

## Players can collect wealth of info on old neighborhood with Rondo-opoly

And Hallie Q. Brown benefits in the process

By Anne Murphy

**R**ondo-opoly, which was recently introduced by the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, may or may not be the newest version since the game of Monopoly was created in the early part of the 20th century. But according to its inventors, it is the only one featuring the history of Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood, the largely Black community that was riven in two in the 1960s by the construction of I-94.

"The idea for Rondo-opoly was a group effort of our staff," said Jonathan Palmer, executive director of Hallie Q. Brown, a nonprofit agency that has been serving the former Rondo neighborhood for 93 years. "We were exploring ideas to promote the Rondo history and our archive and this emerged as the winner."

The group used the traditional Monopoly board as a template in choosing which well-known landmarks and other places to bring Rondo's history to life. Palmer said the research did not take as long as might be expected.



Executive director Jonathan Palmer shows off the Rondo-opoly board game in the library of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"Many of the elements we already highlight in our archive, in social media and on our website," he said. "The harder part was digging deeper into some of the stories, distinguishing

between nicknames and real names, and narrowing down the number we could include on the board. There's a

RONDO-OPOLY ▶2

## St. Paul allots \$10M of rescue plan funds for public safety programs

City looks to reduce gun violence, hire more police, improve library & rec center services

By Jane McClure

**T**he Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously on July 20 to use \$10 million from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) on a wide variety of public safety-related initiatives. The approval came days after Mayor Melvin Carter announced the efforts during a press conference at the Frogtown Community Center.

The greatest share of the funds, \$4 million, is going to the city's Office of Neighborhood Safety for a grant program for community-led public safety proposals, including ones focused on preventing gun and youth violence. The office's 15-member neighborhood safety council will oversee the program. The office is already working on Project PEACE, a program designed to link people involved with gun violence with a variety of resources.

The expenditures also include \$2 million to help hire up to 30 more police officers. The funding will be used to match a \$3.75 million COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) federal grant.

Another \$1.5 million will go to libraries to support new safety specialist staff and pay for an external review and assessment of safety resources. The result is expected to be a public safety plan, building on efforts to add social workers to library staff.

The safety issues are critical, said Ward 7 council member and library board chair Jane Prince. The council recently heard a presentation on safety needs, including how to de-escalate potentially violent situations and provide a safe atmosphere for people who

PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING ▶3

## Razing of old city annex could finally make room for larger Pedro Park

By Jane McClure

**T**he demolition of the city's former Public Safety Annex could occur by the end of the year, triggering the development of Pedro Park on 10th and Robert streets in downtown Saint Paul.

That was welcome news to most of the 60-plus residents who filled a meeting room at Keys Cafe on July 25. They have waited for more than two decades for the development of Pedro Park to begin.

Julie Printz, who led the city's Pedro Park Work Group, said uncertainty about the

annex's fate has impeded the development of the park. The group, which finished its work earlier this year, asked that the city demolish or sell the annex at 100 E. 10th St.

City Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff have identified \$1.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grants to raze the annex. PED deputy director Travis Bistodeau said the city must use the money to have demolition and site work completed by next March or risk a reduction in future allocations.

The park appears in city plans dating

to 1997 as Fitzgerald Park. The name was changed in 2009 after the Pedro family closed its longtime luggage shop in 2008 and donated the .45-acre site to the city with the understanding that it would be combined with adjacent land for a park bearing the family's name.

The city's Police Department vacated the adjacent Public Safety Annex four years ago. However, instead of tearing down the annex and creating a larger park, the City Council voted 5-2 in October 2018 to sell the building to the Minneapolis-based Ackerberg Group, which planned to con-

vert it into retail and office space.

Ackerberg was to purchase the building for \$1.4 million and planned to work with the city to develop the vacant land next to the annex as a park. It also agreed to provide \$40,000 annually for 20 years to maintain the park.

At the time, development of Pedro Park had an estimated cost of \$3.8 million. It was to include play equipment, paths, seating, space for dogs and a water feature.

The sale of the annex angered many

PEDRO PARK ▶3

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**14 RONDO-OPOLY**

lot of history in Rondo and a lot more we could have included if there were space. We're already considering a second edition."

Hallie Q. Brown serves as the starting space in Rondo-opoly. The properties around the board are located in Oatmeal Hill and Cornmeal Valley, each card displaying the address on the front and a description of its historical significance on the back.

The Chance and Community Chest cards have been renamed for the Pullman Porters and Red Caps to honor their role in the neighborhood. One of the Pullman cards states: "You won the bet! Each player must pay you \$50 because Marcenia 'Toni' Lyle Stone won the baseball game."

An example of a Red Caps card is: "Bad hair day. Proceed to Finney's Beauty Studio (437 Rondo Ave.) and pay \$25 to the bank. Do not collect \$200 if you visit the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center."

The officer on the traditional Go to Jail space was replaced with Debbie Montgomery, the first female police officer in Saint Paul. She sends players to the Turtle Club, an after-hours bottle club on Selby Avenue and the site of what Palmer said was the largest police raid in the city.

Among other places commemorated in Rondo-opoly are Pilgrim Baptist Church on Central Avenue, one of the oldest Black churches in Minnesota; the Chatsworth Inn, a beer parlor at the corner of Chatsworth Street and Rondo Avenue; the Sterling Club, a gathering place for professional Black men on North Dale Street; the home of Clarence "Cap" Wigington, the city of Saint Paul's first Black architect, on Saint Anthony Avenue; and Tiger Jack's, the small store owned by "Tiger" Jack Rosenbloom on Dale and Saint Anthony.

The traditional Boardwalk and Park



Rondo-opoly, the board game that serves as both a history lesson and a fundraiser benefiting the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

*"You won the bet! Each player must pay you \$50 because Marcenia 'Toni' Lyle Stone won the baseball game."*

Place spots are taken by the Hallie Q. Brown House and Union Hall Association on Aurora Avenue and the Ober Boys Club on Saint Anthony, respectively.

"Most of the artwork we did in-house," Palmer said. Many of the photos used came from the center's archive. "The ones we were missing were generously provided by the Minnesota Historical Society," he said.

During the creative process, Palmer said they asked longtime Rondo residents and supporters about their memories and in-

sights on properties. Some of those who helped were Marvin Anderson, one of the founders of Rondo Days and the head of the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression; Jim Gerlich, who created a map of Rondo that was a major source of information; members of the Hallie Q. Brown Magnificent Golden Agers and the Hallie Q. Brown Retired Men's Club; Nick Khaliq, a former head of the Saint Paul NAACP; and Debbie Montgomery, whose many roles included serving on the Saint Paul City Council.

Anderson, who is considered by many to be the "mayor" of Rondo, said he was extremely happy to contribute and believes Rondo-opoly will help with the understanding of the area's importance.

"They asked me to help as an elder," he said. "An old-timer like me knows Rondo front and back. They've included so many places that are important to the history of Rondo and Saint Paul—the two are so in-

*"Bad hair day. Proceed to Finney's Beauty Studio (437 Rondo Ave.) and pay \$25 to the bank. Do not collect \$200 if you visit the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center."*

terwoven."

According to Anderson, the original game of Monopoly was designed to teach important economic facts. "Rondo-opoly is modeled after it, but also amplifies our important history," he said. "It's an index to the living, breathing, economic, social and religious community that existed in Rondo."

Palmer said the hope is that Rondo-opoly "both illustrates how much more there is to African-American history than we're generally taught and that it'll spark an interest in learning more about what's in our own backyard. Too often history is overlooked or overwritten. As we increase the focus on diversity and inclusion, it's crucial that people are aware of the lesson of Rondo, how much was lost and how resilient this community is."

In addition to buying Rondo-opoly, Palmer hopes people will be drawn to the Hallie Q. Brown archive on the website. "We have a phenomenal African-American woman as our archivist, Kayla Jackson, who has done a tremendous job bringing the history to life," he said.

Rondo-opoly is priced at \$50, of which \$25 is tax deductible. All proceeds benefit Hallie Q. Brown. For more information, visit [hallieqbrown.org](http://hallieqbrown.org).



# What Matters Most?

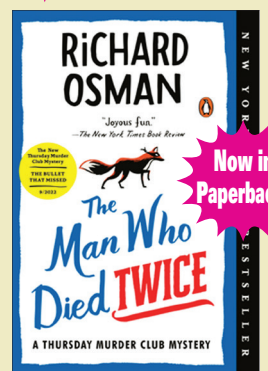
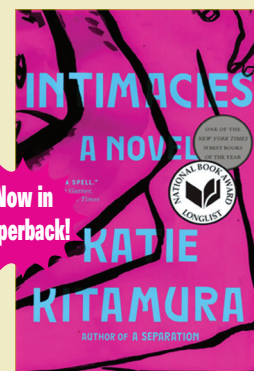
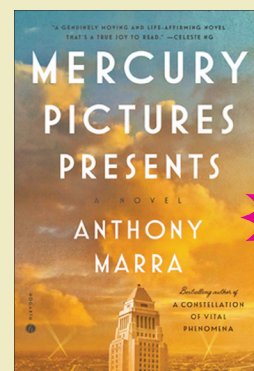
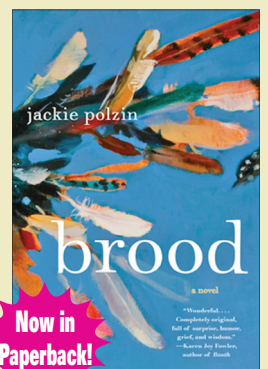
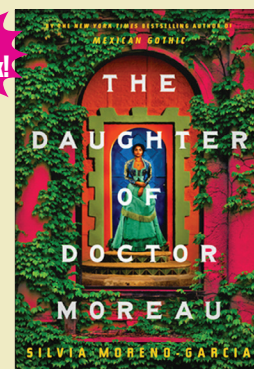
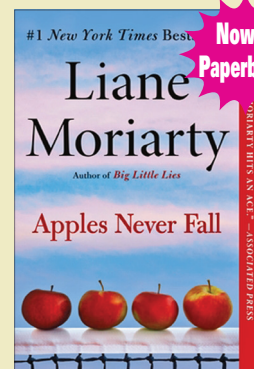
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# Council earmarks additional rescue plan funding for business initiatives

By Jane McClure

Along with spending \$10 million on public safety (see story on page 1), the City Council allocated \$15.3 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds on July 20 for workforce programs and another \$340,299 to write down the cost of business licenses.

So far, Saint Paul has spent around \$118 million out of its total allocation of \$166.6 million in ARP funds. All of the funds need to be earmarked by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Ling Becker, director of Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, said the city and county, which are sharing ARP dollars, have been strategic about their employment-focused investments. The funds go to a variety of programs, the largest being \$11.2 million for an earn-and-learn program for people ages 18-35, and \$1.5 million to expand the Right Track youth jobs program.

Becker noted that smaller programs, such as one aimed at helping young people get driver's licenses, can have a big impact.

## 1< PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

have experienced trauma.

Another \$1.5 million is to expand and enhance city Parks and Recreation services. That includes adding Saturday hours at five recreation centers, waiving fees for youth athletic activities for participants age 10 and older, adding intervention services, increasing Rec Check after-school programs at 10 centers, and providing equipment and new vehicles for mobile recreation programs. The specific recreation centers that will offer the expanded services have not been announced.

Andy Rodriguez, director of Parks and Recreation, said the additional funds will help expand the city's recreation system's capacity. "It's a huge deal for us," he said.

Traffic and pedestrian safety will receive \$1 million for several initiatives being de-

## 1< PEDRO PARK

neighbors, who wanted the building demolished and its site added to create a park that would take up the entire block. Ackerberg dropped the project in 2020 and a lawsuit against the city filed by the Friends of Pedro Park was dismissed. That same year, the City Council took \$800,000 in previously allocated Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) funds away from the park to help balance the city budget.

