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Big screens hang on for a Hollywood ending

Area theaters fill seats while they await COVID relief

By Carolyn Walkup

As the fear of COVID-19 infection continues to wane, independent theaters across the area are welcoming back movie buffs while awaiting news of their applications for federal COVID relief. Five local theaters are back in business, but most of them continue to struggle financially as funding through the federal Save Our Stages Act remains mired in governmental bureaucracy.

Of the five, only Trylon Cinema in South Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood has received a Save Our Stages grant as of press time. Other theaters that have applied for the grants include the Riverview and Parkway theaters in South Minneapolis and Mann Theatres, which operates the Grandview and Highland theaters in Saint Paul.

The Save Our Stages Act was a bipartisan effort initiated by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) and John Cornyn (R-Texas). It passed Congress last December as part of a larger COVID relief package. The act allocated \$16 billion for live and movie theaters, live music stages and other entertainment venues. The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) administers



A couple conversed while awaiting the start of the previews on the big screen at the Highland Theatre last week. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the grants, which are intended to help pay for about six months of employee salaries, entertainers and other operating expenses.

The federal grant has made up for about a half-year of lost income at the Trylon, according to its director, Barry Kryshka. The nonprofit 90-seat theater specializes in classic films from long ago. To save money, it is bringing in fewer films this summer but for longer runs. Some of the classics it has scheduled for August are *Key Largo*, *The Miami Story*, *Night Moves* and *Body Heat*.

However, Kryshka expects to book a full run of 50 films in the fall.

The Riverview Theater, which has been in operation since 1948, recently switched from showing second-run to first-run movies and increased ticket prices for what it believes will be a more sustainable business model. The theater is still adhering to social distancing guidelines by selling reserved seats online, and patrons are being asked to wear masks when they are not in their seats.

BIG SCREEN IS BACK ▶3

Evicted businesses sue Midway Center

Claim they were unfairly denied reopening in the wake of riots

By Jane McClure

More than a year after Midway Center was damaged in the rioting following the murder of George Floyd, four former tenants are suing the property owners and the lease holder and are seeking an injunction to prevent the vacant building at University Avenue and Pascal Street from being torn down.

Golden Gate Cafe, Mimi's Beauty Salon, Sweet Cajun (doing business as Their's Cajun Boiling Seafood) and Hung Tu (doing business as Peking Garden) filed the lawsuit in June in Ramsey County District Court. They were among almost 20 Midway Center businesses that were displaced by the civil unrest. The Foot Locker in Midway Center was set ablaze on the night of the riots, and other stores were vandalized and looted.

Last July the shopping center's owners enacted a lease clause that allowed them to evict the tenants. The four businesses that are suing were on the eastern end of Midway Center, southwest of University and Pascal and on either side of Foot Locker.

Court documents indicate that the owners of the four businesses believe their storefronts sustained little damage and could have reopened. They are claiming wrongful eviction and unlawful exclusion, breach of contract and breach of duty in good faith. The defendants in the case are RK Midway Shopping Center, Snelling Midway Redevelopment LLC and RD Management.

Thien's has reopened as King Cajun at 712 University Ave. Golden Gate has permanently closed. Mimi's voicemail indicates the salon is still closed. Peking Garden reopened this spring at University and Western avenues.

MIDWAY CENTER BUSINESSES ▶2

Rezoning recommended for five-story development at 695 Grand

But Zoning Committee would deny request to opt out of three-story height limit on Grand

By Jane McClure

Plans for a controversial five-story building at the corner of Grand Avenue and Saint Albans Street are headed to the Saint Paul Planning Commission on July 9 with the partial support of the commission's Zoning Committee. The committee voted 6-2

on July 1 to recommend rezoning the property at 695 Grand Ave. from B2 business to mixed-use Traditional Neighborhoods 3 (TN3). However, the committee also recommended denial of a request to remove the property from the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District, which limits the height of new buildings to three stories.

The Zoning Committee postponed action on the developers' requests for a conditional use permit and variances for the project until 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15.

The property is owned by the Kenefick family. Working with Reuter Walton Development, the Keneficks want to tear down the existing one-story building that houses three

restaurants—Dixie's on Grand, Saji-Ya and Emmett's Public House—and replace it with building that has two restaurants and two other commercial spaces on the ground floor and 79 apartments on the four floors above. The building would include 68 underground parking spaces for residents and 31 customer parking spaces at-grade.

Zoning Committee members debated at length whether the building is the appropriate height and scale for the site. Commissioner Jake Reilly said the five-story structure is out of scale. However, commissioner Nate Hood supported the rezoning and praised the Keneficks and Reuter Walton for engaging the neighborhood in the building's design.

The Summit Hill Association (SHA) had earlier recommended approval of the rezoning to TN3, but voted against allowing 695 Grand to opt out of the provisions of the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District. Instead, the SHA asked the developer to seek a variance from the overlay district.

The Zoning Committee received comments from 47 people in support of the project and 480 people against, including 297 names on a petition opposing the project. Supporters contended the mixed-use building would help revitalize Grand Avenue and add much-needed housing. Opponents said that it would be too

REZONING OF 695 GRAND ▶2

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Midway Center businesses were given \$10,000 by the shopping center's owners in conjunction with the eviction, but Louis Lau, whose family owns Peking Garden, said that was not nearly enough for businesses wishing to relocate.

Lau estimates that his family has spent roughly \$1 million on relocating the restaurant. An additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 in expenses is anticipated to further renovate the new kitchen. "We've had good traffic at the new location, but as we get into working there, we find we need to make further changes," Lau said.

Peking Garden could have reopened at Midway Center, Lau said. Less than 10 percent of the strip mall sustained fire damage, he said. Foot Locker had the worst damage, followed by the adjacent Game Stop, To New York clothing store and Great Clips salon.

The former tenants claim in court documents that their leases were terminated in a bid to speed up redevelopment of Midway Shopping Center as part of an effort to repurpose the superblock around Allianz Field, the home of Major League Soccer's Minnesota United FC. The property bounded by Pascal, Saint Anthony, Snelling and University avenues is under lease to Snelling Mid-

way Redevelopment LLC. That entity is led by Bill McGuire, who is also the lead owner of the Minnesota United soccer team.

A master plan for redeveloping the superblock was adopted by the city five years ago. The plan includes apartment buildings, a hotel, retail stores and offices. Since then, plans have been unveiled for two mixed-use buildings on the western part of the superblock, but those plans have not materialized.

Peking Garden's lease on its Midway Center space was not set to expire until 2028, Lau said. The lease for Thien's Cajun Boiling Seafood was also good until 2028. Mimi's Beauty Salon's lease extended into 2024. Golden Gate Cafe, which had been owned by the Hui family for 40 years, was the longest-tenured tenant in Midway Shopping Center. Its lease was set to expire at the end of 2022.

Peking Garden had operated at Midway Center since 2005 after it lost its space at University and Washington avenues when the University of Minnesota constructed TCF Bank Stadium. The Laus had invested more than \$350,000 in improvements to their Midway Center space just a few years before they were forced out.

"We walked through each business with the fire marshal," Lau said. "We weren't told we couldn't reopen."

"If it were not for (Snelling-Midway Redevelopment LLC's) closure of Midway Center, the plaintiffs individually and collectively would be able to continue their business operations," the lawsuit stated.

The owners of the four businesses are each seeking at least \$50,000 in damages. The actual amount of compensation would be determined at trial, for which no date has been set.

The business owners are represented by Christopher Knapp of the law firm Barnes and Thornburg of Minneapolis. Knapp declined to comment.

The defendants are represented by Timothy Kelley of the Minneapolis Stinson LLP office. Kelley also had no comment.

Midway Center is currently the subject of a remove or repair process at City Hall. The city has ordered that the eastern end of the Midway Shopping Center be repaired or removed. A legislative hearing officer will review the matter on July 27 and a recommendation could go to the City Council as soon as August.

The City Council in June ordered that the nearby Big Top Liquors store be torn down. Big Top was heavily damaged by fire in the rioting. As of last week the blackened building on the south side of University was still standing.

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big for the neighborhood, would add to existing traffic and parking problems, and would set a bad precedent for future development in the area.

The Keneficks are the first property owners to ask to opt out of the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District since it was established in 2006 on Grand east of Ayd Mill Road. The overlay district had been sought by the SHA to deter big-box chain stores from moving onto Grand. The district limits both the height and footprint of new buildings. The SHA is currently studying the district's effects and is expected to forward a recommendation on its future to the city by June 2022.

The SHA supported the request for a conditional use permit at 695 Grand to allow a building height of 59 feet 10 inches. It also supported variances for an 18-foot setback in front to allow for a restaurant patio and a 70-foot setback

in front for the upper stories to give the building a U-shape and allow for a second-story terrace for residential tenants.

"We understand the emotions and real-life experiences driving the lack of support (for the project)," said Ari Parritz of Reuter Walton. However, he added, the plan for the building is better today as a result of five months of neighborhood meetings. In response to neighbors, the developers moved the building's vehicular access points and altered its setbacks. They were also asked to consider a building with three or four stories, Parritz said, but "we felt like that was not a win for Grand Avenue."

SHA president Peter Rhoades said the district council's board of directors made its recommendations on the project after weighing all of the comments it has received from the neighborhood. He said it became clear that people would rather see investment at 695 Grand than the single-story building and surface parking lot there now.

The Zoning Committee hearing was dominated by testimony from opponents of the project. Close to 20 testified that the development is too much for the site.

The Grand-Saint Albans area is already very dense, said Saint Albans resident Hillary Parsons. The building as proposed would especially affect her and other residents of the historic condos on the street. "It's just going to be a massive wall along Saint Albans," she added.

The last detailed parking study in the Grand-Saint Albans area indicated that the neighborhood had a significant parking shortfall, said former SHA president Shannon O'Toole. "That was in 1993," she said, "and nothing has changed." Tenants, patrons and employees in the proposed building will likely drive, she said, and there will not be enough parking to accommodate them.





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With help from Reagan Welch (right), Andrea Borries picked up some refreshments before seeing a movie last week at the Highland 1 & 2 Theatres. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1- BIG SCREEN IS BACK

Ward Johnson, co-owner of the 90-year-old Parkway Theater, expects to be back to full-time business starting in September. While hoping for a Save Our Stages grant to come through, he has been operating with the help of an SBA loan he received last November, private donations, savings and personal finances. However, most of those funds have been spent.

"We're relying on getting that grant," Johnson said. "How long we can hang on is hard to say. But we'll be back full time in September, fingers crossed," with both live shows and classic movies.

This summer the Parkway has scheduled a couple of live concerts and a 24-hour horror movie marathon. A Johnny O'Neil "Truth or Dare" album release concert will take place on July 30, and guitarist Tommy Emmanuel will perform in concert on August 13.

Five live shows are scheduled at the Parkway in September. Ward hopes to open the fall movie season with *Jaws*, which was the first movie the Parkway screened after Ward and his business partner took over the theater in 2018.

Movie theaters were already suffering from reduced attendance even before COVID-19 darkened the big screens last year. However, with the government-mandated shutdowns of 2020, more and more movie buffs turned to the small screens and such video services

as Netflix, Hulu and HBO. Now, theater owners are hoping that Hollywood returns to its former practice of releasing movies on the big screen first.

The Highland Theatre reopened in January and the Grandview Theatre about six weeks ago, according to Michelle Mann, co-owner of the Mann Theatres chain. "Hollywood knows people want to come to the theater," Mann said. "You can't duplicate that experience at home."

The hit musical *In the Heights*, produced by Lin-Manuel Miranda of *Hamilton* fame, drew a good crowd to the Grandview on a recent Saturday night. The theater was about half full.

Although the Mann family received some financial assistance from the state during COVID, getting a federal Save Our Stages grant "would be a big help," Mann said. The family-owned chain has not raised ticket prices, and it claims to have the lowest prices of any theater chain in the Twin Cities.

"Community support (during the pandemic) has been amazing," Mann said.

In an attempt to speed up the granting of Save Our Stages funds, Senators Klobuchar and Cornyn recently gathered the signatures of more than 50 U.S. senators on a strongly worded letter to the SBA, urging the agency to expedite the process.

"Bureaucratic process cannot stand in the way of getting these desperately needed funds out the door," the letter stated.

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From the master plan for the Ford site, a vision of the Highland Bridge development looking southeast from the Ford Bridge (lower right).

