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Four-legged friends help heal scars of trauma

Agency for dog therapy finds permanent home on Lexington Parkway

By Carolyn Walkup

Grady Hughes says he owes his life to Canine Inspired Change (CIC), a local nonprofit organization that promotes social and emotional well-being by connecting people to therapy dogs. Hughes, 27, almost died when at age 8 he was hit by a truck while riding his bicycle. He spent 87 days in the hospital—42 of them in a coma—and underwent numerous surgeries. CIC therapy dogs assisted in his long recovery, and they continue to help him today.

Hughes currently works with a golden retriever named Copper and its owner, Mark Stary, who volunteers with Canine Inspired Change. Although their weekly meetings have been online since the COVID-19 outbreak caused CIC's in-person classes to be suspended, Hughes continues to benefit from seeing Copper and watching him obey his spoken commands, Stary said.

According to Stary, Hughes "just glows when he sees Copper. It brightens his day, even when he's having a rough one." When the classes were in-person, Hughes routinely encouraged the younger students in his group and shared his contagious enthusiasm for life, Stary said.

CIC was founded in 2010 by Danielle Graczyk, a professional dog trainer who realized the role her own dogs played in her recovery from addiction. For the past seven years, agency volunteers have been helping young people who have experienced trauma or have chronic men-



Grady Hughes (left) poses with Mark Stary and Copper, his therapy dog team at Canine Inspired Change.

tal and emotional issues by bringing their own trained therapy dogs to small-group sessions at juvenile detention centers, day programs or other participating locations such as the Jewish Community Center in Highland Park. Last month the CIC moved into its new home in the Wilder Foundation's building at 451 N. Lexington Pkwy.

In addition to structured classes both in and outside

CANINE INSPIRED CHANGE ►5

In hard times, mayor submits a budget that holds line on property taxes

By Jane McClure

Responding to a drop in city revenue brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and this summer's rioting, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter has proposed a city budget for 2021 that holds the line on property taxes but cuts a host of city services and reduces the city's workforce by 3 percent.

The proposed 2021 budget is \$626,993,514, down \$9.4 million from 2020. It includes salaries and benefits for 2,920 full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees—a decrease of 93.26 from 2020.

Public safety spending would be reduced by \$1.2 million with an \$801,000 cut in the Police Department budget and a \$431,000 cut in the Fire Department budget. The Fire Department would lose five positions, including two arson investigators and the coordinator of emergency medical services. The Police Department would cut 17 positions, including 10 sworn officers and seven school resource officers. Thirty-one

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Saint Paul looks to raise awareness of police review board

By Jane McClure

Relations between the police and the public are drawing increased scrutiny around the United States, yet many Saint Paul residents do not know anything about the city's Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC) and how it works to address concerns about law enforcement. That was the key message for Saint Paul City Council members during an August 5 update on the commission and its activities.

Getting the word out about the commission and its work has a cost, but finding funds to cover those costs could be difficult as Saint Paul faces a challenging budget year in 2021 due to the COVID-19

pandemic. The nine-member commission which reviews claims of police misconduct, operates under the city's Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity. HREEO director Valerie Jensen would like to increase the commission's annual budget, which is currently \$16,775, not including staff costs.

Commissioners currently receive \$50 per month, which has not increased since the commission was formed in 1993. Jensen said she would like to increase the commission stipends in 2021.

"There are serious issues with that (compensation)," Jensen said. She spoke on the need for greater socioeconomic and ethnic diversity on the commission, but said that is difficult to achieve when

there are financial barriers to participation.

PCIARC is one of the city's most time-intensive citizen groups. Commissioners undergo 40-50 hours of training before joining and spend about 15-20 hours each month reviewing cases before monthly meetings, according to PCIARC coordinator Julian Roby.

City Council members agreed that compensation needs to be increased, though by how much was not discussed. "It's like a part-time job," said council member Jane Prince.

Another issue is geographic representation. The commission has two openings after one member

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St. Thomas ready to welcome students to new dorms on north campus

Two-year residency requirement set to begin in fall of 2021

By JANE MCCLURE

As an atypical academic year begins, the University of Saint Thomas is opening two new residence halls on its north campus in time for the start of classes on September 9. Jim Brummer, the university's associate vice president for facilities, outlined the progress on the projects for the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee on August 17.

Finishing touches were being applied on the new five-story Tommie North and Tommie East residence halls to get them ready for students, who are being offered both in-person and online classes this fall. Furniture was moved in, landscaping installed and new sidewalks poured along Selby and Cleveland avenues.

Tommie North is located at the corner of Cleveland and Selby avenues just north of the Chapel of Saint Thomas Aquinas. It will house a new dining facility and classroom space on its first floor, with housing for approximately 480 first-year students above. There are multiple, single-gender pods on each floor. Each pod houses around 36 students who live in double-occupancy



Tommie North (above) is the university's new residence for first-year students, while Tommie East (right) is for second-year students.

bedrooms and share two large bathrooms. The building has 161 interior bicycle storage spaces and 115 underground parking spaces.

Tommie East, which is located on Cleveland near Ashland Avenue just south of the chapel, has visitor space on its first floor with housing for 260 mainly second-year students above. There are two pods per floor arranged in multiple clusters of double-occupancy bedrooms and bathrooms that feed into a main living area and kitchen. There is a laundry on each floor, with lounge space, study rooms and a game room on the second floor. The building has 143 bike spaces, 85 below-grade parking spaces and six apartments for visitors.

The university plans to require on-campus residency for first- and second-year students beginning in the fall of 2021. UST currently just encourages students to live on-campus for their first two years.

About 90 percent of first-year students and 45 percent of second-year students live on-campus now.

University neighbors have long pushed for a residency requirement, citing the disruptive behavior of some off-campus students. UPDC committee members and neighbors said on August 17 that they were pleased to see new housing and more efforts to keep younger students on campus.

Construction of the dormitories and the new Iverson Center for Faith began in 2019. Iverson Center, which is built below grade and tied into the chapel, was finished earlier this summer. A tunnel will connect the two new halls and Iverson.

Tommie North and East are the first new dormitories built at the university since Morrison Hall in 1998. Saint Thomas tore down the John Paul II residence hall and a faculty residence, which were both constructed in the '70s, to



make way for the new dormitories. The university also renovated Ireland and Brady halls as part of the project.

Completion of the projects brought an end to months of noise, disruption and spillover construction parking on the north campus. Neighbors had to rely on updates and reach out via email or phone if there were problems, since in-person gatherings were not possible due to COVID-19.

University officials expressed appreciation for neighbors' patience at the UPDC committee meeting. One issue still being addressed is the replacement of the 140-plus trees lost due to construction.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't do the developments without losing trees," Brummer said. There have been 125 replacement trees already planted, with more coming.

Parking in the two new residence halls are not for the students who

live there, which raised some questions from neighbors on August 17. The parking spaces at Tommie North are for faculty and staff parking, while those at Tommie East are for admissions and visitors.

Saint Thomas has historically discouraged first-year resident students from bringing vehicles to campus and has asked them to use other modes of transportation. Resident student parking permits are awarded and sold through a lottery, with priority given to upperclassmen.

UPDC board member Scott Berger said he and other bicyclists are eager to see the southbound Cleveland bike lane reopened. It has been blocked due to campus construction, pushing riders out into traffic. "It's a good bike lane when it's open," he said.

Brummer said the Cleveland bike lane will be reopened as soon as possible.

Comments sought on proposed Marshall Ave. housing project

By JANE MCCLURE

Developer Paul Tucci and 2C Development are now soliciting comments on their proposal to construct a four-story building with three floors of market-rate apartments and 2,500 square feet of ground-floor commercial space at 2045 Marshall Ave., the longtime home of the Suds America laundromat and tanning parlor.

Tucci told the Union Park District Council Land Use Committee on August 17 that he would like to hear from residents and business people on his plans before he presents them to the full UPDC board on September 21.

"This is a chance to make your feelings known early in the process," said UPDC Land Use Committee co-chair Dean Cummings. Questions and comments may be sent to Tucci by email at cytucci@gmail.com.

Tucci's plans call for 55 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments. Although they may attract University of Saint Thomas students, the apartments would be marketed to other tenants as well, Tucci said. A total of 49 off-street parking spaces are planned below-grade and behind the building.

The property was rezoned in 2018 as part of Saint Paul's West Marshall Avenue Zoning Study. It is now zoned for traditional neigh-

borhoods 2 use, allowing building heights of up to 45 feet without a conditional use permit. No special city permits, zoning changes or variances have been applied for.

If the Tucci and 2C Development project moves forward, it will be the fifth multi-family residential or mixed-use commercial-residential project proposed or completed on Marshall Avenue in the Merriam Park neighborhood this year. A new three-story building was recently completed at 1609 Marshall Ave. Across the street on a parking lot and green space in front of the former Richards Gordon School, a 97-unit building is planned.

Two other apartment projects also are

planned near the intersection of Marshall and Finn Street.

At the nearby corner of Snelling and Carroll avenues, the site plan for Gaughan Companies' proposed five-story apartment building won final city approval in mid-August.

Although this is his first foray into Union Park, Tucci is a veteran developer. In 2016 he worked with Oppidan on a one-story retail development on the northeast corner of Snelling and Stanford avenues. In 2018 he led the redevelopment of the former Lund & Lange Florist, Seoul Salon and St. Paul Frame-Ups site at 270-276 S. Snelling Ave. with another one-story retail building.

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County drops 4.5 percent levy increase from proposed 2021 budget

Adjustment reflects impact that pandemic has had on economy

By JANE McCLURE

Ramsey County's 2021 property tax levy will stay flat, as a result of a revised budget that was released on August 25. That is a change from the anticipated 4.5 percent levy increase that was tentatively adopted at the end of 2019.

"It's been a challenging year under all circumstances," said county manager Ryan O'Connor. County officials revised their 2021 budget in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the related economic downturn and the civil unrest following George Floyd's death in May.

They are also watching 2020 spending carefully; the county has already shelled out almost \$51 million on pandemic-related expenses this year.

