follow on August 27. Only two contests are being

allowed per week, with the season limited to 11 weeks or fewer, depending on the sport. All fall sports will be wrapped up by the end of October.

While the league set rules for practices and competitions, it left it up to the individual schools to decide whether to participate or not, and whether their athletes can play one sport and still practice for another.

In a statement, MSHSL executive director Erich Martens stressed that the league needed to strike a balance between safety and the desire to serve its member schools. He also addressed the financially troubled state of the MSHSL because of the pandemic.

"While many cost-cutting measures... have already taken place, there remains a significant hole to fill," Martens said. "It's likely that additional cost-cutting measures may be needed before the year is out."

Martens added that without state tournaments as they have been held in the past, especially in the fall and winter, the MSHSL would lose nearly 80 percent of its revenue for the coming year.

Local athletic directors were pragmatic when asked about the most recent league ruling.

Dan O'Brien, the head football coach and athletic director at Saint Thomas Academy, said he is excited for his football players to be able to conduct practices this fall. "I think the State High School League realizes that one thing you don't want is to have kids who have nothing to do," he said.

Visitation athletic director Elisa Ryan Manny added that health and safety of all students is paramount. "Nothing

comes before that," she said. "We're all in this for the first time, and we have to be ready to pivot as changes take place."

Sibley athletic director Prentice Smith said the league and schools are responsible for ensuring fall sports are played safely. He agreed with the league's decision to limit practices and said having 12 is not written in stone. "Maybe a school only offers seven practices or 10," he said.

Minnehaha Academy athletic director Josh Thurow said that he was very busy these days working on schedules for multiple sports. He said it was disappointing to lose captains' practice time for football, and added that being part of the SMB Wolfpack cooperative with Saint Paul Academy and Blake complicates scheduling issues even further.

Thurow raised the possibility of having his school join a new 7-man touch football league this fall, noting that there was growing support from other schools to be part of it. He said the program would not be under the guidance of the MSHSL, and that there were still a great many questions to be answered for the new league to be viable.

Cretin-Derham Hall athletic director Phil Archer described the most recent league decision on practices as "spot on." When asked about any possibility of playing 7-man football, he said that CDH had many other issues to address. Still he was emphatic that, if certain circumstances came together, "it could quickly be on the radar screen."

Editor's note: The athletic directors from Central and Highland did not respond in time to be included in this story.



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state to state," he said.

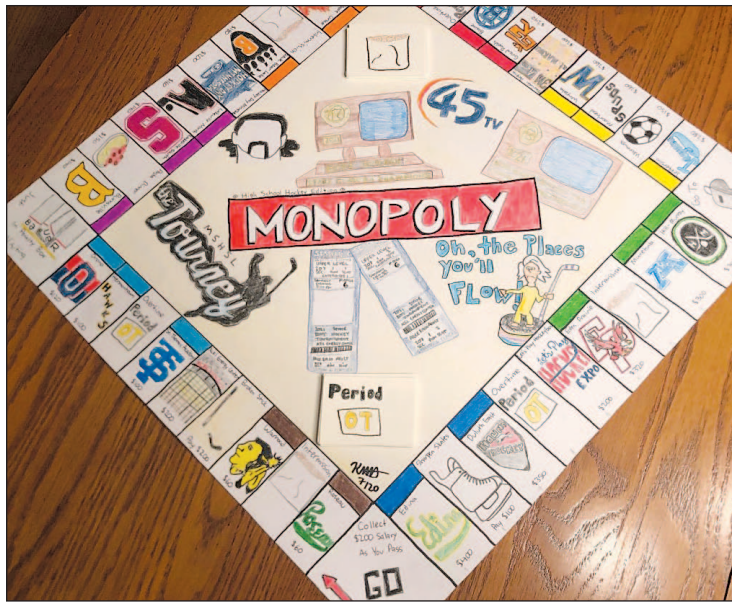
Practices for prep sports still being played this fall were scheduled to begin on August 17. Martens is hoping to have safety protocols in place by then. Schedules will need adjusting and decisions on whether to allow spectators will need to be made. Unlike pro sports, not all the high school games are available on the Internet. After that issue is resolved, the next step will be figuring out how to manage a postseason.

While all that's going on, the winter sports season will also be discussed. High schools may get some guidance when colleges decide what they'll do. It's generally expected that, if they play at all, colleges will limit their schedules to league games and not start their shortened seasons until early January. The limits on ice time might mean that a facility like Blaine's National Sports Center, which has eight arenas, could be doing banner business this winter when the preps finally are allowed to take the ice.

Gym time for basketball might be the easiest hurdle to overcome, but you'll hear groans all around when the sport where there's the most contact of all—wrestling—gets discussed.

