

Council is poised to reject proposed zoning for 5-story project on Grand

By JANE McCLURE

It may be back to the drawing board for the developers of a mixed-use building at 695 Grand Ave., the current home of Dixie's on Grand, Emmet's Public House and Saji-Ya restaurants. The Saint Paul City Council is poised to reject a Planning Commission recommendation to rezone the property to Traditional Neighborhoods 3 (TN3) when it meets on August 18. City Council member Rebecca Noecker is asking that the developers seek a zoning change to TN2 instead. That would reduce the maximum building height to 35 feet.

Seeking a different zoning classification would require the developers to take another run through the neighborhood and Planning Commission review process. That could take another 60 to 120 days. It would also require changes to what is currently designed as a five-story building with 80 apartments, four restaurant or retail stores, and underground and at-grade parking.

Noecker acknowledged the tradeoffs. "I'm both in favor of this project and in favor of density," she said. However, she added, TN3 zoning is not appropriate for the site. "All of the benefits of the project could be realized with a dif-

695 GRAND AVE. ▶3



Imaginations unleashed.

Open Eye Figure Theatre puppeteers Ty Chapman and Tri Vo brought to life the story of *The Amazing Cowboat* to the delight of Abby Swanson, 7, her dolly Easter and grandpa Pat Olberding during an evening of fun and games, live music and a movie at the old pool house in Highland Park. The event on August 5 was cosponsored by the Highland District Council, the Highland Business Association, the Friends of Highland Arts and the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Mayor proposes double-digit spending increase in '22

Carter's budget includes tax levy increase of 6.9% to help pay for initiatives

By JANE McCLURE

Restoring critical services interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting housing needs, creating an Office of Neighborhood Safety and allocating federal American Rescue Plan funds are four highlights of Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter's proposed 2022 city budget.

At \$713 million, the proposed budget is 12.6 percent higher than the \$633 million city budget

in 2021 and 10.2 percent higher than the \$647 million city budget in 2020.

The increased spending comes with a 6.9 percent increase in the city's property tax levy. The proposed levy for 2022 is \$176.6 million, an increase of \$11.4 million from 2021. According to city budget staff, the levy increase would increase the annual property tax bill on a median-valued home in Saint Paul by about \$127.

Carter, who is running for a second term this fall, delivered his 2022 budget address virtually due to the pandemic. He reminded those who were watching that the city held its property tax levy flat in 2021, slashing spending, delaying equipment purchases, eliminating travel and leaving jobs open. Carter described it as a "defensive budget" in light of the unknowns about

the pandemic. The city held off on using budget reserves. Positions were cut by attrition rather than layoffs.

"We're not out of the dark," Carter said. "This pandemic is far from over."

In a discussion with reporters after the budget address, Carter described his 2022 spending plan as paradoxical. Federal funding will greatly help, but those are one-time dollars and cannot be used for permanent programs without putting pressure on future city budgets. At the same time, the city cannot keep its levy flat for two years in a row, according to Carter. That would create bigger funding gaps and more budget pressures in the future, he said.

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BZA paves the way for three more Highland Bridge projects

232 affordable housing units already in works

By JANE McCLURE

Variations for three projects at the northwest corner of the Highland Bridge development were approved by the Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on August 9 despite ongoing concerns about the large number of affordable housing units in that area and the density of the developments.

The three projects are in a block bounded by Ford Parkway, Mount Curve Boulevard, Hillcrest Avenue and the new Gateway Park. They include a two-story medical office building at 2270 Ford Pkwy., a five-story Emma Norton Services building with 60 units of affordable housing at 801 Mount Curve Blvd., and Project for Pride in Living's (PPL's) five-story Nellie Francis Court building with 75 units of affordable housing at 2285 Hillcrest Ave.

The city's master plan for redeveloping Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant requires that 20 percent of the housing units be affordable, according to Sarah Zorn, principal project manager for the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). Of Highland Bridge's roughly 3,800 new homes, about 380 will be affordable to households

making 30 percent of the Twin Cities area median income (AMI), 190 will be affordable to households making 50 percent of AMI, and 193 units will be affordable to households making 60 percent AMI. The Twin Cities AMI is \$73,430 for an individual and \$104,900 for a family of four.

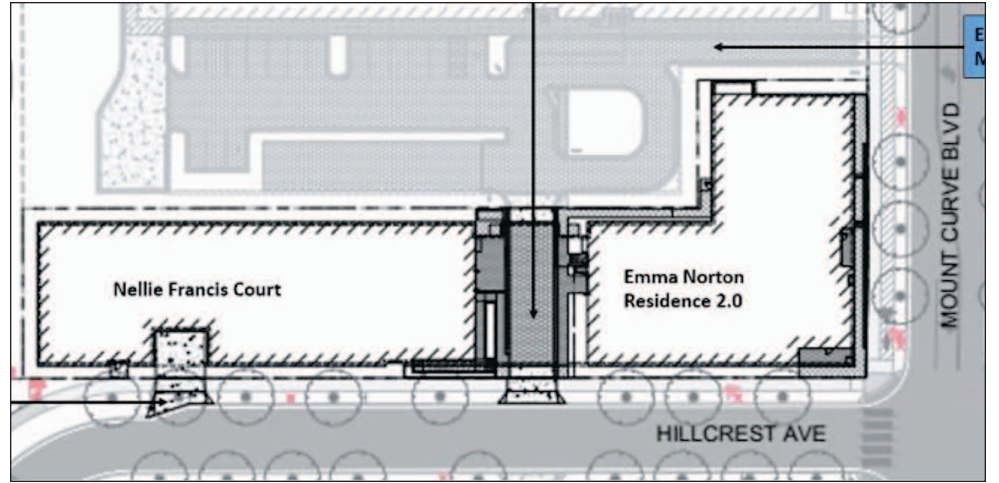
Other affordable housing projects planned for Highland Bridge include CommonBond Communities' 60-unit senior housing project at Cretin and Bohland avenues and six rowhouse units being built by Habitat for Humanity. Another 31 affordable homes will be scattered throughout the site in market-rate buildings.

"This is a really rare opportunity to provide affordable housing," Zorn said.

The city's plan is to use tax increment financing (TIF) generated by the market-rate housing and commercial buildings at Highland Bridge to help pay for the affordable housing. According to Zorn, any TIF revenue not needed at Highland Bridge can be used to help build affordable housing elsewhere in Saint Paul.

The BZA on August 9 granted several variances for the three projects at Highland Bridge. The BZA approved a floor area ratio (FAR) of 3.45 for the Emma Norton building. FAR refers to the usable floor area of a building divided by the building's footprint. The maximum FAR without a variance is 3.0.

The Emma Norton building was also



The footprints of the proposed five-story Nellie Francis Court and Emma Norton Services buildings at Highland Bridge on the northwest corner of Hillcrest Avenue and Mount Curve Boulevard.

approved for a lot coverage of 77.9 percent where 70 percent is the maximum. A third variance was granted for exceeding the maximum number of people who can live in a supportive housing facility like Emma Norton's. Up to 16 people are normally allowed under the site's mixed-use zoning, and the building will have a capacity of 64 residents.

The PPL building was granted five variances. The first was for a FAR of 3.04, or slightly more than the maximum. Also approved was a variance for PPL's open space lot coverage of 22.1 percent—or 2.9 percent lower than the minimum open space lot coverage of 25 percent. PPL was granted a third variance to allow a building height of 60 feet 9 inches in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area where building heights are normally limited to 48 feet.

PPL also received a variance to the minimum off-street parking requirement of

0.75 space per dwelling. With a total of 75 units, a minimum of 56 off-street parking spaces were required, and 38 parking spaces will be provided.

The fifth variance was a waiver to the requirement that larger developments at Highland Bridge provide car-sharing vehicles. Ryan Companies, the master developer for the 122-acre Highland Bridge, is planning to have a car-sharing hub or hubs on the site serving many developments.

The 62,500-square-foot medical office building received three variances. One was for a FAR of 0.94, or less than the minimum allowable FAR of 1.0. The building will have 266 underground parking spaces and 16 surface spaces. Its car-sharing requirement was waived. The third variance was for exceeding the maximum setback of 10 feet. Portions of the building will be set back between 10.7 and 64.6 feet from Gateway Park.

Study focuses on preserving city's industrially zoned properties

By JANE McCLURE

The Saint Paul Planning Commission launched a study on August 6 that will assess how much industrial land has been lost to other uses in the city in recent years and look at ways to preserve the jobs and property tax base that industrially zoned land provides. The goal is to have a recommendation to the City Council in 2022.

Several factors are driving the study, said senior city planner Mike Richardson. One is a section in the city's 2040 comprehensive plan calling for protecting current industrially zoned land from conversion to residential or institutional uses. Another

is the growth of charter schools that have opened at industrial sites.

In early 2013, the City Council adopted several technical amendments to industrial zoning. They included changes to the separation requirements between more intensive industrial uses and residential and mixed-use properties. The Planning Commission had considered removing uses like churches and schools from industrial districts, before dropping the idea due to protests from some institutions.

The city's most recent study of industrial zoning wrapped up in 2014. It included a West Midway plan to foster redevelopment of industrial properties in an area

bounded by Snelling Avenue, I-94, and the west and north city limits. The study coincided with the opening of the light-rail Green Line that same year.

The need for another study came up in 2018 with the debate over a developer's proposal to turn the former Superior meat packing plant at 2103 Wabash St. into housing. That project sparked a high-profile confrontation between the developer and Planning Commission members who wanted to see industrial land preserved.

The Saint Paul Port Authority and Midway Chamber of Commerce supported the rezoning request for the project, citing the building's age and condition. The City

Council approved rezoning the site from industrial to traditional neighborhoods use, but the project never moved forward.

Factors to be looked at in the newly launched study include how the industrial market has changed in Saint Paul since 2000 and how much land devoted to industrial use is no longer used for that purpose. That is likely to include everything from charter schools to brew pubs to self-storage facilities that have opened on industrial properties.

As it progresses, information on the industrial zoning study will be posted at tinyurl.com/yxv7wpyc.





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ferent rezoning,” she said.

Ari Parritz of Saint Louis Park-based Reuter Walton said the development team would wait until the City Council vote on August 18 to comment on the project’s future. Reuter Walton is working with the property’s owners, the Kenefick family, to redevelop the site.

Noecker, whose Ward 2 includes the eastern portion of Grand, said TN3 zoning is inconsistent with the way the area has developed over the years. The closest TN3 parcels are at the corners of Selby Avenue and Dale Street and Grand and Snelling avenues. Noecker added that the proposed height, scale and massing of the development are inconsistent with the Summit Hill Association’s neighborhood plan and the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District.

The overlay district limits building heights to three stories or 36 feet, building footprints to 25,000 square feet and above-ground building floor space to 75,000 square feet. The Planning Commission in July approved variances for the project to allow a height of 59 feet 10 inches, a footprint of 30,500 square feet and an above-ground floor space of 124,000 square feet.

The overlay district was established in 2006 to discourage massive buildings on Grand between Dale Street and Ayd Mill Road. It was touted at the time as a way to keep big-box retail stores and chain stores from locating on Grand and driving out its many local independent stores.

Noecker conceded that the overlay district has discouraged new developments on Grand. She noted that of the 33 new mixed-use developments that have been approved in Saint Paul since 2006, not one has been built on the eastern end of Grand.

The Summit Hill Association (SHA) is currently considering changes to the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District as part of an updated neighborhood plan. The neighborhood plan, Noecker said, is where any changes to the overlay district should

be made. That update is scheduled to be completed next year. Until then, Noecker said, “the overlay district rules.”

City Council members Jane Prince and Nelsie Yang supported Noecker’s position on the rezoning request. Council members Amy Brendmoen, Dai Thao and Chris Tolbert sought a one-week layover to give the council time for further review. Brendmoen, who said she consistently votes in favor of increased housing density, added, “I’m struggling with this item.”

City Council member Mitra Jalali supports the change to TN3 and wants to see the project move forward. She cited the SHA’s and the Planning Commission’s support for the rezoning. Jalali also referred to comments she has heard that businesses on Grand Avenue are dying. “What they need to survive are new people,” she said.