City amends open space regulations at Ford site

Staff insists proposal wouldn't alter master plan's provisions for preserving openness

By JANE McCLURE

The city of Saint Paul's regulations regarding building lot coverage and open space on private property at Highland Bridge could change under a package of amendments released last month by the Saint Paul Planning Commission. The Planning Commission wants to simplify the regulations, which are contained in the city's master plan for the 122-acre redevelopment project in Highland Park. The commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments online at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 23.

Open spaces are intended to break up development blocks and reduce the massing of buildings at Highland Bridge. The City Council asked for the changes in May, citing confusion with the current open space regulations. The council will have the final say on the changes.

The open space regulations were the subject of a lawsuit filed last fall by members of Neighbors for a Livable Saint Paul. The group has become increasingly concerned about the number of variances sought by Highland

Bridge developers. It believes the city's proposed clarification of the open space regulations is no less confusing.

"The amendments to the city's definition of 'open space' and 'lot coverage' read like *Alice in Wonderland*, where reality is being distorted," Neighbors for a Livable Saint Paul stated. "The city claims that the master plan amendments will clarify the definitions. In our view, the 32 pages of amended language is indecipherable and further confuses understanding."

Open space on privately owned lots is defined in the Ford site master plan as gardens, walkways, patios, courtyards, recreational facilities and other areas covered by landscape materials. Under the current requirements, a minimum of 25 percent of a building's lot must be open space.

What has generated much debate is whether balconies, decks and green roofs should be included in meeting the minimum requirement for open space. Currently, green roofs, patios, balconies and decks can help a developer meet up to 50 percent of the open space requirement.

According to Menaka Mohan, the lead city planner for Highland Bridge, each of Highland Bridge's zoning districts has its own set of lot and building standards. The goal of those standards is to achieve a balance between building mass, open space and transitional space between

private property and the public right-of-way.

The master plan's definition of private open space is confusing and should be removed, Mohan said. Besides, the existing open space lot coverage regulations are not necessary given the number of regulations in the master plan that address how private lots interact with the public realm.

Open space can be regulated in many ways, Mohan said. Building design standards and requirements for setbacks, lot coverage, stormwater management, parking, landscaping, building height and floor area ratio can all address the need for open space, she said.

The open space requirements are separate from building lot coverage requirements, which dictate the percentage of a lot that can be occupied by a structure. The building lot coverage requirement would not change, Mohan said. However, a new definition of lot coverage would be added to the master plan. Changes in the way green roofs are regulated are also proposed. A lot coverage bonus would be offered to developers who provide green roofs, allowing those buildings to have a larger footprint.

To register to take part in the Planning Commission's public hearing on July 23, visit stpaul.gov/departments/planning-and-economic-development/planning/planning-commission.

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Board goes with Two Rivers as new name for Sibley High

BY CASEY EK

Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights will now be called Two Rivers, following a vote by the West Saint Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area School Board on June 21. The vote followed a year-long process to change the name due to its affiliation with Minnesota's first governor, whose legacy has come under increased scrutiny.

A High School Name Committee of students, staff, parents, alumni and the general public was tasked with bringing at least two names to the board with 75 percent or more support from committee members. West Heights and Two Rivers were its top choices. It also presented a third option, Hillside, to the board because it too had considerable support, particularly among students.

Over the last several months, the committee sorted through more than 800 possible names submitted by the public. It settled on five options, including those three and two based on words in the Dakota language—Mni Sota and Ohoda. A public survey of the five options drew just under 4,200 responses between May 25 and June 11.

Two Rivers was chosen as the school's new name by the School Board on a 5-1 vote. The name was also among the top picks in the public survey, though not as popular as West Heights. The chosen name refers to the high school's proximity to the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers.

Board member John Chandler voted

"Obviously we're going to teach history. That doesn't mean you honor (Henry Sibley) with the name of the high school," said School Board chair Joanne Mansur.

against the motion, citing a lack of opportunity for the public to provide more input on the top names. "I can't in good faith vote for any of the names," Chandler said.

He was initially against the name change altogether. However, Chandler ultimately sided with the board's unanimous decision in December to seek a change. He contended that his initial hesitation was because he felt the process did not appear to offer robust public input during the pandemic when students, families and faculty were in the thick of distance learning.

"A lot of people had no idea we were going to vote for (the name change)," Chandler said.

An online petition, which as of June 29 had garnered just over 700 signatures, cropped up shortly after the board's vote to adopt the Two Rivers name. Some comments on the petition reflected distaste for the name altogether. Others stated the process did not consider enough voices. Still others wished the name selected would have been simpler, like Men-



The District 197 School Board ended a year-long process on June 21 by renaming Henry Sibley High School as Two Rivers. An online petition popped up shortly thereafter asking the district to try again.

dota Heights High School. The petition can be found at tinyurl.com/ptt3bbzh.

Many on the petition site also believed the process was done too hastily. Board chair Joanne Mansur disagreed with that notion. She said that in her 10 years on the School Board the topic of nixing Sibley's name has come up regularly. She added that the process for changing the school's name was as lengthy as it needed to be.

"Six months isn't rushing. A year isn't rushing," Mansur said. "It's time to vote."

She later said she felt the district did its due diligence with public outreach. She added that she felt the board's public meetings had been more, not less, accessible to the public, given the remote nature of them.

Mansur said she believed much of the backlash surrounding the new name was because some people believed the move was an effort

to "erase history."

"Obviously we're going to teach history. That doesn't mean you honor (Henry Sibley) with the name of the high school," Mansur said.

The legacy of Henry Hastings Sibley, who served as Minnesota's first governor from 1858-1860, has come under increased criticism over his treatment of Minnesota's American Indian population following the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. After the conflict, Sibley played a key role in the mass hanging of 38 Dakota men in Mankato, which remains the largest mass execution in the country's history.

Last June, the District 197 School Board heard concerns that Sibley's name violated the district's own naming policy, which states that those after whom schools are named should demonstrate "good character."

Commission supports eliminating city's off-street parking requirements

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Saint Paul Planning Commission voted 14-3 on June 25 to recommend that the city eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements for new developments. The proposal is now headed to the City Council for a final vote.

Saint Paul developers are currently required to provide a minimum number of off-street parking spaces or seek a variance from the city. The parking requirements vary by zoning district, the size and type of development, and the proximity to mass transit. The current exceptions are in downtown and along the light-rail Green Line.

If the proposal is adopted, developers would have to provide detailed travel demand management plans, which could include such features as more bicycle parking, providing transit passes or real-time transit information on display boards. Developers could still add off-street parking to their projects if they feel it is necessary. One comment heard over the years of discussion on the topic is that some banks might be reluctant to finance developments that have no parking at all.

Reducing or eliminating the minimum amount of off-street parking required for new

developments has been debated by the city for several years. The current review began in 2018 and resulted in a 187-page study.

"It took four years to put this in front of us," said Kristine Grill, chair of the Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee. If the change is adopted, she would like to see it reviewed in one year.

Staff from the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) met over recent months with district councils and business associations, and sponsored two webinars on the proposed change. City planner Tony Johnson said recent comments indicated that support for eliminating the parking minimums greatly outweighed the opposition.

In total, 237 written comments were submitted online and four people spoke at a public hearing in April. About 70 percent favored the option to eliminate minimum parking requirements.

Proponents said not having the requirements would help lower costs for developers and could reduce residential and commercial rents. It would also encourage people to walk, bike and use public transit. And it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, since about 31 percent of the city's carbon emissions are from vehicular travel.

The city's 2040 comprehensive plan calls for reducing the land devoted to off-street parking and promoting higher-density neighborhoods. Johnson has repeatedly pointed out that about one-third of Saint Paul is dedicated to motor vehicle-oriented uses, namely streets, alleys, garages and off-street parking.

Planning Commission chair Luis Rangel Morales was one of three votes against the recommendations, saying they raise questions of equity for low-income renters. He questioned whether it is realistic to assume that landlords would reduce rents if they did not have to provide off-street parking.

"To me it doesn't seem like that's going to happen," he said. Morales and other commissioners also questioned whether the policy change would have a disparate impact on low-income renters who need vehicles to get to work and take children to child care.

"It's accepted that we need to move away from motor vehicles, but the question is, 'Who bears that inconvenience?'" Morales said.

"I don't believe this is going to help low-income renters," said Commissioner Deborah Mitchell, who works in nonprofit development. "I don't believe developers will develop more housing. Development is about making money. We all know that."

Commissioner Nate Hood said he believes that parking minimums create "immense harm to cities." "They worsen our car dependence," he said. "They hinder in-fill development, they undermine walkable neighborhoods, they block transit-oriented development and they make building real estate so much more expensive."

Commissioner Anne DeJoy said she sympathizes with the housing issues raised, but as someone who works in nonprofit development she has seen many situations where the challenge of repurposing older buildings is finding required off-street parking.

If the City Council adopts the recommendation, more work is ahead for the PED and other city departments. Planning director Luis Pereira said the proposal will have staffing impacts, especially with requirements that developers prepare travel demand management plans. Those reviews are done by the Department of Safety and Inspections, which is currently short-staffed.

The proposal could also move more parking onto the street, which creates maintenance issues like snow plowing. Ways to address those issues are being looked at by Public Works, which would like to modernize the city's snow plowing procedures.



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News Briefs

Federation to review city zoning study for homeless day shelters

A meeting on Saint Paul's proposed homeless services zoning study will be hosted by the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. The meeting is in-person and will be held outside, if possible.

The city's Planning Commission is currently studying where day facilities for the homeless should be located. If proposed zoning changes are adopted by the City Council, the facilities would be restricted to specific zoning districts within one-half mile of existing overnight shelters.

The zoning changes would allow the Freedom House day shelter to stay open in a former fire station at 296 W. Seventh St. The shelter opened several months ago to provide space for people who lost places to go during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the day shelter has many supporters, behavior of some people going to and from the shelter has caused consternation for area businesses, including bars and restaurants that serve clientele from Xcel Energy Center.

Federation board members hope to reach consensus at the meeting in order to send its recommendation on the zoning proposal to the City Council. The meeting will include presentations from city staff. Attendees are asked to register at fortroadfederation.org.

County approves property tax levy to fund affordable housing

Ramsey County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be able to levy about \$11.1 million in property taxes starting in 2022. The County Board gave unanimous approval on June 22 to the levy, which has been discussed for the past several months.

Saint Paul will receive half of those funds annually and will be able to vote on levy-supported projects. The funds will be available starting in 2023 and are supported by the city's HRA. The levy will increase annual taxes on a median value residential property by about \$45.

The approval allows the county to levy up to .0185 percent of the estimated market



Au revoir reservoir.

Demolition of Highland Park's southern water reservoir is underway and will continue through August with plans to eventually develop the site for sports fields. The work is being done in conjunction with improvements to the adjacent Charles M. Schulz Highland Arena. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



value on all taxable property within the county. North Saint Paul, which is the only other city in the county with an HRA, decided not to participate. Cities without HRAs in place were not able to opt out.

The levy is dedicated to HRA projects. Ramsey County and Saint Paul's intent is to support affordable housing through a county economic competitiveness and inclusion plan. The funds could be used for housing preservation or for new projects, serving as gap financing, land acquisition, matching grants or other purposes.

Ramsey County has had an HRA in place for many years, but used property sale proceeds, federal dollars and other funding sources to support its work. It is the only county in the Twin Cities that currently does not levy separately for its HRA.

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt praised the levy, saying it represents a step in working

with cities in the county to raise funds for affordable housing.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who chairs the Saint Paul HRA, said the approximately \$5 million the city will receive may not be a huge sum of money, it will provide another resource for badly needed affordable housing.

BZA grants parking variance for Snell-Ham auto repair garage

The Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted 6-1 on June 28 to approve a parking variance that will allow a Snelling-Hamline building that housed manufacturing businesses for many years to become an auto repair garage. The decision is final unless appealed to the City Council.

JWP Automotive LLC wishes to move into a building at 1457 Marshall Ave. that has housed

different industrial uses, including a foundry. The property is zoned light industrial.

Sai Paige and John Vang want to open an auto repair business in part of the building. That use requires 30 off-street parking spaces. They plan to create 14 employee parking spots at the northeast part of the property, requiring a 16-space variance.

The couple said vehicles brought in for repair will be parked inside and they do not plan outdoor storage of customer vehicles. They are renting more than 10,000 square feet of space inside the building.