Only one person at the July 25 meeting spoke for saving and renovating the annex. Others disagreed.

"If a first-rate developer couldn't make (redevelopment) work, we don't want a second-rate or third-rate developer," said neighborhood resident Chris Beckstrom.

Demolition of the annex makes more financial sense, Bistodeau said. The building, which dates from 1925, does not meet current building codes. Roof replacement alone is expected to cost \$1.3 million, while replacing HVAC and other building systems would cost \$1.6 million. The cost of maintenance and dealing with everything from break-ins to water issues has been \$60,000-\$100,000 annually.

PED, Parks and Recreation, and the city's Office of Financial Services and Real Estate looked at annex issues for several months.

Almost 50 percent of jobs in the county have a driver's license requirement.

The \$340,299 is for costs associated with a 25 percent reduction in fees for businesses serving food and beverages, said Laura Logsdon, who supervises ARP for the city's Office of Financial Services.

Earlier this summer the city also allocated ARP dollars for lead pipe replacement (\$19.5 million), the city's Guaranteed Income Program that pays a monthly stipend to low-income families (\$4 million), a new asset management system (\$5 million), and public safety radio equipment replacement (\$177,046).

The city has also used ARP funding for payroll (\$20 million), tourism (\$4.5 million) and affordable housing (\$37.5 million).

ARP was initially signed into law in March 2021 to provide support to local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19. Saint Paul also received roughly \$23.5 million from the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act for expenses related to the pandemic.

veloped by the city's Department of Public Works. That includes temporary street safety treatments, a citywide study of vehicle crashes to determine where permanent safety improvements should be made, a speed enforcement information and education campaign, and replacement of a street-striping machine.

City Council members said they have been hearing an increasing number of complaints about unsafe driving. "I'd like to spend zero dollars and just tell everybody to slow down," said council president Amy Brendmoen.

The latest allocations mean that Saint Paul will have spent a total of \$37.6 million in ARP funds on public safety. Earlier allocations supported domestic abuse intervention, case backlogs in the City Attorney's Office, and police overtime.



Razing the city's former Public Safety Annex (with red circles) is expected to trigger enlargement of Pedro Park on 10th and Robert.

An environmental and historic review are now underway, with involvement from the State Historic Preservation Office.

"By September we'll know if we can move forward," Bistodeau said.

If the building is found to have no historic significance, removal of asbestos and lead can proceed, followed by demolition. The goal is to have a licensed contractor in place for the latter by December.

Once the annex is gone, its site would be graded and stabilized. Park development could proceed once funding becomes available, said Alice Messer, parks design and construction manager.

The work group suggested private fundraising, including working with the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land. To loud cheers, Carol Gregory of Keys Cafe wrote a \$2,000 check on July 25 to get the fundraising started.

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# City loans \$1.4M for new day shelter for homeless

By Jane McClure

Listening House's plan to convert a former restaurant at 421 E. Seventh St. into a drop-in day shelter for homeless people is moving forward with the offer of a \$1.4 million forgivable loan from the city of Saint Paul. The allocation was approved on July 27 by the City Council acting as the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board. If the shelter remains open for at least 10 years, the loan will not have to be repaid.

Listening House's goal is to have the new shelter operating before winter, according to city staff. The building was the site of Red's Savoy, at the intersection of East Seventh Street and Lafayette Road in a neighborhood dominated by commercial uses.

The HRA waived the typical 45-day notice period to keep the project moving forward. That drew questions from neighboring business owners and City Council member Jane Prince. Prince's Ward 7 includes Listening House's other daytime shelter at First

Lutheran Church in Dayton's Bluff. The former restaurant is in Ward 2, but near the borders of Wards 5 and 7.

Listening House bought the former restaurant property in June. The forgivable loan will pay for the building's renovation, a new kitchen, bathrooms, and computer and meeting spaces. According to Molly Jalma, executive director of the nonprofit Listening House, it will give people a place to relax, take a nap, get something to eat, and meet with social service providers. It will be the first building Listening House has owned in its more than 30 years of existence, she said.

According to Jalma, the new shelter will serve about 200 people per day. More important, it will also be open on weekends and in the evening.

Listening House will need a conditional use permit from the Saint Paul Planning Commission to operate the new shelter. Its long-term plan is to expand the East Seventh facility and close the shelter in Dayton's Bluff.

The \$1.4 million loan approved

on July 27 is from a \$28 million pool of unspent tax increment financing (TIF) money. The HRA recently approved the TIF fund, which is allowed under a 2021 state law giving cities more flexibility in spending TIF.

Until this spring, Listening House operated a second daytime shelter in Saint Paul's West End. Freedom House opened in 2021 in a former fire station at 296 W. Seventh St. to address a need after COVID-19 closed the libraries and other public facilities where homeless people used to spend the day. However, the shelter was blamed for an increase in crime and other disturbing behavior in the neighborhood.

Several West End residents and business people sued the city and Listening House last year in Ramsey County District Court. The judge ruled that the city failed to follow its own processes in opening the facility. He ordered Freedom House closed until those processes were followed. The city plans to return the West Seventh building to the Fire Department.

# Council waives consent petition for liquor service in Highland Bridge

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul City Council voted on July 27 to waive the petition requirement for an expansion of the commercial development district in Highland Village to include all of the property that is being developed on the site of the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant.

Establishing or expanding a commercial development district normal-

ly requires a consent petition with the signatures of neighboring property owners. However, if at least five City Council members agree, the petition requirement can be waived.

The commercial development district in Highland Village was created several years ago to allow the Chipotle restaurant at Highland Crossing to sell margaritas. The immediate result of the expansion would be a new bar with on-sale liquor service at the

Lunds & Byerlys supermarket now under construction at Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue.

The proposed expansion of the Highland Village commercial development district will be reviewed in the weeks ahead by the Highland District Council and Saint Paul Planning Commission. Their recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council, which will have the final say on the matter.

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# Aug. 9 primary narrows field for federal, state, local offices

Voters across the neighborhoods served by *MyVillager* will head to the polls on Tuesday, August 9, to choose among candidates for U.S. representative, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state senator, state representative, county commissioner and county attorney.

Voters must choose the party for which they will be voting in the primary election—DFL, Republican, Legal Marijuana Now or Grassroots-Legalized Cannabis. No crossing over is allowed. In partisan races with more than one candidate, only the top vote-getter will advance to the November 8 general election.

Each ballot will also have a nonpartisan section with races for local and judicial offices. Where two or more candidates are running for a single seat, only the top vote-getter will advance to the general election.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 9. To find out which candidates will appear on a primary ballot, con-

sult the sample ballots below. Only those races where two or more candidates appear are included. The incumbent in each race, if any, is indicated with an asterisk.

For information about voter eligibility and registration, polling places, absentee ballots, early voting or other voter services, contact the office of the Secretary of State at 651-215-1440 or sos.state.mn.us; Ramsey County Elections and Voting at 651-266-2171 or ramseycounty.us; or Dakota County Voting and Elections at 651-438-4305 or co.dakota.mn.us.

## Statewide Ballots

### Republican Party

Governor and Lieutenant Governor—Scott Jensen and Matt Birk, Joyce Lynne Lacey and Kent Edwards, Bob “Again” Carney Jr. and Captain Jack Sparrow.

Secretary of State—Erik van Mechelen, Kim Crockett.

Attorney General—Sharon Anderson, Doug Wardlow, Jim Schultz.

### DFL Party

Governor and Lieutenant Governor—Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan\*, Ole Savior and Julia M. Parker.

Secretary of State—Steve Carlson, Steve Simon\*.

Attorney General—Bill Dahn, Keith Ellison\*.

### Grassroots - Legalized Cannabis

Governor and Lieutenant Governor—Darrell Paulsen and Ed Engelmann, Steve Patterson and Matt Huff.

### Legal Marijuana Now

Governor and Lieutenant Governor—Chris Wright and L.C. Lawrence Converse, James McCaskel and David Sandbeck.

## Saint Paul Ballots

### Nonpartisan

Ramsey County Commissioner, District 4—George H. Jackson Sr., Darryl Spence, Rena Moran, Barbara Bolar.

Ramsey County Commissioner, District 5—Charles S. Barklind, Bill Hosko, Rafael E. Ortega\*.

### Republican Party

U.S. Representative, District 4—May Lor Xiong, Jerry Silver, Gene Reichtzgel.

### DFL Party

U.S. Representative, District 4—Amane Badhasso, Fasil Moghul, Betty McCollum\*. State Senator, District 65—Sheigh Freeberg, Sandy Pappas\*, Zuki Ellis. State Representative, District 65B—Anna Botz, Maria Isa Pérez-Hedges.

## Mendota Hts.-Lilydale Ballots

Nonpartisan  
Dakota County Attorney—Kathy Keena\*, Jeffrey (Jeff) Sheridan, Elizabeth Lamin, Matt Little.



Sheigh Freeberg



Sandy Pappas



Zuki Ellis

## Freeberg, Ellis challenge Pappas' 32-year hold on Senate District 65

By Dale Mischke

DFL partisans will head to the polls on August 9 to choose among three candidates for the Minnesota Senate in District 65. Sheigh Freeberg and Zuki Ellis are challenging incumbent Senator Sandy Pappas' bid for another four-year term.

District 65 includes the West Side and downtown Saint Paul, the North End, Frogtown, and parts of the West End, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University and Hamline-Midway (see map on page 6).

*MyVillager* asked the candidates about their qualifications for the Senate and their positions on promoting safe and affordable housing, turning back the rising incidence of crime and whether or not to amend Minnesota's abortion laws given the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade.

Pappas, 73, a resident of downtown, has served for 32 years in the Minnesota Senate and six years in the Minnesota House be-

fore that. A graduate of Metropolitan State University, she has a master's degree in public administration from the JFK School at Harvard University and taught political science at Metro State for 20 years.

If reelected, Pappas said, “I’ll advocate for more state money going into building affordable housing and shelters. I also support construction or conversion to advance more housing options, including manufactured housing, tiny homes and single-room occupancy apartments.

“Guns are too easily available,” Pappas said. “Common-sense gun safety means passing red flag laws, closing loopholes in background checks, and restricting gun sales to people age 21 and older.” Pappas said she would also like to see more programs and job opportunities for youths as a way to prevent crime. “The state can also provide more Local Government Aid to Saint Paul so the city can hire more police officers and mental health social workers,” she said.

DISTRICT 65 SENATE RACE ►6

## Perez-Hedges and Botz curry DFL favor for District 65B House seat

By Dale Mischke

DFLers Maria Isa Perez-Hedges and Anna Botz are running for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 65B for the seat that is being vacated by Rena Moran, who after six terms in the House is running for Ramsey County commissioner this fall.

District 65B includes downtown Saint Paul, the adjacent West End and Capitol areas, the West Side and the northern part of West Saint Paul (see map on page 6).

*MyVillager* asked the candidates about their qualifications for the Senate and their positions on promoting safe and affordable housing, turning back the rising incidence of crime and whether or not to amend Minnesota's abortion laws given the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade.

Perez-Hedges, 35, serves as the director of mentorship for the Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project. “I’ve been a leader in the fight for affordable health care in Minnesota, advocating for the passage of the Alec



Maria Isa Perez-Hedges



Anna Botz

Smith Insulin Affordability Act,” she said. “I’m an alumna of the Wilder Foundation Community Equity Program. For my work educating incarcerated youth in Minnesota, I received the National Hispanic Leadership Institute’s Rising Latina Star award.”

