

VILLAGER

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St. Paul schools postpone shift to hybrid learning

Back order of upgraded air filters prevents schools from reopening PreK-2 classrooms

By Casey Ek

The Saint Paul Public Schools welcomed roughly 500 special education and special sites students back to their classrooms on the week of October 19. The opening heralded the first stage of the proposed four-stage implementation of hybrid learning for all district students. Four days later, district administrators decided to postpone Stage 2, which would have welcomed all students in grades PreK-2 to a hybrid of in-person and distance learning beginning November 16. District officials are now looking at November 30 as a possible start date for hybrid learning in the primary grades. That decision will be announced on October 30. What is preventing the implementation of hybrid learning for the roughly 9,800 primary students is the lack of enough air filters with MERV 11 ratings. Air filters with MERV 11 ratings can catch 10 times the amount of coronavirus particles circulating in the air. All district buildings currently in operation have adequate supplies of MERV 11 filters, but due to a national back order, the filters needed to safely open the additional PreK-2 buildings have not been delivered. The school district is making progress in ensuring the safety of staff and students who return to in-person learning. However, teachers continue to have concerns.

HYBRID LEARNING POSTPONED ▶2



Macalester-Groveland artists, poet Margaret Hasse (left) and painter Sharon DeMark, have collaborated on a new book of broadsides entitled *Shelter*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Poet and painter find ‘Shelter’ from COVID in collaboration

By Anne Murphy

Seeking refuge from the stress and isolation of COVID-19, Macalester-Groveland poet Margaret Hasse and artist Sharon DeMark set to work last April on *Shelter*, a newly published collection of 30 poems and watercolor paintings. In Hasse’s verse and DeMark’s watercolors, readers too may find a haven in the collaborators’ depictions of the hug of a loved one, the care of a doctor and the friendly confines of a front porch. “Our book began out of anxiety,” Hasse said. “That was its origin: feeling the distance

of COVID, feeling isolated as if the community of people who helped further my work wasn’t going to be there for me. “So I contacted Sharon. We had an idea that at some point we’d create a broadside with a poem of mine on one side and the artwork of hers on the other.” “We’d talked about trading our art and poetry back and forth,” DeMark said. “First we did just a few poems and paintings. And then we did a few more. We got about seven or eight. And then Margaret said, ‘I think this could become a book.’”

‘SHELTER’ ▶7

More restaurants rely on takeout as their last best chance

Coronavirus fears continue to eat away at opportunity for full-service restaurants

By Carolyn Walkup

Eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic, bars and restaurants in the neighborhoods served by the *Villager* are struggling mightily. Though Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has allowed restaurants to operate at up to 50 percent capacity since June, patrons are proving to be reluctant to come inside for fear of infection. Establishments with large patios or sidewalk cafes have made do, but the days of outdoor dining may be over.

Nevertheless, at least a half dozen new restaurants have opened locally over the past few months. They all share the same business strategy—a primary focus on takeout. “Consumer habits are changing,” noted Bret Thorn, senior editor for *Restaurant Hospitality* magazine. “They’re ordering takeout more often, so many fast-food and fast-casual restaurants are thriving.” Upwards of 100,000 restaurants have closed nationally since March, leading to the loss of 2.3 million jobs, according to Vanessa Sink of the National Restaurant Association. The closings include at least nine restaurants in the *Villager* area: Bar Brigade, Cleveland Wok, Rah’Mn, In Bloom, Paz-zaluna, M Street Cafe, Octo Fishbar, Salty Tart, and Birch’s Lowertown Tap Room and Barrel House.

A recent study by Hospitality Minnesota and the Federal Reserve Board of Minneapolis found that 52 percent of the restaurant operators in Minnesota expect to be insolvent within six months if the pandemic continues. Restaurateurs able to adapt their businesses to takeout are seeing some success, according to Ben Wogsland, director of government relations for Hospitality Minnesota. “This industry is very challenging,” he said, “but it always has been an adaptable industry.” New restaurants in neighborhoods served by the *Villager* include Coconut Thai, 720 Grand Ave.; Hamburguesas El Gordo, 161 N. Victoria St.; Nashville Coop, 300 S. Snelling Ave.; and Woodfired Cantina, 928 W. Seventh St. Handsome Hog moved

RESTAURANTS ARE STRUGGLING ▶2



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1◀ RESTAURANTS ARE STRUGGLING

out of Saint Paul's Lowertown to replace the Fitz at Selby and Western avenues. Bap and Chicken, 1328 Grand Ave., has expanded with a new food truck, the Bapmobile. And Tono Pizzeria + Cheesesteak is preparing to open in late November at Saint Clair and Snelling avenues.

The takeout business at Coconut Thai has been steady, according to manager Chayden Yang. However, the owners have opted to leave their nicely appointed dining room empty for now.

Claudia Mendez, co-owner of Hamburguesas El Gordo, said that she and her husband decided to expand into their second location on Victoria Street because there was no other Mexican restaurant in the vicinity.

Kamal Mohamed, his brother and parents opened Nashville Coop in September. They have a small dining room, but customers have been lining up down the sidewalk for takeout orders of its spicy fried chicken.

Sarah and Brian Ingram, co-owners of Hope Breakfast Bar on Leech Street, recently took over the former In Bloom space at Keg and Case Market for their Mexican-flavored Woodfired Cantina and added a seasonal patio. They also purchased the Happy Gnome on Selby Avenue and renamed it the Gnome Craft Pub. "We have to keep moving forward and taking risks," Sarah Ingram said.



The Saturday lunch crowd at West Seventh Street's Woodfired Cantina Lounge enjoyed their food and beverages at the socially distanced tables and counter. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

John Gleason, owner of Bap and Chicken, launched his food truck two months ago because of COVID-19. His brick-and-mortar restaurant has suffered due to the pandemic, but it has made up some business with takeout orders. "We take it day by day," Gleason said. "It'll be interesting this winter."

Tono Pizzeria + Cheesesteak of Maplewood expanded into the former Saint Clair Broiler location largely because of its proximity to Macalester College, according to

manager Kegan Workman. The restaurant will have delivery as well as takeout to augment its indoor dining room, he said.

The closing of Pazzaluna after 22 years on Saint Peter Street shocked longtime patrons. Richard Dobransky, president of Morrissey Hospitality, which operated Pazzaluna, said the restaurant was no longer profitable. He blamed it on the pandemic-related suspension of concerts, plays and sporting events downtown.

Morrissey is planning to reopen the Pazzaluna space, Dobransky said. It is now using the Saint Paul Hotel's former M Street Cafe for catering and its Saint Paul Grill for private parties of up to 10. The Saint Paul Hotel's occupancy rate has fallen to about 20 percent, Dobransky said, compared to 80 percent before COVID-19 hit. "At some point we want to get back in business," he said. However, he does not expect downtown workers to return in large numbers until the second quarter of 2021.

Matty O'Reilly, owner of Bar Brigade at 470 S. Cleveland Ave., said his bistro was having its best year in 2019, and 2020 was shaping up to be even better before COVID-19. He said he just did not have the space to accommodate social distancing.

Three of the recently closed restaurants—Octo Fishbar, Salty Tart and Birch's—were located across Fifth Street from the Saint Paul Farmers' Market. The market was not attracting the customer traffic the restaurants had been counting on, according to Octo chef Tim McKee, and COVID-19 was the last straw.

"It all comes down to the math," McKee said. "Everyone is working off of a business model that says they'll make between 7 and 15 percent profit if they're lucky. If you're at reduced capacity, it doesn't take much to take that 15 percent down to 0 percent. I really worry where this industry is headed."

1◀ HYBRID LEARNING POSTPONED

Nick Faber, president of the Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE), said that he and his colleagues have borne a large share of the burden for coming up with ways to keep classrooms safe. "We feel like there's been a lack of creativity (on the school district's part) in finding solutions that we can work with," Faber said on October 22. The main sticking points in negotiations between the district and teachers have been the safety of students and staff and the expected workload for teachers in the hybrid model, he said.

The district appears to have addressed one of the teachers union's concerns in the pursuit of upgraded air filtration systems. In its October 23 announcement, district administrators said they already have 8,000 MERV 11 air filters but need to have a total of 10,000.

Lisa Carrigan, the principal of the district's Bridgeview and Focus Beyond special education programs, was thrilled with her students' return to the classroom last week. After months of distance learning, she told the School Board on October 20 that "it was

incredible" to have the students back. The challenge of keeping them safe with such new protocols as plexiglass barriers and modified student dropoff sites proved to be surmountable, she added.

The school district surveyed the families of the 500 special education and special sites students prior to its decision to implement hybrid learning. The survey, which had a 25 percent response rate, indicated that 39 percent of families felt comfortable or very comfortable transitioning from distance learning to a hybrid model and 26 percent of families felt uncomfortable or very uncomfortable. The top three concerns of the respondents were the district's plans in the event of COVID-19 exposure, the availability of personal protective equipment and the adoption of an emergency plan in the case of a spike in positive COVID-19 tests.

SPFE past vice president Erica Schatzlein

said on October 13 that the union is seeking clarity on health and safety protocols, and it proposed shortening the school day by one hour to give teachers more time to prepare both the in-person and distance-learning portions of their lessons.

Carrigan, who has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to facilitate hybrid learning, said her staff has had to learn how to wear multiple hats under the hybrid learning model, but were taking the challenges in stride.

Faber said that while he is pleased that the 500 Stage 1 students are receiving the individual attention that comes with in-person learning, the true test will come with the return to the classroom of the 9,800 PreK-2 students. "This next round, stage 2, is going to be what our buildings are really like," he said. "As educators, we want to get back to our students as soon as possible. But at the same time, we

didn't go into this profession to bring harm to our students."

The school district plans to make a decision on November 30 on whether to implement hybrid learning for students in grades 3-5. If it decides to proceed, the so-called Stage 3 will begin on January 19. Saint Paul Superintendent of Schools Joe Gothard said the seven weeks between the district's decision and when grades 3-5 students return to class is due to natural breaks in the school calendar as well as a desire to avoid making a premature decision.

"I want to avoid a false start," Gothard said.

Yet to be scheduled by the district is a decision on Stage 4—hybrid learning for students in grades 6-12—not to mention the decision on whether to shift from hybrid learning to all in-person classes.

Whether hybrid learning begins or not, the district appears to be in a no-win situation, according to School Board member Steve Marchese. "If you look at the comments and the emails we're getting from families," he said, "it's clear that the best we can do is make somebody unhappy."

"If you look at the comments and the emails we're getting from families, it's clear that the best we can do is make somebody unhappy."

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VILLAGER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER SINCE 1953

Debate continues over cutting police budget amid rising 911 calls

By JANE MCCLURE

Police staffing and increased calls for service are front and center in Saint Paul's 2021 budget deliberations. Police Chief Todd Axtell said police officers are dealing with a rising number of 911 calls even as they face cuts in the sworn members ranks.

However, some City Council members said during an October 14 budget review that other ways must be found to respond to calls for service instead of always sending police. They also said hiring more police officers has not resulted in a downturn in crime in the past.

Saint Paul had a record number of 911 calls in 2019 at 75,852 and is on track for 77,820 this year. The city also is seeing nearly a 12 percent increase in major crimes. There have been 27 homicides so far this year compared to 23 at this time in 2019. Aggravated assaults have jumped to 827 from 605, and shots fired calls to 1,719 from 790.

The city also has had around 160 gunshot wound victims so far in 2020, compared to 122 at this time last year. Eighty-three percent of the victims were male and 69 percent were African American. Crime victims also disproportionately remain people of color, Axtell said.

portionately remain people of color, Axtell said.

Council member Rebecca Noecker expressed concern about the rise in crime, calling the 30 percent increase in shootings "beyond alarming." However, she and other council members questioned if adding officers has had an effect in lowering crime rates.

"Certainly, I know that simply having more police officers doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to reduce crime," Axtell said. Still, he emphasized that the department needs enough officers to respond to calls in a timely manner, and to build trust and confidence in police.

Council member Mitra Jalali spoke for a future public safety model in which police are not the only first responders, with a focus on mental health and other resources for people in crisis. That has also been a theme for Mayor Melvin Carter in his 2021 budget.

Axtell responded that ways to better work with public partners are currently being studied by a police-community working group, so that police officers can give more attention to the most serious calls.

For 2021, the Police Department has a proposed budget of \$104.7 million in general funds and almost \$17.6 million in special funds. That is down more than \$1 million from this year.

The Police Department's number of authorized officers is expected to drop from 630 this year to 620 in 2021. The department currently has 618 officers and Axtell said the police ranks could be down by at least 36 by the end of next year. Like other city departments, police face a tight cap on hiring. Axtell has already canceled a police officer training academy originally scheduled for this year.

Council members and Axtell debated how officers are assigned. The chief said his top

priority is having officers respond to 911 calls. That means moving officers out of other areas, including traffic and pedestrian calls, youth and community outreach, property crimes and drug crimes.

It could also mean taking officers out of the mental health unit where they are assigned to work with social workers. It has already meant eliminating the FORCE unit, which took a multifaceted approach to problem properties and the people who live there.

Axtell said that where the Police Department has been able to maintain or add staff, it has seen positive results. One example is the homicide unit, where charges have been filed in 23 of 27 murders this year.

The chief added that the Police Department has also taken on several other programs and costs in recent years, including the use of body cameras and the community ambassadors program. Body cameras alone had a cost of about \$1 million in 2019.

"Obviously, we can't cut our body camera program as it's vital to the trust and transparency for our community," Axtell said. However, he said the department has to make cuts to other programs to pay for uncovered costs.

"Certainly, I know that simply having more police officers doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to reduce crime," Axtell said.

Sign of the times: Speed limits drop on streets across Twin Cities

By JANE MCCLURE

Yard signs pronouncing "20 is Plenty" have been popping up across Saint Paul and Minneapolis to remind motorists about lower speed limits being imposed on many streets. Meanwhile, road signs informing motorists of the new limits began going up on major entrances into both cities in October.

