

Summit Hill author salutes Saint Paul's literary legacy in latest book

'The Dead Fitzgeralds' aims to return Scott & Zelda to rightful place

By Anne Murphy

Summit Hill author Danny Klecko will launch his new book *The Dead Fitzgeralds* on Saturday, September 24, at Subtext Books in downtown Saint Paul. The book is a eulogy to F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, a couple whom Klecko calls America's saddest sweethearts, and the date is the anniversary of F. Scott's birth in 1896 in his family's home at 481 Laurel Ave. in Ramsey Hill.

The Dead Fitzgeralds is a tribute not only to Scott and Zelda, but other people Klecko views as being significant to the literary landscape of Saint Paul. That group includes his friend, the city's late poet laureate Carol Connolly, aka the Duchess.

"As a kid, I had an art teacher who told us, when painting, you should always try to put all your favorite things on the canvas at the same time," he said. "That's



Danny Klecko tips his cap to F. Scott (in bronze at right) and Zelda Fitzgerald and the literary legacy of Saint Paul in his new book of verse, *The Dead Fitzgeralds*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

why the Fitzgeralds, the Duchess and Saint Paul became a natural fit."

The Dead Fitzgeralds "explores loss and vindication," Klecko said. "All too often, when an artist dies, people choose to focus on his or her shortcomings or failures. I'm eternally grateful to F. Scott and the Duchess for their contributions to writing. I want to take every opportunity to remind people how lucky we are to have great literature."

A baker by trade, Klecko titled his first book *Hitman-Baker-Casketmaker: Aftermath of an American's Clash with ICE*,

which won a Midwest Book Award for poetry in 2020. His new book began to take shape even as he launched his second one, *Lincolnland*, at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., in 2021.

"The nation's capital isn't that far from Rockville, Maryland, where Scott and Zelda are buried, so I paid them a visit," Klecko said. "The experience left me depressed. Scott and Zelda came from cities that were proud and distinct." Those were Saint Paul and Montgomery, Ala-

'THE DEAD FITZGERALDS' ▶4

City Council gives preliminary OK to 7 amendments to rent control law

By Jane McClure

Exemptions to Saint Paul's new rent control ordinance for new construction, subsidized housing and rental units that have been vacated by their tenants were among the changes approved on September 7 by the City Council. The council is scheduled to vote on the entire package of rent control changes on September 14. If approved, the changes would take effect on January 1, 2023.

City Council members on September 7 debated eight different amendments to the rent control ordinance. More than 50 people attended the council meeting, and more than a dozen spoke. Most speakers asked the council not to weaken the ordinance.

Fifty-three percent of Saint Paul voters approved the rent control ordinance in a citywide referendum last November. The ordinance has been called one of the most stringent in the nation, capping increases in the rent charged on all residential units at 3 percent per year.

The amendments approved on September 7 would remove rent control from thousands of units across the city, several speakers said. Dayna Kennedy, speaking for the Beacon Interfaith Housing Coal-

RENT CONTROL AMENDMENTS ▶3

Mac-Grove's Paska becomes St. Paul's first female Eagle Scout

By Janet Lunder Hanafin

When the Boy Scouts of America opened its ranks to girls in 2019, Twyla Paska was quick to take the Scout Oath. A resident of Macalester-Groveland, she joined all-girl Troop 7091 in what is now known as Scouts BSA and recently became the first young woman in Saint Paul to earn the organization's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Her troop is sponsored by Macalester-Plymouth United Church.

The road to becoming an Eagle Scout is

"a long, intensive journey. For most scouts it takes several years," said Scoutmaster Jerald Dosch. Only around 6 percent of Scouts achieve that status, according to him.

Paska, who is now 16 and a junior at Central High School, had no Scouting experience when she joined the troop, but "I liked the outdoors, so I thought I'd try it," she said. "I got to do some things I don't think I would've done if I hadn't gotten the opportunity."

Since she could not join Scouts BSA until it was opened to girls ages 11-17 three years

ago, Paska had less time to work on the Eagle Scout rank than others. Dosch told her it was best to get it before her junior year of high school.

"I had to aim high to reach my goal," Paska said. "As far as I remember, from the start I wanted to get there."

Along the way Paska earned 36 merit badges. Fourteen of them were required, such as first aid, camping, environmental science and emergency preparedness. Others were her own choices, such as robotics, kayaking, metalworking, game design and music. Only 21 badges are necessary

to obtain Eagle status, and her extra work earned her three Eagle Palms in addition to her Eagle ranking, Dosch said.

Paska said a big part of becoming an Eagle Scout is completing a service project. A cat lover whose family has four of them, Paska completed a project to build six cat trees that she donated to the nonprofit Kitty Revolution to be given to families who foster cats awaiting adoption. With the help of her dad, Paska designed the prototype apparatus using a computer-aided

FEMALE EAGLE SCOUT ▶2

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1◀ FEMALE EAGLE SCOUT

design program.

“The CAD drawing helped us with measurements, supplies and eventually cost,” Paska said. She gained carpentry skills by building the prototype, then taught friends and family how to construct five more.

As they progress through the ranks toward Eagle, Scouts also develop leadership skills. Dosch said Paska has put in more than 1,000 days of service in various leadership roles in her troop. He said she also has camped more than 70 nights, not including cabin stays, and hiked more than 150 miles.

Scouting, Paska said, has had a significant impact on her life.

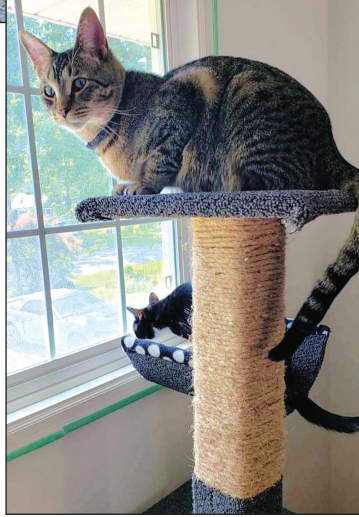
Paska said her most memorable Scouting adventure was a mountain backpacking trip. Her troop took Amtrak to New Mexico to the Philmont Scout Ranch, the largest Scout camp in the world.

“We were probably the first all-girl troop to go down there,” said Paska, who had never backpacked before.

In their 12-day trek, the Scouts covered 73 miles carrying 40-pound packs. Dosch said the group reached the summit of Mount Baldy, which at 12,441 feet is the highest mountain peak in the region. He described the adventure as “a grueling, thrilling, life-changing experience.”



Twyla Paska presents six custom-designed cat trees to the cat rescue organization Kitty Revolution. Pictured, from left, are Robin Holland of Kitty Revolution, Paska and troopmate Lucy Dosch, who is now the second girl to earn Eagle Scout in Troop 7091. At right, foster cats use one of the trees created as part of Paska's Eagle service project.



Dosch said Paska was nominated for and attended the weeklong Grey Wolf Youth Leader Training in 2021. She returned as a member of the staff this past summer. She was also elected into the Order of the Arrow, the national honor society of Scouts BSA.

Dosch pointed out that most of Paska's time in Scouting has been during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The added challenges of the pandemic didn't stop her or her troop-mates from being deeply engaged, active Scouts,” he said.

As Paska heads back to school this fall, she will continue with Scouts, but she has plenty more on her plate. She is in the aca-

demically challenging International Baccalaureate program at Central and intends to earn a full IB diploma. For the last four years, she has also been training in tae kwon do and will continue sessions three times a week as she works toward her black belt.

Paska is looking forward to her Court of Honor on September 23 at which she will receive the Eagle medal, neckerchief and patch.



Troop 7091 member Twyla Paska, 16, of Macalester-Groveland is the first female in Saint Paul to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

So is Dosch.

“It's been my pleasure getting to know and work with Twyla over the years, watching her mature and grow in skills and confidence,” he said.

Scouting, Paska said, has had

a significant impact on her life. “I've gotten more mature,” she said. “It's definitely been eye-opening, talking to people from different places and different points of view. I base my beliefs on the Scout Law.”



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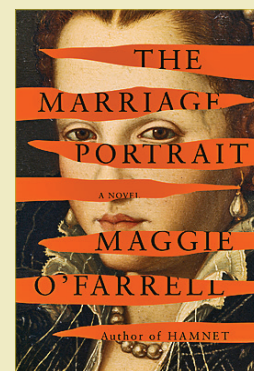
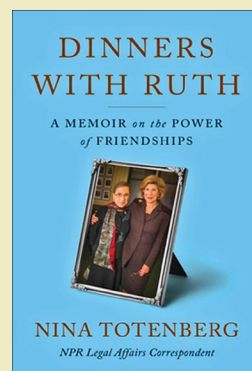
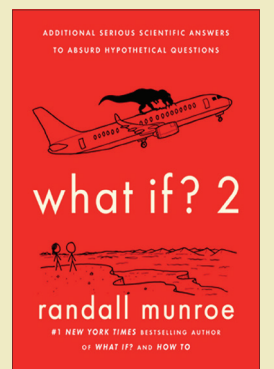
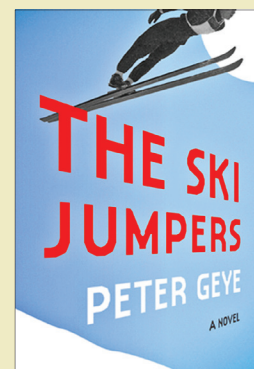
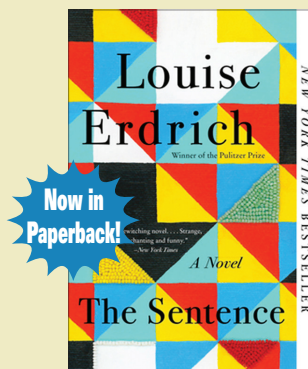
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Ramsey Board gets first look at '23 county budget

By Jane McClure

The Ramsey County Board got its first look on September 6 at the supplemental county budget for 2023 as proposed by county manager Ryan O'Connor. The \$785.4 million budget is up about \$2.3 million from the 2023 budget approved last December by the County Board. The increase comes from state aid and other revenue, not from the property tax levy.

The proposed levy increase of 4.54 percent is unchanged from what was tentatively approved last December. Ramsey County drafts its budget every two years, and 2023 is the second year in the biennium.

O'Connor described the 2023 budget as an effort to maintain county services and deal with the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the second year of each budget, county officials generally forgo major changes in services and programs and focus instead on performance measures and strategic investments in system changes.

The property tax levy in 2023 will raise \$346.2 million or about 44 percent of the county budget in 2023. Federal, state and other intergovernmental revenue will contribute about \$216.9 million, or 28 percent of the budget. Charges for services will fund about \$160.7 million, or 20 percent of the budget.

The county's 2023 regional rail levy is proposed at \$30.4 million. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy is proposed at \$11.4 million. Those levies are unchanged from 2022 levels.

The County Board approved a \$774 million budget for 2022. That was supported by a property tax levy of \$338.7 million, a 1.55 percent increase over 2021.

The Ramsey County Board has until the end of September to adopt a maximum levy for 2023. After that date, the levy can be lowered but not increased. The county's annual truth in taxation hearing is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 28, at a site yet to be determined. The final budget for 2023 is expected to be adopted by the County Board on December 13.

