

City confronts thorny task of implementing new rent control law

Task force considers possible exemptions to rent increase limit

By JANE MCCLURE

As Saint Paul's rent control ordinance nears its May 1 effective date, plans for implementing the new law are taking shape with help from a 41-member Rent Stabilization Task Force. The ordinance—one of the most stringent rent control measures in the United States—limits increases in the rent charged on all residential units in the city to a maximum of 3 percent per year.

The ordinance was approved by voters in a citywide referendum last November. The market has responded with developers postponing the construction of planned housing and landlords selling off their rental units. The publication *Finance & Commerce* reported on March 1 that Well Maintained Apartments has sold its eight buildings in Saint Paul. Company officials cited rent control as one reason for the sale.

Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter continues to call for an exemption from the ordinance for new construction. In his recent State of the City address and in remarks before the Rent Stabilization Task Force, he said his administration is working to iron out how rent control

RENT CONTROL ▶ 2



Fun while it lasts.

Eli Voss, 10, and his saucer went flying down the slope while Matt Reinke gave his young charges a spin during the Winter Fun party on February 26 at Hillcrest Park. The event was sponsored by the Highland District Council and Highland Business Association in collaboration with the Saint Paul Public Library and Parks and Recreation departments.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Riverview team weighs options to bike, walk across Highway 5 bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

The Riverview Corridor's Policy Advisory Committee reviewed three options on February 24 for getting pedestrians and bicyclists safely across the Highway 5 (West Seventh Street) bridge near Fort Snelling. That included concepts which would separate bikers and walkers from traffic on elevated paths above the bridge deck.

Getting bicyclists and pedestrians from the bridge to the trail system at Historic Fort Snelling is one of many challenges the 11.7-mile modern streetcar project faces as its engineering studies continue.

Bicyclists and pedestrians are being encouraged to take a survey on the river crossing concepts by March 25 by visiting bit.ly/bikepedsurvey.

One question asked in the survey is if respondents currently feel safe crossing the bridge. Another asks what would improve safety, with suggestions including more physical separation from vehicles, a wider pathway to walk or bike, ramps instead of stairs to access the crossing, and better signals and signage.

The Highway 5 bridge was built in 1961. It was rehabilitated in 2003 and recently

RIVERVIEW CROSSING ▶ 2

O'Donnell spreads his love of Irish culture in his adoptive hometown

By ANNE MURPHY

Not long after immigrating to Saint Paul from Ireland in 1993, Patrick O'Donnell sensed something special about the city. "I saw a palpable richness and depth of appreciation for Irish history and culture," he said. "And what I found as an immigrant is what has inspired me as a Minnesotan. I determined to contribute by articulating Ireland's cultural and educational heritage."

O'Donnell has accomplished that and more over the past three decades. When he arrived here, he had just earned a master's degree in Anglo-Irish literature,

poetry, drama and fiction at University College in Dublin. "I began putting on plays in the Titanic Lounge at Kieran's Irish Pub in Minneapolis as part of the Titanic Players," he said, "a company I founded and ran as artistic director." That continued for six years.

In 1999, O'Donnell joined the faculty of Normandale Community College as an English professor. Soon after, he affiliated with the Minnesota Irish Fair. "I was a board member in charge of the cultural area at the Irish Fair from 2002-2021," he said. Then in 2016, O'Donnell founded Irish College of Minnesota as the educational wing of the Celtic Junction Arts Cen-

ter, 836 N. Prior Ave.

A resident of Ramsey Hill, O'Donnell had been acquainted with the husband-and-wife founders of Celtic Junction, Cormac O'Se and Natalie O'Shea. When their organization became a nonprofit in 2016, he suggested the college.

Irish College has enrolled about 900 students over the past six years, offering single- and multi-session classes in Irish history, language and arts. "With COVID over the last two years, we boosted our presence online," O'Donnell said. "We now register students from across the U.S. and Canada."

"We're called a college in that we're rigorous and offer substantial learning, but

in a friendly, discussion-based environment," O'Donnell said. This spring, the college will open a new classroom thanks to a \$100,000 donation from Thomas Dillon Redshaw, founding director and honorary editor of the *New Hibernia Review* at the University of Saint Thomas.

As the director of education at Celtic Junction, "Patrick is extremely dedicated to ensuring that Irish culture thrives in Minnesota and beyond," said Jane Kennedy, a historian who teaches at Irish College. "He pours his Irish heart into making the college an exemplary center of learning."

PATRICK O'DONNELL ▶ 3

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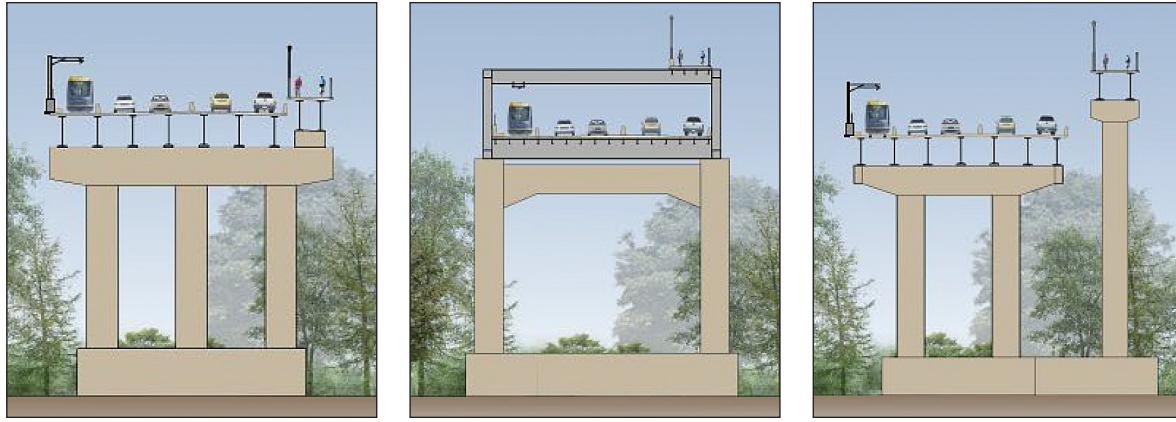
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had its bridge deck replaced in 2015-2016. Cyclists and pedestrians currently share a sidewalk on one side of the bridge, separated from two lanes of motor vehicle traffic in each direction. Preliminary plans would put the streetcar where the sidewalk is.

A stairway currently used to get from the bridge to Fort Snelling does not meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, said Jessica Laabs, a project consultant with Kimley-Horn. Access also must be provided without disturbing the fort, which is a designated historic site.

Another issue is Bdote, which means "where waters come together" in the Dakota language and is the area at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. A designated site of remembrance must be preserved



The three draft concepts (from left, switchback ramp, truss design and separate structure) for getting bicyclists and pedestrians safely across the Highway 5 bridge with the addition of the proposed Riverview Corridor modern streetcar.

as part of the Riverview Corridor crossing. Original rock, considered by the Dakota to be a sacred part of the landscape, must be undisturbed or carefully relocated. Project consultants have been working with tribal representatives on planning for the area.

"Rock disturbance is a big issue," Laabs said. That already

has led to decisions to keep the streetcar and motor vehicles traveling through the existing tunnel. Bikers and walkers would still be routed above the tunnel, but in a new way.

The bridge is located in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), which is overseen by the National Park

Service. MNRRA issues can come into play when a project affects river views.

Three options are under study to get bicyclists and pedestrians across the bridge and to the fort area trails. One would use an accessible switchback ramp and elevate the bike and pedestrian sidewalk.

A second option is an elevated bike and pedestrian path above the existing bridge deck using a truss design. A third option would have an elevated pedestrian and bike path on a separate structure adjacent to the bridge.

Project consultants and staff are still looking at how to get motor vehicle traffic and streetcars through the tunnel and routed on the fort side. The team has rejected the notion of a "transit flyover," citing space limitations and impacts on the historic site. They continue to look at two options that call for reducing motor vehicle traffic lanes to provide dedicated space for streetcars.

One idea would have streetcars running in mixed traffic on Highway 5. That would require having a gate or device to stop traffic so transit vehicles could enter and exit the highway. It would also mean slowing traffic in that area from 50 to 35 mph.

14 RENT CONTROL

is implemented. "Every single city" with rent control has implemented an exemption for new construction, Carter said, and so should Saint Paul. "We cannot afford to lose the literally thousands of housing units that are on pause," he said.

The mayor has asked the City Council to consider an amendment exempting new construction, possibly for a period of 15 years. However, some City Council members are concerned that such an exemption could put older, more affordable apartment buildings at risk of being torn down and replaced with new housing.

Rent control advocates are also pushing

back, saying the ordinance should stand as approved by voters and threatening a legal challenge to any amendments. Under Saint Paul's city charter, they noted, ordinances approved by voters may not be amended for at least a year.

The Rent Stabilization Task Force has been studying both short-term and long-term changes to rent control since it first convened on February 22. The group is meeting virtually weekly through May with the goal of having a report to Carter by June 24. The Tuesday afternoon meetings are live-streamed at tinyurl.com/StPRent2022.

The task force is working with staff from the University of Minnesota's Cen-

ter for Urban and Regional Affairs. CURA has studied rent control in the past and is providing research support and leading task force discussions. According to CURA director Ed Goetz, rent control measures across the U.S. have changed over time and that could also happen in Saint Paul.

One issue the task force will be studying is the cap on rent increases. Saint Paul's cap is a hard 3 percent per year, but the maximum limit on rent increases could also be tied to the rate of inflation, Goetz said.

Exempting new construction is being discussed by the task force. So is an exemption for vacancy decontrol, which would allow landlords who increase rents only minimally or not at all for longtime tenants

to increase those rents above the 3 percent maximum when those longtime tenants move out.

The Rent Stabilization Task Force is cochaired by Tony Sanneh, founder and CEO of the Sanneh Foundation, and Phillip Cryan, executive vice president of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota.

Task force members include Katherine Banbury, resident; Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies; Cecile Bedor, CommonBond Communities; Jay Benanav, resident; Clinton Blaiser, Halverson and Blaiser Group Ltd.; Monica Bravo, West Side Community Organization; Carolyn Brown, Community

RENT STABILIZATION TASK FORCE 3

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Irish College of Minnesota founder and director Patrick O'Donnell peruses a book in the McKiernan Library at the Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 N. Prior Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ PATRICK O'DONNELL

“As COVID changed our lives, my Irish College classes have helped keep me engaged and sane,” said Carol Walsh, a resident of Macalester-Groveland and a member of the Celtic Junction education committee. Walsh has taken classes at the college on Irish theater and playwrights, the Saint Paul stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Napoleon and his Irish connections, among others. “Right now, I’m taking Patrick’s class on the famous poet who comes between William Butler Yeats and Seamus Heaney—Patrick Kavanagh.”

From 2007-2010, O'Donnell returned to Ireland to earn his Ph.D. His doctoral thesis was titled, “The Irish Roots of the Guthrie.” O'Donnell said he was greatly influenced by Minneapolis’ Guthrie Theater and its connections to the late Irish playwright Brian Friel and former artistic director Joe Dowling, who also was the artistic director of Ireland’s Abbey Theatre.

Once back in Saint Paul, O'Donnell resumed teaching full time at Normandale and helping out with the Irish Fair of Minnesota. Eventually, he came to realize that there should be a larger platform for educational and cultural content at the Irish Fair, and that led to his founding of Irish Arts Week.

Part of the summer Irish Fair on Harriet Island from 2016-21, Irish Arts Week will be held at Celtic Junction this year from April

“Patrick has a way of gently persuading people to become part of the faculty,” Paier said. “And the college has great appeal for the variety and depth of its classes.”