As a lifelong resident of the West Side, Perez-Hedges said, “I’ve seen firsthand the damage caused by inflated housing costs. Rents are skyrocketing. We have a shortage of affordable units. And residents looking to be first-time homeowners are locked out of an unaffordable market. At the Capitol I’ll push for investments and policies to protect renters and working-class families, supporting

affordable housing across all income ranges.”

Perez-Hedges said that from her work with youths and support of families, it has become clear that “we’re experiencing braided crises, including a mental health emergency, opiate epidemic and distrust in the accountability of public safety officers. We need a greater investment in resources and trust-building mechanisms for our communities, especially our young people.

“As the U.S. Supreme Court walks back fundamental human rights protections, our state must safeguard the right to choose,” said Perez-Hedges.

DISTRICT 65B HOUSE RACE ►6

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# Levy for preschool ed won't be on ballot

By Jane McClure

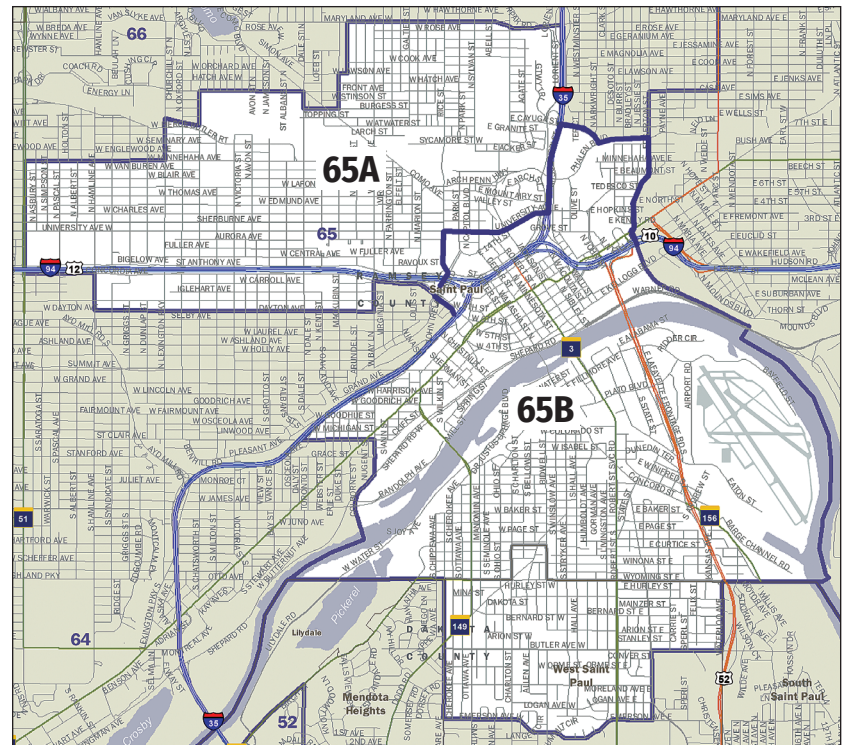
A referendum calling for a new property tax levy in Saint Paul to pay for early childhood education and child care for low-income households will not be on the ballot this November after all. Instead, the City Council voted on July 27 to set up a legislative advisory committee to study the issue and the possibility of creating a grant program for the providers of child care and early childhood education. A report by that committee is due by March 2023.

City Council member Rebecca Noecker brought the proposed referendum forward earlier in July with a goal of serving as many as 5,000 3- and 4-year-old children. "Right now we're failing too many of our kids," Noecker said. "Too many children are living in poverty, and they lack the resources to be ready for school." Never-

theless, she did not think she had the five council votes needed to place the measure on the November ballot.

The referendum was the subject of a petition drive earlier this year by Saint Paul All Ready for Kindergarten. The group was hoping to create a separate nonprofit agency to administer the funds raised by a new property tax levy. However, the group failed to get enough signatures to place the matter on the ballot.

Several City Council members were skeptical of the proposal. Saint Paul officials are drafting a city budget for 2023, and they have to address a \$15 million hole created by the recent district court decision that found the city's street maintenance assessment program to be an illegal tax on nonprofit property owners. Another issue is the cost of implementing the new program if the ballot measure should pass.



The map at left shows the new boundaries of Senate District 65 following redistricting after the 2020 Census. The border between House Districts 65A and 65B runs south along I-35E to University Avenue, then west to Rice Street and south to John Ireland and Kellogg boulevards.

## 5◀ DISTRICT 65 SENATE RACE

"I'm pro-choice and I believe that women should be able to control their own bodies," Pappas said. "We have a privacy clause in our state constitution that courts have determined protect a women's right to choose. I also support the repeal of a number of abortion restrictions."

Freeberg, 34, a Hamline-Midway resident, is a graduate of the University of Kansas who is employed as secretary-treasurer of Unite Here Local 17, a labor union that represents more than 6,000 workers in the hospitality industry. "I've helped hundreds of people unionize their workplaces," Freeberg said. "I've also campaigned for a \$15 minimum wage, sick and safe time and rent stabilization."

"Nearly 60 percent of the residents of District 65 are renters," Freeberg said. "Rising housing costs are not going away, and gentrification and displacement disproportionately impact BIPOC people. (To promote safe and affordable housing) I'd start with a statewide renters' rights bill, which would include a tenant's right to purchase. We should invest state money in public housing that can directly compete with private landlords. Let's allow for accessory dwelling units and better zoning to create higher-density cities."

Freeberg said he supports "a community-oriented vision of public safety. This in-

cludes a robust department of public safety with mental health professionals, community outreach, trained de-escalation specialists and uniformed police officers. Public safety isn't just about the police or criminal justice system. It's also about making sure everyone has a home, mental health supports, fully funded schools and enough food at home. After-school programs, youth outreach and mentorships will help ensure our kids have a bright future and a reason to stay out of trouble.

"Reproductive choice is a fundamental human right," Freeberg said. "Our state constitution protects the right to choose, but we need to do everything we can to help people in states that don't have a right to choose. Minnesota needs to protect people who travel here to have abortions."

Ellis did not respond to our candidate's questionnaire. A resident of Frogtown, she graduated from Metropolitan State University with a double major in social science and ethnic studies and has been a member of the Saint Paul School Board since 2016. Ellis has also been employed as a trainer for school teachers, staff and administrators and as a parent trainer for the National Parent Teacher Home Visit organization.

The top vote-getter in the DFL primary will face Republican Paul Holmgren of Frogtown in the November 8 general election.

## 5◀ DISTRICT 65B HOUSE RACE

es. "Access to health care is determined largely by race, class and zip code. We can lead as a state where the full humanity of women and LGBT+ Minnesotans is recognized under the law."

Botz did not respond to our candidate's survey. A resident of the West Side, she is

a professional photographer and small-business owner who went to work in a grocery store when her photography business dried up at the outset of the pandemic.

The winner of the District 65B DFL primary on August 9 will face Republican Kevin Fjelsted of the West End in the November 8 general election.

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# Council allows 15 percent rent increase on Raymond Ave. apartments

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul City Council on July 20 approved the first exemption to the 3 percent cap on annual rent increases as mandated by the city's new rent control ordinance. Landlords Jim and Matthew Lindquist were granted permission for a 15 percent increase in the rent they charge tenants at their 12-unit apartment building at 1029 Raymond Ave.

The Lindquists requested three exemptions to the rent control ordinance, but only one was recommended for approval by Saint Paul legislative hearing officer Marcia Moermond.

The Lindquists purchased the apartment building this spring from a family who had owned it for many years. They sought the higher rent increase to help pay for a long list of deferred maintenance projects. One apartment had been "trashed," they said, and they also need to replace the building's roof and renovate garages. They submitted a detailed list of the work needed and the finances required. The building had 2020 income of \$135,000. The desired repairs total more than \$144,600.

## City Council to review proposed amendments to rent control law

The City Council will be reviewing a staff proposal this week on how to amend Saint Paul's new rent control ordinance. Among the recommendations are retention of the 3 percent cap on annual rent increases but with an exemption for up to 20 years for new construction.

The proposed amendments are based on the work of the city's Rent Stabilization Stakeholders Group, which wrapped up its deliberations in June. Included in those recommendations is a just-cause requirement that mandates landlords who choose not to renew a tenant's lease to explain why.

The proposed amendments detail how utility costs may be factored into rent increases, the factors on which rent in-

creases above 3 percent can be based, and which city department is responsible for responding to rent increase requests and appeals. The amendments flesh out the processes landlords may follow to request a rent increase from 3 to 8 percent and an increase of over 8 percent. The appeal process for tenants is also outlined.

One provision would allow landlords who do not raise rents for several years to "bank" those 3 percent increases and use several of them in a single year to raise the rent above the 3 percent cap. Another set of amendments details how rents could be increased if an apartment or an entire building needs substantial renovation.

A public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held before the City Council on August 10. The intent is for the amended rent control ordinance to become effective on January 1, 2023.

and the fact that the previous landlord had not increased rents for several years. The increase was allowed with the understanding that utilities will be included in the rent.

The City Council denied the Lindquists' request for a rent increase of more than 15 percent for one of the apartments, which had already been remodeled. The council laid over a third request by the Lindquists for an exemption to the 3 percent cap for the 2023-2024 leasing cycle. The landlord wanted to increase monthly rents between 2 and 15 percent per unit in order to bring them to an average of \$1,300 per unit from their current average of \$985. That request will be brought back to a legislative hearing officer sometime before March 1, 2023.

Saint Paul officials are anticipating many requests for exemptions to the rent control ordinance's 3 percent cap. Landlords can raise rents above 3 percent if they can prove they need the increase to cover expenses or achieve a reasonable rate of return on their investment. Landlords can self-certify increases between 3 and 8 percent by making their case to city staff. For increases above 8 percent, they must submit their request to a legislative hearing officer.

The Lindquists plan to make the renovations over the next three years. According to Moermond, work on the roof and laundry room is already underway and plans are in place to replace appliances, carpets

and other flooring as tenants move out.

The council voted 5-0 (Dai Thao and Nelsie Yang were absent) to grant the Lindquists' exemption for the 2022-2023 leasing cycle, noting the maintenance issues

# Tenants appeal Dominion Properties' self-certification of 8% rent increases

By Jane McClure

Two Saint Paul tenants have appealed to the City Council for relief from recent rent increases of almost 8 percent made by their landlord, Dominion Properties. They are the first tenant appeals under Saint Paul's new rent control ordinance, which took effect on May 1.

The appeals had their first proceedings on July 19 in front of legislative hearing

officer Marcia Moermond. She requested more information from both sides and laid the matter over until September 1.

Dominium's rent increases were approved this summer by city staff for the 217-unit Union Flats at 787 Hampden Ave. and the four-story Cambric Senior Apartments at 720 E. Seventh St. Hannah Gray filed the Union Flats appeal. Katherine Banbury filed the Cambric appeal. Both women are working with the Housing Justice Center.

The Union Flats and Cambric projects were partially financed with low-income housing tax credits. Dominion told tenants and city officials that it used the federal government's 2022 area median income data to set the new rents and that the data indicated an 11.89 percent increase is justified. Dominion contends that the increase is also justified under the development agreements it entered into with the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority. It

maintains that even with the increase, the rents are below market rate.

Gray's monthly rent increased from \$1,114 to \$1,203 on July 1, though it was later reduced to \$1,198. Banbury's rent increased from \$1,344 to \$1,440 on July 1.

Housing Justice Center attorney Jack McCann said Dominion failed to demonstrate a need for an 8 percent increase in order to receive a fair return on its investment.



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# VIEWPOINT

## Two views of city plans to move Summit bikeway off-street

### Narrowing street, moving paths outside curbs makes for safer riding year-round

By Andy Singer

The city of Saint Paul presented ideas in June about possible ways to change Summit Avenue's on-street bike lanes to off-street bike paths. Essentially, the position of the parked cars and the existing bike lanes would be switched. The parked cars and curbs would be moved inward, next to the driving lanes, narrowing the street. The bikeways would be moved outside of the parked cars and up to curb height. It would make the bike lanes parking-protected, off-street bike paths.