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tion, said the city is getting further and further away from the rent protections voters approved. Vivian Ihekoronye of the affordable housing advocacy group ISALAH called the amendments "completely unacceptable." Some of the changes would remove rent control from the tenants who need it the most, Ihekoronye said.

The City Council on September 7 voted to approve a 20-year exemption for new construction. The exemption applies to the first 20 years of all housing that was built within the last 20 years. Rent control advocates contend that such a measure could lead to more affordable older buildings being torn down to make way for new buildings.

Maureen Michalski, who is leading Ryan Companies' efforts to redevelop the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park, said a 20-year exemption may not be enough to entice investors in new housing projects. Developers were asking for a 30-year exemption.

Developers, tenant advocates and city officials have debated rent control's effect on new housing construction since the ordinance was approved. Developers say they have had to pull out of projects due to the loss of investors discouraged by the uncertain economics of rent control.

A federal Housing and Urban Development report had indicated that building permits were up in Saint Paul. However, that report was based on raw data that may have counted several construction permits for the same project, according to Nicolle Goodman, director of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Revised data show that during the first six months of 2022, housing construction permits in Saint Paul were down 31.4 percent when compared to the four-year average for the same six-month period in 2018-2021. In the entire Twin Cities region, housing construction permits were up almost 40 percent during the first six months of 2022.

"We need new housing," Goodman said. "We need new housing to move forward."

City Council member Mitra Jalali argued for a 15-year exemption for new construction, and one that only applied to new housing going forward. That was the exemption recommended by Mayor Melvin

Carter's Rent Stabilization Stakeholders Group, she said. According to Jalali, the 20-year exemption would put too many renters at risk. But only she and fellow council members Russel Balenger and Nelsie Yang supported a switch to 15 years.

Another hot-button issue was vacancy decontrol. City Council member Chris Tolbert had called for partial vacancy decontrol, allowing landlords to forgo annual 3 percent increases while their tenant remained in a rental unit and then use several of those increases at once after the tenant moves out.

City Council member Jane Prince proposed an amendment calling for full vacancy decontrol. Approved on a 4-3 vote, that measure sets no limit on how much a landlord can raise the rents after a tenant moves out. According to Prince, since rent control took effect, landlords who otherwise would not have raised the rent for longtime tenants were routinely imposing 3 percent increases in anticipation of needing those increases in the future.

Prince was joined in support of full vacancy decontrol by council members Russ Balenger, Amy Brendmoen and Chris Tolbert. Council members Jalali, Rebecca Noecker and Nelsie Yang voted against.

Other measures won unanimous approval, including two amendments introduced by Noecker. One amendment requires landlords to notify prospective tenants whether or not a dwelling is exempt from rent control. The other amendment clarifies that inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index can be used by a landlord to justify a rent increase above the 3 percent cap. However, the landlord would still have to get the approval of city staff for the larger increase.

Jalali won unanimous approval for an amendment requiring landlords to notify tenants before seeking city approval for a rent increase above 3 percent. Under current practice, landlords do not have to notify tenants until after they receive that city approval.

Jalali also won unanimous support to amend the "just causes" required for a landlord to evict a tenant. Tolbert had wanted "disorderly conduct" as one of the just causes. Jalali said that language is too vague and could be misused.

Other just causes, such as property damage and other lease violations, would remain in place.

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New Expansion Opening 2023

Alliance boosts downtown's resurgence with free storefront leases

Effort is aimed at filling three dozen vacancies

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul's Downtown Alliance is one month into its Let's Grow promotion, offering free rent for up to six months as an incentive for new tenants to fill vacant storefronts. As of last week the promotion had drawn interest from about 90 prospective tenants. Leases had been signed by Boutique Ramadhan Designs in Wells Fargo Place and the economic development firm 2043 SBC at Treasure Island Center. Other leases are in the offing.

"This is about filling the vacancies that have opened up over the past couple of years and filling downtown with life and energy again," said Joe Spencer, president of the Downtown Alliance.

The alliance works with about 350 businesses on the streets and in the skyways of downtown. About 35 or 40 closed their

doors since early 2020. "A certain amount of business turnover is normal," Spencer said, "but this has not been normal."

Let's Grow is supported with \$1 million from the city's share of the federal American Rescue Plan and \$1 million in matching funds from the Knight Foundation. Private businesses have also contributed, making a total of about \$3 million available.

The Downtown Alliance has hired two real estate experts to work with building owners and prospective tenants: Lee Krueger, former president and chief executive officer of the Saint Paul Port Authority, and D'Angelos Svenkeson, a principal with NEOO Partners.

The free leases can be in force for up to six months, although shorter-term agreements are also possible, for example, in conjunction with a sports tournament or special event. Though rent is not charged, tenants may be asked to cover other costs, such as utilities and insurance, and meet other conditions set by the landlord.

If a short-term tenant decides to sign a

traditional lease and remain downtown, "all the better," Spencer said. "We've asked building owners to be flexible." If a paying tenant is found for a space occupied by a short-term occupant taking advantage of the free rent, the short-term occupant will be relocated.

"We've heard from a wide range of prospective occupants, and we're very open to new ideas," Spencer said. Gift shops, holiday markets, artist collectives and small professional offices are all being courted.

Downtown Saint Paul last tried to promote pop-up businesses in 2008 during the Republican National Convention as part of the Red Carpet Retail Initiative. A key difference this time around are the additional resources dedicated to staffing the program and assisting participating businesses over the long term.

The number of downtown ambassadors who help clean up the public areas and perform tasks related to public safety is being increased from 12 to 20. Art installations and special events are also planned as

part of the promotion.

Downtown's real estate market overall remains mixed. The vacancy rate for commercial properties this summer hovered at 15 to 18 percent, according to Jones Lang LaSalle and Avison Young, who recently gave a presentation to the Ramsey County Board. It is estimated that 18 to 25 percent of the office space in the Twin Cities is currently vacant.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ease, more and more downtown office workers are expected to return. Vacancies give a negative impression to employees and visitors alike, Spencer said. Downtown also suffers from fears about public safety, he added.

Downtown Saint Paul is adjusting to a new normal, according to Spencer. However, "the trend lines are moving in the right direction," he said. Evening and weekend events are back at pre-pandemic levels, Spencer said, and Let's Grow is positioned to take advantage of that activity and contribute to it.

14 'THE DEAD FITZGERALDS'

bama, respectively. Klecko felt the Fitzgeralds deserved to be buried in a place of more "metropolitan sensibilities," where they might be better appreciated. It was on those graves in Rockville that his book's themes of loss and vindication took root.

Fitzgerald, for all of the praise afforded his writing, has been criticized for his personal choices, Klecko said. And Zelda has been undervalued as a writer in her own right, according to him.

Writing as he always does in verse, Klecko explains in *The Dead Fitzgeralds*, "The more I began to think about it/the more it occurred to me/Go green or go home/That's when the answer came to me/The reason Scott and Zelda/have held iconic roles for a century/is because they were fearless." That fearlessness, he said, is the quality that needs to be better ap-

The Dead Fitzgeralds is the first in a trilogy. Klecko is already at work on the other two books. The second will be titled Zelda Fitzgerald's Bed. It will revolve around the time Klecko spent in Montgomery. "I slept in Zelda's bedroom," he said. "Let's just say the experience was mystical."

preciated, along with F. Scott's talent and Zelda's strength.

Klecko decided he could best immortalize the Fitzgeralds in a book about them and his love of literary Saint Paul. In *The Dead Fitzgeralds*, he writes of his own development as a writer; his relationship to the Duchess, who encouraged his admiration for the Fitzgeralds; and the Fitzgeralds' lives after leaving Minnesota for the last time.

Among the locations cited in *The Dead Fitzgeralds* is 599 Summit Ave., the home where F. Scott worked on his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, in the summer of 1919, and Klecko's home just up the street. Klecko said he was told by the Duchess and other Saint Paul authors that this neighborhood is the best place to live if you want to be a writer.

One of those authors was Patricia Hampl. Klecko read many of Hampl's books while he was working on *The Dead Fitzgeralds* and immersing himself in the literary spirit of Saint Paul.

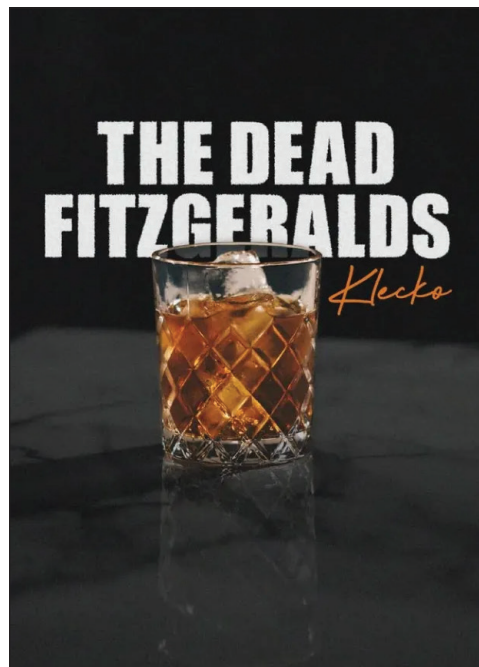
"One of the main things I wanted to accomplish with my book was to honor Saint Paul," he said. "Fitzgerald's Saint Paul was very different from mine, so I ended up reading Patricia Hampl's books. Nobody captures Saint Paul as well as she."

The Dead Fitzgeralds is the first in a tril-



Summit Hill author Danny Klecko's new book, *The Dead Fitzgeralds*, centers around F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and the literary legacy of his and F. Scott's hometown.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER



ogy. Klecko is already at work on the other two books. The second will be titled *Zelda Fitzgerald's Bed*. It will revolve around the time Klecko spent in Montgomery, Alabama.

Klecko first introduced his book on Scott and Zelda at the Fitzgerald Museum in Montgomery, which is located in a mansion where the couple lived for a time. "The Fitzgeralds kept separate rooms," he said. "I slept in Zelda's bedroom. Let's just say the experience was mystical. In Montgomery very little emphasis is placed on Scott. It's almost all Zelda, and Zelda was the driving force in that relationship. I find her to be uplifting. Scott was an uptight guy, so some of his Minnesota landmarks seem less celebratory."

In the final volume of the trilogy, Klecko plans to write about his experiences reading with homeless people in Saint Paul. "This book will be a series of stories focused on the foundation I'll be starting," he said. "My goal is to bring literature and conver-

sation to the homeless. Just the other day I saw a guy camped out in front of a coffee shop. I went in and bought an orange juice and gave it to him with a copy of (Fitzgerald's) *The Great Gatsby*. The guy took the O.J., but handed back the book, indicating he only read stories about wizards."

Klecko also wants to encourage young people to read Fitzgerald. "My son is a high school teacher in Saint Paul," he said. "He introduced me to a librarian who said that students are rarely assigned book reports any more. It's believed that young people won't engage. So instead of doing book reports, it's now common for young people to study a single paragraph from a book. Can you imagine covering *Gatsby* in a paragraph? I've been talking with the Saint Paul Public Library about piecing together some Fitzgerald programs that'll be relevant in our modern era."

The book launch for *The Dead Fitzgeralds* will begin at 1 p.m. at Subtext Books, 6 W. Fifth St. Admission is free and open to all.