The "gateway" signs indicate that the city-wide speed limit is 20 mph unless otherwise posted. The new speed limits will be in effect once all the gateway signs are installed by the end of the year. A public awareness campaign on the new speed limits is scheduled to start in November.

Over the past several months, Public Works crews from both cities have been posting signs announcing the newer, slower speed limits. The new limits are 20 mph for local residential streets, 25 mph for busier arterial streets and 30 mph or more for a few city streets determined on a case-by-case basis, such as the 45 mph limit on Ayd Mill Road.

The speed limit changes were allowed

under a 2019 state statute that lets cities set lower speed limits on streets they have jurisdiction over. Saint Paul and Minneapolis used engineering, traffic and safety analyses in deciding where speed limits could change. County streets like Randolph Avenue and Ford Parkway, and state roads like Snelling Avenue and West Seventh Street are not affected by the changes.

Speeds are being lowered on city-owned streets to make them safer for all who use them. Saint Paul had 75 vehicle-pedestrian crashes in the first half of 2020 alone. Sixty-six people were injured and four were killed. There have been 28 vehicle-bicycle crashes with 22 injuries.

"We know that lower speeds give drivers more time to react and greatly reduces the chance of serious injury to those involved in crashes with motor vehicles," said Saint Paul Police Department spokesperson Sergeant

Mike Ernster. "Speed enforcement is one of our top five focus areas in regard to traffic enforcement. For now, we'll focus on educating the public in the areas where the speed limit has changed."

The Police Department began focusing on the new speed limits this summer. Ernster said police have not issued many citations for violations in the new 20 and 25 mph zones.

"We've mainly been stopping and educating drivers who are violating the new limits and that will continue for the time being," he said. "Tickets are only being issued when egregious speeding is witnessed."

Minneapolis crews have installed 1,235 new or updated speed limit signs and will be installing 130 gateway signs over the coming weeks. Saint Paul crews have changed or installed approximately 750 new 25 mph speed limit signs and expect to install

150 gateway signs. The two cities will generally not be posting 20 mph signs on local residential streets.

Both cities have been conducting ongoing public education campaigns on the new speed limits and have more than 4,500 free "20 is Plenty" yard signs to distribute to the public.

Saint Paul residents can pick up yard signs at the Works Traffic Operations Office, 899 Dale St., from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays. They should wear a mask or face covering or email publicworksinfo@ci.stpaul.mn.us to schedule a time to pick up signs at the City Hall Annex, 25 W. Fourth St., Suite 1500.

Several district councils are also distributing yard signs. Those who wish to host a pick-up site for yard signs can email publicworksinfo@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Some people have made their own yard signs. One set on Fairview Avenue in Merriam Park is reminiscent of the old Burma Shave road signs, asking motorists if they know the speed limit there is 25 mph.

For more information about speed limits, visit tinyurl.com/y4uebrlt.



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News Briefs

Residential garbage rates to rise around \$7 in Saint Paul next year

Residents of single-family to four-unit dwellings in Saint Paul will pay about \$7 more a year for garbage service in 2021, according to a report presented to the City Council on October 21. The rates will be discussed during a public hearing on November 4.

The new rates for residential trash pickup would range from \$59.23 to \$101.23 per quarter. Customers using the smallest carts with pickup every two weeks would see a \$6.51 annual increase. Customers using the largest carts and weekly service would pay an additional \$7.11.

Chris Swanson of the Department of Public Works outlined the changes, which were recently negotiated with the consortium of trash haulers serving the city. The negotiations are based on a formula approved by the City Council, including the Consumer Price Index, fuel costs, the history of trash tonnage collected, and the fees charged at the Ramsey-Washington resource recovery facility in Newport.

Swanson said more trash has been disposed of over the past several months, likely as a result of more people staying at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council's new audit committee plans to study customer service

The Saint Paul City Council agreed on October 21 to have its newly reformed Performance Audit Committee scrutinize the city's customer service delivery for residents and businesses as its first undertaking. The council had such a committee previously, but it stopped meeting almost 20 years ago. The audits are called for under the City Charter.

The original committee worked closely with City Council Research staff to look at such issues as the city's extra half-percent sales tax and addressing problem properties. Budget cuts have eliminated most of the council research staff over the years.

Council members have spent several months working on the new committee and deciding what its focus should be. The first study was chosen from more than 100 ideas submitted through a survey.

The committee will be chaired by council members Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince. It will also include council members Nelsie Yang, Dai Thao and president Amy Brendmoen, and three citizen representatives. City staff will play an advisory role.

The citizen members are Nou Fang, who has a background in real estate accounting, financial reporting, budget analysis and auditing; Ellen Brown, a retired public policy expert and consultant; and Eric Zidlicky, who has a background in business management and logistics, as a district council member and as a neighborhood advocate.

"I'm very excited that we chose to audit



Gotta love it. Katie Jensen straightens the Queen of Hearts costume worn by her 6-year-old daughter, Alice, outside the Highland Park Community Center. The two were enjoying the activities put on by the Highland Business Association as part of Halloween in Highland on October 24. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

customer service this year," Fang said. "With all the unrest and challenges the city is facing in 2020, it's a great time to evaluate the call-in number and services we already have in place."

"There's a lot of great innovation in the traditional thinking around call centers," said committee advisor Matt Larson, who leads the city's Innovation Team. "There are new-generation approaches that leverage technology to reduce costs and increase engagement. This is a great topic to drive equity for everyone."

Committee supports proposed Marshall Avenue housing project

A proposal to redevelop the Suds America property at 2045 Marshall Ave. into a four-story mixed-use building got a vote of support on October 19 from the Union Park District Council's Committee on Land Use and Economic Development.

Developer Paul Tucci and 2C Development want to tear down the laundromat and build a structure there with one story of commercial space, three stories of housing, and about 50 underground and surface parking stalls. The housing would be a mix of 55 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging in size

from 530-1,095 square feet. Committee members pushed for some of the housing units to be at an affordable rent level.

Questions were asked about a tenant for the 2,500-square-foot commercial space on the first floor. Tucci has been in talks with a restaurant, but nothing has been finalized.

The plans were recently reviewed with the UPDC's Transportation Committee, which is recommending that all parking access be from the building's alley and that there be no curb cuts on Marshall. Suds America has two curb cuts and surface parking.

The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 2, which allows building heights of up to 45 feet without a conditional use permit. Tucci said more height is needed to make the project financially viable. The property was rezoned in 2018 as part of the West Marshall Avenue Zoning Study. The request for a conditional use permit and any variances if needed would go to the city's Planning Commission.

Struggling businesses to receive \$1.7M more assistance from city

The Saint Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board, agreed on October 14 to move \$1.71 million into this year's budget for business

assistance programs.

The funds were not supposed to be spent until 2021, but HRA director Nicolle Goodman said the need for assistance cannot wait. The money includes \$1 million for businesses affected by the civil unrest in May following the death of George Floyd. Goodman said no resources have been identified by the state for such costs, unlike funds for the pandemic. She added that many businesses were displaced and some were underinsured.

The additional \$710,000 would be used to recapitalize the HRA Business Assistance Program, which is used to recruit, retain and support business expansion citywide. Even before the pandemic, there had been an increased demand for city support of small and start-up businesses.

The action follows up work in April to create the Saint Paul Bridge Fund for Small Businesses in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city has also received federal CARES Act funding, part of which can be used to help small businesses.

Twin Cities launch electric vehicle carsharing service, charging hubs

The Twin Cities Electric Vehicle Mobility Network has been awarded \$6.7 million by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help build 70 charging hubs in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, primarily in the public right-of-way. The hubs, which will be powered by renewable energy, will be part of a new electric vehicle carsharing service operated by the Saint Paul-based nonprofit HourCar.

The network is being led by the city of Saint Paul in partnership with the city of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy, HourCar and East Metro Strong. The award will be administered by the American Lung Association, and Xcel Energy will provide up to \$4 million of electrical infrastructure.

In addition to electric vehicle charging stations, the DOE award includes support for public engagement and outreach. The project team has established partnerships with 10 local organizations to lead the public engagement.

The network plans to install some fast chargers that can refuel most electric vehicles in 30 minutes or less. It also plans to bring electric vehicle charging and two-way carsharing to 25 multifamily buildings around the Twin Cities.

The Lung Association has already helped establish a network of high-speed chargers along I-94. It also recently concluded a three-year, multistate project to raise awareness of electric vehicles in the Midwest.

The network is scheduled to launch in 2021 and be fully built out by mid-2022. For more information, visit stpaul.gov/ev.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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Ford site TIF district will help pay for improvements throughout Highland

By JANE MCCLURE

Up to \$9 million in tax increment financing drawn from the Highland Bridge development may be used for traffic improvements and other new infrastructure throughout a large swath of the Highland Park neighborhood as the result of an amendment to the Ford site's tax increment financing (TIF) district approved by the Saint Paul City Council.

The City Council voted on October 14 to expand the Ford TIF project area beyond Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant as far north as Randolph Avenue, as far east as Fairview Avenue and as far south as Montreal Avenue. Between Cleveland Avenue and the Mississippi River, the project area will extend even further south to Magoffin Avenue and Return Court.

A TIF district draws on the increased property tax revenue generated by a development project to help pay for related improvements. The City Council created the TIF district for the Ford site in 2016 to help pay for the construction of new streets and utilities as well as affordable housing for low-income residents, both on the Ford site and elsewhere in Saint Paul.



Among the first improvements financed through an expansion of the Ford TIF District is the \$1.91 million bike and pedestrian connection that will pass through a tunnel under Mississippi River Boulevard.

struction of new streets and utilities as well as affordable housing for low-income residents, both on the Ford site and elsewhere in Saint Paul.

Ford site master developer Ryan Companies

is responsible for making traffic improvements at three intersections around the Ford site: Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue, Cleveland and Montreal Avenue, and Ford and Cretin Avenue.

The expansion of the Ford TIF project area will help finance traffic improvements north, east and south of those intersections. Using TIF instead of the city's capital improvement budget will allow the projects to move forward without having to compete with other city street projects.

Among the first infrastructure projects to be financed through the Ford TIF district's expanded area is a 90-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian connection between Highland Bridge and Hidden Falls Regional Park. The 12-foot-wide bituminous trail will run along a man-made stream that will carry treated stormwater from Highland Bridge to Hidden Falls and the Mississippi River. The trail will pass through a lighted, limestone tunnel beneath Mississippi River Boulevard and end at a terrace overlooking Hidden Falls.

The \$1.91 million bike and pedestrian connection, which will receive \$200,000 in TIF, is the first phase of a long-range plan to extend Highland Bridge's bike and pedestrian trails to Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks and to the Samuel Morgan Trail along Shepard Road.

Variances supported for Presbyterian Homes project at Highland Bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

Building blocks of the Highland Bridge development continue to fall into place, with projects by Presbyterian Homes & Services, Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and Emma Norton Services now on the drawing boards. The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee reviewed all three projects on October 20.

The committee voted 6-3 to recommend variances that are being sought for the Presbyterian

terian Homes project. That recommendation will go to the full district council on November 5. Presbyterian Homes will likely come back to the committee in November with an update before going to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

At this point it is unclear if any variances would be needed for the PPL and Emma Norton buildings.

The need for project-by-project variances at Highland Bridge irked some committee members. They noted the years it took to develop a master plan for the 122-acre site of Ford Motor

Company's former assembly plant and establish block-by-block requirements for building heights, setbacks and design.

"I'm a little bit unhappy," said committee chair Tim Morehead. He criticized Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies for bringing in projects that need variances to city zoning regulations.

The Presbyterian Homes project is the third one to seek variances at Highland Bridge. Variances were granted for a five-story mixed-use building of market-rate apartments above a new Lunds & Byerlys store, and for a five-story

apartment building for low-income seniors planned by CommonBond Communities.

Some committee members said they wanted more time to review the variances for the Presbyterian Homes project, while others said the variances are not a significant change from the master plan. "What they're asking for is minimal," said committee member Anne Langford.

Presbyterian Homes plans to construct a pair of 65-foot-tall buildings on the two

HIGHLAND BRIDGE ►7

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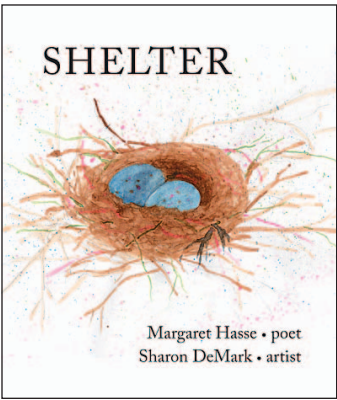
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TENT

It was difficult to see her, the thin girl in a parka protecting her cardboard sign from snowflakes drifting up like insects in the wind as you drove home from Target in a car humming with heat and music.

Her refuge, a riffraff of fabric and plastic sheets, draped over a broken shopping cart like a tent for ghosts. Her back was up against the wall, the cart, the cold, the dark and those of us who passed by without noticing.

— Margaret Hasse



14 'SHELTER'

The collaborators communicated mostly via Zoom, phone and email as Governor Tim Walz's shelter-in-place directive changed the way people lived, worked and looked at the world. When they began the project, "we were looking at shelter by way of definitions," Hasse said. "We needed comfort. We needed coziness. But we also needed to find something that made us feel safe and protected, that made us feel still alive to the world."

"For me, the shelter of the creation of the work was important," DeMark said. "When I paint, I'm very present-tense, very in the moment, and that's what saved me during the first few months when there was so much unknown and a lot of anxiety about not knowing. Am I going to get sick? Is someone I know going to get sick? Should I go to the store today or not? When I'm at my desk with my paints, I'm not thinking of any of that. I'm just painting."

