OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 8, 2022

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UST considers an on-campus hockey arena

Highland Bridge ballfield plans also get an update

By Jane McClure

he University of Saint Thomas announced on October 18 that it is now considering its south campus as the likely site for a new hockey arena. The word came just hours before the university's latest plans for softball and baseball fields at the southeastern corner of the 122acre Highland Bridge site were unveiled to the Community Development Committee of the Highland District Council.

A specific south campus location for the hockey arena has not been identified, according to UST vice president and athletic director Phil Esten. The university already has soccer and softball fields at the northwest corner of Cretin and Goodrich avenues. The south campus has older buildings that could be replaced with a new hockey arena. UST is hoping to select a firm to build the arena by the end of the fall semester.

"After exploring multiple off-campus sites, we can confidently say a new oncampus home for hockey is the best path

UST SPORTS FACILITIES ▶3



Having a blast at the bash. Bryan Xiong, 4, plays ringtoss with the encouragement of sisters Laura, 7, and Angela, 5, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center's Monster Bash on October 15. For upcoming Halloween events, see page 17. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Preservationists rally to save what could be St. Paul's oldest residence

Built in 1852, two-room Justus Ramsey House is threatened by demolition

By Jane McClure

fight to save the historic Justus Ramsey House is picking up steam just prior to a demolition hearing before the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission. Owner Mojtaba Sharifkhani's request for the demolition permit will be heard by the HPC at 3:30 p.m. Monday, November 7, in City Hall.

A large crowd filled the outdoor space at Waldmann Brewery on October 20 to hear the latest news about the 170-year-old home and discuss what can be done to save it either at its current site or in a new location on the West End. "Folks, together we need to find a way to save this building," said Tom Schroeder, owner of Waldmann.

Some fear that allowing one of the city's oldest buildings to be destroyed will create a ripple effect. "If this ends up getting demolished, it sets a precedent for other historic properties," said neighborhood resident Kelsey Peterson.

JUSTUS RAMSEY HOUSE ▶4

Citizens grill the five candidates for Saint Paul police chief

By Casey Ek

emands for public safety and police reform and how to strike a balance between the two were among the topics addressed by the five finalists for Saint Paul police chief during an October 12 forum at the Saint Paul Event Center.

The second of two forums emceed by Mayor Melvin Carter—the first was on October 11 at Washington Technology Magnet School—gave the 50 citizens in attendance a window into where the candidates stand on key public safety issues.

Forty people had applied to become the next police chief of Saint Paul, and 18 of them met the qualifications. The five final- munity Partnerships Division. Barragan in police leadership from the University of

ists chosen by the 38-member examining committee include the following:

- Dr. Jacqueline Bailey-Davis, a staff instructor in the Philadelphia Police Department's Standards and Accountability Division where she oversees department policies and procedures and develops standard operating procedures. Bailey-Davis has been a Philadelphia police officer since 1997. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati, a master's degree in education from Lincoln University and a doctorate in public administration from West Chester University.
- Pamela Barragan, a unit commander in the Saint Paul Police Department's Com-

manages sworn and civilian staff and is responsible for establishing and maintaining partnerships with government and private organizations. She became a uniformed officer in Saint Paul in 1996. She holds an associate's degree in law enforcement from Inver Hills Community College and a bachelor's degree in communications from a college in Quito, Ecuador.

• Kurtis Hallstrom, senior commander of the SPPD's Eastern District. He served in the University of Minnesota Police Department from 1996-99 when he joined the SPPD. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminal justice from North Dakota State University and a master's degree

Saint Thomas.

- Axel Henry, commander of the SPPD's Narcotics, Financial Intelligence and Human Trafficking Division. He became a uniformed officer in 1995 for the Roseville Police Department before joining SPPD in 1998. Henry has a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting and a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from the University of Saint Thomas.
- · Stacy Murphy, assistant chief of the SPPD where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the department's 563 sworn officers, 159 civilian staff and 92 volunteers.

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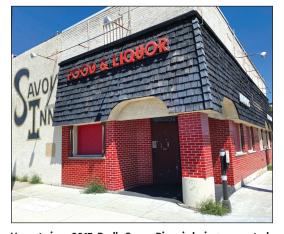
Though lawsuit is pending, court OKs renovation for new day shelter

By Jane McClure

enovation of the former Red's Savoy Pizza at 421 E. Seventh St. for use as a day shelter for people who are homeless has resumed. A group of nearby commercial and residential property owners filed suit in August against Listening House, the city of Saint Paul and its Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to block the new day shelter for the lack of a public hearing. However, Ramsey County District Court Judge Leonard Castro denied a temporary restraining order.