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Changes to Highland Bridge master plan pave way for UST ballfields

By Jane McClure

Three minor amendments regarding lighting standards, fence materials and street-level uses for new structures have been approved for the city of Saint Paul's master plan for the Highland Bridge development in Highland Park. The amendments were given the green light on September 7 by staff from the city's Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Economic Development departments following a review by the Saint Paul Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee.

The amendments will accommodate the

University of Saint Thomas' plan to construct new baseball and softball fields, a parking ramp and practice facilities on a former rail yard at the southeastern corner of the 122-acre Highland Bridge site.

UST has been working for the past several months with Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies on its plans for the sports facilities. The 13-acre rail yard is owned by Canadian Pacific Railway, but Ryan has the property under contract. Initially, five major and three minor amendments to the master plan were being eyed for the sports complex. However, that was before UST decided to remove the hockey arena from the site plan.

One of the amendments will allow lighting standards of up to 90 feet tall for the baseball and softball fields. The master plan for that area of Highland Bridge currently limits the height of lighting standards to 20 feet. However, any new lighting must be directed away from adjacent residential areas to meet the requirements of the master plan. According to Maureen Michalski of Ryan Companies, the new lighting will be directed onto the ballfields and will not shine all night.

A second amendment will allow chain link fences to be installed for the ballfields. Chain link is not currently allowed as a permanent fence material at Highland Bridge.

The third amendment will remove the requirement that all new structures have active uses at street level, such as a retail store. New retail uses would not be practical for the parking ramp that UST is planning, Michalski said. Grade changes in the area where the ramp will be built are another factor. Instead of retail, a plaza and landscaping are planned for the parking ramp's street frontage.

The master plan for Highland Bridge was adopted in 2017 and amended in 2019. Major plan amendments and zoning changes must be approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. Minor amendments may be approved by city staff.

Proposed workforce housing at Graham and Sue gets mixed review

By Jane McClure

A much-debated plan for a new 72-unit apartment building at the southwest corner of Graham Avenue and Sue Street in Highland Park got mixed reviews on September 8. The Saint Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee recommended a zoning change and conditional use permit for added height for the building. However, it rejected variances for setbacks and for greater density.

The committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the full Planning Commission on September 16. The commission would rule on the permit and variances. The zoning change would need to be approved by the City Council.

The project has sparked a controversy in a neighborhood where new housing has raised concerns about parking congestion and traffic safety. The Highland District

Council and city planner Spencer Johnson had recommended approval of the zoning change, permit and two variances. However, more than two dozen letters opposing the project were received by city staff.

Local residents contend that the area is already overwhelmed with new developments and that the new housing would make matters worse. Another concern is the loss of more than a dozen trees on the properties to be redeveloped.

The developer of the apartments is Senior Housing Partners, an affiliate of Presbyterian Homes and Services, which operates several buildings of senior housing in the area, including Highland Path and Highlands of Saint Paul. According to Sam Jagodzinski of Senior Housing Partners, the new building would provide needed housing, including housing for Presbyterian Homes employees.

According to neighbors, Presbyterian

Homes employees and vendors do not use the off-street parking available to them and instead park on the streets. Motorists also speed through the area, they said. "I've had close calls with my kids on their bikes," said Brian Arbuckle.

Jagodzinski said the proposed building's 55 off-street parking spaces should help reduce parking pressure on the streets. Thirty-five spaces would be in an underground parking structure. The rest would be in a surface parking lot.

The proposed four-story apartment building would require demolishing two duplexes at 1413 Sue St. and 1883 Norfolk Ave. The Norfolk duplex is zoned for single-family use and would need to be rezoned for multi-family use. The Sue Street address and 1891 Norfolk are already zoned for multi-family use.

The vote recommending the rezoning was 3-1, with commissioner Luis Rangel

Morales in opposition. He wanted more information on the historic status of the dwelling at 1883 Norfolk. Neighbors said the house is well over a century old.

Rangel Morales also cast the sole dissenting vote on the conditional use permit, which would allow a building height of up to 58 feet, or 8 feet above the normal maximum.

The committee voted 3-1 to recommend that the variance requests be rejected. The majority contended that the variances were being sought for financial reasons and not because of any practical difficulty. A finding of practical difficulty is required.

One of the variances is for a front yard setback of 14 feet, 7 inches. A setback of 25 feet is normally required. However, Johnson noted, that block of Sue Street has an unusually wide 80-foot right-of-way. Because of that, he said, the proposed setback is more than 39 feet from the curb.

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Businesses, residents sue city over day shelter for homeless

By Jane McClure

Fourteen downtown area businesses and residents are suing the city of Saint Paul and the nonprofit Listening House over a proposed new day shelter for homeless people in the former Red's Savoy Pizza at 421 E. Seventh St. The suit was filed on September 7 in Ramsey County District Court.

The plaintiffs contend that city officials did not provide proper notice of the decision on where the day shelter would be located. They also object to a lack of notice for financing the project, allege negligence and anticipate that the drop-in center will be a public nuisance. They seek more than \$50,000 in damages.

The 24-page complaint contends that having the shelter in the Lafayette Park neighborhood near downtown will cause "irreparable harm to business operations."

The plaintiffs are Lowertown and Lafayette Park businesses and residents Barrel Theory, Bulldog Lowertown, Dacotah Properties, Dark Horse Bar, Earl & Wilson Event Center, Gopher Bar, Heppner's Auto Body, Kat-Key's Lock & Safe, MB Properties, Samarar Enterprises, Schurmeier Lofts, building owners Tom and Sandra Erickson, and resident Matthew Gross.

Attorney Patrick O'Neill Jr., who represents the group, said the plaintiffs already deal with issues caused by people who are homeless. Problems with crime and anti-social behavior around Listening House's former day shelter at 296 W. Seventh St. are cause for concern for his clients, O'Neill said. Known as Freedom House, that shelter opened in 2021 in a former fire station, but was forced to close this spring after several West End residents and business people filed suit. The city plans to return the building to the Fire Department.

O'Neill said most of his clients did not know about the planned location of the new facility until after it was approved.



Listening House wants to turn the former Red's Savoy restaurant on East Seventh Street and Lafayette road into a drop-in day shelter.

He said the intent is to stop the building from being renovated until the request for a restraining order can be heard. Listening House is now in the midst of a fundraising campaign to pay for the renovation of the former restaurant.

Zoning code changes made by the city several months ago mean Listening House can open the new day shelter at the site without a conditional use permit or a public hearing before the city's Planning Commission.

O'Neill's clients have raised objections to the lack of a Planning Commission process as well as lack of notice about a July decision by the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority board to provide a \$1.4 million forgivable loan to renovate the old restaurant. The funds are from a pool of unspent tax increment financing money.

"There was no public hearing. There was no chance for public input," O'Neill said.

As many as 200 people a day are expected to use the drop-in shelter, which serves people when overnight shelters are closed. The shelter is intended to give people a place to relax, get something to eat, and meet with social service providers.

Listening House will issue a statement in the future about the lawsuit, according to executive director Molly Jalma. The city has also received the filing and will respond, said Kamal Baker, a spokesperson for Mayor Melvin Carter.

HDC supports Hamline Ave. sidewalk

By Jane McClure

The Highland District Council voted 8-7 on September 1 to support the construction of an asphalt sidewalk on the Highland National Golf Course side of Hamline Avenue between Highland Parkway and Montreal Avenue.

The HDC will partner with city staff to submit a \$305,000 funding request for the project through Saint Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program. The request will go to the Neighborhood STAR Board and City Council this fall, with the goal of construction taking place at some point next year.

Hamline lacks sidewalks on both sides of the street. The golf course side has long been used by runners and walkers.

"Right now, we just have a goat path," said Adam Yust, legislative aide to City Council member Chris Tolbert.

The sidewalk would be 6-8 feet wide, Yust said. It would detour around larger trees, and six small trees would be removed and replaced elsewhere.

HDC members were split on the idea, with some raising questions about safety. The city would put up signs warning pe-

destrians to watch out for errant golf balls.

Others asked if the path could go on the east side of Hamline, but that would mean working with property owners and likely paying to reconfigure some retaining walls.

"Is there really a need for it?" asked HDC board member Rabbi Moishe Kasowitz.

"I'd love a protected sidewalk," said HDC board member Kathleen Anderson, who lives near the golf course. She said people now walk and run in the street because there are no sidewalks.

HDC board member Lindsay Shimizu said that ideally both sides of Hamline would have sidewalks eventually.

The City Council adopted a pedestrian plan in 2019 that identifies areas where adding sidewalks is a priority. The streets around Highland National and the Highland 9-Hole golf courses were identified as high-priority areas, as are other parts of the Highland Park neighborhood.

The city has about 1,100 miles of sidewalks. Many streets lack sidewalks on one or both sides. In 2019, the city reported 327 miles of sidewalk gaps. Those gaps are most common in industrial areas, and in residential and commercial areas developed after the 1940s to favor automobiles.



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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

Trail would destroy Summit

My grievance is in response to the trees that will be destroyed as a consequence of the city of Saint Paul's plan to build the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. I am in full disagreement with the proposed off-road bike and pedestrian trail. Do any of the council members who will be making this decision live on Summit? Do they know how it will affect the neighborhood? Or is this about spending money because they have a budget? We're talking about 4.5 miles—4.5 beautiful, historic miles, a place where you can step out and get a little nature in an urban setting.

Along Summit a pothole will reveal the bricks that lie beneath the pavement. I bet if the bricks were still exposed along Summit, this would not be happening. But the bricks are not what bring people to Summit. It is the history, the houses, spending time among the trees. No matter the season, it is a space where we spend time with our families, with our dogs or alone. There are squirrels, rabbits, birds, wild plants, foliage, flowers and more. What the city is proposing would destroy the trees. It would destroy history and a community.

I walk Summit Avenue every day with my dog. There are many people with dogs who enjoy this area. It is the reason so many have purchased homes in this area. My condo does not have a yard. I am one house away from Summit, where my dog has a big area in which to play. Many dogs walk by my condo on their way to that grassy oasis for a little puppy playtime.

The Save Our Street signs you see along Summit ignite thoughts and emotions of 4.5 miles of possible change in how we live every day. Summit's trees provide shade for children walking home from school. Day-care babies play every day under the trees to keep cool from the hot sun. I see college students studying, an old man reading and two lovers lying under the shade. These few miles of Summit are deeply rooted in how we live day to day.

Just because we can does not mean we should. I do not think the city understands the magnitude of change that they are proposing.

*Cynthia Rapacz
Summit Hill*

Vote 'no' on UST sports complex

What a travesty! In a long-established, quiet residential area, welcome to loud noise, lights and intrusive traffic at varying hours. Land planned for senior housing and businesses that would provide air, open space and taxes is swallowed up. Planned, decent living arrangements are swept away to accommodate a private university that would forever pay no taxes to our city.

Why can't the University of Saint Thomas be sensitive to communities? Ryan Companies wants an immediate return on its investment. Who doesn't? But real estate can turn very quickly. Surely, it can adjust its plans.

High traffic volume belongs in commercial or semi-commercial areas. Vote "no" to a sports complex at Highland Bridge.

*Dorothy Lipschultz
Highland Park*

Mayor's budget is out of touch

It's too bad we can't recall Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter in this November's election. We'll have to wait two more years to do so. His recent proposal to increase the city tax levy by 15.34 percent for 2023 (*MyVillager*, August 31) is out of touch with reality. We property taxpayers do not have endlessly deep pockets. To have a \$781.5 million budget with a debt service of \$49.2 million means that we're already living on a borrowed 6.2 percent. What rate of interest is that costing?

