

# VILLAGER

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 13, 2020

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**ELECTION 2020**

DFL candidates strive to maintain the party's hold on District 64 ▶6

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**



Remodel goes with the flow ▶10

**EDUCATION BEAT**

Macalester's new president proves her mettle ▶9

**ON THE TOWN**



Apartheid revisited ▶13

**SPORTS**



Highly ranked Vis kicks it up a notch in soccer ▶15

VIEWPOINT.....8  
CRIME REPORT ..... 12  
DISTRICT COUNCILS..... 16  
CLASSIFIEDS ..... 17



**Kaiser's Biergarten.**

Accordionist Florian Chmielewski leans into his playing during the Germanic-American Institute's Oktoberfest Lite on the lawn of the picturesque Summit Avenue locale on September 20. A portrait of longtime institute supporter Bruce Larson hangs behind him. At left, Heather and Michael Morris enjoy a frothy brew. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Tunnel OK'd for under river road

Bike, walking path to connect Highland Bridge, Hidden Falls

BY JANE McCLURE

A \$1.91 million pedestrian and bicycle connection between Hidden Falls Regional Park and the Highland Bridge development on the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant is moving ahead with the approval of the Saint Paul City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee. The City Council was the last to sign off on the project on September 16.

The 90-foot connection will extend beneath Mississippi River Boulevard and lead to a terrace overlooking the park and its namesake waterfall. The tunnel will be lit and have limestone walls and public art. Future plans call for extending the pedestrian and bike trails further into the park on a boardwalk. The paths are expected to eventually link to Crosby Farm Regional Park and the Samuel Morgan Trail.

Council member Chris Tolbert called the connection a once-in-a-lifetime project that will make the park even more of a destination. "It's going to be fantastic," he said. "It (Hidden Falls Park) is misnamed now because people have found it."

The project is an extension of the park and open space plan for Highland Bridge. It is referenced in the 2019 Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm Master Plan and the 2013

HIGHLAND BRIDGE TUNNEL ▶2

## Private schools devise safe return to in-person classes

BY CASEY EK

As fear of the spread of COVID-19 keeps students in the Saint Paul Public Schools learning from the distance of their home computers, some Saint Paul schools have found ways to return to in-person learning. Through the first month of the fall term, these private schools have refined their methods to maximize the safety of students and staff while allowing a high degree of face-to-face instruction.

Cretin-Derham Hall has taken a hybrid approach to learning since the first day of classes on August 31. Students with last names beginning with the letters A-L and M-Z alternate days learning from home via the internet and attending class in the high school at 550 S. Albert St.

With an enrollment of about 940 students, it is not possible to accommodate full attendance while maintaining the necessary distance between desks, CDH administrators said. The school has adopted

other health and safety measures as well, including limiting hallway traffic and establishing a new COVID response team. CDH, like other private schools in the area, is using additional common areas within the school to allow for physical distancing at lunch and during other classroom periods. Students are surveyed daily with five questions to track symptoms and any possible contact with COVID-19.

Holy Spirit School is conducting in-person learning for about 95 percent of its roughly 300 students in grades preK-8. The school at 515 S. Albert St. has transformed its commons where students once ate lunch into a makeshift classroom where students sit two to a table separated by plexiglass. While weather permits, teachers are also conducting some classes outside.

Students at Saint Thomas More, 1065 Summit Ave., are benefiting from the school's large classrooms, which several decades ago accommodated up to 50 students each, according to Principal Pat

Lofton. The prekindergarten, grade school and middle school each has its own floor and separate entrances where parent volunteers screen students daily for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at school.

Saint Thomas More has a total of 256 students, but with separate floors per age group, if a student in eighth grade, for example, were to test positive for COVID-19, it is possible that the preschool and grade school would not have to close, Lofton said, though that would depend on the Minnesota Department of Health and the parents of students.

"I don't think it's a matter of if we're going to experience COVID-19; it's a matter of when," Lofton said. "We're trying to be proactive in our communication (with families), and we're encouraging them to do the same with us."

CDH president Frank Miley would not say whether his school had experienced a case of COVID-19 in

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION ▶4

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# New Lunds market, first 75 rowhouses in the works at Ford site

By JANE McCLURE

Facets of the Highland Bridge redevelopment project on the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park are coming into focus. Lunds & Byerlys will be moving its Highland Park supermarket to the ground floor of a five-story apartment building now under construction on the southeast corner of Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue. Meanwhile, Pulte Homes has been given the go-ahead for the first phase of its 320-unit rowhouse development on the west side of the manmade stream that will run north and south through the 122-acre Highland Bridge site.

The Saint Paul City Council on September 16 approved the first plat for the rowhouses. The private homes have reportedly drawn strong interest from prospective buyers.

Master developer Ryan Companies platted the former Ford site into 36 development blocks last November with rights-of-way, city park land and outlots indicated. At the time,

additional platting was anticipated.

The City Council received no objections to the rowhouse plat, which subdivides four blocks, or a total of 3.7 acres, into 75 rowhouse lots and four outlots. Platting is required for the subdivision because of its large size and the number of lots created. It is anticipated to be the first of four plat requests from Pulte.

"Our staff is beyond excited to be able to play a part in building out the Highland Bridge neighborhood," said Paul Heuer, director of land planning and entitlement for Pulte. "We've spent the last two years working on our floor plans and fine-tuning our architecture to fit the quality and vision of this unique neighborhood. We're entirely familiar with the vision outlined in the master plan and the associated requirements for Highland Bridge. We're committed to delivering homes that are versatile and beautiful, LEED Silver Certified, and in compliance with (energy-efficiency standards), labor standards, the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Program and affordable housing."

Lund Food Holdings announced on September 15 its plan for a full-service Lunds & Byerlys at Highland Bridge. The new supermarket will anchor the first large mixed-use project at Highland Bridge. The five-story project by Ryan Companies and Weidner Apartment Homes will also include 230 apartments and two levels of parking.

The 51,000-square-foot supermarket is anticipated to open in 2022, with an extensive selection of prepared foods and specialty products. It will replace the Lunds & Byerlys at Highland Village Center, which will remain open until the new store is completed.

"It's been with a tremendous amount of pride that we've served the Highland Park community for more than 37 years, and we're excited to open a new store less than a block away that will create an enhanced shopping experience for our customers," said Tres Lund, CEO of Lunds & Byerlys.

"This new store will be nearly 20 percent larger than our current store, so we can meet the needs of today's customers and the many

future customers we'll serve as the community continues to grow."

The general shopping pattern in the grocery aisles will be similar to the existing store's aisles to alleviate the typical disruption caused by creating new shopping patterns. Lunds & Byerlys expects to maintain the same staff of employees, many of whom have worked there for decades.

"Lunds & Byerlys is the perfect anchor to the retail at Highland Bridge," said Maureen Michalski, Ryan Companies' vice president of development. "Grocery is a critical component to the success of a neighborhood, and no one can match Lunds' passion for quality and its long-term commitment to the Highland Park neighborhood."

Lund Food Holdings is a family-owned company that operates 26 Lunds & Byerlys supermarkets across the Twin Cities area and one in Saint Cloud. The company in March postponed its earlier plans to build a combination supermarket and apartment building at Grand Avenue and Avon Street.

## 14 HIGHLAND BRIDGE TUNNEL

Great River Passage Plan.

"We're now in a position to accomplish this plan," said Wes Saunders-Pearce, the city's water resource coordinator. The project is also an extension of the stormwater treatment plan for Highland Bridge, which includes a large central water feature running north and south through the middle of the 122-acre site.

The bicycle and pedestrian connection is moving ahead as a result of construction changes at Highland Bridge, Saunders-Pearce said. The City Council had to amend its budget and Ford site development plans for the project to proceed.

Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies needs to place a new storm pipe beneath Mississippi River Boulevard and change its plans for stormwater drainage, said Ellen Stewart, landscape architect for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. That allowed the connection to go forward within a limited time frame. The need to make changes for stormwater drainage first came up six months ago.

Plans for the pedestrian and bike connection took shape through the efforts of the city, the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) and Ryan. The pipe will be installed this fall, and work on the connection will



A 12-foot-wide paved pedestrian and bicycle trail will be added beside a manmade stream flowing under Mississippi River Boulevard to connect the Highland Bridge development with Hidden Falls Park.

continue into 2021.

"This is an opportunity we simply won't have again," said Melanie McMahan, the city's project leader for the Highland Bridge development.

The plan is to add a 12-foot-wide paved trail beside an open manmade stream. Stormwater from Highland Bridge will be treated before it enters the stream. The water will then flow to Hidden Falls and the Mississippi River.

"It's a really cool project," said City Council president Amy Brendmoen.

Stewart said the project needs to move ahead now. "We're not sure we could do it once Highland Bridge is built out," she said. "It provides a strong connection between Highland Bridge and the river."

The project's timing required city staff to pull together money from several sources, said city treasurer Mike Solomon. That includes a grant from the CRWD (\$926,063), parkland dedication funds (\$110,000), bike project funds (\$100,000), a general fund transfer (\$100,000), tax increment financ-

ing (TIF) from the Ford site (\$200,000) and a state Legacy Grant already earmarked for Hidden Falls Park (\$475,000).

The CRWD provided another \$795,000 to enhance stormwater and groundwater management at the development site.

The City Council and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority will act in the future to amend the Ford TIF district and expand the areas in which it can be used, including the area where the connection will be.

Parks commissioners and CIB Committee and City Council members all praised the connection plans, although all three groups had technical questions about financing and whether bike improvement funding was being diverted from other projects. The Parks and Recreation Commission voted 5-1 in favor of the project, while the CIB Committee voted unanimously in support.

Council member Rebecca Noecker asked about using the \$100,000 in bike funds. She noted that the cost of adding a bike and pedestrian trail along Ayd Mill Road will tie up bike funds for several years. "What's the trade-off here? What can we not do?" she asked.

Solomon said the bike funds could go to Highland Bridge without having to cancel other projects.

"Public Works looked at this and it's a shovel-ready project, ready to go," McMahan said.

Meet **Dr. Jaime Davis**. Born in the Bahamas, she now calls the Twin Cities home. She's a graduate of the Mayo Medical School, caretaker of rescue dogs, avid art collector, certified scuba diver, and former Miss Northern Bahamas body building champion. She's also a huge fan of her new Spectacle Shoppe glasses.