Because it could be done within the existing road width, no trees would be harmed, and it would not take away any green space. It would be done over a period of many years as sections of Summit Avenue come up for regularly scheduled street reconstruction. These are full reconstructions, down to the roadbed, sewer and water lines. So changing the position of the bikeway as the street is put back would have little or no additional cost. The first of these reconstructions, between Lexington Parkway and Victoria Street, is scheduled for 2024.

Converting the bike lanes to off-street bike paths would have several advantages. Cyclists would no longer have to ride in the "door zone" of parked cars, worrying about whether someone will open a car door and cause a crash. Cyclists would also

no longer have to worry about distracted drivers veering into the bike lanes and hitting them or their children from behind.

Currently, cars drive across the bike lanes to and from the parking lanes, compressing snow into sheets of ice, making the bike lanes difficult to use in the winter. Off-street bike paths don't have this problem, and the city has shown it can do a good job of keeping them free of ice and snow.

Finally, many pedestrians get hit by cars while trying to cross Summit Avenue. Converting the bike lanes to off-street bike paths would narrow Summit as the curbs get moved inward. This would slow traffic and reduce crossing distances for pedestrians. Depending on which option is chosen, it could reduce the crossing distance east of Lexington from its current 48 feet to just 30 feet.

The proposed off-street bike paths would have raised or tabled crosswalks on all of the non-signalized cross streets, similar to what the city did on Como Avenue, Wheelock Parkway and Johnson Parkway. These would make the path smooth and easier to clear of ice and snow in the winter. They also form a slight bump that alerts turning motorists that they are crossing a bikeway.

West of Lexington, Summit has 11.5-foot

ANDY SINGER ▶9

### Two-way off-road trail would multiply the risk factor for Summit Ave. bicyclists

By Save Our Street

The city of Saint Paul's regional trail planning exercise for Summit Avenue is on a path for an irresponsible solution more dangerous for bicyclists and at the highest possible cost to taxpayers. For 2.5 of Summit Avenue's 4.5 miles, the regional trail that planners are proposing is the most dangerous road facility for bicyclists, according to an Insurance Industry Highway Safety (IIHS) report comparing bike facility types and roadway conditions. For two sections of Summit Avenue—from the Cathedral to Lexington Parkway and for several blocks near Snelling Avenue and Macalester College—the emerging recommendation for the regional trail is to replace the existing on-street bike lanes with a more dangerous two-way bicycle path.

The IIHS study used biking on a busy street with no bike facility as the base condition, assigning it a risk of 1.0. According to the study, on-street bike lanes like those that are now used on Summit are the safest alternative for a busy street with a risk ratio of 0.53. That is roughly half as risky—or twice as safe—as no bike facility at all.

In contrast, a two-way bicycle path along a busy street with high conflicts (i.e., many intersections and driveways) is 11.38 times more dangerous for bicyclists than no bike facility. By simple math, that

makes Summit's existing bike lanes more than 20 times safer than the proposed two-way bicycle path.

The IIHS study cites as an example 15th Street NW in Washington, D.C., as a two-way cycle track with a heightened risk ratio. It attributes the heightened risk to the high number of conflicts (intersections and driveways). Summit between Lexington Parkway and the Cathedral has 2.5 times more conflicts per mile than that high-risk cycle track in D.C. On this stretch of lower Summit Avenue, there are 73 intersection and driveway crossings. These crossings are much more dangerous with a two-way bike facility:

As quoted in "PR Newswire," the IIHS study found that "(T)he combination of busy intersections and junctions and a two-way bike lane likely contributed to the high risk.... Intersections and junctions at a two-way bike lane can be particularly challenging for turning drivers. They need to look for oncoming traffic as they turn and must look in both directions for bicyclists."

In addition to being dangerous, the raised bicycle path is the most inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. According to the Saint Paul Bike Plan, the cost of building on-street bike lanes is \$30,000 per mile, while the cost to construct a bicycle track is \$1,500,000 per mile.

SAVE OUR STREET ▶9

## INBOX

### Rent control is still a bad idea

Why do politicians keep digging up old, bad ideas? Rent control was buried by most cities decades ago because it doesn't work. I own and live in a duplex in the Summit Hill neighborhood. I also own a triplex in Minneapolis, and have had renters since 1994. I am a good landlord, and my tenants are generally long-term.

I used to rent at or near market rate and not raise the rent if the tenant was good and paid on time until they vacated, at which time I reset the rent to market-rate again. This, obviously, will no longer occur at my Saint Paul duplex. I purchased it in 2014. It was the worst building on the block and now, after renovation, competes with the best on the block.

My tenant would like new windows in her home office since they leak in the winter. That will not happen. My value went up \$100,000 in 2022 and my taxes went up 38 percent. With that 2022 value increase, my property taxes are all but sure to increase in 2023. But I can only raise rent 3 percent?

With rent control in place, this is what I envision happening when my tenant leaves (and probably happening with other small rental property owners):

1. In my neighborhood, there are many applicants for available units. The more people in the unit, the more expense, so I will avoid renting to families. Single or couple only.

2. I currently pick up the costs for trash and water, and the washer and dryer are included in the rent. No longer.

3. The windows are 100 years old and leak. I will continue to replace my windows on the second floor, but the tenant will need to continue to stuff paper towels where the leaks are.

4. Since rent restrictions reduce property value, I can see conversion of small rentals to single-family homes in good neighborhoods.

5. Rental properties in less desirable neighborhoods will receive repairs only when required by the city for health or safety.

Rent control will reduce the number of units

available. Families will find it difficult to rent in good neighborhoods since landlords will have a large number of applicants from which to choose. Families who rent will find themselves in deteriorating units in less desirable neighborhoods.

Politicians should stay out of the rental market.

Marri Renne  
Summit Hill

### A nation always at half-mast

We are living in a war zone, and Congress should have the guts to declare that. More citizens are dying in the United States from gunfire every week than are dying in Ukraine. People in other countries pity us because we don't stop the murders in our streets and in our schools. President Biden should declare that all flags are to be flown at half mast until further notice.

We have more guns than people in the U.S. How did we get to this mess in which private citizens are allowed to purchase military assault rifles and expanding bullets that assure that a mere graze is lethal? Having these sorts of killing agents in the hands of private citizens makes no sense.

The United Kingdom has a long and honored tradition of hunting. There, registered people may have rifles and shotguns, which are for hunting. No one would use an automatic weapon to shred the prey they're stalking.

So how has it come to be that handguns and other weapons, the only purpose of which is to kill people, are everywhere in our country? The children in the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, were so disfigured from being shot with the sort of weapons and ammunition I mentioned that they had to be identified by their clothing and DNA samples.

President Biden should issue an executive order sending one full-color forensic photo from each killing to each member of Congress to show the carnage their inaction on gun issues is bringing about. With pictures being worth 1,000 words, maybe seeing thousand

of photos of shredded bodies day after day will bring lawmakers to their senses.

Sporting guns are rifles and shotguns. Human-killers are handguns and automatic weapons. And Teflon bullets that pierce the body armor of our police officers have no business being in anybody's possession.

Kathleen Deming  
Macalester-Groveland

### Big Pharma guards its interests

If you are concerned about high drug costs, this may interest you. A family member was recently prescribed a medication costing \$4,000 every three months, or \$16,000 per year, not covered by Medicare or insurance. A Canadian pharmacy can provide it for \$400 for three months—10 percent of the U.S. cost.

U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Marc Rubio have introduced the DRUGS Act (S. 3399), a bill that would block access to pharmacies that are outside of the U.S. Congressmen David Bennett McKinley (R-West Virginia) and Bobby Lee Rush (D-Illinois) have introduced the House of Representatives' version of the bill, (H.R. 6352).

This is a move by Big Pharma to safeguard its immense profits at our expense. Why do Americans pay more for drugs and health care than any other country? A monopoly by pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy benefit managers, that's why.

Dr. Bruce D. Snyder  
Mendota Heights

MyVillager welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. However, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a phone number for verification purposes. Send your commentary to MyVillager, 241 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105, email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it via our website at myvillager.com/editorial. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of MyVillager.





One of the options for replacing Summit Avenue's on-street bike lanes with off-road bike paths involves removing one of the parking lanes and installing a two-way bike trail on that side of the right-of-way.

**84 ANDY SINGER**

driving lanes, 8-foot parking lanes and 6-foot bike lanes with 3-foot buffers. The parking lanes and curbs would be moved inward 9 feet or so, next to the driving lanes. The 9 feet of bike lane and buffer would be moved outside the newly repositioned parking lane and curb and raised up to curb height. No trees would be harmed in the process because the road would not be appreciably widened, and no parking would be lost.

East of Lexington, the bike lanes are just 5 feet wide with no buffer—not wide enough for cyclists to pass each other. To deal with this, the city presented two ideas. The first is combining the two 5-foot bike lanes into a 10-foot, two-way, off-street bike path, narrowing the street by 10 feet and putting the path on the north side of the street, outside of the parked cars. This would not widen the street, so no trees and no parking would be lost.

The second option is to take one of the 8-foot parking lanes and divide it between the two 5 foot bikeways to create 9 feet of bike space on each side of the street. The street would be narrowed by 18 feet and one-way bike paths would be added outside of the curbs on both sides of the street just like the area west of Lexington. Again, it would not widen the street, so no trees would be harmed. Some parking would be lost, but city parking studies show that less than half of the existing parking on Summit is actually used. For a variety of reasons, this second option would be safer and easier to implement.

*A resident of Macalester-Groveland, Andy Singer serves as the volunteer cochair of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition.*

**84 SAVE OUR STREET**

The city could and should make Summit's existing on-street bike lanes safer through four well-proven methods: 1) fixing the pavement and plowing better in winter; 2) narrowing the driving lanes; 3) painting bike lanes a high-contrast green and adding a painted buffer to Summit Avenue between the Cathedral and Lexington; and 4) making context-based intersection safety improvements.

The Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation and National Association of City Transportation Officials, as well as the European Oslo Standard and Copenhagen Model, all caution against two-way paths in high-conflict areas, and recommend on-street bike lanes for busy streets with limited speeds (25 mph and lower).

Buffered on-street bike lanes combined with intersection safety improvements and traffic calming, unlike the two-way cycle paths, will increase safety for people in all modes of transportation—cars, bikes and pedestrians.

On-street bike lanes are both safer and more economical. Why are city planners even considering this exorbitant and dangerous bidirectional bike path boondoggle?

*Save Our Street (SOS) is a citizens group seeking to preserve the historic streetscape of Summit Avenue and a multi-modal corridor for generations to come. This article was a collaborative effort by 12 members of the SOS Steering Committee.*

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**Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991**

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**Editors**

Dale Mischke, John Wadell  
news@myvillager.com

**Display Advertising and Legal Notices**

Gary Ball  
gball@myvillager.com

**Classified Advertising**

Craig Schuster  
wantads@myvillager.com

**Publisher**

John Rauch

**Owner**

Michael Mischke  
mmischke@myvillager.com

**Graphic Designer**

Craig Schuster

**Circulation**

Craig Schuster  
membercare@myvillager.com

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Roger Barr, Matthew Davis, Casey Ek, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Anne Hauth, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Mary Maguire Lerman, Jane McClure, Lou Michaels, Steve Michaels, Anne Murphy, Melenie Soucheray, Brad Stauffer, Jennifer Stewart, Bill Wagner, Carolyn Walkup, Dave Wright.



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# EDUCATION

## Leading the way

New public service-driven charter school scheduled to open this fall

By Frank Jossi

A new Saint Paul charter school endorsed by Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher could likely be one of the first of its kind in the country for attracting students interested in public service and law enforcement careers.