Prudent financial management and long-range planning have helped the county, O'Connor said. "Simply put, this is the rainy day that the organization has spent years planning for," he said.

The county's biennial budget that was initially approved in 2019 had a 4.75 percent levy increase for 2020 and 4.5 percent for 2021. The second year of the budget process usually focuses on policy issues, including racial and economic equity, and how government services are delivered.

But the circumstances of 2020 have changed that, forcing the county to quickly reinvent ways it delivers services and delve even more deeply into the pressing issues of affordable housing and homelessness.

The budget for 2020 came in at \$741.7 million. The 2021 budget of \$763.1 million was to increase 2.9 percent over 2020. The revised budget of \$747.5 million represents a 0.9 percent increase.

The county planned to levy \$342.4 million in 2021, but has dropped that amount to \$326.1 million.

The proposed levy will make up 43.6 percent of the 2021 budget. Other funding sources include revenue from state and federal programs, fees and charges, and fund balances. Intergovernmental revenue makes up the second-largest part of the budget, at 26 percent or \$194.4 million. Charges for services make up 20 percent or roughly \$150 million.

O'Connor emphasized that \$2.8 million in fund balances is being used for one-time expenditures, so that the county does not create

"It's been a challenging year under all circumstances," said county manager Ryan O'Connor.

a structurally unbalanced budget.

Health makes up the largest category of county spending at 48.2 percent of the budget or \$360.2 million. Safety and justice comes in second at 18.7 percent or \$139.5 million. Other sectors are economic growth and development, strategic and general county operations, and information and records.

The county has not laid off or furloughed employees this year, but is continuing to put a hold on hiring. That is part of the \$14.2 million in adjustments to department operating budgets, such as delays in purchasing Public Works vehicles. Another \$2 million in savings is coming from postponed investments in technology.

County officials also are looking at shifts in the capital improvement program, adding \$5.2 million for affordable housing in 2021 and \$3.7 million in 2020. That will be accomplished by shifting some library renovation work to other funding sources. Studies of golf

courses are also being dropped.

The county levies separately for regional rail authority operations, though that budget is part of Public Works now. The proposed levy for rail in 2021 is \$27.6 million, or a 0.6 percent decrease over 2020.

Commissioners agreed with the need to hold the 2021 property tax levy down, but also expressed worries about other funding sources, such as state and federal dollars. County Board chair Toni Carter said this will be a transformative period for the county and the way it does business.

County departments have started presenting their proposed budgets. The first public hearing on the 2021 budget will be held virtually at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 10.

Commissioners plan to certify the maximum 2021 levy on September 15. The Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee composed of the city, county and Saint Paul Public Schools will meet on September 28 to set the joint levy.

Property tax statements will be mailed out November 10-24, and the county truth-in-taxation hearing will be held on November 30. How the hearing will be held has not been determined yet. Commissioners will review any supplemental budget items on December 1, and vote on the final budget and levy on December 15.

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police officer positions could go unfilled over time, and the Police Department fall training academy would be canceled.

The Saint Paul Public Library would eliminate 16.7 FTE positions and reduce its collections budget for a savings of \$1.4 million.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department would reduce recreation center hours, cut hours at aquatics centers, close the Great Waters facility at Oxford Community Center during the summer, contract out concessions, reduce ice rink maintenance and eliminate 17.2 FTE positions, resulting in a total savings of \$1.3 million. The department would maintain a focus on sports for children ages 8 and under, but the programming for older children will suffer.

The Public Works Department would cut \$1.9 million from its budget, including the loss of 5.7 FTE positions and a reduction in the street mill and overlay program.

The Department of Safety and Inspections would see \$1.1 million in cuts, including eight

The public may join the Saint Paul City Council's budget discussion online at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 3.

FTE positions.

Another \$2.3 million would be cut from internal services, including almost 20 FTE positions in the offices that oversee city budget and finance, technology and human rights.

A few city functions would see an increase in spending, including \$878,000 in the city's Office of Technology and \$270,000 for the Saint Paul Public Library for mobile wi-fi hot spots and to shift five cultural liaisons from grant-supported status to the general fund.

Parks and Recreation would get an additional \$328,000 for its share of the Community First Public Safety program to cover the costs of five youth mental health support and intervention workers.

Preparing the 2021 budget "is one of the toughest tasks I've faced," Carter said in his August 20 budget address. His senior management team has taken a voluntary 10 percent reduction in its salaries for the rest of this year, and many open positions are going unfilled.

The mayor cited the hardships Saint Paulites are facing during the pandemic. More than 130 city residents have died of COVID-19, he said, and more than 70,000 have filed for unemployment. While acknowledging his budget has "several pain points," Carter said he intends to preserve essential city services.

The City Council began its 2021 budget deliberations on August 26. "It'll be challenging, it'll be painful," said City Council president Amy Brendmoen. "There will be cuts nobody wants to make."

The public may join the council's budget discussion online at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 3. To register to speak or to find out how to view the budget meeting, visit tinyurl.com/yvnsbc6.

The testimony that evening and in a series

of public hearings to follow will inform the City Council as it adopts the city's maximum levy for 2021 on September 16. After that date, the levy can be decreased but not increased.

The mayor's proposed city levy for 2021 is \$165,181,611, the same as in 2020. That figure represents 26 percent of the total city budget. Property tax revenue makes up 43.1 percent of the budget, the largest share. Local government aid from the state pays for 21.4 percent of the budget. Charges for services, franchise fees, licenses and permits and other sources of financing make up the rest.

The city began 2021 budget planning with a projected \$19.6 million deficit, according to interim budget director Susan Earle. As much as \$12.9 million of the deficit was from projected losses in city revenue. Property tax revenue is projected to decrease by \$1.6 million as more people are unable to pay. Also anticipated is a \$1.9 million reduction in franchise fees. Parking meter revenue could drop by \$1 million. Decreases are also expected in paramedic revenue, business licenses, hotel and motel taxes and traffic fines.

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Officials respond to growing number of homeless camps in Saint Paul

By JANE MCCLURE

Homeless encampments are popping up around Saint Paul in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and city and Ramsey County officials are taking a more nuanced approach regarding their response to the camps and their residents, Saint Paul City Council members were told on August 19.

An encampment of about 70 people on Kellogg Boulevard near the Minnesota History Center is slated for clearing due to health and safety concerns. Officials have also stepped up efforts in Lowertown to address problems, including drug dealing, fights and other crimes near Mears Park, the downtown lot and the Union Depot.

Other encampments are being allowed to remain in place for now, with officials scrambling to find better options before cold weather sets in. One goal is to find another 100 shelter beds by November 1.

County manager Ryan O'Connor and Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher emphasized that the intent is to continue to treat homeless people with dignity and respect. The numbers have climbed dramatically since the beginning of the year. In March, just as the pandemic regulations set in, there were fewer than 100 tents and 50 occupied homeless sites in the city. As



A homeless camp along I-35E across from downtown Saint Paul in late 2017 before it was removed. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

of mid-August, almost 350 tents and 100 sites were being monitored. The occupants include families.

"We're doing the best we can in an uncertain environment," O'Connor said.

Local officials have been responding to homeless encampments since 2018, with several city and county departments, Saint Paul Public Schools and nonprofit organizations involved. Last year, a group that meets regularly to discuss the issue reported that 114 homeless people were successfully transitioned to other shelter options.

How that response is handled has changed with the pandemic and increased unemployment. It is expected to change even more

when flu season hits and the difference between COVID-19 and the flu must be sorted out. That will mean even more shelters and quarantine space for the homeless will be needed.

Regulations have also changed. In March, part of Governor Tim Walz's stay-at-home order prohibited authorities

from subjecting encampments to sweeps or disbandment. That was meant to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 as encampment residents dispersed. The city stopped clearing encampments in the spring.

In April, the state decided that local officials could close an encampment if it has "reached a size or status that is a documented threat to the health, safety or security of residents."

That is the situation in the Kellogg Boulevard area. Homeless people living there will be relocated, but in a way that allows them to keep their belongings. No timeline has been set for that work.

Officials are worried about the safety of both the camp residents and the general pub-

lic. Threats include potential for a homeless person being hit by a vehicle, criminal activity, open drug use and unsanitary conditions, including used needles, human waste and large amounts of garbage.

The proximity of the encampment to the Higher Ground and Dorothy Day Opportunity Center run by Catholic Charities also has reportedly affected the day-to-day operations of those facilities.

Throughout Lowertown, a growing population of homeless people has prompted complaints about crime. That has led to increased police presence and work by downtown ambassadors.

County officials have been trying to get more homeless people into safe places. Large shelters were reduced to 50 percent occupancy to control the spread of the pandemic. Up to 400 unsheltered people also have been moved to hotels. Temporary quarantine sites were set up to isolate the sick, including at the former Boys' Totem Town facility on the East Side. However, O'Connor warned that those facilities are meant to be short-term and that longer-term solutions are needed.

For its part, the city continues to map and track encampments, making regular visits and providing needs assessments and services. Nine encampments now have portable hand washing stations and toilets.

1< CANINE INSPIRED CHANGE

of the Wilder building, CIC is offering its outdoor space to people who just want to drop in as needed, according to Graczyk, CIC's executive director. That service is especially geared to health care workers and others who are experiencing increased stress due to the pandemic.

CIC "helps young people transcend trauma, social struggles and isolation by sparking meaningful connections with dogs, volunteers and each other," according to the organization's website. "Dogs bring out the best in people," Graczyk said.

CIC program director Kate McMullen runs the day-to-day operations of the organization. A Highland Park resident, she first became involved in the program after meeting Graczyk in a dog obedience class, and she continues to volunteer there with her own dog.

"I liked the type of work Canine Inspired Change was doing, working with at-risk kids," McMullen said. "We focus on emotional learning goals. Being kind to dogs carries over to being patient, kind and accepting of



Among the therapy teams at Canine Inspired Change are (from left) Kate McMullen and Millie, Mark Stary and Copper, executive director Danielle Graczyk and Katie Cramer with Cramer's pet Rascal, Erin Jorich and Wallace, and Beth Childs and Hank. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the people around us."