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Volume 68, Number 16

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

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West Seventh neighborhoods of Saint Paul, along with Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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**CIRCULATION:** The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. and has a press run of 41,867. At this time, we are not delivering to newsstands. Please purchase a subscription for \$59.88 by visiting MyVillager.com or sending a check to 757 Snelling Ave S., Saint Paul, MN 55116.

**Next Issue: October 14**

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# Tick Tock Tick Tock

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# Chief debates cutting police budget amid rising public safety concerns

By JANE MCCLURE

Saint Paul's police force could be smaller and less diverse if proposed cuts to the 2021 city budget become a reality. However, City Council members on September 16 asked Police Chief Todd Axtell to find other ways to trim as much as \$3.8 million in expenses besides reducing personnel.

Council members expressed concern that recent gains in diversifying the city's police force will be lost. The reductions also would come at a time of rising 911 calls. Saint Paul had a historically high level of 911 calls in 2019 at about 75,000, Axtell said, and is on track for almost 80,000 calls this year.

"I'm concerned about our capacity to deliver service," Axtell said. According to him, more calls and fewer personnel will mean longer response times, more officer stress and the elimination of some programs.

Saint Paul is seeing an uptick in major crimes in 2020. There have been 24 homicides this year compared to 19 at this time in 2019. Robberies have jumped from 379 to 513, and aggravated assaults from 569 to 776 during that same time period.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to hold down spending is forcing all city departments to freeze hires and make cuts. Mayor Melvin Carter's 2021 police budget is \$104.7 million, compared to \$105.5 million adopted for 2020, an \$800,000 reduction.

However, Axtell said the reduction is in reality closer to \$3.8 million, since he estimated the need for a police budget of \$108.5 million in 2021. He is looking at the cost of moving seven school resource officers back to the general fund now that the Saint Paul Public Schools has severed its police contract with the city. He is also facing staff contract and cost-of-living salary increases, and is considering not hiring officers as positions become vacant.

Carter has estimated that 10 positions would be lost, while Axtell said it could be up to 31. Other reductions include four civilian positions and three sergeants in the technology division and three parking enforcement officers.

Axtell noted that the Police Department already has made \$1 million in spending cuts in 2020, including shelving a police training academy that was set to begin this fall.

His department has almost \$2.6 million in 2020 spending that could be reimbursed through the federal CARES Act, which provides assistance to cities during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that money is not assured as many city departments are vying for the same funds.

The 2020 cuts come on top of additional police spending this year, such as \$3 million to deal with the civil unrest that occurred in the city in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Axtell said the city's fiscal constraints could hamper the goal of creating a more diverse department. The police just lost one of three community liaison officers, who do translations and other tasks, to another agency. And the eight students who completed the 2020 Law Enforcement Career Path Academy, a program of AmeriCorps, were just let go.

Axtell said the city's reduction in hiring comes at a time when an unprecedented diversity of officer candidates is available. The loss of those candidates, many of whom are from low-income families, also worries several City Council members. "They're changing the way that people look at our police, and

they're changing the way the police look," said council president Amy Brendmoen.

The city's sworn police personnel would drop from 630 this year to 620. However, with various military and medical leaves and no police academies in 2020 and 2021, Axtell said that number could be closer to 591 by the end of next year. New officers could not be on the street until May or June 2022.

Council members asked for additional historical data, saying they need to see past police attrition trends.

Brendmoen asked if any other police costs could be put on hold for a year. The department has already dropped its motorcycle and mounted patrols and its FORCE unit, which concentrated resources at specific locations.

Axtell said his department's budget has only about \$400,000 in discretionary spending. Some purchases, such as squad cars, can be delayed, he said, but putting them off could also mean higher costs down the road.

The lower police staffing levels also come at a time when the city's population is growing. "We'll be staffed to a level of pre-2007 when our population was 279,470," Axtell said. The city currently has 308,096 residents.

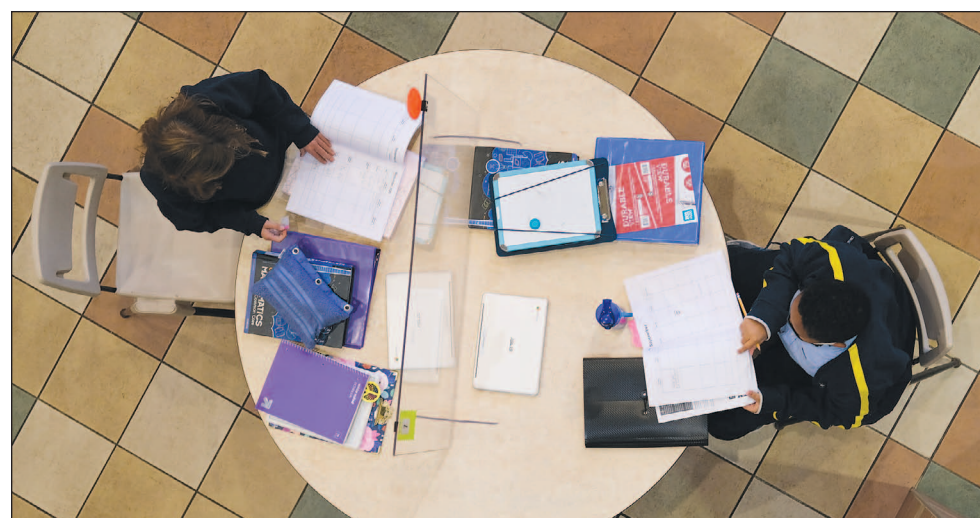
## IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

the first few weeks of the fall term. However, he believes CDH's proactive approach to managing students and staff who come in contact with those who test positive for COVID has paid dividends. If anybody tests positive for the virus, per MDH guidelines, he or she will be quarantined and CDH will conduct rigorous contact tracing to determine with whom that individual may have come in contact at the school.

"One positive test could easily cause 10 people to go into quarantine," Miley said. While quarantined, students and teachers may continue to tune into their classroom remotely if they feel up to it, he added.

Facemasks, social distance markings on the floor, training in coughing and sneezing etiquette, sanitation stations, regular environmental sanitizing and staggered start times are among the protocols common to all of the private schools that were contacted for this article. Students at all of the schools also have the option of learning from home.

Although the administrators interviewed described the return to in-person learning in positive terms, they said it has come with unique hurdles. Facemasks, for example, have



Two Holy Spirit sixth-graders (above) in facemasks study at a table in the school's commons equipped with a plexiglass divider for added protection. Pictured at right, Saint Thomas More parent volunteer Carrie Luccio takes a student's temperature as she arrives at school in the morning. PHOTOS BY CASEY EK



presented difficulties for students and teachers alike, particularly when teachers are imparting difficult course material.

At Nativity Grade School, all but 38 of the 725 students in grades preK-8 are taking part in in-person instruction, according to principal Kate Wollan. Facemasks have been a challenge, she said, especially for hearing-

impaired students who rely on lip reading. In these and other situations, Nativity teachers resorted to wearing clear face shields.

School administrators across the area also acknowledged the social and emotional difficulties students may have with the laundry list of COVID-19 protocols. Because of this, they have directed faculty to put a premium

on students' well-being as they get acclimated to being back in the classroom.

"Our emphasis has been on developing solid relationships with students," said Holy Spirit principal Mary Adrian. "Only when students feel safe, secure and cared about can they learn."






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# Recovery, relocation grants offered in Midway

Fund aids businesses affected by civil unrest

By JANE McCLURE

After weeks of debate over organizational structure, the Midway United Fund is now accepting applications for “economic justice” grants to small businesses that were affected by rioting and evictions in the Hamline-Midway and Union Park neighborhoods. The grants are available until December 20 or until the money runs out.

The grants are being overseen by the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative (NUFC) and come in two forms—a Damage Recovery Program and a Rebuild or Relocation Program.

The NUFC has raised more than \$349,000 for the first program and is offering businesses up to \$15,000 to pay for smoke and water cleanup, new glass, replacement of stolen or lost inventory, and any other damages suffered in the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd in late May.

The NUFC has more than \$500,000 available for the second program and is offering businesses up to \$50,000 for rebuilding due to fire loss or help with relocation costs due to eviction.

Priority will be given to businesses within a half-mile of Allianz Field. Those along the University Avenue corridor within three miles of the soccer stadium must prove their businesses were

*The NUFC and its advisory committee have been a flashpoint over the summer, clashing over who should be on the committee and how it should operate.*

affected by the civil unrest. Businesses must have annual sales revenue of \$2 million or less. Information on applying is available at [midwayunited.org](http://midwayunited.org).

The Midway United Fund was originally launched by the Saint Paul City Council and local district councils to provide funds for community-building, economic development, public arts and other projects in the neighborhoods around Allianz Field. The Union Park and Hamline-Midway councils have led the planning and have oversight of the fund, working with the Saint Paul Foundation and the NUFC’s advisory committee.

Earlier this year, the fund allocated grants to small businesses affected by the pandemic. After businesses were looted, damaged and set ablaze in late May, the fund shifted to providing assistance on that front.

The NUFC and its advisory committee have been a flashpoint over the summer, clashing over who should be on the

committee and how it should operate. People of color felt the committee did not represent the neighborhoods and pushed white members to resign. The committee is now more diverse, with community development veteran Isabel Chanslor calling herself the interim fund manager.

The district councils questioned the time it has taken to get grants disbursed and what were seen as personal attacks on their staffs. The Hamline-Midway Coalition bowed out of its fiscal role in July, and the nonprofit Nexus stepped in.

The notion of paid collaborative staff has drawn objections, including from City Council member Dai Thao. He and some district council members said money should go to businesses, not staff.

Chanslor said the collaborative has raised separate funds for administration, and funds donated for businesses are only being used to aid those merchants.

Union Park board members at a recent meeting brought up the prospect of spinning off the business development fund and having the NUFC go back to its original purpose. Chanslor said that is something the committee has discussed as it looks at ways to support the Midway, its small businesses and arts community.

“I feel hopeful about the fund,” said City Council member Mitra Jalali. “It feels as if we’ve turned a corner. We need to get resources out to the community. That’s what’s really important.”

