

The Grinch couldn't steal this Christmas

Neighbors get an assist this year with Highland Park resident's annual light show



BY CAROL

Steve Seifert was two about when the new stroll Park resident his blockbus he followed that "the show The expense ert had order arrive due to chain backup working on the home, he left tended for five returned they When Seifert theft to a ne quickly. Sever a fund drive Local real estate land spearhead family and I displays over said. "Stealing creepy thing This felt like Seifert was described as a ey that one of the in his absence. "If I'd been home, I would've told them I didn't want the money," he said. "But it

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John Rauch
Publisher

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW ▶5

Developers back away from projects in the wake of rent

rent control ordinance

advocates rent hikes rent lags

RENT CONTROL

rent control ordinance Paul voters on November questions than which limits rent 3 percent per 7 percent. It is urgent rent control. It includes no exemptions for vacancy decontrol of the rental cap

investors are now in Saint Paul three six-story Highland Bridge, underway at company plant in Bridge master was scheduled at Paul Board of November 15 seeking bids, but that has

According to Maureen Michalski, who is

RENT CONTROL ▶5

CITY BEAT

It will take more cash in 2022 for those who create the most trash ▶2

OUR LADY OF PEACE



St. Paul hospice turns 80 ▶13

HOMELESS ZONING

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Students protest ongoing harassment at high school

Highland Park alums echo charges of staff's sexually inappropriate conduct

BY AMY FELEGY

Students past and present are speaking up about sexual harassment at Highland Park High School. During a student-organized walkout on November 15, several hundred students and supporters gathered in the school's courtyard to demand action regarding faculty

and other staff who have made students feel sexualized and unsafe. A petition that as of last week had gathered over 1,100 signatures asks the high school to make student safety a higher priority and to draft a new sexual harassment action plan.

Many of the students were clad in blue Minnesota Teen Activists shirts. Some held signs reading, "protect our students" and "you touch one of us, you answer to all of us." Speakers told of their own sexual harassment experiences, both in class and at after-school activities.

"I feel more unsafe at this school than ever," read the statement of one anonymous student

spoken by a student organizer. "Our safety needs to be prioritized over a predator."

An Instagram account, @hpshvoices, shares students' stories of being inappropriately touched by or receiving inappropriate comments from a longtime teacher at Highland Park High School. That teacher is now on leave from the Saint Paul Public Schools, according to district communications director Kevin Burns.

"We do have an active investigation involving (a teacher) and allegations of possible inappropriate conduct by a teacher-coach," said Steve

SEXUAL HARASSMENT ▶6

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St. Paul boosts garbage collection fees

It will take more cash for those who create the most trash in 2022

By JANE McCLURE

Saint Paul residents who generate more garbage will pay more in 2022 under new rates adopted unanimously on November 17 by the Saint Paul City Council. Quarterly fee increases will range anywhere from a few cents to \$5.58, depending on cart size and collection frequency.

“I heard very, very loud and clear from the council members and from residents that folks who are working hard to reduce the amount of garbage they’re generating should pay a smaller amount,” said Susan Young, who manages resident and employee services for the city’s Department of Public Works.

Organized residential trash collection in Saint Paul has been a controversial issue for years. The 2021 rate increase drew objections from several residents who said the city was not doing enough to provide incentives for those who reduce waste.

The 2022 changes drew only two public comments. Both residents wanted city officials to do more to reduce costs for those who generate less trash.

Highland Park resident Tim Morehead said his trash is picked up every other week and he feels he is “subsidizing others” who do not pay attention to waste reduction.

“Saint Paul’s existing fee structure works against city, state and national efforts to reduce trash volume,” said Ramsey Hill resident Eric Lien in an email to council members. His family owns and manages 140 apartments. Lien gave city officials a detailed proposal to further reduce trash rates.

Saint Paul has four service levels of trash collection for one- to four-unit residential properties. Here are the 2022 rates:

- Small trash cart removal every other week goes up 7 cents or 0.1 percent from \$59.23 to \$59.30 per quarter.
- Small trash cart weekly collection will increase 77 cents or 1.1 percent from \$69.04 to \$69.81 per quarter.
- Medium trash cart weekly collection will increase \$1.69 or 1.8 percent from \$94.87 to \$96.56 per quarter.
- Large cart weekly collection will increase \$5.58 or 5.5 percent from \$101.23 to \$106.81 per quarter.

Each plan includes a varying number of bulky items that can be disposed of at no additional charge. Young said opt-on fees will not increase in 2022. Those include added bulky item charges, yard waste subscriptions, one-time yard waste collections and charges for extra bags of garage.

The city’s administrative fee will increase slightly from \$27.12 per residential unit in 2021 to \$28.08 in 2022.

Young said the fees are affected by state and county charges, fuel costs, billing costs, the consumer price index, inflation, tonnage collected over the past year, and the entrance or tipping fee charged for the use of the disposal facility in Newport.

The trash tonnage increased 1.16 percent from July 2020 to July 2021. The tipping fee, which is set by a joint Ramsey and Washington county energy board, is increasing from \$84 per ton this year to \$87 in 2022. Young cautioned that a tipping fee increase to \$99 per ton is projected for 2023 to pay for facility improvements.

A long-awaited residential curbside composting program is expected to start in late 2022 or early 2023. Residents will get specially designed bags that can be filled with compostable items and then placed inside trash carts. The bags will be separated from garbage at Newport.

Young said the rate increases, on top of county and state taxes, will result in an additional \$683,000 being collected in 2022. One factor driving that increase is a slight uptick in residential trash customers. The number of active garbage collection accounts over the past year increased by roughly 0.5 percent to 72,126.

After years of debate and study, City Council members voted in 2017 to move to organized residential trash collection in Saint Paul. The city launched the program in October 2018 under a five-year contract. Owners of one- to four-unit properties were assigned to hauler districts and issued carts by the city.

One argument for organized collection was that it would protect smaller trash haulers. However, some smaller, family-owned firms quickly sold their Saint Paul routes to larger companies.

Saint Paul just a few years ago had 15 residential trash haulers. That number now stands at six—Advanced Disposal, Aspen Waste Systems, Gene’s Disposal Service, Highland Sanitation, Republic and Waste Management.



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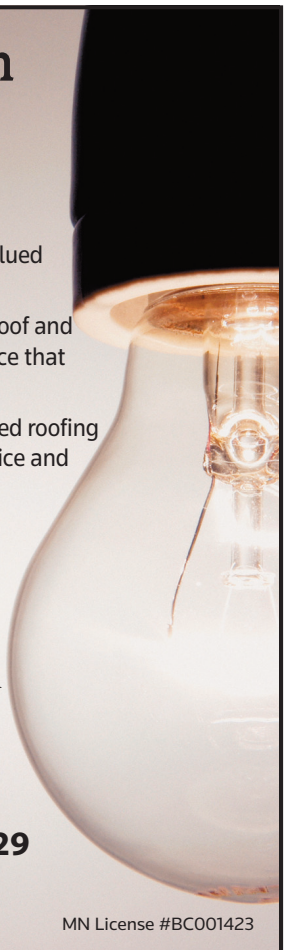
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Neighbors are split over city's plans to add bike lanes, sidewalks on Edgcumbe

By Jane McClure

Plans to redesign a half-mile stretch of Edgcumbe Road between Fairview and Saint Paul avenues in 2022 drew a mixed response from neighbors during a virtual meeting of the Highland District Council's Transportation Committee on November 9.

While some support a narrowed street with more room for bike lanes, others object to maintaining sidewalks alongside their properties. Another complaint made during the meeting is that the redesign feels like part of a "war" on motorists.

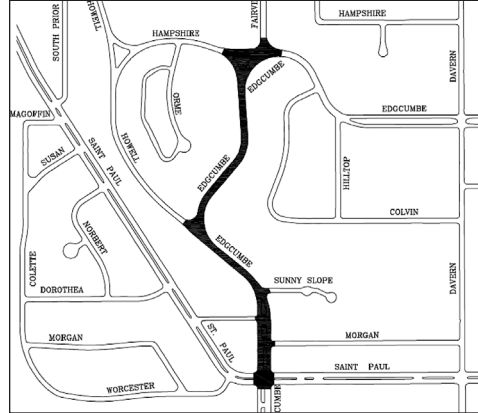
Work on the estimated \$6.65 million project is expected to start next summer and be complete by November. The entire stretch will be getting new pavement, concrete curbs and gutters, driveway aprons, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, updated utilities and resodded boulevards. Old wooden light poles will be replaced with lantern-style street lighting. Some trees will be removed and replaced, although the intent is to save as many as possible.

Edgcumbe is a designated parkway with 120 feet of right-of-way, which will be reconfigured from two motor vehicle lanes in each direction to one. Bike lanes will be added on both sides of the street, and a new sidewalk added on the west side of the street for much of the project area.

Much of Edgcumbe Road has become a flash point in recent years over reconstruction plans, with neighbors objecting to having sidewalks pass in front of their homes. Department of Public Works project manager Barb Mundahl said it is city policy to add sidewalks when streets are rebuilt. Edgcumbe has a partial exception because of the steep grades on one side of the street, where it would be too costly to add sidewalks.

Rabbi Moishe Kasowitz, who is an HDC board and committee member, objected to the project. "I almost feel like there is a war in Highland—a war on people who use cars," he said.

Kasowitz questioned the need for bicycle lanes on neighborhood streets, saying he has yet to see a single bicycle traveling on Saint Paul Avenue's recently completed bike lanes. He also objected to adding sidewalks, saying, "No one said they want sidewalks. I don't know why we are imposing



this on the area."

Other neighbors said they want the sidewalks installed and the intersections reconfigured. "We have small children who need to walk safely to school," said neighbor Mandy Zhou.

HDC board president and committee member Michelle Doyle said some neighbors questioned the fairness of asking people to maintain sidewalks they will not use. A small stretch of the project has houses on Orme Court that back up onto Edgcumbe. Those include Kristin Nauman's home.

"We have a 75-foot vertical drop to Edgcumbe," Nauman said. "We don't have a lot of access."

The plan calls for adding a 6-foot sidewalk on the west side of Edgcumbe between Fairview and Howell avenues, with 10 feet of boulevard between the sidewalk and street. The street would have a 7-foot bike lane and 11-foot motor vehicle lane in each direction.

The section of Edgcumbe between Howell and Sunny Slope Drive currently has a 5-foot sidewalk on the west side. The proposed design would increase the sidewalk width to 6 feet and reconfigure planting strips in the area.

Between Sunny Slope and Saint Paul Avenue, each side of the street currently has a 6-foot sidewalk and a 10-foot planting strip. The latter would be reconfigured, with the sidewalk width maintained.

Plans to reconstruct the "Y" intersection at Edgcumbe and Hampshire Avenue also drew objections from some of those at the meeting. The slip lane of the "Y" would be eliminated near the Zeilingold Triangle, a tiny patch of city parkland. Some objected to the elimination of the lane and the addition of land to the park.

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Social workers would help firefighters respond to growing needs of homeless

By JANE MCCLURE

Soaring fire and medical calls and the increasing need to assist homeless people could bring changes to the Saint Paul Fire Department in 2022. A pilot project involving the department and on-call social workers from outside agencies would connect people to needed help, whether at a clinic, shelter, day program or other facility.

The proposed Community Advocacy Response Team Pilot Project was reviewed on November 17 by the City Council. It would cost an estimated \$900,000 annually, paid for by about \$600,000 from the city's general fund and potentially \$300,000 in grants for at least the first two years from the Pohlrad Family Foundation.

"We want this team to have an immediate impact within day one of service," said Assistant Fire Chief Steve Sampson.

The program would tie into the city's Community First Public Safety Initiative. The response team would be on-call 24 hours a day, said Fire Chief Butch Inks. Working with medical and social service partners, he said the team would be better prepared to address the complex medical and behavioral needs seen with homeless people.

There has been a dramatic rise in call volumes for fire and medical services this year, Sampson said. A decade ago, the city responded to about 30,700 calls a year. The pandemic and civil unrest in 2020 created a record number of calls—just short of 44,000. This year's call volume is projected to top 55,000.

"So in 10 years we've increased our run

volume by 79 percent," Sampson said.