CIC's curriculum was developed by Beth Childs, a behavior analyst with a background in working with young adults with traumatic brain injuries. It blends therapy with dog

training. Being able to teach a dog tricks can boost a client's self-esteem and lessen his or her frustration level, Childs said. The goal is to help clients learn how to calm themselves and develop patience, compassion, confidence

and communication skills. CIC's courses are custom-fit to the needs of each small class. Sessions typically last an hour and are held weekly for eight to 10 weeks.

Childs has been on the CIC board for close to 10 years. According to her, the agency's services are needed more than ever these days due to the isolation the COVID-19 lockdown brought about and the dearth of opportunities for personal connections.

CIC encourages clients who have a dog to use what they learn in class with their own pets. All breeds are capable of becoming therapy dogs, the CIC maintains.

The CIC's current staff of therapy dogs ranges from Chihuahuas to English mastiffs. All of them have mastered basic obedience skills, display friendliness toward people of all ages and work amiably in close proximity to other dogs.

Anyone interested in enrolling in a class or in volunteering as a CIC therapist may visit canineinspiredchange.org for more information. Scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance.

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District fine-tunes plan for school security without police officers

Security guards would also be replaced with school support liaisons

By CASEY EK

The Saint Paul Public Schools is moving forward with its plan to replace the Saint Paul police officers who served as school resource officers in its seven high schools with School Climate and Safety Groups. Laura Olson, director of the school district's Office of Security and Emergency Management, presented the new plan to the School Board on August 18.

The plan remains largely unchanged from December when it was first presented, though Olson's office has adjusted it to account for the discontinuation of the school district's contract with the Police Department for the seven school resource officers (SROs). The plan taps into the School Climate Improvement Teams that have been operating for several years in

district schools.

School support liaisons will serve as the backbone of the new School Climate and Safety Groups along with mental health and social work professionals. Hired by the district to form personal relationships with students, school support liaisons are trained in first aid, CPR, social-emotional learning, recognizing trauma, physical restraints as well as nonviolent intervention.

In addition to the SROs, district administrators aim to phase out the use of contract security guards in the schools by the end of the 2021-22 school year. This fall, the district will hire 12 school support liaisons while reducing the number of contract security guards from 37 to 32. Olson hopes to have the new school support liaisons in full operation by the spring semester.

The School Climate and Safety Groups will be overseen by the district's new School Climate and Safety Committee. If the committee detects any gaps in the School Climate and Safety Groups' services—in, for example, the areas of restorative justice or positive behav-

ioral interventions and supports—the committee will likely bolster the groups with additional members, Olson said.

According to Olson, Saint Paul police will still be called to district buildings should the need arise. Additionally, students who fall victim to cell phone theft or other crimes can still file reports through the Police Department's Teleserv online reporting system.

School Board member John Brodrick, a former high school teacher in the Saint Paul Public Schools and the sole dissenter in the decision to not renew the district's SRO contract with the Saint Paul police, said he was disappointed in the school climate and safety plan's lack of specifics in regard to the role of teachers who are confronted with dangerous or life-threatening situations. Brodrick said he would like to see a policy that expresses support for educators who may need to intervene in such situations and may become the target of criticism for their actions.

"Personally, I think we have a whole corps of principals who are disappointed in our decision," Brodrick said. "My understanding is

that we have a high percentage of teachers who also don't agree, and those people need direct and specific and reassuring instruction and a commitment of support because they may one day find themselves in a bad place."

Prior to the School Board's decision in June to cut ties with the Police Department, all seven of the district's high school principals opposed the removal of SROs. While some principals expressed disappointment with the decision, Olson said, the principals are now "on board for coming up with solutions."

Several principals have volunteered to serve on the School Climate and Safety Committee, she added. In addition to overseeing the School Climate and Safety Groups, the committee will work to bolster mental health support in the schools, including the addition of 2.4 full-time-equivalent nurse positions and 7.8 full-time-equivalent social worker positions. Olson's Office of Security and Emergency Management also aims to hire an additional mental health professional by the 2021-22 school year.

14 POLICE CIVILIAN REVIEW

recently moved out of the city and a second chose not to seek another term. Of the seven members, four live in Ward 4. Council members and city staff agreed that they would like to see members from across the city.

Roby also would like to see more funding to make people aware that the commission exists and how it can be a resource for them.

After the PCIARC reviews evidence about alleged police misconduct, it makes recommendations to the police chief about potential discipline. The PCIARC has seen a steady increase in cases in recent years. Roby said the

PCIARC reviewed 44 cases involving 72 officers and 88 allegations in 2019.

The majority of allegations against police officers in recent years have been for improper procedures. Other complaints have included use of excessive force, discrimination, improper conduct, inappropriate use of firearms and poor public relations.

Last year, 24 percent of complaints against officers were upheld. Of those, 38 percent of the officers were terminated and 29 percent received an oral reprimand. The others received written reprimands, suspensions and supervisory counseling or retraining.

The commission had hoped to release its

full 2019 annual report during a public event this past spring, Roby said, but that was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No new date for the release of that data has been announced.

The pandemic has also meant postponing other activities, including an annual summit, a youth roundtable and a separate summit for people whose first language is not English. Those activities are to be funded through a grant by the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.

The purpose of those events is to make the public more aware of the work of the PCIARC and how to file complaints if the need arises.

The PCIARC has been through many iterations over the years, including the removal of police from serving on the commission in 2016. That decision followed an audit by the University of Minnesota Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking. Management of the commission also was shifted from the Police Department to the HREEO.

In 2018 the City Council approved a \$250,000 financial settlement with outgoing HREEO director Jessica Kingston. In interviews, Kingston said she had repeatedly raised concerns that the Police Department was blocking investigations of misconduct. Police officials denied those allegations.



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Cooling their heels. Andrea Scharmer and Emily Thompson beat the heat and humidity on August 27 by dipping their feet in Minnehaha Creek just upstream from the falls. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Ford TIF may help pay for traffic upgrades in surrounding area

By JANE McCLURE

Traffic improvements and other new infrastructure in neighborhoods surrounding the Ford site could be paid with up to \$9 million in tax increment financing (TIF) generated by the Highland Bridge development if an expansion of the Ford TIF project area is approved by the Saint Paul City Council and Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board.

The Saint Paul Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Committee has recommended approval of that expansion. The full Planning Commission will review the proposal on September 4.

The city of Saint Paul has had a TIF district in place at the Ford site for several years in anticipation of the redevelopment of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park. TIF can be used to subsidize new streets and utilities and other redevelopment costs by diverting a portion of the future increase in the property taxes generated by the development. The proposed expansion would not enlarge the area in which TIF is collected, but it would expand the area where TIF can be spent, allowing the developer and the city to address off-site concerns related to the redevelopment project.

"The purpose of this project area expansion is to be able to pay for the needed transportation system improvements (around the Ford site)," said City Council member Chris Tolbert, whose Ward 3 includes the 122-acre site of the newly christened Highland Bridge. "These are things people in the community have pushed for."

Ford site traffic studies "called out a lot of things we can do to ease any future traffic problems (on streets leading to and from Highland Bridge)," Tolbert said. "Using TIF allows the project itself to help pay for the improvements instead of going to the city's capital improvement budget or general fund." Tolbert said he is cautious when it comes to relying on TIF, noting that it can be misused. However, in the case of Ford, the traffic improvements make sense, he said.

Currently, the Ford TIF may only be spent on the 122-acre site, polluted property Ford still owns along the Mississippi River, the south side of Ford Parkway all of the way to Cleveland Avenue, and Cleveland Avenue as far south as Montreal Avenue.

The proposal would expand the area for spending TIF from Ford Parkway north to Randolph Avenue between Mississippi River Boulevard and Fairview Avenue, east to Fairview between Randolph and Montreal Avenue, south along the west side of Cleveland to Magoffin Avenue and Return Court, and west from the end of Magoffin to the Mississippi River.

The projects that the Ford TIF could pay for in that expansion area are outlined in the alternative urban area review (AUAR) for the Ford site, an environmental impact study completed in 2019. They include filling in sidewalk gaps and updating traffic signals at key intersections.

In its redevelopment agreement with the city, Ford site master developer Ryan Companies is responsible for improving three intersections as recommended in the AUAR: Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue, Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue, and Montreal and Cleveland avenues. About \$4 million in TIF has been earmarked to improve traffic signals and make other changes at those intersections. The AUAR identified another \$5 million in transportation improvements in the proposed TIF expansion area.

Though traffic patterns could change over time, the AUAR recommends several streets and intersections for signal timing changes, parking restrictions, extended turn lanes and other traffic mitigation strategies. Those recommendations address traffic concerns as far away as Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis and Saint Paul Avenue and West 7th Street in Saint Paul, though the proposed expansion of the Ford TIF project area would not extend that far. In the expansion area, TIF could also help cover the costs of stormwater management and bike and pedestrian trails between Highland Bridge and Hidden Falls Regional Park.



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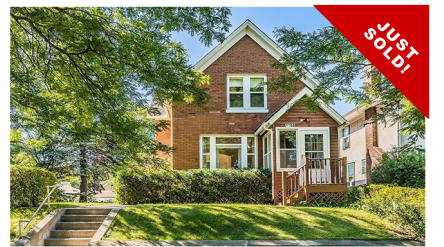
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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

Placing football above planet

The University of Saint Thomas teaches that global warming is real and is man-made. It accepts the science behind global warming. UST Professor John Abraham, a leading climate scientist, has worked with the United Nations on global warming issues. Why on earth would those in charge at the university join the Pioneer League for football and go against everything that the school teaches?

UST's opponents in the Pioneer League reside in San Diego, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa. The environmental footprint from joining such a league is off the charts. UST has an Office of Sustainability. How is this much traveling sustainable? Round trip to San Diego is 4,000 miles.

UST needs to walk the talk, to set a better example, to put the planet above football.