18-May 1. It will include a Language Immersion Weekend on April 22-24 headed by Celtic Junction linguist Lavinia Finnerty.

O'Donnell has created a community of learners at Celtic Junction, according to Otto Paier, a Hamline-Midway resident who teaches an Irish College class on the architecture of Irish cottages. “Patrick has a way of gently persuading people to become part of the faculty,” Paier said. “And the college has great appeal for the variety and depth of its classes.”

Shelagh Mullen, who has taught classes at the Irish Fair and at Cooks of Crocus Hill, is excited to be joining the faculty of Irish College. “The college provides a deep dive into what is and has been important about Ireland,” Mullen said. This spring she will teach a virtual class on Irish cooking from her Macalester-Groveland home. Among other things, the class will debunk the myth that fish and chips and corned beef are staples of the Irish diet, she said.

For more information on Irish College or Irish Arts Week, visit celticjunction.org.

2◀ RENT STABILIZATION TASK FORCE

Stabilization Project; Scott Cordes, Project for Pride in Living; Arline Datu, resident; Malik Davis, Rondo Realty Group; Khayree Duckett, Dominion Apartments; Kelly Elkin, Old National Bank; Tou Fang, property owner; Jessica Fowler, YWCA; Thomas Godfrey, resident; Robbie Grossman, Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors; Tram Hoang, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; Myisha Holley, resident; Rich Holst, property owner; Mya Honeywell, Realtor; Abdiaziz Ibrahim, resident; Rawnsion Ivanoff, resident; Nathaniel Khaliq, BNV Properties; Chue Kue, property owner; Bill Lindeke, resident; Nene Matey-Keke, RNR Realty International; Carin Mrotz, Jewish Community Action; Thomas Nelson, Exeter Management; Dalton Outlaw, Outlaw Development; Kevin Pranis, LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota; B Rosas, Minnesota Youth Collective; Kathryn Schneider, property owner; Julie Schwartz, Lake Street Realty; Emmanuel Speare, New City Properties; D’Angelos Svenkeson, NEOO Partners; Chris Tolbert, City Council member; Marcus Troy, resident; Kou Vang, JB

Vang; and Clara Ware, resident.

Hoang and Ware have been active in HENS, the group that campaigned to put rent control on the November ballot. Ryan Companies, Project for Pride in Living and CommonBond are all involved in the Highland Bridge development at the former Ford Motor Company site in Highland Park. Exeter, Dominion and JB Vang have all been involved in local development. Benanav and Khaliq are former City Council members. Bedor is a former director of the city’s Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Mayor Carter has indicated that he wants the city to have a permanent commission or board to monitor rent control over the long term.

Correction

The Ramsey County Board is supporting the Ramsey County Historical Society’s request for \$7.63 million in bonds for a Gibbs Farm Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life project during the 2022 state legislative session. A story in the February 23 issue of *MyVillager* misplaced the decimal point.



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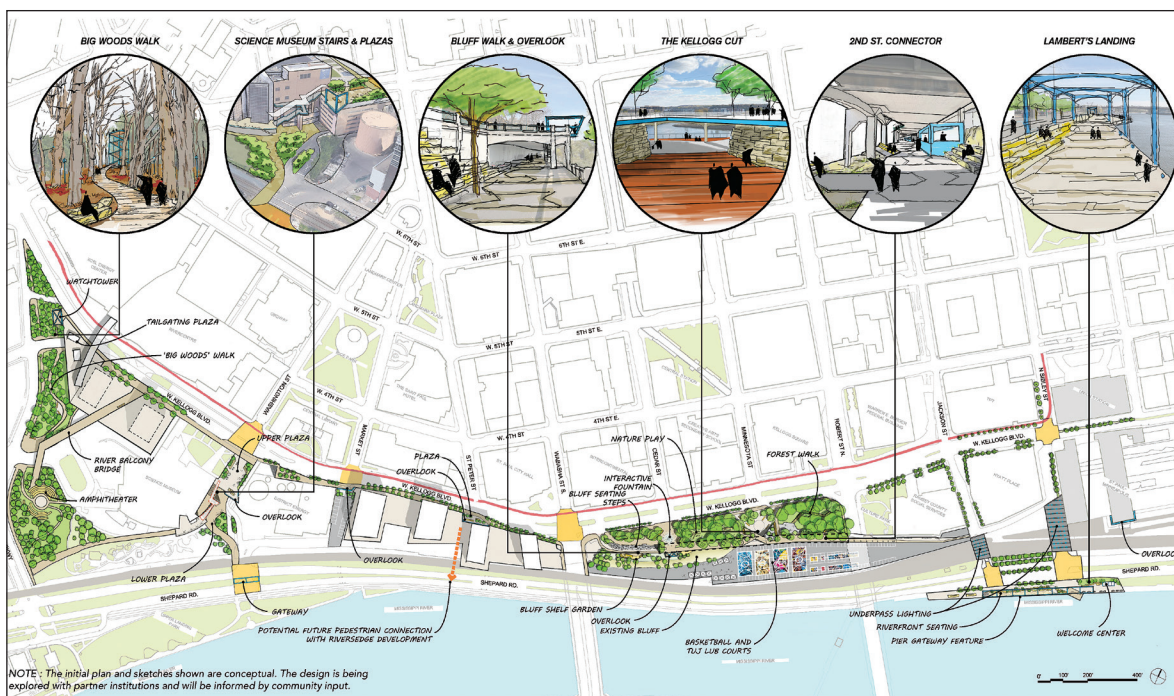
Preliminary design for downtown riverfront promenade unveiled

By JANE McCLURE

Preliminary designs for a 1.5-mile promenade along the Mississippi Riverfront in downtown Saint Paul received favorable reviews at a virtual unveiling on February 10. The so-called river balcony would extend from Upper Landing Park and the Science Museum of Minnesota to Lambert's Landing and Union Depot.

James Corner Field Operations of New York City has been working on the schematic with the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, Great River Passage, Saint Paul Parks Conservancy and other consultants. James Corner was involved in the creation of New York City's High Line, a 1.45-mile-long elevated greenway and trail on a former New York Central Railroad spur in Manhattan. The High Line attracts about 8 million visitors each year.

The design of the river balcony and promenade is about halfway completed, according to James Corner senior principal Lisa Switkin. She described how the planners have worked to "stitch together" existing and future attractions along the riverfront. The process has involved many challenges, including changes in topography and dealing with many different property owners. However, Switkin added, they were also pleased with the fea-



The proposed Mississippi Riverfront promenade would extend from the Upper Landing at left to Lambert's Landing at right.

tures and infrastructure that are already in place.

The river balcony would tie together several downtown attractions, including Ramsey County's \$800 million Riversedge development, which is planned for the bluff where West Publishing and the county jail once stood. Public surveys, walking tours and outreach to potential balcony users have informed the project, and more of that outreach is planned.

The public comments have been vital to the planners' work, according to Switkin. "The top priority we heard was connect-

ing people with the river," she said. Respondents have also felt strongly about having public spaces along the river and what she described as "quality" outdoor spaces. Some of the riverfront's current public spaces, such as Lambert's Landing, do not have many amenities, she added.

The surveys found that the top three desired uses for the riverfront are walking, getting something to eat and drink, and relaxing and enjoying the view. There is also a desire to enjoy activities focused on health. Another big

issue that came up is the need to consider public safety along Shepard Road.

About 2.9 million people are expected to visit the river balcony each year. While the park is seen as a popular attraction for visitors, studies indicate that most of its users will be residents of downtown and the West Side. Those neighborhoods are growing, not just in population but in diversity of age, income and ethnicity.

The preliminary designs suggest numerous features, including overlooks of the river valley,

a "tailgating plaza" across from Xcel Energy Center, and pedestrian connections to Upper Landing Park, Kellogg Mall Park, Lambert's Landing and a new amphitheater. Many amenities are included in the designs, such as seating, stairways, a fountain, a nature play area, a welcome center, and courts for playing basketball and tuj lub, a popular Hmong game. One idea is to close Second Street to motor vehicle traffic and open it up to pedestrians.

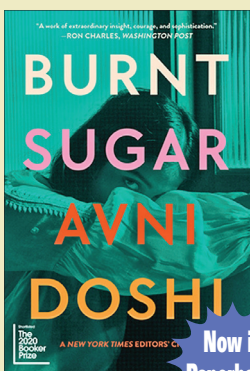
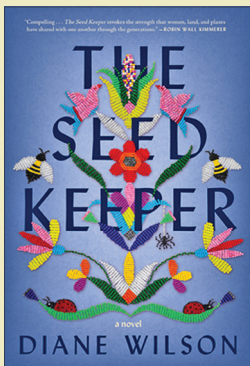
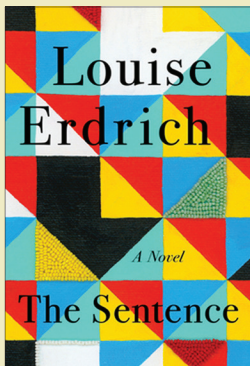
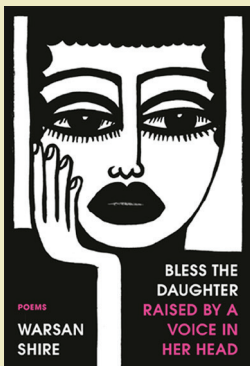
Spaces that are now fairly plain would be transformed. A sidewalk along Eagle Parkway would become the Big Woods Walk. What are now parking lots would be turned into places for recreation. Dark underpasses would be livened with lighting and public art. Several new pedestrian connections to the river would be provided.

Switkin said planners are just beginning to look at potential costs of the project. Another issue that will have to be sorted out is the governance of the space.

The river balcony project draws on the Great River Passage plan that the City Council adopted in 2013. That plan recommended \$300 million to \$500 million of new features and amenities along the 17 miles of Saint Paul's Mississippi riverfront.

For more information about the project, visit greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-balcony.

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Redrawing of city's seven wards is underway

By JANE MCCLURE

Saint Paul voters should know within a couple of weeks which City Council ward they will call home in the future. Proposed new ward and precinct boundaries will be addressed in public hearings before the Saint Paul Charter Commission on March 8, 11 and 16. The Charter Commission will then vote on the proposed boundaries. The City Council is expected to approve them on March 23.

The new boundaries are in response to the 2020 U.S. Census, which determined Saint Paul's population to be 311,527, up from 295,068 in 2010. That population must be divided equitably among the city's seven wards.

Cities are expected to have new ward and precinct boundaries in place by March 29, or 19 weeks before the 2022 primary election. The ward boundaries cannot be set until the boundaries of U.S. congressional and state House and Senate districts are drawn. The new state and federal district lines were announced on February 15 by a panel appointed by the

Minnesota Supreme Court.

Saint Paul's seven wards averaged 40,724 residents each following redistricting after the 2010 census. Since then, Wards 2, 6 and 7 have seen the most growth and Wards 3 and 5 have seen the least growth. The populations of the wards as of the 2020 census are 43,217 in Ward 1; 45,538 in Ward 2; 42,903 in Ward 3; 44,217 in Ward 4; 42,968 in Ward 5; 46,645 in Ward 6; and 46,039 in Ward 7. The average ward population is now 44,504.

The Saint Paul Charter Commission has been working on new ward and precinct boundaries with help from the consulting firm of Park Street Strategies, city clerk Shari Moore and Ramsey County Elections staff.