The mayor does not need two more staff members. He's already hired five staffers who cost the citizens \$500,000 per year. Why hire more librarians when library hours have been cut back so much? We need to bring back the 25 cents per day overdue charge on library materials. This cost does not unduly affect the poor; they can read the date on the library slip as well as anybody else, and that money is a source of income for our libraries.

And the recent court ruling exempting nonprofit organizations that own property from street maintenance costs puts more of a strain on private property owners.

Plan for River Learning Center can be improved

By Kent Petterson

The city of Saint Paul, as the owner and one of the partners of the proposed Mississippi River Learning Center in Crosby Farm Regional Park, hosted a public meeting on August 11 to unveil an initial schematic design for the 25-acre site. The site was identified by the city's 2012 Great River Passage (GRP) plan as an important element in an effort to envision river parkland as more natural, more urban and more connected.

As an active participant in the GRP study, I was happy to be able to check in on the progress of this project to further those goals. There is a lot to like in the schematic design. New traffic controls and crosswalks are proposed on Shepard Road as well as new signage and improved access for all modes of transit. Sympathetic planning to achieve the GRP goals is evident.

Other major partners in the learning center project are the Great River Passage Conservancy, the National Park Service, Mississippi Park Connection and Your Boat Club. Consultation with the Dakota Indians and other citizens was sought.

One major request was that the project respect the cultural landscape and go light on the land. The Park Service, Mississippi Park Connection and Great River Passage Conservancy have all wisely opted not to be in

the flood plain but to be housed within a building at the top of the bluff.

Here are my suggestions to improve the proposed schematic design:

- Move the River Learning Center classroom into the meeting room at the top of the bluff and out of flood danger.
- In keeping with the more natural theme of the GRP, all public facilities (i.e., restrooms, rentals, classrooms) that are built in the valley should be open air, flood-proof or portable, and accessible to all.
- Food service in the valley through trucks and carts can be creatively flexible for all occasions.
- The only enclosed building in the flood plain should be Your Boat Club as the operator of the marina and its support facilities.
- There is entirely too much relocation of soil and changes to the contours on the river's edge. This is dangerous to the stability of the water's edge and opens up the area to new erosion.
- The handicapped-accessible tree canopy walkway down the bluff has to be dropped. It will be a headache for maintenance and, more important, will require initial and constant disturbance of the bluff, leading to erosion problems.

Kent Petterson is the owner of Terrace Horticultural Books on Saint Paul's West End.

The city should shame such institutions into paying their fare share of what it costs to maintain city services—perhaps by painting their curbs in day-glow orange. I'd gladly send in \$10 for the cost of two cans of spray paint.

In the meantime, I think we nix any new city services until we can pay the upkeep on what we already have. Then in the next election we give this mayor the heave-ho and elect someone who understands a bottom line.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

A plea for new trees

As a longtime Saint Paul resident, I have been shaken by the devastation of the city's clear-cutting of trees. While bad for property values and livability, it is devastating to our efforts to combat climate change.

I reached out to the mayor's office this spring to encourage the city to require that all developers in Saint Paul commit to maintaining the health of newly planted trees for three years. Every effort should also be made to plant native trees that are compatible with our climate and wildlife and pollinator needs. If a tree is going to die, it usually does so in the first three years. Unfortunately, I have heard nothing from the mayor's office on this request, so I am reaching out to the community to encourage support of the idea.

Residents need look no further than the Highland Bridge project to see a significant number of newly planted trees either dead or dying. They were planted during drought years and never cared for. This is especially troubling in the face of Ryan Companies' claims that more than 1,000 trees will be planted throughout Highland Bridge. If the new trees don't survive, Ryan's claims are false and it should not have access to taxpayer-funded subsidies.

*Teresa Morrow
Macalester-Groveland*

Vote Maczko for MH mayor

Mendota Heights citizens appeared at City Council meetings last year opposing the approval of two new apartment buildings in the Plaza at Dodd Road and Highway 62. The city's seven-member Planning Commission, after extensive examination of both proposals over several months, voted 6-1 and 5-2 against these apartment projects, which exceeded by over 100 units the number ordinarily permitted in this high-density zoning district. Only the developer, the property owner and one citizen spoke in favor of these projects before the City Council or Planning Commission. Nevertheless, Mayor Stephanie Levine and council

members John Mazzitello and Joel Paper ignored citizens' concerns as well as the overwhelming opposition of the commission charged with studying the proposals and approved both apartment projects.

The above information is background for my support this fall of John Maczko for mayor of Mendota Heights. John, unlike our current mayor, has lived his entire life in Mendota Heights, attended public schools here, raised his family here, and understands how this city has become one of the most desirable places to live in the metro area. He has served as a member of the city's Volunteer Fire Department and as its chief for 32 years. His employment in the city of Saint Paul's Public Works Department for over 30 years has provided him with an understanding of how city government works. He understands the importance of being sensitive to the concerns of fellow citizens and the recommendations of commissions established to provide analysis to city governing bodies.

John has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from the University of Saint Thomas. He has completed courses in the Latimer Leadership Program at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Penn State Executive Management Program. He is the best qualified candidate for mayor of Mendota Heights. I urge Mendota Heights voters to support him.

*Bernard P. Friel
Mendota Heights*

Pig's Eye Lake is transformed

There's new land being created on Saint Paul's East Side. It's not a volcano spewing out lava into the sea. It's an Army Corps of Engineers project creating multiple islands in the 628-acre Pigs Eye Lake. There one can see a huge pipe disgorging a slurry of dredge sand and water that is being molded into seven ever-increasing islands by bulldozers and other heavy equipment. The islands will stabilize shorelines, help restore wetlands and improve wildlife habitat.

Pigs Eye Lake is part of Saint Paul's Pigs Eye Regional Park (or Battle Creek Regional Park depending on what source you use). If you are a careful driver, you can motor all the way into the park off Child's Road. Even from the park's southern shore on Pigs Eye Lake, the island work is a long way off. For a better view, take Highway 61 to Lower Afton Road and then turn south on Point Douglas Road. Within a short distance, you'll find safe spots to pull over and view the project.

I bird-watch around there frequently and a week ago was pleased to see around 800 ring-billed gulls strung out in a long line on the island's growing shoreline,

Liquor district could expand to Highland Bridge

By Jane McClure

The new Lunds & Byerlys supermarket at Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue is one step closer to obtaining an on-sale liquor license. The Saint Paul Planning Commission on August 19 unanimously recommended that the City Council approve the expansion of the Highland Village commercial development district to include the 122-acre Highland Bridge development. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the expansion at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 14, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.



Lunds & Byerlys hopes to operate a bar at its new Highland Bridge store that is set to open on September 29.

Lunds & Byerlys plans to open its new store on September 29, moving from its longtime location in the nearby Highland Village Center. Its hope is to operate a bar on the mezzanine level of the store. The Mezz, as it will be called, would have 30 self-serve taps featuring local craft beers, seltzers and wines, according to Lunds

& Byerlys spokesperson Aaron Sorenson. Seating will be available indoors and atop an outdoor roof.

Saint Paul has more than a dozen commercial development districts—areas where businesses can get on-sale liquor licenses above the maximum number otherwise allowed in

their wards.

The Highland Village commercial development district currently encompasses just the Chipotle restaurant at 2078 Ford Pkwy. The expanded district would include the Highland Bank building at 2100 Ford Pkwy., the two Highland Village Center buildings at 2110 and 2128 Ford Pkwy., and the Highland Bridge development.

The Highland District Council voted on September 1 to recommend the approval of the expanded commercial development district. The expanded district would only have the two on-sale liquor licenses—at Chipotle and Lunds & Byerlys. Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies has indicated that no additional on-sale liquor licenses are planned.

MyVillager

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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84 INBOX

along with double-crested cormorants and scattered Canada geese. A modest number of barn swallows are always flitting over the lake in their aerial acrobatics, catching insects in the air and on the water's surface. The occasional bald eagle and great blue heron also grace the lake.

Hérons have a lively rookery on the lake's far southern reaches. Their rookery also hosts great egrets. Come migration season, the lake fills up with a plethora of waterfowl, warblers and shorebirds. When the island project ends in fall 2025, it will be a sight to behold.

Bob Brereton
Macalester-Groveland

Democrat Party became infiltrated with communists and socialists that created the leftist political culture we see today.

Communism and socialism just didn't go away during or after the Cold War. It infiltrated the Democrat Party. That's why we see the extreme behaviors and actions of today's Democrats. They are driven by socialists and communists and a "squad" of ideologues. This cabal of contingencies isn't good for our nation and could ultimately change America forever.

JFK Democrats, of which there are fewer and fewer today, need to decide if they believe in the new far-left direction their party has taken, or if they should create a new branch of the Democrat Party—or even a new party—that maintains the principles Democrats used to stand for.

Gary Hukriede
White Bear Lake

Democrats ought to take stock

For those who remember President John F. Kennedy, do you ever wonder what happened to the JFK Democrats? The Kennedy administration (1961-63) was in the midst of a young post-World War II generation that had been raised with more affluence and education and rejected the wars and policies of the previous generation. They ushered in a rebellious and idealistic liberalism to create social change.

The 1960s did change many things in our society. The Democrat Party has also changed drastically since JFK. In his book, *Commies: A Journey Through the Old Left, the New Left and the Leftover Left*, Ronald Radosh explains how the

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New multipurpose room is the answer to many needs

By Frank Jossi

For years Roxanne Portnoy and her family used their attached single-car garage for storing just about anything but a car. Located between their Highland Park home and the two-car garage they built to replace it, the smaller garage held bicycles, garden tools, landscaping supplies, a refrigerator, a freezer, two workbenches and boxes of used clothing and household goods awaiting donation.

"It was always a huge mess in there," Portnoy said. "It was a junk room, and we always kept the doors shut."

Today, that space has been transformed into a sleek home office. French doors have replaced the lift-up garage door and serve as an inviting back entrance with a small vestibule where family members can hang their coats and sit on a bench to remove their shoes. The two side walls of the office are lined with cabinets and long matte granite counters that serve as desks. Desk drawers and cabinets are located beneath the counters, offering plenty of room

for storage. Additional cabinets have been installed above the desks, framing the windows on both side walls.

The idea of replacing the shed with an office came after Roxanne tried to convince her husband, Gary, to replace the aging garage door with French doors. He agreed, but only if the entire space were reimagined as a multipurpose room and office. The couple hired Plekkenpol Builders to do the remodeling.

Roxanne and Gary have other offices in their home, but prefer to work in the new space. Gary likes the natural light that his basement office does not offer. Roxanne likes the spacious desk surfaces where she can spread out when working on volunteer projects.

"We didn't need it for the office space so much as an extra room to add more convenient storage," Portnoy said.

The couple moved the items from the old garage into their newer two-car garage and other areas of the house, Portnoy said. They moved the freezer to a porch and placed a new refrigerator on



Roxanne and Gary Portnoy have transformed their former attached garage into a his and her home office. The spacious, well-lit room has a vaulted ceiling, scads of cabinets and a second refrigerator just steps away from the Highland Park home's kitchen.

the back wall of the home office.