“I’m both in favor of this project and in favor of density,” Noecker reiterated. However, she added, “density doesn’t just come in one form. Different zones fit appropriately into different neighborhoods.”

The proposed building has sparked months of debate in neighborhoods surrounding the site. Supporters say it will help revitalize the Grand Avenue business district with new housing and businesses. Opponents contend it will alter the neighborhood’s character, create traffic congestion and rob adjacent homes of sunlight and openness.

If the change to TN3 zoning is voted down, it is not clear what will happen to the variances and conditional use permit that were approved for the project by the Planning Commission last month.

The commission approved a front setback variance, variances to the East Grand Avenue Zoning Overlay District and a conditional use permit for a height of 59 feet 10 inches. (TN3 zoning allows building heights of up to 55 feet without a conditional use permit.)

The Planning Commission’s approvals were appealed by a group of local residents on August 2. The City Council has yet to schedule a hearing on that appeal.

1◀ 2022 CITY BUDGET

The mayor acknowledged that the levy increase will create hardships for homeowners who are struggling financially. To help, Carter has proposed a \$600,000 investment in the city’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support low-income homeowners.

The city has received \$166 million through the federal American Recovery Act to help it recover from the pandemic. To date, it has only allocated a small portion of that. City Council members have called for a more collaborative process in allocating the funds and have advocated spending some of it on the city’s backlog of street maintenance work. Carter has proposed divvying up the federal funds six ways, none of which would focus on capital improvements.

“With the enormous potential of the American Rescue Plan, we have before us an opportunity to leverage investments that will not only serve our needs today, but will shape the city for generations to come,” Carter said. “While it would be easy to simply spend \$166 million in American Rescue Plan funding on bricks, concrete and the long list of immediate needs we have before us, that approach would be short-sighted.”

The city has until 2024 to spend the federal funds.

In his budget, Carter earmarked \$40 million for neighborhood safety initiatives in 2022 in accord with the city’s Community First Public Safety initiative. Another \$40 million would be used to address housing needs and assist people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. Jobs and career

readiness programs would receive \$40 million. Another \$18 million would be used to modernize city services, and \$15 million would be devoted to citywide financial stabilization. Vaccines and other public health measures would receive \$3.6 million, with another \$10 million for management and oversight of the various federally supported programs.

Carter’s budget would create a new city Office of Neighborhood Safety, as was recommended this spring by a citizens’ advisory committee. Another budget highlight is a permanent source for funding the city’s Law Enforcement Career Pathways Academy for new police officers.

The mayor said that while the city must pursue alternatives to traditional policing, such as mental health responders and citizen ambassadors, there are circumstances “where there is simply no substitute for a police officer.”

The Saint Paul Police Department’s authorized strength is 620 officers for 2021. As of last week, there were 569 officers in the department.

Carter’s budget would add 115 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the city’s work force, increasing it to 3,097 FTE positions. The city cut 91 FTE positions during the pandemic. More than two dozen of the proposed positions are short-term jobs supported through federal funding.

Detailed departmental budgets were not available last week, but they will be scrutinized by the City Council in the weeks ahead. The City Council will begin its budget review on August 18. The city must set its maximum property tax levy for 2022 by September 15. It can cut the levy after that date, but it cannot increase it.

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City reviews proposed rules for locating homeless shelters

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Saint Paul Planning Commission on August 20 will review a proposed set of rules that would regulate where facilities serving homeless people may be located. The commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee revised the regulations on August 10 following months of study. The new regulations are intended to increase access to homeless services and reduce the barriers preventing smaller homeless facilities from opening across the city, according to city planning director Luis Pereira.

Under the proposed regulations, homeless facilities would be classified as civic and institutional uses. They would be permitted by right in the three most intensive business zones and in industrial zones. No additional review would be needed. Homeless facilities would be limited to a maximum of 7,000 square feet in these zones without a conditional use permit. There would be no limit on the number of homeless clients served at each facility.

Homeless facilities of up to 5,000 square feet would be permitted in the mixed-use Traditional Neighborhoods 2, 3 and 4 zones. Facilities larger than 5,000 square feet in those zones would be permitted

with a conditional use permit.

The Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommended against the requirement that homeless facilities be located within a short distance of overnight or emergency shelters for homeless people.

The City Council needs to adopt a set of zoning regulations for homeless facilities if they are to be allowed in Saint Paul. Last November, the Freedom House homeless day shelter was allowed to open in a former fire station at 296 W. Seventh St. under an emergency ordinance. However, the emergency ordinance will only be in place as long as the city is under emergency orders tied to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the proposed regulations, Freedom House would need to relocate or apply for a conditional use permit to remain at that site.

The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation met with West End neighbors in July to discuss the zoning issues related to homeless facilities. West End residents and business people have complained about widespread public intoxication, drug use, vandalism, and public urination and defecation attributed to the clients of Freedom House.

"The neighborhood supports the existence of homeless service centers, but feels



Freedom House client Richard Howell took a break on the sidewalk in front of the West Seventh Street shelter on a cold day last April. PHOTO BY CASEY EK

that the Freedom House site is not a good fit for these services at the level of demand that is currently present," said Dana DeMaster, president of the West 7th Federation board.

The federation has suggested that if the proposed zoning regulations are to be instituted, certain issues should be addressed in any conditional use permit. They include measures to ensure public safety, adequate oversight, and alternatives to calling the police when problems arise.

Federation officials have also complained about litter around Freedom House. The federation is asking that the city do a better job of enforcing existing

regulations regarding property maintenance and criminal activity in relation to Freedom House. The federation is also concerned about the possible concentration of homeless services and how that would affect the entertainment district along West Seventh.

Saint Paul Deputy Mayor Jaime Tinchler informed the City Council earlier this month about the progress that has been made in getting homeless people into overnight shelters. Over the past several months, city staff have closed more than 65 homeless encampments. There are still about 17 encampments that city officials know about.

Wheels are in motion to update well-worn Saint Paul Bicycle Plan

BY JANE MCCLURE

The city of Saint Paul is looking to update its 2015 bicycle plan with a focus on more paths separated from cars and enticing more people to bike. The city Planning Commission's Transportation Committee heard an overview on August 9 on updating the plan, a process that begins this month and includes a survey on where the city should expand its bike network.

"This is an exciting project for us," said Jimmy Shoemaker, a transportation safety planner in the city's Department of Public

Works. "The plan is used all the time."

The city has added 67 miles of bike lanes since the plan was first adopted. Every time a street is rebuilt or resurfaced, Public Works uses the plan to determine if bike lanes should be included. The plan also comes into play when large-scale developments such as Highland Bridge take shape, and is used to tie into mass transit projects.

The Saint Paul Bicycle Plan was adopted in March of 2015 after three years of public engagement. It was amended in 2017 to include the Capital City Bikeway in downtown and continued work on the Grand

Round, a network of bike and pedestrian trails that connect the city's parks.

While the city continues to work on those, much of the updated plan's focus is likely to be on separating bike lanes from car traffic by using some form of physical barrier. Such separation is called for in the city's 2019 climate action plan, and in federal and state bike guidelines.

The separated lanes may be designed just for bikers or to be shared by walkers. The separation can result in narrower streets, which encourage slower driving speeds and makes it easier for pedestrians to cross.

According to Shoemaker, city officials often hear that bike lanes that are not separated from car traffic do not feel safe. "We see people not using bike lanes because they're not comfortable," he said.

The updated plan will identify where and how the city should prioritize resources to expand its bike network and how it should be maintained. Snow removal is an ongoing complaint about bike lanes and off-street bike trails, as is the condition of the pavement.

For the link to an online survey on the bicycle plan and to sign up for update emails, visit tinyurl.com/39wfxuz6.

Concerns aired over city charter proposal to fine ordinance breakers

BY JANE MCCLURE

A proposed charter change that would impose administrative citations on people who violate city property codes and other ordinances drew more than two dozen people to a hearing before the Saint Paul Charter Commission on August 2. A second hearing is planned on September 13.

Administrative citations are praised as a way to have violators pay fines instead of face criminal charges. But concerns have been raised over whether the process would have unintended consequences, especially in low-income neighborhoods.

The Charter Commission is expected to present its recommendation to the City Council by October 29. Council and commission members, along with Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) staff, have discussed the use of administrative citations for the past few years. The fines and process to impose them require a charter amendment. They would also require amending city ordinances to allow their implementation.

DSI director Ricardo Cervantes described administrative citations and fines as "developing a fair and effective tool to gain compliance with city ordinances." Penalizing ordinance violators through the courts can take a long time, he noted,

and criminal penalties can affect a person's search for housing or employment.

Cervantes said the fines could be used to enforce property codes, business licenses and site plan violations, and issues such as the city's minimum wage and earned sick and safe time requirements for employers. One big issue where the citations could be used is animal complaints. The city issues about 150 criminal complaints each year related to animals running loose.

The city would likely cap fines at \$2,000, twice the amount of a misdemeanor violation of city regulations. Fines tied to administrative citations would not be used as a revenue collection measure for the city.

"The intent is to not make money," said assistant city attorney Rachel Tierney. "The intent is to gain compliance."

Violations could wind up either before a city staff member acting as a legislative hearing officer or before an administrative law judge supplied by the state. Appeals would be made to the City Council or the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

If the City Council unanimously supports administrative citations, the measure will become part of the charter and the process of passing procedural ordinances will start. If council members cannot agree on the measure, it could be shelved or placed on an election ballot.

Adding administrative citations would mean hiring four more city staff members to handle the hearing process at a cost of about \$450,000 per year.

The idea of such citations met a skeptical response from several commissioners and members of the public on August 2. Jens Werner, executive director of the Summit-University Planning Council, said the SUPC has spent the past two years working with neighbors who find themselves in the city's legislative hearing process for property code violations.

Property code complaints are almost always made anonymously, often by a neighbor, Werner said. Cultural differences and a lack of resources to keep up a property sometimes play roles. Property owners who cannot do the work themselves may end up paying the city to cut tall grass and weeds or shovel snow, and the charges are added to their property taxes. Some people have lost their homes when landlords did not make required improvements.

Werner said the legislative hearing process should not be used if the city implements administrative citations. "That (hearing system) is super, super flawed and it's hurting people," Werner said. "Let's not replicate a system that's damaging and traumatic and inequitable."

Jack Cann, an attorney with the Housing

Justice Center, said that while the effort to decriminalize fines is appreciated, such charges can have a disproportionate, negative impact on low-income and minority households.

Labor leaders and members of the advocacy group ISAIAH spoke for the administrative citations. They pointed to the need to enforce Saint Paul's recently enacted minimum wage and earned sick and safe time ordinances.

Cara Peterson, president of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, said the administrative citations would provide a faster means of enforcement against employers who flaunt the rules. She and others said that not all employers have informed their workers of the minimum wage and earned sick and safe time protections.

Commissioner Debbie Montgomery was among those questioning the administrative citation process. She also wondered if it would have a disproportionate impact on low-income people.

Other commissioners agreed with her concerns about unintended consequences. "Usually the people who end up being punished are the people in rental housing," said commissioner Gary Unger. He said landlords who are fined for property code violations could easily pass those fines on to tenants in the form of higher rent.

Eight candidates are in the running this fall for mayor of Saint Paul

By DALE MISCHKE



Saint Paul's ranked-choice voting system will get a workout this November. With the close of the two-week filing period on August 10, eight candidates had entered the race for mayor, including first-term incumbent Mayor Melvin Carter III.

Challenging Carter's bid for re-election are Dino Guerin of Battle Creek, Bill Hosko of downtown, Dora Jones-Robinson of Roseville, Paul Langenfeld of Highland Park, Abu Nayeem of Hamline-Midway, Miki Frost of Battle Creek and Scott Evans Wergin of Payne-Phalen.

Guerin, 62, serves as an investigative assistant in the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. Married and the father of one child, he earned an associate's degree at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and served on the Saint Paul City Council from 1991-97 and the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners from 1997-2000.