BZA member Diane Trout-Oertel cast the lone vote against the variance. She questioned whether the BZA is setting a precedent for a future tenant who rents the remaining space and will also need a parking variance.

The building is in a mixed-use area with other businesses, including a taxi company. "The area is pretty well parked," said BZA member Robert Clarksen.

The Union Park District Council Transportation Committee recommended approval of the variance.

Library increases hours, in-person events and offers outdoor Wi-Fi

The Saint Paul Public Library, which provided virtual and limited in-person services throughout the pandemic, has increased its indoor open hours and resumed most of its outdoor in-person events and programs. Current services include:

- Free outdoor in-person events and programs, including story times. Summer Spark, the library's summer reading and learning program, runs through August 31 and offers events and activities, prizes, and a free book to keep for youths age 18 and younger.
- Free outdoor Wi-Fi access in areas adjacent to library buildings.
- Library visitors may browse the library without time limits and check out books, DVDs, music and more. People can apply for a library card in-person or online.
- Space and furniture for visitors to read, study, work and meet is now available, including public computers and free Wi-Fi.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

City Council repeals SAFE Housing over constitutionality concerns

Says it will begin work on drafting a new set of tenant protections

By JANE MCCLURE

In the wake of a U.S. District Court ruling that questioned its constitutionality, Saint Paul's new SAFE Housing tenant protection ordinance was repealed by the City Council on a 4-3 vote on June 23. Council members said they will immediately begin work on a new tenant protection ordinance, but that did not mollify some housing advocates, who wanted to see the city continue defending the ordinance in federal court.

The ordinance was adopted last summer to much fanfare by renters rights groups. It took effect on March 1. However, landlords and property management companies challenged the ordinance in February in federal court, claiming that some of its provisions violated their constitutional rights.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson ruled that the provisions limiting a landlord's criteria for screening tenants and requiring landlords to explain just cause for not renewing a lease may indeed be unconstitutional and that the city was likely to lose the case if it went to trial. The case was scheduled

for trial in October 2022. In mid-April Magnuson ordered the city to stop enforcing the ordinance.

City Council president Amy Brendmoen and members Rebecca Noecker, Jane Prince and Chris Tolbert voted for repealing the SAFE (Stable, Affordable, Fair and Equitable) Housing ordinance. Voting against the repeal were members Mitra Jalali, Dai Thao and Nelsie Yang.

In addition to requiring just cause for not renewing a lease, the ordinance limited a landlord's ability to use a prospective tenant's criminal record and credit history for screening purposes. If an apartment building that provides affordable housing was put up for sale, the landlord had to give tenants 90 days' notice before the sale. The landlord also had to pay a tenant's moving costs if the rent was increased within three months of a sale.

"A vote for rescinding the ordinance is a vote for tenant protections," Tolbert said, "because it will enable us to pass actual tenant protections at a quicker pace."

"All of us are committed to getting strong tenant protections in place," Prince said prior to the vote to repeal. "Nothing that we do here today should suggest anything else."

Jalali disagreed, calling the ordinance a landmark in public policy that "is worth fighting for." While acknowledging the po-

tential costs and time involved in defending the ordinance in court, she maintained that repealing the ordinance sends the wrong message. "It undercuts the point of what we're trying to do," she said.

Yang agreed, saying the city could still be sued by landlords if a new ordinance is brought forward.

Mayor Melvin Carter issued a statement after the council's vote expressing his disappointment in Magnuson's court order. The SAFE Housing ordinance was passed "to address threats of displacement and discrimination in housing," he stated. "The tenant protections were developed through extensive engagement with our community and remain as critical as ever. We remain steadfast in our commitment to realize stable, accessible, fair and equitable housing for all."

City Council members met with the City Attorney's Office to discuss their options prior to the repeal. More than four dozen people and organizations weighed in, most of them asking that the SAFE Housing ordinance not be repealed and that the city continue to defend it in federal court.

Attorneys for the landlords and property management companies said that they would drop the litigation if the city repealed the ordinance. However, many citizens asked the City Council not to repeal the ordinance,

at least not until a new ordinance could be drafted in its place.

Housing Justice Center attorneys asked the City Council to consider the potential impact a repeal would have on a similar court case in Minneapolis. The city of Minneapolis is currently defending the constitutionality of its own tenant protection ordinance in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Housing Justice Center called Judge Magnuson's order deeply flawed. According to its attorneys, the order applies constitutional law in an unprecedented manner that could undermine the ability of any municipality to protect tenants. "Rescinding the ordinance could cause irreparable harm to the ability of Saint Paul and other cities to pass similar tenant protection laws," a Housing Justice Center memo stated.

The Highland District Council (HDC) passed a resolution citing the effort put into the ordinance and how it has been regarded as one of the most progressive in the nation. "Housing discrimination and unfair practices present critical challenges to finding safe and equitable housing for renters," the HDC resolution stated, "and not all voices were heard when creating the ordinance." The HDC asked the City Council to provide opportunities for all interested parties to help develop an ordinance that is acceptable to all.



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VIEWPOINT

Tragedy struck in the wake of teenagers' high adventure

Editor's note: The Minnesota Air National Guard is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The centennial year, which kicked off on September 26, 2020, recalled an experience our correspondent had when the Air Guard was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

BY CHAS JENSEN

My dad was in the Air National Guard, which has a base at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport. In addition to being a pilot and a lawyer, he was a putterer and liked to build things. He got involved in constructing a replica for the Air Guard museum in 1970—a biplane just like the Curtiss Oriole that Captain Ray Miller flew to Washington, D.C., in 1920 to seek permission to form the Air Guard in Minnesota.

Minnesota's was the first federally recognized Air Guard in the U.S. The Air Guard wanted to honor the 1920 flight on its 50th anniversary with a showy ceremony and the flight of the replica biplane to Washington. In the fall of 1970, I was in eighth grade at Saint Luke's (now Saint Thomas More) School on Summit Avenue, and I was corralled into helping with the biplane's construction. I was given menial tasks like sanding the wood for the body of the plane.

I had begun to develop an interest in art as an 8th-grader. I was a shy kid who preferred the company of a good book or an episode of "Gilligan's Island" after school to anything else. I played Little League baseball, but pretty much kept to myself at the end of the bench. So when the opportunity arose to borrow an 8-millimeter movie camera, I pounced on it.

I checked the camera out of the art department at Saint Luke's, and when I got it home I learned that the construction of the biplane was finished. Now somebody had to test the "Oriole," as we called it. Bob Tschida, another Air Guard member and a pilot for Northwest Airlines, was chosen to be the test pilot, and my brother and I were invited along for the ride.

We drove to Holman Field, the airport in Saint Paul where the plane was to be tested. I



The Curtiss Oriole, the biplane that Captain Ray Miller flew to Washington, D.C., to lobby for a new flying squadron in the Minnesota National Guard. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM

imagine they needed a grass airfield because instead of a back wheel the biplane had a metal stub that upon landing was dragged through the turf to slow the plane down. When we arrived, the Oriole was already circling the airport.

It seemed like hours before we finally got our ride. All I remember is climbing into the front seat of the plane with my brother. The seat was built for a single adult, but neither one of us was going to give up our ride for the other's comfort, so we both squeezed in. Soaring above downtown with the wind blowing through my hair was like nothing I had ever experienced. The pilot sat behind us, so there was nobody blocking our view. I remember the plane being loud and rickety, but I felt no fear.

In hindsight, I suppose it was a perfect opportunity for shooting my first movie, but I hadn't even learned how to load the camera. However, I got a lesson and the chance to shoot some practice footage before the 50th anniversary celebration the following weekend. When the day arrived, we all piled into the family station wagon and headed to the airport with my camera at my side.

The scene on September 27, 1970, was one of pomp and circumstance. The Air Guard had a collection of vintage and contemporary aircraft on display on the tarmac. There was a brass band and a reviewing stand with local

Soaring above downtown Saint Paul with the wind blowing through my hair was like nothing I had ever experienced.... I remember the plane being loud and rickety, but I felt no fear.

bigwigs and Mrs. Ray Miller, the widow of Captain Miller, the World War I pilot who had made the initial flight 50 years earlier. All kinds of people were milling about the airfield. The sky was clear. It was a perfect day for flying.

With my camera in hand, I began filming anything and everything I thought needed to be recorded. The band started up and people began moving toward the reviewing stand. Once things quieted down, the dignitaries were introduced, speeches were delivered and the significance of the biplane and flight was explained. The two flyers—pilot Colonel Robert Leighton and mechanic Technical Sergeant Foster Crump—were escorted to the plane and as the band played they climbed aboard and waved to the crowd.

I had positioned myself in what I thought was the best vantage point and began filming as the Oriole taxied down the runway and

lifted off in front of the reviewing stand. With its bi-wing structure and orange fuselage, it was a beautiful sight. And we could see the pilot's and the mechanic's heads poking out as they rose into the sky and made one more pass over the crowd.

It wasn't until the National Transportation Safety Board report came out several weeks later that we learned why the plane suddenly dove for the tarmac and burst into flames in plain view of the crowd. The crash had been caused by a failure to achieve or maintain flying speed. People were stunned. Military personnel rushed to the wreckage, which was shrouded in black smoke billowing toward the sky. They were able to extract the pilot, but the mechanic sitting up front where my brother and I had been only a week before died from his injuries. What had begun as a celebration of pride and accomplishment ended in the death of one Air Guard member and the permanent scarring of another.

I was still standing on the tarmac with my camera following the crash and the hysteria that followed. I remember spotting somebody I knew and telling her that I had "got it all on film" with what must have sounded like pride. Her response was one of horror that I wasn't grief-stricken by what had just unfolded before our eyes.

Later, when I told my father that I thought I had footage of the crash, he took the film and had it processed. It wasn't long before I learned that I had indeed recorded the whole tragedy. The footage was given to a local television station. When the story aired that night, I was credited for being the cameraman. A reporter was sent to our house to interview me, and my firsthand account of what had happened aired the following day.

That was the beginning and the end of my filmmaking career. I tried once more after high school to become a filmmaker, but ultimately adopted still photography as my medium of choice, an art that I practice to this day.

I have never again been in a situation of such high drama. Nor have I ever wanted to be.

Chas Jensen is a resident of Saint Paul's Lexington-Hamline neighborhood.

Hospital closings ignored health care needs of East Metro

BY BERNARD P. FRIEL

Under the bus is where M Health Fairview threw significant numbers of patients, particularly elderly patients, when it closed Saint Joseph's Hospital, Bethesda Hospital and their related clinics. Saint Joe's was the hospital of choice for thousands of patients residing in Saint Paul and its suburbs. I am one of those patients living in Mendota Heights. It appears that insufficient thought was given to the adverse impacts on the health and circumstances of these patients when the decision to close those facilities was made.

My history as a patient at Saint Joe's and affiliated clinics goes back over 60 years. I even served on the board of the HealthEast Foundation.

The unfortunate mergers and subsequent closings of Saint Joe's, Bethesda and related clinics now require travel to Maplewood and Saint John's Hospital. That's 25 to 35 minutes of almost exclusively freeway travel instead of 10 to 15 minutes of nonfreeway travel. And that travel is necessary for CT scans, MRIs, ECGs, annual checkups, etc. The routes and

The closings of Saint Joe's, Bethesda and related clinics amounted to an abandonment by M Health Fairview of patients who had for decades depended on those facilities.

distances are important to many elderly patients whose doctors have been relocated to Maplewood because, as a matter of safety, many of them avoid freeways and driving after dark. And for those who no longer drive it becomes much more difficult. The time difference can also be important in dealing with an emergency.

I had to deal with that time issue recently when I required emergency transport to a hospital. When the EMTs arrived, the question was, which hospital? My choices were United, Regions, Woodwinds and Saint John's. United and Regions were close, but at age 90, with my extensive medical history likely only available at Saint John's, I opted to take the long ride there. I understood Woodwinds to have limited

emergency services. The University of Minnesota Hospital, Fairview Southdale and Fairview Ridges—all part of this unfortunate merger—were other options, but were farther away than Saint John's and I was unsure whether they had my medical records or whether my doctors had privileges there. In fact, I learned that neither Fairview nor the U of M Hospital had yet integrated the HealthEast medical records.

Quite by chance, I was told that the closing of Saint Joe's emergency services was causing a backup in the provision of emergency services at both Regions and United, which will only exacerbate the delay and loss of health services to patients of Saint Joe's who are now by default often taken to those emergency facilities.