While they were at work on the book, "it was summer and it was pandemic time and I was working full time," DeMark said. "At the end of the day, I'd go for a walk, and I'd be highly attuned to the kinds of shelters there are in the world. So I took a ton of photos."

"When I had a topic, one that I had thought up or an idea from Sharon, I tried to think about it many times during the day," Hasse said. "I'd have the images come up as I was going to sleep or I would dream about them. I'm in a household with my husband, which is grand, and with a puppy, which is grand, and then to have Sharon's artwork arrive that was just so surprising and interesting was so marvelous."

Hasse and DeMark each provided the inspiration for half of the 30 entries in the book. The poem or painting that came first is on the left-hand page and the poem or watercolor it inspired is on the right-hand page. "That made it fun," Hasse said. "If I had had to come up with 30 shelters, it wouldn't have been nearly as lively."

Hasse recalled a typical exchange between the collaborators. "Sharon would be out walking and send me a photo," she said. "At one point, Sharon was out walking near Hidden Falls by the edge of the Mississippi River and came across this tiny structure in the woods. She eventually sent me this tiny painting."

That A-frame home, complete with miniature portico, inspired Hasse's poem, "Mouse House." DeMark was similarly inspired by the wintry setting for Hasse's poem, "Tent."

"Our minds turned to the fact that we're privileged in how we're sheltered," Hasse recalled. "(The girl in the poem) has this little tent, whereas we have houses. Three times in the book, people who are much more vulnerable than we are turn up. There's a man who is living out of his car and a young girl in the sanctuary of a church that's providing shelter to her and her refugee family."

In other broadsides, Hasse and DeMark alternately describe and illustrate the refuge that can be found under an umbrella, in a turtle's shell and from the well-worn pages of a book you loved as a child. Their hope is that their *Shelter* will serve as a source of comfort and joy for others during the pandemic and for years to come.

Shelter (Nodin Press, 74 pp., \$19.95) is available at independent bookstores, from the distributor Itasca Books, and from Amazon.

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blocks bounded by a planned civic plaza and Hillcrest, Woodlawn and Bohland avenues. The nonprofit housing and service provider was formed in 1955 and now provides an array of housing options for more than 27,000 older adults in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

A mix of 300 independent, assisted-living and memory care units are planned for the Highland Bridge site. A total of 265 parking spaces would be provided, mostly beneath the two buildings. Each building would have an outdoor plaza. Dining rooms, a pool, gathering spaces and most other amenities would be in the western building. The buildings would be connected by a skyway over an extended Mount Curve Boulevard, which would bisect the development. A small retail space would face the civic plaza.

Maureen Michalski, Ryan's vice president for development, said the Presbyterian Homes project meets most zoning and design criteria for Highland Bridge. Setback variances are needed for some building balconies and for the skyway. The exact dimension of variances is likely to be decided after city staff review the plans in November.

Another variance is for the height of the western building, which is in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area where the maximum is 48 feet.

Another height variance is needed for a 104-foot-tower on the east building. The tower is an architectural element and requires a 39-foot variance.

PPL and Emma Norton Services are working together on a two-building development

with shared underground parking on a Mount Curve block south of Ford Parkway. It would be located by a proposed park.

The five-story, brick-and-stucco PPL building would provide 75 housing units in a mix of studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments. Chris Wilson, PPL senior director of real estate development, said the intent is to create affordable workforce housing. Rents would range from \$734-\$1,396 per month. Eventually, PPL plans to build 364 affordable units at Highland Bridge.

The building for Emma Norton Services would replace offices and transitional housing for women on Robert Street near the state Capitol. Nonprofit offices would be on the first floor, with 60 units of studio and one-bedroom units on the upper four floors. The building's exterior would consist of dark-colored panels to complement the neighboring PPL building.

Tonya Brownlow, executive director of Emma Norton Services, said the nonprofit is more than a century old. Started as a housing provider for young working women, it now houses women in transition in Saint Paul and families at Emma's Place in Maplewood. The organization offers an array of services, including case management, youth programming, and housing navigation and assistance.

Correction

The story on plans to demolish Loras Hall at the University of Saint Thomas should have stated that construction is expected to start in spring 2022 and be complete by fall 2024.



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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

Downing vs. treating ash trees

I must take issue with a statement made in a recent letter to the editor from Kathleen Deming, “Unnecessary loss of ash trees” (*Villager* Inbox, October 14). I share Deming’s passion for trees and then some, but her private forester is wrong in stating that the city of Saint Paul isn’t treating its boulevard ash trees because the city arborist does not believe in chemicals. The truth is, the Saint Paul Forestry Division has too small a budget to treat ash trees. They simply can’t afford it. The city is perfectly fine with private citizens getting a permit to treat boulevard ash trees. I encourage Saint Paulites to do so, and to treat ash trees on their own property, which does not require a permit.

*Greg Nayman
Highland Park*

Editor’s note: Greg Nayman represents Ward 3 on the city of Saint Paul’s Tree Advisory Panel.

Elect Jim Vue to School Board

As parents and grandparents of former and current Saint Paul Public Schools students and active citizens with more than 125 years of experience with the district, we urge a vote for Jim Vue for School Board. Jim was recently appointed as interim School Board member to serve until the November 3 special election to fill the unexpired term of Marny Xiong. He is running to finish that term.

Jim is the only candidate with four youngsters in the Saint Paul Public Schools. He is the only one with a student with special needs in district schools. He is the only one who has been on a districtwide committee representing Asian-Americans. He sees the strengths and shortcomings of how district administration deals with families and students.

Jim wants the district to move more rapidly to deal with issues. He has concrete ideas about how to attract more students to the Saint Paul Public Schools. And he is deeply committed to greater equity in opportunity and positive results.

*Tina and Mo Fahnestock
JoAnn and Joe Nathan
Scott Sands
Highland Park*

*Sunny Kase
Macalester-Groveland*
*Chong Yang Thao
Como Park*

A vote for Vue

We need Jim Vue on the Saint Paul School Board. He is brave and passionate in his pursuit of a more equitable, responsive education for all of our children and their particular needs. He will speak up on behalf of the needs of new immigrants and refugees, the needs of our city and our children. Jim and Sai are wonderful people. Theirs is the family that inspired my book, *The Shared Room*. Join me in supporting Jim Vue for the Saint Paul School Board.

*Kao Kalia Yang
Payne-Phalen*

Vote Diamond for judge

I am supporting Judge Pat Diamond for re-election as Ramsey County judge because of his demonstrated leadership in our community and the court and his commitment to justice and fairness. As the lead judge in juvenile court, Judge Diamond brought fairness and compassion to countless children and families in crisis. As the lead judge of Ramsey County’s treatment courts, Judge Diamond has brought hope and change to those struggling with addiction and mental illness.

*Mary Pickard
Summit Hill*

Re-elect Judge Diamond

Ramsey County’s public safety system isn’t perfect, but it’s enlightened and it’s getting better. Among the reasons for this is the work done by Judge Pat Diamond, who is up for reelection. Judge Diamond created the first Veterans Court in Minnesota and was recently appointed head judge of Ramsey County’s mental health, veterans, DWI and substance abuse courts. These courts work to find solutions that help offenders continue to function in society, rather than disrupt their lives.

An honest conversation on the fairness of taxes

T.J. Sexton’s letter to the editor, “A question for Biden on taxes” (*Villager* Inbox, October 14), cited a popular statistic that the bottom 50 percent of earners pay only 3 percent of all personal federal income taxes while the top 10 percent of earners pay almost 70 percent. As a strong progressive, I thought, “That can’t be right,” so I researched it and discovered to my surprise that Mr. Sexton’s statements are well-documented and true. But another important truth to consider is that an individual’s tax burden is not limited to the personal federal income tax.

In fact, personal income taxes account for roughly one-half of what the federal government collects from working Americans. About one-third of the government’s total tax revenue comes from payroll taxes—withholding from our paychecks for Social Security and Medicare. These payroll taxes fall harder on low earners for two reasons. First, the amount of taxes collected for Social Security is capped,

meaning that once you cross a certain income threshold you don’t pay any more. Second, payroll taxes only apply to money you make doing a job; they are not levied against capital gains, dividends and other forms of “passive” income.

The takeaway is that most American workers will pay more in payroll taxes than federal income taxes and, when combined, these two distinct taxes represent a significant burden on the middle class.

None of this is an effort to dispute Mr. Sexton’s numbers, but to include in any honest conversation about “fair taxation” the actual burden felt by people. When we do, I agree with his assertion that we should ask our elected leaders tough questions regarding tax policy.

*Sean Zindren
Macalester-Groveland*

Throughout his time in office, Judge Diamond has been a strong proponent of racial justice, and he has worked hard as a judge to improve the well-being of children and families. I’ve worked with Pat on social justice issues, like avoiding out-of-home sentences for juvenile offenders, a policy that has been shown to greatly reduce repeat offenses. He was important in securing funding for community-based responses that allowed the county to close Boys’ Totem Town, an old juvenile detention facility.

I urge everyone to vote for Judge Pat Diamond in November.

*P.T. Magee
Summit Hill*

Choose Pinto for public safety

Much of the election-year dialogue concerns public safety. One side is attempting to make support of law enforcement their issue, usually without specifying just what that means. I propose that reasonable gun safety laws are an ideal way to improve law enforcement and support the police officers we charge with keeping the peace.

Two such bills have been advocated by District 64B Representative Dave Pinto. One would keep guns out of the hands of those whose record shows they should not acquire them in the interest of public safety. The other would allow law enforcement officers to remove guns from those whom a court has determined to be a risk either to themselves or to others.

Police officers have a tough enough job. Should they, and their families, have to worry about facing a gun in the hand of someone whose competency is in question? I think supporting law enforcement means removing that threat. I advocate reelecting state Representative Pinto to carry on this critical work.

*Joel Clemmer
Macalester-Groveland*

Two votes for Petschel

We have been alarmed at some of the misinformation being spread in the Mendota Heights mayoral race, particularly that which has been aimed at Liz Petschel and the Mendota Heights City Council for the cost of our new fire station. We are pleased that the fire station can at last accommodate the needs of residents. The cost did exceed the original estimate, it is true, but the project was delayed in order to accommodate the wishes of the District 197 School Board so as not to interfere with a bond referendum that they planned to promote at the same time. Specific measures were taken to offset the cost increase, and Mendota Heights taxpayers were not assessed for those additional costs.

The city of Mendota Heights boasts a AAA bond rating, further evidence of responsible fiscal management. Liz Petschel has worked tirelessly on behalf of the city for 27 years and is the most qualified candidate on the ballot. Please join us in voting for Liz Petschel.

*Greg and Mary Anne Bailey
Mendota Heights*

Elect Levine as mayor

We moved to Mendota Heights to raise our two boys, and we love this community. Stephanie Levine has the experience, skills and character we need in our next mayor. She cares deeply about our city, shown by her leadership and accomplishments during her service on the Parks and

Recreation Commission. She knows the importance of having great schools and can use her experience on the District 197 School Board to serve our community. As an actuary, she understands finance and budgets and will bring that expertise to serve our city. She is a proven leader, hard worker and would bring a wonderful perspective to our city.

Please join us and vote for Stephanie!

*Jennifer and Geoff Mason
Mendota Heights*

Best candidate for Mendota Hts.

Liz Petschel is clearly the best choice for the new mayor of Mendota Heights. Liz has served on the City Council for 10 years and has been key to controlling aircraft noise over our city as our representative on the Metropolitan Airports Commission’s Noise Oversight Committee for 17 years. As a former nursing instructor, Liz now volunteers in the ministry to the sick and dying at Saint Joseph’s Church in West Saint Paul. I was privileged to serve as a member of our City Council with Liz and can attest to her voice of reason and calm leadership when we addressed controversial issues.

*Jack Vitelli
Mendota Heights*

Unborn babies count on you

“I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees,” said the Lorax in Dr. Seuss’ classic book.

I am a human being. I speak for the millions of tiny unborn humans who have been aborted and the unborn human beings at risk of abortion. Many voters would rather not be bothered to consider these tiny babies’ lives, even though their lives are in imminent danger.

If the trees had the Lorax, who can these innocent babies count on? Their lives matter. When you vote, speak for them.

*Ann Redding
Fuller, Minneapolis*

A dream candidate

Intelligent, erudite, honest, respectful, just, emotionally mature and stable, excellent communicator, responsible with money, altruistic—I need a statesman as president, not a politician beholden to party, platform, the powerful, money and ego. Are you out there somewhere? Or am I expecting too much?

*Mary Therese Nelson
Highland Park*

Do write, won’t you?

The Villager welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and provide a phone number for verification purposes. You may send your commentary to the Villager at 757 S. Snelling Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55116, email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it through our website at myvillager.com/ editorial. The Villager edits for grammar, spelling and length. To spare yourself the unkind cut of the editor’s pen, keep your commentary brief and to the point.

Too young to vote, Hi-C students rely on the power of the pen

Your vote can make a difference

We'll have the opportunity to vote for our next president on November 3. While you think about who you're going to vote for, remember the poor and the homeless.

There are a lot of people who aren't as fortunate as some of us, and they need help, wondering where their next meal is coming from. There are people everywhere who are having a hard time. Some of them don't have a home to sleep in, and some are just too poor to afford things for their children or themselves. As Pope Francis said, "the Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was like to start life without a roof over his head." Nobody in this world deserves to be homeless.

Your vote matters, and people out there need you. If you think one vote can't change anything, you're wrong. It can.

*Kathleen Lemmons, age 12
Highland Catholic School*

Vote with the homeless in mind

This November 3, you will have the power to vote for our next president as well as other important people in our state and country. As you think about who to vote for, think about the people who need special attention. One group I would point out is homeless people. Everyone deserves a second chance. It is probably really hard to get a job if you just came out of jail, if you have mental health issues or if you just moved here from a different country and you cannot speak English. If you do not have a job, it is hard to get a house and support yourself or your family.