Drop the puck on Monopoly

Like a lot of 17-year-olds, Keegan Masser was getting restless in quarantine. A member of the Prior Lake High



Saint Thomas Academy earned a spot (in light blue) on the Minnesota high school hockey version of Monopoly created by a Prior Lake player.

School junior varsity hockey team last season, Masser missed playing time when he was sidelined by a concussion. Presuming hockey would return this year, he was hoping to get a head start on moving up to the varsity for his senior season by being on the ice this summer.

The coronavirus put the kibosh on ice time at most rinks

and even a teenager can only watch so many videos. So one day Masser decided to do something else to occupy his free time. Eighteen hours later, he had created a Minnesota high school hockey version of Monopoly.

Mediterranean Avenue became Roseau. Baltic Avenue turned into Warroad. Oriental Avenue morphed into Saint Thomas Academy.

Instead of going to jail, one lands in the penalty box. Park Place and Boardwalk—the most expensive properties on a regular Monopoly board—went to longtime Class AA powers Duluth East and Edina.

"I did it for fun to play with my friends," Masser said. "The thought of selling it really didn't occur to me."

He did post it on Twitter, which drew immediate responses and several helpful suggestions as to who should go where on the board. He also received requests from people who wanted to buy the game.

According to Wikipedia, there are 1,144 known versions of Monopoly. It was suggested to Masser that his hockey version become No. 1,145.

"I talked to my business teacher and my dad about that," Masser said. After all, if one can produce

a successful Betty Boop edition of Monopoly, why not one about the high school sport that attracts thousands of Minnesota fans every winter?

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

Sports Shorts

The Aldrich, Highland, Pleasant and TCO Sports Garden arenas are now open to youth and adult hockey and figure skating groups. Modified procedures align with state health guidelines. Reservations allow for a maximum of two groups of 25 participants per sheet of ice, including coaches and instructors. Scrimmages and games will allow spectators, depending on each arena's approved capacity.

The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota has partnered with the Lexington-Hamline Community Council to offer three bicycling programs in the weeks ahead outside Concordia University's Ries Tower, 393 Dunlap St. Free and open to all, the programs include bicycling instruction for adults from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, August 25, September 8 and 22; a community

ride from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, August 26, September 9 and 23; and bicycle repair from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, August 27, September 10 and 24. Participants will be required to wear face masks at all times, and social distancing will be practiced. For reservations, visit lexham.org.

The Saint Thomas Academy baseball team has won the Class AAA Academic All-State title with a team GPA of 3.581, according to the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Association. The Cadets are coached by Matt Kelly.

Jeff Fasching has been promoted to full-time pitching coach for the upcoming season at Concordia University-Saint Paul. Fasching joined the staff as a graduate assistant pitching coach

last summer after wrapping up his playing career with the University of Minnesota. Over his final two seasons with the Gophers, Fasching made 35 appearances out of the bullpen with a 1.72 ERA, helping the U win the 2018 Big Ten Championship. During his senior season, he was named to the Big Ten All Sportsmanship Team and was named the Phil Isaakson Teammate of the Year.

Ben Reppenhagen, a graduate of Saint Thomas Academy, has made the football roster as a freshman at Texas Christian University. He captained the Cadets' defense for two years and was team captain his senior year while leading STA to consecutive state Prep Bowl appearances in 2018 and 2019. Reppenhagen was recruited to TCU by former Gopher head coach Jerry Kill.

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Highland blood drive—The Highland District Council is partnering with the Highland Business Association, the Highland Park Community Center and the Highland Park Library to host a blood drive from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, September 18, in the lower level of the community center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. To help stem the impact of COVID-19, Memorial Blood Centers needs blood and platelet donations now more than ever. All blood types are needed, especially O negative and O positive. For information on scheduling a blood donation, contact Karin at kbauer@mbc.org or 651-332-7170.

Slow your roll—The public is invited to join the HDC's Transportation Committee for a Slow Roll Bike Ride through the Highland Park neighborhood at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 12, from the Highland Park Community Center parking lot. It will be slow, easy riding and very informative, with stops to look at past, present and future transportation projects throughout the neighborhood. Remember to bring a helmet.

Special election—The HDC will hold a special election on Thursday, October 1, for an at-large position on its board of directors. Check the HDC website after September 1 for details.

Upcoming meeting—Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, August 24. All HDC meetings are currently being conducted online. For information about future meetings go to highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Board elections—This year's elections for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors are being held from now until August 21. Visit macgrove.org/annual-meeting to read about the candidates and vote online. Candidate information is also posted outside of the Edgcombe Recreation Center at 320 S. Griggs St. A mail-in paper ballot may be requested by going to mgcc@macgrove.org or calling 651-695-4000.

Neighborhood pride—Locally designed Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can now be ordered online using PayPal and will deliver to your home. The shirts come in three colors and a variety of sizes. Check the community council's website.