Frank Erickson
Standish, Minneapolis

Police presence and crime

Letter writer Barry Randall makes the claim that "in the aftermath of the protests and riots in late May and early June, Minneapolis police have reduced their patrol presence in the city. Not surprisingly, crime has risen" (*Villager* Inbox, July 22). This is demonstrably false. The police presence has not been reduced in Minneapolis. The exact same amount of officers are on patrol, and the police budget has not been reduced for 2020 but actually increased by \$8 million, indicating that increased police funding has a negative correlation with crime rates.

Carter McCoy
Summit Hill

Editor's note: According to Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo, Police Department patrols for responding to 911 calls continue to be fully staffed.

Ford plan was good compromise

Charles Hathaway, Kate Hunt and Jean Hoppe have written their own Utopian ideal for the Ford site, denigrating the existing plan in ways too numerous to count (*Villager* Viewpoint, August 19). They claim that "homeownership, a family-friendly setting and a thriving middle class were not part of the city's vision" and found it "particularly jarring that the plan for the Ford site should be predicated on the assumption of a dystopian future without a middle class."

Underlying these remarks is the arrogant belief that their vision of the world is the only acceptable version, that only their vision is family-friendly and can foster a thriving middle

Ford plan promises a fulfilling life for all

BY STEPHEN SEIDEL

I am a lifelong resident of Saint Paul and an apartment renter in Highland Park, and I am thoroughly disgusted by the statements made by Charles Hathaway, Kate Hunt and Jean Hoppe in their guest editorial in the August 19 *Villager* regarding the progress at Highland Bridge (old Ford site). The apartments in our building, and I dare say the many other apartment buildings that are abundant in our community, are filled with hard-working, engaged and contributing neighbors of all ages, races, national origins and religious beliefs who add immensely to the vitality of our community. Contrary to the assertions made in their commentary, we renters are living a perfectly healthy and fulfilling existence.

In their desperation to derail the progress being made at Highland Bridge, Mr. Hathaway, Ms. Hunt and Ms. Hoppe imply that those of us who live in small "real estate

footprints" are a sign of a "dystopian future" even leading to the spread of epidemics. This is stupid, of course, which even the writers seem to realize, since they admit that the higher-density rental housing actually means that "everything would be efficient...heating, cooling and electricity would be minimized...and more efficient public transportation" would be utilized. Oh, the horror.

I am excited that work at Highland Bridge is underway. The plans look terrific, and I applaud the mix of housing types that will be included. I can't wait to stroll the paths, support the new businesses and meet friends at the brew pubs that will soon be built in our newest family-friendly community. And as the thousands of homes at Highland Bridge are built and new residents arrive, I look forward to welcoming them all, renters and homeowners alike, to our neighborhood.

I hope that in due course Mr. Hathaway, Ms. Hunt and Ms. Hoppe will do the same.

class. This simply is not true. These beliefs are no more than the authors' value judgments, judgments that would reserve this vast space for people like themselves who are able to afford the luxury of a single-family home in one of the city's most expensive neighborhoods.

They obviously remain unsatisfied with the process that resulted in the current plan and the plan itself. The plan for the Ford site was never intended to be for the sole benefit of the Highland area but for the benefit of the city as a whole. The latter concern is completely absent from the authors' vision for the land. They may see the plan as dystopian. I see it as a compromise that, like every compromise, has its faults but reflects the needs and desires of the majority of the wider community.

James M. Hamilton
Macalester-Groveland

An agenda we all can agree on

Is it possible that the biggest political question mark in our country right now is not the November election? Could it be instead the question of what will come afterwards? And could it be that our biggest national challenge at present is finding ways to avert what could well amount to social and political upheaval? Is there anything that we the people, regardless of political persuasion, can do to reduce this potential clash?

If ever there was a time for respectful conversation, for active listening, for trust in the underlying compassion of the large majority of Americans, this would seem to be the time. If ever there was a time to exercise gentleness as an antidote to bitterness, empathy and kind-heartedness as an antidote to

strife, this would seem to be it.

In doing so, it might be possible to come up with a public agenda that all Americans could agree on, an agenda that might include health and well-being for everyone in our country, free education to help people get the jobs they want, an insistence on clean water everywhere and steps to help save the planet for our grandchildren. Is there a way that we could begin to listen to one another with respect, perhaps work together on such an agenda and, just maybe avoid a deeply painful crisis?

And where might we have that conversation? It could be in our faith communities. It could be at our dinner tables. It could be in our union hall or child care collective or mom's group. It could be when we gather—with masks and physical distancing, of course—for coffee or to watch a ball game.

For inspiration, visit braverangels.org/what-we-do/with-malice-toward-none.

Marcia Avner
Highland Park

Editor's note: The letter was signed by six others from Minnesota and Vermont, supporters of both Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

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 commentary to the Villager at 757 S. Snelling Ave., email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it on our website at myvillager.com/editorial.

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A neighbor in need

Episcopal Homes' new NeighborCare brings the assisted living to your home

By JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Where do you want to be living a year from now?" That is one of the first questions Karen Vento asks when she is interviewing a prospective client for NeighborCare. "Inevitably, the answer is, 'I want to be right here in my home,'" Vento said.

Vento is the director of NeighborCare, a new home care agency for seniors operated by Episcopal Homes and headquartered in Merriam Park. NeighborCare is a more affordable and accessible approach to assisted living for aging adults, according to Vento. Its services range from assistance with minor medical and hygienic concerns to light housekeeping, laundry and pet feeding.

"We'll do everything we can and pull in any resources we have to help you achieve the goal (of living in your home)," Vento said.

Traditional home health care agencies charge by the hour with a minimum of several hours per visit. For a person who does not need that much help, it can be costly and inefficient. And it is the little things that can hinder one's ability to live in their home, according to Mary Routhieaux, Episcopal Homes' chief advancement officer.

Routine tasks such as changing bed linens, carrying out recycling or washing the kitchen floor can stand in the way of a person or couple remaining safely in their home. Some people need medications set up. NeighborCare "does lots of troubleshooting and problem solving," Vento said. "We look at the barriers for people staying home in a healthy way."

One of its caregivers may visit a client in the early morning to help with a shower, then move on to another home to vacuum a room or carry a heavy box to the garage. A third client that morning may need groceries picked up and put away, and at the end of the day a member of the caregiving team may revisit the first client to help him or her get ready for bed.

NeighborCare's service area is roughly anywhere within three miles of the Episcopal Homes campus at Fairview and University avenues. Clients are no more than 10 minutes away, so caregivers can work with several clients in a short period.

Clients schedule regular appointments and are given a push-button pendant to summon help if unforeseen difficulties arise. Support is offered 24 hours a day. The charge for the service is a base rate of \$200 per month plus \$1 per minute for the time the caregiver spends with the client. For those whose income is below the poverty line, a sliding fee scale is available.

NeighborCare was initially funded with a Live Well at Home grant of nearly half a million dollars from the state Department of Human Services. Most of its caregivers are certified nursing assistants (CNAs) or have completed all of the training to become a CNA but have yet to take the test. They have been trained in body mechanics, terminology and infection control and know their way around a kitchen, Vento said.

"Part of our innovation is to redefine the role of the CNA," Vento said. "Caregivers are hired full time with benefits. They may see 10 to 15 people a shift, so they are fully engaged throughout the shift. When seeing a client, they're there to achieve a goal. We're hiring people who are smart, who use their eyes, are good communicators and are led by their heart."

When a client pushes his or her pendant button, NeighborCare is the first to respond. If there is an emergency, the agency will call 911. Sometimes clients call with medical questions that can be answered by NeighborCare's nurse on duty. However, if someone has mere-



Connie Waterous greets NeighborCare registered nursing assistant Gail Jackson as she drives up to her home in Summit Hill.



NeighborCare registered nursing assistant Gail Jackson helps homeowner Connie Waterous with tasks around the house that she can no longer do herself. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

ly spilled a carton of milk, lost the TV remote behind the couch or is unable to open a new bottle of prescription medicine, a NeighborCare team member will arrive in a short time to help.

Part of NeighborCare's mission is to observe the client's situation and be an expert on what could be helpful. The agency can connect with the local block nurse program or dozens of other neighborhood resources. A person who can no longer manage stairs may benefit from a mechanized chair lift, and NeighborCare can scout one out. A client who no longer drives can be linked with a driving service for appointments and other outings.

"When our aides come into a home for half an hour in the morning, they're looking at the client with the same eyes that a daughter or son might have," Vento said.

Connie Waterous of Summit Hill was the third client to sign up for NeighborCare when the service began last January. She had applied to move into Episcopal Homes and was asked if she would be interested in the program. NeighborCare has enabled her to remain in her house, and she is more than pleased with the service. A caregiver comes twice a week to change her bed linens, clean the kitty litter and do other tasks.

Ann Behlmer of Macalester-Groveland called on NeighborCare to supplement her husband's at-home hospice care before his death. As he became weaker, she was unable to move him from his bed to a wheelchair. She was interviewed by Vento, and NeighborCare was out the next day and three times every day thereafter to help with her husband's transfers and other tasks.

"We were the reason that couple could stay together in their home," Vento said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NeighborCare's teams of caregivers follow the same protocols and testing as employees on the Episcopal Homes campus, observing every precaution recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. "All of our clients and staff are screened every day," Vento said. "While we're with a client, we are masked and keep as much physical distance as possible."

Vento has worked in elder care throughout her career. "I believe that age diversity in a neighborhood is valuable," she said, and NeighborCare is designed to keep aging citizens active in their communities.

"Lots of senior housing communities are being built right now," Routhieaux said. "But the data show overwhelmingly that people want to stay in their houses. Traditional home care makes people become more dependent. With NeighborCare you only buy what you need. That encourages independence."

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HOME IMPROVEMENT



Worth looking up Must-see home office above garage part of fall showcase

By FRANK JOSSI

Andy Sonnen has spent all of his 15 years as a remodeler working out of his home. For years he labored from a basement office before moving to a different house and operating his business on the first floor.

With four children ages 1-5, the Macalester-Groveland resident figured it was time to build an office of his own. So he knocked down a one-car, 1926 garage and built a new one with 400 square feet of space on the second floor.