Everyone deserves a roof over his or her head and a warm place to sleep. Please remember this when you vote in November. You could make the world a better place.

*Claire Kennefick, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Vote for world peace

Next month you will have the chance to vote for the next president of the United States. Please think about what could help our community, who could solve world problems such as war and peace. I would love to see the world a peaceful place. I encourage you and many others to vote for reasons like this.

*Jaelyn Kline, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Vote for equal pay for women

In today's society, a woman makes 80 cents for every dollar a man makes. Just because of a person's gender, they should not be paid less. You have the power to vote for a president who will change this.

I want all men and women to be paid the same and be able to do most of the same things. I do not want to see a gap



between them. Like Pope Francis said, "Why is it taken for granted that women earn less than men? The discrepancy is pure scandal."

In the upcoming election, I want everyone to think, 'Will the candidate I'm voting for help solve this problem or will he or she ignore it?'

*Andy Hobbs, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Save the planet with your vote

This season you will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate of your choice. While you are making your decision, keep in mind the environment and the impact your vote might have on it.

Global warming is destroying our planet, and we need to do something about it. That could mean you recycle or switch to LED lightbulbs. But the president also has a large say in whether or not renewable energy is important. It is our responsibility to keep the earth that God has given us clean and safe for everyone.

I cannot vote yet, but that is not stopping me from trying to make a difference. I would like you to keep in mind that our planet needs saving, and that means more than just saying that things need to change. We need to vote for a president who will make a change for the better.

*Connor Simpson, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Vote in the interest of the earth

This November 3 you will have the opportunity to vote for our next president as well as other elected officials in our state and country. As you consider who to vote for, take into mind our earth and think about such issues as pollution, littering and global warming.

When we choose to pollute, we're hurting the air that we breathe and the earth that was given to us. The choices we make everyday can help or hurt us, like driving to school instead of walking. When you walk, you're not only helping your community, you're helping yourself. The air that you help keep clean is your air, too. As Catholic social teaching says, we should care for God's creation.

We all want a better environment. Please, take into mind

what environment you want and how your vote now will help future generations.

*Isabella Wengelewski, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Vote for equality in education

This November 3, you have the power to vote for our next president along with other leaders in our state and country. While you think about who is a better candidate for the job, think about the education children are getting. Children of color are not getting the same education as white children are. If you don't get a good education, it can have a major effect on your future. Like Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society."

Take this into consideration when you cast a vote on November 3.

*Ella Matschina, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Biodiversity is on the ballot

This November you will cast a vote to select our next president and other government officials. While you are thinking about who to vote for, take notice of the unique habitats that are being destroyed across the world. In the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota, mining companies are threatening the environment that many animals and plants rely on. Also, farms are endangering forests and prairies throughout our state. We need to help preserve these special places in order to save many species of plants and animals. As Pope Francis said, "We must not be indifferent or resigned to the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems often caused by our irresponsible and selfish behavior."

Humans have caused enough habitat destruction already. Please consider this as you cast your ballot.

*Ezra Kusa, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

Vote for a better environment

The election is coming. As you think of whom you will vote for, consider the environment. Our environment is breaking because no one is taking care of it. This is our home, and we must care for it. Pope Francis stated, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more like an immense pile of filth. The earth was here before us and was given to us." If we don't start caring for the planet, our environment will be terrible by 2050. We are making climate change worse and worse, and we are making some animals go extinct. If we want the environment to get better, we must start now.

*Genevieve Arlandson, Grade 7
Highland Catholic School*

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Winds of politics come to rest

Last of voters head to the polls to choose among candidates for federal, state and local offices

Voters across the neighborhoods served by the *Villager*—those that haven't voted already—will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, to choose among candidates for U.S. president, senator and representative; state senator and representative; state Supreme Court justice and district court judge.

Saint Paul and Minneapolis voters will also elect a member to their respective school boards. Mendota Heights voters will choose a new mayor. Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale voters will elect a new Dakota County commissioner. Minneapolis voters will be asked two questions on whether or not to amend their city's charter.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on November 3. To find out which candidates and questions will appear on your ballot, consult the sample ballots below for Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Mendota Heights and Lilydale. Only those races in which two or more candidates appear on the ballot are included. The incumbent in the race, if any, is indicated by an asterisk (*).

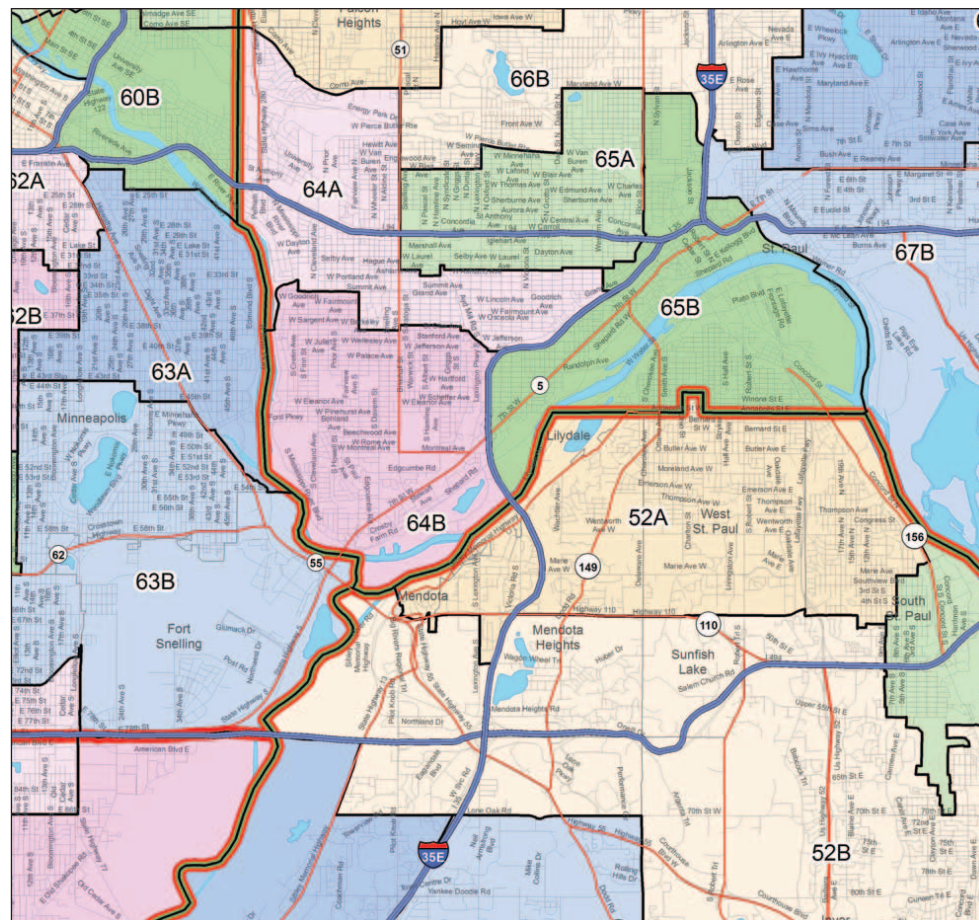
To be eligible to vote in Minnesota, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age,

a resident of the state for at least the preceding 20 days, and a resident of the precinct in which you are voting. You cannot vote if you have been found to be legally incompetent, are under a court-ordered guardianship in which your right to vote has been revoked, if you have been convicted of a felony and your felony sentence has not yet expired or you have yet to be discharged from your sentence.

If you are currently registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to a different address, have changed your name or have not voted in the last four years.

You may register to vote at the polls on November 3 by showing a Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or state ID card (or a receipt for any of those documents) that includes your current address, a current college fee statement with your current address and a photo ID, a current student ID card with a photo, or a tribal ID card with your name, address, signature and photo.

You may also register at the polls by showing a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, tribal ID, Minnesota college student ID, or a Minnesota driver's license or ID card with a previous ad-



The state legislative districts in neighborhoods served by the *Villager*.

dress as long as you also show a recent utility bill that includes your name and current address or show a current student fee statement that includes your name and current address.

Voters without any of those identifying documents may still register at the polls if a voter who is registered in the same precinct vouches for their residency in the precinct. Employees of nursing homes, shelters and certain other residential facilities may also vouch for the people who reside there.

For information about voter registration, polling places, voting early by mail or in-per-

son, special COVID-19 precautions or other voter services, visit sos.state.mn.us or in Saint Paul call 651-266-2171 or visit ramseycounty.us, in Minneapolis call 311 or visit vote.minneapolismn.gov, and in Dakota County call 651-438-4305 or visit dakota.mn.us.

MINNESOTA BALLOTS

U.S. President and Vice President—Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence*, Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris, Roque "Rocky"

SAMPLE BALLOTS ►11

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Villager election coverage continues

The *Villager's* coverage of the local races in the November 3 general election continues in this issue with a story on the November 3 general election and sample ballots for all of the neighborhoods served by this newspaper (see page 10 and below). The following electoral races were covered with stories in these previous issues of the *Villager*:

September 16: Mendota Heights mayoral race.

September 30: Minnesota House and Senate races in District 64.

October 14: Saint Paul School Board race and the Minnesota House and Senate races in District 65 in Saint Paul and District 52 in Mendota Heights.

Myvillager.com: All of the above stories plus a story on the Minnesota House and Senate races in South Minneapolis' Districts 63A and 63B have also been posted on our website at myvillager.com under the menu headings News and General News.

10◀ SAMPLE BALLOTS

De La Fuente and Darcy Richardson, Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker, Kanye West and Michelle Tidball, Brock Pierce and Karla Ballard, Gloria La Riva and Leonard Peltier, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy "Spike" Cohen.

U.S. Senator—Tina Smith*, Jason Lewis, Kevin O'Connor, Oliver Steinberg.

Associate Justice, Supreme Court—Paul Thissen*, Michelle MacDonald.

SAINT PAUL BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 4—Betty McCollum*, Gene Rehtz, Susan Sindt.

State Senator, District 64—Erin Murphy, Sharon Anderson, Patricia Jirovec McArdell.

State Senator, District 65—Sandy Pappas*, Paul Holmgren.

State Representative, District 64A—Kaohly Her*, Sherry Schack.

State Representative, District 64B—Dave Pinto*, Georgia Dietz.

State Representative, District 65A—Rena Moran*, Amy Anderson.

State Representative, District 65B—Carlos Mariani*, Margaret Mary Stokely.

School Board Member special election (pick one)—Keith Hardy, Jamila Mame, Jim Vue, James Farnsworth, Omar Syed, Charolotte "Charlie" Castro.

Judge, Second District Court 8—Pat Diamond*, Ngozi Akubuike.

MINNEAPOLIS BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 5—Ihlan Omar*, Lacy Johnson, Michael Moore.

State Senator, District 63—Patricia Torres Ray*, Diane Napper, Chris Wright.

State Representative, District 63A—Jim Davnie*, Penny Arcos, David Wiester.

State Representative, District 63B—Frank Pafko, Emma Greenman, Dennis Schuller.

Minneapolis School Board Member at Large (vote for one)—Kim Ellison*, Michael Dueñas.

City Question 1, Redistricting of Wards and Park Districts (vote yes or no)—Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to allow ward and park district boundaries to be re-established in a year ending in 1 and to allow the use of those new boundaries for elections in that same year; to allow ward and park district boundaries to be modified after the Legislature has been redistricted to establish city precinct boundaries; to provide that an election for a council member office required by Minnesota law in a year ending in 2 or 3 after a redistricting shall be for a single two-year term; and to clarify that a regular election means a regular general election?

City Question 2, Special Municipal Elections (vote yes or no)—Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to comply with Minnesota election law related to uniform dates for special municipal elections and to provide that a special election be held on a legal election day under Minnesota law that is more than 90 days from a vacancy in the office of mayor or council member?

MENDOTA HTS./LILYDALE BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 2—Angie Craig*, Tyler Kistner, Adam Charles Weeks.

State Senator, District 52—Matt Klein*, Tomas Settell.

State Representative, District 52A—Rick Hansen*, Maria de la Paz.

State Representative, District 52B—Ruth Richardson*, Cynthia Lonnquist.

Dakota County Commissioner, District 3—Diane Anderson, Laurie Halverson.

Mayor, Mendota Heights—Stephanie Levine, Liz Petschel, Patrick Watson.

Judge, First District Court 32—Joseph Carter*, Martin "Marty" Judge.



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A leg up to the Net

PCs for People fills growing need for online connections

BY ANNE MURPHY

With COVID-19 making distance learning, virtual entertainment and working from home widespread practices across the Twin Cities, the demand for computer hardware and Internet service has increased for people of all ages, including those for whom the cost can be prohibitive. Coming to their aid is PCs for People, a nonprofit organization that offers recycled and refurbished computers and accessories at bargain prices along with the training to operate those systems.

While PCs for People has had a retail outlet at 1481 Marshall Ave. for the past 22 years, that store has never been busier, according to manager Karesa Pettis-Berry. Pettis-Berry is well-acquainted with how difficult it can be to access technology when cost is a factor. A 2008 Central High School graduate, she attended St. Paul College, and for her and her family the purchase of a computer was out of reach until they went to PCs for People and secured the technology she needed at an affordable price.

Pettis-Berry is now seeing 50 to 60 customers a week with similar needs. "With schools going to dis-

tance learning, so many families need technology at home," she said. "I've also noticed a big uptick in older clients," adults who are working from home for health reasons or at the request of an employer. "There are also people who are trying to start their own businesses at home," Pettis-Berry said.

"With COVID, the demand for computers and Internet skyrocketed almost overnight," said PCs for People marketing and communications specialist Courtney Travis. "People who aren't used to relying on the Internet are now required to move their lives online. Doctors' appointments, job interviews, classes—they've all become virtual events. People rely on their computers to stay connected with family, friends and other social groups. They rely on technology to be safe."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed how PCs for People operates," said Mary Lucic, manager of community outreach and fundraising. "When schools, libraries and community organizations shut down or moved their services online, the public gained a new awareness of the digital inequities that exist."