The new cabinets come in handy. Portnoy used to store her food processor, blender and other appliances in the basement when she did not have enough space for them in the kitchen. With the new cabinets, they are now just steps away.

Plekkenpol Builders did exceptional work, Portnoy said. When the couple did not like the look of plywood wainscoting on the ceiling, the contractor replaced it with tongue-and-groove paneling. "We liked the company's craftsmanship, and they stood behind their work," she said.

Project supervisor Tahzeeb

Hirji-Walji said the remodeling presented challenges. The garage floor had to be leveled before the installation of a wood subfloor, spray foam and the equipment for a heated floor. The crew from Plekkenpol capped the subfloor with floating luxury vinyl plank flooring that looks like wood, he said.

The existing ceiling was ripped out to take advantage of the pitched roof. Plekkenpol installed beams to support the roof and walls and added insulation and new windows to improve energy efficiency. Skylights were installed in the ceiling.

"It was a unique project," Hirji-

Walji said. "Just to remove the ceiling, we had to modify the structure and get some engineering done to make that happen. There was a lot to do in a relatively small space."

Roxanne and Gary have lived in the house for 17 years. They recently moved out while Plekkenpol remodels the kitchen, another long-deferred project that should be wrapped up later this year. The couple are looking forward to getting back in their house and enjoying the new office and multipurpose space.

Their seven grandchildren "think the space is great," Portnoy said.

Home & Garden Clippings

The Twin Cities Arts and Crafts Design Show and Sale will return to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on the weekend of September 24-25. The largest show in the Midwest of furniture and accessories from the American Arts and Crafts movement will run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday in the Fine Arts Building. Dealers in antiques from the Art Moderne, Art Deco and Mid-Century styles will also be selling their wares. Admission is \$7. For information, call 651-695-1902 or visit

eastwoodgallery.com/show-page.

The Garden Club of Ramsey County is returning to in-person meetings. Courtney Tchida, community programs coordinator for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, will talk about the Garden-in-a-Box program that she manages during the club's meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, September 19, at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Admission is free. Contact ramseygardeners.org.

The 2022 Fall Parade of Homes has 340 homes open for touring from noon-6 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays from now through October 2. Admission is free, with the exception of five Dream Homes where a \$5 fee will help the Housing First Minnesota Foundation build and remodel homes for Minnesotans in need. This year's tour will also offer people a chance to win \$10,000 toward a down-payment on their first home. For more information, visit paradeofhomes.org.

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Study begins on future of overlay district on Grand's east end

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul Planning Commission will initiate a study of the East Grand Avenue Overlay District on September 16 to determine whether long-time building height, setback and square footage limits should remain in place, be modified or dropped entirely. Any changes to the restrictions imposed by the overlay district would likely be taken up by the City Council in early 2023.

The commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommended on August 31 that the study proceed. City planners Spencer Johnson and Emma Siegwirth are leading the study, assisted by a hired consultant and a 10- to 15-member advisory committee whose members will be chosen soon.

Council member Rebecca Noecker supports the study in the wake of recent development disputes along the eastern end of Grand. She believes the overlay district has discouraged new development along that stretch of Grand since it was implemented in 2006.

The East Grand Avenue Overlay District extends from Oakland Avenue to Ayd Mill Road. It limits new buildings to a maxi-

mum footprint of 25,000 square feet and sets height limits to 30 feet for commercial buildings, 40 feet for residential or institutional buildings, and 36 feet for mixed-use commercial-residential buildings. The limits also prohibit developers from adding building height in exchange for step backs on upper floors.

New structures must also follow traditional neighborhoods design guidelines. The overlay district no longer has parking requirements, since the City Council eliminated all minimum parking requirements last year.

The overlay district was approved in July 2006 by the City Council, a few months after the Summit Hill Plan was adopted. The overlay and district council plan have several goals, such as maintaining Grand Avenue as an eclectic mix of housing and small-scale shops, restaurants and services. Another is to encourage pedestrian activity at street level, and to preserve Grand's character.

The overlay district was implemented as a way to deter larger-scale development. One worry in 2005-2006 was the potential for national chain stores to buy up and redevelop property along Grand. Another was the Oxford Hill mixed-use develop-

ment at Grand and Oxford Street.

The overlay has curbed development on Grand ever since. It was a flash point in the debate in 2019-2020 over a proposed mixed-use development at the northeast corner of Grand and Avon that would have included a Lunds & Byerlys and four floors of apartments. That plan was eventually dropped.

The overlay restrictions were also an issue in 2021 when the Kenefick family and Reuter Walton brought forward plans to replace the building that housed Dixie's on Grand, Saji-Ya and Emmett's Public House at 695 Grand with a five-story, mixed-use structure. The new Kenton House development is now under construction after protracted neighborhood debate. The debate highlighted the need to reexamine the overlay district.

The overlay district and parts of the current Summit Hill plan are seen as being inconsistent with the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The inconsistencies include 2040 plan sections on increased density and building design. State law requires consistency between comprehensive plans and other city plans, Johnson said.

SHA, which has been working on a district plan update for the past few years, is

looking at the overlay district as part of its planning process. The district council in early 2021 released a neighborhood survey to collect feedback on housing, open space, historic preservation, parking, development intensity and other topics.

One question focused on the overlay district. Around 49 percent of survey respondents considered the overlay to be a valuable tool to maintain the neighborhood's character. Another 42 percent said the overlay is in need of change or will be unable to support future needs.

Debate over the 695 Grand development prompted the SHA to seek a city zoning study that analyzes the effectiveness of the overlay district. The district council had hoped to weigh in on such a study by June of this year, but has been waiting for the city's planning department staff to conduct the study.

The SHA ultimately supported the 695 Grand project, but opposed the developers' request to opt out of the overlay district. Instead, the district council suggested a variance to the overlay restrictions be sought. SHA made it clear that it did not want a decision on 695 Grand to be indicative of a recommendation on the future of the overlay district.

HPC approves design for three-dwelling cluster development on Holly Ave.

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) on August 29 approved the plans for a three-dwelling cluster development at 549 Holly Ave. The decision followed the approval of three variances by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Veteran Ramsey Hill developers Kal and

Faezah Effendi plan to rehabilitate the existing home, which was built in 1916 and needs extensive work. They also plan to construct a second, smaller home just to the east of that structure, and add a housing unit above a new six-stall garage along the alley. HPC design approval was required because the property is in the Historic Hill District.

The project won a recommendation of

support during the summer from the Summit-University Planning Council. A handful of neighbors opposed the project, contending it is too much for the lot.

The variances approved by the BZA in July were for lot width (the property is 80 feet wide and 120 feet are required for three single-family dwellings), lot size (the lot is 12,046 square feet and 15,000 square feet are required) and rear-yard setback for

the garage and upper dwelling unit (5 feet were sought and 25 were required).

The HPC hearing drew no opposition. Commission members mainly focused their questions on design and exterior materials, with much of the attention on the garage and upper dwelling. Fourteen design-related conditions were tied to the HPC's approval, which is final unless it is appealed to the City Council.



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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Cretin and Watson avenues on August 26. The female victim was injured in the process and taken to the hospital.

Burglary—Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy, 1845 Sheridan Ave., was burglarized on August 25.

Theft—Lockers were broken into and multiple items were reported stolen, including a vehicle, at Corepower, 680 S. Cleveland Ave., on August 27.

—Some \$1,700 in eyeglass frames were reported stolen from Pearle Vision, 2024 Ford Pkwy., on August 30.

Assault—An assault was reported near the Elway Post Office, 1715 W. Seventh St., on August 26.

Miscellaneous—A warrant was served at a residence on the 2000 block of Randolph Avenue on August 25, following numerous complaints about people living in the garage, disorderly conduct, sleeping in vehicles and more. Law enforcement found someone staying in the garage and living in the basement. Police said the homeowner had been previously notified that was not allowed. Due to the interior condition of the residence, a report was issued for city code enforcement.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A purse-snatching was reported at the Midway Target on August 30.

Theft—An electric scooter was reported stolen on the 100 block of North Lexington Parkway on August 24, and a moped was reported stolen on the 1300 block of Selby Avenue on August 28-29.

—A 32-year-old man was arrested for trying to steal more than \$680 in merchandise from the Midway Target on August 24. A 56-year-old man was cited for trespassing and trying to steal more than \$500 in items from the same store on August 28.

Assault—A 35-year-old woman was cited for kicking an Uber driver in the head at the Midway Target on August 27.

Miscellaneous—A 33-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found

slumped behind the wheel in a vehicle on Lexington Parkway and I-94 on August 28.

—A 29-year-old woman was arrested for DWI and drug possession after she was found slumped over in a vehicle on Summit Avenue and Griggs Street on August 31.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A 29-year-old woman and 33-year-old man were arrested for felony burglary of a garage on the 1700 block of Stanford Avenue on August 28. Credit cards stolen during the burglary were later used at a nearby gas station, where police stopped the suspects and observed items from the garage inside of their vehicle.

—A burglary of an occupied residence was reported at the Grove apartment building, 246 S. Snelling Ave., on August 24.

—An apartment burglary was reported on the 1400 block of Osceola Avenue on August 31.

Theft—A moped was reported stolen on Brimhall Street and Randolph Avenue on August 24-25.

—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles on August 30 on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard, and on Summit and Cretin avenues.

Sex crime—A 36-year-old man was arrested for window peeping on the 400 block of South Saratoga Street on August 27.

Mendota Heights/Lilydale

Burglary—A man was arrested after he was found rummaging through a vehicle in a garage on the 1700 block of Lansford Lane on August 30.

—An electric bicycle was reported stolen from an underground garage on the 700 block of Linden Street on September 1.

Theft—A resident believes suspects entered his unlocked garage, stole car keys and used them to take the vehicle parked outside on the 500 block of West Annapolis Street on September 1.

Weapons—Eleven spent shell casings were found in the parking lot near the boat launch on the 1800 block of Lilydale Road on August 30.

Miscellaneous—Several juveniles reportedly entered a locked area and defecated in a pool on the 1000 block of Lilydale Road on August 19.

—A bicyclist suffered minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle on the 1800

block of Lilydale Road on August 26.

—A man was arrested for an outstanding warrant and was cited for trespassing and disorderly conduct after he was seen walking onto a porch and looking through belongings on the 700 block of Mohican Lane on August 28.

—A 25-year-old man was cited for DWI after crashing his motorcycle on the 600 block of Lilydale Road on August 31.

—Police responded to a disturbance on August 31 on the 700 block of Plaza Drive. A woman who said she was the owner of the business said she had fired an employee for having an affair with her husband. It was determined that the woman was not the owner and had no right to fire anyone.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on Spruce Tree and Snelling avenues at 9 p.m. on September 1. The suspect implied he had a gun, but none was seen.

Theft—A 35-year-old man was arrested for stealing a vehicle and for possession of a firearm by a felon on Fry Street and University Avenue on September 2.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—An occupied residence was broken into and a vehicle was reported stolen on the 1500 block of Portland Avenue on August 25.

—A garage was burglarized and a vehicle was reported stolen on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue on August 28-29.

Miscellaneous—A 32-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he reportedly drove off the road and over a street sign and light at 4:36 p.m. on September 3 on Ashland and Snelling avenues.