The School of Leadership for Public Service is expected to open this fall in the former Saint Columba School building, 1330 Blair Ave. School officials hope to enroll 120 students in grades 6-10 at the start and eventually grow into a K-12 school with as many as 700 students.

Public affairs consultant and Saint Paul Police Foundation executive director Donna Swanson, a former teacher, has been working to get the school up and running. After helping Fletcher on his 2018 campaign for sheriff, the Summit Hill resident met with him and suggested developing a charter school based on public service.

“We wanted to bring children into the wheelhouse of public service and public safety so they understand at an early age what it means to be a probation officer, a social worker, a police officer, a paramedic,” Swanson said. “We want to build a better perception of public service and public safety at an early age for kids.”

Fletcher said in a statement, “We all know this is a critical time in our communities. From a public safety perspective, the actions we take now must make a positive long-term difference. It’s es-



The new charter school plans to open in the former Saint Columba building at 1330 Blair Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

sential for safety and overall community well-being that youth have personal experiences with the people, careers and opportunities in public service.”

So far, Swanson said 109 students have expressed an interest in enrolling at the school, which is authorized by the Minnesota Guild and has its administrative offices at 905 Jefferson Ave. If it fails to reach its enrollment goal, the guild will collaborate with the school’s board on deciding whether to open, she said. Roy Magnuson, a founding board member, conceded that several other charter schools are either opening or expanding in



Board members and volunteers gathered at the site on July 28 to help spread the word about the School of Leadership for Public Service, which plans to start this fall with grades 6-10 and eventually grow into a K-12 program. An open house is scheduled on August 3. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WISCH

Saint Paul, creating a challenging environment.

“Competition is a bit higher than it would have been if we would have been opening in 2019 or even 2020 without COVID,” he said. Magnuson pointed to Saint Paul City Schools, a preK-12 charter program formed by a recent merger, and the emergence of schools for Somali children as competitors to the School of Leadership for Public Service.

Swanson is hoping for the best. The school has hired an interim executive director and a handful of teachers, with plans to have a staff of eight.

The school will accept students struggling academically because teachers and staff believe they can raise their achievement level in a safe environment.

“We want to help kids who are behind,” Swanson said. “We also have a safety plan that will rival anybody’s.”

Students will have opportunities to interact with professionals in public service, a benefit whether they enter that field or not, Swanson said. Many professional

*“We wanted to bring children into the wheelhouse of public service and public safety so they understand at an early age what it means to be a probation officer, a social worker, a police officer, a paramedic,” Swanson said.*

organizations and individuals have agreed to support the school with volunteers, she said, including a retired judge.

Swanson said the school has received a state charter school programming grant of \$650,000, distributed over three years. To recruit more students, the school’s volunteers have been canvassing neighborhoods and reaching out to students through youth organizations.

Magnuson, a coach, former

teacher and public information officer for Fletcher, said he sees the school’s mission as employing a “teacher-led” model of instruction and encouraging students to aspire to high standards while exposing students to such professions as law enforcement, public health, emergency medical services, education and the courts.

Magnuson said he participated in a first responder’s camp for high schoolers in July featuring volunteers who work in county and city police, fire, water rescue, EMT and airport departments of local governments. That, he said, is a model for the School of Leadership for Public Service.

The school will offer “career exposure and we hope that over time that will lead to internships for students,” he said.

The public is invited to join school personnel for pizza during an open house from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, in the new space. For more information, contact Donna Swanson at 651-492-5487 or visit leadershipforpublicservice.org.

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Katelyn Mariah poses with three paintings from her “Resilient Heart” series that chronicle her healing after five heart attacks. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Merriam Park’s Katelyn Mariah paints her way back to health

By Anne Murphy

**K**atelyn Mariah of Merriam Park has been a believer in the healing power of art for quite some time. And at no time was that truer than after her recovery from five heart attacks and open-heart surgery.

Fourteen of the 110 paintings she completed as part of her healing process are being displayed now through the end of September as part of an exhibit called “Resilient Heart” at Magus Books, 1848 Central Ave. NE., Minneapolis. Mariah said her hope is that the show will provide a source of healing for people who might be suffering in one way or another—from dealing with COVID-19 to social justice concerns.

“We’ve all had our hearts broken in one way or another over the last 2½ years,” she said. “I hope my paintings will touch people in a way that helps them recover. I’ve used art to heal myself for a long time.”

Mariah was acutely aware of art as a healing force during her 25-year career as a psychologist. Her practice included a focus on trauma in the young where she employed the use of sand therapy among other art forms. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, studied at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and earned a postgraduate degree in art therapy and psychology from Saint Mary’s University.

“I was drawn to art therapy the first time I heard about it,” Mariah said. “I got sick when I was in my mid-30s and almost died. It was after that when I discovered I could tap into something higher than myself and paint what came to me. It was like a latent talent got activated.”

Mariah, who grew up in Highland Park, said she wanted to be an artist since she was 5 years old. “I wasn’t very good, but I liked to draw, mostly animals and nature,” she said. “I painted in high school and knew it had a positive impact on me. I built a studio in my parent’s basement and that felt like a sanctuary to me.”

She now has two adult children and two grandchildren, and a studio in her Merriam Park home where she pursues her interest in visionary art through watercolor and India ink.

“I’ve always been attracted to ‘primitive’ or ‘outsider’ art,” Mariah said. “Henri Rousseau is an example. Ernst Fuchs is another painter in the style that I admire.”

Mariah went on to study with the well-known American visionary painter Philip

Rubinov-Jacobson through four-month seminars abroad. She travelled to Austria in 2012, Bali in 2014, Spain in 2015 and Austria again in 2016.

She suffered her first heart attack at home in 2016, and another one during the trip to Austria later that year. At the time, she was working on an image of the Goddess Tanit from Ibiza, Spain. “I was in the middle of painting when I was rushed to the hospital,” she said.

Mariah said her first three heart attacks happened about every four months. She had two more, followed by open-heart surgery in October 2017.

Her healing and painting as part of the heart series continued into 2019. Of special meaning to her is a painting that includes the image of DNA rising from a heart.

“I painted it before I even knew I was having surgery,” she said. “My art is often prophetic like that. The DNA was twisted exactly the same as my bypass. It was telling me that I was going to be OK and that was really comforting.”

She accompanies her paintings with poetic and explanatory narratives. She also compiled the first 30 or so paintings in her book *Resilient Heart Art: The Healing Power of Art* (Mystick Creek Publishing, 2018).

“I’d journal about them, including some dialogue about what the painting did for me, the symbolism,” she said. “I might do a book of all of the paintings at some point, attaching my story to it.”

“I’ve been in the process of healing for six years,” Mariah continued. “I’m not the person I was in 2016. I had things that needed to heal around my heart, emotionally. That was some of the discovery that came through the paintings. I opened my heart and I’m more present, and those are huge gifts.”

Since finishing her heart series, Mariah has painted watercolors depicting COVID-19 and George Floyd. “They came from a sense of trauma and they turned into something healing, and then that happened for me, too,” she said. “It’s like a phoenix rising—you see yourself coming out of chaos.”

Recently, she has taken a course on herbal medicine and has begun botanical paintings. “I’m probably going to put those into a book, too,” said Mariah, who has an expansive herb garden in her backyard.

Beyond botanicals, Mariah said, she is just waiting for further inspiration. “When it happens, I’ll go right to my studio,” she said. “I won’t have to go far to get started.”

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# Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For car and catalytic converter thefts, and other crime reports not mentioned in this print edition, go to MyVillager.com.

## Highland Park

**Burglary**—A motorbike was reported stolen from a parking garage on the 2000 block of Yorkshire Avenue on July 15.

—Residential burglaries were reported on the 2000 block of Field Avenue between July 14-16, and the 400 block of South Cretin Avenue on July 17-18.

**Theft**—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles at Crosby Farm Park on July 14 and 23, and from Hidden Falls Park on July 22.

—Several items were reported stolen from the men's locker room at Planet Fitness, 2401 W. Seventh St., on July 19. A woman also reported another theft there on July 21.

**Assault**—A 46-year-old woman was arrested for felony assault with an axe on the 1200 block of Edgcombe Road on July 13.

**Miscellaneous**—Police arrested a 36-year-old man for DWI, possession of a firearm by a felon and seven outstanding warrants after finding him asleep in a vehicle on July 19 on the 2000 block of Juno Avenue.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Theft**—Shoplifters caught at the Midway Target included a 53-year-old man who stole \$677 in merchandise on July 16, a 34-year-old man who stole \$266 in merchandise on July 18, and a 28-year-old woman who stole more than \$500 in merchandise on July 21.

—A juvenile reportedly stole a cellphone from an office at the Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy., on July 19.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Target on July 19.

**Assault**—An assault was reported during a shoplifting incident at Aldi, 1134 University Ave., on July 16.

—A felony assault was reported at Speedway, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., on July 23.

—A 26-year-old man was arrested for punching a police officer following a traffic stop on Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue on July 25.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—A robbery at knifepoint was reported on Summit Avenue and Pascal Street on July 18. A woman said she was sitting in her car when a man opened the door, grabbed her arm, said he had a knife, stole her purse and then fled. Multiple squads searched for the suspect to no avail.

—A woman reportedly was assaulted and robbed by an ex-boyfriend outside her apartment on the 1800 block of Grand Avenue on July 26.

**Burglary**—A home break-in was reported on the 2100 block of Fairmount Avenue on July 25-26. The victim said he returned home to find his window open and items scattered throughout the residence, with decorative tableware the only thing taken.

**Theft**—A purse was reported stolen from a vehicle on Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue on July 11.

—A dump truck was reported stolen from a work site on the 1400 block of Goodrich Avenue on July 25.

**Assault**—An assault was reported near Snelling and Randolph avenues by staff at Plums Neighborhood Grill & Bar on July 16.

## Mendota Heights

**Assault**—A woman was taken to the hospital for evaluation after threatening another person with a bat on the 2300 block of Swan Drive on July 19.

**Miscellaneous**—A child was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a dog during Mendota Days on July 9 on Highway 13.

—A 34-year-old man was arrested for DWI and drug possession after police responded to a report of an unconscious driver behind the wheel of a vehicle on July 20 on the 600 block of Lilydale Road.

## Merriam Park

**Burglary**—Burglaries were reported on the 1900 and 2100 blocks of Marshall Avenue on July 12 and 13.

—Electronics and cash were reported stolen at Lyn Lake Chiropractic Saint Paul, 91 N. Snelling Ave., on July 19-20.

**Theft**—A 25-year-old man was arrested for possession of a stolen car and drugs at the Quality Inn, 1964 University Ave., on July 13.

**Arson**—A 37-year-old woman was arrested for lighting a bulletin board on fire in a multi-unit building on the 1900 block of University Avenue on July 20.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Burglary**—A burglary was reported on the 1300 block of Ashland Avenue on July 16-17.

**Assault**—A male suspect accompanied by two children threatened staff at knifepoint at the Dollar Tree, 1420 University Ave., on July 13.

—A suspect pulled out a gun and threatened another man near Starbucks, 234 N. Snelling Ave., on July 16.

**Weapons**—Multiple callers reported hearing gunfire on the 300 block of North Hamline Avenue on July 23.

**Miscellaneous**—A 32-year-old woman was arrested for DWI and child endangerment after she was seen driving a disabled vehicle on the side of the road on Snelling and Selby avenues on July 20.

—A traffic accident involving a pedestrian was reported on the 100 block of North Snelling Avenue on July 21.

## Summit Hill

**Burglary**—A break-in was reported on the 900 block of Grand Avenue between July 12-16.

—Grand Spectacle, 764 Grand Ave., was broken into on July 14.