Castro's ruling on October 11 allowed the city and its HRA to transfer \$1.4 million in tax increment financing for the renovation project. However, it did not dismiss the plaintiffs' lawsuit.

The plaintiffs object to the lack of notice and public discussion prior to the City Council's awarding of public financing for the Listening House project. Most day shelters in Saint Paul require a conditional use permit, but the Red's Savoy site's underly-



Vacant since 2017, Red's Savoy Pizza is being renovated as a day shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

ing zoning does not. That is another objection raised by the plaintiffs.

Patrick O'Neill, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said his clients are still looking at their options. In addition to several residential property owners in Lowertown, those clients include Heppner's Auto Body, Bulldog Lowertown, the Dark Horse Bar, the Gopher Bar, the Barrel Theory Beer Company and Kat-Key's Lock and Safe.

Listening House has a day shelter in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood for people who are homeless. It operated a second day shelter at 296 W. Seventh St. before it was forced to close earlier this year because of problems associated with users of that facility.

Freedom House opened in early 2021 in the former West Seventh fire station. The city's libraries and other public facilities had shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and people who were homeless had few options for sheltering during the day.

In late 2021, businesses along West Seventh and residents of nearby Irvine Park sued the city and Listening House because of the problems associated with Freedom House, including theft, vandalism, assault, loitering and harassment. The court ordered that Freedom House be closed because the city had not followed proper procedures in opening it.

O'Neill's plaintiffs have cited the problems associated with Freedom House in their lawsuit.

Listening House executive director Molly Jalma estimated that the lawsuit has pushed work on the new day shelter about a month behind schedule. Listening House now hopes to open the second location in late February or early March. The plan is to eventually consolidate its operations there, giving as many as 200 people per day a place where they can rest, get something to eat, obtain clothing and access social services.

Listening House was founded in 1983. The day shelter operated at various locations in downtown Saint Paul until 2017 when it moved into space at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Ave.

The former Red's Savoy Pizza has been vacant since September 2017 following the death of longtime owner Earl "Red" Schoenheider. It was the original home of Red's Savoy Pizza and was in business for more than 50 years.

After 12 years, West End fire station may be returned to original purpose

By Jane McClure

he Saint Paul City Council allocated \$389,001 on October 19 to help restore former Fire Station 51 at 296 W. Seventh St. to its original use. The building most recently was home to Freedom House, a drop-in day shelter run by the nonprofit Listening House.

The funding was supported earlier this month by the city's Capital Improvement Budget Committee. The money is part of a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation and will be com-

bined with other funds as part of a \$1.5 million effort to reopen the building as a fire station by early next year.

Fire Chief Butch Inks said there were thoughts of selling the building as a costcutting measure during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a need for additional fire and emergency medical services (EMS) is now being seen in downtown.

Station 51 has not been in active use by the Fire Department since 2010. At that time, the city was averaging 30,000-35,000 fire and EMS calls a year. "This year we're projected to go above 60,000," said

Deputy Fire Chief Roy Mokosso.

The former fire station is now boarded up and is a registered vacant building. Meanwhile, Listening House is looking to open a new drop-in day shelter in the old Red's Savoy Pizza at 421 E. Seventh St.

The city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) has determined that the former fire station building is in a blighted state and is eligible for federal CDBG funds. The money approved on October 19 will cover engineering and architectural work, Mokosso said.

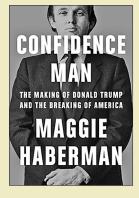
The renovated building will house fire

and EMS personnel as well as a social work program that responds to issues involving the city's homeless population.

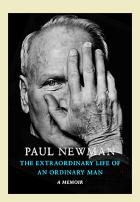
The city must spend the CDBG funds by the end of next March. That same pot of money is being used to demolish the former public safety annex at 10th and Robert streets in order to expand Pedro Park.

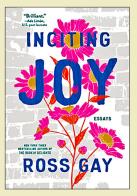
The fire station at 296 W. Seventh opened in 1965, replacing a station at Ninth and Main streets in downtown. It served as Station 1 until 2010, when it and Station 10 moved their crews and equipment to the new Station 1 at 1000 W. Seventh St.