Hosko, 58, is an architectural artist and the owner of Hosko Gallery & Framing and Music Forest Cafe in downtown. Educated

in art, architecture and drafting at Minneapolis Technical College, he has served as a board member of the CapitolRiver Council and West Side Citizens Organization. Single with no children, he ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 2001 and for the City Council in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

Jones-Robinson, 56, is founder and executive director of Mentoring Young Adults, an organization that promotes positive directions in the lives of youths. She also founded Guns Down Saint Paul, a program aimed at preventing gun violence. A graduate of Central High School, she attended college for two years and has served as an administrative assistant for Saint Paul and as executive assistant for economic development for Phoenix. She

is married with no children and plans to move to Saint Paul in September.

Langenfeld, 58, works as a personal care attendant for Lifeworks Services. A graduate of the University of Saint Thomas, he earned a master of divinity degree from Saint Thomas' Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. He served as vice president of the board of the Highland District Council from 2019-21. In 2006 he founded the Langenfeld Foundation and serves as president and chairman of the board of the nonprofit organization, which provides enrichment activities for people with disabilities.

Nayeem, 33, is a community organizer. Single with no children, he earned a master's degree in agriculture and resource economics at the University of California-Berkeley. He has served as a member of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association's board of directors.

Frost could not be reached for comment, but according to his website, he is a community organizer and director of the nonprofit 8218 Truce Center, which encourages youths to make positive life choices and

promotes conflict resolution by teaching communication skills. The father of five children, he founded the Truce Center in 2019 in Summit-University and it has since expanded to the East Side.

Scott Evans Wergin could not be reached for comment.

Carter, 42, a resident of downtown, has served as mayor since 2018. A graduate of Florida A&M University with a degree in business administration, he earned a master's degree in public policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Married and the father of six children, he represented Ward 1 on the City Council from 2008-13 and served as chairman of the board of Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood, director of the Minnesota Office of Early Learning, and executive director of the Minnesota Children's Cabinet.

With ranked-choice voting, there is no primary election. All eight candidates will advance to the November 2 general election where voters will be asked to rank the candidates in order of preference.

Four open seats on School Board attract a field of eight candidates

By DALE MISCHKE

Saint Paul voters will head to the polls in November to choose among candidates for four seats on the city's seven-member School Board. Two races are on the ballot. One race is to serve out the final 26 months of board member Steve Marchese's term. The other race is for three four-year terms on the board.

Two candidates are seeking Marchese's former seat—Clayton Howatt and current School Board chair Jeanelle Foster. The top vote-getter will be seated on the board immediately after the election, replacing Yusef Carrillo, who was appointed to the seat when Marchese resigned in April.

Six candidates have filed to run for the four-year seats, including incumbent Jim Vue and newcomers James Farnsworth, Halla Henderson, Jennifer McPherson, Uriah Ward and Ryan Williams. Voters will be asked to choose three candidates. The top three vote-getters will take their seats

on the School Board beginning January 1.

Foster, 48, has served on the School Board since 2016. A resident of Dayton's Bluff, she has worked in early-childhood education and as a family service manager for Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington counties, the Wilder Foundation, Rainbow Community Development Corporation and the YWCA. She holds an associate degree in early childhood studies from Saint Paul College, a bachelor's degree in human services from Metropolitan State University and a master's degree in education from Concordia University-Saint Paul.

Howatt, 46, is the owner of Verus Builders, a residential remodeling company. A resident of Hamline-Midway, he has a B.S. in history from the University of Idaho and is married and the father of two children.

Farnsworth, 23, a resident of Ramsey Hill, serves as executive director of the Highland Business Association and as a customer communications assistant for

the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Single with no children, he is a member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and is working toward a B.S. degree in human resource development at the University of Minnesota.

Henderson, 27, works as policy director for the Minnesota Alliance for Youth. A graduate of the University of Saint Thomas, she is a resident of Ramsey Hill and is single with no children.

McPherson, 39, is the founder of the Community Bridge Committee, an organization dedicated to promoting peace and preventing violence. A resident of Payne-Phalen, she studied theology at the Apostolic Bible Institute and cosmetology at Saint Paul College and Vatterott College in Saint Louis. McPherson is married and the mother of five children.

Vue, 41, has served on the School Board since 2020 when he was appointed to replace Marny Xiong, who died that June. Last November he topped a field of five

candidates in a special election to fill the remaining 14 months in Xiong's term. A resident of the East Side, Vue is married and the father of five children. He served with the U.S. Army Reserves in Iraq and Kuwait and worked as a mortgage collector before earning a B.A. in history and a master's degree in liberal studies at Metropolitan State University. He now works as a personal care assistant for Partners in Community Supports.

Ward, 30, works as a financial aid counselor at Augsburg University. A resident of the East Side, he has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in education from East Carolina University. A former middle school social studies teacher, Ward served as an organizer of the Vote Yes for Saint Paul Kids campaign in 2018 and as president of the Saint Paul Young DFL in 2019 and 2020. He is married with no children.

Williams, a West End resident, could not be reached for further information.

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News Briefs

All Saint Paul employees could be required to get COVID-19 vaccine

The Saint Paul City Council will vote on a policy on August 18 that would require all city employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The policy was introduced on August 11 by Ward 3 council member Chris Tolbert. He said it would be consistent with similar requirements sought by the state and Ramsey County. The state policy was announced last week, while the county is expected to vote on its policy soon.

Tolbert noted that many city employees work with vulnerable populations, including children too young to be vaccinated. He said that a vaccination requirement is part of acting as a "responsible government." Vaccines are not yet available for children under age 12.

Other council members agreed that the requirement is the right thing to do. Ward 1 council member Dai Thao said he contracted the virus between his first and second vaccination shots, but felt his illness was less intense than it might have been because he had been immunized.

If city employees cannot receive vaccines for religious or health reasons, they could be required to provide proof of regular testing. Several Saint Paul employers have already imposed similar requirements.

Off-street parking requirements appear poised for elimination

Off-street parking requirements for new developments are expected to be eliminated under a proposal due for final action on August 18 by the Saint Paul City Council.



Kicking off fall sports. Highland Park varsity soccer captains Clara Paleen and Osher Zmira, both juniors, warmed up their legs on the school's playing fields last week in preparation for the start of practice for the new high school season on August 16. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The measure is supported by the city's Planning Commission and several district councils. It will allow developers to potentially add more density to their buildings especially in affordable housing developments. The measure is similar to one adopted recently in Minneapolis.

Off-street parking requirements are already eased in Saint Paul for developments along the light-rail Green Line and are not imposed at all downtown. However, in most places off-street parking must be provided based on the zoning and size and type of the development. Developers wanting to provide less parking now must go to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals

for variances.

Developers could still provide parking if they wanted to do under the regulations. Some developers have indicated that it would be more difficult to obtain financing if they did not provide some level of off-street parking.

Developers would have to create travel demand management strategies to promote alternatives to driving by providing bike parking, subsidized transit passes or other perks.

The council has received several dozen comments on the proposal, most in favor of the change and its perceived environmental benefits. Requiring less parking is

expected to encourage people to walk, bike or use public transit to get around.

Opponents contend that eliminating parking minimums would further clog city streets with parked vehicles.

Saint Paul ready to put watering ban in place if drought persists

An emergency order was adopted by the Saint Paul City Council on August 11 that would institute watering restrictions and penalties if the ongoing drought becomes more severe.

Late last month, Saint Paul Regional Water Services set up a penalty schedule and reviewed conditions under which watering restrictions could be imposed. Right now, reducing water use is voluntary, with watering limited to alternating days and restricted between noon-6 p.m.

If more stringent measures are needed, the water utility would be able to impose penalties of \$50-\$150 after first providing violators with a notice and a subsequent warning. Water service could be temporarily shut off after a fifth violation.

Utility leadership told the council that they are closely monitoring Mississippi River water levels because that is where the city draws much of its water. The city uses a state matrix to determine stages of drought and when watering restrictions must be imposed.

Saint Paul has been under a drought warning since July 20, as have other cities. The restrictions would also be imposed by the other cities that are served by the regional water utility.

NEWS BRIEFS ▶

H2

H3

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Water utility seeks rate increase to help fund new treatment plant

By JANE McCLURE

A typical household will pay an additional \$1.70 per month for water in 2022 if a proposed rate increase is adopted by the Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) as it looks to replace its aging McCarron's Lake treatment plant.

The SPRWS board will hold a public hearing on its 2022 water rates and fees at 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, at the water utility office, 1900 Rice St. New general manager Patrick Shea unveiled the budget in July, after succeeding longtime general manager Steve Schneider earlier this year.

The annual cost of water for a typical Saint Paul household would increase from \$313.04 to \$333.44 next year if the rate change is approved. A typical household consumes 68 cubic feet or 50,864 gallons of water each year.

Replacing McCarron's has an estimated cost of \$160 million and is expected to be the most expensive water treatment project in state history. The current plant would operate until the new one is completed next to it. The old plant would then be deactivated and demolished.

The project requires an increase in bonding or borrowing for the new facility. Before he left the utility, Schneider outlined plans for a gradual water rate increase to pay for the work. By 2024, the average water customer could pay \$392 a year.

If all goes as planned, work on the new plant would start in 2022 and continue through 2025. Construction of the original plant began in 1910 and was completed by 1925.

"Anytime you have a facility approaching 100 years in age, you need to be thinking about resiliency and reliability," said

Shea in a recent utility newsletter. "These improvements will increase the reliability of the facility for coming generations."

The SPRWS's proposed 2022 budget includes \$192.1 million in financing and spending. That is an increase of \$68.5 million over this year's budget. The greatest increase is for issuance of debt, which is jumping from \$51 million in 2021 to \$116 million in 2022.

The water service's base fee, water main surcharge and right-of-way recovery fee will not increase in 2022. The latter fee is assessed to Saint Paul customers only, and is paid to the city for having water utilities located in the public right of way.

The water utility pumps an average of almost 39 million gallons of water per day. The total water consumption base for 2022 is estimated at 1.65 billion cubic feet. The utility saw a slight decrease in con-

sumption in 2020 and earlier in 2021 due to above-average rainfall. However, this year's figures could change due to the summer drought.

Another factor in water use citywide was the COVID-19 pandemic. Many large customers, especially colleges and universities, used much less water than usual when classes were conducted remotely.

The water utility serves Saint Paul, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Maplewood and West Saint Paul. Limited services are provided to Lilydale, Sunfish Lake and South Saint Paul. Arden Hills, Roseville, Little Canada and the University of Minnesota own their own water distribution and billing services, but purchase water wholesale from the SPRWS.

The Saint Paul City Council votes on water and other city utility rates as part of its budget process.

6 NEWS BRIEFS

Exemptions would include the watering of vegetable gardens, public gardens, and new trees, plants and sod.

Western District building named after retired police chief Finney

The City Council on August 4 approved a request to name the Western District police building at 389 N. Hamline Ave. as the "William K. Finney Western District" after the city's first Black police chief.

William Finney was born and raised in the Rondo neighborhood and graduated from Central High School in 1966 and from Mankato State University four years later. While in Mankato, he worked as a police reserve officer.

Finney was sworn in as a Saint Paul police officer in 1971, and worked his way up the ranks. He was a patrol officer, investigator, community project leader, patrol supervisor, director of training, and executive officer and team commander for the Central District.

In 1992, he became the first African-American in Minnesota history to be appointed when he was named the city's 38th chief of police. He served in that role for 12 years and retired after more than 33 years with the department.

Finney is credited with diversifying the department, implementing community-oriented policing strategies, hiring officers who more closely reflected the city's demographics and promoting women to leadership positions. He created the Chief's Advisory Council, which provided feedback

from diverse groups around the city, and helped draft an anti-racial profiling agreement in 2001.

Finney served on the Saint Paul School Board for several years, first after being elected in 1989 and returning in 2005 as an interim member. In 2015 he served as an interim City Council member.

Plan ahead, since some polling places will change this election

The November 2 election will have 10 new polling places, including several in local neighborhoods. The Saint Paul City Council approved the changes on August 4 at the request of David Triplett, Ramsey County's election manager. Voters in the affected precincts will be contacted to let them know of the changes.

In Ward 2, Precinct 2-11 will move from Kellogg Square to Landmark Center, which was also used in 2020 due to COVID-19. Kellogg Square is unable to serve as a polling place due to remodeling.