Of the roughly 50,000 calls to date, about 5,500 have been to assist people who are classified as homeless, with a majority of those coming from downtown Saint Paul.

City Council members first heard about the proposed pilot project earlier this fall. Some council members at that time pushed back on the idea, questioning why the city would pay for on-call social workers when the county and private nonprofits already provide similar services.

Council members expressed more support on November 17 and asked for regular updates. They agreed with the idea of contracting for social workers, saying the outside agencies and county have more social service expertise than the city.

Sampson said the program would align with other public and private programs, including the Police Department's mental health response unit. While the Fire Department wants to avoid duplication of services, Sampson cited the "incredible" volume of calls to help homeless people and the need to try a different approach.

Social workers would partner with city emergency medical workers. The Fire Department would absorb the costs of management, with reallocation of some of its budget. Staffing numbers are still being determined, Sampson said.

Correction

In a story on the Saint Paul Public Schools' Envision SPPS plan in the November 10 *MyVillager*, Open World Learning Community should have been identified as a district school, not a charter school.

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1◀ HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

the northwest corner of Snelling and Pinehurst avenues for the past decade. A former sound-and-light man for major rock concerts across the U.S., Seifert puts his skills to work every Christmas with an animated display that is synchronized to recorded music broadcast over FM radio.

“I do it just to make people happy and feel good,” he said. “The most fun is seeing little kids in cars with their faces pressed up to the windows.”



Seifert’s avocation is a far cry from his career in the music industry setting up the concert sound and light systems for the likes of Bob Seger and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young at such venues as Madison Square Garden in New York City and the Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado. Still a partner in an advertising agency, he is semi-retired now and enjoys putting his production skills to work with the holiday display.

“I like to keep busy,” he said.

Seifert begins work on the display shortly after Labor Day. He powers the lights through a cord that runs from an enclosed gazebo in his backyard. He turns the electricity on about 5 p.m. every evening from Thanksgiving to mid-January and leaves it on until 10 p.m., or later on weekends.

The LED lights “don’t burn that much electricity,” he said. His biggest investment is in the accompanying equipment. Using his own FM radio transmitter, he broadcasts about 100 different songs that are synchronized to the twinkling lights and the dancing figures in his yard, including a life-size Santa and Mrs. Claus and a rock band composed of Santa, several elves and reindeer. Passersby can hear the music by tuning their car radios to 88.1 FM. Seifert has set up speakers in his yard so that pedestrians can hear the music, too.

The strings of lights are wound through the trees and bushes from Seifert’s house to the Parkway Family Physicians building across the alley where a Santa figure will again be dancing on the roof.

Dr. David Ness has helped host the dis-



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to passersby at Pinehurst and Snelling avenues where Steve Seifert’s holiday display wraps around the corner and extends all of the way to Highland Parkway. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

play for the past seven years or so. “We’re proud to be a part of it,” Ness said. “My patients have enjoyed it. For him to do that for the community is a nice thing. He does all the work.”

Fans of holiday lights have come from as far away as Northfield to view Seifert’s display. “I had a couple from London come by and tell me how much they enjoyed it,” he said. “It makes you feel good.”

Chartered buses and limousines have parked nearby to enjoy the show, and groups of Christmas carolers have paused

to sing along with the music.

Appreciative viewers have dropped off gifts at Seifert’s door ranging from homemade fudge to cookies to cash. He especially remembers a note that was left by three young children along with handmade snowflake cutouts and their donated allowance money.

“People must wonder how long a 70-year-old guy will keep climbing up those ladders,” Seifert said.

If he gets his wish, they can count on many more Christmases.

1◀ RENT CONTROL

leading the Highland Bridge development for Ryan, the internal city staff review of the three buildings has also been delayed. “We won’t expend resources on those projects until there’s more clarity on the rent control ordinance,” she said. “Another market-rate apartment project of ours that was supposed to start construction in early December will be pushed back for the foreseeable future.”

The buildings already under construction at Highland Bridge will be completed. Ground will be broken on a planned medical office building, and the new single-family homes and owner-occupied townhomes will proceed as planned, according to information provided by Ryan to the Highland District Council.

Saint Paul officials are playing catchup following the passage of the ordinance. According to the City Attorney’s Office, rent control took effect immediately upon approval by voters, as provided by the City Charter. However, the city was not expecting to have staff in place to implement and enforce the ordinance until May 1, 2022. That was the effective date included in the enabling language for the referendum, though it was not included in the ballot question itself.

According to the City Charter, the rent control ordinance cannot be changed for a year following its adoption. City officials disagree as to what they can do in the

meantime. Two of the seven City Council members—Mitra Jalali and Nelsie Yang—supported the ordinance prior to the election, as did Mayor Melvin Carter. But Carter has also called for amendments. He said he wants to work with the City Council on an exemption for new construction.

In a letter to the City Council, Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher said exempting new construction is a priority for the mayor. She said a webpage explaining the city’s implementation of the ordinance will be posted soon. A webpage was posted on the day after the election but was quickly taken down because it was accused of raising more questions than answers.

City Council members have questioned whether they can make amendments to the ordinance now, especially one as substantive as an exemption for new construction.

The rent control advocacy group Housing Equity Now Saint Paul (HENS) held an online meeting on November 17 to celebrate its victory at the ballot box and to outline where the campaign goes from here. “We did our job, we put it on the ballot and we won,” said HENS organizer Tram Hoang.

Hoang noted that the rent control ordinance was favored by a majority of voters in six of the city’s seven wards. “Housing justice is racial justice,” she said, referring to the great majority of voters who supported rent control in the city’s most diverse precincts.

HENS’s focus in the months ahead will

“I get calls daily from developers asking if I know what’s going on,” said City Council member Chris Tolbert. “There’s still a lot of uncertainty about this.”

be to reach out to tenants who may face steep rent increases between now and May 1, 2022, Hoang said.

The situation for tenants across the city is being watched closely, according to Margaret Kaplan of the Housing Justice Center. “We’re asking people to report rent hikes,” she said.

Hoang and Kaplan’s fear is that landlords will make steep increases in rent before the city has the resources to implement the ordinance—to make up for the rent increases they will not be able to make after that time.

Hoang and Kaplan pooh-poohed the concerns raised by housing developers and the contention that voters did not realize what they were approving. They both called the shelved projects and development delays “a fear-based disaster narrative.”

Local developers disagree. They said they are losing investors in the wake of the referendum.

“I get calls daily from developers asking if I know what’s going on,” said Ward 3 City

Council member Chris Tolbert. “There’s still a lot of uncertainty about this.”

Developer Jim LaValle, whose past projects include the Grove at Snelling and Saint Clair avenues and the Finn at Cleveland Avenue and Highland Parkway, is moving forward with his apartment project at Selby Avenue and Dale Street. However, other projects are on hold, he said.

“I had two deals in the queue to launch in Ward 3 if the new rent control ordinance wasn’t adopted,” LaValle said. “They involve 200-plus units, around \$50 million in investments. But that’s all on the shelf. I hope I can do those projects someday, but I guess I’m headed to the ‘burbs now.”

Developer Reuter Walton is now nearing completion of its housing development at the corner of University and Fairview avenues, and it is still planning to begin construction next year on a five-story mixed-use building at Grand Avenue and Saint Albans Street. Ari Parritz of Reuter Walton said that as of now, rent control is not forcing any changes to the design or construction at 695 Grand Ave. However, the ordinance is likely to have some impact on rental rates there, he added.

“We’re hopeful that the mayor and City Council will find a way to exempt new construction from the ordinance as quickly as possible,” Parritz said, “and add other common-sense features, including the vacancy decontrol and inflation adjustments that most cities have as essential components of their (rent control) policies.”

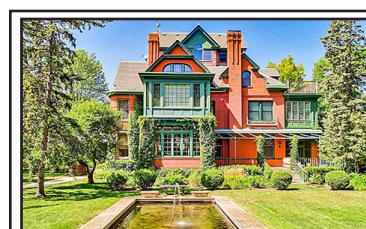
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14 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Linders, public information officer for the Saint Paul Police Department. That case is being submitted to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office for possible charges and has been turned over to the Minnesota Department of Education, according to Linders.

A Highland Park senior, who asked to remain anonymous, told of two unwelcome encounters with staff. "(A teacher) touched my shoulder and said, 'your legs look really good in those shorts.' It made me uncomfortable for that day," she said.

A Highland Park junior, who also asked to remain anonymous, said that after being sexually harassed by a teacher, she went to the principal and assistant principal with two other victims to report the incident. The junior called the investigation process "awful."

"Throughout the whole month, we weren't given any updates or anything at all," the junior said. "We came to school for a month every day not knowing if this teacher would be back or not. They weren't doing much to protect us. It's hard. What if this has happened with another teacher and we just don't know? It's scary."

Highland Park principal Dr. Winston Tucker said the allegations put him in a tight spot. "There are times where they want the school to remove that person and we don't have the authority unless there's some sort of legal decree," Tucker said. Students who feel in the dark about investigations cannot always be helped, he added.

"I understand that in the absence of information, it's sometimes hard to trust that adults are doing the right thing," Tucker stated in a letter to the high school's students and staff. "Please know that any silence on my part was not due to a lack of concern or not taking students seriously, but out of a need to follow our process and the law, and I am sorry some students felt



Highland Park students staged a walkout on November 15 to protest the high school's failure to put a stop to the sexual harassment they have endured from teachers or staff. PHOTOS BY AMY FELEGY

that way."

Tucker said he has apologized to students for "those situations that have occurred" and will work to build healing and trust. He said he has communicated with students on how to report incidents to a trusted adult or through a 415 Form, which is used in cases of discrimination, harassment, violence or retaliation. The school district's human resources department then conducts an investigation.

Highland Park High School partnered last spring with Ramsey County on the creation of a new sexual harassment education program for students, according to Tucker. That program has yet to roll out, but it will likely take place in the students' advisory and include such topics as healthy relationships, personal boundaries, consent and how to report inappropriate behavior. The program is in addition to the related subject matter already taught

A Highland Park senior told of two unwelcome encounters with staff. "(A teacher) touched my shoulder and said, 'your legs look really good in those shorts.' It made me uncomfortable," she said.

in the high school's health classes, he said. Students do not want the education to stop there, Tucker added. "That's frankly just one of their expectations," he said. "Kids also want more information about how staff are hired and that all staff receive comprehensive training on sexual harassment. That's something being discussed and explored."

Highland Park alumna and West End resident Marina Magallon said she is happy to see students speaking up and effecting change after all of these years. "It just absolutely blows my mind that here we are, 13 years later," said Magallon, who graduated from high school in 2009. "I think students' safety and being comfortable in an environment to learn should be the main priority."

Magallon transferred from Highland Park to Creative Arts Secondary School after realizing she could not pass a class without after-school help from the teacher who she says sexually harassed her. That teacher was "a big part" of her decision to transfer, she said. "Not only was I already having anxiety with (the class) in general, I shouldn't have to think like, 'Oh, is my teacher's mouth going to graze my ear today?'" she said.

"The student leaders have been passionate, and their hearts are in the right place," Tucker said. "I respect their right to a peaceful protest. I'm proud of our young people today that they're speaking up."

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**Our Lady of Peace Hospice & Home Health Care
Gratitude for staff, donors and volunteers**

On December 7, 2021, Our Lady of Peace will celebrate 80 years of hospice care. As it embarks on this milestone, president and CEO Joe Stanislav wanted to express his gratitude to the staff, volunteers and donors who make it possible to care for patients and families in its hospice residence and wherever they call home.

"These people are called to serve," Stanislav said, "making it possible to continue our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life-care at no cost to people of faith or no faith, beyond what is covered by Medicare."

He said people ask what makes them different. "In addition to a staff that's called to serve," Stanislav said, "we have over 100 volunteers who give of their time and talent to assist with events, fundraising, bringing joy through pet therapy and bringing comfort to patients. Ed Colon is one of those volunteers."

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Though Colon is not present with his patients when they pass, he spends countless hours at their side so they do not feel alone. It is a gift he gives, but he says he receives so much more.

"It's a great privilege to accompany a person during the last stage of their



Our Lady of Peace volunteer Ed Colon.

life," Colon said.