That finished half-story at 1268 Berkeley Ave. now serves as the headquarters of his Bluejack Builders, and will be included on this fall's Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase. The event will feature 43 homes open for

in-person viewing from noon-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, October 2-4.

"By building an office above the garage you kill two birds with one stone," Sonnen said. That includes creating a workspace without having to remodel a home or build an addition that would take land away from a yard.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to transform the way Americans live, he sees garage office as a potential solution for at-home employees confined to smaller residences where children and spouses may be learning and working at the same time.

Although Sonnen has not shown off the office to clients yet, he is considering how it might be a showroom of sorts for what a garage office can become. In an area the size of a master bedroom, the office has become a handy place that his kids and wife, Leslie, can

use during the pandemic.

Sonnen designed the garage office to match his house. He used gray shake exterior siding that "looks like naturally weathered wood" on the 24-by-24-foot building. He also installed 1920s-style windows on each wall in the office that match his home's architecture and optimize the natural light.

The detached garage has storage areas underneath the staircase, along with additional space in front of where the cars are parked. A separate door on the alley leads upstairs to the office, which features an angled ceiling.

On two sides of the room, Sonnen designed custom cabinets in a honey maple finish with webbed wicker door and drawer panels highlighted by champagne gold-colored hardware. Quartz countertops cover a long row of cabinets that carry a little surprise Sonnen

likes to show off to visitors.

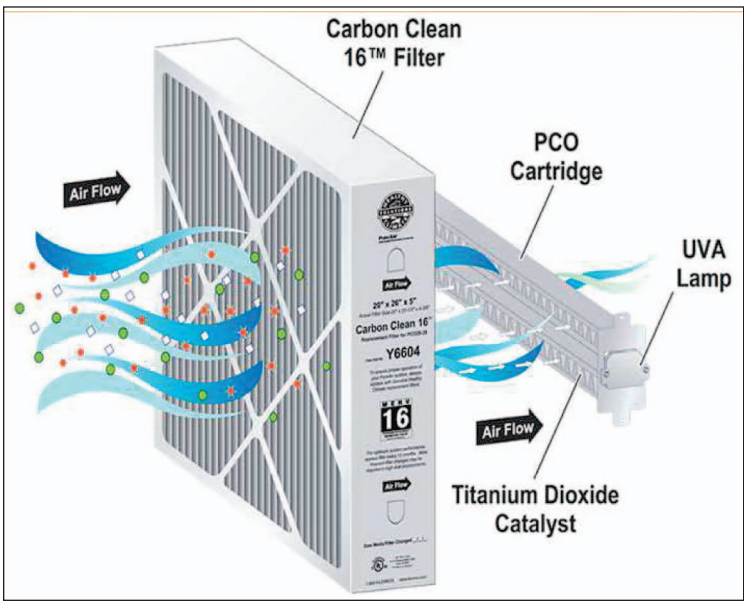
"Here's our 60-inch screen," he said. With the push of a button, a massive flat-screen television rises from a lower cabinet.

The rest of the office features other designer touches, including a Room & Board desk on one end, accented by a round chess table just behind it. A circular conference table sits in the middle of the room.

On one side, a seating area consists of a leather couch, two leather Eames-style chairs and ottomans, and a round table. It is a place that Sonnen could use to show clients and contractors blueprints of remodeling designs or, after a busy day, just take a nap. Along another wall lies space where an employee could have a desk in the future.

A new garage serves a second role as the home office for Bluejack Builders owners Andy and Leslie Sonnen. The project is one of 43 that will be open for public viewing during the fall Remodelers Showcase. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

HOME OFFICE ▶11



Pure Air, a whole-system air purifier from Lennox, employs a carbon filter, catalyst and UVA light to remove particles, odors and volatile organic compounds from the air circulating in your home.

Air purification systems will clean your home's air while you heat it

By FRANK JOSSI

With autumn just around the corner, Minnesota homeowners are beginning to close their windows throughout the day. As the weather cools and they start their furnaces, the quality of indoor air becomes a concern with the potential spread of viruses, bacteria, pollen and dust.

Simple fall maintenance practices can promote cleaner indoor air. Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning professionals recommend that homeowners have their furnaces cleaned and inspected every three to five years and regularly replace the furnace's air filter according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Air purification systems are also available to prevent the spread of air-borne illnesses in the home. Whole-

system air purifiers, sometimes called clean air systems, will catch the smaller particles that standard furnace air filters miss. These systems may employ HEPA, carbon or charged media filters to trap particles. Other devices shine ultraviolet (UV) light on the air passing through to remove vapors and volatile organic compounds before that air is circulated back into the home.

Some devices combine several of these technologies to filter out viruses, bacteria, germs and odors. Still other approaches for improving air quality involve whole-home humidifiers and ionization systems.

UV lights have become increasingly popular as a way to destroy germs in indoor air. Todd Ferrara, vice president of Standard Heating & Air Conditioning, said his compa-

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10◀ HOME OFFICE

The office may seem to have everything, but it does lack something fundamental—a bathroom. Sonnen said the cost of building one would have increased the price and consumed space. Besides, his house is just a short stroll away.

Sonnen plans to use the office to show how an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) might look after some modifications for living rather than working. The city has loosened regulations for ADUs, he said, and he would like to get an opportunity to design them.

“I think the office shows a good representation of the volume of space an ADU could have,” Sonnen said.

While waiting for that first call for an ADU, he has stayed busy designing and building kitchens, bathrooms and additions. More than 70 percent of Sonnen’s business comes from homeowners in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods.

For now, he plans to run the business out of the office and occasionally allow his kids to use it as a playroom. “It’s becoming a great space for my family and me,” he said.

Several precautions have been added this fall so the public can safely visit the homes on the tour in person. All homes will have a maximum occupancy of 10 people, and wearing masks and maintaining social distancing are required. Visitors are asked to not touch surfaces or open



The custom cabinets have a honey maple finish with webbed wicker door and drawer panels in Bluejack Builders’ home office.

cabinet doors. All high-touch areas will be frequently sanitized.

Admission to the Remodelers Showcase is free with the exception of two Dream Homes where a \$5 fee will help support the Housing First Minnesota Foundation.

For more information on the showcase, including an online guidebook and the updated safety policies, visit paradeofhomes.org. Free copies of the guidebook are available at local Holiday Stationstores.

10◀ AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEMS

ny has installed Honeywell UV lighting systems in between 200 and 300 homes. “We installed more (UV lighting systems) since March than we did all last year,” he said.

Phil Krinkie, president of Snelling Company, said his customers have not expressed that much interest in air filtration products. However, he believes that will change in the coming months “as people are sequestered at home.” Snelling sells Lennox Pure Air, a whole-system air purifier that attaches to the furnace.

According to Lennox, Pure Air removes 99.9 percent of such particles as pollen, dust and pet dander. It removes 90 percent of germs and bacteria that can cause flu, colds and MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus). Pure Air will also remove half of all odors in a 24-hour period. “It’s a three-in-one system,” Krinkie said.

Lennox Pure Air has been available for the past few years. Krinkie installed one in a University of Minnesota pulmonary specialist’s home, “and he raved about it,” he said. Other clients with allergies came away satisfied that the Lennox provided cleaner indoor air, he said.

Lennox Pure Air costs between \$1,500 and \$2,000, depending on the difficulty of the installation. Sometimes the furnace’s return air system has to be redone for the Lennox to fit. Pure Air works best when the windows are closed up and the furnace’s blower fan is left on, Krinkie said.

These systems may hinder but they will not completely stop the spread of COVID-19. “There is no air purification system that will ensure you’re not going to get COVID,” Krinkie said. “As an industry, we do install clean rooms in hospitals, but those

technologies are far too complicated and expensive to put in an average home.”

UV purifiers kill viruses, funguses, spores and allergens, Ferrara said. They have been a mainstay of hospitals and clean rooms for years, he said, and U.S. Bank recently announced that it will use a UV purifier to treat the turf before NFL games this fall.

Standard Heating installs Honeywell UV purifiers at a cost of between \$600 and \$1,200, Ferrara said. The purifiers are installed in the air supply or air return sections of the heating system. Larger homes may need two to ensure clean air reaches all rooms, he said.

Ferrara is a fan of UV purifiers, though “not everyone needs to go out and buy one,” he said. They work well for people with respiratory issues or as an add-on when customers replace their furnaces, but they also have to be replaced every year or two and that requires some mechanical skill.

According to Cyd Perszyk, who works in sales and marketing for Bonfe Plumbing, Heating & Air Service, viruses spread when air is too dry or too humid. Whole-home humidifiers attached to a forced-air furnace keep indoor air at between 40 and 60 percent humidity, she said. “It’s an effective way to maintain the level of humidity so it stays where it needs to be,” she said.

Bonfe installs residential UV purifiers and ionizers that kill viruses or render them inert and ineffective, Perszyk said. But for customers who want cleaner indoor air, Perszyk recommends a combination whole-home humidifier, UV light and ionizer. Together, they cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000 installed, she said.

“You spend a lot of time in your home most days of the year, so why not invest in this technology and improve the quality of your indoor air?” she said.

Home & Garden Clippings

The 13th annual Homes by Architects Tour sponsored by the American Institute of Architects-Minnesota is going virtual this year. It will run from September 26 through October 10, with a ticket unlocking access to 3D views of 17 new and newly remodeled homes designed by AIA members. Ticket-holders will also gain access to photo galleries, stories about each project, videos of the architects discussing their projects, and a chance to speak “live” with architects from each project during evening virtual chats. Tour tickets are \$15, or \$10 for students. For information, visit homesbyarchitects.org.

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore has reopened at 2700 Minnehaha Ave. in Minneapolis after being closed

because of concerns over COVID-19 and the protests over George Floyd’s killing. The discount home improvement outlet sells new and like-new furniture, appliances and building materials, with proceeds used to build homes and help local families buy their first homes. The store’s staff is assisted by hundreds of volunteers every year. Visit restore.tchabitat.org.