Like many other patients of Saint Joe's and its clinics, I now must spend an hour driving roundtrip for routine testing and checkups with my doctors who have all been relocated to Maplewood. It seems apparent that patient care was not what motivated these mergers and closings. The fact is, the closings of Saint Joe's, Bethesda and related clinics amounted to an abandonment by M Health

Fairview of patients who had for decades depended on those facilities. And it is hard not to notice that it was only this core group of Saint Paul and suburban patients who were adversely affected by the "adjustments" after the mergers. There do not appear to be any such adjustments in Fairview or University hospitals or clinics.

While perhaps having little relevance to whether the facility should be kept operating as a hospital, not even lip service was paid to the fact that Saint Joe's was founded in 1853 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet as the first hospital in Minnesota.

It is surprising, too, that little attention was paid by the city of Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce or the Saint Paul district councils whose members were adversely affected by this chain of events. And the state Legislature, customarily a watchdog of everything at the university, remained remarkably silent, too. Perhaps it was the pandemic that diverted attention from how badly a large number of patients were being ignored as a consequence of these mergers, and no one seemed to be asking why. Perhaps it is time for someone to do so.

INBOX

The 3 percent solution

The new 3 percent maximum rent increase imposed on landlords by the city of Saint Paul (*Villager*, June 23) means only one thing: continuous 3 percent increases every year, guaranteed, whether justified or not. And those 3 percent increases every year will really add up.

*Jim Buscher
Ramsey Hill*

Vacating street will shift traffic

Thank you for publishing reporter Jane McClure's thoughtful article about Our Lady of Peace's proposal to vacate part of Saint Anthony Avenue for a parking lot (*Villager*, June 23). I live a block away, on the corner of Cleveland and Roblyn avenues. The partial closure of Saint Anthony would result in traffic being rerouted to Roblyn Avenue and other neighborhood streets, creating more hazards for a neighborhood already plagued by cut-through traffic and speeders.

At a recent meeting of the Union Park Traffic Mitigation Group, I learned that one of the reasons Our Lady of Peace wants Saint Anthony Avenue vacated is to make it safer for their employees who park there. The consequence of their proposed solution would, however, make their neighbors' streets less safe.

I sincerely hope Our Lady of Peace will abandon their current proposal and instead work with their neighbors to develop a solution that benefits everyone.

*Susan Damon
Merriam Park*

UDPC vote was shortsighted

At the Union Park District Council Transportation Committee meeting on June 14, a promising discussion developed on much-needed traffic calming solutions for the neighborhood bounded by Saint Anthony, Cleveland, Marshall and Cretin avenues. Unfortunately, this discussion was quashed by a regressive and reactionary vote to oppose a street vacation request by Our Lady of Peace.

Brought up during the meeting was the issue of cut-through traffic that goes too fast on the residential streets between Cretin and Cleveland and creates safety concerns for residents of the neighborhood and the 50 or more employees of Our Lady of Peace. The meeting was primarily focused on speculative concerns about the vacation of Saint Anthony Avenue increasing traffic on adjacent residential streets. However, committee members balked when asked about a traffic study to help validate these concerns. The motion to oppose the Our Lady of Peace plan swiftly ended a much-needed conversation by the committee about how this neighborhood could best protect all of the people who live and work there from cars being driven at reckless speeds.

Prior to the meeting, the committee went to great lengths to distribute informational flyers to nearby homes. It was unclear whether the committee similarly sought feedback from the employees of Our Lady of Peace who regularly park

on Saint Anthony. If residents have concerns about speeding vehicles, one can safely assume the employees of Our Lady of Peace also have concerns about speeding vehicles.

This neighborhood sorely needs to address the existing traffic problems. The Our Lady of Peace plan at least offers a tangible solution to increase the safety for their employees. Local residents and the UDPC should commit to studying the problem and developing solutions.

*Caleb Johnson
Merriam Park*

Sibley name change was muffed

I write this as a proud Sibley High School alumna and District 197 parent. Change is always hard, and while I am sad to see my high school renamed, I realize it is a change we must accept. But School District 197 has failed its community by choosing Two Rivers as the new name for the high school.

District administrators need to stop moving forward with this new name until proper community input is heard. They created a flawed name-change process with parameters that were not followed, all during a global pandemic. Community members (their taxpayers), and students especially, deserve better.

The name-change committee put forth a survey with five options for new names, and 4,182 members of the community participated in the survey. From the survey results, the top three names were brought to the District 197 School Board for recommendation. It would stand to reason that the board would choose the front runner in the survey, but they did not. There was little to no public discussion, debate or review of the survey results by the School Board.

The School Board's blatant disregard for a name that had broad community support (West Heights High School) is dysfunctional. As a district, we will face the negative ramifications of this disregard for years to come. The School Board is missing the obvious and needs to try again.

*Andrea Heymans
Mendota Heights*

Erasing legacy of Henry Sibley

School District 197's decision to change the name of Henry Sibley High School provides an opportunity for an interesting discussion of Sibley's legacy and a reckoning of sorts.

Henry Sibley arrived at Mendota in 1834 at the age of 25 — 24 years before Minnesota achieved statehood. He established a business relationship and personal friendships with the Dakota, learning their language along the way. He spent the winter of 1840 hunting with them. It was during this time that he experienced the most intimate of human relationships with a Mdewakanton woman, Red Blanket Woman, and the following August she bore a daughter, Helen Hastings Sibley. Within a few years, Henry Sibley and Sarah Steele were married, Red Blanket Woman died and Helen Sibley was baptized Catholic and taken away to live in a Christian household. Although Sibley financed her care, she was never accepted into the Sibley family.

Erasing the Sibley name from the high school is most likely driven by Sibley's reaction to the Dakota War of 1862, long after his ties to the native population withered. The contradiction in Sibley's life, going from close kinship with the Dakota to his efforts to see their execution is unfathomable. History is filled with facts often difficult to reconcile.

To eliminate the Sibley name from the high school and change it to something anodyne removes his dreadful legacy, but it also could serve to absolve future generations from the responsibility to instruct students on the ugly facts of cultural conflict. If the school name were changed to Helen Hastings Sibley High School or Sibley/Red Blanket Woman High School, the cultural history critical to understanding who we are as Minnesotans would not be lost.

*Bill Richtman
Merriam Park*

Band-Aid of affordable housing

I have read the last several *Villager* newspapers, and I am disgusted that every other article speaks of "affordable housing." The city of Saint Paul would do so much better if it stopped focusing on housing and started focusing on bringing jobs back to the city. If people can work, they can afford to live. Solve the problem. Stop putting on Band-Aids.

*Judi Marthaler
Macalester-Groveland*

Resist density agenda in MH

The city of Mendota Heights is a largely residential community, almost completely built out. Many of the city's residents equate its residential character and parks with livability and quality of life. This raises the question as to why the city's Planning Commission and City Council seem bound and determined to undermine the appealing nature of our city. A recent example is the approval by both bodies to revise the city's R1 zoning to allow accessory structures of up to 2,400 square feet and 18 feet in height on lots of five acres or more. Residents with lots of this size can now build another small house on their property or an additional five- or six-car garage.

The three City Council members who supported the R1 zoning revision are John Mazzitello, Joel Paper and Mayor Stephanie Levine. Zoning codes governing property use represent a primary means for defining a city's character. Now that the lot use protection offered by R1 zoning has been undermined, it is reasonable to ask if R-zoned lots (15,000 square feet or less) will be next in their sights.

Unlike neighboring suburbs to the east, south and west, Mendota Heights has a long tradition of rejecting a density development agenda. I call on every resident of the city who treasures its special character to resist this insidious agenda and make their wishes known to the Planning Commission and City Council.

*Thomas Smith
Mendota Heights*

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Council OKs fund transfer for \$1.1M multiuse field at Victoria Park

By JANE MCCLURE

A planned \$1.1 million multi-use athletic field at Victoria Park will receive a \$210,000 boost toward its construction this year as part of funding approved by the Saint Paul City Council on June 23. That followed a decision by the city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee on June 14 to transfer funds for the project.

The Victoria Park field, which is intended to be used for baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse, is located on Victoria Way and Adrian Street, a block south of West Seventh Street. It is more than 40 acres in size and is part of a larger parcel that was once the site of two fuel tank farms.

The project already had about \$900,000 in hand. The remaining funds come from a CIB Committee transfer of \$448,210 in unspent grants from the Minnesota Twins.

CIB Committee chair Darren Tobolt said he was pleased to see



Unspent grant money from the Minnesota Twins will be used to help install a synthetic turf field this year for baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse in Victoria Park.

the project move ahead after years of planning. The field was first called for in a city park master plan that dates from 2010.

Alice Messer, design and construction manager for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, said park staff will soon present an update on the project to the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation.

The Victoria Park field will be laid with synthetic turf. Work will include grading the site and installing utilities. A partial fence will be installed to keep errant balls out of the street while still allowing public access. A pedestrian connection to Adrian is also planned.

If bids are favorable, other items could also be added to the project, including lighting, picnic tables and benches, and improved spectator seating.

At most, the field is expected to require parking for 80 vehicles. A 40-space parking lot is planned and there are more than 130 on-street parking spaces nearby. The city is also looking at shared parking agreements with adjacent property owners.

The site was once envisioned for

housing, but an agreement reached with longtime owner ExxonMobil in 2009 stipulated that it could only be used as a park due to liability concerns. ExxonMobil sold the property to the city for \$1.00 and provided \$5 million for environmental cleanup and redevelopment. Most of those funds were spent on the former; the remainder is being used for the field.

Park planning took place between 2010-2014 by a city-neighborhood task force. Work has already been done on other areas of the park, including trails and landscaping.

The field has generated some controversy in the West End neighborhood. Some neighbors have worried about spillover lighting and parking. Others have countered that there is a huge need for more field space in the area, especially with the loss of the fields at the former Riverside School site on West Seventh and Lexington Parkway. The former fields are now the site of the Lexington Landing senior housing development.

HRA OKs TIF districts for affordable housing at Highland Bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

The Saint Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved the establishment of two tax increment financing (TIF) districts on June 23 at Highland Bridge, the 122-acre site of the former Ford Motor Company plant in Highland Park. The TIF districts will provide up to \$46.9 million to help pay for three affordable housing projects at Highland Bridge.

Among the projects are the new workforce housing, senior housing and supportive housing that is being constructed by Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and CommonBond Communities and the senior housing that is

being constructed by Presbyterian Homes.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who chairs the HRA Board, said he is not always a fan of TIF. However, its use to help pay for new public infrastructure and affordable housing at Highland Bridge is something he supports.

"At Highland Bridge we have market-rate housing helping to pay for affordable housing," Tolbert said. "This will help us meet what are pretty aggressive affordable housing goals for the Ford site. We have the higher-priced homes along Mississippi River Boulevard, and we have workforce housing nearby."

Highland Bridge will include about 3,800 new housing units, along with retail, office and institutional uses. Twenty percent of the

housing, or 763 units, will be affordable housing. This includes a mix of townhouses, rental and owner-occupied apartments, and senior and workforce housing.

About one-fourth of the housing units will be affordable to households making 60 percent of the Twin Cities area's annual median income (AMI), or \$62,940 for a family of four. Another 190 rental units will be affordable to households making 50 percent AMI, or \$52,540 for a family of four. Another 380 units will be affordable to households making 30 percent AMI, or \$31,450 for a family of four.

PPL will construct two buildings, one for Emma Norton Services with 60 units affordable at 30 percent AMI and the second, named Nellie Francis Court, with 75 apartments af-

fordable at 50 and 60 percent AMI.

The CommonBond TIF district, which includes a portion of the Presbyterian Homes project, will include 60 housing units for seniors making 30 percent of AMI.

TIF is used to subsidize development by diverting a portion of the property taxes that would otherwise go to the city, county and school district in future years. A total of \$28.9 million in property taxes will be diverted from the PPL TIF district to help pay for a development with an estimated market value of \$75.8 million. A total of \$18 million in property taxes will be diverted from the CommonBond TIF district to help pay for a development with an estimated market value of \$46.3 million. Both TIF districts will be in place from 2024-49.

