SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 11, 2022

MYVILLAGER.COM

### Immanuel Lutheran Church marks 150th year

### Congregation is eager to celebrate after year's delay due to pandemic

By Frank Jossi

mmanuel Lutheran Church, which has been a beacon in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood for generations, saw plans for its 150th anniversary celebration dimmed last year due to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, next month the congregation will finally be able to fully celebrate the church's milestone together with several special events, including a worship service, banquet and program beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, October 9.

"Folks are out and about and eager to be together," said the Reverend Cindy Bullock, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran, which is located across the street from Macalester College at 104 S. Snelling Ave. "There's a lot of energy around this."

Ann Derr, who chaired the 150th anniversary volunteer team, said some former pastors will attend and the Reverend Patricia Lull, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, will preach during the service.

Parishioners also will hear a handbell choir perform part of congregant David Stark's hymn, "God with Us, Immanuel," which he composed for the celebration. Chris Cherwien, director of worship and music, said a flutist will play and the choir and church members will sing. "It's a wonderfully beautiful work," she said.



The Reverend Cindy Bullock, right, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran, is joined by volunteers Mark Thompson and Lee Bjerke at the church's annual flea market on September 24. Photo BY BRAD STAUFFER

At 10:30 a.m., the church will take a panoramic photograph of all congregants. A banquet will start at 11:30 a.m. at Macalester's Kagin Commons with

entertainment, acknowledgment of past pastors and lunch. Immanuel Lutheran

IMMANUEL'S 150TH ▶2

# Council promises to trim maximum 15% increase in tax levy

By Jane McClure

aint Paul property owners may want to prepare for a hefty property tax increase next year. The City Council approved a maximum levy increase of 15.3 percent for 2023, with promises, however, to bring that increase down in the weeks ahead.

Several council members called the increase "unacceptable." It is the same tax levy hike proposed by Mayor Melvin Carter in his 2023 city budget. The \$781.5 million budget is supported by \$199.9 million in property taxes.

Driving up the tax levy is the recent district court decision that found unconstitutional the city's practice of assessing all property owners, even tax-exempt property owners, for the costs of street maintenance. The court ruled that street maintenance was a citywide benefit that should be covered by property taxes. The assessments raised about \$15 million per year for the city's coffers, and switching those costs to property taxes accounts for about half of the proposed levy increase.

State truth-in-taxation law requires local governments to adopt a maximum levy by the end of September. After September, the levy can be decreased but not increased.

City Council president Amy Brendmoen said that she and her colleagues would "dig very deeply" in the weeks ahead to find ways to trim the mayor's proposed budget for next year. Ward 7 council member Jane Prince said

PROPERTY TAX LEVY ▶3

# City committee recommends changes in organized trash collection

Seeks new request for proposals from haulers prior to new contract

By Jane McClure

48-page report presented on September 14 by Saint Paul's Garbage Advisory Committee recommends changes in the city's four-year-old system of organized trash collection. The City Council will review the report in the weeks ahead as it considers a new contract with

the consortium of private haulers who collect trash in Saint Paul.

The city's current contract with the haulers consortium expires in 2023. It began in the fall of 2018 when the city first adopted a system of organized trash collection for all single-family and two-to-four-unit residences.

The mandatory system has been controversial. Supporters have praised it for its uniform pricing and reducing the number of trucks lumbering down streets and alleys. Opponents fought its adoption, complaining that it forced them to pay for a service they rarely if ever needed, prevented

them from sharing a cart with a neighbor, and took away their ability to choose their own hauler to get the best service at the lowest price. They tried to rescind the new system through a citywide referendum in 2019, but failed.

Sarah Axtmann, who chairs the Garbage Advisory Committee, described its 18 members as "very committed and very passionate" about garbage. They studied trash collection from February to June, and though they did not agree on everything, Axtmann said, they all believe that garbage collection is not only an issue of public health, but of equity.

The advisory committee is not happy with how the consortium of private haulers has operated, Axtmann said. It is recommending several changes in operations and that a new request for proposals be issued by the city before entering into a new contract. The committee also wants the city to consider taking over the operation of residential trash collection entirely.

One concern about the current system is how the number of private haulers serving the city has changed. When Saint Paul first moved toward organized collection, 17 pri-

TRASH COLLECTON ▶3

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Current Resident or

Entertainment during a motherdaughter banquet at Immanuel Lutheran in 1932.



#### **1** ■ IMMANUEL'S 150TH

will also observe having made the final payment on a mortgage for

its 2006 Building Bridges expansion, "which we've been using, with great joy, for all these years," Derr said.

Two longtime church members wrote a song to honor the retiring of the debt with a take on the Barenaked Ladies' 1988 hit "If I Had a Million Dollars." Composer Dale Fierke and singer Immanuel's first Jeff Schmidt will perform the version of the Osten Hanson. song they wrote when

the church first took on the mortgage, and an updated one now that it has been paid off.

Music always has been an important part of Immanuel Lutheran. "We've always cared about music and supported it financially," Cherwien said. "We're a singing congregation with many beautiful, talented people who

share their gifts. We've got instrumentalists, vocalists and composers."

Derr said the church engaged its members last year as part of its 150th anniversary with an online history quiz that included such questions as the number of pastors (71) Immanuel has had since its founding in 1871. In doing the research for the quiz, Derr said she was able to track down photos of "every one of

> This year the church also created a book on its history that should

be available before the end of the year.

them."

Derr said the anniversary celebration is the culmination of several years of planning. "It's going to be so joyful because we had to change everything due to COVID," she said. "A lot of things we wanted to do were either canceled or postponed or virtual."



Pictured above is the Immanuel Lutheran picnic in June 1925, while at right are James Forchtner and David Lindgren cooking lutefisk in the 1950s.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Immanuel Lutheran had humble beginnings. Traveling minister the Reverend Osten Hanson started the church on December 19, 1871, with a group of nine Norwegian immigrants. In 1880, the congregation bought a church building and moved it to a site where Regions Hospital is today. Ten years later, Immanuel constructed its first building at that same location. It moved to Saint Albans Street and Aurora Avenue in 1919 and merged with Macalester Park Lutheran Church in 1921, but kept its name. In 1925, it built the current church at Goodrich and Snelling avenues.

Over the years, Immanuel Lutheran built additions, remodeled building sections and merged with Highland Park Lutheran. It also built space for a Sunday school and added an elevator. The Building Bridges project in 2006



connected the sanctuary to the education wing while creating a gathering space.

Christian education and men's and women's programs have been part of the church's offerings for decades. Immanuel Lutheran also serves monthly meals at the Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence, raises money for causes by holding an annual flea market (which took place September 23-24) and a lutefisk dinner (coming up November 18), and created a Southeast Asian Ministry while supporting the resettlement of

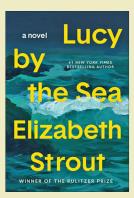
refugees. The congregation also sponsors global missions to help others abroad, and conducts a summer art and music camp for children.

"The one thing about this 150 years that has touched me so much," Bullock said, "is what we call a communion of saints the people who've sat in these pews through the years who've been dedicated to the kingdom of God."

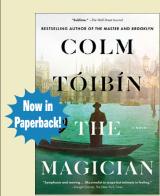
For information or to register for Immanuel's 150th anniversary banquet, visit ilcsp.org/anniversary or call 651-699-5560.

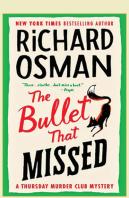
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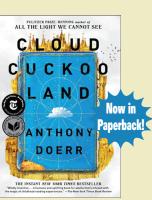














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#### **1** ■ PROPERTY TAX LEVY

the levy increase "fails to recognize the realities facing the city's property taxpayers."

The vote on the maximum levy followed a September 20 public hearing on the city budget at Como Park Pavilion. Most of the three dozen people who testified at the hearing were city employees, though a few property owners spoke. Highland Park homeowner Joe Soucheray asked city officials, "Is Saint Paul experiencing some good fortune we're unaware of? What is justifying a 15 percent increase? Who in God's name is getting a 15 percent raise?"

South Como homeowner Patty Egger questioned how she and others will be able to pay such high property taxes on top of other cost increases. "I work in food service," Egger said. "We don't earn a lot of money. How am I going to get through?" Egger said she was sorry there were not more property taxpayers at the hearing. "They're probably not here because they're trying to make ends meet," she said.

Merriam Park attorney Ferdinand Peters, who was involved in the litigation involving the city's street right-of way maintenance assessments, suggested the city counter steep levy increases by avoiding costly court battles.

Many speakers were city workers and union members who urged the City Council to look at compensation for those who labored on the front lines during the CO-VID-19 pandemic. One repeated comment was that wages have not kept up with inflation and that city employees will be hard-pressed to pay higher property taxes. They cited staffing shortages in many city departments and the need for city officials to reduce the number of higher-paid middle management positions.

"Everything's rising. The cost of living's going up, and all our bills are going up," said Emanuel Gomez, who works for Saint Paul Regional Water Services. "We don't get the proper pay that is needed for any of us to survive on here."

Saint Paul Public Library employees complained of behavioral problems with library users. Female workers have been propositioned, stalked, groped and kissed by members of the public. They criticized library management for not doing enough.

Workers said high turnover and staff shortages are affecting public libraries and even forcing some to close for short periods. "We desperately need more front line staff," said Betsy Hunter, who works at the Hamline-Midway Library. "Our leadership is failing."

Carter's budget includes \$1.3 million for library safety measures. City Council members said they are deeply concerned about the safety issues and will look for additional funds.

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# Rise in home values may boost taxes

By Jane McClure

he Ramsey County Board got a preview recently of the trends affecting the local real estate market in 2022 and the effect those trends could have on property taxes payable in 2023.

The total preliminary assessed value for all properties in Ramsey County stands at an all-time high of \$70 billion, according to interim county assessor Pat Chapman. The aggregate value of properties across the county for taxes payable in 2023 has increased 12.88 percent in the past year, Chapman said.

The greatest value increase has come in multifamily residential property, at 17 percent countywide. The value of single-family homes increased by 14.21 percent. Industrial properties saw a 9.55 percent increase. The value of commercial property increased by 1.78 percent.

In Saint Paul specifically, the value of a median-priced single-family home increased 16.4 percent over the past year—from \$228,700 to \$266,300. In the Saint Paul neighborhoods served by *MyVillager*, a median-priced home increased by the following amounts:

**Downtown** — 23.1 percent, from \$460,000 to \$566,050.

Highland Park — 10.6 percent, from \$359,900 to \$398,050.

Macalester-Groveland — 12.7 percent, from \$361,400 to \$407,200.

Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline — 12.6 percent, from \$338,700 to \$381,400.

**Summit Hill** — 10.4 percent, from \$490,750 to \$541,900.

**Summit-University** — 17.2 percent, from \$250,500 to \$293,700.

West End — 8.1 percent, from \$204,700 to \$221,200.

### **1 TRASH COLLECTION**

vate haulers were serving homes across the city. The consortium of private haulers was formed to protect the market share of the smaller, locally owned haulers. However, since organized collection began, several smaller haulers have sold out to larger national firms. Now there are only five haulers in the consortium—Gene's, Highland, Republic, Aspen and Waste Management.

The advisory committee has recommended that with the new contract, customer billing and customer service be handled by the city and not the haulers consortium. "We heard many complaints from residents," Axtmann said. Some of the complaints were about misinformation. That may be because the haulers typically serve multiple cities with various rules.

City Council members have fielded complaints about the private haulers themselves. "People call us and we have to send them back to the haulers they're already frustrated with," said council president Amy Brendmoen. Council members agreed that having city staff handle customer service and billing may be a good idea.