PCs for People operates retail stores or recycling centers in five



PCs for People customer service lead Karesa Pettis-Berry assists customer James Simmons with a possible purchase at the nonprofit organization's retail outlet at 1481 Marshall Ave. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

states. It has an electronics recycling center near Highway 280 and Doswell Avenue, according to Chad Svihel, executive director of PCs for People-Minnesota.

"The demand for our services is the highest it's ever been," Lucic said, "and distance learning, telehealth services, remote work and job training will not be going away. Many institutions have come to recognize the importance of having these activities as options. Once the pandemic ends, we anticipate many educational programs staying online and individuals continuing to work from home. Families

and friends will continue to stay in touch with Zoom and Skype."

PCs for People's products and services are available to households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, as well as the nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that serve these households. For a family of four, the maximum allowable household income is currently \$52,400 per year.

"The average family we serve has between three and four individuals and earns approximately \$14,209 per year," Lucic said. "Seventy percent of the families we serve don't

have a computer in the home, reflecting significant barriers to employment, education, and access to government services, health care and information. Fifty-eight percent of the individuals we serve are unemployed at the time they receive a computer or Internet service."

PCs for People's Marshall Avenue store sells laptops, desktops and all-in-one computers along with keyboards, monitors, mice and chords. Laptops range from \$50-\$150 depending on household income. Desktops are priced at \$30, \$50 and

PCS FOR PEOPLE ►13

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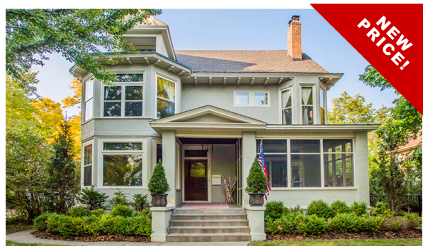
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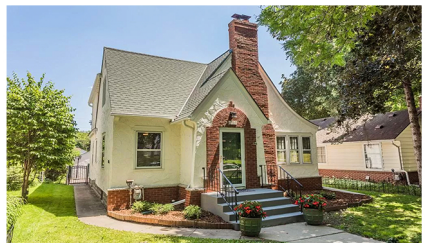
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State's \$1.9B bonding bill includes \$52M for Kellogg-Third St. bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

A new Third Street-Kellogg Boulevard Bridge, the restoration of the old Victoria Theater at 825 University Ave. and a new location for the Playwrights Center near University and Raymond avenues are among the projects included in the \$1.9 billion bonding bill approved this month by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by Governor Tim Walz on October 21.

The bill was passed during the fifth and likely final special session for the Legislature this year. It funds an array of capital improvements involving college and university buildings, state buildings, parks and trails, roads and bridges, and water and sewer lines. The approved projects were among a record \$5.3 billion in bonding requests.

Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter hailed the \$52 million the city received for the Third Street-Kellogg Boulevard Bridge. "Amid this pandemic economy, projects like the Third Street-Kellogg Bridge will help keep our community connected and get people back to work," he said.

The bridge spans more than 2,100 feet from Lafayette Street in downtown Saint Paul to Mounds Boulevard on the East Side. Built as a state bridge in 1982, it was later turned over to the city. Since 2014 it has been restricted to three traffic lanes and one sidewalk. When it had four lanes, it carried an average of 14,400 vehicles per day.

Saint Paul officials and the city's state legislative delegation waged a high-profile effort to get the bridge project funded after it was not included in Walz's original bonding bill unveiled in January. The project is expected to cost more than \$65 million and create more than 1,100 jobs.

Saint Paul and Ramsey County's other bonding requests met mixed results. The city's second-highest priority, \$10 million to replace the eastbound Kellogg Boulevard Bridge near

RiverCentre, did not make the cut. Neither did the proposed Mississippi River recreation and education center at Crosby Farm Regional Park nor the \$329,000 request by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) to help plan a four-field recreational facility on the site of the southern reservoir of the Historic Highland Water Tower at Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue. Funding for continued planning of the proposed Riverview Corridor streetcar project was also nixed.

Walz's original bonding proposal had recommended the MASC request as well as \$3 million for the Great River Passage Recreation and Environmental Education Center at Crosby Park. The latter project would have rebuilt Watergate Marina as a recreational hub with equipment rental and educational programs for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, a possible riverfront cafe as well as a new headquarters for the National Park Service.

City and county requests that were approved for bonding included \$3 million to expand workforce programs at the International Institute of Minnesota on Como Avenue; \$1.8 million for snow-making equipment at the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area; \$1 million for energy-efficiency improvements and habitat upgrades at Como Zoo; \$1 million for restoring the old Victoria Theater at University and Victoria Street; and \$850,000 to make a new home for Minneapolis' Playwrights' Center in Saint Paul on Raymond Avenue just south of University Avenue.

Ramsey and Washington counties received \$7 million to improve the resource recovery center in Newport that processes trash into fuel for power plants.

The Village of Mendota was awarded \$620,000 for a water main extension project. However, Mendota's requests for additional water system funding and assistance in repairing roads damaged after heavy rains and a landslide in 2016 were turned down.



Customer service representative Peng Thao (left) assists a potential client at the PCs for People's retail store on Marshall Avenue.

12 PCS FOR PEOPLE

\$100. Each day, the store also gives out five free computers, according to Pettis-Berry. The free computers are not equipped with Microsoft Windows, but they have a free version of Microsoft Office.

"The fact that our laptops are usually sold out immediately after opening each day emphasizes just how badly our clients are in need," Travis said. "I've seen clients on social media say their child is already behind on school work. Waiting for your kid's computer or hot spot to be delivered is not an option. Being able to pay PCs for People a visit and get your kid's device all set up in one day is going to lift a tremendous weight off your shoulders as well as your kid's."

"Our storefront also offers digital literacy sessions," Travis added. "Our mission is tied to closing the digital divide. We want to make sure that when our clients are given their products, they're able to use them safely and efficiently."

"I've witnessed first-hand how clients are transformed through the products and services we offer," said PCs for People customer service agent Cynthia Diaz. "We have clients who've never owned a computer before. They have to learn, and that's where I come in. The elderly are my best students. They're not afraid to keep asking questions. They're also the first to sign up for our Digital Learning classes, held at the Marshall location."

For more information on PCs for People, call 651-354-2552 or visit pcsforpeople.org.

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EBENEZER

New apartments eyed for 1509 Marshall

By JANE MCCLURE

A 62-unit apartment building may rise next year at 1509 Marshall Ave., replacing a longtime commercial structure. Matt J. Borowy of Bright Pixel Design presented his plans for the 4½-story building on October 19 to the Land Use Committee of the Union Park District Council (UPDC).

Borowy is working with property owner Jim Tindall, who recently purchased the Snelling-Hamline site. If all goes as planned, construction would start in the spring of 2021 and be complete in 2022.

Plans call for four floors of housing above what Borowy described as a level of “tuck-under” parking, bike storage and a lounge. The L-shaped building would be sided with a mix of masonry and metal panels. Its six studio apartments, 44 one-bedroom units and 12 two-bedroom units would be smaller

than usual, and their rents would be lower than usual. Monthly rents would be \$1,200 for a 488-square-foot one-bedroom unit, \$800 for a smaller efficiency apartment and \$1,500 for a two-bedroom unit.

The building site is just a short walk from the A Line rapid-transit buses on Snelling Avenue and the planned B Line rapid-transit buses that will run between Minneapolis’ Uptown and Saint Paul’s downtown. That should make it attractive to people who do not own a car, Borowy said.

The property was zoned industrial for many years, but was rezoned in 2018 to traditional neighborhoods 3. A request for a zoning change is not anticipated, but the project will likely need variances for setback and to allow parking along the alley between Marshall and Iglehart avenues.

UPDC committee members had mixed reactions to the building’s design. Some said it is appropriate and others said it needs more of a neighborhood feel. Committee member Paul Bakke described the structure as “fortress-like.” According to him, the front is “rather brutal, in terms of engaging with pedestrians and the street.” While there is an entrance in front, the main entrance appears to be in back.

Another committee concern was traffic. Member Scott Berger said the location near two busy cross streets needs to be considered. The site’s slope was raised as a possible problem during construction. The effect the structure would have on a homeowner’s solar array just to the north was also questioned.

The fate of 1509 Marshall Ave. has been discussed for several years. The current building, which is clad in blue stucco, is actually three commercial buildings with a total of about 9,500 square feet. The oldest part of the structure dates from

1936, according to city records. One of the buildings once housed a roller-skating rink. In recent years, the building has housed a church, offices and a paint store, but it fell into disrepair and was condemned more than six years ago.



Sixty-two new apartments (above) are planned for the site of a condemned building on the north side of Marshall Avenue about a block east of Snelling Avenue.

In the spring of 2016, RS Eden unveiled a plan to tear down 1509 Marshall Ave. and replace it with a four-story apartment building. The

St. Paul-based nonprofit provides supportive housing, mainly for residents who are striving to maintain their sobriety. RS Eden’s plans were shelved after Saint Paul developer Ed Conley bought the property. Conley’s company pulled building permits in the fall of 2016, but its plan to renovate the building for a mix of office and retail uses never came to fruition.

Commission again rejects request to raze auto repair shop at Selby-Dale

By JANE MCCLURE

A shuttered auto repair shop cannot be torn down to make way for a new apartment building near Selby Avenue and Dale Street. The Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) voted 6-2 on October 19 to reject another request from the developers to demolish the one-story brick structure at 156 N. Dale St.

TJL Development and Chase Real Estate Group have the option of reworking their plans or appealing the decision to the City Council. This is the second time this year

that the HPC has rejected a demolition request for the building. A similar request was unanimously voted down in March. HPC action is required because the building is in the Historic Hill District.

The building was erected in 1915 and modified in 1926 with the addition of a brick storefront. It served as an auto repair shop for many years, but has been vacant for about a decade. Various plans for its reuse, including a restaurant, have foundered.

The developers reworked their plans after the March HPC vote with the idea of reusing the former building. However, Jim LaValle of

TJL Development said further studies have shown that it is in a deteriorated condition and that the cost of rehabilitating the structure could reach \$1.6 million.

The developers had a hair salon that was interested in leasing the space after it was renovated, but have since lost that potential tenant. They still want to build an apartment building at 594-600 Selby Ave., but with changes if the repair shop can be torn down.

Now preliminary plans call for reducing the Selby portion of the building from five stories to four, and building a four-story addition facing Dale Street. The Dale Street portion of

the building would be built right up to the sidewalk, similar to the mixed-use buildings at the corner. The ground-floor apartments would be walkout units.

On the Selby side, the underground garage access would be moved from Selby to the Selby-Hague alley. Several surface parking spots would be behind the building along the alley.

Final numbers for the revised plans are still being worked out. The plans approved earlier this year had 81 apartments in the building on Selby, with 110 parking spaces. The new plans call for 105-110 apartments with 70-80 parking spots.

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 EBENEZER

Historic Highland Water Tower restoration is largely completed

By JANE MCCLURE

When the Historic Highland Water Tower can welcome visitors once again, the structure will show off a fresh look. Saint Paul Regional Water Services recently completed the first major improvements to the tower in decades at a cost of \$533,000.

"The tower is 92 years old," said David Wagner, engineering manager for Saint Paul Regional Water Services. "It's in great shape for its age, but it needed a little love."

The tower on Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$69,483. It was designed by Clarence W. "Cap" Wigington, the nation's first African-American municipal architect. The tower can hold 200,000 gallons of water and once served an area that extended north to Dayton Avenue. It has not been used for that purpose for many years.

The tower was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The tower is 127 feet tall and its placement on the city's second-highest point of land provides spectacular views from its observation deck.

The structure typically hosts visitors during Highland Fest and every October at the peak of fall colors. However, the pandemic forced cancellation of both public events this year.

"We're hoping we can open to the public again in the near future," Wagner said. "We think people will be pleased to see the improvements made. The tower is an icon for the Water Utility, for the neighborhood and for the entire city."

The last major work on the tower was a tuckpointing project about 40 years ago. The most recent project focused on repairing steps and sidewalks, addressing drainage problems, repainting windows, replacing the door at the top of the 151 steps leading to the observation deck, and repairing the tower's terracotta and sheet metal roof.

Reservoir demolition postponed until 2021

While the Historic Highland Water Tower awaits the final touches to its renovation, the decommissioned water reservoir to its south is being eyed for demolition in 2021.

That work was expected to start this construction season, after Ryan Companies expressed an interest in using some of the demolition debris as construction fill for the new Highland Bridge development on the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant. However, the reservoir's demolition is one of several projects Saint Paul Regional Water Services decided to push back until next year.

Demolition planning and cost estimates for the project are expected to be wrapped up in November. Demolition is expected to take place from April to October 2021.

The 18-million-gallon reservoir was built in 1926, but has not been used since 2014 due to decreased water usage. The Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation plans to convert the 4.3-acre site into sports fields. It is coordinating efforts with Ramsey County, including the construction of a new parking lot and vehicular access at the adjacent Charles M. Schulz-Highland Arena. Until those plans are finalized, the site will be planted with grass after the reservoir is demolished.

The Water Utility hoped to have all of the work done by winter, but one part of the project will carry over into 2021. The tower's rooftop cupola still needs repairs to its windows. Accessing the cupola will be a challenge.

"We may have to use a special kind of scaffolding to get up there," Wagner said.

HRA OKS bonds for affordable housing development at University & Fairview

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposed 243-unit affordable housing complex at the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues is moving toward a 2021 construction start. The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority board unanimously approved \$30 million in multifamily housing bonds on October 14 for the \$63.9 million project.