# Guaranteed-income pilot gets share of CARES Act funds

By JANE McCLURE

Saint Paul’s guaranteed-income pilot program was granted \$293,592 of the more than \$20 million in coronavirus relief funds approved on September 23 by the City Council. An initiative of Mayor Melvin Carter, the guaranteed-income program will provide a monthly stipend of \$500 to families chosen at random in some of the city’s poorest neighborhoods.

A total of \$1.5 million is available for the pilot program, the rest coming from charitable foundations and other private donations.

The coronavirus relief comes through

the federal CARES Act. It can be used to pay expenses incurred between March 1 and November 15 during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The money cannot be used as revenue replacement at a time when sales taxes and other forms of city income are down.

Of the CARES Act allocations, the city will spend \$12 million on emergency response costs for staff, HVAC improvements in city facilities and personal protective equipment for first responders.

Another \$9.5 million is being devoted to economic recovery, including help for businesses and cultural organizations and relief for families and small businesses.

One million dollars will go to various programs to support homeless people, and \$950,000 will help pay for service delivery modifications during the pandemic by the city’s water utility, parks and recreation department and public library system.

The vote allocates most of the \$23.5 million the city had available in CARES Act funding.

## Correction

Neil Garlock will be stepping down at the end of this year after serving not one, but two two-year terms as mayor of Mendota Heights.

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# DFLers strive to maintain party's hold on District 64

BY DALE MISCHKE

The party in control of the Minnesota Legislature hangs in the balance this November 3 when voters head to the polls to elect their state senators and representatives. Every one of the 67 state Senate and 134 state House seats are up for election. In District 64—the western third of Saint Paul—Erin Murphy is hoping to return to the Capitol as the successor to Senator Richard Cohen, who after 33 years will be stepping down in January.

## Senate District 64

The DFL-endorsee, Murphy, 60, served in the Minnesota House from 2007-19 and was House majority leader from 2013-15. A registered nurse and former executive director of the Minnesota Nurses Association, she was the DFL-endorsed candidate for governor in 2018, but lost to Tim Walz in the primary.

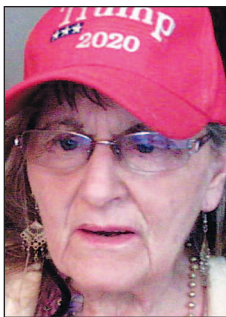
"Twelve years in the House prepared me to engage in the urgent work of Minnesota's future," Murphy said. "Nursing taught me that you can't quit in the face of a tough challenge. I won't. From COVID-19 to George Floyd's murder, 2020 has made it clear: Inequity and disparities are the toughest challenges we face as a state. We'll continue to struggle to find our way forward until we find a path that leaves no Minnesotan behind."

Murphy is being opposed by Sharon Anderson, an unendorsed Republican, and Patricia Jirovec-McArdell of the Legal Marijuana Now Party.

Anderson, 81, has run unsuccessfully for numerous political offices over the past two decades. A former waitress and real estate investor, she said she is running for the Senate to work for law and order, fair housing and ethics in government. Her top priority in the coming term would be to enforce the separa-



Erin Murphy



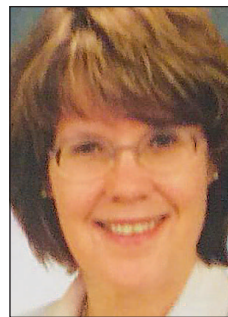
Sharon Anderson



Patricia Jirovec-McArdell



Kaohly Her



Georgia Dietz



Dave Pinto

tion of powers in state government and balance the state budgets.

Jirovec-McArdell, 57, chair of the Minnesota chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, is self-employed as a transcriptionist and photographer. A former emergency medical technician and chaplain, she is running for office to keep the legalization of marijuana in the forefront at the Capitol.

## House District 64A

DFL incumbent Kaohly Her, 47, is seeking her second term in the House. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Business Administration, she earned an MBA in International Management at Northeastern University in Boston.

"My education and work experience have enabled me to hold leadership positions in the private, public and nonprofit sectors," Her said. "I've been extremely blessed to have the experience and skills to dive deeply into policy work. My life experiences provide me with a lens that many legislators do not have. I am able to share views and perspectives that have long been missing from the legislative process. (If re-elected) I will continue to work on education, housing, jobs and the environment as I did in my first term, but I will also work on the reform of health care, public safety and

criminal justice."

Sherry Shack, a Republican from Merriam Park, will appear on the ballot, but since filing as a candidate, she has withdrawn from the race.

## House District 64B

DFL incumbent Dave Pinto's bid for a fourth term in the House is being challenged by Republican Georgia Dietz.

Dietz, 59, is retired after years of operating her own cleaning service. She served as chair of the District 64B Republican Party from 2001-07 and as a Highland District Council board member from 2007-09. A graduate of Saint Catherine University with a degree in social work, Dietz said she is running for office because "we need leaders at the Capitol who will uphold the rule of law in our state. Our DFL leaders are fiddling while our cities burn. They've abdicated their responsibility to keep us safe. No reasonable person can believe that we don't need policemen and policewomen. They are our heroes, not the enemy."

"As a former small-business owner, I know how vital it is to live within one's means," Dietz said. "Taxpayers deserve a representative who will act as a steward of their money and of their trust. I'm committed to reining in state spending and reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses."

Among Dietz's priorities for the coming term are solving the state budget deficit, protecting the lives of unborn children and defending the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, "including the right to self-defense," she said. "Now more than ever, citizens need advocates in the Legislature to defend their constitutional rights."

Pinto, 48, a prosecutor in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, graduated from Harvard University and earned a juris doctorate and MBA from the University of Virginia.

"I've dedicated my life to public service," Pinto said. "At the Capitol, I've led in the fight for gun safety, among many other issues. I'll continue to lead for an agenda that lifts up families and communities. My top priority continues to be helping every child in Minnesota get off to a great start. When we do that, we all benefit. The best way to help young kids thrive is to support their families and communities with paid leave, affordable housing, living-wage jobs, clean water and air, and racial equity."

"The upcoming legislative term will be challenging," Pinto said. "It will also present an incredible opportunity to build a better Minnesota—one that allows every person in the state to thrive. I'm eager to continue to contribute to this work on behalf of our community."

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# Council takes a shine to 21 requests for Neighborhood STAR grants, loans

By JANE McCLURE

Twenty-one small businesses, housing providers and organizations were awarded 2020 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans by the Saint Paul City Council on September 2.

The STAR board this summer recommended a total of \$1.35 million be divided among 16 projects. Mayor Melvin Carter added five projects to the list and reallocated \$250,000 in unspent fund balances to bring the total awarded to \$1.60 million.

It has not been a typical year for the STAR program, which is funded by the city's extra half-percent sales tax. The COVID-19 pandemic forced all STAR board meetings online.

Sixty projects were submitted by the April deadline, two of which were later withdrawn.

The top-ranked project citywide was Elsa's House of Sleep, 1441 University Ave. The furniture store was awarded a \$49,800 grant with an equal match to repair stucco, ceilings and floors, and install a new handicapped-accessible door and security cameras.

Ranked second was the Neighborhood Development Center, which received a \$123,450 grant and \$41,150 loan to build a new incubator for up to six businesses at the northwest corner of University Avenue and Dale Street. The match is \$13.3 million. The project is part of a development with Wellington Management that will include affordable housing.

Placing third was NeighborWorks Home Partners, 533 N. Dale St., which received a \$12,000 grant and has a \$110,000 match to help low- to moderate-income homeowners replace their lead-based painted windows. To be eligible, owners of single- to four-unit dwellings must already be involved in a county window replacement program.

Ranked sixth was ESTHER Homes, which received a \$17,600 grant and has a planned \$17,600 match to rehabilitate a Saint Paul home. The transitional housing program is for pregnant women facing a crisis, so the address of the property to be rehabilitated was not made public.

Ranked 12th was Sun Foods in the Uni-Dale Mall, 554 University Ave., which received a \$75,000 grant and \$75,000 loan to install new signs, replace windows, do tuckpointing and make parking lot repairs. The match is \$150,000.

Ranked 14th was Firebox Saint Paul, 1585 Marshall Ave. A \$40,000 grant will be used to improve the grounds at the restaurant. The match is \$10,000.

Ranked 16th was the Creative Enterprise Zone's loan and grant program for small businesses in the West Midway area. The nonprofit's request for a \$100,000 grant and \$100,000 loan was trimmed by almost \$40,000 by the STAR board and then restored by Carter.

Carter partially funded five projects that had been shut out. One is Springboard for the Arts' work to redevelop a former auto dealership at 262 University Ave. into an arts



An amphitheater and other improvements at the Keg & Case Market (shown here when it opened in 2018) missed out on funding. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

center with a public park. Springboard sought a \$100,000 grant with a \$190,000 match for the project. A \$50,000 grant was approved.

The Asian Economic Development Association, 422 University Ave., sought a \$205,000 grant with an equal match for murals, facade improvements, two parklets, benches and other amenities. The project was awarded a \$75,000 grant.

African Economic Development Solutions, 1821 University Ave., sought a \$200,000 grant with a \$200,000 match for loans for business improvements citywide. A \$75,000 grant was approved.

Several local projects missed out on funding. They included eight requests from businesses on West Seventh Street. Two came from Keg & Case Market, 928 W. Seventh. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation submitted a request for a proposed amphitheater. Clutch Brewing Company submitted a request for a second-story deck and staircase.