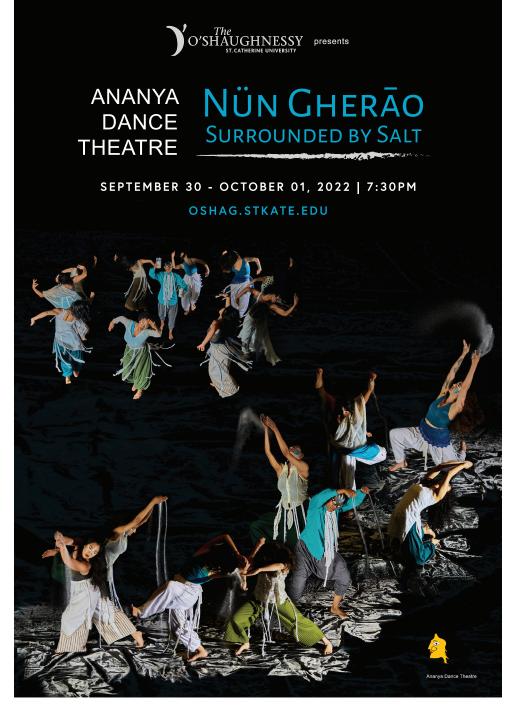
The advisory committee could not agree on whether to allow residents to share a cart or opt out of trash collection. "People who don't produce a lot of garbage ask why they should have to help pay for the entire system," Axtmann said. One idea is to charge a smaller fee for people who want to opt out of trash collection service. A base fee could be implemented on top of the cart fees, Axtmann suggested.

Another idea is to allow homeowners associations to share trash carts or dump-sters rather than mandating one cart per dwelling. However, that would not help other landlords whose tenants don't need or don't have the space for multiple carts.

One much-touted benefit of mandatory trash collection was a reduction in the illegal dumping of trash and bulky items. However, that reduction never happened. The city spent \$703,734 cleaning up 2,541 instances of illegal dumping in 2021. In 2018 it spent \$447,122 addressing 2,573 instances of illegal dumping.

Under the current system, residents may dispose of two or three bulky items per year depending on their level of service. However, many residents are not using the service. Only 10 percent of the allowable bulky items are being collected.

"We were very excited about bulky items pickup," said Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince, but it hasn't had the effect the city had hoped for.





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# Save Our Street forum raises prospect of preserving trees on Summit Avenue

By Jane McClure

rees in the public right-of-way along Summit Avenue need to be protected whether or not the street is reconstructed with an off-road bike and pedestrian trail. That was the message presented by the group Save Our Street (SOS) at a September 18 meeting at Mount Zion Temple that drew close to 100 people.

The Saint Paul departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation are drafting a master plan this fall for new bike and pedestrian trails along Summit. A final plan will be reviewed this winter for consideration by the City Council and Metropolitan Council.

Summit Avenue resident Gary Todd outlined SOS's concerns about the regional trail project. These include the off-road trail's effect on the historic character of Summit and its potential impact on trees on the boulevards and in nearby yards.

SOS has hired a team of independent arborists to examine the issue and outline the conditions that can make trees more vulnerable to damage from trail construction. Chad Giblin and Manuel Jordan are both certified as arborists and tree risk assessors by the International Society of Arboriculture. They cautioned that with a construction project like the Summit Avenue regional trail, some trees may be lost.

Giblin and Jordan advised citizens and public officials alike to make sure the plan that is approved causes the least tree damage possible by, among other things, taking special measures to protect tree roots. Once the plan is in place, they said, people should watch for any construction change orders since these could lead to more damage to the root structure of trees.

Trees are already vulnerable to strong winds, invasive species and drought or other stressful weather conditions, the arborists said. However, trees in urban areas deal with additional stressors. Urban soils are less habitable than soils in more natu-

ral settings, they said. The roots of urban trees are also more likely to be restricted by utilities and other underground structures. Even something as small as a sprinkler system can have a major impact on a tree's root structure, they said.

Before the regional trail project begins, the arborists recommend a thorough updated inventory of all of the trees along Summit. The conditions affecting each tree should be analyzed. Extra measures should be taken to protect tree roots during construction. Those measures could include root protection mats and fences.

Clare Cloyd, a spokesperson for the city's Parks and Recreation Department, gave an overview of the project's planning process as it relates to the health of trees. According to her, site conditions and constraints related to tree health and tree preservation will be carefully considered when the Summit Avenue regional trail project enters the preliminary design and engineering phase.

City forestry staff will review the project plans early on to address the potential impact to trees, Cloyd said. Forestry and project staff together will evaluate trees within a project area to determine their overall health, review the specific impacts to individual trees and note the trees that warrant extra precautions. Modifications that could be made in order to preserve a tree or trees will also be considered.

Minimizing the impacts in the root zones of trees is an important part of the planning and construction process, according to Cloyd. "Standard details often include such measures as a fenced-in tree protection zone that limits operations and impacts relative to the tree's drip line," she said. "When a project begins, the project manager and site inspector ensure that measures are in place to avoid damage to trees. Forestry staff regularly visit construction sites and attend weekly construction meetings to provide feedback on the impact to trees."

# Commission asks for changes to plan for senior housing at Graham and Sue

By Jane McClure

The developers of a proposed 72-unit apartment building in Highland Park will either have to change their plans or file an appeal with the City Council following decisions made on September 16 by the Saint Paul Planning Commission.

The commission unanimously approved a conditional use permit for added building height. It also recommended City Council approval of a zoning change for the project at the southwest corner of Sue Street and Graham Avenue. However, the commission rejected variances for floor area ratio and for a reduced setback along Sue. A majority of the commissioners maintained that the project did not meet the required findings for the variances, including one for practical difficulty.

Senior Housing Partners, an affiliate of Presbyterian Homes and Services, wants to build a four-story apartment building on the current site of two duplexes at 1413 Sue St. and 1883 Norfolk Ave. and a third parcel at 1891 Norfolk. The lot at 1883 Norfolk is zoned for single-family use and must be rezoned. The other two parcels are already zoned for multifamily housing.

Presbyterian Homes operates several senior housing complexes in the area, including Highland Path and Highlands of Saint Paul. The proposed building has been described as "workforce housing" with apartments that could house employees of Presbyterian Homes.

Many local residents oppose the project. They have complained that the abundance of senior housing facilities in the area has caused parking congestion and raised concerns about traffic safety.

A motion to deny the setback variance was passed by the Planning Commission on a 7-6 vote. The minimum frontyard setback in a multifamily zoning district is 25 feet. Senior Housing Partners sought a setback of 14 feet, 7 inches. According to the developer, that block of Sue Street has an usually wide 80-foot right-of-way. That means that even with the variance, the building would be set back more than 39 feet from the street.

In response to concerns about parking congestion, the developer added off-street parking to its plans—a total of 35 structured spaces and 20 spaces in a surface parking lot. Some planning commissioners suggested eliminating the surface parking lot. The city of Saint Paul no longer requires a mininum number of off-street parking spaces for a development. Removing the parking lot would eliminate the need for the setback variance along Sue and reduce the need for the floor-area-ratio variance.

Senior Housing Partners had 10 days to appeal the Planning Commission's decisions on the variances. As of press time, no appeal had been filed.

# Council approves amendments to St. Paul's rent control ordinance

By Jane McClure

xemptions for new construction and affordable housing and for apartments that become vacant have been added to Saint Paul's new rent control ordinance. The City Council voted 5-2 on September 21 to adopt the amendments, which will take effect on January 1, 2023. The hope is that the changes will jumpstart the construction of new rental housing in the city. However, the changes also brought threats of political reprisal from tenant advocates.

In a final public hearing before the vote, almost two dozen tenant advocates cautioned the City Council that by amending the ordinance, it was rejecting the wishes of the 53 percent of voters who approved rent control in a citywide referendum last November. Several said they will work to oust the council members who supported the changes.

"The amended ordinance goes against the democratically passed policy and subverts the will of the people, sowing distrust, disdain and contempt for this elected body," said Sean Lim, program director for the Minnesota Youth Collective.

"My fear is that we have some council members who are more accountable to corporate landlords and developers than to the more than half of Saint Paul residents who are renters and people of color," said Arline Datu of ISAIAH.

"I'm heartbroken and furious," said Katherine Banbury, a tenant who served on

the city's Rent Stabilization Task Force this spring. This summer Banbury's landlord, Dominium, self-certified rent increases of up to 8 percent under a policy that was adopted by city officials when rent control first took effect in May.

While the City Council has retained the ordinance's 3 percent cap on annual rent increases, it carved out several exceptions and added provisions to protect tenants. The council approved a 20-year exemption for new construction. That exemption also applies to the first 20 years of all rental housing that was built in the city within the past 20 years.

The council had been contemplating an exemption to the ordinance for apartments that become vacant, allowing landlords in those cases to raise the rent to whatever the market will bear. The policy of full vacancy decontrol was seen as a way to encourage landlords not to raise the rent each year for existing tenants. Ultimately, the council approved partial vacancy decontrol, allowing landlords to raise the rent a maximum of 8 percent plus the rate of inflation when tenants move out on their own or are evicted for just cause.

Under the amended ordinance, landlords will still be able to self-certify rent increases of between 3 and 8 percent when they need that to realize a reasonable return on their investments. Those increases will be subject to city staff review. For rent increases above 8 percent, landlords will need to apply to the city and have that application approved.

Landlords who seek a rent increase above 3 percent will also be required to notify tenants in advance of such requests. Landlords will be forbidden to begin charging tenants for utilities as a way to supplement a maximum 3 percent increase in rent.

While no landlords or developers appeared at the podium on September 21, many spoke at past hearings and sent in written comments asking for a relaxation of the restrictions or even an outright repeal of rent control. Maureen Michalski, vice president of real estate development for Ryan Companies, argued for the longer exemption on new construction. She noted that many lenders will not do business with developers in cities with rent control regulations.

Ryan is the master developer for Highland Bridge, a 122-acre development in Highland Park with 3,800 new dwellings in its master plan, the vast majority of which are rental.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert led the effort to amend the rent control ordinance. He expressed hope that the changes will serve the interests of both landlords and tenants. "This isn't necessarily perfect," he said, "but it's a big improvement."

Council members Russel Balenger, Amy Brendmoen, Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince joined Tolbert in voting for the amendments. Mitra Jalali and Nelsie Yang voted against them.

Noecker said she has struggled with how to ensure that rent control protects tenants while encouraging an adequate supply of new housing. While the amendments do not address all concerns, she said, they strike a balance for all involved.

Prince also spoke of the need for balance. She said she has heard from tenants whose rents have increased greatly despite rent control and from small landlords who have sold their rental properties rather than risk financial loss under the new regulations.

Jalali and Yang believe the amendments will harm renters. According to Yang, the changes go beyond what the mayor's Rent Stabilization Task Force had recommended. "People are struggling and they need our help," she said.

Jalali is especially concerned about the amendment that grants an exemption for publicly subsidized housing whose rents are controlled by other government regulations. She also argued for a more modest 15-year exemption for new construction. The approved 20-year exemption, she said, means that thousands of apartments built in her Ward 4 in recent years will be exempt from rent control for years to come.

"I will not vote to take rent stabilization away from my constituents who need it the most," Jalali said.

Mayor Melvin Carter issued a statement after the City Council vote expressing support for the amendments. "This ordinance protects renters while helping construct the new housing we need for the future," he wrote. "I thank the community members who helped craft this policy and applaud the council for passing it."

# Committee gets update on Co-op Plating expansion, emissions permit

By Jane McClure

he Union Park District Council's land use committee discussed Cooperative Plating's expansion plans with company president David Birkemeier on September 19. Although zoning changes for the expansion are several months away, committee members said it is important to start discussing the plans now.

Co-operative Plating's main plant is at 1605 Iglehart Ave., with offices at 271 N. Snelling Ave. and a parking lot along Carroll Avenue north of the main plant. Door-todoor outreach to its neighbors is expected to start soon. About two dozen properties are in the area where zoning change consent petitions would be circulated.

Last month, the Saint Paul City Council vacated a small section of Iglehart south of the main plant to accommodate the company's expansion plans. Birkemeier said that area, which is currently used for employee parking, could provide room for an addition of just under 6,000 square feet. That space is needed for one more plating line or storage, according to him.