The Charter Commission must draw ward boundaries with precinct lines in mind as well as state and federal mandates for fair elections. The new wards should be as compact and contiguous as possible. Their boundaries should recognize established communities. They may take into account the borders of the city's 17 district councils. However, the

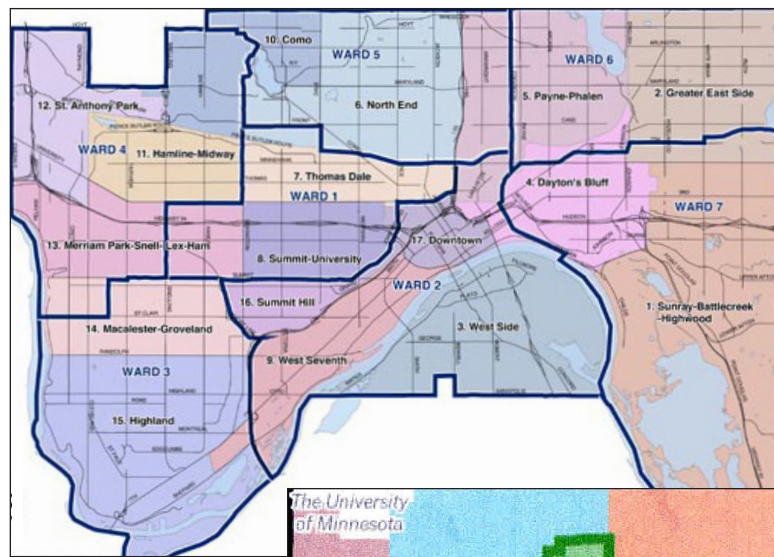
commission may not consider the current addresses of City Council members.

The Charter Commission's public hearings on ward redistricting will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in City Hall; 3 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St.; and 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in City Hall. For more information, visit stpaul.legistar.com/calendar.aspx.

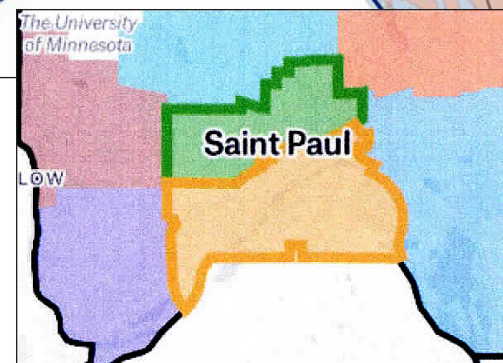
Changes to House and Senate Districts

With redistricting, the Fourth Congressional District has lost a section of Woodbury and an area north of Stillwater. However, the Saint Paul portion of the district has not changed.

State House District 64A has lost portions of Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway north of I-94 to House District 66A, but it now includes a corner of the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood, a portion of Summit-University south of Marshall Avenue and around the Saint Paul Cathedral, and areas of Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland.



The current boundaries of Saint Paul's seven wards (above), and a rough drawing of what the boundaries could look like under one of the suggested ward redistricting plans (right).



House District 64B has shifted slightly to the south and east. It lost parts of Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland, but now includes a portion of the West End neighborhood east of I-35E.

House District 65B lost that area east of I-35E and a piece of the North End, but it gained a

large section of West Saint Paul and an area north of the state Capitol. House District 65A has shifted slightly to the north and east, losing a chunk of Snelling-Hamline and a sliver of Summit-University but gaining an area north of the Capitol.

Town & Country Club declines UST's offer to purchase golf course

By JANE MCCLURE

Town & Country Club's storied 18-hole golf course will not be sold to the University of Saint Thomas to expand its campus and accommodate upgraded athletic facilities. The club's board of directors on February 22 rejected UST's unsolicited \$61.4 million offer just days after it became public.

UST moved up from NCAA Division III to Division I this school year, and is still seeking a new site for a hockey arena, softball and baseball fields and a training facility. Town & Country hired the law firm of Best & Flanagan to help it review the potential sale of the 94-acre golf course. Located at the northwest corner of Marshall and Cretin avenues, it is two short blocks from the UST campus.

In an initial email to members, club president Matt Winkel said the club leadership had "serious doubts" about the offer. The sale would have to be balanced against the club's main purpose of providing recreational and social functions for its members. Tax issues were another factor, given the windfall the club would receive through the sale. Then there was the question of the club's status as a nonprofit entity. Winkel said it was the duty of club leadership to examine the many issues raised and carefully analyze the UST proposal.

"Over the last week, the Town & Coun-

try Club board of directors carefully reviewed the UST proposal, explored questions related to the proposed transaction and, most importantly, listened to input from our members," club leadership stated on February 22. "Having completed that work, the board voted unanimously to reject the university's proposal and inform them that we have no interest in any further engagement on this topic. Town & Country Club is not for sale."

UST followed that up with a statement of its own. "We understand and respect this decision," said Andy Ybarra, UST associate vice president for public relations and communications. "We appreciate that Town & Country's leadership brought our interest forward to its membership, and we thank them for their consideration."

The first round of golf in Minnesota was played at Town & Country in 1893. The club, which was launched as a social organization near Lake Como in 1887, moved to its Merriam Park location in 1890.

The possibility that the golf course could be sold sparked a firestorm on social media. Many local residents wrote that they did not want to see UST's campus expand any further. The golf course has long been used by the public for sledding and dog walking. Concerns were also raised about game-day traffic and other disruptions. Some questioned why UST does not upgrade the facilities on its existing campus.

The purchase offer also raised questions for UST students and alumni. UST's student news source, Tommie Media, covering a February 21 meeting about UST finances, reported that university revenue has been affected in recent years by lower than anticipated enrollment. UST president Julie Sullivan said there will be no mass layoffs or cuts to employee compensation or benefits.

Two other significant hurdles stood in the way of the land sale. One was the conditional use permit under which UST operates. All colleges and universities in Saint Paul have conditional use permits, which among other things set campus boundaries.

UST's current boundaries were set in 2004 after a long and contentious fight with neighbors over campus expansion. While UST was allowed to expand onto the two blocks between Summit, Grand, Cleveland and Cretin avenues, it had to sell other properties it owned outside of the campus boundaries. Expanding the campus to include the golf course would have required going back to the Saint Paul Planning Commission and likely the City Council to amend its conditional use permit.

Another big issue for Town & Country Club members was their potential tax liability from the proceeds of a sale. Town & Country operates under a state property tax open space program, which al-

lows some taxes to be deferred. The club currently pays about \$185,000 per year in property taxes for the golf course and another \$120,000 for the club facilities directly across Otis Avenue from the course.

If the property were sold, that would require catching up on property taxes for seven years at a cost of \$12 million or more. The 300 or so club members would have received some kind of payment had the sale to UST been approved. The payment to each member had been estimated at \$160,000, but deferred taxes would have eaten up a big chunk of the proceeds.

The country club's decision now has Saint Thomas looking at other sites for new athletic facilities, including a 13.5-acre parcel at Highland Bridge in Highland Park. UST officials have met twice in recent months with the Highland District Council and Ryan Companies regarding its possible expansion on the former Ford Motor Company site and Canadian Pacific Railway yard.

UST's men's and women's hockey teams are currently playing about eight miles from campus in the arena at Saint Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights. UST's baseball diamond is on the original campus. Its soccer and softball fields overlap on the South (former Saint Paul Seminary) campus and that could cause conflicts in the future with games and practices, UST officials have said.

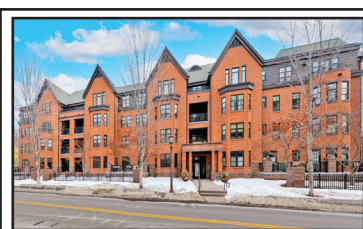
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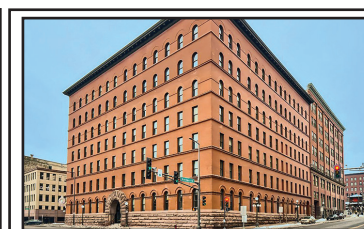
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Solar array atop former landfill could help power Highland Bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a large solar array on the site of a former landfill along the Mississippi River to power the Highland Bridge development just up the bluff is still being sorted out by Xcel Energy, master site developer Ryan Companies and legislative leaders.

State Representative David Pinto introduced legislation on March 3 to provide up to \$3 million for the project through the state's Renewal Development Account (RDA). If that funding is approved, Xcel Energy would have the resources to move the solar array if needed.

The 6-acre array would be the largest of its kind in the Twin Cities. It would be located on part of a 22-acre former Ford Motor Company landfill known as Area C. River advocacy and environmental groups have called for the buried contamination on the site to be excavated and removed.

"A concern with putting in the solar array at Area C is that it would be a disincentive to possibly remove materials buried at that site," Pinto said. He described the RDA funding request as an "insurance policy"



Area C (the circled area above) was used as a landfill for various waste starting in the 1940s.

that would allow the solar array to move ahead and yet have the resources available if it had to be relocated.

James Pearson, manager of community and state government affairs for Xcel, discussed the solar array and RDA funding with the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee in February. Committee members took no action and mainly asked technical questions about Highland Bridge's energy use and the RDA.

The solar array and adjacent hydroelec-

tric plant would be used to provide electricity throughout the 122-acre Highland Bridge. Some of the power produced on the site could also provide electricity for adjacent homes and businesses. No timeline for construction has been set.

Area C is a capped concrete area that most recently was used by Ford as a staging spot for motor vehicles. From 1945 to 1966 it was used as a disposal site for paint sludge and solvents used in Ford's vehicle painting process. The area continued to be used by Ford to dispose of construction debris, scrap metal, contaminated soil and other material.

In the late 1970s and early '80s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers disposed of a large volume of construction rubble and sand on top of and surrounding the industrial waste. Ford covered the construction rubble with a parking lot in the 1980s. Additional rubble from a Mississippi River Boulevard construction project was dumped there in the late '80s.

Groundwater samples have been collected at Area C since then and several monitoring wells were dug. It is feared that buried contaminants there continue to leach

into the river.

Ford, which still owns Area C, did an environmental investigation there in 2015-2016. Samples of industrial waste collected from soil borings and trenches were found to contain solvents, metals, asphalt-related compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls, all related to Ford's painting operations. Metals were present at high concentrations in the industrial waste, including antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc.

Groundwater contaminants include low concentrations of cobalt, mercury, cyanide and asphalt-related compounds.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) determined that the pollutants found in Area C's groundwater were well below levels that posed a risk to the river. Groundwater monitoring is ongoing at Area C, and surface water evaluation will be updated based on any new information, according to the MPCA.

The MPCA has requested that Ford evaluate a number of cleanup alternatives in a feasibility study. The study will not be submitted until the groundwater investigation at Area C has been completed.

Billy's hit with fine, more license requirements for code violations

The Saint Paul City Council decided on March 2 that Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., must pay a \$500 fine and adhere to additional license conditions following a city and police review of numerous "quality of life" calls related to the business, including disturbances, fights and assaults.

The adverse action followed a February 1 notice of violation. After a review of the calls, police requested exterior and inte-

rior surveillance videos on the dates the incidents were reported. They observed several city code violations, including a couple who were engaged in a sexual act, a large altercation inside the bar and a patron leaving the premises with an alcoholic beverage.

Billy's now has eight conditions attached to its licenses. The new conditions call for security personnel to be clearly identifiable and to conduct daily sweeps of the parking lot and exterior at least twice an hour from 10 p.m. until closing. Security must

stay until all patrons have left the property and all customers must be gone within 15 minutes of closing time. No alcoholic beverages are to leave the premises. When Billy's is open past 11 p.m., no patrons will be admitted 30 minutes prior to closing. Last call will also be 30 minutes prior to closing.

Existing conditions remain, including requirements on checking patron identification, adhering to occupancy limits, providing video surveillance and having a lighting placement plan.

The added license conditions will carry

over to any prospective new owner, said Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker. DWD Group LLC was seeking to have the business licenses transferred. That process was put on hold due to the latest violations. It will start again for any new party who operates under the previous owner's licenses.