Upcoming online meetings—Transportation Committee on Monday, August 24; board of directors on Thursday, September 10; Community Building Committee on Monday, September 14; and Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, September 23. All meetings take place at 6:30 p.m. and can be accessed via Zoom. Council staff will send out meeting links a few days in advance. Email mgcc@macgrove.org.

Get involved—The community council has three standing committees that meet once a month on making Macalester-Groveland a better 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 more information.

Union Park

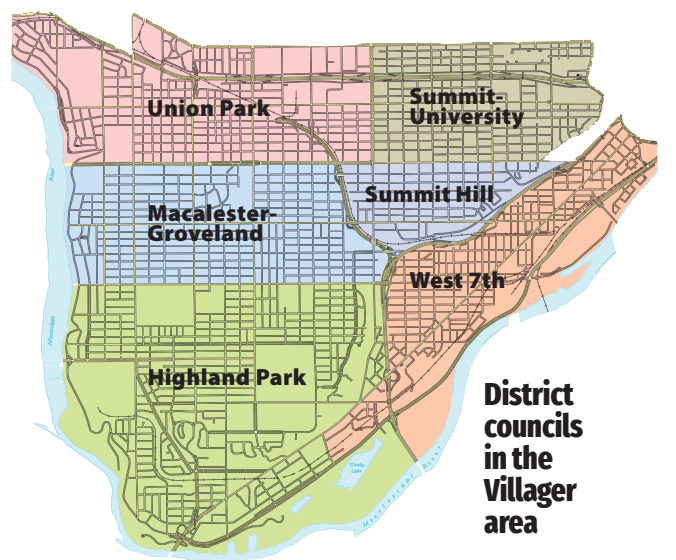
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Union Park Solidarity Fund—The Union Park District Council is offering a solidarity fund to provide economic relief for renters in its neighborhoods. It is hoping to raise \$15,000 to assist 30 families. For information on giving to or applying for the fund, visit givemn.org/story/Li2sdg.

COVID-19 resources—Union Park neighbors who need assistance or informational resources related to the coronavirus are invited to call the UPDC office or visit its website.

Upcoming online meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 19; board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 2; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 14. To join the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org.

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.



West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board update—At its August 10 meeting, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation heard about a proposed new business that wants to rehab an old railroad foundry to offer welding classes. The board voted to support the project in concept. Members also discussed how to safely hold the West End Neighbors' Garden and History Tour on Saturday, September 12.

Upcoming virtual meetings—Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 20; Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 2; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, September 14. Updated agendas and details on how to participate in the Zoom meetings can be found at fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

Stay in touch—West Seventh neighbors are being encouraged to "like" the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter on its website.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
Case Type: Probate
Court File No. 62-PR-20-581

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In re the Estate of: Marion Veronica Brown, Decedent

A Petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated unknown ("Will") and for the appointment of Andrew T. Vaughan, whose address is 1610 E. 96th Street, Bloomington, MN 55425, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration OR supervised administration has been filed with this Court.

Any objections to the Petition or Will must be mailed or filed in the electronic filing system, together with the court filing fee, to Ramsey County Probate Court, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., Room 170, St. Paul, MN 55102 prior to the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted. If objections are filed, another hearing may be scheduled. No telephone conference will be required unless there are questions.

Any charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceeding be given to the attorney general pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 501B.41, Subdivision 5.

IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS GIVEN that a default hearing has been

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STATE OF MINNESOTA CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. 1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted: The BeauTeeque. 2. List the Principal Place of Business: 175 McKnight Road N 306 Saint Paul MN 55119 United States. 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: Althea Rahkonen; 175 McKnight Road N 306 Saint Paul MN 55119 United States. 4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is re-

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LEGAL NOTICES

scheduled on September 8, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. by this Court. No appearances are required. Objections must be filed instead of made personally. Due to Court Order ADM20-8001 of the Minnesota Supreme Court, this court will rule on the Petition in this case after administrative review of submissions without appearance unless an objection is filed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice shall be given by: publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper in the county where the hearing is to be held, the last publication of which is to be at least ten (10) days before the time set for hearing; and mailing via U.S. Postal Service a copy of this Notice and Order at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date to all interested parties and parties who have filed a demand for notice.

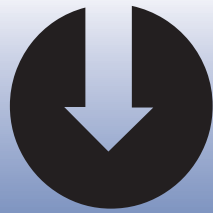
NOTICE OF FURTHER GIVEN that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT:

LEGAL NOTICES

Michael F. Upton,
Court Administrator
By: Mai-Nhia Yang,
Deputy Court Administrator
Date: August 7, 2020

Attorney for Petitioner:
Name: Sophia R. Grotkin
Firm: Randen, Chakirov & Grotkin LLC
Street: 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 920
City, State, Zip: Bloomington, MN 55437
Attorney License No: 398931
Telephone: 952-855-8872
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