"Thank you, Ed, and the more than 99 other volunteers who mean so much to our patients and to us," Stanislav said.

"Thank you to all our donors," he continued. "We're grateful for you. We've been blessed with a \$400,000 matching grant from The Wasie Foundation and a \$100,000 anonymous matching grant to help us raise money to build private rooms."

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VIEWPOINT

Envision more successful district without closing schools

BY JOE NATHAN

From Highland Park to Highwood Hills, hundreds of parents, grandparents, students and educators are challenging the Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) Envision SPPS plan and offering research-based alternatives to closing and merging schools. SPPS administrators' recommendations are based on questionable assumptions and may well reduce enrollment beyond the 2,352 elementary and secondary students the district has lost in the last four years.

Here are some concerns about the plan:

- District officials want every school to offer a "well-rounded education," but their committee defining this term did not include a single parent, teacher or student. Testimony before the School Board and the thousands of students who are leaving show that district leadership is badly out of touch with what many families are seeking.

- Abdinur Barkat and Ubah Shire, parents in the Highwood Hills area, point to a huge contradiction in the district's plan to close the elementary school there because of low enrollment. Several Somali-American parents met recently with the SPPS placement office, which said Highwood Hills had space for their children. But when the parents went to the school, administrators said there was no room. Why are district officials recommending the school be closed because of low enrollment but making it impossible for people to enroll?

- Several people have shared research showing that smaller schools are safer. They have less bullying, which is critical, since many families left the district for this reason. Smaller schools may also be less expensive than

large schools when transportation and other costs are included. Jackie Turner, SPPS chief of operations, told several of us that the Envision plan will not necessarily save money.

- Parent Sai Thao and her two children urged the School Board to keep Parkway Montessori Middle School open. It is the area's only middle school Montessori and the only one for students on the autism spectrum. An educator at Parkway reported that even after the district received millions of dollars in federal funds, the school has not received the Montessori materials and staff training it was promised.

- Robin Shields-Cuttler, assistant professor of biology at Macalester College and the parent of a student at Wellstone Elementary, told School Board members of two major problems with Envision SPPS: "data misrepresentation and a toxic either/or mentality." He pointed out that even district data about Wellstone's enrollment does not support closing the school.

- Dr. Michelle Benegas, professor of ESL education at Hamline University, told the School Board that LEAP High School, which the district wants to close, "provides a soft landing for kids who have experienced unspeakable trauma. This school stands out as a compassionate response to displaced people and as an innovative model that has been replicated around the world."

Here are some suggested alternatives to the plan:

1. Hire an outside group to study and recommend fixes for Placement Center problems.
2. Expand the research-based early childhood programs that are part of the Envision SPPS plan.
3. Hire experienced, talented local educators to train

SPPS faculty in the summer of 2022 so that a truly inclusive comprehensive curriculum that represents Saint Paul's diverse student body is in place by the fall of 2022. This has been a family plea for more than a decade, but it is still not finished. Many families report leaving the district because of its snail's pace on this matter.

4. Seek social service organizations interested in renting space in buildings that have room. Such "community schools" provide better service to families and save taxpayer funds.

5. Require administrators to present measurable student outcome goals before the School Board adopts a budget plan, as recommended by the national Government Financial Officers Association, of which the SPPS budget director is a member.

6. Give SPPS educators and parents opportunities to replicate district and public charter schools that are attracting local families.

7. Do not close or merge schools unless a representative family group is involved and agrees, as is true in some cases, including the proposed merger of L'Etoile du Nord French immersion lower and upper school campuses.

For more information and to read a statement signed by more than 50 people, visit tinyurl.com/32hyhp36.

A resident of Highland Park, Joe Nathan is the parent of three SPPS graduates, a former SPPS teacher and administrator and president of the Horace Mann PTA. He served as an education project director for the National Governors Association and since 1988 has been the director of the Saint Paul-based Center for School Change. He can be reached by email at joe@centerforschoolchange.org.

INBOX

For a more inclusive SPPS

The Saint Paul NAACP has been in discussions with the Saint Paul school district concerning Envision SPPS for the better part of this year. In advance of the School Board vote on December 1, the NAACP encourages the board and administration to give the following serious consideration:

1. The financial and enrollment problems that Envision SPPS is trying to address are real. Our community is facing very hard decisions in the near future.

2. The district faces significant challenges that are greater than simply providing a "well-rounded education." These challenges are underperforming schools and African-American and other students who are not receiving an adequate education. The proposed Envision SPPS school closings and mergers could also likely exacerbate the segregation of African-American students. Any districtwide plan must address these challenges and provide clear educational benefits and improved opportunities for African-American students.

3. While the challenges above are urgent, federal American Rescue Plan funding provides a bridge to engage in a new process this spring and summer that could continue the application of an equity tool, but be more transparent and inclusive than the process that arrived at the current Envision SPPS proposal.

4. We are committed to working with the school district and other community partners in future discussions as we look at innovative ways to close the achievement and opportunity gaps. The process should not be rushed, and all relevant stakeholders should be involved.

*The Reverend Richard Pittman Sr.
President, Saint Paul NAACP*

The right decision on Reserve

The Mendota Heights City Council made the right decision to approve the application for Reserve Phase II, a 58-unit apartment building at Mendota Plaza (*MyVillager*, November 10). The Reserve will be a wonderful place to live, especially for older residents who want to downsize and stay in the area. Living in this walkable community will support our restaurants, retail stores and other businesses.

A small but vocal group of residents seems to be upset about traffic, but they had no concerns about traffic during the building of the Linden at the same

intersection. Wisely, the council has agreed to address the traffic separately. Development can be tricky in a city like ours, which prides itself on being spacious and gracious. I urge the City Council and Planning Commission to work with the developer on the second apartment building proposed for Mendota Plaza and come up with a reasonable development that is fair to everyone.

*Neil Garlock
Mendota Heights*

Editor's note: The writer is a former mayor of Mendota Heights.

Playing politics with vaccines

President Biden promised to unify the country, but he's doing everything to divide America. Right out of the gate, he flat out lied by claiming when he came into office that there was no vaccine. According to *Newsweek*, 10.6 million Americans had already received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by January 15. President-elect Biden himself got his first dose on December 21 and second dose on January 11. I'm not a politician, but it seems to me if one truly wanted to unite the country, he'd thank former President Trump for rolling out Operation Warp Speed that funded vaccine development no matter what he thought of him.

While I'm fully vaccinated and encourage others to do so, I'm not surprised that some people hesitate to listen to our president, who said he was against vaccine mandates, then insults and threatens those who are hesitant.

*Walt Huemmer
Highland Park*

Rakes vs. leaf blowers

The two-stroke engines in gas leaf blowers release 300 times the level of hydrocarbons as cars with internal combustion engines. Running a leaf blower for one hour is equivalent to the pollutants released by driving a car 1,100 miles. Some of the components of two-stroke engine emissions are the known carcinogens benzene, 1,3-butadiene, acetaldehyde and formaldehyde. There's also a potential for asthma and lung disease in workers who use gas blowers.

The noise of a leaf blower can be up to 100 decibels (ear protection is recommended above 85 decibels), but even hundreds of feet away the decibel level can be in the mid-

60s, a level that can trigger increases in blood pressure and heart rates. Blowers send all kinds of gross stuff into the air, including mold, fungus spores, pollen, insect eggs, heavy metals, animal feces and fertilizer products. Try breathing that air for a while.

Rakes have been used for centuries. The only possible side effects are some sore muscles and a few blisters. It's time to rake the leaves, not blow out your ears, eyes and nose. Do away with the noisiest, most polluting yard tool ever invented.

*Terry Brueck
Merriam Park*

Stop the vaccine mandates

Many people who support the COVID-19 vaccine mandates do not consider the consequences. Regardless of the benefits they believe will happen, they are perhaps unaware of the devastation it is going to cause. The loss of tens of thousands of jobs across the state will hurt us in every industry, most notably the hospitals.

Why would we fire nurses and doctors, trained to rehabilitate people from COVID-19, when the virus continues to spread? In addition, people who have been vaccinated continue to become infected and to spread COVID-19. Mandating the injection of a vaccine that does not stop infection or spread is madness. We must hold our American way of life close to the heart and fight for our freedom when it is under fire. Our rights come from God, not the government, and it is up to each of us to make the choice on vaccination.

The Minnesota Legislature is meeting in a special session to pass the Frontline Worker Pay bill. Representative Erik Mortensen (R-Shakopee) succeeded in adding the Stop Vaccine Mandates amendment to this bill. This amendment would stop all vaccine mandates, federal, state, local and private.

We need to demand that our state senators and representatives stand up for their constituents, their jobs, and prevent our state from instituting these abhorrent mandates. Our bodies are all different, and one medicine will never be good for everybody.

*Claire Hayes
Mendota Heights*

Send your letters to the editor or guest editorials to *MyVillager*, 241 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105, email them to letters@myvillager.com or submit them via the web at myvillager.com/editorial.

Historic St. Paul to rehab 1887 home on West End

By Jane McClure

A long-vacant West End house that has been owned by the city since 2010 is one step closer to restoration and occupancy. The Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals on November 15 unanimously approved two variances for 47 Douglas St. One was for the setback of a front porch and the second was for covering more than 35 percent of the lot.

The small one-story house is being purchased by the nonprofit Historic Saint Paul. It was built in 1887 and moved to its current site in 1905.

The house is on a small lot that was split off from a property on Harrison Street. Its floor plan has changed greatly over the years. A former occupant was able to provide an old photograph of the home that showed a wraparound porch. Renovation will largely restore the porch, according to Carol Carey, executive director of Historic Saint Paul.

The city's zoning code allows an open porch to project no more than six feet into the required frontyard setback. The size of the lot and placement of the house make that infeasible, according to Historic Saint Paul, and BZA staff agreed. A setback variance of 5.2 feet was approved.

The small lot triggered the request for the second variance. At 1,123 square feet, the restored house will cover 44 percent of the lot, a variance



Historic Saint Paul board members Tyler Lueck, Rita Goodrich, Mary Cutrufello, Kate Pearce in front of 47 Douglas St.

of 9 percent.

The local Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association and one neighbor sent letters in support of the variances. BZA staff had recommended approval with the condition that the design of the wraparound porch complement the house.

It is rare for a house to remain under city ownership for more than a decade. The house was included in a multi-property redevelopment project discussed by city staff and the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation in 2013, but it was later removed from the project. City staff then included 47 Douglas in Inspiring Communities, a program that attempted to sell homes left vacant by the collapse of the housing market in 2008. A request for proposals was issued in 2014, but a vi-

able developer could not be found. A developer did respond to a request for proposals in 2015, but was unable to complete the house's rehabilitation and the project was canceled.

The house was broken into and vandalized in the summer of 2016, and city staff began discussing razing the house. However, neighbors opposed the demolition. Yet another prospective developer was found in the fall of 2017, but was unable to complete the terms of the development agreement and the sale was canceled.

Historic Saint Paul stepped forward in November 2020 to ask about purchasing and rehabilitating the property. Another private developer emerged to compete with the nonprofit's offer. City staff looked at both proposals and chose Historic Saint Paul, which agreed to purchase the property for \$1.

To help pay for the estimated \$300,000 rehabilitation costs, Historic Saint Paul was awarded a forgivable loan of \$120,781 from the city and a \$65,000 grant from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

When the house is ready, it will be sold to a family whose household income is at or below 80 percent of the Twin Cities area's median income.

School Board holds one last hearing on Envision SPPS

The Saint Paul School Board has rescheduled its vote on the district's Envision SPPS reorganization plan for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 1. The vote was initially scheduled for November 16. However, state law requires school districts to give two weeks' notice of any public hearing on school closings.

A final public hearing on Envision SPPS will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 30, in the administration building at 360 Colborne St. Those who wish to speak may sign up in person on the evening of the hearing. The hearing will also be live-streamed at spps.org/boe.

The postponement will give School Board members "additional time to analyze the proposal, and it permits all current board members the opportunity to vote," said School Board vice chair Jim Vue.

The School Board has retained the services of interim member Yusef Carrillo until December 2. Carrillo was scheduled to step down following the special election for his seat on November 2. The special election was won by Jeannie Foster, the current School Board chair who opted to run for that two-year seat rather than another two-year term. Foster's current term does not expire until January 1.