More than a year ago, Co-op Plating purchased the former Twin Cities Cremation



Co-operative Plating plans to construct a nearly 6,000-square-foot addition in the area south of its main plant at 1605 Iglehart Ave. GOOGLE PHOTO

its parking lot. The company is reportedly looking to expand its parking there and on the site of a duplex it plans to purchase just to the west at 1608 Carroll.

Company officials are working with city planning staff on possibly rezoning the entire Co-op Plating area to industrialtransitional (IT) use, Birkemeier said. That request could be taken up in 2023 by the Planning Commission and then the City

The properties are currently a mix of zonat 1598 Carroll Ave. just east of  $\,$  ing. The office building at 271 N. Snelling is already zoned IT. The main plant and its parking lot fronting Carroll are zoned for light industrial. The 1608 Carroll property is zoned for duplex use. The vacant cremation building at 1598 Carroll is zoned for Traditional Neighborhood 2.

The Holiday station and office buildings on Snelling between Carroll and Iglehart avenues were rezoned to TN3 as part of a 2017 Snelling Avenue zoning study.

Co-op Plating is currently awaiting a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) decision on the renewal of its air emissions permit. The permit has been discussed with district council committees for the past few years. The MPCA has recommended that the permit be renewed, but has not made a final decision.

Eleven people weighed in prior to the close of the permit comment period on August 25. One person expressed support for the plant and its jobs, while others asked for strict oversight of emissions.

Co-operative Plating has operated in Merriam Park for many years. It runs 18 separate metal plating lines. The plant receives parts made by other companies, coats them and ships them back. Cadmium, zinc, copper, nickel and other metals are used in the plating process.

In the 1980s, Co-op Plating ran afoul of environmental regulations and wound up facing penalties. The company has since made many changes, including entering into a voluntary compliance program with the MPCA, adding a scrubbing system to control emissions, and dropping the use of trichlorethylene (TCE) as a degreaser. TCE has been linked to some forms of cancer.

MPCA records show improved operations at the plant in recent years, though there have been two accidental emissions

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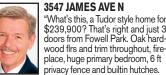




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# **News Briefs**

# Pedro Park is one step closer to expanding onto Public Safety site

Plans to expand Pedro Park have taken a key step forward. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has determined that the Public Safety Annex has no historic significance. That clears one hurdle for the building's demolition and the expansion of the park in downtown Saint Paul.

Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker announced the SHPO decision on September 16. While cautioning that there are more steps ahead, she said, "I'm excited that we're closer to finally realizing the dream of an expanded Pedro Park."

Demolition of the old Public Safety Annex could happen by the end of this year. The city's Department of Planning and Economic Development recently identified \$1.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds to raze the annex. That would allow for the expansion of the park to the full length of 10th Street between Minnesota and Robert streets.

The city is working under a tight timeline, considering the public notice periods that are required. The federal funds must be spent and the demolition and site work finished by March 2023.

Pedro Park has been on the drawing board for the site of the former Public Safety Annex since 1997. Originally dubbed Fitzgerald Park, the name was changed to Pedro Park in 2009 after the Pedro family closed its longtime luggage shop right next door in 2008 and donated that 0.45-acre site to the city on the condition that it become a park and bear the Pedro name.

The annex has been vacant for the past four years. In October 2018, the City Council voted 5-2 to sell the building to devel-



oper Ackerberg Group for renovation as retail and office space. However, those plans were dropped in 2020.

### Ramsey Hill Assn. grants the city \$9,952 for Cochran Park fountain

A second gift from the Ramsey Hill Association (RHA) will aid in the restoration of the fountain and "Indian Hunter With Dog" sculpture in Cochran Park at the corner of Summit and Western avenues. The Saint Paul City Council accepted the \$9,951.70 gift on September 21.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department is using a combination of city funds, private donations and a Minnesota Historical Society grant to pay for the rehabilitation of the fountain, its pool and statues. The latest gift from the RHA brings the total amount of money available for the project to \$182,432.70.

Tiles in the pool surrounding the Co-

chran Park fountain are falling off. The plumbing and electrical systems also need work, as does a railing and the sculptures themselves. Created by noted Saint Paul sculptor Paul Manship, the sculpture of the Indian hunter and dog was installed in the park in 1926. It also includes four bronze geese that spew water into the air above the pool.

# Judge stops renovation work on new Listening House day shelter

The renovation of Listening House's new drop-in day shelter for homeless people at 421 E. Seventh St. has been halted pending an October 10 hearing on the proposed new use for the former Red's Savoy Pizza. Ramsey County District Judge Leonardo Castro ordered the work stoppage.

Listening House purchased the building this summer for the homeless shelter. The city provided financing for the project.

# Going for a swing never gets tired.

Dasha Meyer, 13, gave friend Bailey Norman, 13, a spin on the playground as the band performed on September 17 during the Union Park District Council's ninth annual Ice Cream, Peanut Butter and Jam at the Merriam Park Recreation Center. The festival also featured arts and crafts, food trucks and, of course, ice cream.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

However, more than a dozen local business owners and residents filed suit against Listening House, the city of Saint Paul and the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority in an effort to stop the project.

The plaintiffs contend that the city allowed the project to proceed and provided \$1.4 million in financing without proper public notice. They are asking for more than \$50,000 in damages, citing half a dozen claims, including "anticipatory nuisance."

Castro granted the defendants' request to postpone a hearing on the lawsuit from September 14 to October 10, but he also ordered that work inside the former restaurant cease and that the city financing not be transferred to Listening House.

The plaintiffs include Heppner's Auto Body, Bulldog Lowertown, the Dark Horse Bar, the Gopher Bar, Barrel Theory Beer

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### **Proposed police budget up only slightly** as department seeks to restore its ranks

By Jane McClure

riring officers continues to be a daunting task for the Saint Paul Police Department, City Council members were told during a September 21 budget update. The department is down 64 police officers from its authorized strength of 619. Interim Police Chief Jeremy Ellison said that is despite having 53 officers graduate from the police academy in February, the largest group ever hired.

Another 25 officers are in training now, and a third class will start in December. The department is still catching up from a large number of retirements and a past hold on hiring. Last year the department saw more than 50 officers leave its ranks and another 45 have left so far this year. In a typical year, about 30 retire or leave.

"Nothing about our current staffing challenge is typical," Ellison said while asking the council to consider additional resources for the department. "There are things we're not doing today that we would've been doing if we were at full staff."

Mayor Melvin Carter's proposed 2023 police budget is \$106.6 million, up slightly from the 2022 amount of \$104 million. No increase in the authorized number of officers is budgeted for 2023.

The department plans to use a combination of funds, including from the American Rescue Plan and a federal Department of Justice grant, to offer two training academies in 2023. Ellison said the department is also still looking at how to handle some

unanticipated expenses, including costs due to the George Floyd trials held in Saint Paul. City officials are hoping for state and federal reimbursement for the expenses.

Council members said they often hear from residents worried about the lack of police and asked if the upcoming academies will get the department back to its authorized strength.

Ellison said that while the academies will bolster the ranks, it will take time to get back to 619 officers. Overtime is being used to cover the current workload, but he noted the stress that is putting on officers.

The Police Department did not hold a training academy in 2020 as part of a citywide effort to hold down costs during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fewer people have also been applying for the police academy and to work for the department. Almost 800 people sought to join the department in 2014. The December academy has 52 applicants.

The challenge in building up Saint Paul's police ranks comes as the city deals with the rise in some types of crimes. There have been 27 homicides so far this year, compared to 2021's record 38. Auto thefts, and gunshot injuries are up, while robberies, burglaries, arsons and rapes are down. There have been 190 people injured by gunfire so far this year, compared to 160 at this time in 2021.

Ellison outlined other priorities for the department, including further diversifying its ranks and increasing opportunities for public engagement.

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### **6** ■ NEWS BRIEFS

Company, Kat-Key's Lock and Safe, the landlords of local residential property and local residents.

### **Zoning of two Randolph Avenue** properties reverts to industrial

The Saint Paul City Council restored the industrial use of two West End properties when it approved rezoning 533 and 567 Randolph Ave. from traditional neighborhoods two (TN2) to industrial-transitional (IT) on August 17.

Earlier this year, the council also rezoned 540 Randolph from TN2 to light industrial. That property was replatted and attached to 560 Randolph by 560 Randolph LLC to continue existing industrial uses there and not have split zoning on the combined lot.

The 533 and 567 Randolph properties are owned by the Fulford Family Partnership. The owners want to relocate and consolidate a towing business and the Euro Weks auto dealership on the site. They plan to use an existing building for auto sales, which is allowed in an IT district. A towing business is also allowed in an IT district, subject to screening requirements for vehicles.

Senior city planner Anton Jerve recommended both sets of zoning changes, saying they are consistent with future land uses in the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. That area of Randolph is designated for a mix of uses. The plan states: "The main distinguishing characteristic is a balance of jobs and housing within walking distance of one another."

The changes buck a citywide trend over the past few decades when more and more industrial property was rezoned for housing or mixed uses. Jerve noted that the proximity of 533 and 567 Randolph to railroad tracks could be a barrier to mixed-use development.

No one from the neighborhood commented on either set of zoning changes, and the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation did not take a position on the requests.

### **Penkert closes book on directing** St. Paul Public Library operations

Catherine Penkert left her post on September 16 after serving for the last four years as director of the Saint Paul Public Library. Penkert indicated in emails to library staff and the public that she was stepping down to spend more time with family.

Mayor Melvin Carter will convene a task force to appoint her replacement. Deputy director for library operations Barb Sporlein began serving as interim director on September 17.

"It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to serve in this role, and especially to serve alongside you since March 2020 when our world turned upside down with COVID-19," Penkert wrote.

Penkert has guided the city's libraries through challenging times, including renovation of the Hayden Heights and Riverview branches, and replacement of the Hamline Midway library. The loss of the latter has deeply divided that neighborhood. Some people wanted a new library and others wanted the building saved and

Penkert also was at the helm when the city's libraries added many innovative programs and eliminated late fees.

Penkert started her city career with Parks and Recreation and led the Right Track youth jobs and internship program there. She then worked for the city's Office of Financial Services.

Penkert is the third of Carter's original department directors to step down this year, following Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahm and Department of Safety and Inspections director Ricardo Cervantes, both of whom retired. They were succeeded by Andy Rodriguez and Angie Wiese, respectively.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.





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# **VIEWPOINT**

### **INBOX**

### **Repave Summit with bricks**

I suggest that the city of Saint Paul leave Summit Avenue in its present configuration, but take all of the blacktop off, put in a deep European-style underlayment and pave the entire street with bricks, as it once was. There are lots of advantages to bricks. They last almost forever. When an area needs to be dug up for any utility repairs, the bricks can be taken up and laid down again. Snowplows? So what? They can set their blades so as not to disturb the brickwork.

The huge benefit of bricks is better drainage the entire length of Summit with less runoff going into the river. The new street can be striped for parked cars and bike lanes in both directions. And with more trees added.

Don't want to use bricks? How about end-cut square blocks of hardwood. In 2018 I saw a 500-year-old street in southern England made with such. It's amazing what technology doesn't have to improve on.

In Cuenca, the third largest city in Ecuador, I saw a work crew dig up part of a brick street adjacent to the main plaza to repair a water main. When I passed by a few hours later, the original dirt and bricks were nearly all in place. Talk about conserving materials.

It seems that a lot of minds in this city don't think outside the box. Can we work a little harder and think a little harder about saving what's left of our precious planet?

> Kathleen Deming Macalester-Groveland

### New barriers on river road

Representatives of Paster Properties met with Saint Paul officials and a large group of Highland Park residents on September 14. The meeting took place after Paster had been granted provisional approval for a new 93-unit apartment building in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

It would be unfair to stereotype these concerned Highland residents as NIMBYs. Their contributions to the meeting were eloquent, well-reasoned and caring. Instead of complaining, they asked for a more moderate 35-foot building height to preserve a natural neighborhood environment. But even the stand of semi-mature trees requested by homeowners as privacy between the new building and an old and cherished residential community was rejected.