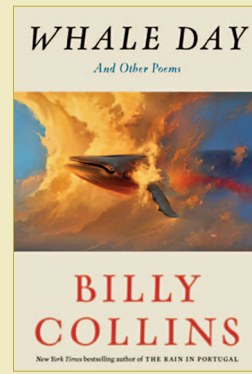
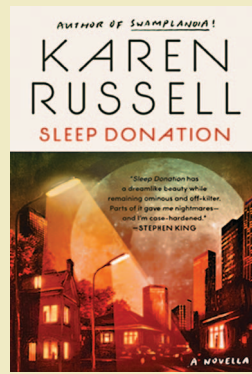
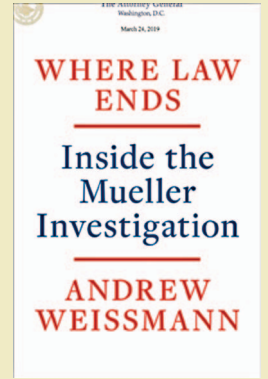
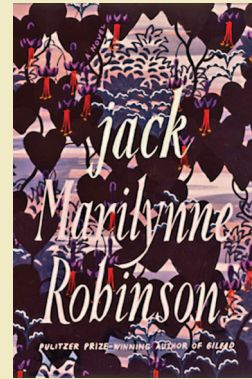
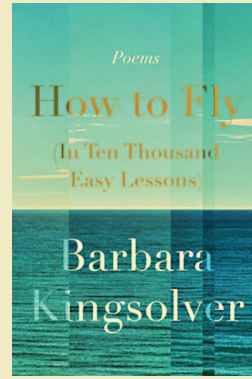
White Squirrel LLC was turned down in its bid for funds to convert the former West Seventh/Fort Road Federation offices at 978 W. Seventh into a music venue.

West Seventh Dental, which is planning a mixed-use building at West Seventh and Douglas Street, missed out on two funding requests: one for the dental office and the other for the renovation of apartments that are part of the building.

Vine Park Brewing, 1254 W. Seventh St., saw its request for taproom and other building improvements rejected. Sibley Plaza's Five Star Cafe, 2469 W. Seventh St., lost out on its bid for kitchen improvements. MyDog, a proposed dog day care at 1324 W. Seventh, unsuccessfully sought building renovation funds. RS Eden was turned down to fund a solar array on its building at 1362 W. Seventh.

Other local projects that were not approved for funding included Minnesota Museum of American Art's renovation at 350 N. Robert St., Twin Cities Athletic Training at 400 N. Wabasha St., the J.J. Hill mural project for the school at 998 Selby Ave., and renovation of the 1913 building at Central Baptist Church, 420 Roy St., into office and retail space.

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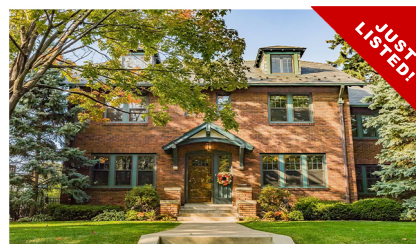
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# VIEWPOINT

## St. Stan's Father Clay left indelible mark of Christian love

BY ANNE MURPHY

Father John Clay was a cornerstone of compassion in Saint Paul's West End neighborhood for 45 years, according to those who knew him. When the longtime pastor of Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church died on September 13 at the age of 94, what he meant to the parishioners and other people of the surrounding neighborhood was readily apparent.

"Father Clay's theology was one of love," said the Reverend Walter Wietzke, who retired recently as pastor of nearby Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church. "Under him, Saint Stan's became one of the most important places in the West Seventh neighborhood. He and his congregation were so welcoming.

"I first got to know Father Clay in 1982," Wietzke said. "Our church was right across the street. We developed a friendship that was more than a friendship, and it made such a difference in our congregations. People think of Catholic and Lutheran churches as separate and exclusive, but we didn't feel that way. When you hear about interfaith families, we were one in West Seventh."

The two congregations participated together in educational programs, mission work and even worship. When Saint Mark was extensively damaged by fire in December 2014, Father Clay offered Saint Stan's for the funeral that was scheduled at Saint Mark that day. "At the time, we had the Black congregation of the Free at Last Church of God in Christ worshipping with us, and we were all at Saint Stan's for Christmas that year," Wietzke said.

Father Clay became pastor emeritus of Saint Stan's in 2019 when he was succeeded by Father Dennis Thompson. However, a reflection of Father Clay's theology can still be found in the mission statement of the church: "Holy is any place where it is safe to tell your story. Holy is any place that creates justice. God's doors are open to all."

"Father was the most compassionate, humble and accepting person whose life message was all about peace and tranquility," said Pat Heroff, Father Clay's secretary and sacristan at Saint Stan's for 25 years. "He'd always say, 'Smile, God loves you.' That's a feeling he wanted everyone to experience."

Longtime friend and personal physician Dr. Tim Rumsey called Father Clay an institution of kindness and inclusion in the neighborhood. "We both came to West Seventh in 1975," Rumsey said, and they would at times refer a patient or a pa-



Parishioners of Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church gathered around their pastor, Father John Clay, in June 2016. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

rishioner to the other man's care.

"I'd hear patients talking about Father Clay and how he was so welcoming and non-judgmental," Rumsey said. "People who had otherwise felt unwanted and disenfranchised felt the opposite when they were at Saint Stan's. Father Clay was holy, but not holier than thou. He made people feel valued. At his visitation, I saw a homeless man I knew. I delivered the man 40 years ago, and he has struggled. He told me he was at the visitation because Father Clay had been so helpful to him. Father Clay saw people with all kinds of needs, from mental health to loneliness to gender issues, and he always welcomed them."

People from all over the Twin Cities came to Saint Stan's to attend Father Clay's masses, according to Rumsey. "He was the heart of the neighborhood," he said. "His heart wasn't just within the walls of Saint Stan's either; the church and the neighborhood were intertwined for him. He resonated with people inside and out."

Father Clay was devoted to the belief that everyone should

be loved equally and that everyone deserved help when needed, according to Eme Linnick. Described as Father Clay's "virtual daughter" by parishioners, Linnick met the priest 25 years ago when she was going through a dark time in her life. After more than two decades of friendship, Linnick became Father Clay's care adviser and power of attorney as his health deteriorated from dementia. Last year, she helped him move into the Willows of Ramsey Hill for memory care.

"He loved the Willows," Linnick said. "He took joy in the small things around him. He had a beautiful mind, and it stayed beautiful even as his health declined. He loved looking at the clouds and the trees. He took comfort in saying his favorite prayer, the Irish Blessing."

Born in Des Moines and raised in New Ulm, Father Clay had an Irish mother, according to Linnick. "She told him 'Smile and the whole world will smile with you.' That was deeply entrenched," she said.

Father Clay saw people as equals who should be treated as equals, according to Linnick. "The person who needed to ask for money was equal to the person who was able to make a contribution," she said. "He believed you shouldn't expect respect because you're a priest. You should earn respect by being a good man."

"Saint Stan's was full of people who felt they didn't have anyplace else to go," Linnick said. "They saw that they were welcome there. He authentically and deeply cared about people. He was accessible and accepting."

Less than a year before Father Clay stepped down as Saint Stan's pastor, Saint Paul author Patricia Hampl, who grew up in the West End, learned of his welcoming manner and inclusive ways. "I became a member of Saint Stan's when the Poor Clare's in Bloomington, where I'd gone to Mass for 35 years, closed their monastery and moved to Rochester," she said. "I went up after my first Mass at Saint Stan's and introduced myself to Father Clay. He was instantly approachable. I told him I'd been baptized at Saint Stan's in 1946 and this was my first time back. I expected some astonishment on his part, but he just smiled that serene smile and said, 'Well, welcome back.'"

Father Clay was "very much about forgiveness," Hampl said. "He radiated forgiveness. You got the feeling he couldn't pass judgment. And it wasn't that he was just an optimist. It was simple but not simplistic. He never let go of seeing the beauty in life because he loved everyone."

## INBOX

### A bus stop too far

According to Metro Transit's mission statement, it desires to deliver convenient service. However, beginning on September 12, it chose to have the No. 63 bus stop only at every other corner—for "faster travel," according to the signs put up on the corners where the buses no longer stop. This certainly is far from convenient for the elderly and disabled. Do the people who make these decisions even ride the No. 63 bus? No surveys were distributed on the bus to get a consensus of the riders' feelings about such an idea.

I've ridden this bus for more than 65 years, and never have I heard a complaint about the service being slow. What's the real reason? Why fix a bus stop system that wasn't broken? If Metro Transit wanted to work on something, why didn't it focus on additional safety for riders? Metro Transit needs to remove the word "convenient" from its mission statement, for presently nothing could be further from the truth. Please reconsider this action, Metro Transit.

Betsy Turner  
Summit Hill

### If you can't beat 'em...

In the September 16 *Villager* Inbox, Stephen Anderson writes that his once tranquil evenings are now ruined by the intrusive noises of the informal basketball games being played on the newly installed court at Highland Park Elementary School. He clearly wants it stopped, asks if something can be done and then asks, "is anyone else the same bundle of frayed nerves?"

Yes, more people are suffering from anxiety and stress these days than they probably care to admit. Our country, with its burning red skies and hurricane floods, its angry protests and angrier counterprotests, its plague and death, is a breeding ground for fear and grief and utter despair. And it's awfully easy to project that anger onto things that are really not that

big a deal.

For goodness' sake, let's not get to the point where we can't see the good. Those noisy kids playing their pickup basketball game are doing exactly what other cranks adults have been yammering at them to do for years: They're getting off the Internet and doing something physical. They're having fun, for crying out loud. And in many more densely populated areas of the country, people have learned to coexist with varying noise levels.

What can be done? Smile at them. Wave. Applaud when a basket is made. If you're able, join them! (They say physical activity calms frayed nerves.) At the very least, consider for the moment that the basketball players are doing something positive and fun.

Yeah, they could tone down their language a little and pick up after themselves. What kid can't? But their blood pressure is probably much lower than yours right now, and playing games together instead of filing grievances might just be the way we can build this country back up.

Robin Johnson  
Highland Park

### Take a stand for what you value

The concept of values has been lost somewhere along the way, or perhaps it has been placed on a shelf. I'm calling on all of us, myself included, to bring it back. What do you value? Have you asked yourself that lately? Have you taught your children or other youngsters the importance of strong values? Maybe you've thought about it, but felt it's too old-fashioned, or perhaps you assume children know what you value because you already live according to what you value.

Take a moment to write down all that you value. Place them in order, with the highest value at the top of the list. There are no rules for how many values you come up with—in fact, the more the better. If you have children, go over the list with them. Encourage them to add to the list and acknowledge what is at the top of the list. The first one is the strongest. It is what you consider the most precious. This is what you honor. Everything underneath holds importance,

but the other values cannot even exist without honoring the first. Now, tape the list to the fridge.

We honor our values by sticking to them no matter what situation we find ourselves in. This is conviction. Conviction is important because it reminds us and others that sitting on the fence or being lukewarm doesn't happen when values are truly honored. When we're lukewarm, we aren't honoring the most important value in our life.