The seven yard waste collection sites in Ramsey County are now open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays; and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. Users are asked to practice safe social distancing while using the sites. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/y6lbdujc.



One of the Saint Paul residences on this year’s virtual Homes by Architects Tour running September 26-October 10.

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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 64-year-old newspaper delivery person was assaulted and robbed of his wallet, cellphone and vehicle at 6:33 a.m. Friday, August 7, on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue. An 18-year-old pizza delivery person also was robbed and assaulted on the same block at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday, July 28.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 800 block of Saint Paul Avenue at 1:12 p.m. Wednesday, August 19.

Burglary—A burglary was reported at Sibley Manor Apartments, 1300 East Maynard Drive, at 12:39 p.m. Thursday, August 6.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 1700 block of Yorkshire Avenue at 11:51 a.m. Saturday, August 15.

—A commercial break-in was reported on the 2000 block of West Seventh Street at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, August 16.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue on August 6 and 11, the 2200 block of Youngman Avenue on August 8, the 1700 block of Rome Avenue on August 10, the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue on August 11, the 2300 block of Stewart Avenue on August 12, the 1500 block of Edgumbe Road on August 14, and the 400 block of South Snelling on August 15.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1300 block of Kenneth Street, the 1600 block of Beechwood Avenue and the 600 block of South Hamline Avenue, all on August 9.

—Several items also were taken from vehicles on the 1400 block of Hartford Avenue on August 10, the 2500 block of Crosby Farm Road and the 1800 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard on August 11, the 1600 block of Bayard Avenue on August 14, and the 2500 block of West Seventh Street on August 19.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A residential burglary was reported on the 1100 block of Central Avenue at 11:09 p.m. Friday, August 14.

Theft—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 200 block of North Syndicate Street on August 9, and the 1300 block of University Avenue on August 13 and 17.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue on August 17.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 2000 block of Fairmount Avenue on August 7, the 1800 block of Fairmount and the 1400 block of Grand Avenue on August 10, and the 1800 block of Grand on August 16.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1900 block of Palace Avenue on August 7, the 1800 block of James Avenue on August 11, the 1800 block of Randolph Avenue on August 12, the 1300 block of Lincoln Avenue on August 15, and from two vehicles on the 1300 block of Jefferson Avenue and one vehicle on the 200 block of Brimhall Street on August 18.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—Tools were stolen from a vehicle in an underground garage on the 700 block of South Plaza Way on August 7-8.

Theft—A compound bow was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1800 block of Walsh Lane at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, August 6.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1300 block of Highway 13 on August 8, and the 1400 block of Wachtler Avenue on August 9.

—Thefts from vehicles were reported on Marie Avenue and Sutton Lane on August 10, and on the 1800 block of Lexington Avenue on August 10-12.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a doorstep on the 700 block of Decorah Lane at 1:08 p.m. Tuesday, August 11.

—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Bwana Court at 10 p.m. Monday, August 17.

Miscellaneous—Two male customers threatened to kill the manager of a business who asked one of the suspects to wear a mask at 4:17 p.m. Friday, August 7, on the 900 block of Highway 13. The suspects left before police arrived.

—Police arrested a male for damage to property after he was seen trying to break into vehicles on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, August 9.

—A driver was arrested for DWI and making terroristic threats after reportedly threatening to kill the arresting officer and his family after being stopped for speeding at 1:23 a.m. Wednesday, August 19, on Highway 62 and Dodd Road.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Cleveland and Saint Anthony

avenues at 2:08 a.m. Wednesday, August 19.

Burglary—Residential break-ins were reported on the 2100 block of Temple Court on August 10, and on the 2000 block of Marshall Avenue on August 12.

—A commercial break-in was reported on the 600 block of Fontenac Place at 11:23 p.m. Wednesday, August 19.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1500 block of Hague Avenue on August 8, and the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue on August 19.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were stolen vehicles on the 400 block of North Roy Street on August 9, on Eustis Street and Otis Avenue on August 9-10, and the 2200 block of Dayton Avenue on August 13.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on Prior and Saint Anthony avenues at 7:49 a.m. Wednesday, August 12.

—An aggravated assault with a gun was reported on Marshall and Prior avenues at 12:16 a.m. Tuesday, August 18.

Arson—An arson fire was reported in a multifamily building on the 1500 block of Saint Anthony Avenue at 4:35 a.m. Sunday, August 9.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on the 200 block of North Hamline Avenue at 1:17 p.m. Friday, August 7.

Theft—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were stolen from a vehicle on the 1500 block of Marshall Avenue on August 14.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on the 1400 block of University Avenue at 3:05 p.m. Wednesday, August 12.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Milton Street and Summit Avenue at 3:22 p.m. Friday, August 14.

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on the 700 block of Grand Avenue at 4:03 a.m. Tuesday, August 11.

—Residential break-ins were reported on the 100 block of Oakgrove Place on August 12, and the 1100 block of Lincoln Avenue and 700 block of Linwood Avenue on August 14.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on Kenwood Parkway and on the 500 block of Grand Avenue on August 9, and on the 300 block of South Lexington Parkway on August 10.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 100

block of Summit Avenue on August 11.

Summit-University

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 600 block of Summit Avenue at 8:53 p.m. Thursday, August 13.

Theft—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were stolen from vehicles on Marshall Avenue and Saint Albans Street on August 7, and the 500 block of Marshall Avenue on August 13.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Ashland Avenue and 200 block of North Avon Street on August 16, the 700 block of Concordia Avenue and 300 block of Laurel Avenue on August 18, and the 700 block of Carroll Avenue and 300 block of Dayton Avenue on August 19.

West End

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 800 block of Palace Avenue at 1:19 a.m. Friday, August 7.

—A robbery at knifepoint was reported on the 600 block of West Seventh Street at 1:27 p.m. Saturday, August 15.

Burglary—Two residential break-ins were reported on the 200 block of Spring Street on Saturday, August 8.

—Burglaries also were reported on the 200 block of Forbes Avenue on August 6, the 900 block of Randolph Avenue on August 12, on Western and Harrison avenues on August 14, and the 800 block of Stewart Avenue on August 18.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 800 block of Randolph Avenue and the 600 block of Canton Street on August 6, on the 700 block of Otto Avenue on August 6, on the 900-1200 blocks of West Seventh Street on August 7-8, on the 800 block of Randolph Avenue on August 10, on the 300 block of Michigan Street on August 11, on the 200 block of Grand Avenue on August 14, on the 700 block of Otto Avenue on August 16 (three vehicles), and on West Seventh and Victoria streets on August 19.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 600 block of Palace Avenue on August 7, on James Avenue and Webster Street on August 10, the 800 block of West Seventh Street and the 900 block of Armstrong Avenue on August 13, and the 100 block of Kellogg Boulevard on August 18.

Sex crime—An attempted rape was reported on the 100 block of South Western Avenue at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, August 15.

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ON THE TOWN

Taking it from the street

Selby JazzFest doesn't miss a beat with virtual shows in September

BY ANNE MURPHY

Selby Avenue JazzFest will have a different vibe this year, according to founder and still director Mychael Wright. Rather than the one-day event that has become a September standard since 2002, the fest will be streamed online at 7 p.m. every Saturday in September.

Featured artists for Selby Avenue JazzFest-Virtual Edition will be the singing and guitar duo of Charmin Michelle and Joel Shapira on September 5; trumpeter Solomon Parham on September 12; JazzFest veteran Patricia Lacy accompanied by pianist Jacob Dodd and drummer Perry "Tree" Graham on September 19; and classic Latin jazz pianist Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera on September 26.

This will be Herrera's first public performance since his recovery from COVID-19. With the pandemic playing out as it has, those involved in planning the JazzFest concluded that it should continue this year only if it was presented virtually. Wright didn't want to disappoint the fest's loyal following nor interrupt the fest's legacy of local, national and international acts, but it was crucial to keep people safe, he said.

To keep his spirits up, Wright reminded himself of what famed pianist and composer Duke Ellington would say: "Gray skies are just clouds passing over." Ellington is one of the jazz artists who has a beverage named after him at Golden Thyme Coffee Cafe, 934 Selby Ave. Wright and his wife have owned Golden Thyme for over two decades. It was out of a love of jazz and an appreciation for the music's long history of bringing people together that he introduced the Selby JazzFest to the neighborhood 18 years ago.

"JazzFest has always been about the strong community spirit that is readily found on Selby," Wright said. "It's been an excellent way to galvanize the community. It's helped change the rough edges and push it along in a positive way. In the beginning, we drew 70 to 80 percent of the audience from the area. Now audiences are 60 to 70 percent regional and include people



"JazzFest has always been about the strong community spirit that is readily found on Selby. It's been an excellent way to galvanize the community."

Shapira will be playing in his first JazzFest with vocalist Charmin Michelle. Heard frequently at the Dakota Jazz Club and other Twin Cities venues, the duo had been performing together weekly for 10 years at Midtown Global Market on Lake Street in Minneapolis before it closed after the recent riots. So the invitation to join the JazzFest lineup was very welcome, Shapira said.

Listeners on September 5 will hear selections off Michelle and Shapira's recently released CD, "Butterfly Wings," a collection of eight songs by Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Billy Strayhorn, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and others.

"I think it's crucial to keep Selby alive, to keep the momentum alive," Shapira said. "Jazz and music can be comforting in these difficult times. People cling to music, and it holds a more sacred meaning when people seek comfort, peace and normalcy in it."

Although recording music for streaming is not the same as performing it live, Shapira said he is happy to be part of the virtual event. "For a lot of people who might not be able to make it to a concert location, this creates a whole new potential," he said. "It's multi-faceted really. You can reach casual listeners as well as the people who already appreciate the music and the great instrumentalists and vocalists who have devoted their lives to the music."

For more information on the Selby Avenue JazzFest and to access the performances online, visit selbyavejazzfest.com.

Performing in the 19th annual Selby Avenue JazzFest online at 7 p.m. on Saturdays in September will be (clockwise from top left) Patricia Lacy, Solomon Parham, the duo of Charmin Michelle and Joel Shapira, and Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera.

from other areas of the country. Attendance has gone from the hundreds to at least 15,000.