The height of a boundary wall between the new and existing neighbors was debated. A barrier of 6 or 7 feet? This represents a tragic divide for taxpaying citizens of Highland Park. City Council member Chris Tolbert accurately identified this when he explained that all 93 luxury apartments were needed to address a lucrative upmarket rental trend that affords millennials and retirees a newly prefabricated lifestyle in a scenic neighborhood.

There are no assurances that this current market trend will be permanent. However, the permanent traffic and the new 50-foot barrier for bald eagles will decrease the eagles' ability to procreate. The 50-foot building and 7-foot wall will divide human residents of the area. Let's advocate for a more community-conscious and greener development at 706 S. Mississippi River Blvd.

> Deborah Katz Highland Park

### Take action on climate change

I appreciate that MyVillager is a local news organization (Thank you for doing a great job!) and that climate change is considered to be a state, national or global problem. But I'm worried that we're not making changes and I think we need to make it a local issue by taking grassroots action.

Are you thinking about investing in solar panels or an electric car? Do it! You'll save money in the long run and set an example for your friends and neighbors. Or see if your church or school might be able to go solar and get the ball rolling.

Not possible? How about finding ways to drive less or to buy and use less plastic. Maybe plant some native vegetation or a tree, or save trees by using paper products made from 100 percent recycled materials. Or start composting; the new drop-off site at the Highland Ice Arena makes it easy.

Drops in the bucket? Yes. But drops add up, and if you take action, however small, and talk about it, you might get others to join in. By all means vote for candidates at all levels who want to help our environment, but take individual action, too.

> Cathy Ruther Highland Park

### Vote Maczko for mayor of MH

I support John Maczko to be the next mayor of Mendota Heights. He has lived in Mendota Heights for most of his life, attending the former Sibley High School before receiving his civil engineering degree at the University of Minnesota. He has spent his career as a professional engineer working in and around Mendota Heights. Two items of importance to me are the certification of Mr. Maczko as a professional traffic operations engineer and his 32-year tenure as Mendota Heights fire chief.

During the past year, the present mayor and two

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### Righting a wrong in Rondo

The new Highland Bridge development on the old Fort Plant site is starting to open. What I see so far exceeds my expectations. The daylighted stream, hammock groves, bike paths and the Lunds & Byerlys store will make this a delightful place to live and play.

Highland Bridge would not be possible without the high land values in Highland Park with its close (but not too close) access to major highways. Not so for Saint Paul's old Rondo neighborhood. There is a very unjust history there, and the comparison of Highland Bridge to the current efforts to build the Rondo Land Bridge over I-94 is unsettling.

I don't have the answers, but I think we can and should do better. As one lucky enough to live in the Highland Park neighborhood, I implore our elected officials at the city, county and state levels to keep the pressure on for the Rondo Land Bridge and other actions to address this ugly chapter of our local history.

> **Bob Seng Highland Park**

members of the Mendota Heights City Council twice rejected the recommendations of the Mendota Heights Planning Commission to deny permits for the construction of two high-density apartment buildings at the southeast corner of Dodd Road and Highway 62. The City Council approved both projects by identical 3-2 votes with the present mayor casting the deciding vote.

The Planning Commission was concerned with the inevitable increase in traffic congestion and delays and the probable increase in accidents that these developments would bring to that intersection. The Mendota Heights Fire Department and EMT ambulance dispatch facility are less that 200 feet from the entrance to this development.

I have discussed this issue with candidate Maczko, and he is in full support of the recommendations reached by the Planning Commission. Please vote for John Maczko for mayor of Mendota Heights.

**Edward Hanton** Mendota Heights

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

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# New Lunds & Byerlys opens Sept. 29 in Highland

By Jane McClure

hen the new Lunds & Byerlys store opens on September 29 at the southeast corner of Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue in the Highland Bridge development, it will include a bar on the mezzanine level called the Mezz. The Saint Paul City Council on September 21 unanimously approved the expansion of Highland Village's commercial development district to allow for an on-sale liquor license at the store.

No one appeared at a public hearing before the City Council on September 14 to speak for or against the expansion. The hearing was held at the Highland Park Community Center, since public hearings on commercial development districts must be held in the same ward.

The Mezz will have 30 self-serve taps dispensing local craft beers, selt-zers and wines. It will have seating indoors and outdoors on the roof, along with sandwiches and snacks available at the counter.

Prior to September 21, Highland Village's commercial development district included only the Chipotle restaurant at 2078 Ford Pkwy. The districts are used to grant on-sale liquor licenses in wards where none are available under the city's cap.

In addition to the Lunds & Byerlys, the district's expansion includes the Highland Bank building at 2100 Ford Pkwy., the two Highland Village Center buildings at 2110 and 2128 Ford Pkwy., and the entire Highland Bridge development. The district, as large as it is, has only two on-sale liquor licenses available, Chipotle's and Lunds & Byerlys.

A grand opening for the new Lunds



A grand opening ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 29, for the new 51,000-square-foot Lunds & Byerlys on Ford Parkway and Cretin Avenue. One of the store's new features will be the Mezz, a taproom offering craft beers, seltzers and wines.

& Byerlys will take place at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 29, featuring remarks by company CEO Tres Lund, Mayor Melvin Carter, store general manager Doug Loe and Ryan Companies vice president of real estate development Maureen Michalski. The store will officially open at 3 p.m.

Lunds & Byerlys is moving from its longtime home in the nearby Highland Village Center to a new 51,000-square-foot store on the ground floor of a five-story apartment building. The new store at 2170 Ford Pkwy. is 20 percent larger than the old one and will employ the existing staff. The current store will remain open until the grand opening of the new one.

Along with the Mezz taproom, special features at the new store include:

• Build-your-own taco, Mediterranean and wok bars, along with a hot food bar, soup and salad bar, and fresh-rolled sushi. There will also be space for local restaurateurs to pre-

pare in-store and take-home offerings, a large selection of grab-and-go meals, and indoor and outdoor seating

- An in-store FoodE Expert who can answer food-related questions, create menu ideas, and offer mealtime tips and recipes.
- A full-service Caribou Coffee and Bachman's Floral.
- Two levels of covered, dedicated parking for staff and customers.
- Grocery delivery and curbside pickup via Shop.LundsandByerlys. com.

"It's been with a tremendous amount of pride that we've served the Highland Park community for nearly 40 years," Tres Lund said in a press release. "We're excited to open a new, larger store steps away to meet the needs of this growing community."

The store will be open from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week. For information, details, visit LundsandByerlys.com/HighlandBridge.

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991



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# Comments sought on city's updated parks plan

By Jane McClure

Time is running out to weigh in on Saint Paul's newest Parks and Recreation system plan. The plan, which is typically updated every 10 years, is used to outline priorities and guide improvements, programming and spending decisions for the city's parks, athletic fields, recreation centers and trails.

The new plan will replace the one that was approved by the Saint Paul City Council in 2010. Parks and Recreation director Andy Rodriguez said the public's input is still being sought, and an online survey closes September 30. It can be found at tinyurl.com/yz95w7p7.

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation system includes 182 parks, 26 recreation centers, about 120 miles of trails, the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory and regional park partnerships, including Hidden Falls, Crosby and Harriet Island. Its 2023 proposed budget is \$76.5 million.

City Council members are interested in seeing the survey results and the draft plan itself. "The way people interact with parks is constantly changing," said council president Amy Brendmoen.

Rodriguez said the goal is to have a draft plan ready to present by the first quarter of 2023. Saint Paul is working with Visible City to collect data on demographics, facilities use and program participation to be used in updating the plan.

Parks and recreation programs have rebounded since the COVID-19 pandemic, with almost 17,000 participants as of last month. The city this year eliminated fees for many youth programs, and signups as of mid-September were peaking at 900 for basketball alone. Rodriguez called the elimination of fees "transformational."

How the city's recreational facilities are used could change as a result of the updated plan, Rodriguez said. While the demand for baseball and softball fields in parts of Saint Paul is strong, fields could possibly be repurposed in some neighborhoods. He said he and his staff are hearing demands for more pickleball courts and skate parks.

One focus in 2010 was to increase the use of public school facilities for recreation programs, which City Council members said they would like to see continue. The 2010 plan also focused on developing a parks and recreation system that was oriented more toward activities than facilities. It came not too many years after the city had closed several smaller recreation centers, tearing down some and renting out others to non-profit partners.

That plan recast recreation centers as "community centers" that are about more than recreation. That in-

cluded expanded and improved facilities at Palace Recreation Center, the new Frogtown Community Center and the Arlington Hills recreation center-library complex.

Victoria Park is just now getting a multiuse, artificial turf field as called for in the plan. Midway Peace Park was established as part of a proposal to add green space on and near the light-rail Green Line. Master planning for the Merriam Park Recreation Center and more downtown parks failed to materialize.

The 2010 plan also called for establishing off-leash dog parks. High Bridge, Lilydale, Lowertown and Uŋčí Makhá Park locations have opened since then, bringing the number of city dog parks to six.

Yet another change made as a result of the plan was to contract out the operation of the Como and Phalen golf courses. However, a proposal to expand and renovate the clubhouse at Highland National Golf Course never happened.

The Grand Round system of pedestrian and bicycle trails was expanded as called for in the 2010 plan. The plan also called for a series of "signature trail loops at five locations, including Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm/Mississippi River Boulevard and downtown. A master plan for Crosby and Hidden Falls was completed, and downtown's Capital City Bikeway continues to take shape.





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# HOME IMPROVEMENT

# **Fortifying** the castle

### Insulation rebates help with major home improvements

By Frank Jossi

friend of Highland Park resident Lois Yellowthunder once told her about a program involving energy experts who examine homes for a small fee and then create a plan to improve efficiency and reduce utility

Yellowthunder loved the idea. She called the Home Energy Squad of the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and signed up for an inspection in 2021. Sponsored by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy, the Home Energy Squad identifies energy-wasting problems and helps homeowners eliminate them with onsite repairs, contractor suggestions and utility rebates.

Home Energy Squad inspectors Yellowthunder recommended invest in a substantial insulation project using Whole Home Efficiency rebates from Xcel. She and Macalester-Groveland resident Scott Ickes both completed Whole Home Efficiency projects in the past year.

They are among the 50-60 homeowners who annually participate in the program, which focuses mainly on the East Metro area, according to CEE project coordinator Bailey Veesenmeyer. She said the program works well for older homes constructed from the 1900s-1940s, which often have little to no insulation. However, newer homes that do not qualify for other Xcel programs can benefit from it as well.

labor intensive "with a lot of steps involved," Veesenmeyer said. Xcel determines the rebates based on annual energy savings that require multiple calculations, with higher amounts going to less efficient houses. Veesenmeyer said she works closely with homeowners throughout the process to ensure the work gets done and that they receive the rebates.

The Whole Home Efficiency program offers rebates mainly for large insulation projects. However, she said homeowners can get "a little bonus on top" of their insulation rebates from Xcel if they add a new water heater, furnace or heat pump. The bonus is available even if the purchase comes after completion of the insulation project.

To qualify for the Whole Home Efficiency program, homeowners must consult with the Home Energy Squad, which includes a blower door test to determine where heat is escaping. After contractors complete the work, a second blower door test is done to determine the rebate amount. The program best serves clients with significant insulation needs.

"Almost every time we see a home that needs both attic and wall insulation, it's going to be better served by this program than it would be with Xcel's more standard rebates," Veesenmeyer

Yellowthunder had the Home Energy Squad inspect her 1955 Highland Park ranch home. "I paid \$100, but they gave me much The efficiency rebate program is more than that back in terms of



Macalester-Groveland homeowner Scott Ickes said the polka-dot look in his dining room will be easy to touch up after holes were drilled to blow insulation into his exterior walls. The project was part of a Whole Home Efficiency project, earning him a rebate of nearly \$1,000 from Xcel Energy. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

what they did," Yellowthunder said. As part of the inspection, she received a high-efficiency showerhead, four faucet aerators, LED bulbs and weather stripping.