School Notes

Hennepin Theatre Trust recently announced the winning high school students and schools in its Spotlight Education program for the 2020-21 academic year. Local honorees include Minnehaha Academy for *Junie B. Jones the Musical* and *Museum*; Saint Paul Academy and Summit School for *Under Milkwood*; and Visitation School and Saint Thomas Academy for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *Sweet Land the Musical*. Four individuals were recognized for their excellence in singing, dancing and acting with Triple Threat Broadway Experience awards, including graduating senior Delaney Hunter of Minnesota Connections Academy in Saint Paul and incoming senior Hannah Ervin of the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. With their awards, Hunter and Ervin received all-expense-paid trips to New York City where they will attend Broadway shows, meet with industry professionals and participate in workshops to hone their skills.

Mendota Elementary School in Mendota Heights is in need of a Math Corps tutor for the 2021-22 school year. It is one of 1,700 tutors that Minnesota Reading Corps and Math Corps

are recruiting as schools return to in-person learning this fall. Tutors are needed at 35, 25 or 18 hours a week. They receive a stipend every two weeks, plus money to help pay for college tuition or student loans. Those age 55 or older may choose to gift their award to a younger family member. The application deadline is August 11. For information and to apply, visit readingmath.org or call 866-859-2825.

Visitation Middle School science teacher Caroline Little has been recognized as a Harmony Hero for her efforts in educating young students about pollinator and monarch butterfly protection, Minnesota ecosystems and migratory animals through her "eco-expedition" program. The Harmony Hero Award Program is part of EarthKind's 2021 Year of the Monarch national initiative. Each recognized teacher will receive complimentary in-service training from an entomologist, sustainable products for eco-education and outdoor adventures, and consideration for an all-expense paid trip to Mexico next March to visit the Kingdom of Monarchs habitat. Little's Harmony Hero video is at youtube.com/watch?v=fmcww-pYEqQ.



Founded 40 years ago as a preschool and kindergarten, Sunny Hollow Montessori School at 636 S. Mississippi River Blvd. has expanded to include grades 1-8. On June 9, it celebrated the graduation of its first 8th-grade class. Pictured with their sheepskins on the front lawn of their alma mater are Sunny Hollow grads (left to right) Paul Fertig, Sebastian Vargas Hipple, Nico Ostrov, Adele Gjerde, Harriet Healey and Maggie Gregoire.



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Business Briefs

The Highland Business Association is seeking an individual with a high level of energy and enthusiasm to serve as its next executive director. For information, see highlandba.com/executive-director-search. The association is also seeking volunteers to help with weeding the garden beds and tree basins along Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue as part of its landscaping, maintenance and beautification strategy for Highland Village. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/3xn3cem7.

Jewish Family Service of Saint Paul, 1633 W. Seventh St., is expanding its employment services with the aid of a grant from the Saint Paul Jewish Federation. The services are now supported by a full-time staff person to help people search for jobs, develop a resume, improve interview skills, get additional training and access public transportation. For information, contact Nancy Cohen at 651-329-1092 or ncohen@jfssp.org.

Keg and Case West 7th Market recently announced the addition of two more vendors and the kickoff of its summer outdoor movies in the park. In addition to the previously announced Poppin and Juice Wisely, new vendors R+R Cultivation and Joey Meatballs have joined the vendor lineup at the market. R+R Cultivation owners Nick Robinson and Lance Ramm are now offering a continually changing mix of organic mushrooms. Joey Meatballs was scheduled to open June 30 with chef Josh Hedquist offering build-your-own pasta bowls. The market also is hosting classic movies at dusk on Thursdays, including *Jurassic Park* on July 8 and *The Mighty Ducks* on July 15. For the full schedule, see kegandcase.com.

CynCity is offering 90-minute walking tours of where some of the most infamous criminals of the 1930s used to hang out in downtown Saint Paul. Upcoming tours are being

offered on all Saturdays and Sundays in July, beginning from Rice Park. The cost is \$20. For reservations, visit cyncitytours.com.

Good Neighbor Barber Shop has opened at 1692 Randolph Ave. next door to Carbones. Owner Nick Hoshor was working at Groveland Barbershop on Saint Clair Avenue for five years and decided to venture off on his own.

The International Institute of Minnesota has broken ground for the expansion of its headquarters at 1694 Como Ave. The \$12.5 million project includes a new 16,000-square-foot wing with six classrooms, interactive training labs, and gathering spaces for clients and their families. The institute's current 18,000-square-foot building also is being renovated. The expansion will allow the organization to increase its workforce training and other programs to serve an additional 500 new Americans annually. The institute, which was founded in 1919, achieved several milestones last year. It surpassed 25,000 refugees resettled since 1974 and assisted in 15,000 citizenship applications being filed since 2001.

Ideal Image has opened in the Victoria Crossing South Mall, 850 Grand Ave. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Ideal Image offers personal health services and aesthetic treatments such as laser hair removal, body sculpting, Botox and anti-aging procedures.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) plans to move its headquarters two blocks to the Great Northern Building, 180 E. Fifth St., in downtown Saint Paul by August 1. DEED's first relocation in nearly two decades is expected to save taxpayers thousands of dollars every year with a reduced footprint. DEED will occupy the 11th, 12th and 13th floors of the historic building.



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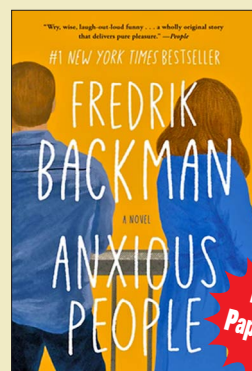
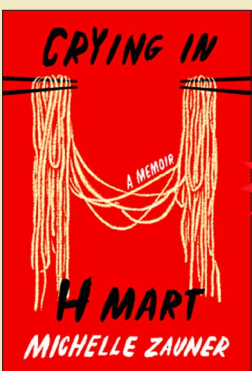
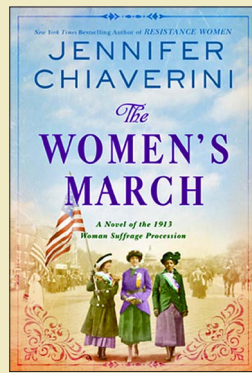
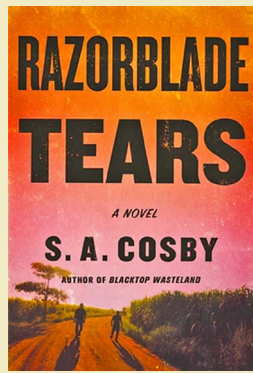
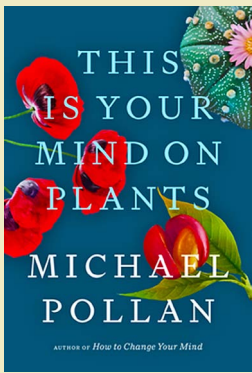
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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—Robberies at gunpoint were reported on the 1300 block of Maynard Drive on June 13, at the Speedway on Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue on June 14, at Babcock & Sons on South Cleveland Avenue on June 16, and at the Watergate Marina on Crosby Farm Road on June 26.

Burglary—A break-in was reported at Stephanie's Boutique, 735 S. Cleveland Ave., at 5:11 a.m. Friday, June 11.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 1600 block of Eleanor Avenue at 5:49 a.m. Tuesday, June 15.

—Half Priced Books, 2041 Ford Pkwy., was broken into and a donation box was stolen during the early morning of Tuesday, June 22.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 2100 block of Eleanor Avenue on June 14, the 1600 block of Juno Avenue and the 1200 block of Bayard Avenue on June 19, the 2200 block of Rockwood Avenue on June 21, from Hertz Rent A Car on the 1400 block of Davern Street on June 22 and 23, the 2200 and 2300 blocks of Stewart Avenue on June 24-25, and near Planet Fitness in Sibley Plaza on June 27.

Assault—A woman was punched in the back of the head by a suspect who ran away after the assault at 8:58 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, on the 2100 block of Stewart Avenue.

—A male pointed a gun at a woman after a traffic incident and fled in his vehicle at 10 p.m. Saturday, June 26, on the 2300 block of West Seventh Street.

Miscellaneous—A bicyclist was taken to the hospital with injuries after running into a vehicle on Montreal and Saint Paul avenues at 6:58 p.m. Wednesday, June 23.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 1200 block of Selby Avenue at 2:06 p.m. Thursday, June 10.

—A male suspect was caught on video stealing resident files and rent checks from the office at Skyline Tower, 1247 Saint Anthony Ave., at 1:31 p.m. Monday, June 21.

Theft—A man and woman who made off with more than \$600 in baby formula the day before were seen the following day loading more formula in trash bags at the Midway Target at 10:13 a.m. Friday, June 18. They were arrested after trying to leave without paying.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the

1100 block of Marshall Avenue at 9:55 a.m. Friday, June 11.

Miscellaneous—A 38-year-old man was arrested for felony drug possession, misdemeanor DWI, indecent exposure and fifth-degree assault following a traffic accident on Lexington Parkway and University Avenue at 7:52 p.m. Wednesday, June 23. The suspect reportedly rear-ended a vehicle, got out in the middle of the intersection and chased the female driver of the other vehicle around the roadway while exposing himself. The victim was with her young grandchildren in the vehicle at the time.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A male suspect was caught on video entering Shish, 1668 Grand Ave., at 2:18 a.m. Tuesday, June 15. He fled out the back before police arrived.

—A burglary was reported at Tono Pizzeria + Cheesesteaks, 1580 Saint Clair Ave., at 4:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 23.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 1800 block of Goodrich Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 21.

Theft—Catalytic converters were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1200 block of Grand Avenue on June 21, on Davern Street and Jefferson Avenue on June 21, and the 300 block of Woodlawn Avenue on June 23.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue on June 14, the 1200 block of Goodrich Avenue on June 15, the 2200 block of Fairmount Avenue on June 19, the 200 block of Cecelia Place and on Hamline and Randolph avenues on June 21, and the 1400 block of Osceola Avenue on June 25.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 200 block of South Snelling Avenue at 7:33 a.m. Saturday, June 19.

Mendota Heights

Attempted murder—Officers responded to a call about an assault with a weapon at 10:16 p.m. Saturday, June 12, on the 1300 block of Northland Drive. The victim and suspect were taken to the hospital. The suspect was later charged with attempted murder.

Burglary—A homeowner reported that an ex-boyfriend broke into her residence on the 1200 block of Second Street at 3:43 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, but he was gone by the time police arrived. She was urged to obtain a restraining order.

—Two suspects stole a golf cart and tools after following a resident into an underground garage on the 2300 block of Lexington

Avenue, it was reported at 2:25 p.m. Thursday, June 24. The golf cart was recovered, but the tools were still missing.

Theft—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Mendota Heights Road on June 14.

Miscellaneous—A man was found asleep behind the wheel of a running vehicle and was arrested for DWI at 12:39 a.m. Friday, June 11, on Valencour Circle near Acacia Boulevard.

—A bicyclist was arrested for outstanding warrants after being stopped on I-35E and Highway 13 at 11:41 p.m. Friday, June 18.

Merriam Park

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on Fairview and Portland avenues on June 10, the 400 block of Herschel Street on June 13, the 2200 block of Riverwood Place on June 14, from a locked garage on the 1700 block of Ashland Avenue on June 25-26, and the 2000 block of Marshall Avenue on June 26.

—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on Ashland Avenue and Wheeler Street on June 25.

Snelling-Hamline

Assault—A 31-year-old homeless man was arrested for felony assault after he reportedly threatened another male with a knife outside the Dollar Tree, 1420 University Ave., at 7:29 p.m. Sunday, June 27.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, June 20, on the 800 block of Grand Avenue.

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 600 block of Oakland Avenue on June 15, and the 600 block of Grand Avenue on June 17.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 400 and 1000 blocks of Grand Avenue on June 12-13.

—Two women reported having their purses snatched while they were eating brunch at Cafe Latte, 850 Grand Ave., at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 23.

Summit-University

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported at Moda Salon, 499 Selby Ave., at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday, June 16.

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 600 block of Hague Avenue on June 11, the 1000 block of Ashland Avenue on June 16, the 800 block of Selby Avenue on June 18, and the 100 block of Forbes Avenue on June 27.

—An office computer was reported stolen from Carlsen & Frank Architects, 524 Selby Ave., during the evening of June 21-22.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 900 block of Portland Avenue on June 11, the 900 block of Carroll Avenue on June 15, the 800 block of Selby Avenue on June 16, the 900 block of Hague Avenue on June 18, the 900 block of Marshall Avenue on June 21, and the 900 block of Selby on June 22.