**Theft**—A suspect was caught on video stealing a man's wallet that had been left at U.S. Bank, 1071 Grand Ave., on July 20.

—Cash was reported stolen from the safe at Toppers Pizza, 1154 Grand Ave., on July 24.

—A purse-snatching was reported at Milton Mall, 917 Grand Ave., on July 25.

—Several items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on Saint Albans Street and Summit Avenue on July 24-25.

**Miscellaneous**—A male riding an electric scooter was taken to the hospital for minor injuries after colliding with a vehicle on the 300 block of Grand Avenue on July 24.

## Summit-University

**Burglary**—The window was broken and several items were reported stolen from Primp Boutique, 618 Selby Ave., on July 19. The suspects also damaged the entrance doors to buildings at 610 and 614 Selby.

—A suspect entered through an unlocked front door and stole a purse while the homeowner was in the backyard on the 700 block of Portland Avenue on July 26.

**Assault**—A 37-year-old homeless wom-

an was cited for punching and pushing a victim to the ground on the 400 block of Selby Avenue on July 14.

—A 56-year-old man was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon on the 800 block of Ashland Avenue on July 17.

—A woman was taken to the hospital for facial injuries after an unknown female assaulted her on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue on July 26.

**Miscellaneous**—Felony damage to property was reported at Obama Elementary School, 707 Holly Ave., on July 24.

## West End

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported at Speedway, 1734 W. Seventh St., on July 23.

**Burglary**—The door was found open and items strewn across the floor at Pajarito, 605 W. Seventh St., on July 14.

—A burglary was reported at Public Storage, 875 Montreal Ave., on July 15.

—Patrick McGovern's Pub, 241 W. Seventh St., was burglarized on July 17. The suspect was later arrested near the Dorothy Day Residence, 215 Old Sixth St.

—A break-in was reported at the Eagle Street Grille, 174 W. Seventh St., on July 20.

**Theft**—Burger Moe's, 242 W. Seventh St., reported the theft of more than \$2,000 in cash on July 15.

—A truck and trailer were stolen on the 300 block of Bay Street on July 16.

—An electric bicycle was reported stolen at United Hospital on July 22.

—A trailer was reported stolen on the 900 block of Bayard Avenue on July 25.

**Assault**—Women were arrested for assaulting security guards at United Hospital on July 16 and 19. A patient also reportedly assaulted staff at the hospital on July 23.

—A 38-year-old man was arrested for felony assault with a BB gun at Keg & Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St., on July 16.

—A 53-year-old man was arrested for assaulting a bartender and other staff at the Eagle Street Grille, 174 W. Seventh St., on July 25.

**Miscellaneous**—A 42-year-old woman was arrested for drug possession, DWI, obstructing the legal process and giving false information to police after a traffic stop on West Seventh and Michigan streets on July 26. She also had numerous warrants for her arrest.

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# ON THE TOWN

## Echoes of Evans and Hall

McDonough and Shapira revisit music of two masters of jazz

By Anne Murphy

From early on, Macalester-Groveland pianist Larry McDonough and Highland Park guitarist Joel Shapira were captivated by the music of Bill Evans and Jim Hall. Pianist Evans and guitarist Hall collaborated on two jazz albums of note, “Undercurrent” in 1962 and “Intermodulation” in 1966.

McDonough and Shapira honor those recordings with their new CD, “Intermodulating Undercurrents Live at the Kos: The Music of Bill Evans and Jim Hall.”

The CD was recorded at an outdoor concert last October in Minneapolis. McDonough and Shapira will perform selections from that CD during a Bill Evans Birthday Bash at 7 p.m. Monday, August 15, at the Dakota, 1010 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis. They will be joined in concert by the Larry McDonough Quintet.

“The music (of Evans and Hall) is historically valuable,” McDonough said. “Both of these guys are building blocks of the evolution of jazz. And when you listen to this music—because it’s quieter and not bombastic—you can focus in on it. It’s a real opportunity to get inside the music.”

McDonough and Shapira had talked about doing a recording of Evans and Hall’s music for years. “We’d performed some of the music at the Black Dog and other places,” McDonough said. “I was at a point where I thought, ‘Yeah, we should go in the studio and do this,’ and then the pandemic came. But last fall, we set up at



Joel Shapira (left) and Larry McDonough play a number from the songbook of Bill Evans and Jim Hall. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WISCH

an outdoor house party with the idea that maybe it’ll work, maybe it won’t. There was one song we didn’t use because an airplane went over. But for the most part, everything was good.”

McDonough has been enthralled by the music of Evans since he was 10 or 12. “I became aware of the album ‘Kind of Blue’ by Miles Davis,” he said. “I checked out the album from the library and really liked it. Then I became interested in the musicians who were on it. I saw that there was only one white guy on the album, Bill Evans.”

McDonough found another

album at the library featuring Evans. “I was pretty shocked that on the cover he looked like an accountant—very short hair, clean cut and wearing a suit. I thought, ‘this can’t be the right guy.’ But I asked the librarian, and she said he was the right guy. So I checked it out, and I was amazed at how much his playing sounded like Rachmaninoff.”

McDonough said he was fortunate to see Evans perform a few times in small clubs when he was in high school. “I was too shy to say anything to him, but I followed his career and got a lot of his albums and was kind

of heartbroken when he died in 1980 at age 51. He became my favorite jazz pianist. He is my favorite jazz composer.”

Shapira was 14 or 15 when he first heard Hall perform. “I was just starting to get into jazz,” he said. “I saw him in concert when I was in high school, and I was really taken with his playing. He was well beyond me harmonically with his whole concept of music and the instrument and what he was doing. But as I progressed, and as I heard the music more and more, I began to understand it in a deeper way.

“Years ago, when I lived in New York City, I’d run into Hall on the street,” Shapira said. “He lived on 12th Street in Lower Manhattan, and I was there a lot. When I ran into him, I’d ask him for a lesson. I also heard him in person numerous times, as much as I could afford to. I’d go to Sweet Basil, which was a jazz club on Seventh Avenue down from the Village Vanguard. I’d go there on a Monday night after I got done working at Tower Records. And there’d be like six people there listening, four feet in front of Jim, and every one of them was a guitarist.

“One of the tunes we do on the CD is ‘Skating in Central Park’ from ‘Undercurrent,’” Shapira said. “Last week I was listening to KBEM, and I heard what I knew had to be the Jim Hall-Bill Evans version of that tune. It was 6:15 a.m. or something, I was driving, and just a couple of measures of Jim Hall’s guitar and I knew it was that tune. It was so inspiring. ‘Undercurrent’ is one of the pinnacles of dual jazz interplay.”

In addition to the music of Evans and Hall, the CD includes “My Funny Valentine” by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, Gershwin’s “My Man’s Gone Now,” “Blue in Green” by Evans and Miles Davis, Shapira’s “Solace” and McDonough’s “Tuscarora.”

Tickets for the August 15 concert are \$15 and \$20 and available at dakotacooks.com. Copies of the CD may be purchased for \$15 at larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com or joelshapira.com.

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# ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

## Theater

**Minnesota Fringe Festival**, the 29th annual celebration of the dramatic arts, will return from August 4-14 with 119 plays in 595 performances at 11 different Minneapolis venues. The shows were selected in a lottery, though 10 percent of the slots were reserved for BIPOC applicants and 10 percent for applicants from outside the metro area. Tickets are \$15 per show (\$7 for children); \$65 for five shows; and \$110 for 10 shows. A \$5 festival button is required. Reservations cost an additional \$3. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is also required. Visit [minnesotafringe.org](http://minnesotafringe.org).

**The young acrobats of Circus Juventas** take a death-defying journey through circus history in *Confetti*, running through August 14 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. The time travelers juggle with minstrels in Renaissance Italy, visit Phillip Astley at the dawn of the circus ring, witness the invention of the flying trapeze and rub shoulders with P.T. Barnum. New acts as the fire jump rope, extreme unicycle and 90-foot wire walk will be executed alongside old favorites as the flying trapeze, teeterboard and wall trampoline. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$25-\$50, free to children age 2 and under on the lap of an adult. Visit [circusjuventas.org](http://circusjuventas.org).

**Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater** will present four short plays and two staged readings in the fundraiser, *More of a Good Thing: An Evening of Theater*, at 7 p.m. Friday, August 19, at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St. in Minneapolis. The plays include *Cock and Bull* and *Queen Enid* by Steven LaVigne and *Woman's Work is Never Done* and *The Man Behind the Man in the Cape* by Noreen K. Brandt. The staged readings are *Ghoulies and Ghosties: Tales of Horror and Suspense* and *The Cozy Tea Party Murders*. Admission is by donation, and reservations are not necessary. Call 612-724-4539.

**This Show Is Cheaper Than Gas: America on Empty**, the Brave New Workshop's latest comic revue, will be performed from August 19 through November 5 on the stage at 824 Hennepin Ave. The collection of sketches satirizes the current landscape where every day the media give us something new to be terrified about, the economy is in freefall, a C-note barely covers a fillup at the gas station, and nine people whom nobody elected have rewritten 50 years of U.S. history. Tickets are \$38 and \$43, or \$23 for the previews on August 11, 13, 17 and 18. For reservations, visit [bravenewworkshop.org](http://bravenewworkshop.org).

## Music

**Djembe Joy**, a class in hand drumming for beginners, will be offered from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$15. Drums are provided. Masks are required. Visit [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

**Summer Nights in Rice**, a free concert series, continues with a performance by the Twin Cities Latin Band from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, August 11, in downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park. Visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org).

**Music in the Parks**, free concerts in Mendota Heights' Mendakota Park, will continue with Funktion Junction from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, August 12.

**The Native American band Bluedog** will perform live from 7-8:30 p.m.



## Who's the real Sherlock Holmes?

That's the mystery to solve in Jeffrey Hatcher's new play, *Holmes and Watson*, running through August 21 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The drama opens with Dr. Watson receiving a telegram from a mental asylum where three patients (above) are all claiming to be the intrepid Holmes. Bruce Roach, Pearce Bunting, Paul de Cordova and Peter Simmons star. Michael Evan Haney directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 651-291-7005 or visit [parksquaretheatre.org](http://parksquaretheatre.org). DAN NORMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Friday, August 12, on the Klas Overlook at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Refreshments will be available. Parking costs \$6. No alcohol or pets are allowed. Call 612-726-1171.

## Exhibits

**"Journey to Space,"** a traveling exhibit built with the support of NASA, is being displayed through September 5 at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. Learn of the journeys people are taking into space and imagine a future when earth is no longer the only planet we call home. An accompanying exhibit will test visitors' space knowledge and engineering skills with the aid of a NASA model. Tickets should be purchased in advance. Visit [smm.org](http://smm.org).

**The history of plastic** and its beauty and diversity as a design material are explored in "Plastic Rapt: A History of Designing Forever," on view through September 25 in the University of Minnesota's Goldstein Gallery on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. It includes objects made from celluloid, the earliest semi-synthetic plastic, and Bakelite, the first true synthetic plastic. Admission is free. Call 612-624-7434.

**Walking tours of the historic areas** in and around downtown Saint Paul are offered from 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays in August. Led by Landmark Center volunteers, the tours are free with pre-registration. The schedule includes It Happened Right Here: Saint Paul's Origins Tour beginning at the Robert Street entrance to Kellogg Park on August 3, the Rice Park Tour beginning at Landmark Center on August 10, and the Great River Tour beginning at Upper Landing Park on August 17. The Rice Park and Great River tours are also available virtually. For reservations, visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org) or call Sydney at 651-292-3063.