In Ward 3, Precinct 3-5 will move from Graham Place Apartments to Jie Ming Academy, 1845 Sheridan Ave. Jie Ming was also used as an alternate polling place in 2020 and will now be the permanent location. Precinct 3-11 will move from Wellington Place to Highland Senior High School. Also moving to the senior high from Expo School is Precinct 3-14.

In Ward 4, Precinct 4-10 will move from the Saint Paul Council of Churches/Interfaith Action to Ramsey Middle School. The former location is up for sale.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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VIEWPOINT

From West End to East Side, Repke left St. Paul a better place

BY JANE MCCLURE

Shrewd political instincts and a strong sense of empathy guided Chuck Repke throughout his life, say those who knew him well. Repke died on August 2 after a long battle with cancer. In his 67 years, he shaped countless Saint Paul city policies and developments. He was a fixture on Saint Paul's West End, at City Hall and in DFL Party circles. He worked on countless political campaigns and chaired almost 60 DFL conventions.

Repke was born in Washington, D.C., and as a child moved to Saint Paul's West Side. His involvement in city politics began at age 18 when he answered a call on his family's home phone from a young DFL organizer named Jim Scheibel. A future member of the City Council and mayor of Saint Paul, Scheibel wanted to speak to Repke's father but he got the son involved in politics—"just like that," said Gloria Bogen, Repke's future wife.

Repke graduated from Humboldt High School and attended the University of Minnesota. He settled in Irvine Park when that neighborhood was being threatened by urban renewal, and he became involved in the fight to save its historic homes.

Repke joined about 30 West End and Summit Hill neighbors in forming Residents in Protest-35E. In 1982 the group sued in federal court to block the construction of Interstate 35E through the West End and Summit Hill neighborhoods and eventually settled to have the would-be freeway constructed as a four-lane parkway with a ban on trucks and a 45 mph speed limit. In the decades that

followed, Repke trekked to the state Capitol numerous times to lobby against legislation to raise the speed limit.

Ed Johnson, longtime executive director of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, recalled Repke's dogged activism. "He was one of the best presidents the West Seventh Federation ever had," he said. Johnson remembered Repke's involvement in the fight against storefront prostitution, picketing the saunas and rap parlors that had been springing up on the West End. Repke later worked on reforming state laws regarding nuisance businesses, making it easier to shut them down.

Repke led the federation's efforts to preserve local housing and construct new homes. He was involved in efforts to shut down group homes near the former Schmidt Brewery and worked to revitalize that neighborhood and save the brewery itself. He served on the Saint Paul Planning Commission and schooled younger activists in the ways of politics. Former Irvine Park resident Erik Hare described Repke as "brave, caring, practical and smart as all hell. He made an impression on everyone he ever met."

Repke could come across as gruff, "but he had empathy in spades," Johnson said. "He had a strong sense of right and wrong and really disliked any kind of injustice."

Repke and fellow Irvine Park resident Dave Thune would spar over politics and neighborhood issues, but they eventually became close friends and political allies. Repke ran Thune's campaign for the Ward 2 City Council seat in 1989, and served as Thune's legislative aide through 1998.



Chuck Repke

After taking office, Thune enlisted Repke in the effort to reinstate Saint Paul's human rights ordinance. The ordinance had been repealed by referendum several years earlier, and Thune pledged to restore it during his 1989 campaign.

"Few people know that it was Chuck Repke who researched and wrote the new human rights ordinance," Thune said. "He strategized on how to build and maintain the coalition that supported the ordinance. And he helped me develop the backbone I needed to weather the nasty politics and personal attacks that followed. The ordinance was adopted on a 5-2 vote and with the signature of the mayor. It put Saint Paul back in the business of protecting human rights for

everyone."

Repke assumed a dual role as Thune's legislative aide. He was kind to those who needed help with city issues, but held the feet of city staff and would-be developers to the fire and wasn't afraid to take on the city administration if there were disagreements over issues.

After leaving the council offices, Repke registered as a lobbyist, working on numerous development and licensing issues and Saint Paul's District Energy. He also served as executive director of the Greater East Side Community Council and the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation. One of Repke's proudest accomplishments in the neighborhoods of northeast Saint Paul was the redevelopment of the area southeast of Lake Phalen where a Cub Foods and several other stores and restaurants were built.

"I learned a lot from Chuck," said Kerry Antrim, executive director of the North End Neighborhood Organization. "He had an encyclopedic knowledge of how the city worked. He impressed upon me that it was important to cultivate good relations with city staff."

"Chuck was involved in so many issues, it's impossible to name them all," Thune said. "His fingerprints are all over this city, in so many ways for the better."

Repke will be remembered at a Celebration of Life from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. Seventh St. Memorials are preferred to the District 2 (Greater East Side) Community Council, 1365 Prosperity Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55106.

INBOX

Save the planet, water a tree

All over town, newly planted trees and mature trees are dying from lack of sufficient water during this prolonged drought. It appears that some people with boulevard trees are too lazy to water them. The same is true of the "corporate" boulevard trees planted in squares of dirt about 40 inches on a side. How can anyone expect a tree to get a proper watering from rain in such a tiny space?

The city has built so many medians in our streets and planted trees on those narrow, hot plots of dirt, but it is not running water trucks to sluice the trees regularly to keep them alive. Watering is a lot cheaper than planting new trees. It's a terrible loss to have so many trees dying. The more trees there are, the cooler our city will be as the global warming trend continues.

The Amazon rainforest, with all of the burn-off that's been done, has now become a negative producer of oxygen. It produces more carbon dioxide than it takes up to turn into oxygen. So countries ought to be planting millions of trees to try to make up the difference.

We've all got only this planet to live on, so let's not be uncaring about giving our trees a drink of water when the heat has them struggling to survive.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

Pinto and Walz have failed us

Representative Dave Pinto (DFL-District 64B) is relying on political science when it comes to his votes in the Minnesota House, not real science. For more than a year, Pinto sided with Governor Walz's extreme lockdowns and regulations that killed businesses in our community. Even with studies beginning to show that crushing lockdown measures had a negligible impact on the COVID-19 pandemic, Pinto refuses to admit he was wrong.

Because of Walz and Pinto, several pillars of our community are gone forever. This is not even considering the changed lives of our children who struggled their way

through classes online. Now that students are returning in the fall, leftists like Pinto want to keep them in masks.

Never again should one person be able to unilaterally force our entire state into chaos and confusion and financial loss in the manner that Tim Walz did when he forced the people of Minnesota to submit to his draconian rules and regulations. He stole the freedoms of hard-working Americans here in Minnesota, and we are still paying the price for it.

Enough is enough. State legislators must begin to rally around the articles of impeachment introduced against Walz for his extreme orders over the past year. Only when Walz is removed can our state begin to heal.

If you agree, please contact Representative Pinto and tell him that he needs to give up this charade and hold Walz accountable. He can be reached at 651-296-4199.

*David Sepeda
Macalester-Groveland*

Build resilient infrastructure

Our Minnesota business faces hardships due to severe weather and flooding. We distribute medical devices nationwide and need predictability in shipping, ports, trucking and rail. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. From wildfires out West to floods in the Midwest to hurricanes on the East Coast, every year our supply chains are disrupted, costing us and hurting people who need our products. That's why we've joined the call for resilient infrastructure. Congress has passed a much-needed bipartisan infrastructure package, investing in roads, bridges, tunnels, rail and ports. However, with increasingly severe weather, these investments must be built to stronger standards.

Thankfully, a bipartisan bill is gaining momentum in Congress. The Flood Resilience and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2021 would require federal agencies to consider the future effects of severe weather and flooding before spending money on infrastructure. It's fiscally smart

because it's actually cheaper to build right the first time instead of constantly repairing damage. It also keeps our businesses, schools and homes protected.

U.S. Representatives Dean Phillips and Pete Stauber cosponsored this legislation. Other members of the Minnesota delegation should follow their lead. It would help all of us if Congress embraced this legislation and built resilience into infrastructure.

*Matt Steinrueck
Whittier, Minneapolis*

HDC isn't all that engaging

I received a "Summer 2021" flyer from the Highland District Council (HDC) in late July. In it, HDC president Michelle Doyle encourages "community engagement," "active participation" and "welcoming meetings." I do not find the HDC very welcoming when there is no way to reach any of the members of its board of directors.

Looking at the HDC website, one can find the board members' names and perhaps a picture, but there is no way to contact them. No e-mail address. No phone number. I thought elections bring with them a certain amount of public openness. After all, the board members are supposedly speaking on the community's behalf. How does the community reach them?

Unless you attend a monthly board meeting and speak for your allotted one minute, where is the "active participation" in matters that affect Highland? I would like to see community engagement at its best, a way to talk with the people who were elected to represent Highland.

*Georgia Dietz
Highland Park*

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Commission allows two homes on Highland lot

By JANE McCLURE

The Saint Paul Planning Commission resolved a long and complicated fight over the construction of two new homes in Highland Park on August 6 by unanimously rejecting an appeal of a lot split at 1945 Rome Ave. The commission also set several conditions to mitigate the new homes' potential impact on neighbors. Its decision is final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

Developer 1945 Rome LLC and builder Providence Homes must comply with city regulations for residential developments on steep slopes. The two new homes must be set back at least seven feet from neighboring lots, and be at least two stories high to minimize their footprints. All grading and new construction on the lots also must be designed to protect neighboring property from water drainage.

Disputes over lot splits are extremely rare in Saint Paul, but more than 20 neighbors signed a petition opposing this one. The Highland District Council did not take a position.

The Rome Avenue lot is unique for its size, slope and history. The property was platted as two 40-foot lots and zoned for single-family use. A brick and stucco rambler was built on the property more than 50 years ago, but it was recently demolished. The owner wants to split the property to accommodate two houses.

Rome Avenue neighbors Kirk and Rebecca Pennings and Scott and Taylor Ames filed the appeal. The lot split won preliminary city approval in November 2019, but Kirk Pennings said the neighbors were advised by city staff to not appeal the decision until after the house had been removed and sewer and water services disconnected.

The applicant had until November 21 of last year to do that. Because they were not done by then, Pennings said neighbors assumed the lot split was not going forward.

However, on March 22 of this year the water and sewer services were disconnected. The house was demolished not long after that and a tree on the property line was removed over



A view from the alley of the lot at 1945 Rome Ave. after the removal of the original rambler.

“Two houses cannot fit on this lot,” Pennings said. The original house sat in the middle of the two lots and had retaining walls due to drainage issues.

neighbors' objections.

The neighbors objected even more to how the site was graded and said there were discrepancies between the site and the plans filed with the city. Pennings said the result, if not corrected, will create a “trough-shaped yard.” He asked that a licensed engineer provide a grading plan before the project goes forward.

“Two houses cannot fit on this lot,” Pennings said. The original house sat in the middle of the two lots and had retaining walls due to drainage issues.

Developers David Wickiser and Shawn Devine are working with Providence Homes on the project. They said the grounds for appeal were without merit. According to Wickiser, the developers are now going through

a site plan review that should address any potential issues.

The appeal was based on three grounds. One was the property's slope and potential for flooding. The city zoning code does not allow the creation of lots where the building pad for the principal structure has a slope steeper than 18 percent. City planner Marilyn Rosendahl said the appellants incorrectly calculated a 23.8 percent slope across the original 80-foot parcel, not just the separate building pads, which meets the slope requirements.

The second ground for appeal was that building two homes with a more impervious surface would increase the risk of flooding, and that the developer's proposal did not address how soil would be supported with a retaining wall. Rosendahl said those issues will be addressed as part of site plan review.

The third ground for appeal noted neighborhood opposition, the construction of two new homes on a busy street, and questions about the developers' capabilities. Rosendahl said that Rome Avenue can accommodate the development and that the other issues were not grounds for rejecting a lot split.