Assault—A 47-year-old woman was arrested for felony assault after threatening a male at knifepoint at 10:55 p.m. Friday, June 25, on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue

Weapons—Shell casings were found near John Ireland Boulevard and Dayton Avenue after police responded to a report of shots fired at 8:25 p.m. Wednesday, June 23. No injuries were reported.

Miscellaneous—Two adults were arrested for drug-related crimes after they were seen trying to break into a vehicle at the International Christian Faith Center, 981 Marshall Ave., at 11:56 p.m. Wednesday, June 23.

West End

Robbery—The Speedways at 1734 and 1125 W. Seventh St. were robbed at gunpoint on June 11 and 14, respectively.

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on Leech Street near McBoal Street on June 12, and the 1800 block of West Seventh Street on June 22.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 300 block of Ryan Avenue on June 14, the 900 block of West Seventh Street on June 17, the 300 block of West Seventh on June 20, the 200 block of Smith Avenue on June 21, the 100 block of Forbes Avenue on June 26, and at the Speedway at 1734 W. Seventh on June 27.

—A 32-year-old man was found slumped over in a stolen vehicle at 11:47 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, on Banfil and Dousman streets. He was booked for receiving stolen property, gun possession by a felon, drug possession and refusal to take a DUI test.

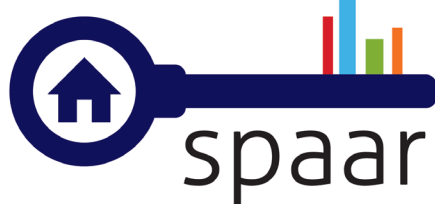
Arson—A fire was believed to be intentionally set on Colborne and Grace streets at 5:52 p.m. Friday, June 25.

Miscellaneous—A 33-year-old woman was cited for trespassing after police responded to a complaint of people on the lower deck of a residence on the 300 block of Sherman Street at 8:05 p.m. Wednesday, June 23. Police said patrons from nearby Freedom House, 296 W. Seventh St., have frequently been involved in trespassing and other crimes at the same Sherman Street property.

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ON THE TOWN

Loneliness of the jazz guitarist

Joel Shapira emerges from shutdown with solo effort

BY ANNE MURPHY

Guitarist Joel Shapira found a new groove when the COVID-19 pandemic turned live performance into a lost art. He rechanneled his energies into composing and recording a new CD, "Triple Bridge."

"I chose 'Triple Bridge' as the title tune for a couple of reasons," said Shapira, a resident of Highland Park. "One is that the song exemplifies the melding of my three main musical influences—number one being jazz, with classical and a strong bluegrass feel. 'Triple Bridge' showcases a very different sound and side of my playing and composing. The other reason is that I'm a runner. I routinely do a jogging route where I cross three bridges. I did hours of planning for this recording while doing the triple-bridge run."

Among the first pieces Shapira composed on those runs is the reflective "Where We Are Just Now." The jazz waltz was written at the beginning of the lockdown when Shapira was wondering what he should do.

"I had this great career, playing as much as I wanted and playing with great people," he said. "And when that's removed from you so abruptly, and you don't see how it's possible for it to return, you kind of question your direction. I went from 25 to 30 gigs a month to nothing basically in a week.

Everything shut down. Everything stopped. That was really hard to process.

"It was kind of a double whammy," he added. "I lost my career, in a certain sense, and I had nothing but time to contemplate."

Shapira filled that time composing and recording. Those two activities "were as cathartic as anything I could have done to keep going—musically and personally," he said. "I wrote and wrote, probably two dozen tunes in a little more than a year. Which is more than my output during the previous 25 years. There was one week when I wrote and completed four tunes."

Other songs on the new CD include "Brilhante," a word meaning bright, sunny and dazzling in Portuguese. "I wrote it on a hot summer day last year," Shapira said. "'Observance' is a sacred and spiritual ritual, meant to be melodic, meditative and musically intense all at once. 'Spring Spontaneous' is a completely improvised piece. No chart, no planning. 'Before Mourning' is an acoustic piece I wrote to convey the sadness I was feeling about our COVID times, but with an underpinning of optimism that things will improve."

As he was composing the songs, Shapira said he always had recording them in mind. "I was thinking of doing a jazz trio recording—guitar, bass and drums, probably. But with COVID,



Highland Park jazz guitarist Joel Shapira. PHOTO BY MAEVE GIMPL

of course, that wasn't possible because you couldn't get three people in the same room to play, rehearse and record together. So I started adapting all the new tunes to solo guitar."

The one exception is "Relentless," a melodic and rhythmic tune featuring Shapira on guitar and Pete Hennig on banjo. Before the shutdown, Shapira and Hennig were playing together weekly as the Twin Town Strings duo at the Bean Factory in Highland Park.

"We had a gig every week, and COVID wiped everything off the calendar within a day," said Hennig. "When we were able to start playing together again, Joel shared his new compositions with me. We ended up playing through 'Relentless' and it seemed to have a unique feel with the banjo."

Going solo was not an easy decision for Shapira. "I'm a jazz

musician," he said. "That's what I do. Everything else that I play, like bluegrass or classical, it's all centered around the fact that I'm a jazz musician. The thing about playing jazz is, most of the time you do it with other people. I didn't do a jazz gig with other people for close to a year. That's the longest I've gone in maybe 30 years without playing a trio gig."

Shapira's first live performance since the shutdown came in February. He played with a group at Jazz Central, the nonprofit Minneapolis venue owned and operated by musicians. It was a monumental moment.

"They put on a series where they had Plexiglas barriers and masks and all the safety precautions," he said. "It was during a real cold snap. I drove over on a 22-below-zero night and unloaded all the gear. It's funny: After doing that for so

long in Minnesota, that particular element of it doesn't get any easier. But the fact that we got to do it at all was great. It was huge."

Shapira will celebrate the release of "Triple Bridge" with live concerts from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at Umbra in the Canopy Hotel, 708 Third St. S. in Minneapolis, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 18, at Waldmann Brewery, 445 N. Smith Ave. in Saint Paul. Hennig will join him on banjo at Waldmann. Copies of the CD are also available at joelshapira.com.

In addition to more live performances and resuming live lessons with his music students, Shapira is looking forward to recording another CD of compositions he wrote during the COVID shutdown. "I have at least 15 more tunes," he said. "I'm planning to make a trio CD with those."



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ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Exhibits

“Wise, Gifted and Black: Art by the Magnificent Golden Agers” is being displayed through July 17 in the window gallery of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, Fourth and Robert streets. This collective of Black women elders has created collages, written reflections, poetry and photography around themes of Black identity and the intersection of art and activism. In conjunction with the exhibit, kits for making your own art at home will be distributed free to all ages from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at the museum’s entrance. Each kit includes a copy of the children’s book *Joey and Grandpa Johnson’s Day in Rondo* by Dr. Artika Tyner and “From Hurt to Healing,” an activity book created by the Irreducible Grace Foundation.

“After Promontory: 150 Years of Transcontinental Railroad,” historical photographs that illustrate the lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads in the American West, are on view through August 31 in the Head House of Saint Paul’s historic Union Depot, Fourth and Sibley streets. More than 60 images by such photographers as William Henry Jackson, Timothy H. O’Sullivan and Carleton E. Watkins are included in the free exhibit. A photographic history of Union Depot and railroading in Minnesota is also featured. Visit uniondepot.org.

Walking tours in and around downtown Saint Paul will once again be offered free of charge this summer by Landmark Center. The free tours step out at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. The schedule includes the Rice Park area on July 7 and 21 and the Great River Tour along the mighty Mississippi on July 14 and 28. Tours are limited to 10 participants, and reservations are required. COVID protocols will be observed. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call Sydney at 651-292-3063.

Photographer Joe Linn is displaying his landscapes, cityscapes, astrophotography and macrophotography throughout July at the Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 Prince St. The gallery is open from 5-8 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. A public reception for the artist will be held from 5-8 p.m. Friday, July 9. Linn will be in the gallery to discuss his art from 1-3 p.m. Sundays, July 11 and 18 and August 1. Visit theazgallery.org or joelinnphoto.com.

The Truly Unruly Fiber Art Collective will open an exhibit of their diverse creations with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 8, in the North Gallery of Landmark Center. “Following the Thread” combines traditional and contemporary

quilting stitchery with unique fabric treatments. It will be on view through August 29. Admission is free and open to all during regular building hours. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

“Art at Saint Kate’s,” the Artists Circle’s 14th annual juried summer show, will be a virtual affair again this year due to the cancelling of campus programs at Saint Catherine University. The works of more than 50 artists in a variety of media will be on view from July 9-14 at artistscircle.org. Included are paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, pottery, fiber art, leather goods and more.

The Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at Saint Catherine University will reopen to the public on July 17 with a two-week show by 17 members of the 2021 Women’s Art Institute Summer Studio Intensive. Their art is on view from 1-6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays through July 31. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

Family

Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis, is offering a series of programs this summer and fall in its outdoor courtyard and indoor lobby. “What Makes Minneapolis Minneapolis?” will engage visitors in the historical and contemporary identity of the city. Featured are Open Courtyard Family Days with hands-on activities, exhibits, puppet shows and take-home crafts on July 10-11. Guided tours on the Minneapolis Riverfront, Historic Main Street, Worker History and Codswallop: Fact vs. Fiction are being offered by foot or bicycle on weekends through September. The tours cost \$14-\$20. Visit millcitymuseum.org.

Music

Free concerts are being presented at 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays in Minnehaha Falls Park, 4801 S. Minnehaha Drive. The schedule includes Homeward Bound, July 8; Mystery Crew Band, July 9; Pirates, Guitars and Beachfront Bars, July 15; Wailing Loons, July 16; Mother Banjo, July 22; and Eli Gardiner, July 23. Visit mplsmusicandmovies.com.

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., will host free concerts by Stan Bann’s Big Bone Band at 7 p.m. July 11; North Star barbershop chorus, 7 p.m. July 13; Minnesota Sinfonia, 7 p.m. July 15; Beasley’s Big Band, 7 p.m. July 18; Bend in the River big band, 7 p.m. July 19; Minnesota Sinfonia, 7 p.m. July 22; Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, 7 p.m. July 23; and the Hopkins Westwind Concert Band at 3 p.m. and Open Pages Presents Lydia

Wagner at 7 p.m. July 25.

Music from the Porch, a four-week series of free concerts from the front porch of Landmark Center, will return at noon on Wednesdays. Bring a lawn chair, a bag lunch, and enjoy singer-songwriter Lena Elizabeth, July 14; and multi-instrumental folk artist Michael Monroe, July 21. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in Landmark Center.

Emilia Mettenbrink and the Eclectic Whirlwind will perform from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, under the north end of the bridge that carries Hamline Avenue over Ayd Mill Road. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the tunes.

Books

Megha Majumdar and her debut novel, *A Burning*, will be featured in an online reading and discussion on Thursday, July 8. Sponsored by SubText Books, the free program will begin at 7 p.m. To register for the link, visit subtextbooks.com.

Minnesota poets Sharon Chmielarz and Richard Terrill, Cincinnati poet laureate Pauletta Hansel and Virginia poet laureate Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda will take part in a free online reading on Sunday, July 11. Sponsored by Next Chapter Booksellers, the Literary Lights celebration will begin at 2 p.m. Visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Theater

Shakespeare’s comedy, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is being performed free of charge in parks across the Twin Cities by the Classical Actors Ensemble. The curtain rises at 7 p.m. Friday, July 9, in Como Park at Como Boulevard and Churchill Street; 7 p.m. Saturdays, July 10 and 17, at Lake of the Isles; and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 18, in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, 725 Vineland Place. The music is live. Theater-goers are invited to pack a picnic supper.

The resilience of Black People through history is celebrated in *What to Send Up When it Goes Down*. The drama by Aleshea Harris is playing through July 18 in the parking lot of Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. It uses monologue, scenes, songs and discussion to examine, reflect on and ultimately cleanse the anti-blackness that permeates people. Show times are 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, visit pillsburyhousetheatre.org or call 612-825-0459.

Hair: The Concert Experience, a joyous concert version of the 1960s musical drama that launched Theatre 55 three years ago, will return at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays from July 16-25 in the amphitheater of Caponi Art Park, 1220 Diffley Road in Eagan. Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket, beverages and snacks and sing and dance along to the soundtrack, which will be performed live by the cast and a four-piece band. Tickets are \$8 for individuals, \$20 for car loads and \$50 for van loads. For reservations, visit theatre55.org.