**"Genocide and Justice: From Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court,"** an exploration of the Holocaust of World War II and the more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and Darfur, is being displayed through September 30 on the main floor of Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. The free exhibit includes highlights of the international tribunals and domestic prosecution of

the perpetrators. Hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

**Dog Days and Art**, an art crawl for people and their four-legged friends, will be held on Saturday, August 6, on Harriet Island. Artists will be showing and selling original works from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in their studios in Warehouse 2, 106 W. Water St. Dogs that are leashed and well-behaved are welcome at the outdoor portion of the festival, which runs from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There, people may commission a portrait or photograph with their pet, purchase gourmet treats for their dogs or order delicious edibles for themselves at any of several food trucks.

## Books

A free poetry workshop will be offered by Cracked Walnut from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, August 6, in the first floor meeting room at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Bring eight to 10 copies of an original poem to read and have critiqued. For reservations, email [donna@donnaisaacpoet.com](mailto:donna@donnaisaacpoet.com).

## Film

**Encanto** will be screened at 9 p.m. Friday, August 5, in Union Depot's Lot D, 392 E. Kellogg Blvd. The audio for the drive-in movie will be streamed over radio. Refreshments will be available. Contests, quizzes and prizes will all be part of the fun. Tickets are \$15 per vehicle. Visit [uniondepot.org](http://uniondepot.org).

**Nightclubbing**, a documentary on Max's Kansas City, the renowned nightclub that operated from 1965-81 in New York City, will be screened by Sound Unseen at 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. David Bowie first met Iggy Pop at Max's. Sex Pistols bassist Sid Vicious played his last shows there. And it is where Andy Warhol held court with artists, actors, filmmakers, models, writers and countless musicians. Tickets are \$12. The film will be preceded by the 20-minute flick, *Sid: The Final Curtain*. Visit [soundunseen.com](http://soundunseen.com).

**Eight classic French films** will be shown in August by the Alliance Francaise. The film festival will open at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 18, with Jacques Tati's 1953 comedy, *Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*. It will close at 7 p.m. Friday, August 26,

with Mathieu Kassovitz's gritty 1995 crime drama, *La Haine*. Both programs will be held at Main Cinema, 115 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. The six other films in the fest will roll at 7 p.m. outside of the Alliance Francaise, 227 Colfax Ave. N. Minneapolis. They include François Truffaut's 1960 crime drama, *Tirez sur le pianiste*, on August 19; Jean-Luc Godard's *Vivre sa vie*, the tragic tale of an aspiring actress who ends up a prostitute, August 20; Truffaut's *Jules et Jim*, starring Jeanne Moreau as the center of a romantic triangle, August 22; Jacques Demy's *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg* starring Catherine Deneuve, August 23; Demy's *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort* starring Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac, August 24; and Truffaut's gripping World War II drama *Le dernier Metro* starring Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu, August 25. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, at Main Cinema; \$5 at the Alliance Francaise; or \$40 for all eight films. Call 612-332-0436 or visit [afmsp.org](http://afmsp.org).

## Et cetera

**Live music, cold beer** and seltzers, games for all ages and 50 food trucks will be featured at the Saint Paul Food Truck Festival, running from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, August 6, in Union Depot's Parking Lot C, 390 E. Kellogg Blvd. Performers include Khalia & Blackwater from noon-3 p.m., Tyte Phitt from 3:30-6:30 p.m., and Sumo Seven from 7-10 p.m.

**The Little Africa Festival** will be celebrated from noon-9 p.m., Sunday, August 7, in Hamline Park, Snelling and Thomas avenues. The free event will feature African music, dancing, visual art and food as well as poetry, a fashion show and Parade of Nations.

**All things Irish** will be celebrated at the 42nd Irish Fair of Minnesota from August 12-14 on Harriet Island. More than 500 international, national, and regional acts will be featured on nine stages. Live music, dance and storytelling will abound, along with Irish sporting events, cultural exhibits, children's activities and a Celtic marketplace. Hours are 3-11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. New this year are pub trivia, a sea shanty sing-along, an Irish toast competition and Irish comedy. The musical lineup includes We Banjo 3, Gaelic Storm, Skerryvore, the Friel Sisters, Aoife Scott, Patsy O'Brien, Clare Cunningham, Wild Colonial Bhoys, Sweet Colleens, Paddy Wagon, Northerly Gales, Hounds of Finn, Tim Malloys, Inland Seas and Locklin Road. Admission is \$20, \$15 for ages 13-17, free to children 12 and under. Three-day passes are \$45 and \$40. Visit [irishfair.com](http://irishfair.com).

**Indiafest**, a celebration of the culture, heritage and traditions of the subcontinent, will be held from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, August 13, on the grounds of the State Capitol. Sponsored by the India Association of Minnesota, the free event will feature the best in Indian music, dance and cuisine. Learn new skills in yoga and meditation. Shop at the Indian bazaar. Play chess or cricket. For more information, visit [iamn.org](http://iamn.org).

**The Minnesota Boychoir** will hold auditions for new members on August 16-18 and 23-25. Every boy who auditions is welcomed into one of the organization's three ensembles. Twenty percent of the singers participate with the aid of scholarships. A boot camp for boys ages 6-12 who would like to build up their confidence before the auditions will be held on Saturday, August 20. For more information, visit [boychoir.org](http://boychoir.org).



# SPORTS



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### CAA director steps down after 45 yrs.

Old habits can be hard to break. Just ask Mark Courtney. For the past 45 years, Courtney has been the glue holding everything together for the 56 grade schools that make up the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) in his role as the nonprofit organization's athletic director. That has meant taking care of everything from organizing and leading meetings with the individual schools' athletic directors, to securing fields to play softball, baseball and soccer games, to roping retired high school and college officials into handling grade school contests.

In theory, all that was supposed to change on June 30 when Courtney officially retired from the organization. Yet a couple of days later, there was Courtney helping to oversee one of the association's biggest fundraising events of the year—its annual golf tournament.

Apparently, he wasn't buying U.S. General Douglas MacArthur's famous recitation of the lines from an old army ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

Courtney's former duties will be mainly split up between two people. Ilse Larsen will take over as director of operations and Steve Schneider will handle the task of finding officials to work the 10 sports the grade schools take part in. It was the combination of getting older and keeping up with what's become a rapidly changing and challenging athletic environment that caused Courtney, who will turn 69 in September, to step down.

As it turns out, his history with the CAA goes back well before he became the sixth person to run the administrative side of things. When he was a senior reserve on the basketball team at then-Cretin High School, Courtney and teammate Jack Peick were recruited



Mark Courtney

WRIGHT CALL ▶16

## Men's Class A baseball

### St. Paul Capitals right in hunt for state berth

By Bill Wagner

Although it wasn't quite as productive on offense this year as it's been in the past, the Saint Paul Capitals men's Class A amateur baseball team found itself right where it wanted to be as the postseason commenced late last week.

Player/coach Rick Tossey, who helped Phil McDermott run the club for the past several years, is now managing a still pretty solid team that was 10-8 in the Saint Paul League this year and 15-10 overall heading into the postseason.

In their best-of-three playoff series at Dunning Field against the Twin Cities Saints, the Capitals lost their first game 5-2 on July 28, despite a three-for-four performance from Kyle Oswald, who also drove in a run.

The Capitals came back with an 11-1 win two days later to even the series, with home runs from Ryan Abrahamson and Chris Zeller. Grant Taival pitched six scoreless innings and Weston Germain closed the game out while allowing just one run.

Tossey said there was reason for optimism heading into the series final on August 1 with ace pitcher Josh Kubitschek, who had been out of town, available for duty.

"Our team has some good depth and we hope to use it to our advantage," Tossey said.

Air Freight, last year's state champion, ranks as the favorite to win it all once again. However, the Capitals defeated Air Freight in a 3-2 thriller in the regular-season finale, which gave them an extra boost heading into the postseason.

Kubitschek, who played ball for the University of Saint Thomas and Minnesota-Mankato, missed about a month earlier this summer with a bad



The Saint Paul Capitals' Andy Sammon slides safely into second as Highland Park's Andy Devine reaches for a throw in the Capitals' 5-1 win on July 21. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

shoulder. But Tossey said he's back now and could make a big difference.

"If Josh is healthy, we've always got a chance," Tossey said.

Pitcher Dylan Welter, another UST product, ate up a lot of innings this year and has been solid since joining the team in 2019. Welter also plays center and swings a good bat when he's not pitching.

Mitch Nordin, a veteran since 2018 from Gustavus Adolphus, is another good pitcher for the Capitals. And Trent Schoeberl, who pitches for the Gophers, has taken over as a smoke-throwing reliever to close out games.

Chuck Bartholomew (UST) is a great defensive catcher who doesn't strike out much and was hitting in

the upper .300s.

First base is shared by brothers Tom and Dan Petersen from White Bear, who have nine homers between them. Dan had 24 RBI and was batting almost .400. He plays left field when he's not at first.

At second is Andy Sammon, who joined the team from the now-defunct KF Diesel squad a year ago. He's a Hamline University and East Ridge High School product.

Veteran players Derek Jacobson (UST) and third baseman Abrahamson (U of M) man short and third, respectively. Jacobson is solid in the field, gets on base a lot and can run.

SAINT PAUL CAPITALS ▶16

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**15◀ WRIGHT CALL**

by then-Raiders head coach Len Horyza to referee grade school games. As often happens in such ventures, Courtney fell in love with officiating and stayed at it for another four-plus decades before giving it up a few years ago.

When not supervising a tournament, Courtney was scheduling an estimated 125,000 sports competitions and using his contacts to find facilities to play them at. When it came to a sport in which he had little expertise, Courtney went out and found help. So it was that swimming went from an embryonic stage when meets were held at Hamline or the old Saint Catherine pool to a full-fledged spectacular that starts at the Omni Swim Club and finishes with a two-night showcase at the University of Minnesota.

"It's the only sport we have that runs from grades K-8," Courtney said. "I know what I don't know, so I turned swimming over to Dave Hulit and his daughter, Lindsey. We've had as many as 1,000 kids in a single year involved in the state meet. It's worked out great."

Money, of course, is always an issue. Schools either pay a fee for a team to play or—in the case of cross country, track, swimming and golf—an individual competitor. The CAA's golf tournament and its annual Hall of Fame celebration (which is coming up on October 4 at Mendakota Country Club) are the main fundraisers to help kids keep playing. But these days finding and paying officials has become the CAA's main challenge.

"We've had to raise fees a bit," Courtney conceded. "Soccer, softball and baseball are our toughest ones because everybody seems to be playing those sports at the same time."

Hockey is also a challenge. Many CAA hockey games are played outside, though the league does play inside the

Augsburg Ice Arena a couple of times a year.

So what does a guy who has spent more than half his life on the job plan to do with his newly found spare time this winter? "I have a friend in Hawaii who has been inviting me for years to come visit him," Courtney said with a smile. "I also have a friend in Arizona who's made the same offer. I could never do that before."

However, should Larsen or Schneider need a helping hand on occasion, Courtney said he can clear the decks for a while. "I'll be around to help if and wherever they need me to," he said.

**Baseball is a bumpy ride**

If you ever needed evidence that a Major League Baseball season can test a fan's emotional health, consider what's been happening this month.

One afternoon in early July, a fellow on vacation in Nevada found himself ensconced in front of several televisions while taking a break from doing battle with the machines at a casino. Several baseball games were being aired. The Central Division race could be watched on two sets next to each other. On one of them, things were going well for the local partisans because the fourth-place Detroit Tigers were knocking the Cleveland Guardians all over Comerica Park en route to a sweep of a doubleheader. On another set, the Minnesota Twins were taking advantage of some Marx Brothers-like baserunning antics by the Chicago White Sox and used a three-run 10th inning for a win that extended their lead in the division.