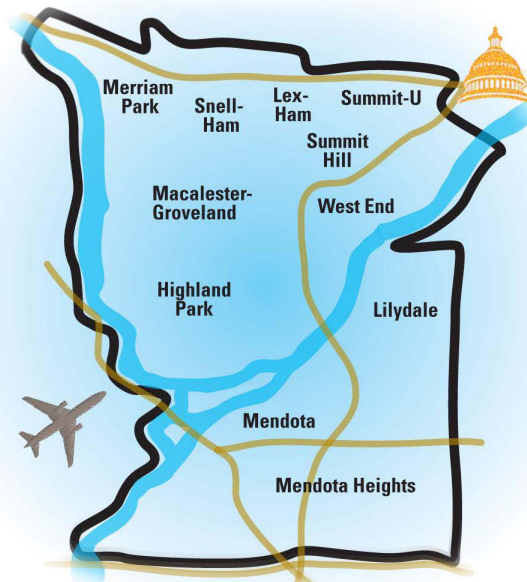
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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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EDUCATION

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STA completes \$6M renovation for growing student body

BY ANNE MURPHY

This summer is one for the books at Saint Thomas Academy. The all-boys high school and middle school has undertaken the most extensive renovation project since it moved from Saint Paul to Mendota Heights in 1965. Founders Hall, the oldest building on campus, is being reimagined along with the school's Institute of Science and Engineering. In addition to larger classrooms and a new HVAC system, the building will feature new laboratories and other technological upgrades.

Dubbed Summer Splash '21, the \$6 million project began after school let out in May and will be completed before the new academic year begins on August 30, according to headmaster Kelby Woodard. "It's a \$6 million project, to be done in 59 days," Woodard said. "That's why it's called Summer Splash."

When Woodard became headmaster in 2020, STA was already thinking about expanding in one form or another. "We had talked about this for years and years," said Mark Westlake, a longtime physics teacher at the school and the director of the Innovation Center within the Institute of Science and Engineering. "Then headmaster Woodard came in and pushed it forward. I've been really impressed with headmaster Woodard and the board of directors for their vision with this project."

A former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Woodard was well-acquainted with STA before stepping into his current position. He and his family lived in the Twin Cities and one of his sons graduated from STA before the family moved to Texas where Woodard served six years as the founding president of Cristo Rey Dallas College Prep.

"Over the last year, we contemplated what we needed to do to upgrade the STA campus," Woodard said. "Our enrollment is up dramatically year after year. This year we'll have in the neighborhood of 620 ca-



Saint Thomas Academy headmaster Kelby Woodard leads a tour of the school's \$6 million renovation of Founders Hall and the adjacent Institute of Science and Engineering. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

dets. We had 589 last year."

Thinking about how best to meet students' needs, Woodard said, "we said we don't need more space. We need to honor our history and focus on meeting academic needs. We're not looking to create bright and shiny new facilities. We're interested in leveraging the great foundation we currently have on campus and spending money wisely. It's far more interesting to invest in a really cool physics lab than a feel-good space.

"You have to look at your culture and the culture of the building you're in," Woodard added. "Our culture at STA is pretty gritty. It's a place that values character development through our pillars—our military pillar, our Catholic pillar and the all-male pillar." The fourth pillar on which STA is built, college preparation, was another important component in the renovation project, Woodard said.

STA had been satellited with a little group of classrooms here and a little group there," Woodard said. "Science was being taught in rooms that were not really designed for science. Now the entire department is together with the Innovation Center at the core.

"Physics had bounced around because it has the most flexibility of any of the sciences," Westlake said. "But our new physics classroom is designed as a physics classroom. And with sliding doors to the Innovation Center, if we need more room for cars to run on the floor, they can go in between. And there's a brand new science lab designed especially for middle-schoolers." That is important, according to Woodard and Westlake, because middle school is when students begin to explore academic interests that lead to career interests.

The renovation of Founders Hall was done with an eye to how STA integrates all academic disciplines, according to Woodard. "If we were just focused on one discipline or another, we wouldn't be giving students a full picture of the real world," he said. "They're very tied together from a philosophical standpoint. In the Innovation Center, we have artwork on the wall that art students have made involving gears. Engineering sometimes brings art students' creations to life."

In conjunction with the renovation of Founders Hall, the space in front of the building that had been reserved for parking is being transformed into a courtyard where outdoor classes, alumni gatherings and cadet corps formations can be held.

Funding for all of the improvements has come from a four-year capital campaign, according to Woodard. The campaign, he said, is separate from the endowment funds that provide tuition assistance for students. "It's important to us that any student who wants to come here and would benefit from being here can do that," he said.

The Innovation Center incorporates the latest in engineering technology, from 3D printers to laser cutters. The center is home to the school's Experimental Vehicle Team, which placed first in the recent Shell Eco-Marathon in London.

The four-year-old Innovation Center incorporates the latest in engineering technology, from 3D printers to laser cutters. The center is home to the school's Experimental Vehicle Team, which has a global reputation for excellence. The team placed first in the recent Shell Eco-Marathon in London.

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Theo Miller, 13, of Highland Park shows off his nightstand, which earned a purple ribbon at last month's Ramsey County 4-H Showcase and a chance to compete at the Minnesota State Fair. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Local teen builds on family's 4-H tradition with entry in State Fair

By CAROLYN WALKUP

Whether or not he wins a ribbon for his nightstand project at this year's Minnesota State Fair, Theo Miller values the experiences he has gained from being in 4-H.

Miller, 13, of Highland Park was one of eight youths to qualify for the State Fair out of more than 100 who shared their projects during last month's Ramsey County 4-H Showcase, which included in-person and virtual judging. (The Ramsey County Fair had previously been canceled due to coronavirus concerns.)

Miller's woodworking piece will be on display in the 4-H Building throughout the State Fair, which will run from August 26-September 6. In addition to being judged on the quality and workmanship of the nightstand he crafted, Miller will be evaluated on his oral presentation in explaining the project.

He decided to make the nightstand because he needed extra furniture as he moved into a larger bedroom. "Making it has more meaning than buying it from a store. It's very fun," Miller said. "There's a saying, 'Measure twice, cut once.' That was good to learn."

Miller was able to use the basement woodworking shop of his grandfather, Larry Bartz, to construct the nightstand and he plans to make a second one to match it.

His dad, Kent, and grandmother, Joan Miller of Macalester-Groveland, also have backgrounds in 4-H. Joan Miller, who is co-leader of the local Randolph Raiders club, started out in 4-H in her youth in Stillwater, where she learned sewing and fashion design.

Photography was Kent Miller's primary platform, which resulted in several State Fair entries. He also participated in a performing arts program at the Ramsey County level. "Demonstrating my project to the club gave me a skill set in public speaking," he said.

He later became a 4-H camp counselor, further developing his leadership skills. The weeklong summer camps on Bay Lake just northwest of Mille Lacs are expected to resume next year, assuming COVID-19 restrictions are lifted by then.

Joan Miller said watching kids become self-confident has inspired her in leading the Randolph Raiders. She encourages club members to present their projects in front of the group, though doing so is not required. Meeting new friends who attend different schools is also beneficial for developing social skills, she said.

"It's very fun," Miller said. "There's a saying, 'Measure twice, cut once.' That was good to learn."

Projects in 4-H have broadened over the years to appeal to youths no matter where they live or where their interests lie. A recent emphasis has been on science and technology. However, a vast array of programs are offered, including fine arts and college and career preparation.

Some of the projects that Randolph Raiders members have done involve aerospace study, geology, maple syrup making, pet care, urban chicken raising, photography, food and nutrition, vegetable gardening, health, child development, babysitting and drones. Various weekend or one-time learning activities are also offered.

The local club also participates in a variety of service projects. Club members recently made winter scarves and assembled kits of personal care items and individually packaged food for local homeless shelters.

Since COVID-19 limitations have been in place, the club has met virtually. Joan Miller does not know when state guidelines will allow the club to meet in person again at the Linwood Recreation Center on Saint Clair Avenue.

The history of 4-H goes back to 1902 when it began as a primarily rural organization focusing on improving farming and homemaking practices. Its name comes from its original motto of "head, heart, hands and health," which was later incorporated into a fuller pledge.

The national organization is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in the state by University of Minnesota Extension. Some 50 countries now have 4-H clubs.

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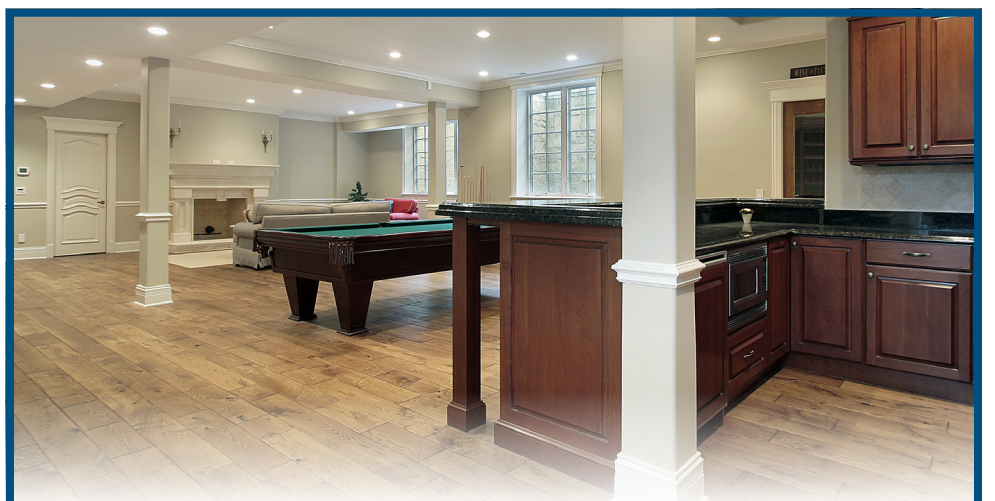


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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1100 block of Saint Paul Avenue on July 29, the 2300 block of Benson Avenue on August 5, and the 1700 block of Graham Avenue on August 5.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from five vehicles between July 12-August 2, including on the 2000 block of Village Lane, the 800 block of Saint Paul Avenue, the 1900 block of Yorkshire Avenue, the 1600 block of Pinehurst Avenue, and the 1000 block of Montreal Avenue.

—Seven vehicles were stolen between July 25-August 8, including from Planet Fitness in Sibley Plaza, the 2200-2300 blocks of Stewart Avenue, the 1200 block of Davern Street, the 1300 block of East Maynard Drive, the 1900 block of Ford Parkway, and the 1700 block of Norfolk Avenue.

—A handgun and cash were reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle in an underground garage on the 900 block of South Lexington Parkway on August 4.

Assault—An assault with a dangerous weapon, burglary and felony damage to property were reported at an apartment building on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue at 5:37 p.m. Sunday, July 25.

—A clerk chasing a shoplifter was dragged along the pavement while holding onto the door handle of the suspect's vehicle at 6:59 p.m. Thursday, July 29, at the Minnoco station, 485 S. Snelling Ave.

Weapons—A 9mm shell casing was recovered after police responded to a call of shots fired on the 600 block of South Lexington Parkway at 1:30 a.m. Friday, July 30.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was taken to the hospital with minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle at 6:14 a.m. Saturday, August 7, on the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—An employee's vehicle was stolen at the Midway Target at 4:27 p.m. Thursday, July 29. A vehicle also was reported stolen on the 1100 block of Selby Avenue on July 30.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of North Lexington Parkway at 3:15 p.m. Monday, August 2.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Multiple items were reported stolen from a residence on the 1600 block of Princeton Avenue between 3:35-5:32 p.m. Thursday, July 29.

—Regina's Candies, 2073 Saint Clair Ave., was broken into and cash was stolen from the office around midnight Thursday, July 29. The candy shop also was burglarized around 5:35 a.m. Saturday, July 31.

—An occupied residence was broken into on the 1900 block of Goodrich Avenue at 6:55 p.m. Saturday, July 31.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from eight vehicles between July 14-August 4, including on the 1100 block of James Avenue, the 1900 block of Grand Avenue, the 200 block of Macalester Street, the 1100 block of Edgcombe Road, on Grand and Prior avenues, and the 1800 block of Goodrich Avenue.

—Six vehicles were stolen between July 25-August 5, including on the 1400 block of James Avenue, the 1900 block of Lincoln Avenue, the 1700 block of Saint Clair Avenue, the 1500 block of Fairmount Avenue, and the 200 block of Macalester Street.