"It's important that all seven board members have the opportunity to vote on this recommendation," said Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard. "I also want to give them the time needed to hear from the community and make an informed vote."

Envision SPPS involves the closing of five district schools and the merger or relocation of a half dozen others. The intent is that by closing and merging programs, the remaining schools will be larger and better able to provide a well-rounded education for students.

For more information, visit spps.org/envision.



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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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West End businesses sue city for damages related to homeless shelter

By JANE McCLURE

Seven local business owners filed suit on November 5 against the city of Saint Paul demanding that it close Freedom House at 296 W. Seventh St. and require that the drop-in day shelter for homeless people go through a city review and approval process before reopening. The plaintiffs are also seeking damages in excess of \$50,000 as recompense for the crime and nuisances they say are related to Freedom House's presence in the neighborhood.

The lawsuit's first hearing was scheduled for November 22 in Ramsey County District Court, after this issue of *MyVillager* went to press. As of the deadline, neither the city nor Freedom House had responded to the lawsuit.

The 28-page lawsuit was filed just days before the City Council approved new zoning regulations that will allow more daytime shelters for homeless people to open throughout the city (see story below). Facilities like Freedom House that are larger than 7,000 square feet will need to apply for a conditional use permit.

The seven plaintiffs are represented by the Minneapolis law firm of Winthrop and Weinstine. They include West Seventh Street Partners LLC, owners of Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, 258 W. Seventh St.; Art Farm Advertising agency, 31 Sherman St.; 262 Fort Road LLC, a real estate office at 262 W. Seventh St.; T.D. Wright Inc., an industrial supply company at 262 Walnut St.; Portfolio LLC, which owns and operates real state at 311 Walnut St.; and Susan



A lawsuit filed by seven local businesses seeks to shut down Freedom House, the day shelter for homeless people at West Seventh and Ramsey streets, at least until the city can conduct a formal review for permitting such an operation at that location.

PHOTO BY CASEY EK

Adair and the WWII LLC dry cleaning business, both of which list their address as 505 Selby Ave.

Freedom House has operated since January 2021 under the emergency authorization of Mayor Melvin Carter and the City Council. The authorization was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed the public libraries and other community centers where Saint Paul's homeless people had previously found refuge during the day. The plaintiffs contend the city violated its own zoning regulations by allowing Freedom House to open and has not done enough to ensure their safety and

the safety of the neighborhood.

The former fire station at 296 W. Seventh is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods, a mixed-use commercial and residential zone. Freedom House may remain there under the new zoning regulations, but because of its size, it needs a conditional use permit. The plaintiffs contend that at 17,000 square feet, Freedom House is too small to handle the 100-plus people it serves each day.

Local business people and residents have complained for months about open drug use and drug dealing, public urination and defecation, prostitution, theft and van-

dalism—problems they attribute to the clients of Freedom House. The lawsuit refers to 105 incidents since Freedom House opened, ranging from people bathing in the Irvine Park fountain to a restaurant waiter being chased by a person with a knife. Clients of the homeless shelter sleep in the doorways of local businesses and pound on their windows, they said.

Freedom House is operated by Listening House, which also operates a daytime shelter for the homeless in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. The plaintiffs claim that Freedom House has negatively affected their property and personal rights. They said they have tried to work with representatives of the shelter and the city.

"Unfortunately, the city and Listening House have repeatedly ignored, and continue to ignore, our requests to come to the table and discuss options that would resolve the dispute and benefit the entire community," the plaintiffs stated in court documents. "Thus, this lawsuit has become necessary to ensure that the city and Listening House adhere to the City Code, are held to the same standard as all businesses and community members subject to zoning regulations, protect all citizens and businesses in the neighborhood and protect plaintiffs' rights."

The plaintiffs are seeking damages as well as declaratory and injunctive relief. Relief could take several forms, according to court documents. These include an end to Freedom House's operations until public hearings are held and a conditional use permit is obtained.

New rules open door to homeless day shelters across St. Paul

Facilities larger than 7,000 square feet require permit

By JANE McCLURE

Months of debate came to an end on November 10 when the Saint Paul City Council unanimously adopted new zoning rules that allow daytime drop-in shelters for homeless people to open in neighborhoods throughout the city. The new rules were approved just days after seven businesses near Freedom House at 296 W. Seventh St. filed suit against the city because of problems related to that daytime drop-in

shelter for homeless people (see story above).

There have been no estimates of how many shelters will open citywide now that they are permitted in industrial zones, business zones and mixed-use business and residential zones. Most facilities could open without a public hearing. The exceptions are facilities of 7,000 square feet or more, which will require a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission.

Freedom House, at about 17,000 square feet, will require a conditional use permit if it wishes to remain open long-term. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2020, Mayor Melvin Carter and the City Council gave Freedom House

emergency authorization to operate in what had been a fire station.

The drafting of the new zoning rules has been followed closely by nonprofit organizations that serve homeless people. Catholic Charities, which operates an array of housing facilities in downtown Saint Paul for people experiencing homelessness, supports the changes.

"Homelessness and its challenges are unfortunately increasing as we approach another winter of the pandemic," said Lorna Schmidt, public policy manager for Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. "The proposed zoning changes will allow more organizations to offer

much-needed services for individuals facing extreme hardships, and we're grateful for and encouraged by the opportunities they will provide."

Molly Jalma, executive director of Freedom House and Listening House in Dayton's Bluff, said that the new rules could take the pressure off her two daytime shelters. However, she objected to some potential amendments and had lingering concerns about the double standards confronting homeless facilities and the people they serve.

"Rules are often based on perception or

HOMELESS ZONING EXPANDS ►11

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Mendota Hts. Council postpones vote on second Mendota Plaza apartment project

BY CASEY EK

The vote on a proposed 89-unit apartment building on a vacant two-acre parcel at the southeast corner of Dodd Road and Highway 62 was postponed by the Mendota Heights City Council on November 16 at the request of the would-be developer.

Leanna Stefaniak of At Home Apartments said that local resistance to the project and to the recently approved 58-unit apartment building within the same planned unit development (PUD) is reason enough to delay the project until the developer, city officials and the public can reach a solution on a litany of issues raised by citizens.

The City Council agreed, tabling discussion of At Home Apartments' development until January 4. In the meantime, the council will work with a new ad hoc committee to resolve concerns about traffic conges-

tion, green space, aesthetics and other aspects of the Mendota Plaza developments.

The Mendota Heights Planning Commission had voted 6-1 in October to recommend the denial of At Home's application for the 89-unit building on the south side of Mendota Plaza. The commission had also recommended denial of At Home's application for the 58-unit building at the plaza's northeast corner, but the City Council voted 3-2 to approve it.

According to Stefaniak, At Home's developments at Mendota Plaza will provide much-needed housing in Mendota Heights. The city lacks the kind of homes that up-and-coming professionals desire, she said. "Our young professionals who want to stay in this community don't really have an answer. We're hoping to give that answer," Stefaniak said.

Per Minnesota statute, the City Council has until February 23 to approve the project.

10 HOMELESS ZONING EXPANDS

bias instead of the facts and the realities of people in need," Jalma said, "rules that are created by housed people intending to continue pushing unhoused people further away. I'm asking that you as the City Council acknowledge this dynamic in the policy process and make it easier to help people in the most need."

The Minneapolis law firm of Winthrop and Weinstine, which is representing the plaintiffs in the lawsuit over Freedom House, asked the City Council to consider requiring facilities to provide regular trash and litter pickup, transportation for clients leaving the facility and around-the-clock security with staff or cameras. The law firm also wanted the council to require daytime shelters to be located within a half mile of overnight shelters, a stipulation that had been removed by the Planning Commission.

The City Council did adopt several last-minute amendments introduced by council member Rebecca Noecker, whose Ward 2 includes Freedom House. The amendments require facilities to have a litter and trash collection plan and to appoint a contact person to address the concerns of local residents and business people and work

with the local district council, the police and other stakeholders.

Noecker's amendment to require facilities to have security plans was rejected. "The cost of security measures are great and should not impede an organization from being able to deliver its service," Jalma said. "Cooperation with local law enforcement and neighborhood councils—yes, this makes sense. But an amendment to ensure the housed are safe from the unhoused via an unclear, expensive or unreasonable security plan is wrong," Jalma said such a requirement would add to the criminalization of homeless people.

City Council member Jane Prince, whose Ward 7 includes Listening House, brought forward an amendment to allow up to 10 clients in a daytime shelter to stay overnight. Overnight clients would have to be referred to the day shelter by another agency, and the shelter would also have to be staffed overnight. Council member Mitra Jalali of Ward 4 argued for the removal of the 10-person limit to give shelters more flexibility especially in the event of a winter weather emergency.

The City Council adopted Prince's amendment for overnight accommodations with no limit on the number of beds.

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Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For car thefts, catalytic converter thefts and more, see MyVillager.com.

Highland Park

Burglary—An apartment break-in was reported on the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue the evening of November 6-7.

Theft—A trailer was reported stolen on the 1600 block of Bayard Avenue at 10:47 a.m. Thursday, November 4.

—Locks were cut and property was stolen from lockers at Planet Fitness in Sibley Plaza the evening of Monday, November 15.

Miscellaneous—A 37-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found slumped behind the wheel of a vehicle on Macalester Street and Juno Avenue at 5:39 p.m. Friday, November 5.

—A man said his ex-girlfriend broke all of the windows of his apartment and then fled at 3:29 p.m. Sunday, November 7, on the 1400 block of Saint Paul Avenue.

—Felony damage to property was reported at the Highland Park disc golf course on November 8, and Lumen Christi Catholic Community on November 11.

—A traffic accident resulted in structural damage to the Highway Motel office, 2152 W. Seventh St., at 11:11 p.m. Tuesday, November 16. No injuries were reported.

Lexington-Hamline

Weapons—A fight involving students, including one with a gun, was reported at Central High School at 6:11 p.m. Tuesday, November 9. No injuries were reported.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A break-in was reported at Precision Tune, 360 S. Snelling Ave., at 9:06 p.m. Wednesday, November 3.

—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1400 block of Osceola Avenue on November 11, and at The Grove, 256 S. Snelling Ave., on November 16.

—Items were reported stolen from Shish Mediterranean Kitchen, 1668 Grand Ave., at 1:42 a.m. Monday, November 15.

Theft—A motorcycle was stolen on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue between 10:45-11:19 p.m. Saturday, November 13.

—Two men ages 25-28 were arrested for trying to steal catalytic converters on the 1900 block of James Avenue at 4:59 a.m. Saturday, November 13.

Mendota Heights

Robbery—A robbery was reported on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 10:48 a.m. Tuesday, November 9. A delivery person said someone was stealing from the business and one of the suspects had a gun. The suspects fled before police arrived.

Weapons—A motorist was on I-35E near I-494 when a SUV pulled up and shot two or three times at the vehicle, it was reported at 6:14 p.m. Monday, November 8. Two windows were broken and there was a bullet hole in the passenger's side door.

Miscellaneous—Three boys kicked in all of the doors to the second-floor offices and smashed light bulbs in the stairwells of a building on the 700 block of Main Street at 5:20 p.m. Monday, November 1.

—A driver was arrested for DWI after being involved in a hit-and-run accident and then crashing on the Mendota Bridge at 6:14 p.m. Monday, November 1.

—Police arrested an unconscious man who was found halfway out of a vehicle with drug paraphernalia scattered around him at a closed business on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 12:22 a.m. Wednesday, November 10.

Merriam Park

Robbery—Robberies at gunpoint were reported on the 500 block of West Lynnhurst Avenue on November 5, on Pierce Street and Summit Avenue on November 14, and on Wheeler Street and Shields Avenue on November 16.

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 2300 block of Beverly Road between 4:20-6:16 p.m. Saturday, November 6.

—A concrete block was thrown through the front door and the cash register was stolen at Zait & Za'atar, 1626 Selby Ave. The burglary was discovered by a neighbor at 6:52 a.m. Monday, November 8.

Theft—Four men, ages 46-63, were arrested for trying to steal a catalytic converter at 1:07 a.m. Thursday, November 11, on the 1900 block of Marshall Avenue.