"In the beginning, we didn't know if we could do it," Wright said. "But we've been in the black every year and have solid support. It's become a tightly knit group."

Among that tight-knit group is Saint Paul's Patricia Lacy. The singer has been a part of the JazzFest since headlining the event in 2005. "I'm just elated Mychael decided to go ahead with JazzFest this year," she said. "It's extremely important that he kept the event going. Hopefully a year from now we can go back to where we were

before, but this is our current reality.

"When Mychael asked me to perform virtually, I said, 'absolutely.' We're fortunate the technology is here," Lacy said. "The music has to continue because if we don't have music, what do we have? With virtual performances, everybody everywhere can listen and be uplifted."

For this JazzFest, Lacy will be performing several standards and the haunting composition "Strange Fruit" made famous by Billie Holiday. The song alludes to the hanging of a Black man. Lacy recorded it several years ago and

said she felt compelled to include it in her program in the wake of George Floyd's death.

It's important to remember the importance of jazz in the fabric of American life, said Lacy, who started out as a gospel singer and still intertwines the two genres. "What would America be without jazz?" she asked. "What kind of soundtrack would we have if we didn't have jazz to interlace within the quilt of all music? So many songs in the jazz genre can take you to places that other music cannot. I think of 'Fly Me to the Moon' when I need to play among the stars."

Highland Park guitarist Joel

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ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Theater

Diesel Heart, a work-in-progress by Brian Grandison based on the memoir of former Saint Paul police officer Melvin Carter Jr., will be presented online from September 4-10 in a staged reading by the History Theatre. The father of Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter III, Carter grew up in Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood in the 1950s and '60s. The Zoom program will include the reading, a short interview with the creative team and a live discussion with the audience. Tickets are \$15-\$50 per show. Visit historytheatre.com.

"Stream of Consciousness," improvisational comedy by "Whose Line Is It Anyway" veterans Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, will be streamed live from the Ordway at 7 p.m. Friday, September 11. Mochrie and Sherwood rely on their lightning-quick wits to keep the laughter rolling in a show directed by audience suggestion. Two-hundred tickets are available for the studio audience. Accessing the event online costs \$36 per device. Visit ordway.org.

Dance

Love is the main ingredient in every brew at *The Cafe*, choreography by Regina Peluso and Collide Theatrical Dance Company that will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26, in the parking lot on the east side of the Annex building, 550 N. Vandalia St. Follow the adventures of more than a dozen characters as they navigate the pitfalls and pinnacles of modern-day relationships. Told entirely through dance and music, the 60-minute show stars Renee Guittar, Rush Benson,

Regina Peluso, Patrick Jeffrey, Jarod Boltjes, Chelsea Rose and Betsy Nelson. Watch the drama in person or register for a link to the live stream online. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for those age 18 and under. Visit gremlintheatre.org or call 1-888-718-4253.

Music

Pianist Kathryn Lien will perform on September 6 as part of Lex-Ham Community Arts' free Sunday Soirée series beginning at 5 p.m. every Sunday outside of the home at 1184 Portland Ave. Featured in the following weeks will be members of the Lex-Ham Community Band on September 13 and a staged reading of *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro on September 20. Audience members are asked to bring their own chairs and physically distance.

Exhibits

"Votes for Women," a Minnesota Historical Society exhibit commemorating the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that on August 26, 1920, granted women the right to vote, is now on view at mnhs.org. Developed in partnership with the League of Women Voters, the exhibit tells the inspiring stories of more than 40 Minnesota women who took their civic duty to heart.

The West End Neighbors' Garden and History Tour returns from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, September 12, but this year with masks, social distancing and other health protocols in place. Eight residential gardens will be open for viewing in a three-block area near the High Bridge. Four points of historic interest will also be part of the tour, including

the north end of the High Bridge, Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, Hope Breakfast Bar and Little Sisters of the Poor. Tour maps are available at the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation's new offices in the Keg & Case complex, 928 W. Seventh St. This year's tour also includes the free distribution of a 100-page history of the the West End, city of Saint Paul and state of Minnesota from 1840-1940. For more, visit fortroadfederation.org, call 651-699-6995 or email joe@josfland.com.

Family

The Bell Museum Planetarium, 2088 W. Larpentour Ave. in Falcon Heights, has reopened with two programs: "Minnesota Night Sky" and "Out of This World," putting the spotlight on Mars as NASA's Perseverance rover heads for a February 2021 landing on the red planet. The planetarium is operating at 25 percent capacity for safe physical distancing with extra time between shows for cleaning. Tickets are only available in advance at bellmuseum.umn.edu. A face mask is required for all visitors over age 2.

Virtual Family Day, free concerts and art experiences in the mold of the Flint Hills Family Festival, are being presented online by the Ordway through September 7. The program includes Sons of Mystro, two brothers who use their violins to interpret reggae classics, American pop and their own creations; 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.

The Twin City Model Railroad Museum has reopened at 25 percent capacity between

10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Visitors are required to follow a route through the museum, keep a distance of 6 feet from anyone outside their household and wear face masks (age 3 and older). Tickets must be purchased in advance at tcmrm.eventbrite.com. The cost is \$11.94, free for children age 4 and under, \$25 for a family of three and \$30 for a family of four. Visit tcmrm.org.

Books

Peter Geye and his novel, Northernmost, will be featured in a free online discussion at 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, through Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. To register, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com or call 651-225-8989.

Writing in the Open, a workshop for aspiring writers in any genre, will be conducted by Vic Klimoski from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 12, at Silverwood Park, 2500 County Road E in Saint Anthony. A poet from Highland Park, Klimoski is former dean of the School of Divinity at the University of Saint Thomas. The cost is \$30. For more information or to register, call 651-777-7251 or visit benedictinecenter.org.

Et cetera

Ramsey County Master Gardeners is offering advice on gardening problems, information about best garden practices and help identifying plants and insects from 11 a.m.-noon on Saturdays in September via Zoom. To join the conversation, visit umn.zoom.us/j/97696903081 or call 651-372-8299 and enter meeting ID 976 9690 3081. For information, visit the Ramsey County Master Gardener website at bit.ly/2UNB6GY.



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SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Highland is ready to go running

This is always a challenging time of year for Highland Park High School cross-country coach Brad Moening. His boys' and girls' rosters are always among the biggest in the state. When the Scots first assembled for the new season recently, Moening was startled to discover he had 85 runners on board. Since the new pandemic standard limits activities to 25 in a group, Moening had to recruit a volunteer coach to help get everybody in shape for the upcoming season.

"It's hard," he said. "We're doing about 90 percent of what we usually do. I was on pins and needles to separate everybody into pods."

Eventually, Moening decided to group runners based on their ability, while also pairing them with buddies. It's one of several unusual obstacles ahead for Highland this fall. Normally, Moening would look to test his runners at meets so they would be at the top of their game for the postseason come late October and November. This year, state guidelines limit schools to taking on conference, section and local teams only. So, instead of traveling to Wayzata for a meet, Highland will be staying close to home.

How close? Well, the Scots will simply have to cross Snelling Avenue to compete on a makeshift cross-country course that will encircle its athletic fields and the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course. "We have a couple of different routes planned," Moening said. "One is a mile and a half. Another is a mile."

After laying the new course out, Moening got an expert review from one of his top runners—his 11th-grade daughter Mollie. "She said I got a 7 out of 10," Moening said. "She told me to make sure to get the mats off the track so the runners stay on a consistent surface."

On September 11, the Saint Paul City Conference preview meet is scheduled to be held at Highland. To make that work, only three teams will go out at a time. After everybody is done running, the times will be compiled to get the final results.

All of this almost overshadows the actual Highland teams. "The girls' team is talented and deep," Moening said. "They are so close in ability they push each other hard. That's a good thing."

WRIGHT CALL ►16

Passing muster

Prep footballers turn to 7-man touch this fall

By BILL WAGNER

After the Minnesota State High School League ruled last month to move football and volleyball to a truncated season beginning next March, it appeared that prep gridgers were out of luck if they wanted to enjoy any actual competition this fall.

However, a couple of new 7-man touch football leagues are expected to start playing games this month outside the purview of the MSHSL. The leagues would give high school footballers a chance to work on their plays and pass routes, while maintaining safety precautions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One option is the My7on7 Passing League that is owned and run by Ty Thomas, the father of a former Minnehaha Academy player. The two-hand touch league is actually in its sixth year, but a special division is available this fall for high school teams only.

The league was started by Thomas to heighten awareness of less violent alternatives to traditional football for young players. Football is not a game that promotes social distancing, but Thomas believes his league's heavy emphasis on passing and minimal physical contact will allow players to compete safely.

The My7on7 serves about 5,000 youngsters in Minnesota, and also has a presence in North Dakota and Florida. "We operate year-round," Thomas said. "It was easy for us to turn the switch (to COVID)."

Through mid-August, Thomas said the My7on7 league had already signed up 40 high school teams. There are divisions for freshmen and varsity, with a maximum of 14 players per team. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning September 12 in the former Minnesota Vikings training facility at Winter Park in Eden Prairie. Teams play five double-headers, with games running 24



Hope Academy junior Delone Lohnes is downed by Saint Paul Academy sophomore Brody Rindelaub during a My7on7 touch football practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

minutes. A championship playoff is also planned.

Minnehaha Academy is one of the teams signed up for the league. Redhawk athletic director Josh Thurow said he knows how much his school's athletes missed playing football this fall. He said it will be a good alternative for them, even if it does mean no tackling.

"It gives our kids a chance to scratch that itch," Thurow said. "I'm all for it."

Minnehaha players will be joined by teammates from Saint Paul Academy and Blake, which play cooperatively as the SMB Wolfpack during the regular high school season.

Some of the other teams in the My7on7 league are Anoka, Simley, Rochester Mayo, Waconia, Bloomington Kennedy, Forest Lake, Mahtomedi, Apple Valley/Eastview, Lakeville South, Blaine, Hopkins and Saint Cloud.