—More than \$1,000 in lottery tickets were stolen from the Speedway at 2051 Grand Ave. on August 6.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—Multiple vehicles were damaged during a burglary of a parking garage that was reported at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22, on Dorset Road.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from seven vehicles between July 9-30, including on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue, the 1300-1400 blocks of Northland Drive, the 700 block of Pontiac Place, and the 1300 block of Highway 13.

—A vehicle was reported stolen with the owner's phone, wallet and handgun inside at 10:48 p.m. Wednesday, July 28.

Miscellaneous—Officers were clearing a traffic stop when a vehicle sped by them at 2:24 a.m. Tuesday, July 27, on I-35E and Wagon Wheel Trail. The vehicle was clocked going 106 mph near Lone Oak Road and the driver was arrested for DWI.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A \$2,300 bicycle was reported stolen from an apartment garage on the 2300 block of Marshall Avenue during the

evening of July 27-28. Two other bicycles were also stolen around that time.

—Bark and the Bite, 2186 Marshall Ave., and Practical Goods Thrift Shop, 1759 Selby Ave., were burglarized on July 31-August 1.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from eight vehicles between July 19-August 7, including on Ashland Avenue and Howell Street, the 200 block of Montrose Place, the 200 block of Exeter Place, the 1700-1800 blocks of Laurel Avenue, on Howell Street and Marshall Avenue, the 2200 block of Marshall, and the 500 block of East Lynnhurst Avenue.

—A trailer was reported stolen on the 2000 block of Marshall Avenue on Friday, July 23.

—Vehicles were stolen on Roy Street and Saint Anthony Avenue on July 24, and the 1700 block of Selby Avenue and the 1800 block of Roblyn Avenue on July 27.

Assault—An intoxicated man approached the drive-thru window on foot at Wendy's, 1780 University Ave., and pointed a gun at employees after having a disagreement with them at 12:10 a.m. Wednesday, July 28.

Weapons—A man fired a handgun toward the sky and then fled through a parking lot on the 1900 block of University Avenue at 10:13 a.m. Thursday, July 29.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A home burglary was reported on the 1500 block of Carroll Avenue at 1:48 p.m. Friday, July 30.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue on July 25, and the 1500 block of Dayton Avenue on August 5-6.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1500 block of Carroll Avenue on July 26-27, the 1500 block of Ashland Avenue on July 27, and the 1400 block of University Ave. on August 5.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Multiple tools were stolen from a garage on the 1100 block of Goodrich Avenue the evening of July 23-24.

—Electronics and jewelry were stolen from an apartment on Lexington Parkway south of Summit Avenue on July 24-25.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Lincoln Avenue on July 26, and the 600 block of Goodrich Avenue on July 27.

—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Goodrich

Avenue on Saturday, August 7.

Weapons—Nine shell casings were found after a report of gunfire on the 900 block of Benhill Road around 5 p.m. Saturday, July 31.

Summit-University

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from five vehicles on July 20-27, including on Milton Street and Portland Avenue, the 300-600 blocks of Marshall Avenue, and the 1000 block of Summit Avenue.

Theft—A car parked at La Grolla, 452 Selby Ave., was broken into and a backpack with wallet were stolen on August 7.

West End

Burglary—An apartment was broken into on the 800 block of Randolph Avenue between 4:30-6:39 p.m. Friday, July 16.

—A suspect was arrested after he was seen scaling the side of the building to break into JP Woodworks, 292 Walnut St., at 8:37 p.m. Monday, July 26.

Theft—Catalytic converters were stolen from 14 vehicles between July 10-August 7, including on the 300 block of Sturgis Street, the 900 block of James Avenue, the 200 block of Mill Street, the 1500 block of West Seventh Street, the 800 block of Bayard Avenue, the 400 block of Michigan Street, on West Seventh and Thurston streets, on Chestnut and Exchange streets, the 400 block of Banfil Street, the 800 block of Randolph Avenue, the 700 block of Palace Avenue, near West Seventh and James Avenue, on the 400 block of Bay Street, and the 800 block of Tuscarora Avenue.

—A motorcycle was reported stolen on Shepard Road and Walnut Street at 5:47 p.m. Monday, July 12.

—Six vehicles were stolen between July 25-August 6, including on the 700 block of South Victoria Street, the 500 and 1000 blocks of Randolph Avenue, on Randolph and Smith avenues, the 300 block of Irvine Avenue, and the Speedway at 1734 W. Seventh St.

—A stolen vehicle was found in a parking lot on the 1400 block of Victoria Way on July 29. The key was still there, but the vehicle was missing all four tires and rims.

—A scooter was stolen on the 900 block of West Seventh Street between 4:14-4:32 p.m. Wednesday, August 4.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 200 block of Harrison Avenue at 11:23 a.m. Wednesday, August 4.

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ON THE TOWN

Staging a comeback

Federal SOS Act injects \$165 million into MN's return to performing arts

BY ANNE MURPHY

The Save Our Stages (SOS) Act is receiving a standing ovation from the performing arts organizations in the Twin Cities that have benefited from the federal legislation. Introduced by U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, the measure is providing much-needed financial support through its Shuttered Venue Operator Grants (SVOG).

SVOG provided \$16 billion for arts organizations and entertainment venues nationwide that suffered through the COVID-19 shutdowns of 2020 and 2021, including \$165 million in Minnesota. However, the relief afforded by the grants did not come without stress. The application process was complex, and there were processing delays, but the grants were finally distributed last month.

“Performing arts organizations, especially those that have a facility, have really been brutalized,” said Gremlin Theatre artistic director Peter Christian Hansen. “It takes a lot of determination to do theater, and it has taken a lot of determination to survive this past year. By setting the stage for our return, this grant will help us and other theaters grow and heal together and continue to contribute to what makes the Twin Cities so special.”

“It was touch and go for us at several points (over the past 18 months),” said Hansen, who lives in Merriam Park, not far from the Gremlin’s stage at 550 N. Vandalia St. “But we made some shrewd decisions, had some good luck and were sustained at crucial times by supporters.”

Gremlin’s grant was for \$60,289, Hansen said. Its annual operating budget is typically between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The theater will use the grant to offset rental payments and the expenses of maintaining its facility as well as some personnel costs. “Easing this financial burden means we’ll be able to direct our resources toward a return to programming, not just staying alive,” Hansen said. “It gives us financial security and will allow us to thrive once we come out of COVID.”

For TU Dance, 2121 University Ave., the COVID shutdown meant the cancellation of its spring 2020 season and the payment of a severance package to company members for the remaining six weeks. In addition, TU’s dance school became virtual.

“Once some COVID restrictions were lifted, we created a hybrid model with a limited number of students attending in person and others attending virtually when the students enrolled exceeded the studio’s capacity,” said TU executive director Abdo Sayegh Rodriguez. “We were determined to continue our operations and provide our services while keeping all 55 of our teaching artists and accompanists working.”

The \$110,902 grant will be of tremendous value as TU reopens, according to Sayegh Rodriguez. “Our annual budget was severely impacted,” he said. “We went from \$1.2 million to about \$700,000 per year.”

“I wasn’t worried,” said TU Dance founder and artistic director Toni Pierce-Sands. “I was thinking (the shutdown) may be an opportunity to take a moment to reimagine what TU Dance and the artists and the field as a whole will do moving forward.”

“It wasn’t just the pandemic that was happening,” Pierce-Sands said. “There also was the killing of George Floyd. TU Dance needed to continue to be a space where our staff, teaching artists, students and families could share in the difficulties and well-being of the community. I’m looking forward to what TU Dance will create out of yet another challenging moment in our history.”

For Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave., the \$23,544 grant will help prevent permanent closure, according to Zaraawar Mistry, who with his wife Leslye Orr has owned and operated the 40-seat theater since 2006. Dreamland Arts presents plays, music and dance concerts, poetry readings, puppet shows and films. “It’s a privately owned LLC,” Mistry said. “We rely primarily on income from ticket sales and space rental, rather than on grants and donations.”

“The financial strain was severe in the early stages of the shutdown,” Mistry said. “We received two small grants from the city of Saint Paul and a larger low-interest loan from the federal Small Business Administration that helped us get through 2020 and early 2021.”

With an annual operating budget of between \$50,000-\$60,000, Mistry said, the federal grant will help Dreamland Arts weather the months until live performances can begin again. “The grant will be used exclusively to cover



Gremlin Theatre artistic director Peter Christian Hansen kicks back in his Vandalia Towers playhouse, assessing its future with the help of a federal Save Our Stages grant. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

our infrastructure costs—rent, mortgage, utilities and office administration,” he said. “Unfortunately, it isn’t large enough for anything more than that. For us, it’s more about survive than revive or thrive. But survival is much to be grateful for.”

Other local organizations receiving grants include Actors Theatre of Minnesota, \$100,000; Ballet Minnesota, \$62,500; the Schubert Club, \$110,000; the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, \$110,000; Take-Up Productions (Trylon Cinema), \$111,000; Parkway Theater, \$525,800; and Palace Theatre Operations, \$2,339,000.

The Ordway Center is extremely grateful for the \$5,075,909 SVOG grant it received, according to interim president and CEO Christine Sagstetter. The Ordway lost \$4.6 million in revenue and depreciation in fiscal year 2020 and over \$2 million in fiscal year 2021, she said.

“The shutdown had an immediate and hard impact,” Sagstetter said. “It isn’t as though nonprofits had a large treasury to draw from before the pandemic. And in our case, we didn’t have a remote workforce or IT department to call on. But everyone here worked hard to keep the Ordway alive.”

For partners Park Square Theatre and

SteppingStone Theatre, the grants were “a critical life line that will help us reopen and replace much of the revenue we would have earned in 2020 if we had been operating,” said Christopher Taykalo, interim director of finance and operations for the two organizations.

Park Square received a \$592,028 grant in support of a pandemic-year budget of \$2.3 million. That compares to an annual operating budget of \$3.3 million before the pandemic. SteppingStone’s grant was for \$228,990 in support of a pandemic-year budget of \$900,000, which was down from \$1.1 million in the year before the pandemic.

“The funding will help us pay for staff expenses and production costs and make critical repairs and updates to our venue, which hasn’t been in use for 15 months,” Taykalo said. “During normal operations, about 50 percent of the revenue for those costs would come from ticket sales.”

Judging from the experience of arts organizations in other countries that had to shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, “it might take two to three years to regrow our audiences to pre-pandemic levels,” Taykalo said. “That makes the safety net of the grants even more critical.”

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Giggles' marks its third decade as one of fair's top diners

BY CAROLYN WALKUP

Tim Weiss has high hopes for a good turnout at this year's Minnesota State Fair from August 26 through September 6. His fairgrounds establishment, Giggles' Campfire Grill, had its best year ever in 2019 with \$1.9 million in sales, making it one of the fair's top grossing food and beverage vendors. The northwoods-themed venue specializes in Minnesota fish and game as well as craft beer. It has been a crowd-pleaser at the fair since its founding in 2000.

Weiss, 63, describes Giggles as "one of a kind." The 3,000-square-foot log pavilion has eight service windows and can seat up to 400 patrons at a time. On fair days, Weiss typically works from 4 a.m. until the last customer leaves at 10 or 11 p.m. And though he owns the joint, he is not above washing dishes or sweeping the floor.

"I'll do anything," Weiss said, with the help of his 250 part-time employees, including his three adult children, Meghan Kemna, Ali Nomeland and Tommy Weiss.

"I have the greatest gig in the world," Weiss said about the Campfire Grill. Maintaining the property and renting it out for private parties outside of the 12-day fair requires a lot of work, he said, but he still has about six months each year free to travel and do whatever else he wants.

Giggles was Weiss' childhood nickname, bestowed on him because of his tendency to cry anytime he got hurt playing football. A longtime resident of Highland Park, he graduated from Cretin (now Cretin-Derham Hall) high school and got his start in the hospitality business as a bartender and assistant manager at Tiffany's Lounge in



Tim "Giggles" Weiss leans out of the 1947 De Soto Suburban that graces the front of Giggles' Campfire Grill where he has served State Fair patrons since 2000. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Highland Village.