Billy's on Grand is now looking at its fourth owner-operator in two years. DWD Group and neighbors have been at odds over several issues, including the continuance of a 2 a.m. closing time.



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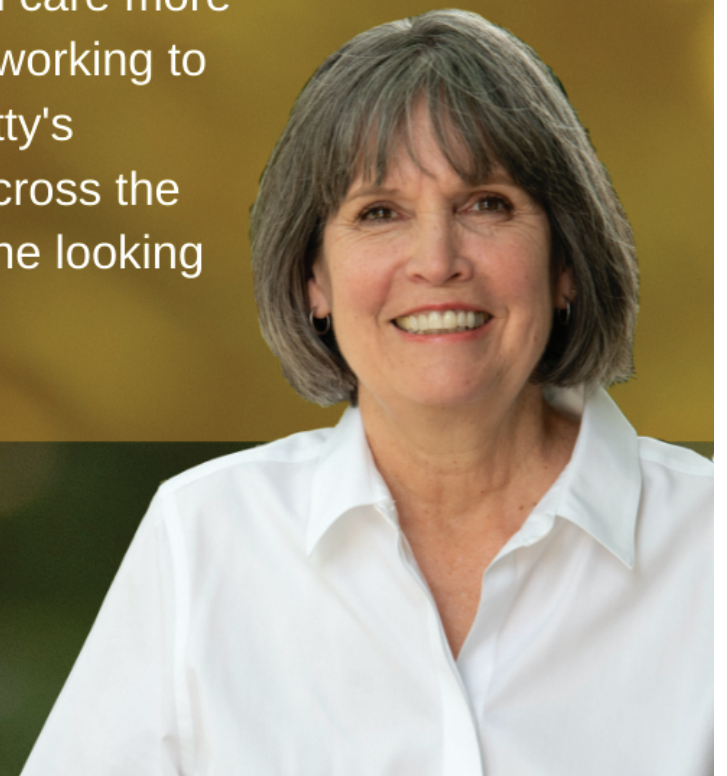
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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

Support student mental health

For years, the Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE), parents and community members have been clamoring to increase mental health support services in our public schools. One of the side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a sharp increase in the need for basic mental health services for students of all ages. At a time when the need for mental health services in our schools is at its greatest, it is ridiculous that the Saint Paul Public Schools administration refuses to fund this critical need at pre-pandemic levels with available federal American Rescue Plan funds.

One of the saddest statistics about the "COVID generation" is that they are or will be more likely to struggle with their emotional well-being, something inadequate mental health services in our schools fail to mitigate. Mental health staff-to-student ratios of 1-to-400 or more, and month-long waits to see a counselor, are no way to run a school whose mission is to help children make the transition to adulthood.

Budgets are tools to manage resources. Public school budgets need to reflect the priorities of the communities that fund them. Available resources need to be budgeted accordingly. When the house is burning is not the time to skimp on the water budget. While resources are being used to provide leadership pay raises, it is time to marshal some COVID-19 response resources to begin to meet this urgent need.

Educators partner with parents and the community to raise the next generation. In addition to looking out for our children's academic growth, educators look after our children's physical, mental and emotional health with dedication day in and day out. Now more than ever they are sounding the alarm. It is time for the community to join them and demand preventive measures to minimize future problems. Support SPFE in their negotiations with the school district for the sake of future generations.

*Miguel Lindgren
Highland Park*

Editor's note: The writer is the parent of a student in the Saint Paul Public Schools.

Better way to stop abortions

Roe vs. Wade was a necessary step in the ongoing process of allowing women to become full and equal partners and citizens. However, ever since that logical Supreme Court decision, anti-democratic forces have spent countless billions of dollars' worth of human and financial resources to deny women the right of bodily autonomy and self-determination. What if those billions

had been used to address the reasons (lack of affordable health care, struggling to make ends meet, a planet increasingly inhospitable to human life) why a woman would decide to end a pregnancy? Would not our society be much better off?

*Scott Raskiewicz
Macalester-Groveland*

Rubber-stamping urban sprawl

The British realized in the 1930s that London's urban development would eat up most of southeastern and central England if something wasn't done to stop it. An isolated park here or there would not accommodate the hundreds of thousands of people hungering for places to enjoy the natural world and the mental health benefits that accompany it. So they proposed a green belt of land around London to preserve some of the nature that was being devoured by developers and investors. In a capitalist society, money, development, asphalt and cement usually win. But in London, there were some successes, and unnecessary development projects were prevented in favor of appropriate development.

The Twin Cities, western Wisconsin and Minnesota have nothing resembling a thoughtful, cohesive development strategy that would force us to save what little bit of greenery we can. We sorely need to slow down or eliminate the rubber stamp that developers get, which helps to create urban sprawl and diminishes our quality of life. Our area is a natural paradise. If we're going to try to keep it this way and have something to leave our children, we must be a lot smarter in our approach to development.

*Greg Nayman
Highland Park*

For fuller view of vaccine data

Not only did *MyVillager* print a letter with incorrect data about COVID-19 vaccinations ("Cities' quality of life is slipping," Inbox, February 9), but you then compounded it by misstating the data in your own editor's note after the letter, "Taking issue with vaccine data" (Inbox, February 23).

Your editor's note stated that in December, "more than half of the Minnesotans who tested positive for COVID-19 had been vaccinated and a third of those who were hospitalized or died of COVID-19...had been vaccinated." While fully vaccinated patients may still get ill, be hospitalized and die from COVID-19, the important reality is that those who are not fully vaccinated are at increased risk of becoming infected, being hospitalized and dying from COVID-19.

The Minnesota Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Weekly Update breaks this all down. For December for all age groups older than 12 years old, those who were not fully vaccinated had more cases,

more hospitalizations and higher rates of death than those persons who were fully vaccinated. It is absolutely clear that being fully vaccinated reduces the risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19. I would urge everyone to get vaccinated.

*Dr. Sheldon Berkowitz
Summit Hill*

I realize *MyVillager* operates with limited space. That being said, it still has a responsibility to make editorial responses to letters to the editor factual (*MyVillager* Inbox, February 23). When the Mayo Clinic reports results of a study, any thinking individual would instantly say, "There's no way Mayo has results without CDC having equally authoritative results." For *MyVillager* to cite studies without context is spreading misinformation.

Nearly all of us have been vaccinated in our preschool days. The anti-vaccine people conveniently remain silent on that. Few of them have suffered from the vaccines required for entry to public schools. *MyVillager*, for journalistic integrity, should be citing that reality. Don't use your newspaper to polarize opinion if you wish my continued readership. That's the job of social media. Your job is to be an antidote to the massive harm to the world from social media.

*Jim Mork
Cooper, Minneapolis*

Editor's note: As we so often state, MyVillager welcomes letters to the editor. Our Viewpoint pages are an open marketplace of ideas; however, the views expressed are not the views of MyVillager. With all due respect to Dr. Berkowitz and Mr. Mork, our editor's note in the February 23 issue did not address the relative risks among the vaccinated and the unvaccinated of contracting COVID-19 or being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19. The only data to which that editor's note referred was the total number of fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated people who were contracting COVID-19 or were being hospitalized for COVID-19 according to the Minnesota Department of Health's weekly updates for vaccine breakthrough cases in December.

Waste not? Why not

"Zero Waste" is plastered in large letters across the recycling trucks in Saint Paul. I practice that. But the city implemented mandatory trash collection for all of us regardless, and punished those who practice zero waste. Go figure.

*Elizabeth Ellis
Summit-University*

Letters to the editor of *MyVillager* must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a phone number for verification purposes. Send your letter to *MyVillager*, 241 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105, email it to letters@myvillager.com or visit myvillager.com/editorial.

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School property transfer better later than never

By JANE McCLURE

Fifty-seven years after the Saint Paul Public Schools became legally separated from Saint Paul city government, the process of transferring property ownership to the school district is underway. The Saint Paul City Council on February 23 approved the transfer of the first six properties from the former Special School District of Saint Paul to Independent School District 625.



The old Edgcombe School is home to the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul and Cyber Village Academy.

A recent title search by school district staff identified 60 properties that have long been under the jurisdiction of the school district, but whose titles have remained in the city's name. A City Council resolution states that the school district requested that the city convey the school properties to the school district.

The transfers include Adams Spanish Immersion School at 615 S. Chatsworth St., Horace Mann Elementary at 2001 Eleanor Ave., the Highland Park Middle School-High School complex at Snelling and Montreal avenues, and the former Edgcombe School at 768 S. Hamline Ave.

About 60 properties will eventually be conveyed from the city to the school district. It is not clear why the properties were not transferred to the district back in 1965, when the Minnesota Legislature approved the separation of school district and city

government, forming District 625. According to the legislation, transferring the property ownership to the school district was to have been part of the process.

City real estate and school officials have described the property transfers as technical steps toward clearing up land titles. The school district has maintained the properties since 1965, said district spokesperson Kevin Burns.

"It's a title change exercise," said Bruce Engelbrekt, real estate manager for the city.

As part of the transfer, the school district is providing title evidence and maps of the properties. The City Council action directs city staff to convey the properties to the district by quit claim deed.

Of the local schools involved in the first round of title transfers, Adams is the oldest, built in 1924. Horace Mann dates from 1930, and the school at Edgcombe from 1931. Highland Junior High first opened to students in 1957.

Edgcombe now houses the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul and Cyber Village Academy. When that property was sold to Talmud Torah in 1989, neighbors unsuccessfully sued to block the sale.

UPDC committee recommends five-story Selby Flats

By JANE McCLURE

Merriam Park neighbors appear to have fallen short in their effort to influence a proposed five-story apartment building at 1708-16 Selby Ave. With a split vote on February 28, the Union Park District Council (UPDC) land use committee rejected the neighbors' request to push for further revisions to developer Jon Schwartzman's plan for Selby Flats. Most committee members said they believe the project should move forward.

The Saint Paul City Council in December approved Schwartzman's request to rezone 1708 Selby from commercial use to multifamily housing. The two parcels immediately to the west are currently occupied by single-family rental homes, but they were already zoned for multifamily housing.

Schwartzman has not submitted a formal site plan to city staff; however, the UPDC and the neighbors have seen a general plan. Schwartz-

man's intent is to build 38-40 studio and one-bedroom apartments on the second through fifth floors and 17-19 parking spaces on the first floor. The apartments would have "Juliet-style" balconies that do not extend out from the building.

Schwartzman's project has sparked a debate throughout the neighborhood over the future of Selby between Fairview and Snelling avenues. Schwartzman acknowledged the concerns of neighbors, but said he is not willing to lower the height of the building or otherwise modify his plans.

Most of the units will be market-rate, he said, although at least four will offer some level of affordability, something on which the UPDC insisted before supporting Schwartzman's rezoning request.

Schwartzman has said he will make about 10 percent of the apartments affordable to households making 60 percent of the Twin Cities area median income, or about \$62,940 per year for a family of four and \$44,100 for a

single person. Committee members asked him for deeper affordability.

Neighbors said they should have been able to see Schwartzman's plans before the Selby Avenue lot was rezoned and that their concerns did not receive a fair hearing. However, Schwartzman said his plans depended on the rezoning. If he had not been able to rezone 1708 Selby, he said he would have constructed an apartment building at 1712 and 1716 Selby and reserved 1708 Selby for parking.

The proposed five-story building will be set back 10 feet from the rear property line. That block between Selby and Hague Avenue has no alley. Several neighbors hosted an open house this winter to show how the building will tower over their homes.

"When I look out of my front door, this building will block my view of the sky," said Hague resident Steve LeBeau. He said that while the two rental homes that will be replaced by the apartment building may be eyesores, the new building will surely be one.