Once freed from riding the fence, you'll find yourself honoring your highest value and standing up for the rest. And when we honor what we value, we show who we truly are and what we're willing to stand up for.

We're living in unprecedented times. We're experiencing a lot of evil being uprooted and exposed and, at the same time, a lot of good overcoming evil. We all get to make choices in life, to stand up for what's good and right or to remain lukewarm and accept evil. Take a stand and do not hesitate to stand up for your values.

Diane Smith  
Forest Lake

### Vote for Levine in Mendota Hts.

I have seen a lot of candidates over my 16 years living in Mendota Heights, and I am thrilled we have the opportunity to elect Stephanie Levine to be our next mayor. Besides bringing a wealth of leadership experience, including service as chair of our city's Parks and Recreation Commission and as a member of the District 197 School Board, Stephanie is kind, approachable, honest and always willing to step in and help our community.

We have experienced a good run for many years in our city, but we are going to have tough times ahead. We need a leader who specializes in budgets and finance. Stephanie is an actuary. She has advocated for our community at the county and state levels. We need this experience to keep our taxes low and preserve our city's character. Please join me in voting for Stephanie Levine on November 3.

Julie Sullivan Caron  
Mendota Heights



# Auspicious beginning

## Macalester's president Rivera demonstrates her mettle as she sets new goals for college

By JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Civil unrest, a global pandemic and the need for regular COVID-19 testing “were not on my radar when I was dreaming what it would be like to come here and be president at Macalester,” said Dr. Suzanne Rivera. “Like every other college president in America, I’m meeting the moment as best I can, just putting one foot in front of the other.”

Rivera, who assumed her position on June 1, admitted that the job offer she accepted last January is far different from the job she is doing now. That is not to say she was unprepared.

“I just had to step in with my experience and my instincts and to a certain degree my scholarly expertise in bioethics and my understanding of what it’s like to be a student, staff, faculty and alumna, and think about the perspectives of those constituencies,” she said.

Rivera described herself as a natural extrovert who had been looking forward to engaging with the college community and its neighbors in person. Her plan this spring was to make several trips to the Twin Cities with her husband, American literature scholar Dr. Michael Householder, visit the campus and introduce themselves to the community. The pandemic made that impossible.

“On my first day, I was called upon to make very weighty decisions about thorny matters without the benefit of that relationship building and the chance to dem-

onstrate my trustworthiness to the community,” she said. “Every college has its own culture, and I’m having to learn the culture as I go. That’s making the transition more challenging.”

Everyone—from students to faculty, staff and parents—is under stress, feeling a little tender and brittle, according to Rivera. A big part of her job, she said, “is to promote the optimism and esprit de corps it’s going to take for us to get through this together.”

Rivera grew up in New York City and enrolled at Brown University in Rhode Island on a high-needs scholarship. “I struggled at first to find my footing in an elite environment at Brown,” she said. “I knew that I wanted to have some sort of impact on the world and address issues of social inequality. I never had the audacity to imagine that I might someday be a college president.”

She earned a degree in American studies at Brown and credits her liberal arts education there for the varied career that led to the presidency of Macalester. “That preparation gave me the critical thinking skills, the effective communication skills, the problem-solving skills, the ability to work shoulder to shoulder with people who are different than I am,” she said.

Rivera met her future husband as a first-year student when the two of them co-founded a club for scholarship students at Brown. Since graduation, they have lived in Massachusetts, California, Texas and Ohio, following and supporting each other’s career paths. Rivera



Macalester College's new president, Dr. Suzanne Rivera.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

*Dr. Rivera's first months as president have been dominated by planning for the safe return of students to campus.*

earned a master of social welfare degree at the University of California-Berkeley and a Ph.D. in public affairs at the University of Texas-Dallas. Along the way, she worked in federal anti-poverty programs.

Rivera began her career in higher education on the staff supporting research at UC-Irvine. Most recently, she was vice president of research and technology management and an associate professor of bioethics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. It was there that she was encouraged to consider a position of higher leadership in academia. “I knew about Macalester’s excellent reputation, having been in higher education for 25 years,” she said.

Rivera credits Macalester’s previous president, Brian Rosenberg, with leaving a great legacy on which to build. Her initial goal is to expand

the college’s commitment to internationalism by increasing the number and diversity of Macalester’s international students and creating new opportunities for students to study and serve abroad.

Secondly, she plans to deepen and expand Macalester’s relationships with other institutions in the Twin Cities area by encouraging college-community partnerships. Her third goal centers on developing Macalester’s commitment to inclusion and diversity by recruiting students and faculty from underrepresented ethnic groups and supporting “all students, staff and faculty in a way that allows this to be a campus where everyone can flourish,” she said.

Over the summer, Macalester worked on several racial justice initiatives. The college, joined by alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, donated more than \$40,000 to local organizations working for racial justice. It also established the Minnesota Opportunity Scholarship, a \$250,000 fund to expand financial aid for students of color from Minnesota to attend Macalester.

However, like nearly every other college in the U.S., Macalester has had to adapt to the realities of COVID-19. Rivera’s first months as president have been dominated by

planning for the safe return of students to campus. First-year and international students have moved into the dorms, all in single rooms. Sophomores have been asked to stay at home and learn remotely until at least mid-October. Most juniors and seniors are also living off campus.

Instead of a normal four-course semester, the first semester at Mac has been divided into two 7½-week sessions. Students are taking only two courses per session to avoid classroom crowding. The fall term opened with two “quiet weeks” when all classes were online and every member of the campus community was tested for COVID-19. Since then, a number of classes have switched to a hybrid of remote and in-person learning.

“The semester is going well,” Rivera said. “We’ve had very few COVID cases, and the students are taking seriously all the health precautions we’ve asked of them. I’m quite proud of the ethos of care.”

Harkening back to her undergraduate years at Brown, Rivera said, “coming to Macalester feels like a return to that familiar environment that was so transformative for me. This is an incredibly challenging job, but also a very meaningful one. I wake up every morning energized to hit the ground running.”

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# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Going with the flow

Open concept in 1925 Mac-Grove home on view as part of fall tour

BY FRANK JOSSI

A short stroll from the Mississippi River, the 1925 home on Princeton Avenue had an old kitchen that the owners wanted to update along with much of the rest of the first floor.

It would not be an easy project for contractor Ispiri Design-Build. The main floor of the stucco-clad home at 2230 Princeton Ave. had to be reimagined beyond the 230-square-foot kitchen and breakfast nook to incorporate a family room.

Those who want to check out the updated space will get their chance during the Parade of Homes

Fall Remodelers Showcase. There will be 43 homes open for in-person viewing during the tour, which will run from noon-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, October 2-4.

Colleen and Jon Frei bought the residence two years ago. "We knew early on at some point we wanted to combine the kitchen and family room," Colleen said. "But we wanted to live in the house a while before figuring out what we wanted. So it's been on our radar for a while."

The couple met Jamie Anderson, a design consultant and co-owner of Ispiri, at a home show and they liked his philosophy, Colleen said.

Ispiri has done many remodeling jobs in local neighborhoods and Anderson understood the couple's desire for a "casual space" where they could entertain friends and family.

The major challenge in the remodeling project involved removing a load-bearing wall separating the kitchen from the rest of the first floor, while seamlessly merging the kitchen's design into the existing family room.

"We had to make sure we could open things up and move the wall to make the design work as the clients wanted," Anderson said.

Ispiri installed a piece of structural timber in the attic to carry the load once held up by the wall. To add more light, Anderson cut two openings and installed Marvin windows. The owners wanted the windows so they could view the Mississippi River valley, a perch they enjoy due to their home's elevation above its neighbors to the west.

"That brought in natural light to all spaces in the kitchen," Anderson said.

Several other changes were made to improve the kitchen's circulation. Anderson retained an existing 60-square-foot kitchen nook sitting area. "But we made it a little cozier



Colleen and Jon Frei take a break with dog Lexi in their Macalester-Groveland home that was opened up by Ispiri Design-Build. At left is their new breakfast nook. Their home is one of 43 on the Remodelers Showcase on October 2-4. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

and straightened the sightlines," he said.

Ispiri replaced a small kitchen island with a 4-by-7-foot version with a sink and plenty of space for food preparation. Custom-built cabinets that reflect the home's 1920s charm are located on the walls and underneath the island. Bianco Venato quartz covers the countertops, and a decorative white-and-gray backsplash fills one wall.

The Freis added a new microwave, Samsung cooktop stove and venting hood, but kept their refrigerator and dishwasher.

Anderson said older homes require tender loving care and improvements to spaces beyond the primary room of the project. In this case, that meant making sure the existing family room connected well with the new kitchen. Matching finishes and streamlined floor-

ing brought the original and new areas together seamlessly.

"Working on a nearly 100-year-old home meant we had a lot of additions and structural components that we had to work around and had to make sure things functioned well and flowed nicely," Anderson said. "We also had to make the flow of the new space consistent with the existing home, which is important to a lot of our clients. They don't want to walk into a kitchen and think that's the only thing that's been updated."

Ispiri just put the finishing touches on the project, and Colleen loves the result.

"We like how open it is and how cohesive it is with the rest of the house," she said. "We wanted to make sure it flowed from the more historic front part of the house to the kitchen. We're really excited to have friends and family over for

entertaining and socializing once social distancing is over."

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.

Precautions have been added this fall so the public can safely visit the homes in person. All homes will have a maximum occupancy of 10 people at a time, and wearing masks and maintaining social distancing will be required. Visitors will be asked to not touch surfaces or open cabinet doors, and all high-touch areas will be frequently sanitized.

For more information on the showcase, including an online guidebook and the updated safety policies, visit [paradeofhomes.org](http://paradeofhomes.org). Free printed copies of the guidebook are available at local Holiday Stationstores.

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# Residential design standards relaxed

By JANE McCLURE

After years of discussion, the Saint Paul City Council approved revised design standards for homes in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods on September 23. District council members, builders, city staff and others involved in new construction or home additions are hoping the revisions mean fewer variance requests to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

The changes constitute a comprehensive update to a set of zoning regulations that were adopted by the city in 2015. The changes were brought forward at the time to address the growing trend of tearing down older homes in Highland and Mac-Groveland, and constructing larger houses and home additions that often dwarfed adjacent residences.