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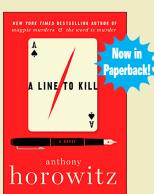








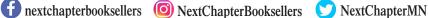






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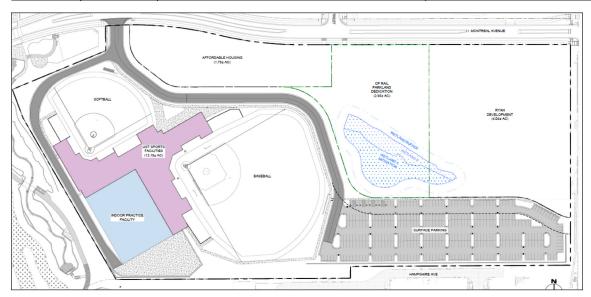
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plans for the University of Saint Thomas' sports complex at Highland **Bridge were** presented on October 18, including this one that would provide surface parking. The other would include a parking ramp.

Two site

1 ■ UST SPORTS FACILITIES

forward," Esten said in a statement. "This arena will operate as a multipurpose facility that serves as an asset for our entire campus by offering student life and community engagement opportunities, in addition to serving as a home for our men's and women's hockey programs."

A hockey arena had been considered at Highland Bridge, but those plans were dropped this summer. Baseball and softball remain in play as part of a sports complex for a 13-acre portion of the site.

The need for new sports facilities is being driven by UST's move to Division I athletics. Amy McDonough, chief of staff and liaison to the UST president, said the timing for construction of all sports facilities depends on fundraising, which is now underway.

Converting the former Canadian Pacific Railway yard at Highland Bridge into ballfields and parking means bringing in the Saint Paul Port Authority to finish the cleanup of the site. Later this month, the Port Authority board will vote on assuming Ryan Companies' purchase agreement for the former rail yard, and will work on site testing and remediation on UST's behalf, said Kathryn Sarnecki, the authority's senior vice

president for real estate and development. That work will also involve the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The Port Authority does such projects through its nonprofit partner, Capital City Properties. Sarnecki said that grants will be sought to help with the cost of cleanup. UST will cover the remainder.

The site would be cleaned to residential and recreational standards, Sarnecki said. "We would deliver a shovel-ready-site," she said. UST would eventually own the property.

Maureen Michalski, who leads Highland Bridge efforts for Ryan, presented two site plans for the ballfields. Both would include a 1,000seat softball field, 1,500-seat baseball field and practice facility. What differs is whether around 300 parking spaces would be in a ramp or on a surface lot. UST officials said they would prefer surface parking.

The 1.5-acre Mica Park would be maintained at Highland Bridge and a second 1.6-acre park would be added to meet city parkland dedication requirements for the development. Space would also be provided for future transit or a trail through the old rail spur that served the Ford plant.

Ryan would bring in a partner to build 110 units of affordable housing on land north of the old rail yard. About 100,000 square feet of office space would be developed nearby.

Michalski said the plans are now being reviewed by city staff. A review of environmental impacts also continues, as do discussions about Highland Bridge's master plan amendments, parkland dedication, redevelopment agreement changes and zoning changes. Work is also needed on any modifications to wetlands, which involves the city and the Capitol Region Watershed District. Yet another effort centers on the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport's overlay district regarding building heights, which affects part of the site.

McDonough and Michalski answered questions about the development for more than a dozen neighbors who were present or online for the October 18 meeting. Most neighborhood concerns centered on retaining or replacing a longtime berm planted with trees and shrubs, and the preservation or relocation of wetlands.

The berm along the south side of the former Ford property shielded the plant from the neighborhood to the south for decades. "It's really important to us," said neighbor Jim Winterer. "(Removing it) would really change the nature of where we live."

Neighbors also asked about the use of the ballfields. In part of the presentation, it was noted the fields would be available for use by the public.



Jacqueline Bailey-Davis









Pamela Barragan

Kurtis Hallstrom

Axel Henry

Stacy Murphy

1 ♦ POLICE CHIEF CANDIDATE FORUM

Murphy earned an associate's degree in law enforcement at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and a bachelor's degree in criminology and sociology at University of Minnesota-Duluth. She earned a certificate in leadership at Century College and a certificate in emergency management from Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program.

At the forum, the candidates took turns answering questions posed by Mayor Carter and the audience. A recurring theme was the interplay between police reform and public safety.

"I don't think those two concepts are competing," Henry said. "They complement each other." When asked how the police can maintain public safety without "punishing neighborhoods," Henry said the department could "put an officer at every corner and you wouldn't feel safer. You'd feel like you're in a war zone." Instead, he

advocates that the police work alongside citizens to maintain the peace.

Bailey-Davis was asked how SPPD would ensure officers' health and well-being under her watch. She said she would institute yearly wellness checks. "There has to be followthrough to ensure officers are fit for duty," she said. "At the end of the day, people think we're superheroes."

Asked the same question, Hallstrom said police officers who regularly face traumatic incidents often avoid seeking help. However, "it's OK to not be OK," he said. "That's one thing that needs to be pushed."