The project will feature a pair of seven-story buildings that will include a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units ranging from 534-2,104 square feet in size. The buildings will share a 15-space parking lot on Charles Avenue with Goodwill Easter Seals and will have more than 120 underground parking spaces. A playground is also planned, along with plazas for each building.

The project, which is Minneapolis-based Reuter Walton's first foray into affordable housing in Saint Paul, will use "income averaging" for its rental rates. There will be 27 units for people at 30 percent of the Twin Cities area's median income (AMI), 83 units at 50 percent, 58 units at 60 percent and 75 units at 80 percent. This year's AMI in the Twin Cities ranges from \$72,350 for one person to \$103,400 for a family of four.

One change to the original plans is the addition of 2,400 square feet of retail space at the corner of University and Fairview.

"We're really excited about the project," said Paul Keenan, vice president of development at Reuter Walton. He said it will help meet a demand for larger, affordable units for families. "To provide a lot of two- and three-bedroom units is a big component of this project."

The project was able to come together quickly for several reasons, said project manager Marie Franchette of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development. The developer was chosen by longtime landowner Goodwill Easter Seals, which assembled the properties over several years. The site includes a gas station that later served as Andy's Garage restaurant and a Goodwill shop, the former Finn Sisu ski shop, a two-story commercial building and other buildings that were torn down earlier. Part of the site along University has been a parking lot for Goodwill Easter Seals.

The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 4, which allows for building heights up to 75 feet. At this point, it is not anticipated that any zoning change or variances will be needed.

Franchette said no other city financial assistance is being sought for the project. Along with the bonds, the financing includes low-income housing tax credits, a Fannie Mae loan and a state grant for contamination clean-up. The project is expected to create 1,080 construction jobs.

The developer has worked closely with city staff to ensure the project is consistent with Hamline-Midway neighborhood, city comprehensive and Fairview Station Area plans. The light-rail Green Line station will be right outside of the development site, which was rezoned almost a decade ago to promote high-density redevelopment.

Reuter Walton plans to provide wide sidewalks to promote walking in the area. The site is one block from Dickerman Park and a short walk from other amenities.



Giving Back Locally

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 developments, we are postponing the Gateway Bank Fall Festival until next year. We have provided fall displays to local senior living facilities and donated to the following organizations:







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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 Cleveland Avenue and Ford Parkway at 1:47 p.m. Sunday, October 4.

Burglary—Commercial break-ins occurred on the 900 block of South Lexington Parkway on October 2, two on the 500 block of South Lexington on October 4, and on the 1000 block of Homer Street on October 4.

—Residential burglaries were reported on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue on October 3, the 2200 block of Youngman Avenue on October 8, the 800 block of South Cleveland Avenue on October 9, and the 2300 block of Youngman on October 13.

—A burglary was reported on the 1100 block of Randolph Avenue at 12:30 p.m. Monday, October 12.

Theft—Thefts from vehicles of items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported on the 1600 block of Hartford Avenue on October 3, the 2000 block of Sheridan Avenue on October 3, the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue on October 6, and on Inner Drive on October 10.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1100 block of Homer Street on October 2, the 1300 block of East Maynard Drive and the 2300 block of Youngman Avenue on October 3, the 1400 block of Saint Paul Avenue on October 11, and the 1300 block of East Maynard on October 13.

—Four vehicles were reported stolen on the 2100 block of West Seventh Street on October 9-11 and 13.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—Thefts from vehicles of items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported on the 1300 block of University Avenue on October 3, and the 1300 block of Portland Avenue on October 10.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1200 block of Saint Anthony Avenue on October 6.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon was reported on the 1300 block of University Avenue at 12:50 p.m. Sunday, October 4.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Home break-ins were reported on the 1300 block of Saint Clair Avenue on

October 7, and the 1500 block of Sargent Avenue on October 10.

—Commercial break-ins were reported on the 1600 block of Grand Avenue on October 8, and the 200 block of South Fairview Avenue on October 13.

—A business burglary was reported on the 300 block of South Snelling Avenue at 11:36 a.m. Sunday, October 11.

Theft—Thefts from vehicles of items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported on the 2000 block of Lincoln Avenue on October 1, the 1400 block of James Avenue on October 4, on Lincoln and Saratoga Street on October 6, and the 100 block of South Snelling Avenue on October 14.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 100 block of South Snelling Avenue on October 7, and the 1500 block of Osceola Avenue on October 12.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A burglary in progress was reported on the 1200 block of Culligan Lane at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, October 14. The suspect fled and was not located.

—An apartment complex was broken into and several items were stolen from vehicles near the 1000 block of Highway 13 during the evening of October 14-15.

Theft—A female was caught on camera going through vehicles on the 2000 block of Mendakota Drive at 3:41 p.m. Wednesday, October 7. An attempt to identify the suspect's vehicle showed it had a stolen license plate.

—A wallet, purse and phone were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 2500 block of Pilot Knob Road at 7:51 p.m. Friday, October 9.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1700 block of Summit Lane on October 11-12, and the 600 block of Maple Park Drive on October 14.

—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1600 block of James Road at 7:57 a.m. Monday, October 12.

—Four vehicles had parts stolen from them on the 2500 block of Pilot Knob Road, it was reported at 9:18 a.m. Monday, October 12.

—Two males were arrested after they were seen tampering with vehicles on the 900 block of Chippewa Avenue at 7:50 p.m. Tuesday, October 13.

—A 9-foot-tall dragon used as a Halloween decoration was reported stolen from a yard on the 600 block of Maple Park Drive at 3:27 p.m. Wednesday, October 14.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 1900 block of University Avenue at 10:11 a.m. Monday, October 5.

Burglary—Residential break-ins were reported on the 1900 block of Summit Avenue on October 3, and the 400 block of North Lynnhurst Avenue on October 11.

Theft—Thefts from vehicles of items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported on Ashland Avenue and Dewey Street on October 1, on Exeter Place and Marshall Avenue on October 4, the 300 block of Moore Street on October 5, the 1800 block of Selby Avenue on October 8, the 1600 block of Ashland Avenue on October 12, the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue on October 12, and the 1800 block of Dayton Avenue on October 14.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 2000 block of Selby Avenue on October 1, the 200 block of Otis Avenue on October 6, the 200 block of Howell Street on October 10, and the 1900 block of Iglehart Avenue on October 14.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A commercial break-in was reported on Snelling and Portland avenues at 3:36 a.m. Wednesday, October 7.

Theft—Three vehicles were reported stolen on October 2, including on the 1400 block of Ashland Avenue, the 1300 block of University Avenue and the 1500 block of Selby Avenue. A vehicle also was reported stolen the 100 block of North Snelling Avenue on October 14.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 900 block of Fairmount Avenue at 7:21 p.m. Friday, October 2.

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 900 block of Fairmount Avenue on October 9, and the 500 block of Lincoln Avenue on October 11.

Theft—Thefts from vehicles of items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported on the 600 block of Fairmount Avenue on October 3, and the 1000 block of Linwood Avenue on October 5.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1000 block of Goodrich Avenue on October 11, and the 800 block of Osceola Avenue on October 13.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 6:34 a.m. Wednesday, October 14.

Summit-University

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on Dale Street and Iglehart Avenue at 11:41 p.m. Thursday, October 8.

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 900 block of Iglehart Avenue at 5:44 p.m. Sunday, October 11.

Theft—A theft from vehicle of items valued at more than \$1,000 was reported on Laurel Avenue and Victoria Street on October 6.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 400 block of Selby Avenue on October 1, the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue on October 6, the 1000 block of Concordia Avenue on October 8, the 1000 block of Carroll Avenue on October 12, and the 700 block of Holly Avenue on October 14.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a gun was reported on the 900 block of Selby Avenue at 8:12 p.m. Wednesday, October 7.

West End

Robbery—Strong-arm robberies were reported on West Seventh Street and Kellogg Boulevard on October 2, and on West Seventh and Walnut streets on October 6.

—A service station robbery was reported on the 1400 block of West Seventh Street at 12:03 a.m. Monday, October 12.

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 300 block of View Street on October 3, the 400 block of Sprint Street on October 7, and the 200 block of South Western Avenue on October 12.

—A commercial break-in was reported on the 900 block of West Seventh Street at 4:51 a.m. Tuesday, October 13.

Theft—A theft from vehicle of items valued at more than \$1,000 was reported on the 700 block of Otto Avenue on October 3.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 300 block of Toronto Street on October 2, the 800 block of Otto Avenue on October 3, the 200 block of Grand Avenue on October 4, the 200-400 blocks of West Seventh Street on October 5 and 7, on Western Avenue and West Seventh on October 11, the 300 block of Sherman Street on October 13, and the 700 block of South Victoria Street on October 14.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue at 8:48 a.m. Thursday, October 1.

Assault—An aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon was reported on the 200 block of Grand Avenue at 9:43 a.m. Monday, October 12.

Volunteers

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is accepting registration until November 14 for its Thanksgiving meals distribution. The drive-through food pickup will be on Saturday, November 21, at 435 E. University Ave. Households are limited to one bag of groceries, which includes a turkey and enough trimmings to feed five. Register by visiting ugmtc.org/tgbags or calling 651-222-4949. Volunteers willing to help should contact Josh Windham at jwindham@ugmtc.org or 612-275-0544.

Ramsey County has named five partners to provide free, healthy meals to qualifying residents who have been adversely affected by the coronavirus and are challenged to remain in their homes. The partners are Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County (651-266-4107), Open Arms of Minnesota (612-767-7333), Karing Neighbor (651-321-8697), Fairview Health Services (651-815-3389) and Afro Deli & Grill (651-621-0914). Visit ramseycounty.us/HomeMealDelivery or call the providers.

The B'Yachad Gift Bag program is being led by Jewish Family Service of Saint Paul for the 10th straight year. Organizers hope to deliver more than 150 gift bags to people feeling isolation and loneliness. The bags will contain a facemask, hand sanitizer, holiday treat and card, and a gift card for groceries and essentials. The public is needed to help deliver the bags and create the cards. Donations also are needed. Contact Margie Solomon at msolomon@jfssp.org.

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ON THE TOWN

Irish connection

Davern releases second film exploring history of her pioneer Highland family

By FRANK JOSSI

Rita Davern has produced two documentary films about her family's Irish roots, their immigration to the United States and how they came to own Pike Island and 80 acres of land in the Highland Park neighborhood of Saint Paul.

The second of those documentaries, *Burren Girl*, is being streamed now through October 31 as part of the 10-day Twin Cities Film Fest (visit twincitiesfilmfest.org). The film recounts Davern's journeys to the family's original home in County Clare, Ireland, and her grandmother's hometown of Burren, Ireland, and her grandmother's immigration to Saint Paul where she married a distant cousin with the same last name.

In *Burren Girl*, Davern introduces viewers to a colorful cast of Irish people who assist her in uncovering her family's origins in that windswept region of the Emerald Isle. The new film comes just a few months after Davern released another documentary about her family, *Stories I Didn't Know*. That film, which was part of last spring's Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival, tells of how Davern's great-grandfather secured a homestead on Pike Island and the role that land played in the Dakota War of 1862.

Davern, 71, traveled to Ireland several times to learn about the birthplace of her grandmother, Anne Davoren, who at age

19 immigrated to America in 1887 in search of a better life. The documentary "goes back to my grandma's farm and includes a whole bunch of other farm families who are Davorens and are still there and still neighbors and still don't know their heritage either," she said.

In Ireland, Davern found documents in British and Irish archives related to how the Davoren clan founded a law school in Burren in the 1500s and preserved Gaelic law from as far back as the eighth century. The documents, written in Middle Irish, are now being digitized in Galway. "They're working hard to make them accessible," Davern said.

"It really matters to me that the next generation understands who we are and where we came from. That's what compelled me to do something I didn't have a clue how to do."

The family's history in America began with the immigration of William Quin Davern. Rita's great-grandfather settled in the Saint Paul area in 1851. He served in the state Legislature and on many municipal boards and commissions while living just outside of the capital city in Reserve

Township, the future neighborhood of Highland Park. William Quin's son, William Austin Davern (born in 1863), married Anne Davoren, and their youngest son, William Joseph Davern, was Rita's father.

William Quin and his family occupied Pike Island and an 80-acre farm roughly bordered by today's West Seventh Street, Snelling and Montreal avenues, Fairview Avenue and Edgumbe Road. The family sold off the farm to developers in the 20th century, but the



Highland Park pioneers, William Q. and Catherine Davern (seated at center) posed with their growing family near their farmhouse on Davern Street, just north of what is now Saint Paul Avenue.



Rita Davern (above right and below right) surveys the Burren countryside in Ireland during a tour of the farm owned by her distant cousin, Michael Davoren (above left).

farmhouse is still standing on Davern Street near the top of what is known as Davern Hill.

Work on *Stories I Didn't Know* began more than six years ago when Rita's niece suggested she make a film about her Irish roots and traveled with her to Ireland. Kevin Koenig, a friend of Rita's son who was trained in filmmaking, agreed to help. Koenig and Davern began taking classes at Film North and put together a 20-minute clip that helped secure a grant from the I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation.

"I didn't know how to write a script, but because I got the grant, I could hire somebody who knew what they were doing," Davern said.

That person was award-winning documentary filmmaker Melody Gilbert. She told Davern the film needed to focus on her as a guide to unlocking the family's history. The women collaborated on *Stories I Didn't Know*, but Davern took over the writing and directing of *Burren Girl*.

Davern and her four siblings grew up in Merriam Park, though she now lives in Macalester-Groveland. After graduating from the University of Minnesota, she worked as a communications consultant with several major corporations. She and her husband adopted a Korean boy, Chris, who died at 27 after a long battle with cancer. That tragedy led Davern to a second career as a parenting coach. Becoming a filmmaker was never a



consideration until her semi-retirement.