Residents complained that the large new infill houses blocked light and air to adjacent yards, caused water runoff problems and did not fit the character of their neighborhood. They also felt that the teardowns and construction of larger and more expensive "McMansions" adversely affected the city's affordable housing stock.

The City Council received letters of support for the revisions from the Highland and Macalester-Groveland district

councils and a Highland resident. No one contacted the council in opposition. That is a stark contrast to the dozens of comments and the many people who attended Planning Commission and City Council hearings when the design standards were first approved in 2015.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert praised the changes and thanked city planner Mike Richardson for his years of work on them. Tolbert said the intent was to keep the protections that the design standards provide, while adding flexibility and reducing the number of variance requests.

The design standards are meant to address issues including the height, massing and design details of new homes and large additions in the two neighborhoods. That intent does not change with the revisions. However, shortly after the original standards were adopted, there were complaints that some regulations were either too strict or needed further clarity. BZA members complained that many variances were recommended for approval by the two district councils, and questioned why the regulations were even needed.

Both the Highland and Macalester-Groveland district councils worked with Richardson over the past few years on the revisions. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the changes

in August.

The regulations approved on September 23 make several technical revisions. One change is to increase the height limit in single-family residential zoning district from 22 feet to 24 feet. That would address issues created by the combination of modern truss systems and the smaller residential yards in both neighborhoods.

Another change that is expected to result in fewer district council and BZA reviews is that smaller projects can be reviewed by city staff.

More flexibility also is provided on what is considered to be sidewall articulation. The requirements are meant to prevent large, flat expanses of wall space on new homes and large additions. The new standards change the requirement from "grade to eave" to at least one story starting at or below the first-floor. They also allow more options for sidewalk articulation, such as bays, building projections, roof line changes, chimneys, windows and other design features.

City staff will get more say on what fits sidewalk articulation standards to create more consistency for approvals. Projects that maintain the same building footprint, such as a second-story addition, will be exempt from sidewall articulation requirements, but would have to meet other design standards.

# City, county, schools set maximum tax levies

By JANE McCLURE

The 2021 property tax outlook is coming into sharper focus in Saint Paul. City and Ramsey County officials have set maximum levies with no increase over 2020. Meanwhile, the Saint Paul Public Schools is poised to adopt a maximum 5 percent increase in its levy following a September 22 review by the School Board.

Minnesota law requires local units of government to adopt a maximum property tax levy by September 30 of the previous year. After that date, the levies may decrease but they cannot increase.

The Saint Paul City Council approved a maximum 2021 levy of \$165.2 million on September 21, the same levy as in 2020, to support a proposed city budget of \$627 million, down \$9.4 million from 2020. Two days later, the council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board, approved a maximum HRA levy of \$4.55 million for 2021, also the same as in 2020.

The City Council's votes on the maximum levies were unanimous. "It was the right thing to do," said Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker, given the economic hardship Saint Paul property owners are experiencing. The council has been hearing from constituents who

cannot afford another property tax increase. However, Noecker also expects the council to make changes to Mayor Melvin Carter's proposed 2021 budget. She and other council members worry that the mayor's proposed cuts to libraries, parks and recreation are too deep.

"I intend to do a lot of work in the weeks ahead to figure out how to support our families, specifically through our libraries and parks," Noecker said. The coming year may be "the hardest budget year we'll ever have," she said.

Ward 7 council member Jane Prince called 2021 "the toughest budget discussion we've had in the years I've been paying attention," including her service as a legislative aide in the council's Ward 4 office. Prince floated the idea on social media of a 3 percent levy increase as a way to avoid some of the more painful budget cuts. She ultimately supported the zero levy increase, but said the mayor's proposed budget "neglects to confront the truly difficult yet responsible choices we must make as a city if we have any hope of continuing to serve the most vulnerable in our community during times of deep crisis."

"The cuts to parks and libraries are hurting the people who need them most, and that's a huge problem during COVID and distance learning," Prince

said. "In times of economic hardship, the need for government services increases, and the needs this year are greater than they've ever been."

The Ramsey County Board unanimously approved a general government levy and Regional Rail Authority levy for 2021 with little discussion on September 15. The county will levy a maximum of \$326 million next year, as it did this year, to support a proposed 2021 budget of \$747.5 million, a 0.9 percent increase over 2020. The county's 2021 Regional Rail Authority levy was set at a maximum of \$27.57 million. That is a \$1.6 million or 6.2 percent increase over 2020.

The Saint Paul School Board is considering a proposed 2021 levy of \$197 million, which represents a \$9.4 million or 5 percent increase over 2020.

The school district's operating levy is set to increase from almost \$71.7 million in 2020 to almost \$74.5 million in 2021. The levy for pensions, benefits and contractual obligations would increase by \$5.5 million, from \$37.8 million in 2020 to \$43.4 million in 2021. The levy for district facilities shows a \$657,000 increase, from \$74.2 to \$74.9 million. The levy for community services, which includes early childhood family education and community education, would increase from \$3.8 to \$4.2 million.

# Business Briefs

**Catherine Downey** has been hired as the new general manager for Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-Op. She has been at the co-op since 1994 in roles ranging from cashier to operations manager, and has been the interim general manager since March.

**Gateway Bank**, with offices at 745 Market St. in Mendota Heights as well as in Edina, recently made a \$2,000 donation to Sheridan Story, a Twin Cities nonprofit organization that aids in the distribution of food to low-income households whose children are not in school and benefiting from subsidized school lunch and breakfast programs. Sheridan Story works with 31 school districts in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. Since the Coronavirus pandemic began in the U.S., it

has distributed more than 1 million meals. The donation from Gateway represents \$25 for every new checking or savings account opened at the bank in July and August.

**Medica** will open a new office next year in the Wilder Foundation building at 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The Minnetonka-based nonprofit health insurance provider is now hiring staff for its call center and claims operations there. "At Medica, we're deeply committed to ensuring that opportunities for improved health and employment are available to the diverse population we are privileged to serve," said Medica president and CEO John Naylor. As part of that strategy, Medica is exploring new partnerships with the Wilder Foundation and other local organizations to promote the health and economic stability of the Midway area, according to Medica spokesperson Keely Brenno.

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 1300 block of East Maynard Drive at 3:14 p.m. Monday, September 7.

**Burglary**—Commercial burglaries were committed on the 900 block of South Lexington Parkway on September 4, the 2500 block of West Seventh Street on September 8, and the 2300 block of West Seventh on September 13.

—A burglary was reported on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue at 10:06 a.m. Monday, September 14.

**Theft**—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on Bohland Avenue and Macalester Street on September 4, the 2500 block of Crosby Farm Road on September 7, and Hidden Falls Drive and Mississippi River Boulevard on September 10.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1700 block of Field Avenue on September 5, the 700 block of South Snelling Avenue on September 7, the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on September 10, the 1500 block of Saint Paul Avenue on September 11, the 1200 block of East Maynard Drive on September 12, and the 2000 block of Thure Avenue on September 14.

**Arson**—Arson was reported on the 1700 block of Hartford Avenue at 7:17 p.m. Sunday, September 13.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Burglary**—A commercial break-in was reported on the 1100 block of University Avenue at 5:02 a.m. Monday, September 14.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue at 7:50 p.m. Wednesday, September 16.

**Assault**—An aggravated assault with a gun was reported on the 1100 block of Selby Avenue at 12:28 a.m. Thursday, September 10.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—A store was robbed at gunpoint on the 1500 block of Randolph Avenue at 2:02 a.m. Saturday, September 12.

**Burglary**—A commercial break-in was reported on the 1100 block of Randolph Avenue at 6:38 a.m. Sunday, September 6.

—Residential burglaries were reported on September 13 on the 300 block of South Cleveland Avenue and on the 1400 block of Lincoln Avenue.

**Theft**—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1200 block of Goodrich Avenue on September 4, the 1400 block of Jefferson Avenue on September 6, the 400 block of Brimhall Street on September 8, and two vehicles on the 1800 block of Grand Avenue on September 14.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1100 block of Edgcombe Road on September 4, the 200 block of Saratoga Street on September 16, and on Finn Street near Grand Avenue on September 16.

**Assault**—An aggravated assault with a knife was reported on Prior and Saint Clair avenues at 8:02 p.m. Monday, September 7.

## Mendota Heights

**Robbery**—A male suspect stole money from a store register on the 2000 block of Dodd Road at 7:56 p.m. Sunday, September 13.

**Burglary**—A residential burglary was reported on the 600 block of Marie Avenue at 7:23 a.m. Friday, September 18.

**Theft**—Four catalytic converters were reported stolen on the 1000 block of Northland Drive at 12:46 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

—Three computers, backpacks and other items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1300 block of Highway 13 at 5:28 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

—The motor was stolen from a boat on the 1000 block of Highway 13 during the evening of September 14-15.

## Merriam Park

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Dayton Avenue and Fry Street at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, September 16.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Cleveland and Selby avenues at 10:40 a.m. Wednesday, September 16.

**Theft**—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue on September 4, the 1700 block of Selby Avenue on September 6, the 1800 block of Marshall on September 8, the 400 block of Pierce Street on September 11, and the 1900 block of Laurel Avenue on September 12.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Theft**—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1300 block of University Avenue on Wednesday, September 9.

## Summit Hill

**Burglary**—Commercial break-ins were reported on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue on September 15 and the 800 block of Grand on September 16.

**Theft**—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 900 block of Grand Avenue on September 4, the 600 block of Summit Avenue on September 7, two vehicles on the 1200 block of South Lexington Parkway on September 8, the 200 block of South Dunlap Street on September 8, the 500 block of Grand on September 12, the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue on September 13,

and the 1100 block of Grand on September 16.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on Lexington Parkway and Osceola Avenue on September 10, and the 1000 block of Lincoln Avenue on September 14.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 800 block of Dayton Avenue at 8:09 p.m. Tuesday, September 8.

**Theft**—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 100 block of North Western Avenue on September 4, the 300 block of Laurel Avenue on September 11, and the 400 block of Selby Avenue on September 12.

—Two vehicles were reported stolen on the 900 block of Marshall Avenue on September 7. A vehicle also was reported stolen on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue that same day.