The Home Energy Squad suggested air sealing and insulating the attic and spray-foaming basement joists to prevent air leakage from several areas, including the chimney. Although wall insulation was considered, Yellowthunder wanted to avoid having contractors cut holes in the walls to

She received a short list of contractors and chose Saint Croix Energy Solutions for the job. The insulation warmed her once cold laundry room and adjacent kitchen.

"The first winter, I noticed an immediate difference in comfort in the house," she said. "And the new insulation made a tremendous difference in the heating bills."

The Xcel rebate came in at nearly \$600. However, Yellowthunder was not entirely done with her energy retrofit. She decided to replace two north-facing windows in May with new models that she believes have reduced her air conditioning needs and electric bills. The windows should help reduce costs this winter, too.

Ickes discovered the Home Energy Squad while doing online research and set up an appointment. The squad added weather stripping on doors, a programmable thermostat, a faucet aerator, a high-efficiency showerhead, and five LED bulbs. During the inspection it was found that the exterior walls of the Ickes family's 1926 home had no insulation.

"They told me the home may have had newspaper (insulation) a long time ago, but that's all fallen," Ickes said. "They asked if the walls were cold to touch in the winter. I said, 'Hell, yeah.'"

To make the two-story house tighter, the contractor he hired, Element Insulation, blew insulation into exterior walls from the inside and insulated and airsealed the attic. Ickes, who lives with his wife and two teens, said the comfort level of the living space improved dramatically. He said the project's only downside is that he will have to repaint areas where holes had been drilled to install the insulation.

Ickes received a rebate of nearly \$1,000. "I love saving money, but (the project) was also very important for my sense of the environment," he said. "It's a form of climate action for us and sends a good message to the kids about conserving energy."

For information about the Whole Home Efficiency program, visit tinyurl.com/bdeu6jex. For details on signing up for a Home Energy Squad visit, see tinyurl. com/5y8n2eme.

# Home & Garden Clippings

The 2022 Fall Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase will be presented by Housing First Minnesota from noon-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, September 30-October 2. Visitors can tour 34 remodeled homes by 27 remodeling companies. The tour lets people view remodeling projects and learn how remodeling can help them remain in their neighborhood when their homes no longer fit their needs. The public is welcome to tour all the homes free of charge, except for two Dream Homes that carry a \$5 admission charge to support the Housing First Minnesota Foundation. Guidebooks are available at all area Holiday Stationstores and Kowalski's Markets. For more information, visit paradeofhomes.org for details.

Reuse Minnesota will host a national Reuse22 conference on Monday and Tuesday, October 3-4, on the University of Saint Thomas' Minneapolis campus. The keynote speaker will be Deonna Anderson, an award-winning journalist and senior editor at GreenBiz, a media and events company. The conference will kick off the celebration of Reuse Minnesota's 10-year anniversary. More than 40 local and national reuse experts will present ways to integrate reuse, rental and repair into a business or home. For information and to register, visit reusemn.org/register.

### Fall yard cleanup: Five ways to help protect the river

riends of the Mississippi River encourages homeowners to keep in mind these five things to help protect the Mississippi River during fall yard cleanup.

1. Gather (most) fallen leaves. Dead leaves are nutrientdense, full of nitrogen and phosphorus. To prevent those nutrients from washing into streets and storm drains, make sure to rake up and dispose of large amounts of fallen leaves. Small scatterings of leaves can be mowed and left to decompose as natural fertilizer.

2. Keep an eye on the pavement. Leaves or grass clippings on the sidewalk or piling up in the gutter should be picked up. Better yet, adopt a storm drain or take part in the Friends' stenciling program to remind neighbors about your storm drain's connection to the river.

3. Use lawn fertilizer with care. Don't spread fertilizer before an expected rain to keep it from being washed into nearby bodies of water or storm drains. The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization also suggests sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on a hard surface, and using only phosphorus products.



4. Add native plants to your yard. Native plants are a boon for wildlife and can also help improve water quality. The National Environmental Education Foundation suggests creating a rain garden, which can absorb 30 percent more rainwater than an equal size area of lawn.

5. Use a rain barrel. Rain barrels are a great way to conserve water and divert precipitation away from storm drains. Empty the stored water into your garden or use it to water thirsty trees, and store the barrel somewhere safe in the winter until spring.

Learn more about yard care and landscaping for the river by visiting fmr.org.

# Saint Paulites are asked to monitor health of ash trees on their property

By Jane McClure

ynthia McArthur was given a young ash tree in the early 1990s that she planted in the front yard of her Macalester-Groveland home. That tree has shaded her property ever since, but maintaining it these days means treating the tree every other year with a pesticide against emerald ash borers (EAB).

"It's a beautiful tree," McArthur said. "It provides a lot of shade. The treatments have kept it very healthy."

Saint Paul has more than 500,000 trees, about 124,000 of them on public property. The city's forestry division is now in the midst of a stepped-up campaign to remove and replace diseased ash trees on public property. Trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

Summit Hill resident Rene Meyer-Grimberg treats two ash trees on the boulevard in front of her home and a large elm tree in her yard. Keeping the elm healthy is a particular priority. "If it's gone, our entire property would change," she said. "Looking out our window, it's like we're living in the tree."

Meyer-Grimberg feels just as strongly about saving boulevard ash trees. She has visited several businesses on Grand Avenue between Victoria Street and Lexington Parkway to encourage the owners to treat the ash trees on the boulevard in front of their stores.

The city is at a critical stage in its fight against EAB, and city officials are asking private property owners to be vigilant in maintaining their ash trees and making the difficult decision to treat a tree or have it removed.

Treating trees for disease varies in cost, depending on the size, age and condition of the tree. Treatments for EAB can cost more than \$200 every two years. Treatments for Dutch elm disease can cost over \$500.

Dutch elm disease killed almost all of Saint Paul's boulevard trees beginning in the 1970s. About a quarter of those elms were replaced with ash trees.

EAB was first discovered in Saint Paul

in 2009, and it has since spread citywide. Trees that are infested with EAB thin out and become increasingly brittle. That creates a hazard as branches and entire trees can fall

The city has posted an online guide with detailed information on ash tree management. (Visit tinyurl.com/42pc56yp.) The guide can help people determine if they have ash trees on their properties and if those trees are infested with EAB. It also lists licensed contractors who can treat or remove trees.

"The time for residents to take action is now!" the city website states. "The longer you wait, the more hazardous the tree will become to you, your neighbors and your property and the more expensive it will be to manage the problem."

The online guide outlines the pros and cons of treating an ash tree and lists treatment options. It also notes the sanctions the city can impose on property owners who do not remove dead trees from their property.

The Metropolitan Council, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and the Tree Trust, recently unveiled a computer application called Growing Shade. The application combines local stories with an interactive map to help foresters, city planners, advocacy groups and others make decisions about preserving the tree canopy.

With the mapping tool, users can generate reports based on such variables as climate change, conservation, environmental justice and public health. They can select one or more of the variables to generate data for meeting their needs in reaching tree canopy goals or writing grant applications.

Metro Council chair Charlie Zelle described the application as a game-changer in helping people plant more trees and address gaps in the tree canopy.

McArthur and Meyer-Grimberg would like to see more of their neighbors realize the value of treating trees that can still be saved. "Once you lose a beautiful tree," McArthur said, "it takes a long time for its replacement to grow to the same size."

### City speeds replacement of ash trees

By Jane McClure

The city of Saint Paul has stepped up its efforts to remove ash trees on public property with help from a bond issue and a new jobs program created by the Saint Paul Port Authority. In 2022 city crews will remove an estimated 3,000 ash trees, double the number felled in 2021. That will leave only 5,000 ash trees in city parks and boulevards, and those should be removed by the fall of 2024.

The City Council on September 14 received an update on Saint Paul's efforts to combat emerald ash borers (EAB). That effort has involved the removal of ash trees, the stepped-up removal of ash stumps and their replacement with other species of trees.

The city's approach to resolving the EAB problem is a program called "structured removal." Entire blocks of diseased ash trees are being removed and replaced with new tree species. The city inspects the ash trees on public property annually. It also responds to complaints about ash tree infestation.

Saint Paul residents with city approval can continue to treat boulevard ash trees, but after this year the city will no longer be treating them. Its focus will shift to monitoring the trees and removing those that are diseased.

The city has removed the stumps of 3,000 ash trees this year, triple the number of stumps removed in 2021. The city's goal is to have all of the stumps removed by the end of 2025 and the boulevards completely replanted sometime in 2026. More than 4,500 replacement trees will be planted this year.

City and Saint Paul Port Authority officials unveiled plans last year to make the fight against EAB a priority. This spring the City Council and Port Authority approved a \$15.9 million bond issue to pay for the removal and replacement of ash trees on public property.

Without the extra funding from the Port, it could have taken the city until 2034 to remove and replace all of the ash trees on public property. Even with the funding, it could take another decade for EAB to run its course in Saint Paul.

The city and Port Authority also created a jobs program with a host of outside partners. The program, which begins next year, will employ up to 50 youths to plant and maintain up to 2,000 trees a year. The city will also be working with the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy to refine the current tree donation program. An effort will be made to plant new trees in areas where the tree canopy is lacking. The goal is to plant more trees than the number removed.



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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 here, go to MyVillager.com.

### **Highland Park**

**Burglary**—An occupied residence was burglarized on the 1600 block of Randolph Avenue on September 16.

Theft—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of Deer Park Road on September 15.

Assault—A 52-year-old man was arrested for felony assault of a woman on the 900 block of Saint Paul Avenue on September 9.

—A man was taken to the hospital after being assaulted by another male near Subway, 2513 W. Seventh St., on September 11.

—A boy was apprehended after reportedly pointing a gun at a female student at Highland Park High School on September 15.

Weapons—Two callers reported hearing up to 10 gunshots on the 1800 block of Graham Avenue on September 12.

Miscellaneous—Police recovered a large amount of unopened alcoholic beverages in the parking lot of Highland Village Center, 2128 Ford Pkwy., on September 17.

### **Lexington-Hamline**

**Robbery**—A male suspect reportedly robbed a woman of the cash she had withdrawn from an ATM at Speedway, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., on September 20.

Assault—A 21-year-old man was arrested for felony assault after he was seen waiving a knife at Speedway, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., on September 8.

—A man was assaulted by a male suspect who refused to leave the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy., on September 14.

—Police responded to a report of an assault and found an unresponsive security guard at Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave., on September 14.

—A security officer suffered a concussion from being assaulted by a student at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy., on September 19.

### **Macalester-Groveland**

Burglary—Dunkin' Donuts, 143 N. Snelling Ave., was broken into on September 18-19.

—A residence was broken into on the 2000 block of Selby Avenue on September 19.

Theft—Bicycles valued at more than

\$1,000 were reported stolen on the 300 block of South Snelling Avenue on September 4-5, and the 1700 block of Grand Avenue on September 16.

—A 38-year-old man was arrested for felony theft from a construction site on the 1000 block of James Avenue on September 13.

—A \$15,000 electric bicycle was reported stolen from the bike rack of a vehicle on Saint Clair and Fairview avenues on September 18.

**Assault**—An assault with a dangerous weapon was reported on Randolph Avenue and Griggs Street on September 15.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was injured in a hit-and-run accident at Grand and Snelling avenues on September 6.

### Mendota Heights/Lilydale

**Burglary**—A break-in was reported on the 1300 block of Highway 13 on September 5.

Theft—A man parked in the lot of the Big Rivers Trail on Lilydale Road and returned to find his car window shattered and a cooler of beer stolen on September 7.

**Miscellaneous**—A suspect was caught following a foot chase after he reportedly slashed the tires of staff members at a group home on the 1000 block of Wagon Wheel Trail on September 9.