—A 22-year-old man was arrested for tampering with vehicles and fleeing police on the 1600 block of Iglehart Avenue at 10:51 p.m. Monday, November 15.

Weapons—Spent shell casings were found after gunfire was reported at Saint Anthony and Beacon avenues at 3 a.m. Sunday, November 14.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A break-in was reported at the Kohler Building of Concordia University-Saint Paul between midnight and 6 a.m. Wednesday, November 3.

—A burglary was reported at Ace Cash Express, 1532 University Ave., at 3:44 a.m. Wednesday, November 17.

Assault—A 31-year-old man was arrested for felony assault after he reportedly punched a Lyft driver several times in the face on Snelling and University avenues at 1:48 a.m. Wednesday, November 10.

Weapons—A motorist pointed a gun at a state trooper during a traffic stop near Hamline and Concordia avenues at 11:26 p.m. Saturday, November 6. The suspect reportedly climbed onto the Pascal Street bridge over I-94 while still armed. He was talked down and taken into custody.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 1200 block of Summit Avenue at 7:17 a.m. Monday, November 8.

Theft—Three guns were reported stolen from a vehicle on Heather Drive and Summit Avenue between 8:55 Monday and 9:38 a.m. Tuesday, November 8-9.

Assault—A domestic assault in which a woman had a knife and the father of her child had a gun was reported on the 100 block of South Dunlap Street at 1:56 a.m. Friday, November 5. The woman said the two fought over the gun before the man ran off. No injuries were reported.

Miscellaneous—A 27-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found slumped over in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked in bushes near Heather Drive and Grand Hill at 2:07 a.m. Thursday, November 11. Police said the suspect had three prior DWI convictions in the last 10 years.

Summit-University

Burglary—A suspect broke into an occupied residence and stole a purse and pair of shoes at 11:28 p.m. Friday, November 5, on the 500 block of Marshall Avenue.

—A home break-in was reported on the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue between 5:12-8:13 p.m. Sunday, November 14.

Theft—A 20-year-old man said someone rear-ended and shot at his vehicle at the Minnoco Station, 809 Selby Ave., at 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 10. The

suspect fled the scene, but the victim was arrested after police learned the vehicle he was driving was reported stolen.

—A trailer was stolen on the 300 block of Marshall Avenue between 8:58-10:49 a.m. Tuesday, November 16.

Assault—A man was assaulted by two males, including one with a gun, in an alley on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 3.

—An assault with a gun was reported on the 700 block of Selby at 4:42 p.m. Thursday, November 4.

—A 60-year-old man was arrested for felony assault after reportedly threatening a security guard with a metal object at the Dale Street Apartments, 313 N. Dale St., at 7:16 p.m. Saturday, November 6.

—A 28-year-old woman was arrested for trying to attack her mother with a kitchen knife on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue at 11:01 p.m. Friday, November 5.

West End

Robbery—A carjacking was reported on Stewart Avenue and Bay Street at 11:22 a.m. Tuesday, November 9. The suspect was taking a test drive when he implied he had a gun and stole the vehicle.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 300 block of Sherman Street at 6:47 p.m. Friday, November 12. A woman said a man approached her and demanded all of her belongs. She complied and he drove off in a black Mustang.

Burglary—Multiple items were reported stolen during a garage break-in on the 700 block of Randolph Avenue between 6:14-6:52 a.m. Tuesday, November 9.

—A suspect stole two portable air conditioners in an underground garage at the Osceola Place Apartments, 260 S. Osceola Ave., between 10:55-11:20 p.m. Saturday, November 13.

Theft—Around \$16,770 in tools were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Bay Street on Friday, November 5.

Sex crime—A 45-year-old man was arrested for drug possession and failing to register as a sex offender after he was seen looking into the windows of several homes near Palace Avenue and Clifton Street at 9:40 p.m. Wednesday, November 3.

—A 37-year-old man was arrested for exposing himself at Children's Hospital, 345 Smith Ave., at 1:19 p.m. Monday, November 15.

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President and CEO Joe Stanislav, left, Dr. Wayne Thalhuber and Ray Wey are shown at Our Lady of Peace, which opened in Merriam Park on the same day Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

St. Paul hospice marks 80 years since opening on 'Day of Infamy'

By MELENIE SOUCHERAY

Our Lady of Peace (originally Our Lady of Good Counsel) will celebrate 80 years of offering free care for the terminally ill on the corner of Cleveland and Saint Anthony avenues with an outdoor ceremony on December 7. Ray Wey remembers taking a tour of the building as an 8-year-old when it first opened on that day in 1941.

"I was dragged by my dad and my mother and my grandmother," recalled Wey, a Highland Park resident. What he remembers most vividly about that day was the pleasant fall-like weather and the adults who were suddenly all abuzz about the news that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. He also recalled the original Good Counsel Home was located in a converted telephone building with a large, open ward containing many beds.

Dr. Wayne Thalhuber, who served as the home's medical director from 1968-2008, said the decades of end-of-life care in Saint Paul began with a group of Catholic Dominican nuns from Hawthorne, New York.

"Rose Hawthorne, the daughter of the novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne, took some of her family's wealth to care for destitute cancer patients on the streets of New York," said Thalhuber, a Lilydale resident. "She and several like-minded women began to go out in the streets and take patients in and care for them. Their efforts culminated in becoming a religious order in 1900, the Hawthorne Dominicans."

By the 1920s, he said the sisters were doing what has become known as hospice work. From New York they fanned out to open care homes in the eastern United States. Minnesota was the farthest west they ever ventured.

The sisters came to Saint Paul at the invitation of Archbishop John Murray and quietly opened the doors of Our Lady of Good Counsel on December 7, 1941.

"There was no term for (the sisters') work," Thalhuber said. "But they were committed to taking care of dying cancer patients years before hospice care got its foothold."

The modern hospice movement began in London in 1965. According to Thalhuber, British physician Dame Cecily Saunders founded Saint Christopher Hospice after a hospitalized terminal cancer patient asked for her company.

"She would go in daily just to sit with him," he said. "She discovered the need for the dying to be with somebody. She gathered a group of nurses who were interested and they began sitting with patients."

The first hospice in the United States opened in Connecticut in 1968. Thalhuber said no one consulted with the Good

Counsel caregivers in Saint Paul.

"These nuns were completely under the radar," he said. "They were doing their own thing. Dame Cecily Saunders gets all of the credit in the medical books, but for my two cents the Hawthorne Dominicans started it."

Thalhuber and his fellow caregivers built their work on Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' five stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. A social worker Thalhuber worked with took Ross' ideas and developed the four hospice gifts—I'm sorry, I love you, thank you and goodbye, I'll be OK. According to Thalhuber, once a patient and family have reached acceptance, it is possible to work through the hospice gifts.

Our Lady of Peace president and CEO Joe Stanislav thinks one measure of success is the appreciation expressed by the patients and their families and the support from the public. In his 29 years at Our Lady of Peace, he has led the organization through many changes. In 2009, the Dominican leadership turned over operation of Our Lady of Good Counsel to the Franciscan Health Community, and in 2011 the name was changed to Our Lady of Peace. Four Franciscan nuns from India now live on site and work full shifts as part of the staff. The patient population is 21.

A new structure replaced the old telephone building in 1981. Instead of the vast open ward, separate rooms with up to four beds housed 40 patients. A desire to give patients and families more privacy led to reconfiguring the rooms to double occupancy. But Stanislav believes there is still room for improvement.

Stanislav said Our Lady of Peace has launched a capital campaign and is well on its way toward raising the money needed to expand the existing building. The goal is to continue serving 21 patients in single rooms. Renovation of some existing spaces has already begun. Other rooms will be added in new construction in the court area and on a second floor. Several of the common areas will also get a facelift.

"We've given until the end of this year to meet our goal and I'm pretty confident we'll make it," Stanislav said.

Our Lady of Peace will celebrate its legacy and future with an outdoor event at 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 7. Stars and angels in remembrance of the more than 25,000 people who spent their final days in the hospice will be projected on the building. Neighbors and those who have supported the work of the caregivers will be saluted. Staff and families will light candles accompanied by music.

Ray Wey plans to attend the event. He will not be dragged there this time. He will, however, be praying for pleasant weather.

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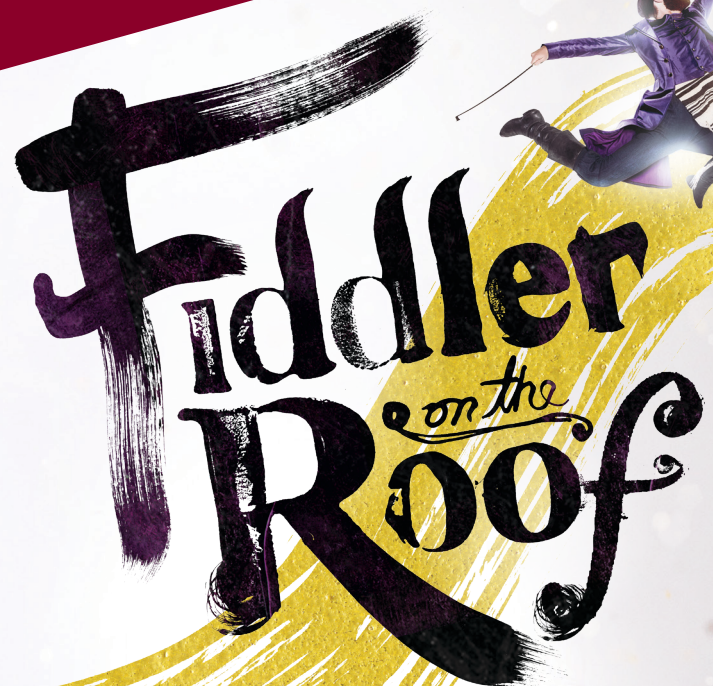
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What, me retire?

Former top exec makes 2nd career of his avocation for fiction writing

BY ANNE MURPHY

Writing is just a hobby, said Bob Garland, and a “most enjoyable” one. So enjoyable, that at 87 he has just published his 15th novel, *Unicornery on Woodhouse Avenue*, the sixth book in his Woodhouse Avenue series featuring an elderly fussy budget by the name of Humboldt Prior who lives in a city very much like Saint Paul in a neighborhood very much like Summit Hill where Garland spent his first 13 years.

“I’m a lifelong amateur writer of fact and fiction,” said Garland, who is retired following stints as senior vice president and CFO of HealthPartners and before that as president of the parent company of Regions Hospital and senior vice president and CFO of Burlington Northern Railroad.

It takes no stretch of the imagination to connect Woodhouse Avenue to the Saint Paul Garland has known. Humboldt lives in an old rowhouse and faces absurd schemes by various questionable individuals and relatives with ill intent for the community and the family business for which he works. Humboldt serves as comptroller for the business, a leather manufacturer threatened by cousins who conspire to undermine the firm by selling stocks of startup businesses known as unicorns.

In Humboldt, “I created an elderly gentleman and made him comptroller, which is what I once was, of a leather goods business, which my family long ago had,” Garland said.

Garland has lived in Mendota Heights for the past 17 years, but he lived on Hillcrest Avenue in Highland Park from 1948-52 and then on Mount Curve Boulevard for seven years. He graduated from the former University High School in 1952 and received a degree in business from the University of Minnesota in 1956.

“I don’t claim to be good at thinking up names,” Garland said. “I got the name Humboldt Prior after several tries by opening a Saint Paul phone book—this was a long time ago—and randomly jabbing my finger at a page.”

Humboldt Prior was also the protagonist of the eight-book mystery series that Garland began writing in the mid-1960s. “I clearly recall reading a news article—likely in *Time* magazine—about the body of an Israeli intelligence agent found floating in the Parana River (in South America),” Garland said. “As I enjoyed espionage fiction, I thought it’d be fun to read a book based on that circumstance and thought I’d try to write one.”

“I began the way we’re taught to write—with outlines, lots of research and note cards,” Garland said. “I dictated the first book, *Slaying the Red Slayer*. That was a big mistake, requiring lots of corrections and costly secretarial help.”