The next afternoon history repeated itself. The Twins bashed five home runs in an easy 8-2 win. The Tigers buried the Guardians 11-4, stretching Minnesota's lead to 4½ games. The next day saw the Minnesota bullpen self-destruct in a 10-inning loss. But that despair was offset

because the Tigers knocked Cleveland around again.

A Friday loss by Minnesota at Texas was annoying, but both Cleveland and Chicago went down as well. The next day saw Twins starter Devin Smelter fail to hold a 6-3 lead in another loss to the Rangers, while both Chicago and Cleveland won decisively.

Fast forward to the next weekend. The White Sox suddenly had figured out how to run the bases at Target Field. The Twins' hitting and fielding were nowhere to be seen. The visitors won three of four games, finishing with a flurry in an 11-0 win and Minnesota's lead at the All-Star Game break was down to just two games.

You get the idea. Every game has now become an adventure. Or as Yogi Berra once observed, "In baseball, you don't know nothin'." The rest of the month was equally haphazard. As this was being written, the Twins' lead in the Central Division was a slim 1½ games.

There are two months to go in the season. By the time you read this, we'll know if the Twins made any late moves to get pitching, hitting or fielding help. It's been a while since we were in a full-fledged pennant race around here. It's the type of race where you watch the out-of-town scoreboard for the Chicago and Cleveland games, and where you mutter an expletive when Byron Buxton is not in the starting lineup or when a relief pitcher comes in to protect a one-run lead and walks the first batter he faces.

Football doesn't offer that kind of daily agony and ecstasy, and basketball and hockey have days off to ponder the previous game.

So consider this a quick reminder that the next two months is precisely why baseball fans patiently endure winter, waiting for the warmer weather to return. Just remember to have plenty of Pepto Bismol on hand.

*Dave Wright can be reached at [dwright53@msn.com](mailto:dwright53@msn.com).*

**15◀ SAINT PAUL CAPITALS**

Abrahamson is a stalwart in the third spot in the order and a long-ball threat who was batting above .300.

Right fielder and designated hitter Mark Groebner, an ex-Gopher and baseball assistant at Eastview, still answers the bell. He was hitting about .300 and playing

good defense—at age 47.

Zeller, who plays nearly every infield position, has been a welcome addition after arriving from KF Diesel this year. And fellow Capitals rookie Oswald has been a find whether he's catching or playing the outfield. Oswald, a current college player at Saint Scholastica, is hitting over .400.

Tossey, who has battled a back injury

this season, said he's only had "about a dozen" at-bats this summer.

The Capitals took third at state in 2012, won the title in 2014, finished second in 2015 and were third in 2019. Last year, they also came in third after losing to an upset-minded Highland team in the semifinals.

A couple of recent Capitals players have piqued the interest of the major leagues.

Michael Busch, who played first base and outfield for the Capitals in 2016, became the No. 1 draft choice of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2019 and is currently playing for the team's Triple A affiliate.

Pitcher Adam Mazur, who played for the Capitals in 2020, was taken in the second round of this year's draft by the San Diego Padres.



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# District Councils

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Transportation Fair**—The Highland District Council will hold a Transportation Information Fair from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Presenters will include the Minnesota Department of Transportation on West Seventh Street resurfacing; Ramsey County on the Blue Line/Riverview Corridor connection study, Saint Paul Avenue resurfacing, and the second phase of the Lexington Parkway reroute project; and the city of Saint Paul on Edgumbe Road's reconstruction, Mississippi River Boulevard's resurfacing, and an update on the city's Bike Plan.

**Lock and dam tour**—A study about the future of Lock and Dam No. 1 just south of the Ford Bridge will begin soon. People can learn more about the issues involved by attending a free walking tour hosted by Friends of the Mississippi River at 3 p.m. Thursday, August 4. Meet at the splash pad at the Wabun Picnic Area in Minneapolis. No registration is required.

**Highland Park bike tour**—The HDC's Transportation Committee will host a 1.5-hour bike tour through Highland Park instead of its August meeting. Riders should meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 9, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. From there they will explore various transportation-related sites through the neighborhood. The pace will be slow, with several stops along the way. A map is available on the HDC website.

**Outdoor movie**—Family-friendly activities and an outdoor screening of the animated film *Luca* will be presented by the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation at dusk on Wednesday, August 10, at Sibley Manor Apartments, 1300 W. Maynard Drive.

**Jazzed About Highland**—Live jazz, food trucks and fun will once again fill the parking lot of Langford and Karls Chiropractic Clinic, 730 S. Cleveland Ave., during Jazzed about Highland beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 11. D's Kitchen Vietnamese food truck, Cold Front ice cream, and beer, wine and water will be available for purchase. Debbie Briggs' Vintage Jazz Band will perform from 7-8:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the HDC and Highland Business Association.

**Highland Bridge meeting**—The University of Saint Thomas and Ryan Companies will host a neighborhood meeting on the university's plans for a sports complex at Highland Bridge at 6 p.m. Monday, August 22, at Lumen Christi Catholic Community, 2055 Bohland Ave. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Amy Gage at agage@stthomas.edu or 612-381-4110 for more information.

**Upcoming meeting**—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 16; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, August 22. There will be no board of directors or Transportation Committee meeting in August. HDC meetings are held at the

Highland Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with an option to join online. Get the Zoom link and agendas at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Racial covenants**—In collaboration with Mapping Prejudice, Welcoming the Dear Neighbor? and Just Deeds, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold a public meeting on racial covenants at 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Macalester College. Participants will be able to view the preliminary Ramsey County racial covenants map and discuss how to check their own property's title history or deed for racial covenants. Register for the event by visiting macgrove.org/event/racialcovenantsmacgrove.

**Great Garage Sale**—The Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill district councils are teaming up to organize a joint garage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, August 27. Residents of both neighborhoods can register their sales at macgrove.org/garagesale. The deadline is August 15. The sale will take place rain or shine.

**Mac-Grove Fest**—Mac-Grove Fest will be held from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, September 10, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The fun-filled day will include live music, food trucks, craft fair, art activities, games, bounce house, face painting and business marketplace. For information, visit macgrove.org/macgrovefest.

**Upcoming meeting**—Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, August 24. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For monthly meeting notices and log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.

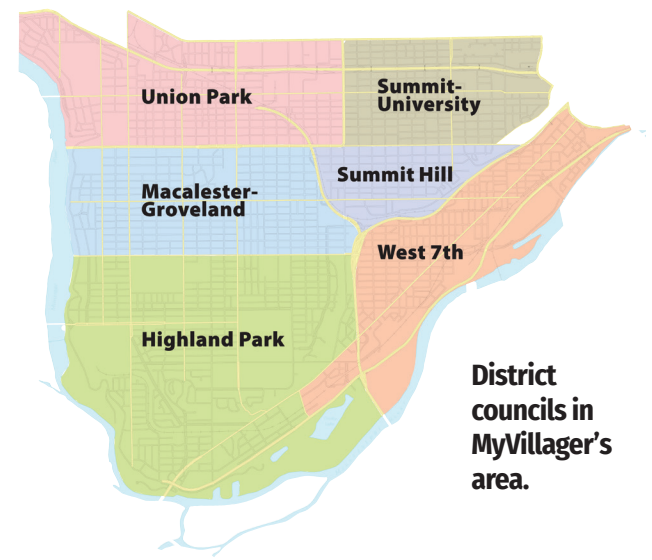
## Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**Garage sale extravaganza**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council and Summit Hill Association are pooling their resources to organize residents' garage sales from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, August 27. Those who are interested in the event or ready to register their sales can get information at macgrove.org/garagesale.

**Boulevard tree watering**—The Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation is asking residents with new boulevard trees to help the trees through the dry summer months. To water a young boulevard tree, set a garden hose at a trickle for one hour by the base of the tree three times a week. Residents can also request a watering bag to be placed around their new boulevard tree by contacting forestry@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

**Board positions available**—The SHA is inviting neighbors to join its board of directors. For eligibility information and an application, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/join-the-board.



District councils in MyVillager's area.

**Upcoming meetings**—Neighborhood Plan Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 2; board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, August 11; and Racial Dialogue and Action Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, August 18. For locations and Zoom links, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Little Africa Festival**—The 2022 Little Africa Festival will be held from noon-9 p.m. Sunday, August 7, at Hamline Park, 1564 Lafond Ave. The event has been bringing diverse African cultures, music, dance, food, art and people together for a full day of celebrating since 2014.

**Under the Bridge**—The Under the Bridge Summer Concert Series will continue with free music by the Gated Community from 6-8 p.m. Monday, August 22, under the Hamline Avenue Bridge near the Hague Tot Lot.

**Ice Cream Peanut Butter & Jam**—The ninth annual Ice Cream, Peanut Butter & Jam will take place from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, September 17. The event will feature ice cream, music, kids activities and donations of peanut butter collected for the food shelf.

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 3; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 8. To access the Zoom meetings, visit unionparkdc.org/calendar.

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

## West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**Upcoming meeting**—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 3. The board of directors will not meet in August. For log-in information to the Zoom meetings, visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

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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

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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. The following person and LLC are now doing business as Furniture Barn: Roberts Furniture Inc., 1389 University Ave. W. St. Paul MN 55104 US. 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: 7/22/2022. Signed by: Randy Young. Mailing Address: 1389 University Ave. W. St. Paul MN 55104 US. Email for Official Notices: furniturebarn@comcast.net.

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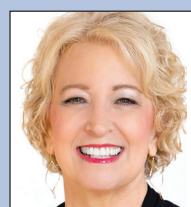
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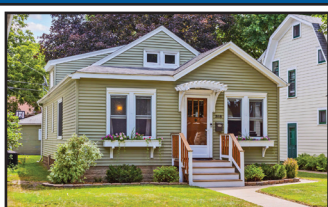
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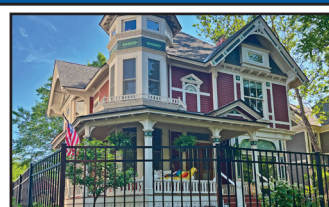
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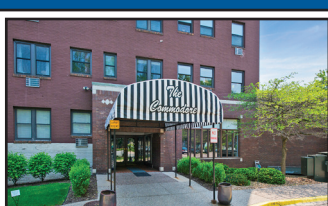
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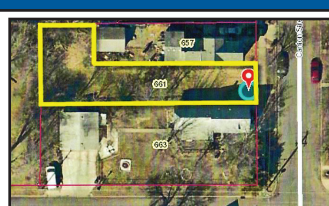
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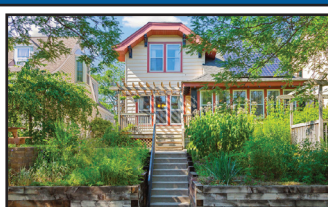
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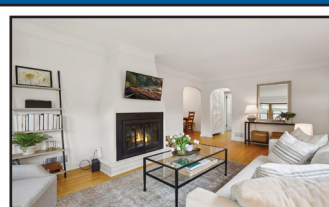
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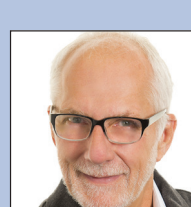
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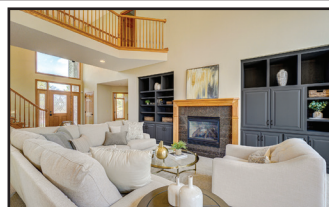
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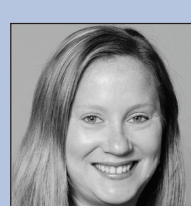
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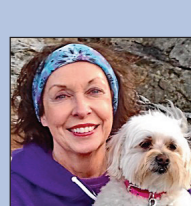
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**KATHRYN KENNEDY**  
612-558-6488



**TOM EDELSTEIN, CRS HENRY EDELSTEIN, CRS**  
651-695-4300