Vox Medusa and the Infiammati FireCircus breathe new life into ancient myth with *Eurydice* at 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday, July 16-18, on the Target Stage at Harriet Island. The Orpheus story as told from the woman’s perspective, *Eurydice* is presented with live music, dance, film and fire. Choreographed by Kristin Freya with music by Jeremy Christensen and Emily Colay, the production stars Grace Fredell (*Eurydice*), Leviticus Martin (*Orpheus*), Rah Diavola (*Hades*), Colay (*Persephone*) and Desdmona Ross (*Oracle*). Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 and \$10 in advance at eventbrite.com. Theater-goers should bring their own blankets or lawn chairs for socially distanced seating.

Film

Free movies are rolling at dusk this summer in Minneapolis parks. Sponsored by the city’s Parks and Recreation Board, the films include *Frozen 2* (PG), July 8, Minnehaha Falls Park, 4801 S. Minnehaha Drive; *Ford v. Ferrari* (PG-13), July 9, Lake Harriet Bandshell; *Princess Bride* (PG), July 10, Lake Nokomis Park; *Brave* (PG), July 16, Corcoran Park, 3334 20th Ave. S.; *Coco* (PG), July 20, Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave. S.; and *Harriet* (PG-13), July 23, Lake Harriet Bandshell. Visit mplsmusicandmovies.com.

Et cetera

Comedy and music by women and for everyone is featured from 5-7 p.m. on Sundays, now through August 22, on the outdoor stage at Keg and Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St. Produced by Rock What You Got, the entertainment is free and rated PG-13. Visit rockwhatyougotlive.com.

The farmers’ market has returned from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday through October 2 outside Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Fresh produce, coffee beans, organic beef, soaps, candles and other handcrafted products will be available.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 7

DISTRICT 65 LEGISLATORS, Representatives Carlos Mariani and Rena Moran and Senator Sandy Pappas will host a virtual town hall meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. on Facebook Live at facebook.com/SenatorPappas. The lawmakers will review the 2021 legislative session and answer questions. Questions may be submitted ahead of time at bit.ly/july7townhall.

SATURDAY/JULY 10

TOUR GARDENS filled with native plants and learn how to be a better steward of the environment from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1704 Vicki Lane in Mendota Heights. Exhibitors include bee expert Heather Holm, *Native Plants of the Midwest* author Alan Branham and representatives of the Renewable Energy Society, Audubon Society and Wild Ones Native Plants. For more information, visit neighborhoodgreening.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 13

FRESH PRODUCE will be distributed free of charge by the Fabulous Friends Club from

noon-1:30 p.m. today and the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the corner of Saint Paul Avenue and Davern Street. The public is asked to bring their own bags.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 14

HOW TO PREVENT human rights abuses while transitioning the global economy toward renewable energy will be discussed in an online program from 7-9 p.m. Speakers include professor Alexander Alvarez, Kathryn Hoffman of the Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Terrence Collingsworth of International Rights Advocates. The cost is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. To register, visit worldwithoutgenocide.org by July 13.

THURSDAY/JULY 15

MITCH BERG, host of “The Northern Alliance Radio Network” and keeper of the blog “Shot in the Dark,” will speak at “A Night of Fun and Fellowship” presented by the Metro Republican Women at 6 p.m. at Casper’s

THE KIOSK

Cherokee Restaurant, 4625 Nicols Road in Eagan. For reservations, call Elaine at 651-423-0556 or visit metrogopwomen.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

THE SAINT PAUL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL will return from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at Union Depot’s Lot D, Kellogg Boulevard and Wacouta Street. More than 50 food trucks will be selling their wares. Live music, games, craft beverages, clothing, vintage vinyl, salon services and a mobile escape room will also be featured.

EXTERIOR PAINTING of wood siding will be taught in a hands-on workshop from 9 a.m.-noon at the historic Wright-Pendergast House in Irvine Park. Mark Johnston, founder of Historic Design Consulting, will explain the causes of paint failure, tips for preparing exterior walls, painting techniques and how to choose the right paints and brushes. The cost is \$30 or less on a slid-

ing scale. To register, visit rethos.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 18

THE LEXINGTON-HAMLIN Community Council will present its 49th annual Ice Cream Social from 1-3 p.m. in the tot lot at Hague and Hamline avenues. Enjoy live entertainment, cool treats and the warmth of your Saint Paul neighbors.

TUESDAY/JULY 20

THE SAINT PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather this evening for a three-mile hike through downtown Saint Paul. The hike will begin at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Holman’s Table at the downtown airport on the West Side flats. New members are welcome. Call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

THURSDAY/JULY 22

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL will be hosted by the Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Women from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the lawn of the church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. The public is invited. They will be serving ice cream cones for \$2 and pie and ice cream for \$5.

SPORTS

Bouncing back

Legion baseball is even more of a hit after canceled season

BY BILL WAGNER

What a difference a year makes. Following the cancellation of the 2020 season due to COVID-19, the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee announced a few weeks ago that a record 372 teams from across the state are playing this summer.

That competition has resumed, complete with state tournaments planned for late July and early August, has the coaches of local Division I senior teams (players 19 and younger) more than excited.

"I think it's absolutely fantastic that kids are back on the field," said Mike Brown, manager of the Hamline Red team, which draws players mostly from Highland Park, Central and Saint Paul Academy high schools. "It's such a blessing. The kids are getting a chance to play ball again. I see nothing but smiles on their faces."

"Our kids are pretty fired up," added Bobby Thompson, coach of the West Saint Paul Challenger team, which includes players from Henry Sibley and Saint Thomas Academy. "We're kind of back to

normal this year."

Hamline Purple coach Jake Smith said spirits are also high among his players, who hail from Cretin-Derham Hall. "You even see that from the players who might not even be playing in the game at the time," he said.

The coaches said the resumption of the spring high school season eliminated a lot of pent-up emotions and created momentum for summer ball. Their upbeat attitude was in ample supply from the Legion's state command post as well.

"Many people were worried that canceling the 2020 season would hurt Legion baseball for good," said state director Randy Schaub. "We're so glad to see Minnesota's strong support for our program."

Other than in 2020, Minnesota Legion had held a state tournament every year since 1926 and had a string of unbroken regular seasons dating to 1923.

Gopher State Baseball/Minnesota Youth Athletic Association and the Metro Baseball League teamed up to salvage part of last summer's season by providing some competition with COVID-19 protocols in place. The loosely formed alliance in-



Jordan Young of the Challengers singles in the first game of a double-header against Oakdale at Saint Thomas Academy's Jack Jensen Field on June 30. The Challengers won the first game 5-3 and lost the second game 9-8.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

cluded the formation of a Saint Paul Diamond team, with players largely from SPA, Central and CDH. Still, Brown said not having a postseason last year created a different feeling.

This summer, play is back to normal and the District 3 West Saint Paul Challenger team has emerged as a contender. "So far, we're pretty balanced," coach Thompson said about his squad, which was 10-6 overall through June 30. "Our pitchers are throwing strikes and we have players who support them when

they're out there."

Zach Klemz, who threw a complete game in his first start this year, and Joey Hazzard are two formidable starting pitchers. Both are right-handers and have the stamina to throw a lot of innings. "I'd say they're both aces," Thompson said.

Shortstop Jordan Young is a presence hitting at either the third or fourth spot in the order, and Thompson has also gotten a lot out of speedy outfielders Angelo Pacyga and Abe Mogelson. Thompson said

that having Pacyga hit in the fourth of fifth spots in the lineup makes him akin to a second leadoff hitter.

This Legion season also features some good intrafamily competition. Rob Thompson, the Hamline Red coach, is the father of Challenger coach Bobby Thompson. West Saint Paul defeated Hamline Red 8-1 on June 18.

The Red, who were 2-6 in the District 4 standings as of July 1, strug-

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The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Life has changed at Target, CHS fields

Regular readers of this column are probably aware that I grew up in Detroit in the 1960s. I found myself thinking back to my youth in the Motor City on a recent Friday night.

When I was a kid, the Tigers and Lions both played at Tiger Stadium. It was located just out of downtown. It wasn't the nicest area of the city, but if you knew where you were going you could avoid trouble spots, particularly for night games. You felt a lot safer if you walked back to your car with another person at night.

A couple of weeks ago, I was at Target Field working for the Minnesota State High School League at the prep baseball championship games. The Class AAAA game ended about 11 p.m. Going to my car in the lit Target Field parking lot was no problem. Getting out of downtown Minneapolis was another matter.

Driving down Hennepin Avenue at that time of night can be an adventure. There were long lines outside a couple of venues and people crossing the street hither and yon, causing a fellow to check the doors and grip the steering wheel a little tighter. Hennepin, which was blocked off at Fourth Street, regrettably hadn't changed since I was last downtown at the state basketball tourney at Target Center in early April.

Since I had once worked in that area of town, I thought I had found a way around the roadblocks to get to the part of Hennepin that would lead me home. I was partly right, but ended up going the wrong way on a one-way street. A policeman kindly pointed me in the right direction.

As summer starts to heat up, this could become a big problem for the tenants and patrons of Target Field. It's a jewel of a stadium, but it's located in an area where there's been a ton of street trouble at all times of day and night. Add in road construction and the fact that the first 10 weeks haven't gone well for the Twins, and you have the ingredients for what could quickly become a lost season.

As this was being written, the Twins were tied for last place in the American League Central. Byron Buxton, their best player, is beginning to resemble Joe Btfsplk, the Li'l Abner cartoon character who always has a rain cloud hovering over his head. Buxton has played in roughly a third of the team's games. When he's in there, he's done very well (.369 average, 11 doubles, 10 home runs). When he isn't—he was recently on the disabled list after being hit by a pitch—it's a seven-man scramble to find a center fielder. Add in other player injuries and an inconsistent pitching staff, and you have the recipe for a last-place team.

When your team was advertised as a preseason favorite to win the division and be a playoff factor, this isn't a good way to convince fans to return to the ballpark.

Which leads us to the professional baseball team on the Saint Paul side of the Mississippi. Life at CHS Field has changed considerably this year. It didn't take long for Saints fans to realize how different being a Triple-A affiliate is compared to the team's first two-plus decades of existence as an independent. The plus side includes a chance to see guys like Buxton and Kenta Maeda perform at CHS Field for considerably less money than at Target Field. The minus side is that wins are no longer the top priority of the minor league franchise.

Like a prep or college junior varsity team, the role of the Saints now is to have players ready to move up—or down—the major league team's ladder on a moment's notice. The old relationships that fans developed with guys like Ole Sheldon or, in an earlier era, Terrence "T-bone" Frazier will simply not materialize.

The Saints can keep some of the old traditions, like the pig mascot, but Major League Baseball is now one of the team's owners. MLB has rules, some of which are unspoken, that all minor league teams must follow. The ticket prices are still quite reasonable, but the promotions will inevitably be a bit tamer. It can still be fun, but it's a different game now.

Downtown Saint Paul also has some issues, but not nearly as many as Minneapolis. So, as the summer warms up and attendance at CHS grows, the Saints will likely be fine. It'll just be the baseball equivalent of watching your teenager grow up.

MLB umpires asked to be Inspector Clouseaus

At least for now, Saints fans will not be subject to the nonsense that started recently in all major league parks. The game has struggled along with several innovations instigated by higher-ups who clearly spent little if any time wearing a baseball uniform.

First, instant replay was brought in. This seemed like a good idea to correct umpiring mistakes. However, instant replay is now used in a variety of ways that only slow the pace of the game. The penalty for suggesting a call was wrong when it wasn't is minimal.

Next came the rule regarding extra innings. Double-headers are now seven-inning games instead of nine. All that's missing is courtesy runners for catchers when they get on base.

Last week, in response to some whining, MLB ordered umpires to start inspecting pitchers for illegal substances. Former long-time MLB umpire Tim Tschida, a Cretin-Derham Hall graduate, happened to be behind home plate the night Twins pitcher Joe Niekro was caught with an emery board in his hip pocket. Niekro pleaded in vain that he needed the board for his fingernails and was slapped with a 10-game suspension. He was at the end of his long career and showed how much he cared about the suspension by going on Letterman wearing a tool belt.

Tschida went on Facebook to offer some thoughts on the corporate offices' latest brainstorm of having umpires strip-search pitchers in front of everybody.

"Having MLB umpires routinely inspect pitchers for sticky substances turns a group of dedicated professionals into props for MLB's weak stance on another controversial problem," he wrote. "Watching players laugh out loud during the process is an embarrassment to the world's greatest game."