MyVillager

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Volume 70, Number 1

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tom Guelcher, shown here creating a spindle on a lathe, has been doing custom work for decades.



Macalester-Groveland resident Tom Guelcher of Turning Point Woodworks holds spindles he crafted from scratch in his Minneapolis workshop. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Restoring the past

Proud woodworkers keep on turning old into usable again

By FRANK JOSSI

Tom Guelcher ran a successful painting company with seven employees in the 1980s before his attention turned to woodworking, the eventual primary focus of his career.

Guelcher, a Macalester-Groveland resident, has stayed busy ever since as the owner of Turning Point Woodworks, 1270 Grand Ave. Clients call him to create balustrades for staircases, spindles, railings, fireplace mantels, porch restorations, column bases, furniture repair and structural pieces for historic homes.

"It's a lot of custom work," Guelcher said. "I do odd stuff that nobody else does."

He aptly describes a profession that is largely in the background of many home improvement projects, but plays a crucial role in them. Two other local woodworkers also live and often have clients in the area. Tom Henly runs TC Woodworks at 797 Selby Ave. and Paul Johnson runs HandMod, formerly in the Keg & Case Market on West Seventh Street, but now selling out of the new Dayton's Project in Minneapolis.

Guelcher and Henly have decades of

woodworking experience, often re-creating architectural features of historic properties. Johnson uses only reclaimed wood for building coffee and dining tables, doors, storage bins and accent walls. He also works with artists to build frames that are works of art in themselves.

Guelcher, 62, said he initially excelled at painting, winning the first American Painting Contractor contest in 1997 that came with \$5,000 in cash and materials. He won again in 2002, the same year he published a piece in *Old House Journal* about the restoration project he did for a Minneapolis bungalow.

He has kept his painting equipment in storage "just in case a big, big job comes along." Otherwise, he said he is mainly getting hired to work with other contractors on big projects or alone on smaller ones. He works on both commercial and residential buildings.

"I do a lot of older home replication, including architectural parts for vintage structures," he said. "And I'm always busy."

Henly, 73, of Summit Hill, has been certified by Ramsey and Hennepin counties as a Victorian house specialist for windows,

doors, railings and spindles. "I make those things for a lot of historic houses, especially on and around Summit Avenue," he said. "That's my specialty."

Clients come to Henly because few people do woodworking for historic homes. He tackles such tasks as adjusting a 1,000-pound pocket door and adding new sashes to double-hung windows.

Trim and old windows always have been made of clear white pine, a plentiful wood that has not been hard to find. "I try to keep (the restoration) real," Henly said.

While he works with individual homeowners, Henly has had plenty of projects come through Ramsey County foreclosures. The county hires him to fix up the homes and he is currently working on two of them, one in Merriam Park.

"Those are big jobs to go in there and fix all the things that are broken or need repair before the homes can be put on the market," he said.

Johnson, 41, of the Midway area, started HandMod four years ago. His handmade furniture and decor are built from old wood removed by a fencing company and

by his brother's decking company. In addition, his parents' farm in Saint Michael has "truckloads" of material his father has collected over 40 years of being in the contracting business.

"Everything I make comes from reclaimed materials," Johnson said. That has been an advantage for his business and his customers since he pays nothing for the wood, which has skyrocketed in price over the past few years. His projects include accent walls, sliding barn doors and many different pieces of furniture with a seasoned grain look.

Sometimes Johnson paints the wood to give it a weathered, distressed appearance. Other times he sands it down to a smooth finish.

"The patina is really unique," he said. "What's neat is that the wood has been out in the sun for many seasons. It's often 20 to 30 years old."

Johnson also works with artists. "I make frames for their art," he said. "What I do is take the art and transfer it on to hardboard and then frame the piece around the art. They're basically wooden box frames."





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Annual meeting and elections—The Highland District Council’s annual meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at Lumen Christi, 2055 Bohland Ave. The meeting will include the start of online elections for board members. A virtual option will be available in addition to the in-person event. For information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2022election.

Board candidates sought—The HDC will hold online elections for representatives to the board of directors from April 7-12. Up for election will be one representative for each of the even-numbered grids, along with two at-large and one at-large alternate position. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Virtual information sessions for prospective board members will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Learn more at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/2022election.

Overdose prevention training—The Highland and Macalester-Groveland community councils will hold an hour-long virtual presentation by Steve Rummier of HOPE Network about the opioid crisis and recognizing and reversing an overdose at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. The Zoom link can be found at tinyurl.com/384muhmt.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, March 28. Meetings are now being held in-person, with the option to join online via Zoom. Check highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar for meeting links.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Annual meeting—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will host a virtual annual meeting via Zoom from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Those who participate will be able to learn more about the neighborhood, meet candidates for the board of directors and connect with current grid representatives. Everyone who lives, works, learns or recreates in the neighborhood is invited. Email mgcc@macgrove.org.

Board elections—The application period for candidates interested in running for the community council’s board of directors will run from March 17-April 14. Board elections will take place from April 21-28. The next board informational session will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, via Zoom. Visit macgrove.org/boardelections.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors on Thursday, March 10; Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, March 16; Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, March 23; Transportation Committee on Monday, March 28; and Community Building Team on Monday, April 11. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. To receive monthly notices and log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Spring plant sale—Support the Summit Hill Association by purchasing plants through its spring plant sale. Orders are due by April 7 and will be delivered to the Linwood Recreation Center on April 29. For information, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/donate.

1-4 Unit Housing Study—Saint Paul is asking residents for their opinion on options for adding more housing in the city via a survey at engagstpaul.org/1to4housingstudy.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10; Zoning and Land Use Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15; Streetscape Committee, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16; Racial Dialogue and Action Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, March 21; and Neighborhood Plan Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. For updates and information to participate in the Zoom meetings, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park resource map—The Union Park District Council is beginning preliminary work on a map of resources in the neighborhood. Those who know of an establishment or organization that they consider vital to the quality of life in the neighborhood are being asked to email jonah@unionparkdc.org.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 14; Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. See unionparkdc.org/calendar for the Zoom links.

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

Board elections—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation’s board of directors will elect a new president, first and second vice presidents, and treasurer at its annual meeting on Tuesday, April 26. In addition, board seats are open for one coordinator for each of three geographical areas. Those seats must be filled by renters, though a homeowner or business owner position may open up in Area 1. People interested in these volunteer positions are invited to fill out the self-nomination form on the website. Candidates must be 16 or older and live, own property or own a business in the area served by the Fort Road Federation.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, March 14; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17. For meeting details, see fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

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Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For more reports not in this print edition, go to MyVillager.com.

Highland Park

Burglary—Burglaries were reported at Caribou Coffee, 2340 W. Seventh St., on February 22; Speedway, 1580 Ford Pkwy., on February 24; and Haskell's Liquor, 2221 Ford Pkwy., on February 26.

—A burglary was reported on the 1600 block of Juno Avenue on February 24-28.

—Power tools were reported stolen from a storage unit of an apartment building on the 500 block of South Lexington Parkway around 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 1.

Theft—A man was found passed out in a stolen vehicle on the 1800 block of Highland Parkway at 6:59 a.m. Tuesday, February 22. Officers tried to call him out of the vehicle when he woke up and sped away.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A break-in was reported at the YWCA Apartments, 95 N. Lexington Pkwy., between February 3-16.

Theft—A 22-year-old man was arrested for felony theft at the Midway Target on February 16, and a 30-year-old man was arrested for theft and obstructing the legal process at the store on February 21.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Patagonia, 1648 Grand Ave., was broken into at 5:08 a.m. Sunday, February 20.

Theft—A 36-year-old man was arrested for breaking into the Summit View Apartments, 1329 Grand Ave., and stealing packages valued in excess of \$1,000 around

12:11 p.m. Wednesday, February 16.

Assault—Employees at Subway, 1820 Grand Ave., were reportedly attacked with pepper spray by a suspect around 6:08 p.m. Saturday, February 19.

Weapons—A male shot himself in the leg on the 200 block of South Fairview Avenue at 2:14 p.m. Sunday, February 27. He was brought to the hospital by medics.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A theft by swindle was reported on the 1000 block of Delaware Avenue on February 11. Police said an elderly couple were tricked into thinking their grandson was in jail and needed cash. They sent \$8,500 to the thief via FedEx.

—A suspect made off with a bag of lottery tickets from the counter of a business on the 1800 block of Highway 62 at 9:41 a.m. Monday, February 14.

Merriam Park

Fatal car crash—Salvador Juan Battles, 31, of Macalester-Groveland was charged with felony criminal vehicular homicide after he reportedly ran a red light at Marshall and Cretin avenues and T-boned another vehicle, killing 25-year-old Isiah Desmond Valle Kirk, around 2:18 a.m. Saturday, February 26. Battles was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. A fundraiser was set up for Valle Kirk at gofundme.com/f/isiah-desmond-valle-kirk-funeral-services.

Murder charge—Feysal Jama Ali, 16, of Minneapolis was charged in Ramsey County Juvenile Court on February 22 with two counts of aiding and abetting second-degree murder in connection with the shooting of Otis Rodney Elder on North

Prior Avenue on January 10.

Burglary—A home was reportedly broken into and ransacked on the 1800 block of Portland Avenue on February 27-28.

Assault—A 59-year-old man was arrested for felony assault after he reportedly threatened staff with a large knife at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., around 1:31 p.m. Tuesday, March 1.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was listed in critical condition after being struck by a vehicle on Cleveland and Saint Anthony avenues at 6:23 p.m. Sunday, February 20.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A male was robbed of his vehicle at gunpoint at the Midway Cub Foods at 3:55 a.m. Sunday, February 27.

Burglary—Two dirt bikes were reported stolen from an underground parking garage at the Vintage on Selby, 1555 Selby Ave., at 10:41 a.m. Thursday, February 17.

Assault—A male was assaulted and stabbed on University and Snelling avenues at 5:01 p.m. Sunday, February 27. He was treated at Regions Hospital.

Miscellaneous—An intoxicated 43-year-old woman was cited for trespassing after she was found passed out in the bathroom at the Midway Cub Foods around 12:55 p.m. Monday, February 28.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Perrier Liquor, 666 Grand Ave., was broken into at 2:39 a.m. Thursday, February 17.

—Apartment burglaries were reported on Avon Street and Grand Avenue on February 21, on the 1100 block of Grand on February 21, and on the 800 block of Grand on February 25-26.

Summit-University

Robbery—A carjacking was reported on the 500 block of Selby Avenue around 1:39 p.m. Monday, February 28.

Theft—Guns were reported stolen from vehicles on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue on February 17, and the 500 block of Summit Avenue on February 25.

Assault—A woman was the victim of an assault with a gun on Dale Street and Laurel Avenue on Saturday, February 26.

Weapons—A woman said a bullet was fired through her living room window and struck the opposing wall of her unit at the Selby Commons Apartments, 180 N. Milton St., at 4 a.m. Tuesday, February 22.

West End

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported at Speedway, 1125 W. Seventh St., at 10:55 a.m. Friday, February 25.

Burglary—A 27-year-old man was arrested for breaking into the Victoria Park Apartments, 1425 Victoria Way, around 10:03 p.m. Monday, February 28.

Theft—A stolen vehicle was recovered on the 300 block of Spring Street on February 20. All four wheels were missing.

—A 37-year-old man who was threatening staff at Freedom House, 296 W. Seventh St., was arrested for felony theft at 6:10 p.m. Sunday, February 27.

Miscellaneous—Someone climbed on the roof and damaged a security camera at Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, 286 W. Seventh St., at 11:51 a.m. Friday, February 18.