Garland wrote his second Humboldt Prior mystery in the early 1970s. *Derfflinger* was named for a World War I German warship that was scuttled in Scapa Flow harbor in Scotland’s Orkney Islands. He wrote the book longhand “in spiral notebooks, often while traveling on business,” he said.

Garland’s first two books were sold by an agent to a small publisher in New York for a small advance and royalties. His third Humboldt Prior book was titled *R.I.P. 37E*, a play on the name of the organization that in the 1970s and early ’80s tried to stop the construction of I-35E through Saint Paul. The novel involves a long-hidden mystery unearthed during the construction of a freeway. Though it was started prior to the completion of the 35E Parkway, Garland found himself too busy with his career and family to finish the book until his retirement in 1996.



Author Bob Garland takes a break from writing in the study of his Mendota Heights home surrounded by the 15 books he has published over the years. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

After several more mysteries, Garland moved Humboldt back to the city that is much like Saint Paul about 11 years ago. “That made the writing much easier and more natural, as I could envision the settings, buildings, streets and so forth,” he said. “At about that time, I also began to get ideas for a humorous novel.”

That was the genesis of his Woodhouse Avenue series. Garland has always been inspired by English humorists Evelyn Waugh and P.G. Wodehouse, “and I was struck by the idea of the extended Boot family all living together in Waugh’s *Scoop*,” he said. “At that time, I also changed to writing in the third-person with less outlining and a freer feeling.”

For the first book in the series, *Woodhouse Avenue Follies*, “I got the idea of an old rundown church with some peculiar pastors and something strange or mildly criminal going on within it,” he said. “Having lived in Crocus Hill, a few blocks from Summit Avenue, it seemed natural to have the Prior family members all living on a short dead-end street. I called it Woodhouse Avenue to commemorate its 19th-century founder’s liking for the Jane Austen novel.

“I’m glad to have my readers make these literary connections,” Garland said, “but I don’t pattern any characters or events on anything real. Indeed, my plot ideas and the activities of my goofy characters are so ridiculous as to be far beyond anything that anyone real would attempt to do.”

Garland has never considered himself a part of the Twin Cities literary community, but he will quote lines from *The Great Gatsby* by fellow Saint Paul native F. Scott Fitzgerald. In addition to his Humboldt Prior novels, he has written articles for the Ramsey County Historical Society quarterly and Volume 2 of the *History of the Rotary Club of Saint Paul*. Garland also wrote *The Gary Gargoyle Story* for his grandchildren. “It’s about a gargoyle who’s afraid of heights,” he said. “Amazingly, it still sells a copy every now and then.”

Will readers see more of Humboldt Prior after *Unicornery on Woodhouse Avenue*? “I’m 87 years old,” Garland said. “I’ll have to wait and see what comes to mind. I have an enjoyable group of characters. We’ll see what occurs to me—and them—next.”

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ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host a discussion with editors Carolyn Holbrook and David Mura and a panel of contributors to the anthology, *We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice from Minneapolis to the World*, at 6 p.m. Monday, November 29; the launch of Eric Dregni's new book, *The Impossible Road Trip: An Unforgettable Journey to Past and Present Roadside Attractions in All 50 States*, at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 30; and the virtual launch of *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* with author Dr. Brené Brown at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 2. To register for virtual programs or purchase tickets for the in-person programs, visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Poet Margaret Hasse will read from her collection *Shelter* from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. A silent auction of Sharon DeMark's watercolors from the same book will also be held. Proceeds will go to Interfaith Action's Project Home, an emergency shelter for Saint Paul families.

Dance

A **holiday cabaret** will be presented on weekends from December 3-12 by Collide Theatrical Dance Company at its recently renovated space at 755 N. Prior Ave, Suite 235H. The dramatic dance is set to a live score of festive holiday music. Performers include singer Rachel Holder and dancers Renee Guittar, Jarod Boltjes, Grace Janiszewski, Katie Taintor and Megan Carver. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20-\$45 and include a glass of wine, beer or other beverage. For reservations or information on COVID protocol, call 651-395-7903 or visit collidetheatrical.org.

Venture down the rabbit hole and experience Zoé Emilie Henrot's *Nutcracker in Wonderland*. A holiday classic with a whimsical twist, it will be presented by Henrot's Ballet Co.Laboratory company and school on December 11 and 12 at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S. in Minneapolis. The curtain rises at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$35, \$25 for seniors and students. Visit balletcolaboratory.org.

Music

Pianist and songwriter Jim Brickman will celebrate "The Gift of Christmas" in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, in the Ordway Concert Hall. The Grammy nominee promises heartwarming songs of faith and love, blending yuletide favorites with his own hits. Tickets are \$33-\$85. For reservations and COVID protocol, visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Bach's Christmas Oratorio will be performed by the Bach Society of Minnesota orchestra and the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. Matthias Maute and Philip Brunelle will share the podium. Tickets are \$20-\$40 with a discount for students. For reservations, visit bachsocietymn.org.

"**What Sweeter Music,**" the Singers' annual Christmas concert, will be presented three times in early December. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at Annunciation Church in South Minneapolis; 3 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at Westwood Church in Saint



Blizzard, Circus Juventas' second annual holiday production, will take audiences on a whirlwind tour of the season's classic tales on weekends from December 10-19 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. The high-flying adventure tells of three elves who wreak havoc at the North Pole when they open *The Book of Tales* and accidentally unleash such villains as the Grinch, Scrooge and Elsa the snow queen. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The big top has a 45-foot ceiling, and its air is serviced by HEPA filters and industrial fans. Audience members are encouraged to wear masks. Hot cocoa and festive treats will be available for purchase before the show. For tickets—priced at \$40, \$30 for children ages 3-10—visit circusjuventas.org. PHOTO BY DAN NORMAN

Louis Park; and 2 p.m. Sunday, December 12, at Nativity Church, 1900 Stanford Ave. Tickets are \$28. Visit singersmca.org.

Acclaimed organist Stephen Hamilton will perform works by Bach, Franck and others in a free Advent recital at 7 p.m. Monday, December 6, at Saint Mark's Catholic Church, 2001 Dayton Ave.

The JCC Symphony Orchestra returns on Wednesday, December 8, with an all-strings concert balancing English romanticism with folkloric colors from Hungary. The free program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. It will feature Gustav Holst's Saint Paul's Suite, Edward Elgar's Elegy and Salut d'amour ("Love's greeting") and Béla Bartók's 10 Pieces for Children. Reservations are requested at tinyurl.com/c5zafvfv. Walk-ins are welcome, but space will be limited to ensure social distancing. Masks are also required.

A rising star in classical guitar, Henry Johnston will perform in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 11, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes works by Mompou, Rodrigo and Ponce and Johnston's arrangement of a Chopin mazurka. Tickets are \$10-\$25. For reservations and information on COVID protocol, visit mnguitar.org or call 612-677-1151.

Theater

Christmas of Swing, a new rendition of the holiday classic about the singing Andrews Sisters and their entertainment of the troops during World War II, is playing now through December 19 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Elena Glass, Jen Burleigh-Bentz and Julia Ennen star as Patty, LaVerne and Maxene Andrews, whose letters from the men and women serving overseas dance their way into their USO shows and the hearts of the audience. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$65. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

All is Calm, a musical about the Christmas truce of 1914, is being staged from November 26 through January 2 at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE. in Minneapolis. The Theater Latté Da production draws on first-person accounts of the impromptu truce along with patriotic tunes and trench songs from World War I, medieval ballads and Christmas carols

of England, Wales, France, Belgium and Germany. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$35-\$51. For reservations and COVID protocol, visit latteda.org or call 612-339-3003.

Fiddler on the Roof, the Tony Award-winning musical of 1965, will be performed from November 30 through December 12 at the Ordway. Israeli actor Yehezkel Lazarov stars as Tevye in this timeless musical about community, faith and resilience. Tony Award-winner Bartlett Sher directs. Choreography is

by Hofesh Shechter. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$48-\$116. For reservations and information about COVID protocol, visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Langston Hughes' Black Nativity, a Penumbra Theatre tradition, will return with 23 performances from November 30 through December 24 at 270 N. Kent St. Lou Bellamy directs the production. Musical direction is by Sanford Moore and the Kingdom Life Church Choir. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$40. For reservations or information on COVID protocol, visit penumbra theatre.org or call 651-224-3180.

Family

Tune in to the Sundays at Landmark webpage for "Christmas Stories with J.B. Eckert." Eckert will tell a different story each Sunday, November 29, December 6 and 20. The virtual programs are free. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

Saint Paul's Union Depot will light up the night with fireworks, a holiday tree and a screening of the movie *Elf* on Saturday, December 4. The free festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the unveiling of the 2022 Saint Paul Winter Carnival button design in the depot Waiting Room, followed by live music and the lighting of the holiday tree on the North Plaza capped by a spectacular fireworks show. *Elf* will roll at 7 p.m. Train rides on the vintage North Pole Express will embark from Union Depot on December 3-5 and 9-12. For Express times and tickets, visit the Friends of the 261 website at 261.com/npe/.

It's Chanukah, and 10-year-old Max has visions of new toys, mouthwatering latkes and his grandmother's tasty doughnuts. When an ice storm cuts the power, he discovers the true meaning of the holiday in *Chanukah in the Dark*. The new play by Hayley Finn will open on December 4 on Six Points Theater's stage in the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Sulia Rose Altenberg, David Coral, Ben Shaw and Sally Wingert star. Show times are 7 p.m. Saturday, December 4; 1 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 5; and 1 p.m. Sunday, December 12. Visit sixpointstheater.org or call 651-647-4315.

The Northern Lights School for Strings will present its annual Family Concert of classical music and holiday medleys at 4 p.m. Sunday, December 5, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Members of the professional Chamber Music Society of Minnesota will also perform a program of Brahms and Boccherini. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, free to children. Visit chambermusicmn.org.

Exhibits

Enjoy cider or wine while shopping for one-of-a-kind gifts on December 3 and 4 at 1896 Saunders Ave. (alley entrance). The holiday sale will feature greeting cards, photographs and books by Kelly Povo; Lake Superior stone jewelry, key chains and bookmarks by Pauline Oo; glass art and ornaments by Michelle Wright; children's books by Phyllis Root; and ornaments and journals by Molly Marbles. Hours are 4-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Masks are encouraged.

Eighty artists from the Upper Midwest will take part in the 26th anniversary Art at Ramsey holiday fair from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at Ramsey Middle School, 1700 Summit Ave. The show and sale will feature a wide selection of fine art and crafts, including paintings, photography, woodcut prints, sculpture, pottery, blown glass, jewelry, woven rugs and scarves, leather handbags, handmade dolls, hand-dyed silk, turned wood, tiles, cards and ornaments. The free event will also feature a Youth Art Fair with the works of artists ages 8-18.

Et cetera

Reminiscent of the Christkindlmarkets that have brightened the Advent season for over 700 years, the European Christmas Market will set up on the East Plaza of Saint Paul's Union Depot on weekends from November 26 through December 19. Bathed in over 40,000 twinkling lights, the market's 41 kiosks will offer everything from jewelry, ornaments and other handmade gifts to woolen clothing, toys and edible treats. It will run from 4-9 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays. Live music and dancing, hot and cold refreshments, a Christmas scavenger hunt and appearances by Santa and his reindeer will also be featured. Visit stpaulchristmasmarket.org.

The Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar will return to Landmark Center on December 2-4 with a host of handmade gifts by local artisans. Jewelry, fabrics, children's toys and clothing, home decor, handmade lotions and soaps and edible goods will be featured from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Refreshments will be available. From 4-7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, shoppers will receive a complimentary refreshment. Admission is \$5, free for children age 12 and under. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

A traditional German Christmas is yours to enjoy at the Holiday Open Haus from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5, at the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. Sample lebkuchen cookies baked by the GAI Damenklub or the haus-brewed glühwein (mulled wine). Bratwurst, pretzels, Black Forest Inn cakes and Paulaner beer will also be available. Children's craft activities and a display of German model trains will be featured. The Minnesänger choir will perform at noon Saturday. Admission is free. Visitors are asked to wear a mask.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Replays for officials deserve another look

Twelve years after the fact, Tim Tschida remembers one October night very well. The Saint Paul native and Cretin-Derham Hall alum was the crew chief for the American League playoff series between the Minnesota Twins and the New York Yankees. He manned home plate for Game 1, a relatively uneventful 7-2 Yankee win. The rotation sent him out to right field for Game 2. Thus, he was several hundred feet from a play that still burns brightly in the minds of Twins fans.