### Merriam Park

**Burglary**—Total Tool Supply, 315 Pierce St., was broken into on September 12.

—A 48-year-old man was arrested after police responded to a burglary on the 400 block of Fry Street on September 12.

—An apartment was burglarized on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue on September 12.

—KBK Enterprises, 2190 Marshall Ave., was broken into on September 19.

Theft—A shotgun, muzzle loader and other items were reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle on the 300 block of North Finn Street on September 6.

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

—A 34-year-old man was arrested for stealing a moped, attempting to flee police, drug possession, giving false information and DWI following a traffic stop on Snelling and Carroll avenues on September 10.

—One juvenile suspect was arrested following a crash of a stolen vehicle on the Marshall Avenue Bridge on September 17.

Assault—Two women were assaulted in a University of Saint Thomas lot on Selby Avenue and Finn Street on September 13-14.

### **Snelling-Hamline**

**Burglary**—The burglary of a construction site was reported on the 1500 block of Marshall Avenue on September 13-14.

Theft—Police saw a stolen vehicle driving erratically on University Avenue and Pascal Street on September 13. With the assistance of a State Patrol helicopter, police located the vehicle on the 1400 block of Berkeley Avenue, where four occupants tried to flee but were captured. They included an 18-year-old woman, a boy and two girls.

**Assault**—A 38-year-old man was arrested for felony assault with a dangerous weapon after he reportedly attacked a co-worker on the roof of a building on the 1500 block of Hague Avenue on September 14.

—A female shoplifter was arrested for slapping an officer while trying to steal a cart filled with merchandise at TJ Maxx, 1410 University Ave., on September 15.

Miscellaneous—A bicyclist was injured in a collision with a motor vehicle on Hamline and Ashland avenues on September 7.

**Arson**—A 57-year-old man was arrested for setting a fire at the U.S. Post Office, 1430 Concordia Ave., on September 7.

### **Summit Hill**

**Burglary**—Grand Hill Gallery, 333 Grand Ave., was burglarized on September 10.

—A \$2,000 electric bicycle was reported stolen from a garage on the 500 block of Grand Hill on September 16-17.

—Two males went behind the counter and took money from the cash register at Bravo Bakery, 1106 Grand Ave., on September 20.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported in an apartment on the 1000 block of Osceola Avenue on September 14.

Assault—A man reportedly threatened employees and punched a hole in a plexiglass wall divider at US Bank, 1071 Grand Ave., on September 16.

Miscellaneous—A 35-year-old man was arrested on two counts of felony damage to property after he threw chairs at the windows of Bread and Chocolate, 867 Grand Ave., and a brick at the building at 949 Grand on September 6.

**Arson**—A fire was set on Canadian Pacific Railway property on the 1100 block of Saint Clair Avenue on September 8.

### **Summit-University**

**Assault**—A dispute between housemates resulted in a man being sprayed with a chemical irritant on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue on September 14.

—A woman was arrested for pointing a gun at another woman near Victoria Street and Hague Avenue on September 16.

—A suspect was being sought for felony domestic assault after he hit a man with a glass bottle on the 600 block of Selby Avenue on September 17. The victim was taken to the hospital for a head laceration.

Miscellaneous—Two reports of damage to property were made at the Hallie Q. Brown/Martin Luther King Center, 270 Kent St., on September 16-17.

—A notification meeting regarding five Level III predatory sex offenders registering to live in Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The list includes Jesse Curry Jr., 59, who has registered to live on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue. For more, visit tinyurl.com/2p9cctxk.

### West End

**Robbery**—A 44-year-old woman was arrested for felony robbery with a knife at Cooper's Foods, 633 W. Seventh St., on September 15.

Theft—A 40-year-old woman was cited for auto tampering after a resident found her in his SUV on September 8 on the 700 block of Bayard Avenue.

—A suspect reportedly stole a worker's purse at Patrick McGovern's Pub, 225 W. Seventh St., and then went outside and stole her vehicle on September 10.

—A worker reported his backpack was stolen at Eagle Street Grille, 174 W. Seventh St., on September 10.

—A jet ski and trailer were reported stolen on the 900 block of Armstrong Avenue on September 10-11.

—A Japanese rikshaw was reported stolen on the 400 block of North Smith Avenue on September 11.

Assault—Police responded to a report of a man who was shot on the 800 block of Armstrong Avenue on September 13.

Weapons—A man was charged with carrying a gun without a permit after police responded to a call of a male causing a disturbance and refusing to leave a building on the 100 block of Forbes Avenue on September 19.

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# ON THE TOWN

# Network of artists

# Heather Friedli's gallery thrives on energy of artists it gathers 'round

By Anne Murphy

n the spring of 2021, Saint Paul artist Heather Friedli suddenly felt an urge to collect houseplants. "I was trying to figure out the reason behind it," said Friedli, whose eventual epiphany led to the opening of Friedli Gallery and Studio last fall at 943 W. Seventh St. In its first year, the gallery has blossomed as a gathering space where artists and others are flourishing much like her houseplants.

"As I collected more plants in my house," Friedli said, "I saw that it was a lot easier to keep plants alive when they were living together in a community, rather than just one or two plants. I'd killed a lot of those over they years. But once there was this community, they thrived, and that got me thinking.

"I realized that working at home alone in my studio during the pandemic, I was lonely and not really contributing much to society. I wanted to have more of the community the plants were having. So I did what everyone does and tossed the idea out on Facebook."

Friedli received a lot of positive responses to her post from artists, including her friend Dusty Thune, with whom she collaborates on snow sculptures in the winter. "Dusty told me his father, former City Councilman Dave Thune, had an art gallery that had been closed for years and maybe I could use the

Friedli Gallery and Studio is located in

the former space of Thune's Saint Paul Gallery. Connecting with the artists who show and sell their works at the gallery has been key to its success. Friedli asks the artists for their input on shows.

"It's kind of a collaboration between myself as a gallerist and the artists who have the vision, so I don't have to start from scratch," she said. "It's a team effort. They bring their people, I bring my people, we bring them together, and we enjoy the

"I want to build community in this space," Friedli said, "through the artists, the exhibits, the classes and events that bring people together. There's been a lot of negative energy around, and I want people to find a way to connect with one another. Without viewing one another's humanity, we're doomed."

Growing up in Los Angeles and Detroit, Friedli attended the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. "After graduating in 2005, I felt super burned out on making art because it was such an intensive program," she said. "I found myself craving being in the woods and decompressing, and ended up taking a detour from art that lasted seven years."

That detour eventually led Friedli to realizing a lifelong dream—hiking the entire 2,178 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. It took her 61/2 months, she said, and "while I was out there I felt inspired by the landscape and the beautiful things. I was seeing rocks and trees and mountains and hills

> Heather Friedli commutes by scooter to her Friedli Gallery at 943 W. Seventh



absorbing all this incredible natural

was meeting on the trail."

to be a painter."

passionate life."

energy as well as the incredible people I

The longer she hiked, the more inspired

Friedli became. "I felt flashes of painting

imagine painting. I could smell the paint

hiking, I looked at my now husband and

said, 'You know what? I've decided that I

need to go back into making art. I'm going

Welcoming their first child in 2011 was

another motivator for Friedli. "I wanted to

show my kids they could be whatever they

As an impressionist painter, Friedli takes her inspiration from an "art adventure"

dream to be," she said. "By following my

passion, I try to show them how to live a

each summer. "I go into the wilderness

and immerse myself in the trees and the air and the grass," she said. "I get my

senses locked down again. I take a lot of

reference photos, and I sketch and paint.

Friedli is currently at work painting a

stack of cairn rocks she came across on

Lake Superior. As for her snow sculpting, she said, "every winter I compete. I've

As a national champion snow sculptor,

And then I bring it all back."

been doing it for about 15 years."

come to mind," she said. "I could walk and

and feel my brushes. When I got back from

With brush and palette, Heather Friedli works on one of her own paintings surrounded by the variety of pieces by local and national artists displayed at her West End gallery. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

TV show. "They brought teams together from all over the country," she said. "They

have us professional sculptors leading a team of people who have never done it before. It's an incredible time."

The show will premiere in mid-November or early December on the streaming service Disney+. In the meantime, "I'm really stoked about the gallery and all that we have coming up," Friedli said.

The gallery will open "Blood on the Pavement: Notes on Healing" with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Friday, September 30. The exhibit uses visual art and sound to explore the space between violence and healing. Friedli is thrilled that the sound will be provided by musician J.D. Steele.

Friedli Gallery will also be part of the Saint Paul Art Collective's semi-annual Art Crawl on October 7-8. It will host a meeting of the Radical Lit Book Club from 7-8 p.m. on October 17. Poetry Night on October 21 will feature an open mic for local wordsmiths. Then on October 27, Summit Hill author Danny Klecko will read from his new book, The Dead Fitzgeralds, and Michael Fedo will read from his new history, The Lynchings in

And that is just a sampling of what Friedli has scheduled this fall. For the complete rundown, visit its website at friedliartsgallery.com.







# **ON THE TOWN** Briefly

### **Dance**

Ananya Dance Theatre explores themes of betrayal, dispossession, exile, hope and survival in the new work, Nün Gherāo: Surrounded by Salt, 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-youcan with \$30 suggested. Call 651-690-6700 or visit oshag.stkate.edu.

CAAM Chinese Dance Theater will open its 30th anniversary season with a celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 15, in the O'Shaughnessy at Saint Catherine University. Joining the ensemble in the choreographed "Invite the Moon to Dance" will be world-renowned pipa artist Gao Hong and her Chinese instrument orchestra, Katha Dance Theater and performers from the Saint Paul Ballet. Tickets are \$5-\$25. Visit oshag. stkate.edu or call 651-690-6700.

### Music

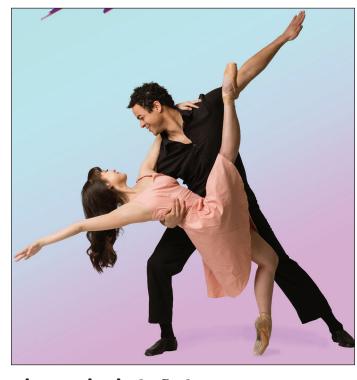
Works by C.P.E. Bach, Mortan Feldman, Carlo Gesualdo, Ruth Crawford-Seeger and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 will be performed by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and pianist Conrad Tao in a concert live-streamed at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 1, on a 23-by-13-foot screen in Rice Park. Bring a blanket or chair. The music is free. Food, beer and wine will be available beginning at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 2.

Pianist Steven C. Anderson will perform selections from his newly released four-volume series Classic Rock Piano at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 6, at the Commodore bar and restaurant, 79 N. Western Ave. The series features Steven C's rendition of 100 classic rock songs spanning four decades. Tickets are \$20. Visit eventbrite.com.

The Bach Society of Minnesota will open its season October 8 with the U.S. premiere of artistic director Matthias Maute's reconstruction of Vivaldi's Four Nations. The four concertos were assigned to France, Spain, England and India. All were lost except Il Gran Mogul, about India during the reign of the Gran Mogul. Accompanying the Society's singers will be Maute on recorder, violinists Margaret Humphrey and Conor O'Brien, violist Ginna Watson, cellist Rebecca Humphrey, Josh Schwalbach on double bass and Paul Boehnke on harpsichord. Tickets are \$35, \$5 for students. Visit eventbrite.com.

Four bands—the Roe Family Singers, the Ladies Music Club, Jeff Ray & the Stakes and the Bad Companions—will perform from noon-5:30 p.m. Saturday, October 8, at the Highland Park picnic shelter and playground off Montreal Avenue. Refreshments will be available from the Potter's Pasties Food Truck. Admission is free. Donations of nonperishable food and paper products are requested for the Open Hands Midway food shelf.

Iranian-American pianist Sara Daneshpour will perform the etudes of Chopin and selected etudes of György Ligeti in a Chopin Society recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 9, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$40. Visit chopinsocietymn.org or call 612-822-0123.