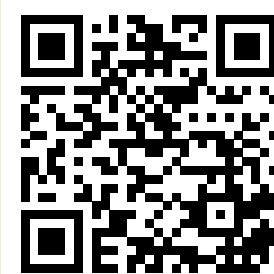
—A motorist reported that he was driving on the 800 block of West Seventh Street when a male walked up to his car, asked for a cigarette and then smashed his windows at 7:34 p.m. Monday, February 28.



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ON THE TOWN

Tribute to 'a giant in the music world'

Beauty of Dale Warland's Singers resounds in March 13 concert

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

In this part of the country where choirs are as ubiquitous as cornfields, Dale Warland stands as a colossus among choral directors. The founder and for 32 years the director of the Dale Warland Singers, Warland turns 90 this month and will be honored with the concert program, "Dale Warland at 90: A Legacy Celebration," at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in Orchestra Hall.

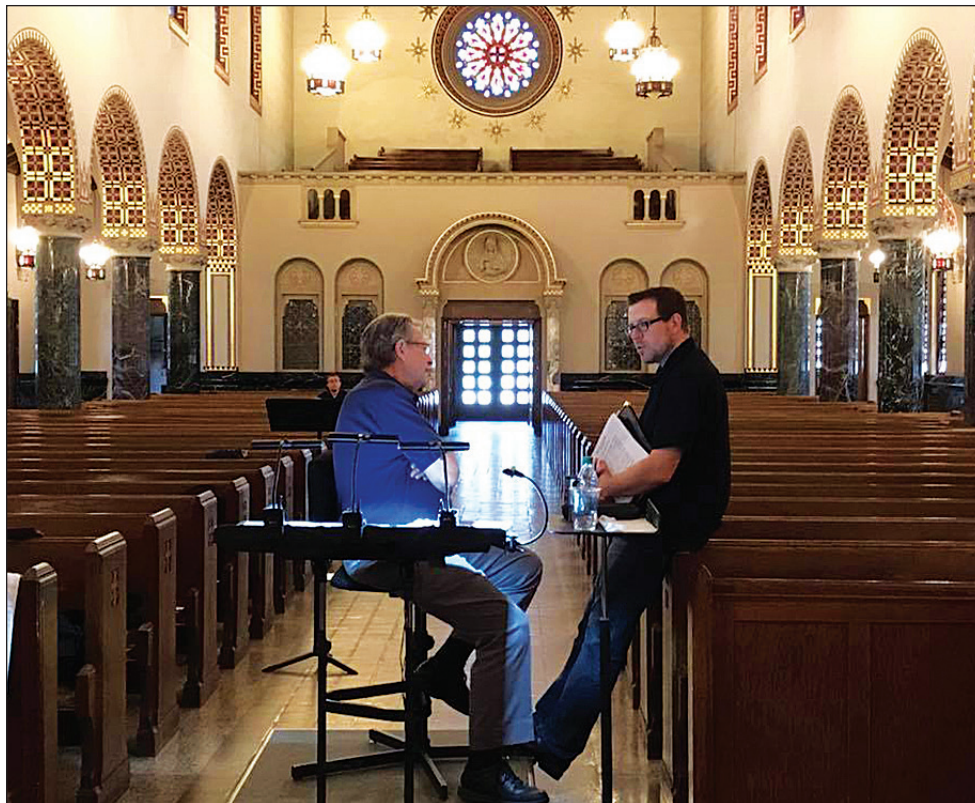
Warland is one of only three choral conductors to be inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. A longtime resident of Macalester-Groveland who now lives in Highland Park, he was raised on a farm near Fort Dodge, Iowa, and embraced singing as a youngster in his one-room country schoolhouse.

Warland first directed a choir in high school for a student musical. "I couldn't have been happier conducting in Carnegie Hall," he recalled. He directed the Viking Chorus while he was a student at Saint Olaf College, and during his military service he directed a choir of officers and enlisted men. After earning a master's degree at the University of Minnesota and a doctorate at the University of Southern California, he arrived at Macalester College where he taught from 1967 to 1986 and was the director of choral activities.

He started the Dale Warland Singers (DWS) in 1972. The Walker Art Center had invited him to put together a professional choir to perform a program of 20th century repertoire. "I organized an ongoing choir and, for identity, tacked my name on it," he said. The 40-voice ensemble quickly became known for its incomparable sound and exquisite performances.

DWS toured both nationally and internationally, made close to 30 recordings, commissioned 270 new compositions, was nominated for a Grammy, and won several prestigious awards. Warland disbanded the group in 2004, but he has continued to compose, conduct and consult and to promote contemporary composers.

The concert on March 13 will feature The Singers under the direction of Matthew



Fellow choir directors Dale Warland (left) and Matthew Culloton conferred during a rehearsal of the Minnesota Beethoven Festival Chorale at Saint Mary's Church in Winona in 2016. PHOTO BY NAOMI STARUCH

Culloton. The program will open with "Always Singing" written by Warland. Four sets will follow, arranged under the titles of four favorite DWS albums: "Cathedral Classics," "Argento," "Choral Currents" and "Blue Wheat."

The concert will also include "I Hate and I Love," a piece by Dominick Argento commissioned by DWS; several arrangements of folk music; and an eclectic Mass by composers from around the world.

In the second half of the program, The Singers will be joined by a chorus of 80 or more DWS alumni—just a subset of the 355 singers who lent their voices to Warland's ensemble over its 32 years. They will sing two DWS favorites, "O Magnum Mysterium" by Morten Lauridsen and "The Road Home" by the late Stephen Paulus.

These will be followed by the world premiere of "Changed by Beauty," a composition commissioned in Warland's honor with the support of 150 donors. The four-

movement work for chorus and cello was written by The Singers' composer-in-residence Timothy C. Takach with lyrics by Brian Newhouse, the host of Minnesota Orchestra broadcasts and a resident of Summit Hill.

"Dale Warland once mentioned to me that 'nothing is stronger than beauty,'" said Newhouse, a former member of DWS. "As Dale's 90th birthday approached, I wanted to somehow celebrate this artist who has created so much beauty in the world."

"Singing under Dale's leadership has been a life-changing experience for many," said Culloton, who sang with the DWS for five years. "Very few artistic directors have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of beauty the way Dale did."

"The magic of the DWS was the sound," said Rica Van, a founding member who sang alto with the chorus for 16 years. "It's never been replicated anywhere." Van re-

"Dale could chase the perfect crescendo or the quietest pianissimo for 30 minutes at a time. It could drive you bonkers if you were singing, but the joy was infectious."

called rehearsing Handel's "Messiah" at Orchestra Hall with Robert Shaw as guest conductor. "At one point, Shaw lowered his baton and said, 'My gosh, that's an incredible sound!'" Van said.

"Dale could chase the perfect crescendo or the quietest pianissimo for 30 minutes at a time," Culloton said. "It could drive you bonkers if you were singing, but the joy was infectious."

Warland is "recognized throughout the music world as a giant," Van said. "The Dale Warland Singers totally made my life wonderful. These were musicians and people who knew good music and knew how to sing correctly, and we had such a fine teacher. I'm glad this concert is happening to celebrate him."

Culloton, in addition to leading the bass section, served as DWS's music librarian and as assistant conductor and music adviser to Warland during the ensemble's final years. Shortly after Warland disbanded the group, Culloton formed The Singers. While many of the original members of The Singers were DWS alumni and five of those singers are still with the group, Culloton was quick to point out that The Singers has its own identity and has never been a DWS redux.

"Dale is one of the most influential people in my life, personally and professionally," Culloton said. "I wanted to celebrate his long-lasting legacy of musical excellence and his impact on choral music in Minnesota and far beyond. A 90th birthday celebration was the perfect opportunity to thank and honor him."

Tickets for "Dale Warland at 90" are priced from \$5-\$45 and available by calling 651-917-1948 or visiting singersmca.org. The concert will also be broadcast live on Minnesota Public Radio.



An Irish Elvis showed up at the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2013 in downtown Saint Paul. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

St. Pat's Parade returns to downtown

Saint Paul's beloved Saint Patrick's Day Parade is back in full swing this year, after having been called off in 2020 due to the pandemic and then reduced to a drive-through parade in 2021.

This year, the parade will step out at noon Thursday, March 17, but with a reversal to its traditional route. The shenanigans will begin at Rice Park and travel down Fifth Street to Mears Park. Leading this year's parade will be Mr. Pat Peter Kenefick of Emmett's Public House, Distinguished Irish Woman Katie Stephens Spangler of the Rince na Chroi Irish dancers, Grand Marshal Zophia Raleigh (the 2020-2021 Miss Shamrock), Celebrity Grand Marshal Miss Minnesota 2021 Elle Mark and Honorary Irishman Dr. Randy Stinchfield of Summit Hill.

Following the parade, the Saint Patrick Association is inviting revelers to head straight to CHS Field for the Ballpark Hooley presented by Guinness from 12:30-4 p.m. The party will feature live music by The Notherly Gales and Tim Sigler, the Rince Na Chroi Irish dancers, and plenty of Irish food and drinks.

Admission to the Hooley (which is Irish for party) is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door and free for children

5 and younger. There also is a \$40 VIP luncheon at the field clubhouse featuring a buffet of Irish favorites and cash bar. For information and tickets, visit stpatismn.org.

Other celebrations taking place in honor of the wearing 'o the green include:

- The Irish Music and Dance Association will present its annual Irish Day of Dance from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at Landmark Center. The festivities will continue on Saint Patrick's Day with a celebration of Irish music, dance, food and crafts from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, March 17. Admission to either event is \$5-\$7, free for children 5 and under. Masks and proof of COVID vaccination or a negative test within the previous 72 hours are required. Call 651-292-3063 or visitlandmarkcenter.org.

- The 2022 Miss Shamrock Coronation will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Minnesota Music Cafe, 501 Payne Ave. The celebration will feature the Brian Boru bagpipers, Rince Na Chroi dancers, Irish dignitaries and more. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Seating is first-come, first-served.

ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Have a yen for writing? Join the writers group that gathers at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., and receive constructive criticism of your works in progress. For information, contact ronno062@umn.edu or jdccllette@aol.com.

Theater

Six Points Theater is presenting three new plays in filmed-on-stage readings via pay-per-view through March 20. The festival includes *The Book of Vashiti*, a play by Barbara Field that turns the Old Testament story of Esther on its head; Jessica Fechter's *Book of Hours*, a meditation on loss, grief, love and living; and *Groupthink*, Mathew Goldstein's fast-paced satire on business, politics and being human. Tickets at \$12 for each show or \$30 for all three. Visit sixpointstheater.org or call 651-647-4315.