The game was in the top of the 11th inning, tied at 3-3. Fellow CDH grad Joe Mauer led off and lifted a winding fly ball to left that nicked the glove of Melky Cabrera and dropped a foot into fair territory. There was only one problem: Left-field umpire Phil Cuzzi didn't see it that way and called it foul.

"At that time, replay was only being used for fair or foul ball calls on possible home runs," recalled Tschida, who was sceptical early on about the value of replays. "If something else needed to be discussed, all the umpires would get together and talk it out."

At the time, neither Mauer nor Twins manager Ron Gardenhire raised a ruckus. However, when he saw the replay, TV commentator Ron Darling observed: "That was a fair ball, by the way. Mauer should be on second base."

Mauer returned to the plate and eventually singled. He didn't score, but New York's Mark Teixeira did with a game-winning home run in the bottom of the inning. When the umpires got to their dressing room, their supervisor was waiting with a grim look. Tschida and his mates watched the replay and immediately got a sick feeling.

"No official wants to get a call wrong—particularly one in that situation," he said. "I said we had to go to the media about this."

Cuzzi offered to go, but Tschida said it was his duty as crew chief to talk to the press. So he did and fessed up that Mauer should've been on second.

"If you get up and admit a mistake, there isn't much else people can say," Tschida said. Indeed, the assembled media sat silently for a few seconds, asked a few perfunctory questions and that was that.

Shortly thereafter, replay began to expand in baseball as well as many other sports. As a result, officials are now subjected to scrutiny and criticism at all levels of play. But is that a good thing?

"Replay is designed to correct something that was called incorrectly," Tschida said. "I've been there. I've made mistakes. Correcting something is a good thing."

The problem is how it's used. When it's used to micromanage every play, does that mean officials get more hesitant because the replay can change a call?

"I don't think so," Tschida said. "Deep down, officials

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Girls' prep hockey preview

For some local teams, cooperation is key to success

BY BILL WAGNER

Co-op teams are a way of life in high school girls' hockey these days. Largely because of changing demographics, schools often have to partner up if they want to offer certain sports, especially expensive ones like hockey.

"I think co-ops are a good thing," said Cretin-Derham Hall coach Tony Scheid. "The more kids who can play high school hockey, the better."

Of course, co-ops aren't for everyone. Scheid said his varsity and JV rosters have 17 players each, which is adequate to sustain both teams.

There have been some local co-op team changes over the past couple of years. In 2018, the Saint Paul Blades, composed of players from the Saint Paul Public Schools, combined with Two Rivers (then Henry Sibley) to form the Saint Paul Riveters.

Then for last year's shortened season, Visitation broke off on its own after spending decades with Saint Paul Academy as Saint Paul United. Meanwhile, SPA joined Minnehaha Academy as part of what is now the five-school Minnehaha United.

Visitation coach Billy Bellmore said that while co-ops might be a viable way to offer the sport to more players, there are also problems with frequent changing of team personnel and coaching staff. Having Visitation play on its own last year "was challenging," he said. Indeed, the Blazers won only one game in their inaugural season as a solo act.

Riveters coach Allie Duellman said another issue is that many athletes now focus on only one sport. Back when she was playing prep hockey, Duellman said she played volleyball and softball during the off-season. Playing multiple sports is seldom seen today, which is why she said co-op teams proliferate.

Co-op or not, here's a look at the local girls' teams as the puck drops on the 2021-22 season:



Senior forward Molly Shetka of the Saint Paul Riveters grimaces on the ice as Minnehaha United goalie Greta Magnuson watches the puck sail wide during a game at Drake Arena on November 19. Shetka went on to score a hat trick in the Riveters' 6-2 win. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

• Suburban East Conference, 11-6-2 last season, coach Tony Scheid

Key players: senior forwards Lily Geist, Sammy Muetzel, Shannon Murphy, Ari Evans and Ryan Sherry; senior defenders Maggie Dolan and Lindsey Crain; and senior goalies Hannah Fritz and Erin Hannon.

Outlook: Scheid said competition in the conference is more rugged than ever, but he thinks his senior-laden team is ready for a big year. "Right now our sights are set on a conference championship, and then to go after a section championship," he said.

MINNEHAHA UNITED

• Independent Metro Athletic Conference, 10-9 last season, coach Dan Berthiaume, players from Minnehaha, Saint Paul Academy, DeLaSalle, Providence, Saint Agnes

Key players: senior forwards Lucie Bond and Ava Wasserman, sophomore wing Charlotte Goings, junior defender Heidi Deuel, and sophomore defender Aurelia Meza.

Outlook: The United return nine skaters and two goalies, and also will welcome five new players. Berthiaume said it is looking up for his club. "I think it'll be a good season," he said. "We'll be competitive against most of the teams we play." There's one downside though. "We're in Class

AA," Berthiaume said. "I don't think we should be."

SAINT PAUL RIVETERS

• Metro East Conference, 2-16-1 last season, coach Allie Duellman, players from Two Rivers, Central, Highland, Como

Key players: senior forwards Solvei Berg-Messerole, Olivia Van Sicken and Molly Shetka; senior defender Lilly Leitner; and senior goalie Ellynor Haack.

Outlook: The Riveters have a modest mission. "Our goal is to be competitive in the conference," said Duellman, whose club has five seniors. "We only lost three to graduation, and we return most of our offense."

VISITATION

• Independent, 1-12 last season, coach Billy Bellmore

Key players: senior forward Hannah Allen, eighth-grade center Abigail Hemauer, freshman wing Gracia Munoz, and junior forward-defender Lauren Reppenhagen.

Outlook: Bellmore said he likes the mental makeup of his players as they try to build a program of their own. "Our kids are sponges—so eager to learn," he said. Bellmore has four seniors but is especially excited about his younger players. "This is a fun opportunity because a lot of these kids are just getting started," he said.

Cadets run up against tough defense in state football opener

BY BILL WAGNER

A team that rushes for 260 yards in a game would usually be expected to come out on top. However, a consistent ground game wasn't enough for Saint Thomas Academy to pull off a victory against fellow unbeaten Mankato West in the opening round of the state Class AAAAA football tournament on November 13 at Prior Lake High School.

Sophomore Savion Hart and junior Love Adebayo churned out 146 and 93 yards, respectively, for the second-seeded Cadets, but the top-ranked Scarlets were able to keep them out of the end zone often

enough to secure a 21-14 victory.

STA had a chance to tie the game with less than 2 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. But on fourth-and-3 on the Mankato West 18, Adebayo's push to the left side was stifled and the Scarlets were able to run out the clock.

Cadet coach Dan O'Brien did his best to console his players after the game. "The last thing I wanted to (communicate) was that the season was a failure," he said. "These kids were 10-0 going into this game. You just have to give (Mankato West) credit. They're a very good football team. Their defensive front is the best we've seen all year."

The game actually pitted two great defenses against each other. The Cadets only gave up 154 yards passing from Mankato quarterback Zander Dittbrenner. However, three of his completions were for scores.

The first STA scores came with Hart running to pay dirt from 47 yards out with 6:14 to play in the first half. Junior Mark Rogalski's extra point tied the score at 7-7.

The Cadets didn't score again until early in the fourth quarter, when senior Grady O'Neill caught a 24-yard pass from sophomore Maximus Sims. Rogalski's kick was good again.

STA had two turnovers that gave the Mankato West offense short fields to work

with. The game was played in a persistent snowfall that hindered the passing game on both sides.

The Cadets were hoping to continue their momentum heading into state. In the section playoffs, they had outscored Apple Valley and Hastings by a combined 77-0.

Senior Jackson Cercioğlu had 10 tackles for the Cadets against Mankato, and senior Nicholas Bartlett pitched in with eight. Adebayo averaged 7.2 yards per carry and Hart averaged 6.3.

This was the third consecutive and 25th overall state tourney appearance for STA, which was the Class AAAAA runner-up in the last two Prep Bowls.

Highland shows fighting spirit in return to state volleyball tourney

BY BILL WAGNER

Highland Park High School volleyball coach Sonje Odegard knew it was going to be a challenge facing top-seeded Marshall in the first round of the state Class AAA volleyball tournament on November 10 at Xcel Energy Center.

The Scots, who were making their first trip to state in 44 years, were up against a squad that had more height, quickness and experience. Highland offered some resistance in the first set, losing 14-25, but was outplayed in the next two as the Tigers went on a tear winning 25-4, 25-10.

"Marshall was a team that had played together a lot and we respected that," Odegard said. "In the first set, we did pretty well. But when it came down to it, we had never played against that level of competition before."

The Scots fared better in their 2-3 consolation semifinal loss to Monticello two

days later, winning the first game 25-18, but then going 22-25, 15-25, 25-20, 8-15. Much of the game was a tug-of-war with both clubs making runs, but Monticello was able to pull away in the last set.

"It was a great match," Odegard said. "We said that if we were going to go out, we were going to go out fighting. If we played them 10 times, we'd probably win five. Our players were sad afterward, but they were also proud of themselves."

Odegard said the entire match was a back-and-forth battle. "It just came down to crunch time and we had a few more unforced errors than they did, but that's volleyball," she said.

The Magic served well and put up some strong blocks, but didn't have enough tricks up their sleeves to handle Highland senior outside hitter Kiyomi Callahan, who had 19 kills.

"They just couldn't stop her," Odegard said about Callahan. "She can take over in

that way."

Junior setter Ayana Bougie-Martinez did her customary good job of quarterbacking the Scots' offense, registering 32 assists. Highland's hitters had generally done very well, but Monticello's overall game gradually took over.

Odegard said the Scots could take away a lot of positives from the state tournament, which was just the school's fourth-ever appearance. "We told our players to just enjoy the experience," she said. "Not every team gets to go to state."

The Scots ended up sharing the Saint Paul City Conference title with Central after splitting their two games with the Minutemen during the regular season. Highland also showed plenty of resolve throughout section play, outlasting DeLaSalle in a grueling final 3-1. The Scots finished with an 18-8-2 overall record.

Odegard hoped the season would give some respect to inner-city volleyball pro-

grams, which often take a back seat to suburban and semi-rural teams.

"The best girls in the state are the ones who play year-round for the top clubs," Odegard said, "but our team is an example of that not always being true. I feel that (city public schools) don't get the recognition they deserve."

Odegard said four key players—Bougie-Martinez, Callahan, sophomore libero Alyssa Ramos and junior middle-hitter Bella Kottke—played volleyball in the off-season to hone their skills. Still, she said, that isn't the only way to become a good player. She mentioned sophomore hitter Kate Reubish, who stays fit by playing hockey and softball in her off-seasons. "She's just a natural athlete," she said.

Odegard waxed hopeful about what's in store for the Scots next fall. "We lose five seniors, but we'll also have some players returning," she said. "I'm really optimistic about the talent for next year."

16◀ WRIGHT CALL

will do what they think is right."

Tschida worked 3,414 major league games before retiring in 2012. Before his big league baseball days, however, he worked several amateur sports around Saint Paul, including a stint as a hockey official. He thinks the National Hockey League has figured out the best way to handle replays.

"They keep the game moving," he said. "You have a rush up ice. It's close as to whether it's offside or not. The linesmen let the play go on and the puck ends up in the net. Then you can check the play."

The same is true when there's a question about whether hockey players should get a lengthier penalty because they drew blood or hit an opponent in the head.

The system isn't perfect and, as such, won't correct all mistakes. Some things that officials miss just have to be accepted. One has to presume that, if there's evidence of a bad oversight, the supervisor will step in and deal with the matter with the official.

"The problem is the guys playing the games today are world-class athletes and the action moves so fast that some of it's simply beyond the naked eye," Tschida said. "For that reason, I've changed my view on replays."

One area where things may have gone too far is the imaginary strike zone seen on televised baseball games. As is the case with the naked eye, technology cannot catch everything.

That has made life harder for high school and college officials whose games aren't televised. The world is expecting perfection in a game being played—and officiated by—imperfect people.