**'Dirty Dancing' in the flesh.** A live take on the cult film *Dirty Dancing* will be performed by Ballet Co.Laboratory on Saturday, October 8. The dance is the centerpiece of a benefit program kicking off the company's fifth anniversary season at its newly expanded studio theatre at 276 E. Lafayette Frontage Road. The benefit will open with refreshments, a silent auction and games at 4 p.m., followed by the dance at 5:30 and a reception with the performers at 6:30. Tickets are \$65, \$150 for VIPs. Visit balletcolaboratory.org or call 651-313-5967.

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota will open its season on Sunday, October 16, with a concert celebrating the music of the late George Crumb, including his groundbreaking electric string quartet, "Black Angels." The music begins at 4 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students. Visit chambermusicmn.org.

### **Theater**

Stephen Karam's *The Humans* is playing at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 9 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Blisteringly funny but with a dark underside, *The Humans* portrays a family of three generations navigating the challenges of everyday life. John Middleton, Charity Jones, Laura Anderson, Darrick Mosley, Angela Timberman and Dexieng "Dae" Yang star. Tickets are \$27-\$55. Visit parksquaretheatre.org or call 651-291-7005.

John Patrick Shanley's Doubt: A Parable is playing through October 16 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama tells of Sister Aloysius, a school principal who takes matters into her own hands when she suspects Father Flynn of improper relations with a student. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Stephen Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along is playing through October 30 at Theater Latté Da. The musical spans three decades in the lives of three friends, tracing their journey backward from middle age. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE in Minneapolis. Tickets start at \$35. Visit latteda.org or call 612-339-3003.

Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story will open the History Theatre's new season on October 1. Part biography, part rock 'n' roll concert, the musical by Alan Janes tells of the young band leader from Lubbock, Texas, who rises to the top of the charts in just four years. Nick Freeman and T. Mychael Rambo star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2

p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$70. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

Chris Hayhurst stars in Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe's one-man show, Every Brilliant Thing, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, September 30 through October 2, at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. The interactive drama follows a child who is affected by his mother's attempts at suicide and the journey of his family as they navigate pain, growth and an attempt at rebirth. Tickets are \$26. Visit tinyurl.com/2s3wnn6p.

When a left-leaning Harvard Law School graduate becomes a clerk for conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, she discovers him to be an infuriating debater

and unexpected mentor in *The Originalist*. The drama by John Strand opens at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 30, at Open Window Theatre, 5300 S. Robert Trail in Inver Grove Heights. Directed by Stephen O'Toole, it stars James Ramlet and recent Macalester College graduate Kalala Kiwanuka-Woernle. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through October 30 with other shows at 7:30 p.m. October 13, 24 and 27. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 612-615-1515 or visit openwindowtheatre.org.

"A Night of Thrills, Chills and Murder," featuring two one-act plays by Noreen K. Brandt, will be presented by Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, October 14-22, at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St. in Minneapolis. Ghoulies and Ghosties is a collection of tales of horror and suspense. It will be followed by the comedy, The Cozy Tea Party Murders. For reservations or information, call 612-724-4539.

### **Exhibits**

"John Carmody: A Life in Sustainability," an exhibit celebrating Carmody's long career as an environmental activist and systems designer, is being displayed through December 1 in the University of Minnesota's HGA Gallery in Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. SE in Minneapolis. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday.

Paintings, photography, jewelry, mixed media and other works by more than 30 local artists will be displayed for show and sale on October 7-9 at Saint Paul's Union Depot, Fourth and Sibley streets. Part of the Saint Paul Art Crawl, the event will run from 5-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Live music will be featured, and refreshments will be available.

The American Craft Council's annual show will be held from October 7-9 at Saint Paul's RiverCentre. Works in ceramic, glass, jewelry, clothing, furniture and more by more than 150 regional artists will be displayed for show and sale from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and

from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Ticket are \$15 at the door, \$10 in advance, free to children age 12 and under. Visit craftcouncil.org.

Explore the nooks and crannies of the Washburn A Mill in Minneapolis in a tour that steps out at 10 a.m. Sunday, October 16. The National Historic Landmark is the home of the Minnesota Historical Society's Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. The tour highlights the men and women who worked at the mill, how the building functioned during its peak years and how it changed over time. Admission to the museum is \$16, \$14 for seniors and college students, \$12 for children ages 5-17. Visit mnhs.org/millcity.

### **Family**

Show Me Reptile & Exotics, the largest reptile and exotic pet show in the region, will be presented from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 15, at Saint Paul River-Centre. Admission is \$10, \$15 for VIPs.

### **Film**

Let There Be Drums!, a new film by Justin Kreutzmann (son of Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann) about the personal struggles of some of the world's greatest drummers, will roll at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Ringo Starr, Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Stewart Copeland of the Police, Stephen Perkins of Jane's Addiction, Matt Sorum of Guns n' Roses and Taylor Hawkins of Foo Fighters are among those featured. Tickets are \$12. Visit soundunseen.com.

Cine Latino, a festival of new Latin American and Ibero movies, will be presented by the MSP Film Society from October 13-20 at Main Cinema, 115 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12 for each, \$100 for all screenings. For the complete schedule, visit mspfilm.org.

### **Books**

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings with poet Annette Gagliardi and her new collection, *A Short Supply of Viability*, at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 2; *The Ski Jumpers* author Peter Geye at 6 p.m. Wednesday, October 5; and poet John Koethe and his collection, *Beyond Belief*, at 6 p.m. Thursday, October 6. For information, call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Macalester-Groveland poet Margaret Hasse will read from her new collection, *The Call of Glacier Park*, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 5, at SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., and as part of the Midstream Reading Series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 13, at Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave.

### Et cetera

The Church of Saint Mark will celebrate Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 1. The parish festival will open at 9 a.m. with a two-mile fun run in Merriam Park. It continues from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on the grounds at Prior and Dayton avenues with live music, food, beverages, inflatables, a dunk tank, raffle, bingo and other games. A swing dance to the live music of the North Star Big Band follows from 7:30-10 p.m. in the gym at Prior and Marshall avenues. Admission to the dance is \$10, \$7 for students with ID. Free lessons begin at 7 p.m. Visit onestrongfamily.org/festival.

# **SPORTS**



The Wright Call
By Dave Wright

# It's time to reflect for hall inductees

never met, Rob Worthington and Jim Goldman have several things in common. Both went to grade schools just a few miles apart. Both competed in state high school tournaments. Both competed against the other's high school, albeit some 20 years apart. And both have now been selected to their school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Worthington, a 1998 Saint Thomas Academy graduate, was inducted during a ceremony at halftime of the Cadets' homecoming football game against Cretin-Derham Hall on September 16. (The list of inductees also included Richard Hanousek, a 1922 grad who played football for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame; John Knip and Leo Kelly, three-sport stars in the 1950s; Earl Wetzel, a 1965 grad who went on to a long coaching career at Farmington; John Baskfield, a 1983 alum who was later an Olympic speed skater; Nick Flood, a two-sport captain in the '80s; Zavier Smith, a three-sport star from the late '90s; and Tom Vannelli, who helped coach STA to hockey prominence.)

A return to the campus where you spent much of your teenage years tends to bring back a flood of memories. In Worthington's case, it was a mixture of early apprehension that turned into great joy. Worthington attended grade school at Capitol Hill. When he arrived at STA for ninth grade, he was one of just four from his public school on campus. "By my junior year, I was the only one left from that group," he recalled. "It was quite an adjustment."

What helped considerably was Worthington's skills on the basketball court and baseball diamond. At 6-foot-6, he was a towering presence on excellent STA hoops teams. In 1997, the Cadets were knocked out of the sections by a Highland Park team that had won the Saint Paul City Conference championship. The next year, Worthington was the team captain when the Cadets turned things around and eliminated the Scots en route to winning the Class AAA title over Patrick Henry.

By then, Worthington was on the radar of several college recruiters. He chose to go to Lafayette in eastern Pennsylvania. "I had a cousin who played at Princeton, plus family in New Jersey and Pennsylvania," he said.

At the time, the Leopards were on their way up the Division I basketball ladder. In 1999, Worthington found himself in the starting lineup on a team that won the conference playoffs and made a rare appearance in the NCAA tournament.

But being a Minnesotan in the East did have its drawbacks. Worthington recalled being on the team bus when the Vikings lost the NFC championship game to Atlanta. "They made me get up and do the Dirty Bird dance," he said with a laugh.

After earning his bachelor's degree in English from Lafayette, he came home to get a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and currently works as a senior recruiter at US Bank. "It was a great choice to go to Saint Thomas," he said. "I still have a lot of friends from there."

Goldman, a 1981 graduate of Highland Park High School, will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on October 15 during the Scots' football game versus North Saint Paul. More than two decades ago, Goldman was spending part of his winters sneaking out of class to go over to the field house at the U of M. There, a friend would let him in and Goldman would get pitching lessons in preparation for the next baseball season. At the time, the Scots were battling with Cretin-Derham Hall for Saint Paul City Conference honors. The teams tied for first in 1979 with 13-1 league records.

The City Conference was still a 10-team circuit at the time and the Raiders won the only head-to-head meeting

# Ruling the roost

# Balanced Redhawks prove tough to beat in volleyball

By Bill Wagner

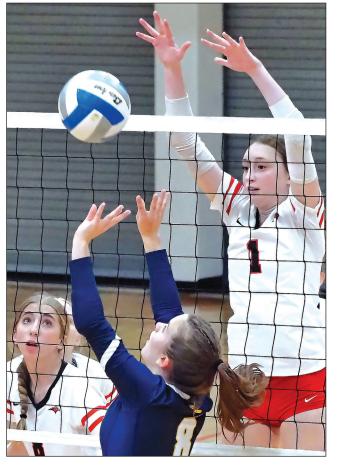
he Minnehaha Academy volleyball team could be heading for its most successful year since winning 19 games in 2015. With just three weeks to go in the regular season, the Redhawks were 13-0 overall and 6-0 in the Independent Metro Athletic Conference.

"I knew that we'd have a good season," said coach Kim Benka, who is now in her sixth year, "but I didn't know we were going to be this good. We have some good balance and we have some good depth."

Benka, who uses a rotation that goes nine players deep, saw her club clear a major hurdle on September 8 when it came from behind to defeat conference rival Mounds Park Academy 3-1. Minnehaha has not lost more than one set in a game all season, and consistently outserved the Panthers, starting with freshman Vivien Affeldt, who won five points in a row to begin the second set.

"Everybody's doing their jobs," said Benka, who starts two freshmen and a junior. "It's exciting to see this thing coming together."

She said she especially enjoys the way her club handles adversity. "We have a real strong competitiveness," Benka said. "We handle it when our backs



Minnehaha's Maddy Benka hovers above Saint Paul Academy's Elliana Mann alongside teammate Danielle Hobbie in the Redhawks' 3-0 win at home on September 20. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

are against the wall."

Benka, a former player at Orono High School and Saint Cloud, has one of the best players in the state in her daughter Maddy, a 5-foot-9 junior outside hitter who already has attracted attention from college scouts. Maddy ranks among the top five players in the state in kills and Benka believes she's worthy of all-state honors.

"She's strong and dynamic and explosive," coach Benka said. "And she plays good defense."

Maddy had a 26-kill performance versus Saint Croix Prep on August 30. She also leads the team in digs.

Senior setter Violet Sahlstrom leads the team in assists and is closing in on the 1,0000-assist mark for her career. Freshman middle blocker Danielle Hobbie plays a fine all-around game and looks like she's been a regular for a long time. Right-sider Affeldt is among the state's leaders in service aces and hits.

Senior middle blocker Camryn Thurow has also shown great improvement. "It's been fun to watch her grow," Benka said.

Senior outside hitter Abby Theisen exhibits good ball control and plays a smart offensive game. Senior libero Alicia Sylvester is a great defensive specialist.