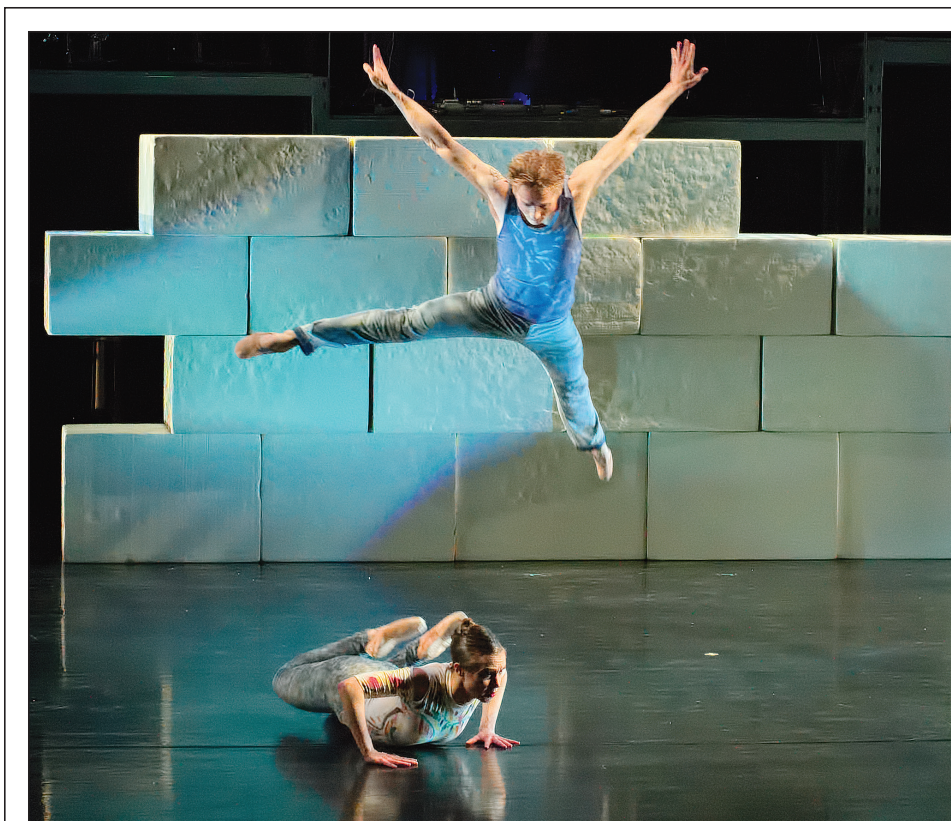
Saint Paul's new Mariah Theatre makes its stage debut with *The Big Blue River*, a dark comedy about a psychotherapist who draws on her clients' confidential sessions for her new endeavour as a writer of fiction. Written and directed by West End resident Patrick Coyle, the drama is playing at 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, now through March 27, at the North Garden Theater, 929 W. Seventh St. Gini Adams, Jim Cunningham and Derek Long star. Tickets are \$20-\$35. Visit mariahtheatre.com or call 651-805-3710.

Waitress, a touring production of the Broadway musical that celebrates friendship, motherhood and the magic of a well-made pie, is being performed from March 8-13 at the Ordway Music Theater. *Waitress* tells of a hard-working woman trapped in an unhappy marriage. Jisel Soleil Ayon stars as Jenna, Dominique Kent plays Becky and Gabriella Marzetta is Dawn. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$44. For reservations and information on COVID protocol, visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Thurgood, a one-man show about the first Black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, will open on March 10 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Lester Purry stars as Thurgood Marshall, renowned jurist, storyteller and architect of the case that desegregated American public schools. Lou Bellamy directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays through March 27. Tickets are \$15-\$40 reserved. Visit penumbratheatre.org or call 651-224-3180.

Orlando, an adaptation by Sarah Ruhl of the novel by Virginia Woolf, will be performed by Theatre Pro Rata from March 12-27 at the Crane Theater, 2303 Kennedy St. NE in Minneapolis. Directed by Carin Bratlie Wethern, the drama addresses gender, sexuality, identity and freedom in ways both blithe and earnest. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and Monday, March 14. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale from \$5-\$61. Reservations are required. Visit theatrepro.rata.org.

Jelly's Last Jam, the story of Jelly Roll Morton, the classically trained pianist who spread the sounds of ragtime, blues and jazz from the back alleys of New Orleans to the dance halls and clubs of Chicago and New York, will open on April 2 at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE in Minneapolis. The Tony Award-winning musical is being



Another trick for 'The Wall.'

A ballet set to the music of Pink Floyd's 1979 album "The Wall" will be performed by the Twin Cities Ballet at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12 and 13, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. The band Momentary Lapse of Floyd will provide the live score for this story of a transformative journey of loss, isolation, insanity and redemption. Tickets are \$37.50-\$52.50. Visit twincitiesballet.org or call 651-290-1200. PHOTO BY THOMAS MCCARTNEY

produced by Theatre Latté Da under the direction of Kelli Foster Warder. Reese Britts stars as Jelly Roll Morton, and Andre Shoals plays the Chimney Man. Following previews at 7:30 p.m. March 30-April 1, 32 evening and matinee performances are scheduled through May 8. Tickets start at \$35. Call 612-339-3003 or visit latteda.org.

Film

Don't Break Down, the 2017 documentary about the influential American punk band Jawbreaker, will be screened by Sound Unseen at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Eleven years after the band's breakup in 1996, members Blake Schwarzenbach, Chris Bauermeister and Adam Pfahler reunite in a recording studio to reminisce, listen to their music and perform together. Tickets are \$12. Visit soundunseen.com.

Music

The Minnesota Sinfonia will be joined by Israeli pianist Alon Goldstein in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 19 in F Major on March 11 and 12. The free concerts will begin at 7 p.m. Friday at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave., and at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 1600 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis. Children are welcome. Visit mnsinfonia.org.

The legendary rock band Journey will bring its Freedom Tour 2022 to the Xcel Energy Center at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 14. Special guest is Toto. For tickets, visit xcelenergycenter.com.

Djembe Joy, a class in hand drumming for beginners, will be offered from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$10. Drums are provided. Masks are required. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

Czech composer Jan Dismas Zelenka's Requiem will be performed on Saturday, March 19, by the Lyra Baroque Orchestra and the Grinnell Singers under the direction of John Rommereim. Two concerts are scheduled— at 5:30 and

7:30 p.m. in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Soloists include Linh Kauffman, Jeffrey Brich, Suzanne Lommler and Nicholas Miguel. Tickets are \$5-\$30. Visit lyrabaroque.org or call 651-321-2214.

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., will play host to concerts by singer-songwriter Ellis Delaney celebrating her latest album, "Ordinary Love," at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 19 (tickets are \$20); versatile multi-instrumentalists Moors & McCumber at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 24 (\$25); and folk trio House of Hamill at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26 (\$20). Call 651-645-2647 or visit ginkgocoffee.com.

The Seward Concert Band will roll out the red carpet with music from stage and silver screen on Friday, March 25. Orchestral classics, operatic gems and cartoon scores will all be performed in concert at 7 p.m. in Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is by the suggested donation of \$6, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for students. Call 612-454-0119.

Flamenco guitarist Grisha Goryachev will perform compositions by Paco de Lucia, Sabicas and other masters in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. A native of Saint Petersburg, Russia, Goryachev is helping to revive the tradition of solo flamenco guitar, performing masterpieces that otherwise can only be heard on recordings. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Visit mnguitar.org or call 612-677-1151.

Czech pianist Lukáš Vondráček will perform works by Schubert and Schumann in a Chopin Society recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 27, in Mairs Hall in the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$40, \$20 for students if available 30 minutes prior to the show. Call 612-822-0123 or visit chopinsocietymn.org.

Organist David Hurd of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Times Square will perform an eclectic program of compositions and improvisations at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A reception will

follow the recital. Admission is free, though donations will be taken. Visit mountolivechurch.org.

Black Violin, the Grammy-nominated duo known for its blend of classical and hip-hop music, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at the Ordway Music Theater. Violist Wil B and violinist Kev Marcus' distinctive sound has been described as "a classical boom." Tickets for their show start at \$45. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Family

Travel to Peru without leaving Saint Paul. Landmark Center's Urban Expedition program will immerse folks in the music, dance, cuisine and crafts of that South American country from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 20. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

Exhibits

"Reverberating Bodies," the work of Vietnamese-American artists Christine Nguyen and Dao Strom, is being displayed through March 20 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at Saint Catherine University. Nguyen pairs large paintings with a porcelain mobile to illustrate the interconnectedness of nature and the cosmos. Strom combines poetry, music, imagery and video to address displacement, myth and memory. A reception for the artists will be held from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

"Art Speaks," an exhibit of more than 150 paintings, sculptures, photographs and other objects from the Minnesota Historical Society collection, is being displayed through July 31 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The display includes portraits, landscapes, abstract and contemporary art by Charles Beck, Cameron Booth, Patrick Desjarlait, Mike Kareken, Clara Mairs, Teo Nguyen, Carolyn Olson, Patricia Olson, Bobby Rogers and others. Admission to the History Center is \$12, \$10 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Visit minnesotahistorycenter.org or call 651-259-3000.

"Documenting a Reckoning: The Murder of George Floyd" will open on March 17 at the Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. Through 54 images taken by professional and amateur photographers, the exhibit illustrates 11 long months in the history of the Twin Cities, from the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, to the guilty verdict of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin on April 20, 2021. An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 1. It will include a panel discussion with New York Times photo editor Brent Lewis, photographers Octavio Jones and Gene Garvin and others whose work is featured in the exhibit. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available. The exhibit will remain on view through June 5. Admission is free.

A craft fair featuring the works of more than 30 artisans will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Admission is free.

More than two dozen artists working in painting, photography, pottery, jewelry and fiber will display their art for show and sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 26, in the Olympic Room at the Oval skating center, 2661 Civic Center Drive in Roseville. Admission is free.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Calling a foul on fans' comments

The Highland Park High School boys' basketball team welcomed their Central High counterparts to the Scots' gym on February 28. Though neither team was in contention for the Saint Paul City Conference title, the stands were filled to capacity. It was noisy from start to finish, when the Minutemen pulled away from the Scots for a 76-65 victory.

The next morning, Highland athletic director Pat Auran was going over the receipts from the game. Despite the final score, Auran was satisfied with how the night went. "We had a big crowd that earned us some badly needed money," he said. "After last year, when we played games with no fans, we're just catching up financially."

However, money wasn't the only thing on Auran's mind. He was happily reflecting that, even though Highland-Central is an intense rivalry, there were no incidents of concern all night.

The latter issue may have been more important. On the court, the Minutemen and Scots finished third and fourth, respectively, when the regular season ended last weekend. They will each look for a shot at redemption when Section 3AAA play begins on March 9.

Off the court, peace reigned. Neither school will receive a letter such as the ones that were sent to New Prague High School in the wake of racially tinged incidents that occurred during basketball and hockey games that were recently played there.

In mid-February, Saint Louis Park boys' hockey players were subjected to racist comments from students and adults during a game at New Prague. That same night, Cooper was playing a girls' basketball game at New Prague and complained that "monkey noises" directed at the players could be heard from the stands.

Both visiting schools sent letters to New Prague stating they will not be playing the Trojans in any sport for the rest of the school year and possibly beyond that if the situation isn't rectified. That makes things a tad dicey, since all three schools are members of the Metro West Conference. (New Prague superintendent Tim Dittberner is launching a full-scale investigation into the issue. Dittberner promised immediate punitive action if an outside firm that has been hired verifies the accusations.)

Auran was asked why such incidents haven't permeated schools like Highland and Central. "My guess is it simply never occurs to anybody because these kids grew up with each other," he said. "The kids have been playing with—and against—each other for years. They're accustomed to it."

According to Wikipedia, the city of New Prague was 96.5 percent white as of 2010. Thus a minority athlete may be a bit of an anomaly to some locals there, though it certainly doesn't excuse racist behavior. Contrast that with Saint Paul, where the latest numbers have the white population at 48.8 percent, with Asian, Black and Hispanic numbers all on the rise.

Why note all this? Because these are the kids now playing the sports their parents did and the folks in the stands are shaping what future parents do and say.

Red Smith, a heralded sports columnist in New York for five decades, used to refer to his beat as the "Toys and Games Department." Toys and games are supposed to be fun and, occasionally, a learning experience. When the young players hear the folks in the stands utter racist comments without blowback, it's only natural for them to think that they can also say such things. Fun is no longer part of such an equation.

The New Prague story needs to be told. However, it also should be acknowledged that there are many places that still strike the right balance between competing in an intense sporting event that ends with no side issues taking place.