Tschida is now 61 years old. He may miss the action, but not the travel, the wear and tear on his body and having every call studied under a microscope. "There's no question it's harder to officiate now," he said. "A lot of the time, it comes down to splitting hairs."

Blazers swamp field to win Class A swim title

Visitation once again proved too much for the competition to handle as it claimed its eighth consecutive state Class A swimming and diving title—and 12th state title since 2005—on November 18-20 at the University of Minnesota. Visitation's 385 points were well ahead of second-place Hutchinson's 254.

The 500 freestyle race was a classic example of Visitation's depth. Junior Ella Passe won in 4:59.37, followed by junior Elizabeth Burke in second at 5:05.15,

sophomore Tessa Lindstrom in third at 5:08.78 and freshman Maggie Farley in fifth at 5:11.44.

In the 200 individual medley, junior Anna Farley inched her way past Hutchinson senior Hailey Farrell, who had set a meet record in that event in 2019, to win with a time of 2:04.39.

Visitation had only two individual wins, but finished in the top eight in several other events to provide the points to secure the victory. Passe and Burke placed second and third in the 200 freestyle, freshman Katie Miller was fourth in the 200 individual medley, and Farley and junior Lucy Berg were third and fourth in the 100 butterfly. Senior Libby Fischer took fifth in the 100 backstroke and sixth in the 50 free, and Miller was sixth in the 100 breaststroke.

Fischer, Miller, Farley and senior Olivia Johanns placed second in the 200 medley relay, and Miller, Burke, Passe and Johanns were fourth in the 200 free relay. Burke, Passe, Farley and Fischer teamed up for second in the 400 free relay.

In the Class AA meet, Highland Park/SPA finished 26th with 17 points, 13 of which came on senior KK Welsh's sixth-place finish in the 1-meter diving event.

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

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Board opening—The Highland District Council is seeking candidates for an at-large seat on its board of directors. The position is for a partial term and will be up for re-election in April 2023. Apply by 5 p.m. Monday, December 6, at bit.ly/3kKeFzv. For information, visit tinyurl.com/3z4t4sem or contact executive director Kathy Carruth at kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or 651-695-4005.

At-large election—A virtual event to meet the candidates running for the at-large seat on the HDC board will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 9. Voting for the position will take place from 7:15 that evening to midnight Tuesday, December 14, via Survey Monkey. Paper ballots are available by contacting info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or the HDC office and must be returned by Wednesday, December 15. All residents and representatives of businesses in Highland Park who are at least 18 years old are eligible to vote. Learn more at tinyurl.com/3z4t4sem.

Breakfast with Santa—The annual Breakfast with Santa will be held by the Highland Business Association from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at Tiffany Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. Free pancakes will be served for kids and a brunch menu will be available for adults. Coloring stations and College Nannies will be there, too. Register to see Santa at tiffanysportslounge.com.

Office hours—The HDC office will be closed from Wednesday through Friday, November 24-26. For information, email info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Snow team—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is seeking volunteers to help keep its organics

recycling site on Grand Avenue clear of snow and ice this winter. Volunteers can expect to shovel two or three times during the season. Sign up at mgcc@macgrove.org.

Century building plaques—The community council is still offering the owners of Macalester-Groveland homes and commercial buildings that were built in 1925 or before an opportunity to purchase a plaque to identify the structure's age. Order by November 30 to receive a plaque before the holidays by visiting macgrove.org/100years.

Neighborhood pride—Locally designed Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can still be purchased online and delivered within days of purchase. Visit macgrove.org/tshirt.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Accessory dwelling—The Summit Hill Association's board of directors voted on November 11 to support a 63.4-square-foot variance request by the owners of a home at 721 Lincoln Ave. who are seeking to build an accessory dwelling unit. The variance would allow for accessibility features to be included in the unit, allowing for the homeowners to age in place. The application was also supported by the SHA's Zoning and Land Use Committee.

Board officers—New SHA board officers were elected on November 11. They include Denise Aldrich as president, Sherry Johnson as vice president and Manny Munson-Regala as secretary. The treasurer's position remains open. An election will be held at the January 13 board meeting for an open seat. Interested candidates can apply at summithillassociation.org/join-the-board.

Annual appeal—SHA's annual fundraising campaign provides support to the district council to provide outreach and education, maintain the district office at the Linwood Recreation Center, and pay staff to aid the all-volunteer board. Visit summithillassociation.org/donate.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Resource map—Union Park District Council staff are beginning preliminary work on a map of resources in the neighborhood. Those who know of an establishment that they consider foundational to the neighborhood are being asked to email jonah@unionparkdc.org.

Upcoming meetings—Annual meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 1; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 13; Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 15; and Committee on Land Use and Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 20. To access the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org or jonah@unionparkdc.org or click on 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

New executive director—Mary Cutrufello began work as the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation's new executive director on November 1. In addition to being a long-time West End resident and an accomplished musician, she holds degrees in American history from Yale University and in urban planning from the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota. Cutrufello said she is passionate about the West Seventh neighborhood and urban issues generally, and is looking forward to helping the board make the neighborhood a safe and friendly place for all who live, work or play there. She can be reached at mary@fortroadfederation.org or 651-298-5599.

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PART-TIME MAINTENANCE/Custodial help needed for Condominium building in Highland Park. Call for more details, 651-690-3400.

ASSIST WITH light housekeeping on periodic basis in Highland area. 651-398-8463.

EXPERIENCED CUSTODIAN wanted for Senior Housing Cooperative. Duties include cleaning common areas to ensure that cleanliness, safety and sanitizing is maintained. Candidate must be able to operate commercial cleaning equipment. Other responsibilities include interacting with other team members, resident members and visitors in a friendly professional manner. This 40 hour/week position is benefit eligible, including PTO, medical & dental, free parking and a comfortable working environment. This is a Tuesday-Saturday position. Hiring contingent on providing proof of full Covid vaccination & passing a background check. Email roblillesve77@becketwood.com or Contact Robin @ 612-746-1006 and apply: Becketwood Cooperative, 4300 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis to fill out an application.

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Upper Landing end unit town home. Spacious, light-filled and wonderful open feel! Spectacular downtown & river views! Miles of nature/urban trails just out your door! Easy walk to downtown! Available now! Call/text for details. 199 Sherman St. GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com



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Delightful 3BR, 2BA gem offers beautiful hardwood, living room with fireplace, main floor family room! Elegant formal dining, built-in corner cabinets, gorgeous kitchen with breakfast room. Patio, 2-car garage! 2162 Berkeley Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com



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Discover this fantastic 4-bedroom, 4-bath, boasting original character plus loads of updates! New roof, gutters, furnace & carpet. Gleaming hardwood, fireplace, main floor den & sunroom. Fenced backyard, attached 2-car. 669 Howell St. S. *click on www.teamedelstein.com



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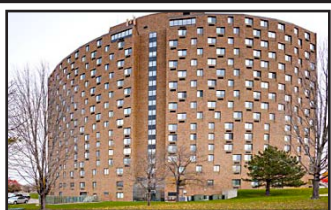
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ELEGANT GEORGIAN REVIVAL!
Gorgeous 6 bedroom home in Merriam Park's Pill Hill. Over 4,100 square feet with beautiful woodwork, hardwood floors, and central air. 2121 Iglehart. www.wahlbergtoohey.com



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DAVID NOYES JR.
651-233-0748 • \$105,000



SALE PENDING!
1545 GOODRICH AVENUE
Traditional four square has amazing bones, w/brand new roof-house & garage. Amazing front porch, 4BR's up, 2BA's. Wood burning FP in large LR w/4-season sun room just off the formal DR with great built-ins. Walk to all that Grand Ave has to offer. Call Brian for a showing today!



BRIAN WAGNER
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NEW PRICE!
UPDATED CONDO, SET IN THE TREES!
Enjoy easy condo living - without sacrificing space! This condo offers 3BR, 2BA and 1,650 finished sqft. Beautiful wooded views, private balcony, attached garage stall, storage galore, quick access to dining, shopping & MSP airport. 100 Imperial Dr, #404, W. St. Paul.



CLAIRE BISANZ DISTAD
651-307-7260 • \$164,900



SOLD
173 VIRGINIA ST.
Classic bungalow on quiet street. Two main floor BRs. Large BR on the UL. Updated BAs on main floor & LL. Hrdwd flrs. 3 season porch. Corner lot w/fenced yard. Storage shed & single car gar. Newer roof & furnace. Excellent buyer opportunity to build equity as a homestead, or investment potential.



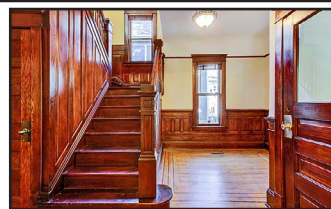
TJ PIERRET
651-755-6669 • \$235,000



SOLD
FABULOUS YARD/POOL!!!
1857 Rolling Green Curve: Stunning 3 BR, 3 bath home in immaculate condition. Gleaming hardwood floors in the family sized kitchen, and entertainment sized living and dining rooms. Fabulous backyard with inground pool, deck, patio and porch.



JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$514,999



STUNNING VICTORIAN!
Grand staircase, original woodwork, built-ins, and coved ceilings grace this magnificent home. 4BRs, 3BAs, large kitchen island, finished 3rd floor, and finished basement. Peaceful, shaded backyard with deck. 1619 Girard Ave N. Minneapolis.



DEB SOUCHERAY
651-263-0552 • \$334,900



DAVID NOYES, JR.
REAL ESTATE GROUP
651-233-0748



UNIQUE SUMMIT HILL GEM!
This Chatinwood Condo has been freshly painted and completely updated. Open & airy, sunny & bright you will love the superb location, close to the charming shops of Mac-Groveland, fabulous stores of Grand Ave, chic restaurants of Cathedral Hill & the dynamic nightlife of DT St Paul! Call for Details.



SARAH KINNEY AND FRIENDS
651-497-4387



BRILLIANT NEOCLASSIC DESIGN!
This classic St Paul Home has been meticulously updated and transformed, to please those with the most discerning tastes. You will love the lush green spaces, stone patio, and fully fenced backyard, all conveniently located to the new Allianz Field, The YMCA, light rail and more! Call for Details.



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RIVER FRONT END-UNIT TOWNHOME!
With amazing views of the Mississippi & High Bridge, this one is a WOW! Completely updated to perfection featuring 2 gas fireplaces, 4 decks, 3 overlooking the river, endless built-ins, electronic blinds, surround-sound, spa-like master & sensational new chef's kitchen w/stunning granite throughout. All near the best in St. Paul's nightlife, river walking trails & much more! Call for details.



SARAH KINNEY
AND FRIENDS
651-270-6409

www.sarahkinney.com



TJ PIERRET
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TOM EDELMAN, CRS
HENRY EDELMAN, CRS
651-695-4300



NEW LISTING!
Charm abounds in this beautiful 1920's home! Pristine original wdwrk including built-in dining room buffet with custom leaded glass. Two BR's on the main floor with updated bath! Lots of potential in the basement for additional BR(s), FR, and second BA. mmderosia@cbrealty.com



MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



SALE PENDING!
HIGHLAND GOLF COURSE LOCATION!
Is home to New England 4 bedroom classic colonial. Extremely charming and well cared for on spectacularly landscaped lot and a half. Rare attached two car garage. One of the most sought after locations in Highland Park. Call Lolly for details!



LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$750,000



924 TUSCARORA IS NEW!
Smashing 3 bedroom 3 bath Victorian with open concept kitchen and all original charm. Front porch and private back yard with patio, new 2 car garage all in mint condition- this one is a "10"!!



LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



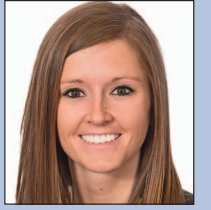
4124 25TH AVE S.
Sweet '30's 3 bedroom stucco bungalow with all new kitchen, remodeled full bath, gorgeous hardwood floors, granite, built-ins, porch and patio - all in mint move-in condition.



LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
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952-486-3697



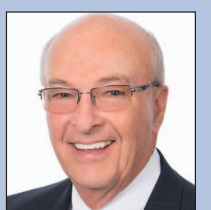
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612-382-8415