"I was determined not to let this story I uncovered get lost again," Davern said. "It really matters to me that the next generation understands who we are and where we came from. That's what compelled me to do something I didn't have a clue how to do."

"I think audiences will appreciate Rita's dedication to trying to understand her family history and the stories that get uncovered along the way," Gilbert said. "Her journey of questioning and healing is something we can all relate to if we're willing to go there. Rita wasn't afraid to open that door, even if it took her somewhere painful. We should all be so brave and persistent."



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There's still time to scare up a little fun for this Halloween

Those who are looking to celebrate Halloween with social distancing in mind may want to check out the following spirited events:

A Trunk or Treat Drive Thru will be conducted by the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. Families will drive up in their vehicles and stop at tables to receive candy, treats and information, while supplies last. Everyone attending must be in a vehicle. No registration is required. Visit stpaul.gov/fallevents.

A Spooktacular Suds car wash will be held from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, October 28-30, at Soapy Joe's, 1340 W. Seventh St. Costumed workers will entertain customers while their car is cleaned. Afterward, kids can grab free treats. Those who donate a bag of nonperishable food to benefit Neighborhood House-Francis Basket will receive a coupon for a free future car

wash. For more information, visit soapyjoesmn.com.

Theatre of the Macabre, a three-chapter online variety series, will be hosted by Twin Cities actor and director Craig Johnson at 7:30 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday, October 29-31, to benefit Park Square Theatre. The recorded performances will be filled with tales of terror, true ghost stories, and monologues and scenes created by writers from Edgar Allan Poe to William Shakespeare. The cost is \$15 per evening or \$30 for all three. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Gangster Ghost Tales will feature characters playing Saint Paul's most infamous criminals and famous lawmen telling their stories with a humorous musical twist before a seated audience on Friday, October 30, at Landmark Center. Showtimes are at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, with parties of one to four only (ages 12 and older), and include a reserved table and dessert. Beverages can be purchased at the



Spookeasy Bar. Call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

Halloween Flicks 'N' Treats will be held on Friday, October 30, at CHS Field in downtown Saint Paul. The family fun will include a socially distant double-feature movie night featuring *Hocus Pocus* at 6 p.m. and *Ghostbusters* at 8 p.m. There will also be treats and costume contests. Gates open at 5 p.m., and tickets

start at \$15. Capacity is limited. Visit saintsbasedball.com/tickets/flicksn-treats or call 651-644-6659.

Another Trunk or Treat Drive Thru will be held by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, October 30, at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy. Families will drive up in their vehicles and stop at tables to receive candy, treats and informa-

tion, while supplies last. Everyone attending must be in a vehicle. No registration is required. Visit stpaul.gov/fallevents.

The Monster Dash Halloween races will be split in two on Saturday, October 31, to safely accommodate as many runners as possible. The 5K and 10K events will begin at Harriet Island Park, and the half-marathon and 10-mile run will begin at Upper Landing Park. There will be costume contests at both locations, while virtual runners will compete online for the best outfit. Visit monsterraceseries.com/events/monster-dash.

Bring your Halloween pumpkins to the Mendota Heights City Hall parking lot at 1101 Victoria Curve and toss them into a giant dumpster for free on Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8. No painted pumpkins, wax or candles will be accepted. For more information, contact Cassandra Johnson at 651-255-1347 or cassandraj@mendota-heights.com.

ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host a free online discussion with poet Adam Faulkner and his new collection, *The Willies*, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 10. Visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Subtext Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host free online discussions with authors Kao Kalia Yang and her new book, *Somewhere in the Unknown World: A Collective Refugee Memoir*, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 10; and Chris Stedman and his book, *IRL: Finding Realness, Meaning and Belonging in Our Digital Lives*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 12. Visit subtextbooks.com.

Exhibits

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. Visitors must wear face masks and observe physical distancing. Touchless sanitization stations will be available on each floor. Landmark Center staff will regularly sanitize high-touch surfaces. For reservations, call Jenny at 651-292-3237 at least 30 minutes prior to arrival or by noon on Friday for Sunday tours.

"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 being displayed through December 24 in the Joan Mondale Gallery of the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Cosponsored by the Textile Center and the Women of Color Quilters Network (WCQN), the exhibit is curated by WCQN founder Carolyn Mazloomi. Admission is free, but reservations may be required. The exhibition may also be viewed online. Chicago artist, educator and activist Dorothy Burge will join Mazloomi in a free Zoom conversation about how she has experienced social injustice in the criminal justice system at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 17. To register, visit textilecentermn.org/wearethestory or call 612-436-0464.

Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., has reopened to the public. New

hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8-\$12, free to members of the Minnesota Historical Society. Entry will be limited to maintain physical distancing. Two of the exhibits—"First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota's Mainroom" and "Prince: Before the Rain"—have been extended to January 3, 2021. For reservations, visit mnhs.org/historycenter or call 651-259-3015.

Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Pkwy. in Minneapolis, has reopened to the public. 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, though no more than 120 people (25 percent capacity) are allowed in the museum at any time. Face masks are required. Visit wam.umn.edu.

"Stars and Stripes Over the Rhine," the story of the social, political and economic connections between Americans and Germans in the years following World War I and II, is told through a traveling exhibit and film from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays, November 15 and 22, at the Germanic-American Institute (GAI), 301 Summit Ave. The film is also being shown on GAI's YouTube channel. The exhibit may also be viewed online at gai-mn.org/Chapters. A virtual talk related to the exhibit is scheduled from 6-7 p.m. on Monday, November 23. To register, visit gai-mn.org.

Family

Big, Little Monster, a musical that pulls back the curtain on the world of monsters, reminding those struggling with fear and anxiety that they are not alone, will be performed by Saint Paul's Bucket Brigade Theater at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1, in a barn at Bruentrup Heritage Farm, 2170 E. County Road D in Maplewood. The venue offers distanced seating, a vaulted ceiling and ample ventilation. Audience members will be required to wear masks. Interactive exhibits, a scavenger hunt and refreshments will be part of the fun. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for

children age 12 and under. Those who wear a costume will receive a trick-or-treat bag. Visit bucketbrigadetheater.com.

Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, is bringing back its Night Trains experience from 3-7 p.m. Saturdays, October 31 through February 27. The museum's extensive model train is transformed into a winter wonderland for this event by dimming the overhead lights and illuminating the miniature buildings and vintage passenger trains with tiny streetlights and colorful holiday decorations. On October 31, the trains and decorations will have a Halloween theme. Tickets to Night Trains are \$15, free for anybody age 4 and younger. Reservations are required for either of two two-hour blocks. Visit tcmmr.eventbrite.com. Masks are also required for everyone over age 2.

Film

The Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival, a virtual screening of film shorts and feature-length narratives and documentaries, is being presented online through November 1. To access the free films and the post-film discussions, visit tcjfilmfest.org.

Tour Minnesota's most revered ballparks, from a multimillion-dollar complex in the Twin Cities to a beloved diamond at the end of a dirt road, in "Discovering Minnesota Baseball." Narrated by author Todd Mueller, the virtual program will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 29. It is free, though donations will be taken. To register, visit dakotahistory.org.

Music

"Dulcian and Bassoon: First Rumbblings," Renaissance and Baroque sonatas by Antonio Bertoli and J. E. Galliard, will be performed live via Zoom on October 30 and 31 by Joseph Jones on dulcian and bassoon, Charles Asch on cello and Donald Livingston on harpsichord. The music begins at 7 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students. Visit lyrabaroque.org.

A free organ recital for All Souls Day will be presented by Saint Paul Cathedral choirmaster and organist Dr. Christopher Ganza at 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 2,

on the E.M. Skinner and Æolian-Skinner pipe organs at the cathedral, 239 Selby Ave. The public is invited. Masks are required, and social distancing is encouraged. The program will include Les Paroles Finales de Saint Louis by Richard Proulx, Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain of Maurice Duruflé, and elegies by George Thalben-Ball James Biery. The recital may also be heard live at cathedralsaintpaul.org.

The eight-man vocal ensemble Cantus will present on November 6-8 the second of three new concerts recorded this summer at COVID-free Camp Cantus. The online program "Brave" examines what it means to be a man in a society that prizes conformity over authenticity. It examines the evolving concept of masculinity through works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Sara Bareilles, Mari Ésaël Valverde and Sydney Guillaume as well as the world premiere of Griffin Candey's "Protocol." Tickets are priced at what you can afford with a suggested cost of \$20 per household. To receive a link to the concert, good for 48 hours, visit cantussings.org.

Theater

The Boy Wonder, a musical by Keith Hovis about Harold Stassen, who at age 31 was elected governor of Minnesota in 1938, helped create the United Nations and fought for decades to redefine the Republican Party and be its presidential candidate, will be presented online from October 30-November 5 in a staged reading by the History Theatre. The production is part of "Raw Stages" series, a series of readings 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.

Et cetera

Friends of Coldwater will lead a Halloween Full Moon Walk beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, October 31, at the entrance to Coldwater Springs Park, which is located off of the Highway 55 frontage road south of 54th Street in South Minneapolis. Sunset is at 6:02 and moonrise is at 6:24 p.m. Folks are invited to bring a folding chair and factory-wrapped candy to share. Visit friendsofcoldwater.org.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Welcome to Lionland

Last week offered a reprieve for fans of the local pro football team: The Vikings had the weekend off. This Sunday, they'll take a trip to our next-door neighbors in Green Bay. Having that week off gives the locals time to adjust to their new life as members of the same club in Lionland. What's that, you ask? Let a Detroit native explain.

Lionland is this wonderfully safe place where you can watch a football game with little concern for who'll win. It's nice if your team pulls off a victory, but you don't expect it. See, the team owner paid too much to get a couple of players, which means some of the other positions are filled by less qualified players in order to balance the books. Thus, there are a few holes in the Lionland defense that opponents always seem to exploit.

Lionland denizens understand a few other things as well:

1. At some point, one or more of the few players who can make a serious difference will get injured. As an extra bonus this year, some will just not play for fear of the coronavirus. Their replacements are...well...replaceable.

2. The officials are not very respectful of the playing inhabitants of Lionland. As a result, your team is often victimized by some of the oddest calls in the history of the sport. Having a touchdown reception overturned for failing to complete the process comes quickly to mind.

3. Occasionally, the NFL will observe some of these officiating decisions and will wait a day or two after a game to admit the officials erred. The NFL will helpfully add that league officials will work to ensure such malfeasance doesn't occur again. Your team's loss, however, still stands.

There are other provisos as well. You're likely to get assigned such unpleasantness as playing on the road against a tough foe on Christmas Day, such as the Vikings will do this year. There's also no problem with sending an indoor team to play against another tough conference foe in a northern clime on a Monday night. Playing in Chicago in the middle of November sounds about right.

In Lionland, the football never seems to bounce your way. There are inadvertent whistles that stop plays prematurely. Weird things that never happen to, say, New England, occur to your team with regularity. At one time, this was a source of irritation. In Lionland, we simply accept it and move on.

There are some pluses in Lionland. Your games will start at noon as often as possible. That's good for families who want uninterrupted Sunday dinners. January is freed up because you don't need to be concerned about being in the playoffs. Victories are rare, so there's more cause for celebration when they do occur. One also learns to develop a thick skin because of all the losses. At first, each one is disheartening. In time, you learn that somebody had to lose on a 63-yard field goal by a guy with no toes on his kicking foot. (RIP, Tom Dempsey, who died last April at age 73 of the coronavirus.) You also learn that teams don't always make a first down when they go for it on fourth-and-1.

In its own way, games in Lionland are good for people who crave serenity in their lives. It wouldn't be surprising at all if a doctor recommended living in Lionland over taking blood pressure medications.

So relax Vikings fans. At least for 2020 the pressure is off. Of course, you now have no excuse for missing youth hockey games or piano recitals on Sunday afternoons. When you know how the game is going to end, you don't have to watch.

Besides, it makes the prospects for the upcoming baseball season all the more enticing.

Highland runners finish on top

As the high school sports season was about to start up, Highland Park cross-country coach Brad Moening was contemplating how his teams might fare this fall. "The girls' team is talented and deep," he said at the time. "They're so close in ability, they push each other hard. That's a good thing."

WRIGHT CALL ►20

Serving notice

Deep, experienced Scots rule conference roost

BY BILL WAGNER

Highland Park High School volleyball coach Nikki Mechelke thought her team was more than capable of success going into the abbreviated Saint Paul City Conference season, and she has seen nothing since to change her mind.

After sweeping previously undefeated Johnson in straight sets on October 19, the Scots were sitting alone atop the conference with a 4-0 record. Mechelke has eight returning seniors this fall, along with some younger talent in support. She was concerned at first that the coronavirus might limit the number of girls who wanted to play. However, she ended up having 45 players come out for the varsity, junior varsity and C squad.

"We have depth and we have a lot of experience," Mechelke said. "I'd say that we have a bit of everything. We're especially deep in the setting positions, so we try to run a really fast offense. We have some height, but that's not really our identity."

If the Scots don't have their A game on, they battle until they find a solution. The 25-20, 25-21, 25-17 win over Johnson was a good example.

"That wasn't a walk in the park for us," Mechelke said. "They're a scrappy team and they were digging us. They were a great opponent."

One thing's for sure. Any team that wants to take Highland down had better not beat itself. "You don't want to give us any easy balls," Mechelke said.

The Scots' sweep of their opponents so far this season also includes 3-0 wins over Central, Washington and Humboldt.

Highland's lineup consists of three key players who are in their third year on the varsity and were named all-conference last fall. Junior left-side hitter Kiyomi Callahan had 154 kills last year to go with a team-high .337 hitting percentage. She brings a rare combination of power and hustle to the offense.

"She can attack from anywhere," Mechelke said. "We try to feed her the ball."

Callahan has made a nice transition from playing right-side hitter last year to the left side in 2020.