## West End

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on West Seventh and Chestnut streets at 1:40 a.m. Sunday, September 13.

**Burglary**—A commercial break-in was reported on the 700 block of Randolph Avenue at 3:22 a.m. Sunday, September 6.

**Theft**—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on Chestnut Street and Shepard Road on September 4, the 1700 block of Benson Avenue on September 6, and the 700 block of Armstrong Avenue on September 11.

—Two vehicles were reported stolen on the 700 block of Randolph Avenue on September 9. Vehicles also were reported stolen on the 1900 block of West Seventh Street on September 15 and the 200 block of Grand Avenue on September 15.

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# ON THE TOWN

## Apartheid revisited

### Jans pens novel about the struggle for power and freedom in S. Africa

BY ANNE MURPHY

For his new novel, Alix Jans found wisdom in the words of acclaimed author Toni Morrison: “If there’s a book you want to read but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”

“That’s exactly what I did, and I hope others will want to read it too,” said Jans of his book, *Amandla*.

*Amandla* means “power” in South Africa, where Jans was born and raised during the time of apartheid, the socio-political system that for decades separated the races in that country and ended largely through the efforts of Nelson Mandela.

For the novel, Jans used a pen name rather than his given name: Anton van der Merwe. The pen name honors his forebears who left France for South Africa. “It’s a French Huguenot name,” he said, referring to the Protestants who fled religious persecution by the Catholic Church in 17th-century France.

“My ancestors on my mother’s side were among 200 French Huguenots who fled to South Africa.”

Jans, a longtime resident of Highland Park, followed a friend to the U.S. “We’d graduated law school in South Africa together,” he said. “We both went to the U.K. for post-grad studies. He met his future wife, a student from Saint Paul, while at Oxford. We both later attended William Mitchell (now Mitchell Hamline) College of Law on Summit Avenue and then joined Twin Cities law firms. I met my wife on a skyway in downtown Minneapolis.”

The inspiration for *Amandla* came at the beginning of the millennium, Jans said. “It was Y2K, the world as we knew it was about to end,” he said, recalling the widespread concern that the turnover to the year 2000 would

wreak havoc with computers around the world. Though Jans did not expect the world to end, he remembers thinking, “What would I leave behind?” So I made a New Year’s resolution to write a book about my country of origin as a legacy for my daughters.”

It took six years for Jans to find an entry point into the book he wanted to write. That was followed by another 13 years of writing at night and whenever else he could find the time in his busy family life.

Jans’ epiphany came while reading a newspaper article about a gun Mandela had hidden on a farm near Johannesburg. The farm was Mandela’s hideout in the early 1960s while planning the overthrow of the South African regime. However, the pistol was never found, according to the article.

Mandela, who led the armed struggle against apartheid, was subsequently arrested and imprisoned for 27 years. On his release, he continued to work for social justice, was elected president of South Africa and was eventually awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Jans was among the thousands who welcomed Mandela in Cape Town when he was freed in 1990.

“Once I had the idea of Mandela’s buried gun from a 2006 BBC interview he gave, the broad outline of the book began to form,” Jans said. It would have to include Mandela, and that meant it would have to include the story of apartheid. And the story of apartheid could not be told without telling the story of the Afrikaaner people—the descendants of the Dutch, German and French immigrants who landed on the southern tip of Africa in the 17th century and headed out into the unknown interior of South Africa where they encountered the various native peoples like the Zulu and the Xhosa.

“The most difficult part of the writing was the fact that half of my protagonists were from the Mandela family, and Nelson Mandela is not only a non-fictional character but an international icon, his story well-known and documented. I was careful to treat his life with the greatest respect and do no injustice to his legacy. The challenge was not only to weave my fiction into Mandela’s life, but to create fictional lives for his father and grandfather that were credible despite my having no record of his grandfather’s life and finding only passing references to his father’s.”



South African-born author Alix Jans has written a historical novel set in the days of apartheid.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

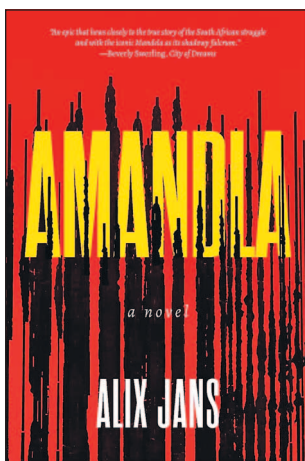
novel became broader in scope and ultimately morphed into a saga of power, freedom and the rise of apartheid. ‘Amandla: Ngawethu’ is the signature political-resistance chant of the ANC (African National Congress), used frequently by Mandela himself. It means, ‘Power: It shall be ours.’

“The most joyous part of the writing process was when I visited South Africa in December 2019 as part of my research, and took my college-age daughter with me for her first visit,” Jans said. “It was a special time for both of us, and a delight to have her experience firsthand many of the sites I write about.”

“It’s my hope that those for whom the story of South Africa begins and ends with Nelson Mandela and apartheid will read *Amandla* and discover a more complex and nuanced story of the struggle for freedom and power,” Jans said. “Whether on an individual or national level, the quest for freedom and self-determination, while fraught with sacrifice, is universal and transcends all boundaries. But the quest for power, while no less universal, is fraught with danger, for power tends to corrupt and all too often leads to a desire for absolute power, which corrupts absolutely, as (British historian) Lord Acton once said.”

*Amandla* is available in paperback, eBook and audiobook. For more information, visit [alixjans.com](http://alixjans.com).

“*Mandela’s Gun* was the working title of the book for the longest time,” Jans said. “But the



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**VILLAGER**



# ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

## Theater

**Sweetland: The Musical** will be streamed online from October 9-22 by the History Theatre. Written by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge with music by Dina Macca-bee and choreography by Joe Chvala, the 2017 production tells of a German woman who immigrates to America to marry a bachelor farmer sight unseen in the years following World War I. It is based on a film by the same name by Ali Selim and on Will Weaver's short story "A Gravestone Made of Wheat." For tickets, visit [historytheatre.org](http://historytheatre.org).

**Wilson's Girl**, a work in progress based on the memoir *Packhouse Daughter* by Cheri Register, will be presented online from October 2-8 in a staged reading by the History Theatre. Playwright Eva Barr adapted this emotional recounting of the 1959 Wilson meatpacking strike in Albert Lea. The production is part of "Raw Stages," a series of reading of new scripts by Minnesota artists. The Zoom program includes the reading, a short interview with the creative team and a live discussion with the audience. Tickets are \$15-\$50. Visit [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com).

## Exhibits

**"1.5,"** an exhibit by seven artists from Southeast Asia who arrived in the U.S. as children and their descendants, is on display through January 3 in the sidewalk and skyway windows of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 Robert St. A conversation among Chanida Phaengdara of the Southeast Asian Diaspora Project and participating artists Kat Eng, Van Hai, Chantala Kommanivanh, Sisavanh Phouthavong and Xee Reiter will be presented online from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, October 8. Visit [mmaa.org](http://mmaa.org).

**"Gone but Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality,"** a juried exhibit of 28 quilts honoring those who have been killed due to the negligence of law enforcement officers, is on view through December 24 in the Joan Mondale Gallery of the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. The exhibit is curated by Carolyn Mazloomi, cofounder of the Women of Color Quilters Network. Admission is free, but reservations may be required. The exhibitions may also be viewed online. Visit [textilecentermn.org](http://textilecentermn.org) or call 612-436-0464.

**Landmark Center** has reopened to the public to browse its exhibits and peruse its historic architecture. Visitors may reserve a 90-minute slot. Entry times are 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and noon and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For reservations, call Jenny at 651-292-3237 at least 30 minutes prior to arrival or by noon on Friday for Sunday tours. Visitors must wear face masks and observe physical distancing. Touchless sanitation stations will be available. Landmark Center staff will regularly sanitize high-touch surfaces.

**Solidarity Street Gallery**, an exhibit by more than 50 artists, will be held on October 1-3 at close to 20 sites along Payne Avenue between Maryland Avenue and Hopkins Street. Some sites are art studios or galleries, but most are storefronts, outdoor walls and parking lots. Children's activities, live music, skateboarding demonstrations, interactive poetry and a photo contest will also be featured. The event will run from 5-9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 1-10 p.m. on Saturday. Face masks are required. PPE and hand sanitizers will be available. To see the virtual exhibit, visit [solidarystreetgallery.org](http://solidarystreetgallery.org).

**Minnesota History Center**, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., will reopen to the public on October 1. Visitors can tour such exhibits as "First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota's Mainroom" and "Prince: Before the Rain." New hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Entry will be limited to maintain physical distancing. Admission is \$8-\$12, free to members of the Minnesota Historical Society. For reservations, call 651-259-3015 or visit [mnhs.org/historycenter](http://mnhs.org/historycenter).

**Weisman Art Museum**, 333 East River Pkwy. in Minneapolis, will reopen to the public on October 1. Among the featured exhibitions are "Harriet Bart: Abracadabra and Other Forms of Protection" through November 29; "More is More: The Lyndel and Blaine King Collection" through February 14, 2021; and "The Persistence of Mingei: Influence Through Four Generations of Ceramic Artists" through March 21, 2021. New hours are noon-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Admission is free and reservations are not required, although no more than 120 people will be allowed in the museum at one time (25 percent capacity). Face masks are required and physical distancing is encouraged. Visit [wam.umn.edu](http://wam.umn.edu).

## Books

**Next Chapter Booksellers**, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host online discussions with authors Joseph Tachovsky and Cynthia Kraack and their history, *40 Thieves on Saipan: The Elite Marine Scout-Snipers in One of WWII's Bloodiest Battles*, at 7 p.m. Friday, October 2; Scott Dominic Carpenter and his memoir, *French Like Moi: A Midwesterner in Paris*, 7 p.m. Friday, October 9; Thomas Maltman and his novel, *The Land*, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 13; William Souder and *Mad at the World*, his biography of John Steinbeck, 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 14; and David Leavitt and his novel, *Shelter in Place*, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 15. The programs are free. To register, visit [nextchapterbooksellers.com](http://nextchapterbooksellers.com) or call 651-225-8989.