Summit Hill

Assault—A man was taken to the hospital after being assaulted near Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand Ave., on August 27.

—An assault with a gun was reported on the 600 block of Grand on August 27. The victim was taken to the hospital.

—A person was shot in the shoulder on September 1 on the 900 block of Grand. The victim was taken to the hospital for injuries that were deemed not life-threatening.

Miscellaneous—A driver was taken to the hospital after crashing into the front yard of a residence on the 900 block of Saint Clair Avenue on August 27.

—Police responded to Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., on September 1 for a report of people talking loudly in the parking lot.

Summit-University

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 1000 block of Laurel Avenue on August 24.

Assault—A man and his girlfriend were reportedly chased by a suspect with a butcher knife on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue on August 27.

Weapons—Spent shell casings were found outside a residence on the 500 block of Dayton Avenue on August 29, and on the city sidewalk on Carroll Avenue and Avon Street on August 30.

Miscellaneous—Pedestrians were struck by vehicles on Concordia Avenue and Grotto Street on August 24, and on Selby and Western avenues on August 26.

—A 56-year-old man was arrested for felony DWI after being found asleep in the driver's seat with the vehicle in drive and his foot on the brake on the 300 block of Pleasant Avenue on September 1.

West End

Burglary—The Day by Day Café, 477 W. Seventh St., was burglarized on September 3.

Theft—A female reportedly stole a coin machine off the counter at Speedway, 1445 W. Seventh St., on September 1.

Assault—A wallet was reported stolen from a woman's bag at Cossetta's, 211 W. Seventh St., on August 25.

—A 14-year-old boy was arrested for assault, disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property and fleeing police at Children's Hospital on September 1.

—A 28-year-old man was arrested for kidnapping and domestic assault of a woman on the 200 block of Kellogg Boulevard on September 3.

Weapons—Several spent shell casings were found following a report of gunfire under the bridge near Butternut Avenue and Bay Street on August 30.

—A woman reported that her boyfriend recklessly shot a gun into the air near the church building at 550 W. Seventh St. on September 2.

Miscellaneous—A 27-year-old man was arrested for felony damage to property after he smashed the windows of three vehicles that were in the parking lot of United Hospital at 199 N. Smith Ave. on August 31.

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ON THE TOWN

A time to write, a time to rock

Annie and the Bang Bang emerge from the pandemic with a slew of new material



Led by Highland Park guitarist and vocalist Annie Enneking (right), Annie and the Bang Bang features guitarists John Riedlinger and Kari Tweiten and drummer and vocalist Mike Kittel.

By Carolyn Walkup

If there was a silver lining in the COVID-19 cloud that hung over the Twin Cities' music scene for two years, it was the time to write music in the absence of live performances. Annie Enneking and her band Annie and the Bang Bang retreated to a basement where, separated by plastic sheeting, they composed and practiced enough new material for perhaps five albums, including the recently released LPs "Walkie Talkie" and "Loveland."

A resident of Highland Park, Enneking plays guitar and is the band's lead vocalist. She is backed by John Riedlinger on guitar, Kari Tweiten on bass and Mike Kittel on drums and vocals. The foursome just put the finishing touches to another eight-song album that will be released when Enneking feels the time is right. They plan to go into the studio in October and November to record a selection of the remaining 24 songs they have already written.

Annie and the Bang Bang will introduce some of those songs in concert at 7 p.m. Friday, September 16, on the outdoor Under the Canopy stage at Hook and

Ladder, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. They will be followed on stage by the veteran Twin Cities band the Flamin' Oh's.

Hook and Ladder booking director Jackson Buck described Annie and the Bang Bang as a crowd pleaser. "I think they're really great," he said. "Audiences absolutely love them. They're very diverse...and the perfect complement to the legendary Flamin' Oh's."

Annie and the Bang Bang's repertoire encompasses several genres of rock music, from grunge to garage and folk-pop to punk. Enneking and Riedlinger have been with the band since its inception in 2011. Tweiten and Kittel replaced the previous bass player and drummer about five years ago.

Enneking, who has been compared to punk rocker Patti Smith, came up with the name for the band to "express the energy of our music and honor the adventurous leanings of the band members. I also wanted to be clear that I was the front

woman leading the charge."

Annie and the Bang Bang has been taking regular sabbaticals in the Colorado Rockies to work on new material. Based at an Airbnb in Loveland, they have performed at several Colorado venues and developed quite a following there. On days when they are not performing, they are often hiking in such places as Estes Park.

"It's like music summer camp for adults," Enneking said, and it inspired their album "Loveland." "My ultimate goal is to play in every national park," she said.

Enneking's lyrics are drawn from her experiences in the natural world and in relationships. She admires the storytelling of such composers as Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Rickie Lee Jones. Annie and the Bang Bang plays very few covers, though it has put its own spin on such songs as Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" and Bruce Springsteen's "I'm on Fire."

When she is not working on her

music, Enneking teaches stage combat choreography at the University of Minnesota. She has worked on stage as a professional dancer and actress, performing with such Twin Cities companies as the Guthrie, Frank and Children's theaters and Theatre Latté Da.

"I've played Mother Courage and Hedda Gabler—some real heavy-hitting roles for women—and I've also performed in new works," Enneking said. "I quit acting about seven years ago and have been working in the art of stage violence ever since."

Enneking also teaches a course in writing at the History Theatre to "folks who are living with mental illness. It gets to what else they've experienced," she said.

"Walkie Talkie" and "Loveland" are available in vinyl and CD. The albums may be found at Barely Brothers Records, 783 Raymond Ave.; at HiFi Hair and Records, 1637 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis; and on the band's website at annieandthebangbang.com.

Tickets for the concert on September 16 are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door for general admission, \$25 reserved. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Enneking came up with the name for the band to "express the energy of our music and honor the adventurous leanings of the band members."

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ON THE TOWN *Briefly*

Books

Author Gretchen Anthony will discuss her novel *The Book Haters' Book Club* at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 15, at SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St. Admission is free. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings with author Antonia Angress and her novel, *Sirens & Muses*, at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 15; S. Yarberry and the poet's debut collection, *A Boy in the City*, at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 22; authors Kathryn Savage and Juliet Patterson and their nonfiction *Groundglass* and *Sinkhole*, respectively, at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 29; and poets' Annette Gagliardi, Laura Kozy Lanik and Linda White and Gagliardi's collection, *A Short Supply of Viability*, at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 2. Visit nextchapterbooksellers.com or call 651-225-8989.

Exhibits

The Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at Saint Catherine University is displaying through October 23 two new exhibits: "Shaping a Creative Life" features the art of SCU faculty and staff Jennifer Adam, Lys Akerman-Frank, Carol Lee Chase, Todd Deutsch, Amy Hamlin, Bethany Rahn and Monica Rudquist. Saint Paul artist Sarah Kusa is presenting the immersive installation "Containment Strategies." Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

Capitol Quadriga Starlight Tours will step out at 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17, at the State Capitol. Minnesota Historical Society staff lead this guided tour of the restored Capitol. Meet historical characters and climb to the roof for a rare view of the golden horses. The cost for the 90-minute tour is \$12, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for children ages 5-17. Visit statecapitol@mnhs.org or call 651-296-2881.

The League of Longfellow Artists will present its 12th annual LoLa Art Crawl on September 17 and 18. The work of 92 artists will be displayed for show and sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in artists' homes, art galleries and other businesses throughout the Longfellow area of Minneapolis. For more information and a map of the 44 art crawl sites, visit lolaart.org.

Two guided walking tours of Fort Snelling are being offered on Saturdays by the Minnesota Historical Society. The one-hour Looking Deeper tour will step out every half hour between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. September 17, 24, October 1 and 8. Learn of the archaeology and research involved in restoring the historic fort and examining the 10,000-year history of the site. The 45-minute Walk on the Prairie Tour will step out at the bottom of the

hour between 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturdays, September 17 through October 29. Learn about the native plants in the park's newly restored prairie and their significance to Native Americans. Both tours begin at the Visitor Center, rain or shine. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for children ages 5-17. Visit ftsnelling@mnhs.org or call 612-726-1171.

Dance

Ananya Dance Theatre explores betrayal, dispossession, exile, hope and survival in *Nün Gherāo: Surrounded by Salt*, which will premiere at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, September 30 and October 1, in the O'Shaughnessy at Saint Catherine University. Using the 1978-79 massacre of 10,000 refugees on Marichjhapi Island in West Bengal, India, as a departure point, the dance is a meditation on salt water, tears and the rising and warming oceans of the world. Tickets are pay-what-you-can with \$30 suggested. Call 651-690-6700 or visit oshag.stkate.edu.

Music

Guitarist Eric Peltoniemi and friends Ruth MacKenzie, Jill Whitney-Birk, Carole Jean Anderson and Sally Reynolds will sing songs from the 1980s dramas *Plain Hearts* and *Down to Earth* on September 15-18. The musical revue will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. The program will also feature several scenes from these collaborations between Peltoniemi and longtime History Theatre playwright in residence Lance Belville and artistic director Lynn Lohr. Tickets are \$25. Visit ericandfriends.eventbrite.com.

Saint Paul harpist Hannah Flowers will release her new album, "Hall-Gate House," in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, September 16, on the outdoor stage at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The album is an extension of Flower's master's degree program in traditional Irish music performance. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, free for those age 18 and under. In case of rain, the concert will be moved indoors. Visit celticjunction.org.

The Landmark Live series will open with singer-songwriter Ray Bonneville and his bluesy Americana on September 16 in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. All four concerts in the series will begin at 8 p.m. on the third Friday of the month. Each will be preceded at 7 p.m. with a cocktail hour and cash bar. The schedule includes blues and roots musician Annie Mack on October 21; Turn Turn Turn featuring Adam Levy, Savannah Smith and Barb Brynstad on November 18; and the Barley Jacks on December 16. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door,

for each show, or \$70 for all four. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

The Isles Ensemble will open its season on Sunday, September 18, with a performance of Schubert's String Quartet in D Minor (Death and the Maiden) and Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in G Minor. The concert begins at 4 p.m. at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, 2020 Lake of the Isles Pkwy. in Minneapolis. Taking the stage will be violinists Stephanie Arado and Leslie Shank, violist Kenneth Freed, cellist Tom Rosenberg and pianist Ivan Konev. Tickets are \$25 or what you can pay, free for students and children. Visit islesensemble.org.

A co-ed drum circle will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, September 19, at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$15. Drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

The Summer Nights in Rice series will close with a free concert by the International Reggae All Stars from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, September 22, in Rice Park. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

"**Sound Sculpture**," a musical installation made up of illuminated building blocks, will be presented on September 24-25 at Landmark Center. Commissioned by the Schubert Club, the MASARY Studios creation may be experienced in a free program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and in concert at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday with percussionist Ryan Edwards, cellist Michelle Kinney, choreographer Darrius Strong and spoken-word artist Alexei Moon Casselle. Concert tickets are \$33. Visit schubert.org or call 651-292-3268.

Theater

Stephen Karam's *The Humans* will open Park Square Theatre's new season on Friday, September 16. A one-act performed in real time, the comedy-drama tells of a family navigating the challenges of everyday life as three generations gather for Thanksgiving in the apartment of one of the children. John Middleton, Charity Jones, Laura Anderson, Dexieng "Dae" Yang, Angela Timberman and Darrick Mosley star. Following previews on September 14 and 15, show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 9. Tickets are \$27-\$55, or whatever you can afford on September 25. Visit parksquaretheatre.org or call 651-291-7005.