Sophomore right-sider Liyu Lorato is a serving specialist and tough to crack defensively. The same goes for senior defensive specialist Gabriela Fischer, who looks right at home in her first year with the varsity. "She chases down balls," Benka said.

The coach feels good about her club's chances of making a deep run when the Section 4AA playoffs begin in late October. The Redhawks still had to face Mounds Park again on September 27, but they did notch a convincing 3-0 win over SPA on September 20.

Benka credits much of her squad's improvement to the growing number of players who have gained experience in club volleyball. "That's the big thing," she said. "It's good for the players to get those touches on the ball."

# Mensah makes strong return for Highland football

By Bill Wagner

unior running back Melvin Mensah may not have the height or speed that big-time college football scouts would consider ideal. However, Highland Park High School football coach Jonathan Brown said Mensah has qualities neither a tape measure nor a stopwatch can measure—heart.

The 5-foot-7, 169-pound Mensah is a big part of the reason Highland is 2-1 this season and tied with Central for first place in the Twin Cities Gold Division. In games against Bloomington Kennedy and Johnson, he had a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, 80 yards rushing on 12 carries and five pass receptions for 20 yards.

Mensah has been so good that he became a regular for the Scots' football team as a freshman. Highland has been easing him back into a normal workload after he was sidelined with a broken leg halfway through last season. Mensah said he is back at 100 percent now and is determined to eventually play Division I college football.

"That's my goal," he said. "I'm not going to stop until I get there."

Mensah is plenty strong due to an ultra-dedicated work ethic in the weight room, where Brown said he can squat 360 pounds. That kind of strength enables Mensah to do the heavy-duty running between tackles. When he hits the line, the pile tends to move in the direction the Scots want to go.

He is more than capable of breaking off a big gainer. He has good vision that enables him to avoid defenders, and knows how to read his blocks to gain yardage quickly.

Mensah can also catch the ball out of the backfield and will



Highland Park junior Melvin Mensah runs through drills during practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

HIGHLAND FOOTBALL ▶16

WRIGHT CALL ▶16

### **15 ♦ WRIGHT CALL**

with the Scots. Thus, CDH earned the berth in the Twin Cities game. However, the Scots got the last word, making the Class AA state tournament that spring and finishing third

"That was my sophomore year," Goldman recalled.
"We were a very close-knit bunch. P.J. McGrath pitched us to a win over Mounds View in the first round. I lost a close semifinal game to Little Falls (which went on to win the state championship), but we recovered to win the third-place game."

Goldman and McGrath will be inducted into Highland's hall along with 2012 grad Kionda Nicks, who netted 1,000 career points in basketball and made four all-city teams, and the 1971 football team, which tied for first in the City and allowed just 25 points in eight games.

Goldman and McGrath remained strong arms for

the Scots. However, CDH started its lengthy stretch of baseball dominance the next spring and proved too tough to overcome.

Goldman remembers his youth baseball days fondly. "I went to Mattocks Grade School," he said. "We played ball at Groveland Playground all the time. It turned out a bunch of us played together at Highland too and we clicked. I'm still in touch with a lot of them."

That's not as easy as it sounds. After high school, Goldman ended up at a junior college in Texas. Playing in a warmer climate than Minnesota's suited him well. "When you're young, you don't notice the cold as much," he said. "I remember playing against STA one day and it started snowing. The game had to be stopped. In Texas, it feels cold when it's 50."

Goldman went on to play Division I baseball at Centenary College in Louisiana. From there, he had a brief pro career in Butte, Montana, before returning to Texas to teach and coach baseball. His first stop was at Uvalde High School, where he spent nine years. He went on to Carthage High School, where he won a state championship, and is now at Longview, about 90 miles from Dallas.

The prep baseball season there is a bit longer than here. "We start practice on January 20 with our first game set for February 10," Goldman said. "We'll play 35-40 games before we're done."

Still, Saint Paul and his Highland Park pals and memories are never far away from Goldman's mind. He's looking forward to going back to his prep alma mater so much that he plans on driving from Texas to attend the ceremonies. "That way, I'll have more time to spend with friends and family and I can go at my own pace," he said.

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

### **15** ◀ HIGHLAND FOOTBALL

sometimes be lined up in the slot to take advantage of his receiving skills. In short, Brown said Mensah is an exceptional allaround football player.

"He's quick and fast and efficient," Brown said. "He's prepared to play and he knows how to practice. He's the most coachable kid on the team."

Mensah said he's not worried about his

lack of size. "I'm just a smaller guy," he said, adding that he's more than capable of "lowering a shoulder into people" when the occasion calls for it. "I just have to do my best with the (skills) I do have," he said.

He said he tries to emulate former NFL running back and receiver Reggie Bush's game. "He had gears," he said about Bush's running ability. "He'd switch those gears and turn on his breakaway speed. Nobody could catch him when he did that."

Mensah has also stepped up as a team leader and looks to help his teammates improve their own game. "I don't care how big you are, I'm going to tell you how to make things better," he said. "I just want our guys to know that the sky's the limit (for the team)."

That cuts both ways. "And I want them to do the same for me," he said. "I can take constructive criticism."

Brown said Mensah's quest for excel-

lence can be found in the classroom as well as the gridiron. He sports a 3.8 GPA and wants to study sports medicine in college. "He takes great pride in being a really good student," Brown said.

Mensah refers to Brown as a straightshooting coach. "He's not going to sugarcoat what he says, no matter what," Mensah said. "He'll say, 'That was fine, but you know you can do a little better.' He always wants you to be looking to improve."

# **Sports Shorts**

The University of Saint Thomas will induct six students, two coaches and one team into its 2022 Athletics Hall of Fame. The inductees include Nick Wohlers (men's hockey 1988-1992), Andretta Colley (women's track 2002-2005), Tony Danna (football 2007-2011), Mike Hutton (men's track, soccer 2008-2012), Tommy Hannon (men's basketball 2008-2013), Maggie Weiers (women's basketball 2010-2015), coach Denzil Lue (men's soccer 1978-2001), coach Tom Hodgson (men's and women's swimming 1979-2014), and the 2012 volleyball team (NCAA champions). The Hall of Fame now includes 220 individuals and

two teams. The 2022 event will include a dinner and program on Friday, October 28, at the James B. Woulfe Alumni Hall, and introduction of the inductees on Saturday, October 29, during halftime of the noon UST vs. San Diego football game at O'Shaughnessy Stadium.

The inaugural Saint Paul Cup will be presented by Minnesota United, the Saint Paul Public Schools and the city of Saint Paul on Friday, October 7, at Allianz Field. The soccer doubleheader between Washington Technology Magnet School and Harding High School will feature a varsity boys'

game at 5:30 p.m., followed by the varsity girls at 7:30 p.m. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. Free tickets are being offered via SeatGeek at tinyurl.com/yc49b79m.

The National Collegiate Hockey Conference has announced that fans who purchased all-session tickets last year may now renew them for the 2023 Frozen Faceoff that will be held March 17-18 at the Xcel Energy Center. Ticket renewals must be completed by October 21. Tickets for the general public will go on sale at noon November 4. For information, visit nchchockey.com/index.aspx.



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# **District Councils**

### **Highland Park**

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HDC online survey—The Highland District Council is asking residents to share their thoughts about living in Highland Park via an online survey at surveymonkey. com/r/HDCfeedback22. The survey closes October 5.

Candidate forum—The HDC, Macalester-Groveland Community Council and the Saint Paul League of Women Voters will co-host a nonpartisan candidate forum for legislative Districts 64A and 64B from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, October 3, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Voting and other election information is available at sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting.

Burglary prevention—The Saint Paul Police Department will hold a burglary prevention open house from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, at the Western District headquarters, 389 N. Hamline Ave. Participants will be able to talk with crime prevention staff and see examples of lighting, locks, windows, cameras and security systems.

Fall deer hunt-Saint Paul's 2022 special permit archery hunt to cull the local deer population will take place from October 10-12 and October 31-November 2 in Crosby Farm Park and along a 20-acre portion of the wooded Highland Park bluff between West Seventh Street and Circus Juventas. Signs will be posted and those areas will be closed to the public during the hunt dates.

Highland station planning—On September 13, the Riverview Corridor's Station Area Planning Task Force toured the planned modern streetcar stations in the Highland Park neighborhood. The four station areas are on West Seventh Street at Davern Street, Saint Paul Avenue, Homer Street and Montreal Avenue. A survey is being conducted to help guide future growth in and around those station areas. It can be accessed at tinyurl.com/53wuhmbn.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 6; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 11; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 18. HDC meetings are held at the Highland Community Center, with an option to join online. Get the Zoom link and agendas at highlanddistrict council.org/calendar.

### **Macalester-Groveland**

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Fall cleanup—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will conduct a fall cleanup from 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, October 8, along Grand and Summit avenues as well as on Mississippi River Boulevard. There will be free coffee and a chance to win a Macalester-Groveland T-shirt for those who come out. Volunteers for the Grand and Summit cleanups will meet outside Dunn Brothers Coffee and volunteers for the Mississippi River Boulevard cleanup will meet at the monument on the west end of Summit. Register at macgrove.org/communitycleanup.

Fall newsletter—The community council has opportunities for local businesses and organizations to advertise in the fall edition of the "Illuminator," its biannual newsletter that is mailed to around 8,000 households in the neighborhood. The fall newsletter will be mailed around November 14, and ad submissions are due by October 10. For details, visit macgrove.org/advertise.

Mac-Grove Fest—For photos of the September 10 festival at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, visit facebook. com/macgrovecc.

Mac-Grove pride—Locally designed Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can still be ordered online and delivered within days. Check macgrove.org/tshirts for the current availability of sizes and colors.

Upcoming meetings—Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, September 28; Community Building Team on Monday, October 10; board of directors on Thursday, October 13; Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, October 19; Transportation Committee on Monday, October 24; and Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, October 26. The meetings will all begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For monthly meeting notices and log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.

### Summit Hill

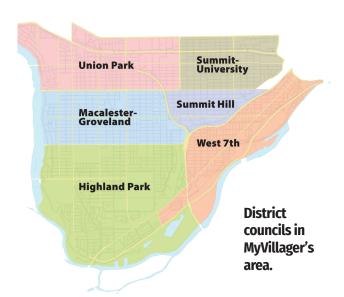
summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Identify theft and fraud—The Saint Paul Police Department will host a virtual workshop on fraud and identity theft at 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 28. The online event will discuss how to protect your information and what scams are being used. Register at tinyurl.com/mkfuxbs7.

Burglary prevention—The Police Department will hold a burglary prevention open house from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, at the Western District headquarters, 389 N. Hamline Ave. Participants will learn about lighting, landscaping, locks, security systems and cameras. For information, contact Patty Lammers at 651-266-5455.

Culturally specific meals—Open Arms of Minnesota is looking to develop accessible, culturally appropriate and medically tailored meals to better serve East African, Hmong and Latino clients who are disproportionately affected by severe illnesses. The Culturally Specific Meal Project is seeking those with experience in these three cultures to contribute recipes. The accepted recipes will earn \$200 for those who submitted them. For details on the program, contact info@summithillassociation.org

Upcoming meetings—Communications Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 6, via Zoom; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 13, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 Saint Clair Ave. For a list of updated events, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.



### **Union Park**

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Midway Peace Park fall fun—Sambusa and tea will be served at the Midway Peace Park, 16 N. Griggs St., from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, October 8. There will be fun for the whole family, including arts and crafts.

Board elections—The Union Park District Council's annual meeting and election will be held on Wednesday, November 2, at a time and location still to be determined. Those who are interested in joining the board of directors are asked to contact wako@unionparkdc.org.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 5; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 10; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 17; and Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 18. To access the Zoom meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org, Leah@unionparkdc.org, or consult the calendar at unionparkdc.org.

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—board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday October 10. This will be a hybrid meeting taking place on Zoom and in person at the Fort Road Federation office, 882 W. Seventh St., Suite 6. For Zoom log-in information, visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar. For in-person attendance information, call the office and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

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