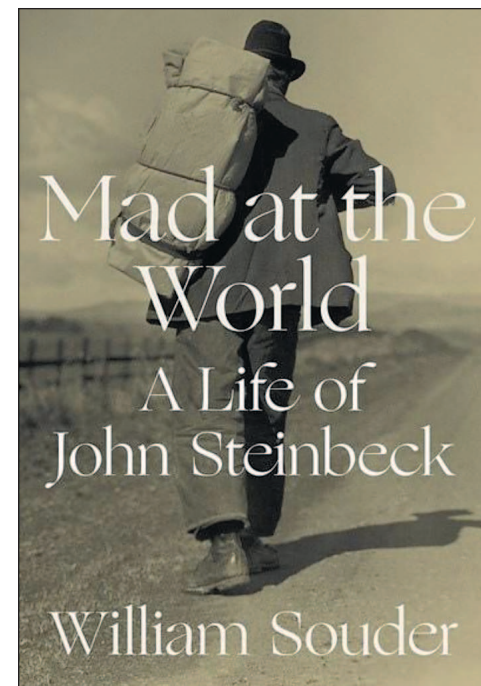
**Mindy Greiling** will discuss her new memoir, *Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for Her Son*, in free online programs at 1 p.m. Thursday, October 8 (to register, visit [z.umn.edu/greiling-launch](http://z.umn.edu/greiling-launch)); at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 14 (visit [subtextbooks.com](http://subtextbooks.com)); and at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 20 (visit [rcreads.org](http://rcreads.org)). The book chronicles Greiling's efforts as a legislator to address problems in Minnesota's mental health system, including insufficient funding for care and research and obstacles to parental access to information.

## Film

**The MSP Film Society's** eighth annual Cine Latino Film Festival will return from October 15-22 as an online showcase of the best new U.S. Latino, Latin American and Iberian narrative and documentary films. More than two dozen films from 11 countries will be screened. For a festival schedule or to access the films, visit [mspfilm.org](http://mspfilm.org). Tickets go on sale to the general public on October 1.

## Music

**The men's vocal ensemble Cantus** will present online from October 2-4 "There Lies the Home," a concert honoring the courage, yearning and despair of those who travel the high seas seeking opportunity or adventure, fleeing persecution or being held captive. Tickets are priced at what you can afford with a suggestion of \$20 per household. Visit [cantussings.org](http://cantussings.org).



Minnesota author William Souder will discuss his new biography of novelist John Steinbeck on October 14. For details, see Books listing.

**Highland Park Harmonies**, a family-friendly concert, will be held from 1-6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 10, at the Highland Park Pavilion, 1200 Montreal Ave. Four bands will perform: Sawyer's Dream from 1-2 p.m.; Oh Sister, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Foragers/Cabin of Love, 4-5 p.m.; and Funk N Spuds, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available from Potter's Pasties. Donations of food will also be collected for Secondhand Harvest.

## Religion

**Modern Zionism** and the Pro-Israel Voice on Campuses will be addressed by Valeria Chazin of Students Supporting Israel in an online program from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, October 4. The free program is sponsored by Or Emet, a congregation for humanistic Judaism. A Sukkot celebration will follow. To register for the virtual program, email [president@oremet.org](mailto:president@oremet.org).

**The Biblical Temple: Where Man Meets God** will be discussed in a six-week Bible study from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, October 6 through November 10, in the gymnasium at Saint Mark's Church, 1954 Marshall Ave. Led by Deacon David Hottinger, the program will delve into what Scripture says about the various temples in salvation history and its implications for Christians. The cost is \$10 per person. COVID precautions will be taken. A livestream option is also available. To register, visit [OneStrongFamily.org/biblestudy](http://OneStrongFamily.org/biblestudy) or call 651-645-5717.

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# SPORTS



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### Prep football returns for fall

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been hearing a lot about the "new normal" for months. But in a way, athletics got out ahead of the curve. Pro hockey and pro basketball found a way to restart their seasons in a bubble during the summer and are now in the homestretch of their seasons. Major League Baseball experienced some early bumps, but eventually found a way to get back on the field and will start postseason play this week, with the Twins among the expanded 16 qualifying teams.

Even the money-mad NFL partially gave in to the pandemic by scrapping the preseason, forcing sideline coaches to wear facemasks or face fines, and allowing individual teams to decide if they were going to allow fans in the stadiums.

College athletics reacted predictably along divisional lines. Division II and III schools pushed fall sports to the spring with the hope that the winter sports season can start around January 1. However, Division I colleges couldn't resist the pleas of parents, boosters, players and coaches. Schools like the University of Minnesota, missing the cash it would've gotten from playing early football games, eliminated some sports to help plug the revenue drain. Then when others started playing football, the Big 10 gave into the pressure, rescheduling games to start next month, and thus reopening the money spigot.

Sports like soccer, cross-country and volleyball that cost DI schools money to run remain dormant.

At the high school level, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) cautiously started with an August compromise that allowed soccer, cross-country, girls' tennis and girls' swimming teams to compete, but moved football and volleyball to the spring.

The science regarding how COVID-19 spreads hasn't changed. However, as colleges began to resume playing football and every state around Minnesota began to play high school games, the pressure mounted. On September 21, the MSHSL relented and we'll now have abbreviated prep football and volleyball seasons starting in October.

The workloads of high school athletic directors just increased tenfold. Take Saint Thomas Academy's Dan

WRIGHT CALL ►16

## Kicking it up a notch

### Highly ranked Vis soccer team comes on strong

BY BILL WAGNER

Like many coaches, Jay Miller is not shy about reaching into his motivational toolbox to get his team pulling together in the right direction.

The Visitation soccer coach wasn't pleased with some of his players just before a home game on September 24 against Richfield. It seems that a handful of them were a little late for the Blazers' pregame warmups.

"We need to be working together as a group," he said. "If we're going to accomplish anything, we need to check our egos at the door."

By the time the Richfield game was in the books, Miller would've felt safe in saying, "Point taken."

After a slow start that saw the Spartans score the first goal, Visitation came to life and thoroughly dominated the second half to claim a 6-1 victory. Any hint of complacency on the part of the Blazers was nowhere to be found.

Of course, Visitation is a very good team. It had a 6-1 record through September 24 and was ranked among the top five teams in the state in Class A. Its only loss so far was 3-1 to undefeated Holy Angels in game two.

Miller said his squad was set to play Holy Angels again during the regular season and perhaps in the postseason since they're in the same section. He's banking on his players learning from the experience.

"We were in it," Miller said about the loss to the Stars, "but we need to finish better. We really haven't had a signature win yet. I was hoping that the Holy Angels game would be one."

Still, there really hasn't been much beyond that for Miller to complain about. The Blazers routed Fridley 5-0 the same week as the Richfield game and had outscored their opponents 33-4 through the first seven contests.



Visitation senior Andrea Barth pivots past Fridley's Madison Peterson on September 22. Barth had two goals and an assist in the 5-0 win. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The Richfield game found the Blazers not at their best in the first half, which ended with the score tied at 1-1. However, in the second half Visitation pounded the enemy goal, while the Spartans rarely crossed midfield.

Senior forward Andrea Barth put on a show with a five-goal performance. She would have had six, but was thwarted by a great save with about a minute left in the game.

Barth, who leads Visitation with 18 goals, showed why she's one of the most coveted soccer players around.

She scored one goal from a neat rush on the right side and another from a surge on the left. She scored one off a corner kick from senior Olivia Montpetit and tucked another inside the near post when it appeared there wasn't room for the ball to fit.

Miller doesn't hesitate when asked how good Barth is. "She's one of the three or four best players in the state," he said.

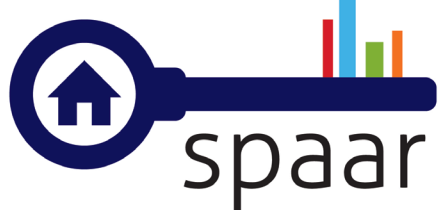
Visitation has plenty of other weap-

VISITATION SOCCER ►16

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quired 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: September 1, 2020. Signed by: Beth Black

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF CHISAGO  
DISTRICT COURT  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION  
File No. 13-FA-20-210

In re the Matter of the welfare of the child of: Corinne Marie Lueth and Jerome James Humphreys, Petitioner, and Janelle Elizabeth Julien, Respondent.

**SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF CUSTODY HEARING**  
**NOTICE TO: Janelle Elizabeth Julien**

1. Notice is hereby given that the matter of said Custody Petition will be called for hearing before the District Court located at 313 N. Main St. Center City, Minnesota, on October 26, 2020 at 10:30am or as soon after as the matter can be heard.

2. A Petition for custody of L.R.J. dob 5/12/2015 has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of District Court located at 313 N. Main St. Center City, Minnesota, alleging that the requesting that permanent legal and physical custody of the minor child L.R.J. is granted jointly to

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Corinne Lueth and Jerome Humphreys.  
3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.  
4. You have the right to be represented by counsel.  
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant the appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent or legal custodians and taking permanent custody of the child named in the Petition.

**WITNESS, the Honorable Judge of District Court**  
**BY: Kris Cunningham**  
Court Administrator



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Mailing Address of Office of Publication:  
757 Snelling Ave S  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mailing Address of Headquarters of General Business Office of the Publisher:  
757 Snelling Ave S  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher:  
John Rauch  
757 Snelling Ave S  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of the Editors:  
John Wadell Dale Mischke  
757 Snelling Ave S 757 Snelling Ave S  
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Owner Name: Michael Mischke Owner Mailing Address:  
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Known Bondholders, Mortgages, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities:  
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Extent and Nature of Circulation	12 Month Average
Total No. of Copies (Net Press Run):	40,209
Paid and/or Requested Circ.:	
Dealers, Carriers, Vendors, Etc.:	None
Mail:	1,641
Total Paid and/or Requested Circ.:	1,641
Free Dist. by Mail, Carrier, Etc.:	40,209
<b>Total Distribution:</b>	<b>41,850</b>
Copies Not Distributed:	
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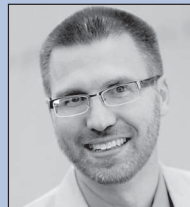


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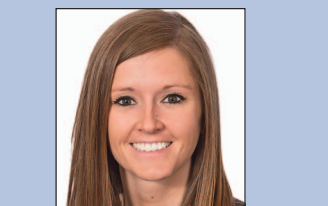


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