Before opening Giggles, Weiss owned Gabe's by the Park on Lexington Parkway and Gabe's on Central Avenue in Minneapolis—two high-volume sports bars and restaurants that he sold in 2017 to devote his full time to developing the Giggles brand. He also owned Giggles' Chicago Street Grill & Cafe and the Chicago Beef Company on Ford Parkway, but those ventures failed to catch on. Weiss theorized that they may have been "a couple of years" ahead of their time.

Giggles' Campfire Grill has proven to be

a winner, however. Located on the north end of the fairgrounds, "its food and atmosphere tap into Minnesotans' love for their state's north woods," said Minnesota State Fair spokesperson Danielle Dullinger. "And Weiss' outgoing personality and hands-on approach make him the ultimate host."

Weiss does enjoy meeting and greeting his customers. "I like to say 'hi' to everybody," he said. "I get to see all my friends. It's like a class reunion around here."

Weiss has two executive chefs working for him. They are charged with perfecting the menu and ensuring consistent qual-

ity. The Walleye Cakes—a combination of walleye, smoked salmon, wild rice, bread crumbs and herbs—are the Campfire Grill's best-selling menu item. Other favorites include the Elk Burger, the Duck Bacon Wontons and Salad on a Stick.

New this year are Bison Bites, a combination of ground bison, portobello mushroom, braised fennel and basil wrapped in egg dough and, true to State Fair tradition, deep-fried. Also new are four Minnesota beers, including a peach tree ale and orange, mango and lemon shandies. Giggles also serves a kid-sized meal of chicken strips with fries and a beverage for \$3.

The Campfire Grill makes all of its food from scratch, including the sauces, Weiss said. It procures as many ingredients as possible from Minnesota sources. Prices a la carte typically range from \$8.50 to \$10.

Giggles also sponsors the free stage next to his pavilion with live music daily. This year's lineup includes bands that play the hits of the Rolling Stones, Chicago and Tom Petty.

In a typical year, Weiss hosts about 40 private events at the Campfire Grill between mid-April and mid-October. They range from weddings to corporate picnics. "Last year was very disappointing," he said, referring to the cancellation of the State Fair and the loss of so many private events. "But the health and safety of my customers and employees are my top concern."

Bookings for the fall were picking up this summer as fears of COVID-19 began to ease, he added. Having weathered more than 40 years in the often-volatile restaurant business, Weiss said, he was not about to let the setback in 2020 slow him down.

ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Saint Paul author Bill Lindeke will discuss his new book, *St. Paul: An Urban Biography*, in a free program at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 19, at Black Hart, 1415 University Ave. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, the 192-page paperback delves into the people and events that shaped Saint Paul over the past two centuries.

Saint Paul author William Kent Krueger will discuss his latest mystery, *Lightning Strikes*, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, August 30, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Tickets are \$5, or \$27 with a copy of the book. For reservations, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Author Meghan O'Gieblyn will discuss her new book, *God, Human, Animal, Machine*, about what it means to be human in the age of artificial intelligence, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 1. SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host the free online program. To register for the link, visit subtextbooks.com.

Music

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., will host the following concerts. The shows are free unless otherwise indicated: Minnesota State Band, 7 p.m. August 18; "The Last Waltz," a tribute to the Band, 6 p.m. August 21 (\$33 in advance, \$40 at door); Fairlanes, 7 p.m. August 23; the Panhandlers, 6:30 p.m. August 27; Riff Rangers, 7 p.m. August 28; Bavarian Musikmeisters, 7 p.m. August 29; Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, 7 p.m. August 30; and Brio Brass, 7 p.m. August 31. For tickets, visit brownpapertickets.com.

Summer Sunlight, a series of free outdoor concerts, is being presented on West Seventh Place in downtown Saint Paul. Sponsored by Park Square Theatre and the Downtown Alliance, the schedule includes R&B singer MsArnise at 4:30 p.m. August 19 and TaikoArts Midwest at noon August 26. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Music as free as the fresh air in which it is performed is being presented at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays in Minnehaha Park, 4801 S. Minnehaha Drive. The schedule includes Broken Heartland String Band, August 19; Rich Mattson and the Northstars, August 20; Brooklyn Big Band, August 26; River City Jazz Orchestra, September 2; and Zoë Says Go, September 3. Visit mplsmusicandmovies.com.

Pluto will perform from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, August 21, under the north end of the bridge that carries Hamline Avenue over Ayd Mill Road. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the tunes free of charge.

Film

Free movies are rolling at dusk in Minneapolis parks. The schedule includes *The Greatest Showman* (2017, Rated PG) on August 20 and *Hairspray* (2007, PG) on August 27 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell. For more information, visit mplsmusicandmovies.com.

The city of Saint Paul is showing free movies in the parks. The films will roll at dusk, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair and bug spray if you like and enjoy *Tom and Jerry* (2021, PG) on Thursday, August 19, at Sibley Manor, West Seventh Street and Maynard Drive; and *The Sandlot* (1993, PG) on Friday, August 27, at Edg-cumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Exhibits

Free walking tours in and around downtown Saint Paul are offered at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays by Landmark Center. The schedule includes the Rice Park area on August 18 and the Great River Tour on August 25. Tours are limited to 10 participants. For reservations, visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

Guided walking and bicycle tours of the Minneapolis riverfront, historic Main Street and local labor history are being offered on weekends through September by the Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. The cost is \$14-\$20. For tickets, visit millcitymuseum.org.

Et cetera

The Saint Catherine Choral Society is holding auditions for new members throughout August. The mixed chorus includes students, faculty, staff and singers from the metro area. To schedule an appointment, call director Patricia Connors at 651-690-6688.

A rummage sale will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, August 20-21, at Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave.

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

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave., will hold its summer festival from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, August 21. The celebration will feature live



Eden Prairie artist Kimber Olson's "Reed, Root and Rhizome" is one of 50 works featured in "Many Waters: A Minnesota Biennial," on view through October 2 in the Minnesota Museum of American Art's window galleries at Robert and Fourth streets, at its skyway entrance and at New Studio Gallery, 2303 Wycliff St. The art explores the significance of water in all of its many forms. Admission is free. Visit mmaa.org.

music and dance performances, a bake sale, church tours and Greek food served on site or pre-ordered for curbside pickup. Visit stgeorgegoc.org or call 651-222-6220.

Comedy and music by women and for everyone will be presented by Rock What You Got from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, August 22, on the outdoor stage at Keg and Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St. The entertainment is free and rated PG-13.

Take a walk under a full moon on Sunday, August 22, at Coldwater Springs in South Minneapolis. Participants will gather at 7 p.m. at the park entrance on the frontage road just east of Hiawatha Avenue and 54th Street. Sunset is at 8:09 p.m. and moonrise is at 8:48 p.m. For information, visit friendsofcoldwater.org.

SPORTS

Semipro football playoffs

Pioneers knock off defending champs, advance to Elite Bowl

BY BILL WAGNER

The Saint Paul Pioneers semipro football team once again showed how effective it was at grinding out games. The Pioneers outlasted the defending champion Fargo Invaders 15-6 on August 14 in the Northern Elite Football League (NEFL) semifinals at Concordia University's Sea Foam Stadium.

The victory sets up a third meeting between the Pioneers and the league-leading Minneapolis Warriors for the Elite Bowl XIII championship at 7 p.m. Saturday, August 21, at East Ridge High School in Woodbury. The Warriors, who finished the regular season undefeated, topped the Pioneers twice earlier this summer and advanced to the title game by defeating the Twin Cities Sabercats 39-6 in the other semifinal.

Saint Paul coach Damien Rochon-Washington was pleased with his team's victory over Fargo and was looking forward to another rematch against the Warriors.

"It'll be a good game," he said. "We need to keep their offense off the field. Of course, that represents a challenge for us because they're a very well-balanced team."

The semifinal game between the Pioneers and Fargo was decided in the trenches. Saint Paul led by only 3-0 at the half, but then got touchdowns from quarterback

Dennis Gudim on a nice scramble and another on a run by Jeffrey DuBose.

The Pioneers defense firmed up when it most mattered. The Invaders made some big plays through the air and advanced into the red zone twice, but the Pioneers were able to keep them out of the end zone.

Rochon-Washington spoke glowingly about the contribution of his offensive line. They were clutch in the way they opened holes so the Pioneer running game could go on solid marches and kill a lot of time off the clock.

"All five of them got the job done," he said, adding that offensive linemen are often overlooked in winning efforts.

DuBose was a major player in the victory with not only his touchdown run, but his overall ability to carry the ball. Normally, DuBose is a slot receiver, but the Pioneers coaching staff saw potential for him as a running back in this game. His efforts, combined with those of running back Trae Griffin, enabled the Pioneers to control the ball and made it easier for the team's defense.

"He's an all-around football talent," Rochon-Washington said about DuBose. "He's one of our best slot guys, but he was a running back in college. He's the kind of guy you want to have on your team. You feel confident if the ball is in his hands."



Saint Paul Pioneers defensive tackle Jeff McGaster signals teammates during practice at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

With about eight minutes left in the game, the Pioneers' offense and defense stepped up to take things over. The Invaders made a last ditch bid for the end zone, but the Pioneers stopped them.

Rochon-Washington pointed to three of his defenders for being especially stout—tackles Jeff McGaster and Tyrell Sledge, and linebacker Ryan Saumur.

"They (Fargo) made some big plays to get down the field," he said, "but we kept them out of the end zone. We felt it was OK to bend, but we didn't want to break."

The victory bore a close resemblance to

the two teams' most recent meeting, a 14-7 Pioneers' win over the Invaders during the regular season.

"I don't want to take anything away from Fargo," Rochon-Washington said. "They're a solid team that came out and battled in this game. We needed to be playing well to get over this hump—and we were. Now, we need to meet another challenge."

The Pioneers are in their 20th season of playing semipro football. They finished second in the six-team NEFL and are seeking their first league title since 2016.



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

A ray of sunshine through the clouds

For a lot of people around these parts, it's been an unpleasant, hot summer. A relative who is a native Saint Paulite paid a recent visit to her hometown and, despite some relief from recent rains, noted all the brown lawns as she drove through Highland Park. Many gardeners continue to look at their wilted plants with dismay. Just about the time many local businesses began to see more customers stopping in, a new COVID-19 variant has come calling. Several local stores are now insisting their employees mask up again and have made it clear they'd like their customers to do the same.

To alleviate the frustrations caused by all of the above, we often turn to athletics for relief. Unfortunately, some of the local sporting news has been grim as well. The Twins started the season in a funk and have stayed in one for four months. When that happens, a garage sale of players usually takes place. Accordingly, we bade farewell to the team's top home run hitter and best pitcher for a handful of prospects.

That news happened just in time for fans to turn their attention to the local pro football team's preseason workouts. Unless someone gets hurt, the first week or two of training camp for the Vikings is rarely newsworthy. That wasn't the case this year because Kirk Cousins, the quarterback the team is spending millions on, missed the first scrimmage due to COVID-19 concerns. By itself, that might not be a big deal. However, what upset folks more was Cousins parrying with the media over whether he has been vaccinated or not. And that was followed by a report that the Vikings were the least vaccinated team in

the NFL.

It doesn't matter which side of this issue you're on. What's clear is that head coach Mike Zimmer was clearly not on the same page with several of his marquee players. The tiff dimmed the joy that Vikings fans felt over Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers sounding off about the management skills of his employer.

As a result, we desperately needed something to give us a reason to smile this summer. Just in time, there came a lot of fresh faces participating in the year-delayed Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Several of the faces were local. The Lynx had players competing in the women's basketball tournament. Lynx head coach Cheryl Reeve served as an assistant on the gold medal USA team. After a sluggish start, the men's basketball team kicked it into gear and won gold as well. For an extra boost, hoop junkies got a chance to watch the debut of a 3-on-3 version of the sport that many play in their own gyms.