WRIGHT CALL ▶16



Cretin-Derham Hall's Jake Sondreal leaves an Eastview player sprawled on the ice in the first period of the Raiders' 3-0 win over the Lightning to capture the Section 3AA boys' hockey championship on March 3. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Breaking the ice: Poised Raider boys return to state hockey tourney

BY BILL WAGNER

The Cretin-Derham Hall boys' hockey team has been accustomed to handling pressure. The Raiders started off this season as the top-ranked team in the state in Class AA, but suffered three losses before New Year's Day.

However, they continued to improve as the season progressed and showed just how far they'd come with a 3-0 win over Eastview in the Section 3AA final on March 3 to earn their first trip to state since 2009.

CDH (24-3) will open play at state against Prior Lake (18-10) at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 10, at Xcel Energy Center. The Raiders, who are seeded second behind Hill-Murray, are heading into the tournament on the heels of an 18-game winning streak.

As the season has progressed, CDH coach Matt Funk has gotten more excited about his club. Early on, he figured his team would benefit from a tough schedule and be playing at its optimum level come March. The Raiders defeated Burnsville 6-1 in the

first round of sections and then Rosemount 5-2 in the semifinals. The victory over Eastview, a team that had earned its way to the finals by beating a very good Saint Thomas Academy team in double overtime, came about simply because the Raiders had too much depth everywhere on the ice.

CDH got 35 stops from senior goalie Marko Belak, who notched his third shutout of the season and 60th career win. It also got two goals from senior Drew Fisher and another from senior Gabe Rasmussen to seal the victory.

The game was scoreless after one period, but Funk said afterward that the longer the game went on the better it looked for his squad. The Lightning gave it their all, with goalie Jay Svaren recording 45 saves, but they didn't have the offensive tools to deal with the Raiders.

"We felt that we'd wear them down with our speed," Funk said.

Another aspect of the game was CDH's clear defensive skills. Belak made a great glove save late in the first period, but that was probably the best Eastview chance of the night as

Belak and the Raider defensive corps held tight.

"All six of our defensemen played great tonight," Funk said, "and Marko is one of the best goalies in the state. He'll go down as the best goalie in CDH history, and that's saying something."

The Raiders drew the game's first blood early in the second period when Drew Fisher pounced on a rebound just before Svaren could secure it. Juniors Joey Sylvester and Jake Fisher provided the assists. The Raiders made it 2-0 at 5:38 of the third period when Rasmussen connected from the high slot, assisted by juniors Attila Lippai and Devin Cardenas.

The Lightning tried to put the heat on, but CDH didn't give them enough good looks. The Raiders skillfully killed two penalties in the last half of the third period and Drew Fisher scored an empty-netter with 56 seconds to go to put the game away.

The Raiders haven't lost a game this season since December 28 and were undefeated in winning the tough Suburban East Conference.

Former Gopher coach to head up Vis soccer

BY DAVE WRIGHT

A decade after walking away from her job as head coach of the women's soccer team at the University of Minnesota, Mikki Denney Wright is looking forward to being back on the pitch next fall. Late last month, Wright was named the new girls' high school soccer coach at Visitation. She succeeds Jay Miller, who had held the job for nine years.

In 2012, Wright stepped away from coaching the Gophers to spend more time with her sons Forrest and Duke, then ages 3 and 1. "It was a hard decision to make, but I knew what the commitment level was," she said.

"I wanted to be with my kids, and my husband (Shane) travels a lot for work."

The Omahanative started her college playing career at Division I women's soccer power North Carolina, where she was a teammate of Mia Hamm, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion. A stress fracture forced Wright to redshirt her first year when the Tar Heels went undefeated and won the NCAA title.

She played the next year for North Carolina, a team that went undefeated again, but she was unhappy. She transferred to the U of M, where she



Mikki Denney Wright

VISITATION SOCCER ▶16

15 VISITATION SOCCER

earned All-Big 10 honors and was a member of the conference title team in 1995.

In 2004, she returned to her alma mater to start a successful coaching run. The Gophers won the Big 10 title in 2008, advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 and finished 22-4, the best season record in the university's history.

Wright coached four more seasons. However, running a Division I program requires significant time on the road for scouting and games. Among other things, Wright missed such events as her husband's induction in the Texas Tech Hall of Fame for his prowess as a pitcher.

So, at age 37, Wright told Gopher athletic director Joel Maturi she had other pri-

orities. "I never knew what being a mom would be like. It changes your world," she said at the time.

Wright enjoyed watching her kids grow up, but her passion for soccer never waned. She soon found herself back on the field coaching her sons as well as working with the Salvo Soccer Club near her Mendota Heights home.

All the while, Wright was getting offers to get back into college coaching. "I loved the atmosphere we had at Elizabeth Lyle Robbie Stadium (the Gophers' home field)," she said. "You can't replicate that environment."

But she was also enjoying her new life, watching her kids play Highland baseball and being close to home. So when Miller resigned after last season and called

Wright to gauge her interest in taking over Visitation's program, she found the prospect appealing.

"I went to an all-girls' high school in Omaha," Wright said. "I know—and like—that environment a lot."

The Blazers, who last went to the state soccer tournament in 2017, had an excellent 2021, going 11-7-1 and advancing to the Section 3AA final before falling 1-0 to Holy Angels. However, that team had 10 seniors on it, which leaves just seven returning players for 2022.

It didn't take long for Wright to discover how excited her new players were to see her. She was in Visitation athletic director Elisa Ryan Manny's office going over the details of her contract (she's also going to work in communications for the Blaz-

ers) when there was a knock on the door. Standing outside were Lucia Petschel, Lauren Reppenhagen and Kazi Hankee. They had heard Wright was in the building and wanted to meet the new coach. The three co-captains are expected to be the only seniors on next fall's team.

Coaching has been in Wright's blood all her life. Her father, Mike, was a successful wrestling coach, compiling seven NCAA titles during his 32 years at Nebraska-Omaha. When the school dropped the sport, he became the first wrestling coach at Maryville, a Division II school near Saint Louis. A decade later, he's still there.

Wright is thrilled about reigniting her coaching career with the Blazers. "I'm excited to take this on," she said. "I get to continue to pursue my passion."

15 WRIGHT CALL

It's become a numbers game at UST

In some ways, the easiest part of the University of Saint Thomas' transition from Division III to Division I is over as its first year comes to an end. The football team had a successful fall, going 7-3. Neither basketball team had a winning season, but both ended the year on a winning note in their regular-season finales. Both hockey teams had a rough introduction to tougher competition with a combined record of 8-60. The soccer and volleyball teams struggled to find their footings as well.

All of this was predictable as UST coaches adjusted to playing in their new leagues. It's now time for them to reflect on the first year and make the needed adjustments in personnel to try to move up the ladder in 2022-23.

UST athletic director Phil Esten and his staff also turn their attention to some other numbers, such as average home attendance figures: 5,935 for football, 909 for men's basketball, 616 for men's hockey, 406 for women's basketball and 328 for women's hockey.

Attendance did go up this season for both of the Tommies' hoop teams. In 2019-20, the last full season Saint Thomas competed in the MIAC, the men averaged 771 fans and the women 399. At the same time, however,

expenses increased dramatically. When the men's basketball team flew to Seattle for a game, the cost was significantly higher than a bus trip to Wisconsin-River Falls. The same was true when the women went to Orangeburg, South Carolina, for two games instead of a sojourn to Wisconsin.

Division I athletics, even done on a lesser scale as Saint Thomas is doing, is an expensive proposition. As was reported by this paper, UST recently reached out to see if Town & Country Club was interested in selling its Merriam Park golf course for \$61.4 million. The golf club's board declined the offer. Esten and Co. now must continue to look elsewhere for land to build a hockey arena and other sports facilities.

UST currently plays hockey games at Saint Thomas Academy's rink. At best, 1,300 can be jammed into the chilly building. Getting top-notch players to come there is equivalent to the issue Natalie Darwitz faced when she came to coach women's hockey at Hamline. At the time, the Pipers' home games were played in tiny Oscar Johnson Arena and the locker room was a converted trailer. Darwitz's problem was solved when Hamline moved to the Tria Rink in downtown Saint Paul and its record showed it.

The reality for Saint Thomas is it needs a bigger, better place for hockey. The Tommies would also benefit from a

bigger basketball arena—one where they could entertain a better-known nonconference foe than Montana State or Idaho State. Having its own facilities would also allow UST to raise revenue in other ways to cover its increased athletic costs.

State boys' swimming, wrestling results

Saint Thomas Academy placed third behind Breck/Blake and Alexandria in the state Class A swim meet on March 3-5 at the University of Minnesota. The Cadets' 200-free relay team took third, while senior Ian Rutgers was fifth in the 200 and 500 free, and junior Joe Matschina was eighth in the 50 free. Two Rivers senior Zach Lao was seventh in 1-meter diving.

In the Class AA swim meet, Highland Park senior Tanner Zeise was a close second in 1-meter diving with 418 points. Cretin-Derham Hall senior Luke Leonidas took fourth in the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke. The Raiders finished 17th as a team.

At the state Class AAA wrestling meet on March 3-5 at Xcel Energy Center, STA senior Leo Bluhm was fourth at 185 pounds after dropping a close 3-2 decision. He finished the season with a 46-15 record.

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



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STATE OF MINNESOTA CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. 1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted: **Club Car Wash** 2. List the Principal Place of Business: **1591 E Prathersville Road Columbia MO 65202 United States** 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: **Club Car Wash Operating, LLC; 1591 E Prathersville Road Columbia MO 65202 United States** 4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath. **Date filed:** November 10, 2021 **Signed by:** Geneva Renee Mang **Mailing Address:** None Provided **Email for Official Notices:** licensing@vemoservicing.com

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STATE OF MINNESOTA CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. 1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted: **Vemo Servicing** 2. List the Principal Place of Business: **640 Brooker Creek Blvd #405 Oldsmar FL 34677 USA** 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: **Vemo Servicing Corp; 640 Brooker Creek Blvd #405 Oldsmar FL 34677 USA** 4. By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath. **Date filed:** November 10, 2021 **Signed by:** Geneva Renee Mang **Mailing Address:** None Provided **Email for Official Notices:** licensing@vemoservicing.com

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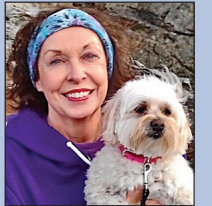
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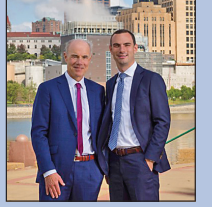
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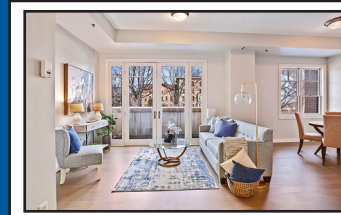
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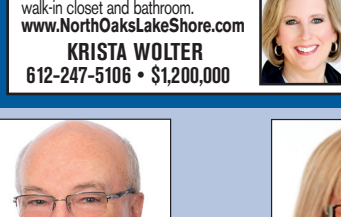


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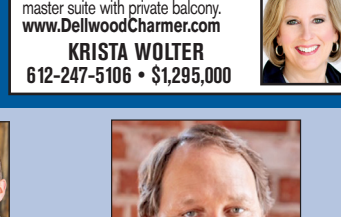
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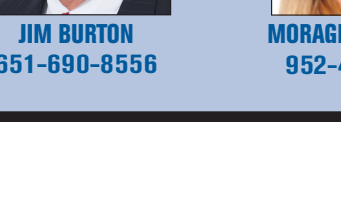


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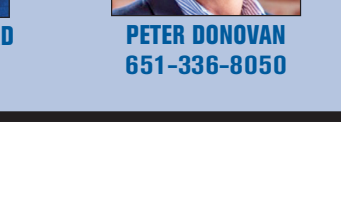
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