Thomas said that safety protocols will be diligently applied during play. Temperature checks will be done on all personnel who enter the field. Parents will need to certify that no family members have the coronavirus and will have to sign a waiver for their child to play. Parents will not be permitted in the facility

7-MAN TOUCH FOOTBALL ►16



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Junior Sanjay Redd grabs a pass in front of fellow Redhawk, senior Tony Avila-Tovalin, during a touch football practice. Regular prep football has been moved to spring. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

15◀ 7-MAN TOUCH FOOTBALL

area. Teams are expected to be coached by volunteers or the players can coach themselves.

Games will be refereed by certified officials, who will wear masks and be equipped with electronic whistles. The entry fee is \$110 per player. Cleats, mouthguards and soft-shell helmets are required.

A Saint Paul 7 On 7 Football League also is being started this fall by Cretin-Derham Hall athletic director Phil Archer. The league is scheduled to begin play on September 12 on fields throughout the city. Archer said the schedule and number

of teams was still being worked out. The league will draw players from Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, as well as from private schools in the metro area.

Archer said the teams are expected to be a mix of players and not ones representing a specific prep program. "It's not a school-led thing," he said.

The entry fee is \$115 per person and teams may have as many as 22 players.

Archer said the touch football leagues offer something previously not available to prep players. He noted that volleyballers have other programs, like Junior Olympic competition. "But football players didn't have another option," he said.

15◀ WRIGHT CALL

The Highland boys are young, with a slew of sophomores. When they arrived for their first practice, Moening was taken a little aback. "I hadn't seen any of them since March," he said. "At that age, they change quite a bit."

All of the runners have one thing in common: They're enjoying being on the run as one of the few sets of high school teams able to compete in their sport this fall.

Division I sports are at a crossroads

Long before Doonesbury came along to offer political commentary on the comics pages in newspapers there was Pogo Possum. Pogo and his animal friends rotated between comic adventures and offering thoughts related to the news of the day. Pogo was famous for his wry observations, one of which was: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

If Pogo was around today, he might have resurrected his old phrase to describe the current state of Division I college athletics. It was one thing for Division II and III schools to postpone or eliminate their fall sports programs. By doing so, they knew they'd lose a few students and a little income.

However, it's a whole different matter to do so for Division I schools like the University of Minnesota and the rest of the Big 10, where sports bring in big money and a lot of prestige. Granted, there are thousands of students who attend these schools strictly for the academics. But there are many who are there just to play sports and have a fallback plan if they're unable to turn pro down the line.

Millions of dollars are spent watching these athletes do their thing. When the Big 10 announced that the fall sports season will, at best, be moved to the spring, the bean counters at those schools knew there would be no way

to balance the books. At the U of M, only three sports finish in the black—football made a \$28 million profit in 2019, men's basketball \$9.6 million and men's hockey \$289,000.

Those profits offset losses for the 22 other sports that the Gophers offer. No football games this fall blows a big hole in the checkbook. One doesn't envy Minnesota athletic director Mark Coyle as he works to figure out how to pay for sports like women's basketball which, despite decent attendance, still finished \$3.4 million in the red. Even worse, Coyle must figure out how to keep afloat such sports as rowing, tennis and cross-country, which have no way to get crowd revenue.

Coyle doesn't have to look very far to see a potential solution. The University of Iowa recently announced it was dropping men's gymnastics, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's tennis. In a press release, it noted the four shelved sports will save the school \$910,000. That sounds nice, but it's a drop in the bucket compared to the \$60 million to \$75 million deficit it's still facing.

To further complicate matters, Iowa football parents and others at Big 10 schools are yammering loud and long that come hell or high water football is a necessity of life that needs to be played NOW. They marched to the Big 10 commissioner's office to complain and released a public letter of complaints that read, in part, that Big 10 players, parents and fans deserve better.

Around here, coaches like Minnesota's P.J. Fleck have said that players' safety comes first and playing football will simply have to wait. But one wonders how long Fleck and Coyle will be able to hold the line. As nearly all of us have discovered this summer, tightening the checkbook has been necessary. But we don't have rich donors and angry parents breathing down our necks looking for a fix to satisfy their fervor.

Dave Wright is at dwright53@msn.com.

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

New staff member—The Highland District Council has welcomed Jenna Strank as its part-time communications and outreach coordinator. Her role is to keep people updated about events and issues affecting the neighborhood. To connect with her, email jenna@highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

Highland Business of the Month—To help Highland businesses during this challenging time, the HDC has decided to profile a different business each month. The current honoree is La Cocina de Ana, 2559 W. Seventh St., which celebrated its one-year anniversary in August. It is a take-and-bake-style establishment offering regional Mexican dishes and is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Learn more and read an interview with the owner on the HDC website.

Slow your roll—The public is invited to join the HDC's Transportation Committee for a slow-paced bike ride through the Highland Park neighborhood at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 12, from the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Participants will be able to learn about transportation projects throughout the neighborhood during the 10-mile round trip. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate.

Day for giving—Join the HDC in celebrating Highland Donation Day, a socially distanced event, on Friday, September 18, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The public may bring nonperishable food items from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to the curbside drop-off in the parking lot and donate blood with the Memorial Blood Center by appointment. People should wear a mask and follow COVID-19 safety protocols. Learn more and get the link to make a blood drive appointment on the HDC's website or Facebook page.

Special election—The HDC will hold a special election on Thursday, October 1, to fill a partial term for an at-large seat on its board of directors. The position will be up for re-election next April. Those interested in running should contact executive director Kathy Carruth at kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or 651-695-4005. More details are available on the website.

Upcoming meeting—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, September 3; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 15. All HDC meetings are currently being conducted online via Zoom. Links to access the meetings are posted on the HDC website. For information about future meetings, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

New board members—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council held its board elections on August 13-21 and received more than 800 ballots. The first online meeting with the new board members will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 10, via Zoom. For the link to the meeting, email alexa@macgrove.org. The meeting will also be recorded and made available on the community council's website. Two of the three proposed changes to the board's bylaws were also passed during the voting and can be viewed on the website.

Show your pride—Locally designed Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can be ordered online using PayPal and will be delivered to your home. The shirts come in kiwi, heather indigo and dark heather. Visit macgrove.org/tshirt for information.

Upcoming online meetings—board of directors on Thursday, September 10; Community Building Committee on Monday, September 14; Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, September 23; and Transportation Committee on Monday, September 28. 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 and focus on making Macalester-Groveland a better place to live, work, learn and play. See more at macgrove.org/committees.

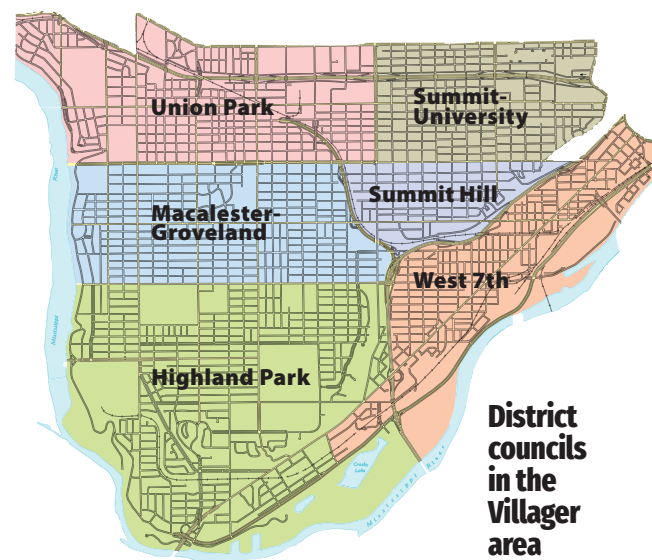
Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park Solidarity Fund—The Union Park District Council is offering a solidarity fund to provide economic relief for renters in its three 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—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 2; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 14; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 16. 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

Garden and history tour—The 13th annual West End Neighbors' Garden and History Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, September 12. Pick up tour and history guides outside the Keg & Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St., on the day of the event. Masks and social distancing are mandatory for the free, self-directed walking tour, and donations are welcome. Visit fortroadfederation.org/west-end-garden-tour.

Upcoming virtual meetings—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 2; board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, September 14; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 17. Updated agendas and links to 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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As personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Laura J. Stevens
Probate Registrar
August 17, 2020

Michael F. Upton
Court Administrator
August 17, 2020

Self-Represented Litigant:
Katherine A. Knott-Zingsheim
3733-168th Ave. NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

LEGAL NOTICES

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: Fancy Nancy's Fine Wine. 2. List the Principal Place of Business: 453 7th St W St Paul MN 55102 USA. 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: Mary Elizabeth Kennedy; 280 2nd Ave N Apt 303 Minneapolis MN 55401 USA. 4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath. Date filed: August 21, 2020. Signed by: Mary E. Kennedy

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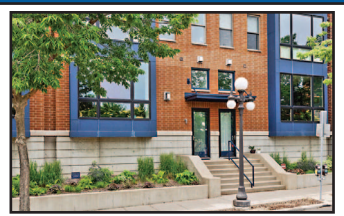
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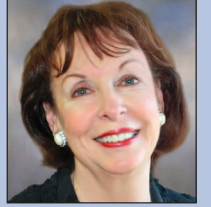
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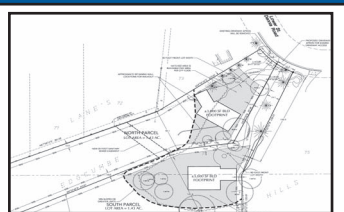
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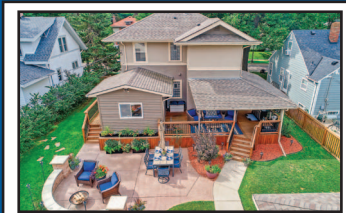
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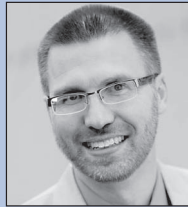
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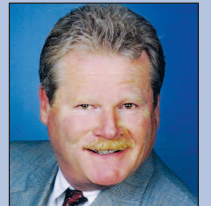
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