It was exciting to see the success of the USA swimmers. We marveled at Caeleb Dressel, the muscular star on the men's side, whose five gold medals were something few had expected. Katie Ledecky, who has been in the women's swimming spotlight for a decade, was impressive again, winning two golds and two silvers. Lakeville's Regan Smith also earned two silvers and a bronze. However, the youngster we may remember the most was 17-year-old Lydia Jacoby, the first swimmer from Alaska to ever make the Olympic team. Winning her gold medal in the breaststroke was like having someone from, say, Warroad, accomplish that feat.

It was amazing to see Allyson Felix, the mother of a 2-year-old, sprint to more medals in track at age 35. Volleyball, both on the court and in the sand, also produced gold medal wins that were fun to watch.

Still, our fondest moments came from watching 18-year-old Saint Paul gymnast Sunisa Lee. Simone Biles was supposed to be the star of the USA team, but mental issues got to her and she backed away in the middle of the Olympics. Lee stepped up and did us all proud, winning the most difficult of all gymnastics crowns—the all-around.

Lee's win was especially inspirational to the local Hmong community. She had done much of her main

training here, which gave serious street cred to the gymnastics clubs around town, while also giving young girls something to strive to achieve. An August 8 parade in her honor in Saint Paul was improvisational, short and sweet. It was a very Minnesotan thing to do, and we needed it badly.

We also needed to see the unbridled joy of Gable Steveson, the Apple Valley-raised wrestler who had excelled at the University of Minnesota. (His three-year record there is a gaudy 62-2.) Steveson's gold medal win during the freestyle event in Tokyo was dramatic enough, but seeing a 260-pound man celebrate by doing backflips was icing on the cake. One could imagine several high school wrestling coaches making notes to remind their players not to try to duplicate his flip after a successful match.

Let's not be naive here—there are real financial benefits to these Olympians' successes. Even though several of the athletes we watched will go on to college this fall, they're also in line to make a lot of money off their newly earned fame.

The new NCAA rules allowing college athletes to earn money while keeping their amateur status could lead to some serious cash. The flip side is, as Lee has already found out, it's easy to spend too much time in the world of social media. And there are a lot of folks out there who are ready to make deals. The advice for them can best be described this way: "After you shake hands with them, make sure your wristwatch is still on your arm."

Shortly, many people will turn their attention back to two successful local pro franchises—soccer's Loons and the WNBA's Lynx. High schools and colleges have started their fall practices. They are greeted with the usual optimism at the start of a season, along with the hope that a sense of normalcy will return this fall.

But, as is always the case, there'll be down moments. When that happens, flip your mind (or your DVR) back to what we just witnessed in Tokyo. It's possible to have fun and a joyful appreciation of athletes without reading about big contracts and a desire to go elsewhere.

For that, we should be eternally gratefully to Suni, Gable and all the rest of the gang.

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

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Meetings to remain online—Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the Highland District Council's plan to move toward in-person board and committee meetings has been postponed until at least September. The decision will be re-evaluated at the end of this month.

Movie and bike giveaway—Join the HDC outside Sibley Manor Apartments on Thursday, August 19, for games, snacks and a movie provided by the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. The Police Department's Bike Truck will also be there with a basketball hoop, video games and frozen treats. Free Bikes 4 Kids will have a limited number of bikes and helmets available for children ages 5-10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The animated movie *Tom and Jerry* will be shown at 8 p.m.

Garage Fest—Highland Park's Garage Fest 2021 will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, September 10-11. People who register their garage sales and pay a \$15 fee by August 27 will be included in all event promotions. Visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/events.

Upcoming meetings—Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, August 23; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, September 2. All HDC meetings are held online via Zoom until further notice. Links to access the meetings are posted on the HDC website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Great Garage Sale—Mark your calendars for the Great Mac-Grove Garage Sale that will take place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, August 28. A map of the more than 55 sale locations will be available online beginning August 18. Learn more at macgrove.org/garagesale.

Mac-Grove Fest—This year's Mac-Grove Fest will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, September 11, on the fields of the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For the full schedule, see macgrove.org/macgrovefest.

Volunteers needed—There currently is an open seat for a representative of an at-large faith institution on the

Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors. Volunteers also are needed to help out at the Mac-Grove Fest on September 11, and to pick up items for seniors during the citywide drop-off event on September 18 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Those who are interested should contact the community council.

Neighborhood pride—Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can still be ordered online for home delivery. The shirts come in kiwi green, heather indigo blue and dark heather gray in a variety of sizes. Visit macgrove.org/tshirt.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Annual meeting—The Summit Hill Association will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 14, outside of the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 Saint Clair Ave. All those who live, own property or own a business in the Summit Hill neighborhood are invited to attend the meeting as well as apply for an open seat on the SHA board of directors. Complete the new application form at summithillassociation.org/join-the-board.

Board notes—At the SHA board meeting on August 10, there was a discussion on development activities in lieu of the fall house tour. The Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee is asking families to review the Twin Cities Safety Cup Pledge created by the University of Minnesota. It is a tool for discussion among family members regarding the responsible sharing of roadways and walkways. The pledge can be found at tcsafetycup.umn.edu.

Upcoming meetings—There are no meetings scheduled for August 18-31. Consult summithillassociation.org/calendar for the most current meeting information.

Summit-University

summit-university.org • 651-228-1855

Board elections—Voting for the Summit-University Planning Council's board of directors begins on September 1. The deadline for candidates to register to be on the ballot is August 24. For information, call the council office or email jens@summit-university.org.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Ice Cream, Peanut Butter & Jam—The Union Park District Council will hold its Ice Cream, Peanut Butter & Jam from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, September 18, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 Saint Anthony Ave. There will be music, ice cream and children's activities. Jars of peanut butter will be collected for the food shelf.

Sign up to volunteer—The UPDC is canvassing its neighborhoods to inform residents of local activities and is in need of volunteer assistance. People who are interested in helping staff members distribute flyers in the neighborhoods are being asked to email jonah@unionparkdc.org.

Upcoming meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 18; and Neighborhood Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 30. To access the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org or click the links at unionparkdc.org/calendar.

Contact us—The public is invited to "like" the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter at @UnionParkDC, and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing jonah@unionparkdc.org.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Parking survey—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation has again heard concerns about parking near Permit Parking Area 7 centered at West Seventh Street and Smith Avenue. In response, it has created a short survey for those who live or own a business near that area. The survey will arrive by mail and be used to make a recommendation to the city about possible changes to parking requirements.

Drop-off event—Electronics can be dropped off from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday August 21, at Washington Magnet School, 1495 Rice St. (enter from Nebraska Avenue).

Upcoming meetings—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 1; board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, September 13; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 16. Details are at fortroadfederation.org/calendar.



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Sports Shorts

Bobby Thompson has been named the new head baseball coach at Saint Thomas Academy, his alma mater. As a student-athlete, Thompson was named all-conference, all-section and captain of the team his senior year in 2014. Following graduation, he played four years of club baseball at Iowa State University. He has been the head B-squad coach at STA for the past three seasons. He spent 2016-2019 as the academy's head 15AAA baseball coach and led the West Saint Paul Challenger Legion baseball program in 2020 and 2021. He also has been a coach and instructor at Great Lakes Baseball Academy in Woodbury since 2018. He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and accounting from Iowa State University, and a master's degree in sports management from Concordia University-Saint Paul.

Concordia University-Saint Paul has announced the names of its Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2021. The nine new members inducted this year are Jonathan Breitbarth in track and cross-country; Emily (Palkert) Davis in volleyball; Brenden Furrow in baseball; David Golnitz in baseball and football; Craig Heiman in basketball; Ron Hilk in football, track and wrestling; Travis Johansen in football; Sami Mattson in softball; and Janet (Brownawell) Smith in softball, track and cross-country. All nine will be officially inducted into the hall during homecoming weekend in October.

The Saint Paul Bike Classic will return on Sunday, September 12, for its 27th year. The event will be smaller in size but will still feature live music, scenic bike routes and refreshments. Proceeds will benefit the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. This year's bike rides will start at the Como Lakeside



Bobby Thompson

Pavilion and follow Saint Paul's Grand Round, including new protected bikeways on Johnson and Wheelock parkways and on Como Avenue along the State Fairgrounds. Routes of 11, 14, 29 and 32 miles will be included. For information and to register, visit BikeClassic.org.

Run Minnesota is offering free relay races for all levels of runners every Wednesday in August starting at Horton Avenue and Lexington Parkway in Como Park. Kids' races begin at 6:30 (no registration is required), followed by two-person relays at 6:45 p.m. There is no fee, but donations will be accepted. No awards will be presented. Results can be viewed later at raceberryjam.com. For more information, visit run-minnesota.org/rm-runs/como-relays.

Open skating for all ages is available on a limited basis and with facemasks required at the Charles M. Schulz Highland Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave. Times include from 3-5 p.m. Sundays, August 22 and 29, and 4:10-5:30 p.m. Sunday, September 12. Admission is free and skate rental is available for \$10 a pair. Visit tinyurl.com/3vj34e3u.

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.

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GARAGE SALES

MACALESTER NEIGHBORHOOD Church (FAUMC) Rummage Sale. Friday, August 20 from 10am-4pm & Saturday, August 21 from 9am-Noon. 1523 Fairmount Avenue.

MAC-GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD Garage Sale! Saturday, August 28, 8am-3pm. 55+ sales throughout the neighborhood. Visit macgrove.org for a map beginning August 18.

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Next Issue: September 1 Deadline: August 25

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Continued page 18

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 PAGE 10
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62-PR-21-682
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 62-PR-21-682

Estate of Joanne Ethel Stemper, Decedent

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated May 21, 2015, and ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Anne Marie Stemper, whose address is 1205 W. Shryer Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated: July 20, 2021
Registrar: Laura J. Stevens
Dated: July 20, 2021
Court Administrator: Michael F. Upton
Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
7/20/2021

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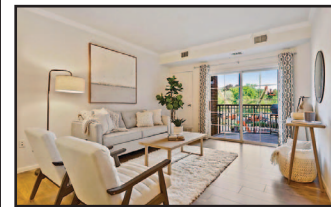
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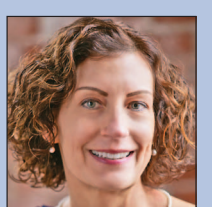
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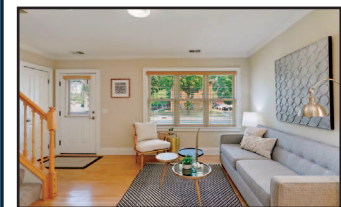
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And awaits new owner!! Beautiful early 1900's gem in need of a refresh. All wood, leaded & stain glass windows are intact, also original fireplace & pantry. Four BR's, plus unfinished attic. Dual staircase, large yard & 2 car garage. Call Lolly or Moraghan for details!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$350,000
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697 • \$350,000



MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



KATHRYN KENNEDY
612-558-6488



3 STORY BRICK HOME ON LINWOOD AVENUE!

You'll be impressed from the moment you walk through the front door. Original hardwood flooring, built-in cabinetry, crown molding, newer kitchen and a spacious master suite can be found throughout this home. www.LinwoodCharmers.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$1,100,000



New Price!

ENJOY CONDO LIVING IN ST PAUL!

This top floor, south facing condo has 2 bedrooms, hardwood flooring, a sunroom, 9' ceilings, and a back porch. Generous spaces abound with both the living room and dining room as perfect entertaining areas for family and friends. www.SummitHillCondo.com

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New Listing!

CONDO LIVING ON GRAND AVE!

Enjoy main floor living at its best w/hardwood flooring, 2-sided gas fireplace, west & south facing deck and main floor sunroom/den. The gourmet kitchen has a stand alone Miele wall oven w/separate gas cooktop above it, a warming drawer and custom cabinetry. www.SaintPaulCondo.com

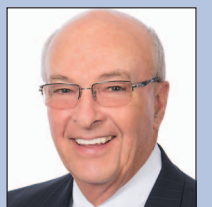
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612-247-5106 • \$630,000



SUMMIT AVENUE TOWNHOME

Smashing 3 BR rowhouse style home. Beautifully updated kitchen and main floor family room. Spacious and comfortable living spaces, both indoor and outdoor. AnotherHomeSoldByMary.com

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BRIAN WAGNER, M.D.
651-497-4387



PHILIP M. WAHLBERG
651-336-2410