John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt: A Parable* will open on September 23 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama tells the story of Sister Aloysius, a Bronx school principal who takes matters into her own hands when she suspects a young priest of improper relations with a male student. Show times are 7:30 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 16. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Merrily We Roll Along will open on Saturday, September 24, at Theater Latté Da. The Stephen Sondheim musical spans three decades in the lives of three friends, tracing their journey backward from middle age. Reese Britts, Dylan Frederick, Becca Hart, Britta Ollmann, Vie Boheme and Charlie Clark star. Peter Rothstein directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 30 at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE in Minneapolis. Tickets start at \$35. Visit latteda.org or call 612-339-3003.

Family

Children from infants to age 5 may join in a live musical performance from 10:30-11 a.m. Friday, September 16, at the Minnesota Jewish Community Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Participants will sing and move to well-known songs and discover how instruments work. Admission is free. Kids must be accompanied by a caregiver. For more information, email benc@minnesotajcc.com.

Et cetera

Twin Cities Veg Fest will return to Harriet Island on Sunday, September 18. More than 100 vendors will be showing and selling their plant-based products from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. that day. People of all dietary inclinations are welcome. A free shuttle service will be available from Saint Paul's Union Depot. Visit tcvegfest.com.

Twin Cities Tweed Ride, a fun and free bike ride, will be offered by the Minnesota Historical Society on Saturday, September 24, beginning at 11 a.m. at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. A coffee hour will open the event at 9:30 a.m. Educational breaks will be taken at the Mill City Museum, Fair Oaks Park and the Hennepin History Museum where an ice cream social will be held. Visit hillhouse@mnhs.org or call 651-297-2555.

Racial Covenants Then and Now, a bike tour, live performance and premiere of Twin Cities Public Television's "Jim Crow of the North Stories," will be presented on Monday, September 26, at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The program on the Twin Cities' history of racial covenants in home deeds and other forms of segregation will begin at 5:45 p.m. with an educational bike ride. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the Parkway lobby. The TPT program will be screened at 7 p.m. Live music and literary readings will also be featured. Admission is free. Visit freethedeeds.org.

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 17

A RUMMAGE SALE sponsored by Saint Paul's United Women in Faith will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Quality used items will be available at bargain prices. Proceeds will fund the church's mission projects. Call 651-452-5683.

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 18

"**OR EMET 101**," an oral history with founding and long-term members of the congregation, will be presented from 10 a.m.-noon at the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave. The one-hour video features excerpts from 14 interviews addressing such themes as Jewish identity, religious beliefs and humanistic Judaism. Admission is free. For information on COVID protocol, visit oremnet.org or email info@oremnet.org.

KIOSK

FRIDAY/SEPTEMBER 23

THE INDIGENOUS AND IMMIGRANT communities who called Swede Hollow home will be celebrated in a free program from 5-8 p.m. in Swede Hollow off Payne Avenue and Beaumont Street. Live music and the dedication of the new interpretive signs will be featured. To register, visit tinyurl.com/k32up9bn.

A FLEA MARKET will be held from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. today and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on September 24 in the building and in the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Refreshments will be available. Live music will be featured on Friday. A bag sale will be held on Saturday. Visit ilcsp.org.

"**LIVING WITH LOSS**, Healing With Hope" will be addressed by Ted Bowman in a free program at 7:30 p.m. on the lower level of the Iverson Center for Faith at the University of Saint Thomas. A free buffet supper will precede the talk at 6:30. For more information, call 651-430-0361.

TUESDAY/SEPTEMBER 27

"**EIGHT BIG QUESTIONS** About Catholicism" will be addressed in nine hour-long programs beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, today through December 6, in Carolyn Hall at the Church of Saint Mark, Dayton Avenue and Moore Street. The series is open to anyone who is curious about, skeptical of or intrigued by the Catholic Church and its teachings. Registration is not required. For more information or to sign up for the program, visit onstrongfamily.org/questions.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Learning how to handle success

Football coaches are notoriously hard to please. In a game in which there are roughly 150 plays, it's not hard to find one where somebody misses a block or a tackle. So when the season opener is won by a wide margin, the coach needs to handle his players judiciously. It's a fine line between enjoying success and pointing out where something needs to be fixed.

"Winning is a byproduct," said Highland Park coach Jonathan Brown, whose team rolled over Minneapolis Southwest 32-0 in the season opener on September 1.

The Scots haven't enjoyed a lot of success on the gridiron in recent years. They won just once in the shortened 2020 season and went 3-7 last year, including a 37-12 loss to Southwest. So it was understandable for the Scots to get excited when they sprinted to a 26-0 lead in the first half of their victory over the Lakers.

"We didn't play as smart in the second half," Brown said. "We lost a little focus, but you need to remember these kids aren't used to winning a lot."

However, Brown made it clear that he wasn't being critical of his troops. "Let's be happy with what we did. I don't look for negatives," he said. "I just wanted them to know that if they want to get better, they need to stay on top."

A high school football season can seem like a sprint. There are just 48 days from the first game to the last. That doesn't leave a lot of time to celebrate wins or mope about losses. Brown, in his third season at the helm of the Scots, knows that all too well. "The aim is to maximize potential," he said.

Highland Park was part of a three-way tie for first in Saint Paul City Conference football in 2009. It won a solo title in 2004 and another three-way tie in 1971. That's it for success in 58 years of football for the Scots.

Brown wants this current bunch of Scots to make their own history. Thus, while he was pleased with the outcome of the season opener, he needed to remind his charges they can always do better. "It's a great thing when you can learn how to handle success," he said.

A couple of miles away at Saint Thomas Academy, head coach Dan O'Brien was dealing with a different problem. The Cadets have been a prep football power for quite a while now, and they got a lot of preseason ink this year as a contender for the Prep Bowl in Class AAAAA.

WRIGHT CALL ▶17



Highland Park's Ayub Sulieman controls the ball in front of Como's Abdisa Mohamed in a 1-1 tie on September 7. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Prep soccer previews

Nova among girls' teams hoping to shine this fall

By Dave Wright

When Matt Millard took over the reins of the Nova Classical Academy girls' soccer program three years ago, he knew he had a lot of work ahead of him. "We barely survived that first season," he said.

The Knights didn't have enough players for a junior varsity team and won just one varsity game that year. Last year, Nova also got off to a rocky start, but had a better second half of the season and finished with six wins. This fall, Millard has 32 girls in the system and the Knights have enough players to compete at the JV level.

"We have some depth now," he said. "The younger players will be more experienced when they get to the varsity. I think we're headed in the right direction."

The Knights are part of a talented local girls' soccer landscape that includes Minnehaha Academy, the defending Class A champion; Highland Park, which dethroned Central for the Saint Paul City Conference crown last year; and Saint Paul Academy, which lost only twice in 2021.

Here's a look at the local teams as the girls' soccer season kicks into high gear:

CENTRAL

League: Saint Paul City
Previous record: 8-5-1
Coach: Stefanie Cruz

Key players: senior defender Ada Guetschow, senior midfielders Ruby Lyons and Elsie Jones.

Outlook: Cruz has 11 girls who've been playing all four years she's been the head coach at her alma mater. Accordingly, she thinks the time has come for the Minutemen to have a big season. "It's been a fun group to work with," she said. "You can see their confidence grow. Our defense and midfield is solid. We need to finish better and get some goals."



Central's Ruby Lyons sends the ball toward the goal in front of Humboldt's Eh Moo Paw and the setting sun in the Minutemen's 4-0 win on September 7. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Previous record: 7-7-2
Coach: Megan Schoeberl

Key players: sophomore goalie Alida Ahern, senior midfielder Catherine Novak, senior defender Lauren Bengtson.

Outlook: The Raiders' lost their top three scorers from last season, but Ahern is back in goal and recorded three shutouts in the first five games. "I've been pleasantly surprised so far," coach Schoeberl said. "The juniors and seniors have stepped up and are leading the way." The test now comes with a rugged conference slate.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: Saint Paul City
Previous record: 6-7-2
Coach: Chris Steenberg

Key players: senior midfielder Gabby Carrillo-Quinones, senior defender Clara Paleen, junior defender Ava Arredondo.

Outlook: With a solid returning cast, the defending conference champs

are hoping for big things this fall. Accordingly, the team's nonconference schedule is a demanding one. "We want to be more of a possession-based team this year," coach Steenberg said. "The kids have a high soccer IQ and are adapting well."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Previous record: 16-2-2
Coach: Bryan Hollaway

Key players: junior forwards Greta Carlson and Berit Parten, junior defender Charlotte Wold.

Outlook: The defending Class A champs have come out of the gate gunning this year, scoring 18 goals in its first four games. Wold alone netted five goals in a 6-4 win over Providence Academy. "We should be very good on offense this year," coach Hollaway said.

NOVA ACADEMY

League: Skyline
Previous record: 6-12
Coach: Matt Millard

GIRLS' SOCCER PREVIEW ▶16

Boys' teams are finding referees in short supply

By Bill Wagner

It's the same thing in so many high school sports these days. Officials are in such short supply that the situation is approaching the critical stage, according to local coaches. They say an increase in pay might help, but there's more to it than that.

"I think we need more young (officials) coming through," said Saint Paul Academy soccer coach Max Lipset. "I'm extremely grateful to a lot of the older ones who've stuck it out, but we're having a hard time getting new referees."

Cretin-Derham Hall soccer coach Carter Albrecht said they pay a referee \$70 to work a freshman game. "But we're still struggling to find them," he said. "There's a huge shortage, and it affects the quality of the referees."

Central soccer coach David Albor-

noz said he "absolutely" sees a scenario in which games might have to be shuffled and rescheduled because of the ref shortage. "We're getting people who should be retiring now and they do their best, but we need more young people," he said.

Still, the season presses on. Here's how the local teams look this fall:

CENTRAL

League: Saint Paul City
Previous record: 13-3-1
Coach: David Albornoz

Key players: senior goalie Drew Moseman, freshman midfielder Eli Moseman, senior defender Charles Wriedt, senior midfielder Chakong Vang.

Outlook: The Minutemen have five seniors starting but still have more young players than coach Albornoz

usually has. They have a solid nucleus and the team has recently dominated the league. Central has speed, skill and solid defense, though the team is a little offensively challenged. "One month from now, we'll see where we fall," Albornoz said.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Previous record: 3-13-1
Coach: Carter Albrecht

Key players: junior midfielders Liam Hafenbrack and Luke Madden, senior forward Diego Giles Quiroz.

Outlook: Coach Albrecht views his Raiders as a coming force in the league. "We had a young team last year," he said, "but this year a lot of those players have really grown into themselves."

BOYS' SOCCER PREVIEW ▶16

15- GIRLS' SOCCER PREVIEW

Key players: junior forward Deme Williamson, junior goalie Emma Peklo, senior midfielder Ava Jane Lynch.

Outlook: The Knights broke from the gate fast, winning their first three games, scoring 14 goals in the process. With just two seniors and two juniors on the roster, coach Millard is enthusiastic about where the program is headed. "We have a very talented freshman class," he said. "They have a lot of speed."