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

Local athletes medal in state prep track meets

Minnehaha Academy took first in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 43.51 in the state Class A boys' track and field championships on June 17-19 in Saint Michael-Albertville. The team included junior Malcolm Humes, seniors Savion Robinson and Tuviah Elder, and junior Sanjay Redd.

Redd also finished second in the 100-meter dash and fifth in the 200, while classmate Marcus Harris came in seventh in the 400. The Redhawks finished tied for eighth overall in the team standings.

Also in Class A boys, Nova Classical Academy took second in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 8:14.55. The team included senior Ryan Roberts,



Minnehaha's Sanjay Redd, left, edges out Luverne's Ashton Sandbulte to take second in the state 100-meter dash with a time of 10.99 seconds. PHOTO BY CASEY EK

junior Finn McCormick, sophomore Nickolai Farber and senior Theo Andre. Andre also placed fifth in the 800 with a time of 1:58.42.

Class AA results

Highland Park High School took third in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 9:20.22 in the state Class AA girls' track and field championships on June 17-19. Team members included sophomore Delia Johnson, freshman Luna Scorzelli, eighth-grader Ellie Moore and junior Molly Moening.

Central High School senior Julian Tong finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.76 in the state Class AA boys' track and field meet. Tong and Saint Thomas Academy junior Grady O'Neil tied for third in the 200 with times of 22.25.

Sports Shorts



The Smashing Pumpkins held off a feisty Flaming Hot Cheetos squad 14-13 to win the Highland Ball Minors (10U) softball championship on June 27. Pictured, from left, are (front row) Mollie Dolan, Clara Leseman, Evie Matzek, Elsie Mathews and Lindsey Neumann; (middle row) Mary Krumm, Greta Crouser, Ingrid Grell, Lucy Nelson, Ruth Neurer and Renee Frommeyer; and (back row) coaches Libby Neurer, Louie Neurer and Kevin Dolan.

Saint Paul Academy seniors Luka Shaker-Check and Liam Lynch took second in the state Class A doubles tennis tournament on June 10-11. They defeated teams from Pipestone, Virginia and Thief River Falls, but lost to top-seeded Breck in the championship round. In Class A singles competition, **Minnehaha Academy** senior Lincoln Reichenau won his first match in three sets against Pierce Cunningham of Luverne, but lost in the next round to third-seeded Jack Linder of Mound-Westonka. Fellow Redhawk senior Aiden Keefe lost his first-round match in straight sets to Tate Reichmann of Minnewaska.

Saint Paul and **Minneapolis** ranked second and third, respectively, on the national Trust for Public Land's annual ParkScore index. The Twin Cities have finished in the top three each year they have been ranked. Washington, D.C., was deemed to have the best city park system in the nation with a score of 84.4. The scores for Saint Paul (80) and Minneapolis (79.7) were lifted by strong marks for park access. Both cities also scored well for park investments and park amenities.

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gled early on. They started out with four losses, but broke the streak with an 11-6 victory over the Purple on June 24 and a 3-2 win over North Saint Paul on June 29.

Coach Rob Thompson was getting some good contributions from Boden Strafelda, who fashioned a great all-state season with SPA and has continued it into the Legion season. Strafelda is equally imposing as either a pitcher or shortstop.

Thompson also likes Judah Thomas in center field, though his time will be limited because of football camp. Third

baseman and pitcher Levi Mellin has also been solid, as has left-handed pitcher Josh Meitv.

The Hamline Purple were 1-5 in District 4 play heading into July. Their lone win was a 9-8, nine-inning victory over the Tri-City Red on June 22.

Despite the slow start, coach Smith has seen some encouraging signs for the Purple. One is shortstop Max Weber, who has been a solid double threat at shortstop or as a starting pitcher.

"He throws strikes when he's out there on the mound," Smith said about Weber. "And he's a great fielder who makes big plays."

Another solid hurler has been Bergen Manternach. "He's probably been our most consistent pitcher, either starting or out of the bullpen," Smith said.

Kevin Odlaug has been a good first or third baseman for the Purple, but Smith has recently found another job for the youngster—relief pitcher. "He's just a competitor," Smith said. "He's stepped right into a pitching role for us."

The regular Legion baseball season runs through mid-July. The eight-team Sub-State 7 playoffs will be held the week of July 19 in North Saint Paul, with the Division I state tournament running from July 29-August 1 in Saint Cloud.

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Business of the Month—Cold Front has been chosen by the Highland District Council as the local Business of the Month for July. Located at Hamline and Randolph avenues, the neighborhood ice cream shop has been serving cold treats, coffee and made-to-order fountain drinks since 2014. Mention the HDC for a buy-one-get-one-free offer on a single scoop.

Ford site hearing—The Saint Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the open space standards in the Ford site master plan and zoning at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 23. The staff report can be viewed at stpaul.gov/planning-commission. More about the meeting and how to comment is available at tinyurl.com/hmn5rbna.

National Night Out—This year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3. Information and ideas will soon be posted at stpaul.gov/departments/police/national-night-out.

Special kudos—A total of 51 units of blood and 10 bags of personal care items were donated on June 25 at the Highland Park Community Center for the benefit of Memorial Blood Centers and Project Home at Provincial House, the new temporary homeless shelter on Randolph Avenue.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 15; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 20. All HDC meetings are currently being held online via Zoom. Links to access the meetings are posted on the HDC's website. Visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Anti-racism sessions—Macalester-Groveland neighbors are organizing an effort focused on key issues of owning a home and creating more equitable wealth. The group will meet for five, 30- to 45-minute educational Zoom sessions on Thursdays starting on July 8, with a final two-hour session to discuss next steps. Visit macgrove.org/events.

Garage sale—The Great Macalester-Groveland Garage Sale is now accepting registrations. The garage sale will be held on the last Saturday in August, rain or shine. Register your sale by August 6. Visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/garagesale.

Plan a block party—An online meeting on planning a block party for National Night Out in August or for any other time this summer will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14. Learn more at macgrove.org/events.

Get your gardens ready—Judging for the community council's annual Alley Garden Awards will take place from July 15-22. Volunteers will walk all alleys in the neighborhood and present awards to gardens that have a clear house number and well-kept plants—in the ground or in pots. Learn more at macgrove.org/aga.

Upcoming online meetings—board of directors on Thursday, July 8; Community Building Team on Monday, July 12; Transportation Committee on Monday, July 26; Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, July 28. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. To receive monthly notices and Zoom information, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Volunteers needed—The community council is seeking volunteers to help out at Mac-Grove Fest, which will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, September 11, on the fields at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For information, email allyssa@macgrove.org.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Dixie's site—The Summit Hill Association board of directors met in special session via Zoom on June 17 to discuss the four rezoning and variance requests for the redevelopment of the property at 695 Grand Ave. Three of the requests (B2 to T3 rezoning, a conditional use permit for increased height and a variance for increased setback along Grand) were recommended by the board. The remaining request (exemption from the East Grand Avenue Overlay District) was not. The board determined an exemption from the overlay district was not in the neighborhood's best interest and the developer should apply for variances where the project does not comply with the provisions of the district. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Saint Paul Planning Commission, which will review the issue this month. The matter will be taken up by the City Council in August for a final decision. The SHA board resolved to evaluate the overlay district at future meetings with a deadline of June 1, 2022.

Neighborhood survey—A working group within the SHA's Neighborhood Plan Committee presented data via Zoom on June 22 from the public survey conducted earlier this year. Committee members and the public discussed the results, interpreted the survey data in groups, and considered additional demographics to study before the information is included in the Neighborhood Plan. The survey analysis report and appendices are available at summithillassociation.org/plan in the "Resource" section.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 8; Environment Committee, 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13; Racial Dialogue and Action Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, July 19; Zoning and Land Use Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 20 (tentative); and Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee, 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 21. For information and links to the Zoom meetings, visit summithillassociation.org/Calendar.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Episcopal Homes yarn theft—Two months ago, UPDC residents installed a yarn art project outside of Episcopal Homes on University and Fairview avenues. The art project mysteriously disappeared after only a few days. Episcopal Homes residents were so inspired they got to work and installed their own display.

National Night Out—A National Night Out planning meeting for organizations and residents will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14. Join the Zoom discussion at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84730986978>. This year's National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 3.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 7; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 12; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 21. To access the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org or jonah@unionparkdc.org or click on the links at unionparkdc.org/calendar.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Homeless services—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation is inviting people to join their neighbors for a facilitated discussion about zoning for standalone homeless services in different zoning codes throughout Saint Paul. The discussion will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. By the end of the evening, a consensus is expected to be reached on a recommendation to the City Council. RSVP at FortRoadFederation.org.

Upcoming Zoom meetings—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 7; Joint Riverview Task Force 6:15 p.m. Thursday, July 8; board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, July 12; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15. For details and log-in information, go to fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

CLASSIFIEDS

SPECIAL EVENTS

OUTDOOR WALKING group. Meet on Monday mornings at 10:00 AM outside the Highland Park Library. 1974 Ford Parkway. Contact Liz, 651-698-7019.

GARAGE/MOVING SALES

HOUSECLEANING means extra furniture, housewares, electronics, clothing and toys. Open your garage door to sell it now! Advertise your sale for as little as \$12, then sit back and rake in the profits! Call 651-699-1462 ext 10 or send an email to WantAds@MyVillager.com

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Next Issue: July 21 Deadline: July 14

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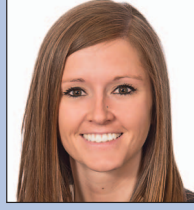
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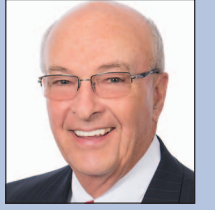


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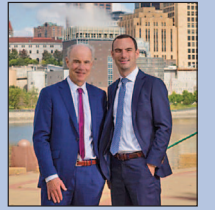
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Choice lot and location backs up to nature and Roseville's Central Park. Main floor living offers 3 bedrooms, 3 baths with two finished levels. Sunny and spacious one owner home. 668 Overlook Drive. Call Lolly for details!

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Wonderful opportunity to transform this stately home on a premier block of Highland Park. 4BR, 3BA. Hardwood floors. New Boiler. New Double Hung Windows. 4 Season Porch. Awaiting your renovation!

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521 ASHLAND AVENUE
Charming well maintained Cathedral Hill home is easy walking distance to Mississippi Market and upscale Selby Ave shops & restaurants. Prettily landscaped yard - nice wide front porch for relaxing summer evenings - backyard deck off kitchen. Fully fenced yard a three car gar. - call for more details.

KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245/CALL/TEXT



New Listing!
1325 KENNETH ST.
Well cared for 2 bedroom/2 bath Highland home w/potential to add 3rd bedroom. Gleaming hardwood flooring. Cozy layout includes updated kitchen space with custom cabinets, unique formal dining & versatile lower level. Don't delay, call Robbie Grossman today!

ROBBIE GROSSMAN
651-434-7887 • \$315,000



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REALTY**



JUST LISTED!!!
223 King St W: Immaculate 2 bedroom completely redone with new kitchen, new roof, siding, windows, and a heated 3 car garage. Also offers a nicely landscaped fenced yard.

JIM BURTON
612-723-7653 • \$295,000



KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106



ANNE KIRCHNER
651-335-3388



CHARMING AND RARE!
Charming & Rare Ramsey Hill storybook home features 2BD, 1BA, porch, skylights, wonderful kitchen w/south facing windows and 2+ car garage. Close to the chic restaurants and shops of Cathedral Hill and dynamic nightlife of Downtown Saint Paul! Call for details.

SARAH KINNEY AND FRIENDS
651-270-6409



FAMOUS CASS GILBERT!
Famous Cass Gilbert 2 story plus red brick row house in Ramsey Hill, features 3BD 2BA, 3 fireplaces, with over 2600 sq ft and has been completely renovated with AC & new roof in 2021. Open and airy, sunny and bright, you will love the lush garden patio! Call for details.

SARAH KINNEY AND FRIENDS
651-497-4387



HISTORIC IRVINE PARK!
Historic Irvine Park end-unit red brick row house features 3BD, 2BA, 1500 fin sq ft, with deck, porch, hardwood floors, fireplace & central air. You will love the convenient and enchanted location within walking distance to downtown and the river. Call for details.

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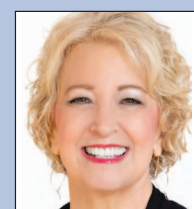
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