Senior setter Annika Mechelke is the ideal quarterback for Highland's attack. Last year, she led the team with 525 assists and also topped her club in setting percentage.

"She's a kid who's full of confidence,



Highland Park senior outside hitter Deji Martens leaps to spike the ball during a recent scrimmage. The Scots were 4-0 to start the season. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

who always thinks she can be better," said coach Mechelke about her daughter.

Senior outside hitter Deji Martens led the team in serve percentage last year and was second in digs. Martens stands only 5-foot-2, but plays a lot taller with the best vertical jump on the team. She had 94 kills last season to go with her 203 digs.

Highland's supporting cast includes sophomore Ayana Bougie-Martinez, who usually plays setter, but moved to libero against Johnson and had a big impact with her defensive skills.

Senior right-side hitter Emily Aune, a team captain, is versatile and can also play middle hitter. Sophomore middle blocker Bella Kottke has also made some good hits from that spot.

The coach said she could foresee a promising future when Highland won the Twin Cities game last year for the first time since 1977.

Like all squads this prep volleyball season, which was first postponed until spring and then resurrected for fall, the Scots have had to deal with some COVID-related safety issues. The Minnesota State High School League ruled on October 8 that only two spectators per player could attend the games. However, the Saint Paul Public Schools has decided to not allow any fans in the stands, not even parents.

"That was such a disappointment for the kids," Mechelke said.

Mechelke said that all her players wear masks, both in practice and in games. "They wear them because they want to," she said.

The volleyball season officially started on September 28 and was limited to 11 weeks. Highland's regular season is currently expected to run through November 23. At press time, Mechelke said the school district had not yet decided if sectional play would be allowed.

Raider boys, Blazers fall in soccer finals

BY BILL WAGNER

It was a pretty good run for the Cretin-Derham Hall boys' soccer team this fall. The third-seeded Raiders had worked their way into the Section 3AA final with a 1-0 overtime win over second-seeded Apple Valley on October 21. However, three days later CDH could not find the back of the net and saw its season come to an end with a 2-0 loss to top-ranked Lakeville North.

Raider coach Hugh Hawkins felt that there was a point in the final where it was anybody's game as his team got some good offensive opportunities. But Lakeville scored two first-half goals to put the contest away.

CDH finished the truncated season with an 8-4-2 record. It placed fourth in the Suburban East Conference during the regular season and came out strong in the section quarterfinal with a 3-2 victory over Eastview. It was a differ-

ent story in the section final against the undefeated Panthers (12-0-2), who won their third section title in four years.

"It was a good game, a game that had a championship feel to it," Hawkins said. "It was really cool to be able to play that deep into the playoffs. We had a good season."

Hawkins passed out praise to several of his players, the greatest of which

SOCCER PLAYOFFS ►20

19◀ SOCCER PLAYOFFS

seemed reserved for senior defender Luke Wicklund, who played the right-back spot. Hawkins said Wicklund was one of the best at his position in the state.

Senior forward Charlie Rogers led the team with six goals during the season. Other Raiders of note were senior forward Mateo Castro, freshman midfielder Liam Hafenbrack, senior defender Daniel Montalbano and senior midfielder Joe Reeder.

The Raiders showed their ability to win close games throughout the season, winning by a single goal several times.

Visitation vs. Holy Angels

In girls' soccer action, third-ranked Visitation lost 3-0 in the Section 3A final against top-ranked Holy Angels on October 24.

The Blazers had high hopes after beating South Saint Paul 2-0 in the opening round of the playoffs and outlasting a scrappy Highland Park team 2-1 in the semifinals.

However, Visitation couldn't get it done against undefeated Holy Angels, who also bested them 3-1 during the regular season.

The Blazers finished with an 8-3-1 overall record and had been ranked among the top five teams in the state in Class A.



Blazer Marissa Gorden deflects a corner kick in front of Visitation goalie Katherine Norman in the section final loss to Holy Angels.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

19◀ WRIGHT CALL

Six weeks later, Moening saw just how good of a thing that is. Running on their home terrain at the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course in the Section 4AA meet on October 14, the Scots won the championship for the first time in 45 years. With all seven of its runners placing in the top 15, Highland doubled up on the field, finishing with 29 points. White Bear Lake, a perennial cross-country power, came in second with 58 points and Stillwater placed third with 69.

"I knew we had a chance to be good," said Moening, whose daughter Molly, a junior, ran especially well that day, finishing second in the 5K (3.1-mile) race with a time of 18:42.9.

To win a section meet, however, you need depth. Highland got it from two runners who were all but unheralded at the start of the year. Freshman Luna Scorzelli finished fourth overall and eighth-grader Ellie Moore finished fifth. Sophomore Chloe Koch was eighth and eighth-grader Alexa Pundsack was 10th. As an indication of the team's depth, the next two runners for Highland—Delia Johnson and Libby Roller—placed 14th and 15th, respectively.

Referring to Scorzelli and Moore, Moening said, "Those two came out of nowhere."

Cross-country is a short season. About halfway through this year's, Moening saw more than just potential on his team. "There were glimmers early," he said, "I knew we had a lot of talent, and it all came together."

Central had its own reasons to smile with junior Iris Guider finishing third, just two seconds behind Moening. The Central girls finished seventh overall with 182 points.

On the boys' side, Central senior Dylan Haugee took sixth place and classmate Adam Oulgot was 10th to lead the Minutemen to a fourth-place team finish with 100 points. The Highland boys were fifth with 128.

For now, winning the section will be as far as things go for the Highland girls. The Minnesota State High School League is not conducting state meets in any fall sports. Still, Moening is holding out hope that there'll be some sort of state meet at the end of the month, maybe without coaches on hand.

No matter. He has a lot to look forward to, since none of the Highland girls who finished in the top 15 are seniors.

Draft notice

One of the worst things a writer can be accused of is being sloppy. Such was the case in my story in the last issue on NHL draftee Jackson Hallum of Saint Thomas Academy.

For openers, I should have inserted the word "recent" into the copy when mentioning past NHL draft picks from STA. I missed former Cadet defender Robbie Stucker, who was chosen by the Columbus Blue Jackets in the seventh round of the 2017 draft and is currently playing for the Gophers.

Long ago there were also other STA players drafted by the NHL, such as Dave Preuss, who was a second-round pick by the North Stars in 1981. Preuss, who passed away last summer at age 56, never got a chance to play for the NHL team. A foot injury suffered while he was in college at the U of M ended his career. There was also Jim Warner, a 23rd-round pick of the New York Rangers in the mid-'70s who played for New England in the WHA and part of an NHL season at Hartford.

I apologize to anyone I overlooked.

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

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Highland Business of the Month—The latest Highland Business of the Month is Agelgil Ethiopian Restaurant, 2585 W. Seventh St. The restaurant, which opened in 2017, offers dine-in and take-out options from 10 a.m.-midnight Monday through Sunday. The first 40 people who mention the Highland District Council's designation will receive \$5 off their next order. For more information and to read an interview with the co-owner, visit the HDC's website.

Highland Bridge update—Ryan Companies will provide an online update of the Highland Bridge development, including a 30-minute question-and-answer session, from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 28. Participants must register in advance. Visit bit.ly/HighlandBridgeUpdate.

Highland streets—Highland Park-related activities that can be done from home will be listed in upcoming editions of the HDC's e-newsletters. Subscribe at bit.ly/HDCenews. This month's activity is a word find featuring 20 Highland Park streets. It can be printed off at bit.ly/HDCwordfind.

Upcoming online meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, November 5; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 10. All HDC meetings are currently being conducted online via Zoom. Links to access the meetings are posted on the HDC's website. For information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

James Avenue apartments—Next month's meeting of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 11, due to a variance that has been requested for a proposed three- to four-story apartment building at 1074-1096 James Ave. Email alexa@macgrove.org for information on accessing the online meeting. For information about the project, visit macgrove.org/development.

Double your donation—This year's Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 19. All donations up to \$2,500 to the Macalester-Groveland Community Council will be matched thanks to a gift from its board of directors. Early giving begins November 1 at givemn.org/macgrove. For more giving options, visit macgrove.org/donate.

Halloween guide—The community council has assembled a list of safe activities for all ages in celebration of Halloween

2020. Visit the website for details.

Show your neighborhood pride—Locally designed Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can now be ordered online using PayPal for home delivery. The shirts come in kiwi, heather indigo, and dark heather in a variety of sizes. For information, visit macgrove.org/tshirt.

Join the snow team—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is seeking volunteers to help keep its organics recycling drop-off site on Grand Avenue free from snow and ice this winter. Learn more or register by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org.

Century plaque—The owners of homes and businesses in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood that were built in 1925 or before are eligible to purchase an engraved plaque for their building to identify its age. Order by November 30 to receive it by the holidays by visiting macgrove.org/100years.

Upcoming online meetings—Community Building Committee on Monday, November 9; Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, November 11; board of directors on Thursday, November 12; and Transportation Committee on Monday, November 23. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and can be accessed via Zoom. Council staff will send out meeting links a few days in advance. Email mgcc@macgrove.org.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill plan—The Summit Hill Association is in the process of updating its neighborhood plan, a blueprint that outlines a vision of the future of the Summit Hill area. The planning process involves first collecting input from residents, business owners and visitors. The plan itself will provide a comprehensive overview of every important aspect of life in Summit Hill, including housing, business regulations, zoning, parking, transportation, parks and other open areas and historic preservation. The city will refer to the updated plan when it makes decisions on such issues as zoning and land use. The current version of the plan was created in 2006 and much has changed in the neighborhood since then. For more information, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/plan.

SHA's good neighbors—The SHA recently announced the winners of its 2020 Good Neighbor Awards. Jason Koenig and Shane Montoya of The Odd Couple Team—Keller Williams Integrity Realty were honored for their hard work and dedication to the Summit Hill House Tour. And Brian Wagner of Coldwell Banker Realty was honored for the time and energy he devoted to the Future Is Grand Task Force.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Annual meeting—The Union Park District Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 19. Email wako@unionparkdc.org for credentials to attend the Zoom meeting. Early voting will begin November 9 at the UPDC office, 1821 University Ave., Suite 308. Grids 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, and the Skyline Tower seat are up for election. For information on running for the board, visit tinyurl.com/yx-wl9jtg. Zoom meetings for prospective candidates will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, October 28-November 18, and from 1-2 p.m. Saturdays October 31-November 14. Candidates can also drop into the office during those times. Email wako@unionparkdc.org for credentials to attend the meetings.

Park improvements—The UPDC's Environment and Parks Committee makes recommendations for the annual expenditure of city park improvement funds. Those who see a need at their neighborhood park can help make it better by filling out a funding request at tinyurl.com/y24zvvg2.

Upcoming online meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 9; and Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 16. For information on joining the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org or visit unionparkdc.org/calendar.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board update—At its meeting on October 12, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation board of directors backed a request from Saint Paul 350 to support 100 percent clean, renewable energy for everyone in the city and to build no new fossil fuel infrastructure. The board also supported a proposal to change the required distance between wine-only, off-sale stores from one-half mile to 300 feet. The change would only allow for six or seven additional sites in Saint Paul. The board also heard about an effort by the Association of Nonsmokers-Minnesota to limit coupons of tobacco products and create a minimum price, but took no vote.

Upcoming virtual meetings—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 4; Joint Riverview Task Force, 6 p.m. Thursday, November 5; board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, November 9; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 19. Updated agendas and links to the Zoom meetings can be found at fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representatives and Notice to Creditors State of Minnesota Ramsey County Second Judicial District District Court Informal Probate Division Court File Number: 62-PR-20-682 In re the Estate of: Gerald Joseph Bles, a/k/a Jerry Joseph Bles, Decedent.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated June 22, 1994 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following: Cynthia M. Breault N5673 1190th Street Prescott, WI 54021 As personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object

LEGAL NOTICES

to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate. Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing. Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Laura J. Stevens
Probate Registrar
October 8, 2020
Michael F. Upton
Court Administrator
October 8, 2020

Self-Represented Litigant:

Cynthia M. Breault
N5673 1190th Street
Prescott, WI 54021

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT FILE NO. 62-CV-20-4263
SUMMONS**

In the Matter of the Application of Samuel E. Czaplewski,
To register title to the following described real estate in Ramsey County, Minnesota:
Lot 12, Block 51, DesDoyer Park
TO:
the unknown heirs of Earl W. Hill
the unknown heirs of Virginia K. Hill
Maureen Josephine Vossberg
John Sundberg
Jason Sundberg
the unknown heirs of David Sundberg
Mary Jo Czaplewski
John P. Czaplewski
Diarme Nancy Vigenser c/o Ted Vigenser
Thomas Albert Czaplewski
Mark Anthony Czaplewski
the unknown heirs of John Czaplewski
also all heirs and devisees of any of the above named persons who are deceased, and all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the Application or any amendments herein.
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Application of the Applicant in the above proceeding and to file your answer to the said Application in the office of the Administrator of said court, in said county, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and, if you fail to answer the Application within the time aforesaid, the Applicant in this proceeding will apply to the court for the relief demanded therein.
Michael F. Upton
Court Administrator
Second Judicial District

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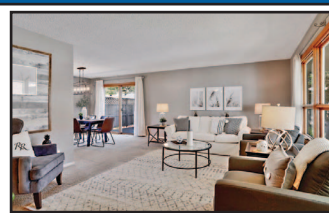
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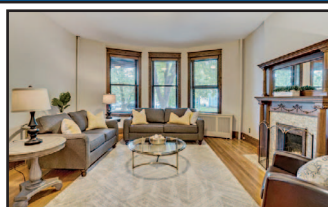
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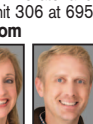
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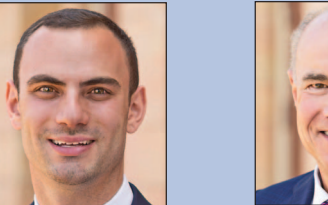
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