SAINT PAUL ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic

Previous record: 14-2-1

Coach: Aileen Guiney

Key players: sophomore forward Saw-

yer Bollinger-Danielson, senior defender Heidi Deuel, freshman forward Clare Ryan Bradley.

Outlook: Guiney, who played in the Big 10 at Northwestern and was an assistant coach for a time at Michigan, is in her first year as head coach at SPA. She inherited a solid returning crew that includes seven seniors who play regularly and two goalies who spar for time in the nets. Bollinger-Danielson scored a pair of goals in the season opening 3-1 win over South Saint Paul. "I'm impressed with our work ethic," Guiney said. SPA has allowed just one goal in its first three games.

TWO RIVERS

League: Metro East

Previous record: 8-8-2

Coach: Jay Miller

Key players: senior goalie Sydney Potter, senior midfielder Sarah Wagner, senior defender Julia Taurenskas.

Outlook: Although coach Miller is in his first year with the Warriors, he was aware of the team's skill set. He had been on the receiving end of things the past eight years at Visitation. "What I didn't know was how much depth is here," he said. "We have a lot of kids who can play several positions." The Warriors have rugged terrain to handle. Their conference and section are loaded with good teams. To succeed against them, Miller said, "We'll look to control possessions." With a 3-1 start, this is a team to watch as the year goes on.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro

Previous record: 11-7-1

Coach: Mikki Denney Wright

Key players: senior midfielders Lucy Petschel and Kazi Hankee, sophomore forward Abbey Farley.

Outlook: With just three returning players with varsity experience, coach Denney Wright freely admits the Blazers will be a work in progress this fall. She is, however, excited to see how the team improves. "They're a very coachable bunch," she said. "They're young and hungry." Petschel has started strong with four goals in the team's first three games. Unafraid of a challenge, Denny Wright stepped up the nonconference slate with games against larger schools with big reputations. A 3-3 tie with last year's Class AA runner-up Benilde-Saint Margaret's suggests the Blazers may be ready to move up the ladder.

15- BOYS' SOCCER PREVIEW

HIGHLAND PARK

League: Saint Paul City

Previous record: 5-8-3

Coach: Aron Romo

Key players: senior midfielder Eh Mu, sophomore wing/midfielder Tenzing Walker, junior midfielder Caiden Romo.

Outlook: The Scots can control the ball well, but they have to make the best of their offensive chances when they get them. First-year coach Romo said he has higher aspirations than a .500 season. "I think we can do pretty well," he said. "I expect all of our conference games to be tough."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic

Previous record: 8-7-1

Coach: Sean Jensen

Key players: senior midfielder Sam Anderson, senior forward Jonathan Karpenko,

junior defender Evan Paton.

Outlook: The Redhawks lost four seniors to graduation, but Jensen said "we have a talented group." The team will build off its midfielders. "They're very quick and can play offense and defense," he said. Minnehaha also has skills at the striker position.

NOVA ACADEMY

League: Skyline

Previous record: 5-11

Coach: Cole Conlin

Key players: senior forward Sebastian Hoiland, junior midfielder Joe West, junior goalie Marcos Odegard, senior defensive midfielder Tommie Larkins.

Outlook: Coach Conlin said the goal is to get to .500 this fall. "Last year, we just wanted to keep things close," he said. "Now we want to win more." The Knights have a good junior class and some strong seniors.

SAINT PAUL ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic

Previous record: 9-3-4

Coach: Max Lipset

Key players: senior forward/midfielder Cooper Danielson, senior defender Nate Cohen, junior goalie Cooper Olsen, sophomore midfielder Ezra Straub.

Outlook: The Spartans have seven of their starters back this season, and coach Lipset thinks his team will be successful once again. "We have quality players and are strong in every position," he said.

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Metro East

Previous record: 9-6

Coach: Brian Kallman

Key players: senior midfielder Austin Kalmes, senior defenders Nick Henseler and Tate Himkemyer, sophomore forward Kian Farooq, sophomore midfielder Solomon Straub

Outlook: Coach Kallman believes his team will have a strong second half of the season as it preps for the playoffs. STA has a stout defense and some good offensive output in the early season. He said a bid for state is well within reach. "We always talk about getting a little bit better every time we step onto the field," Kallman said.

TWO RIVERS

League: Metro East

Previous record: 11-3-1

Coach: Terry Doud

Key players: senior goalie Miles Dunn, senior midfielder Anwar Hamed, junior midfielder Emilio Meza, senior defender Diego Godinez, sophomore defenders Jack Filhart and Quinn Fraley.

Outlook: The Warriors have good speed and possess the ball well, but defense could be a soft spot. "We hope to challenge for the conference title," coach Doud said. "We're going to keep getting better."



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Citywide drop-off event—A citywide drop-off event will be held on Saturday, September 17, at the northeast corner of the State Fairgrounds. Visit the city of Saint Paul's website at tinyurl.com/496krere for a list of accepted items and fees. Seniors can have their items picked up for free. Sign up by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org.

Join the board—The community council has openings for Grid 4, Grid 3 and at-large representatives of faith institutions on its board of directors. For information about running for an open seat, visit macgrove.org/about/board.

Highland Park highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Citywide drop-off event—The city of Saint Paul will conduct a drop off event at the northeast corner of the State Fairgrounds from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, September 17. Visit tinyurl.com/496krere for a list of accepted items and fees. Seniors can schedule a free pickup of items at info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or 651-695-4005.

Living in Highland—Residents can share their thoughts about living in Highland Park at two in-person conversations: with coffee and donuts from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 24, at the Highland Park Pavilion, 1200

Montreal Ave.; or with happy hour appetizers from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, September 28, at Tiffany Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. Online surveys are also available through October 5 at surveymonkey.com/t/HDCfeedback22.

Seeking students—The HDC is seeking students in grades 11-12 or in college who live or go to school in Highland Park to serve as liaisons with the district council. Learn more and apply by September 25 on the HDC's website.

Stop for Me—A Stop for Me event will be held from 3-4:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, at Snelling and Hartford avenues to educate people about pedestrian safety.

Summit Hill summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA Fall Festival—The SHA will host its Fall Festival from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, September 17, in Linwood Park. Watch the website for upcoming info and contact info@SummitHillAssociation.org to volunteer.

Summit-University summit-university.org • 651-228-1855

Board elections—The annual elections for the Summit-University Planning Council's board of directors run through September 14. People can learn more about the candidates and vote on the SUPC's website.

Annual block party—The annual Webster Park block party and potluck supper will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, September 17, on the 700 block of Ashland Avenue. Participants are asked to bring a side dish and baked good for the cakewalk. The suggested contribution is \$10 per family.

Union Park unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Ice Cream Peanut Butter & Jam—The ninth annual Ice Cream, Peanut Butter & Jam will be held from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, September 17, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 Saint Anthony Ave. There will be arts and crafts, chalk painting, live bands, dance performances, food trucks, a bouncy house and more.

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 meetings—Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday September 15. Meetings are held via Zoom, unless otherwise noted. For log-in information, visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

154 WRIGHT CALL

There was a lot to be satisfied with in their season-opening 42-7 win at South Saint Paul on September 1. After all, this was a team the Cadets struggled with last year before pulling away for an 18-6 victory. When you jump out to a 35-0 halftime lead and end up with nearly 400 yards of offense, it would be logical to think happy days are here again in Mendota Heights.

Indeed, O'Brien found a lot of positives in the opener. "We ran the ball well. We threw it well," he said. "The kicking game was very good."

Then again, not everything was roses for STA. "We lost the turnover battle," O'Brien said. "There were penalties we shouldn't have taken. We still have a few things to clean up."

O'Brien often emphasizes that just about every game the Cadets play is a rivalry of sorts. On September 16, Cretin-Derham Hall comes to the STA campus for the first time in two decades. "It'll be wild," O'Brien conceded of the long-standing rivalry between the Cadets and the Raiders. "I'll have to remind the kids it's just one game. It helps that we played them last year (a 41-14 STA win)."

Local lad makes it to the Big Show

Mark McKenzie was Louie Varland's baseball coach for four seasons at Concordia University-Saint Paul.

Varland's older brother, Gus, was already a pitcher at CSP when Louie was a senior pitcher at North Saint Paul and looking at colleges.

"He actually wanted to go somewhere else to compete against Gus," McKenzie recalled. "When Louie decided to come here, I was told he had a better arm than his brother, but he didn't throw strikes."

McKenzie and his staff went to work on the mechanics for both hurlers. By the time the Varlands were done, CSP had advanced to two NSIC championship games.

Gus was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers and has worked his way up the chain to AA ball. Unfortunately for Gus, the Dodgers' system is loaded with great arms and he may need to look elsewhere to break into the majors.

Louie was drafted by the Twins in 2019. The 24-year-old Saint Paul native overcame an arm issue and worked his way up the minor league ladder to CHS Field this summer to hurl for the AAA Saints. On September 7, he took a bigger step, taking the mound at Yankee Stadium against the powerful Bronx Bombers.

Before the game, McKenzie checked in with an old pal, Kent Hrbek, to see if he had any words of advice for Louie. "Herbie said to tell him it's just baseball," McKenzie said. "Just enjoy it."

As it developed, Varland made his MLB debut in front of a mostly empty Yankee Stadium. Thanks to a rainout the night before, Varland went to work at 3 p.m. in the

first game of a doubleheader. He struck out Aaron Judge in the first inning and worked as if he was still hurling at Concordia's Barnes Field. "He looked very loose and relaxed out there," McKenzie said.

Varland's second encounter with Judge didn't go so well when Judge hit his 55th home run of the year. Undeterred, Varland went to 3-0 on the next batter, but responded with seven strikes in a row to end the inning.

What was noticeable was there was no dawdling on the mound. "He was used to the 20-second clock in the minors," McKenzie said. "It was fun to watch."

Minnesota had a 3-1 lead when Varland went out to the mound for the sixth inning. After giving up a single, he struck out Oswaldo Cabrera, his seventh victim of the day.

What happened next was predictable. Varland wasn't given a third shot at Judge, giving way to reliever Griffin Jax. Two batters later, Gleyber Torres hit a laser shot for a home run to tie the game, thus ruining Varland's chance for a win in his debut. The Twins eventually lost 5-4 in 12 innings, but it didn't matter. For Varland, it was a day to remember.

"I'm glad it's over because there was a lot of anxiety, but it all worked out," he told reporters afterward. "I couldn't really feel my legs against the first batter. After that first out, though, things kind of went back to normal."

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

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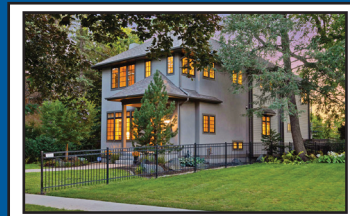
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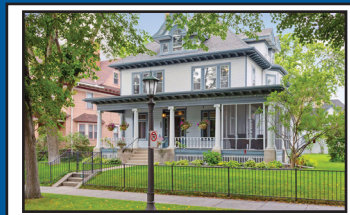
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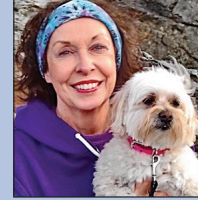
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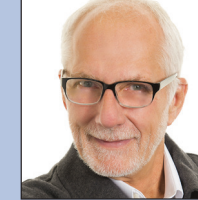
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