Responding to what success looks like in regard to citizen oversight, Murphy celebrated the efforts of the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission. "(The PCIARC) really is the voice of the community," she said. "Its goal is to change behavior and make sure our officers want to do the right thing."

Asked about the ideal relationship

between SPPD and the city's new Office of Neighborhood Safety, Barragan touted the goals of the office's Peace Program. A gun violence prevention initiative, the Peace Program leans into community programming and youth support services. It and its SPPD counterpart, ASPIRE (A Saint Paul Intervention and Recovery Effort), will be crucial in forging safer communities, according to Barragan. "These programs are the perfect example of how (the community and the police) can work together," she said.

Among those attending the forum was Joe Spencer, president of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance. Spencer said he hopes the future chief of police chief can do something to reverse the recent uptick in crime in the city's core. "Our downtown is the economic engine of not only the city, but the whole region," Spencer said. "We really need a leader who is going to inspire confidence that this is a great place to be."







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1 JUSTUS RAMSEY HOUSE

"If we let this domino fall, the whole house of cards is going to fall," said Irvine Park resident Elyse Jensen.

City Council member Rebecca Noecker said she loved the "cando attitude" displayed at the meeting. However, she added, there are questions she cannot answer. Because an HPC decision on the demolition permit can be appealed to the City Council, Noecker said she cannot take a position on the issue at this time. She did agree to see whether the city could order the emergency stabilization of the building and help fund its preservation. "This is a public asset," she said. "This isn't just a house; it's a house with incredible connections to the history of the city."

Sharifkhani, aka Moe Sharif, has used the two-room house in the past as a small bar and seating area on the patio of his Burger Moe's restaurant, 242 W. Seventh St. He applied for a demolition permit for a "shed" in June. The request was forwarded to the HPC for review. The structure has national and local historic designation (see story below). City inspectors have written condemnation orders for the building, most recently on October 10.

Sharifkhani, who owns most of the block bounded by West Seventh, Chestnut, Exchange and Walnut streets, did not respond to requests for comment about the Justus Ramsey House's fate or his plans for the site. However, retired developer John Mannillo announced at the October 20 meeting that Sharifkhani is amenable to leading a fundraising effort to relocate the building.



Located on the patio at Burger Moe's restaurant on West Seventh Street, the 170-year-old Justus Ramsey House is looking worse for wear these days. The roof has a gaping hole, and a wall has collapsed into the interior (right).

The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, Historic Irvine Park Association and Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association are all rallying to save the building. The federation passed a resolution earlier this month to explore options to save the house. Representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society and Ramsey County Historical Society also attended the October 20 meeting.

A change.org petition to save the building has been started. To buy time, an emergency petition for an environmental assessment worksheet has been filed with the state Environmental Quality Board. The state has accepted the petition for review.

Historic preservationists pressured city officials to make an assessment of the house. That report was released on October 13 by preservation consultants from

MacDonald & Mack.

The report noted that the building is in fair to poor condition. "A majority of the damage appears to have been caused by deferred maintenance and lack of repair of the structure," it stated. "It is our understanding that damage to the chimney and the north wall was observed at least several months ago with no corrective action taken at that time." However, the report also noted, "while the damage is severe, it is possible to safely repair the structure."

MacDonald & Mack made several recommendations for saving the structure. They also questioned how the damage to a wall, the roof and chimney occurred. "It is unusual to find holes in a roof that does not show evidence of rot through every layer of the assembly in the area of the hole," the report stated.



Schroeder, who restored the historic Waldmann Brewery at 455 N. Smith Ave. and conducted a historic sites study of limestone buildings in the neighborhood, said Sharifkhani offered him the Justus Ramsey House years ago for use on the Waldmann property. "I wish I had done that," he said.

Schroeder and others at the October 20 meeting said that the building's condition raises questions about the city's historic preservation process and its monitoring of historically designated

nated structures. Several people brought up the issue of "demolition by neglect."

"If you buy a historic property, you're not allowed to let it deteriorate," said Chad Roberts, president of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

Schroeder said he was shocked that the Justus Ramsey House was allowed to deteriorate so dramatically. "Can we rely on people to trust the historic process when homeowners in historic districts have to wrangle over the color of their shingles?" he asked.

These walls *can* talk: House tells of 170 years of Saint Paul history

By Jane McClure

he Justus Ramsey House was built in the 1850s by the brother of Alexander Ramsey. Justus was born in Pennsylvania in 1821 and came to Saint Paul in 1849 after Alexander was named Minnesota's first territorial governor.

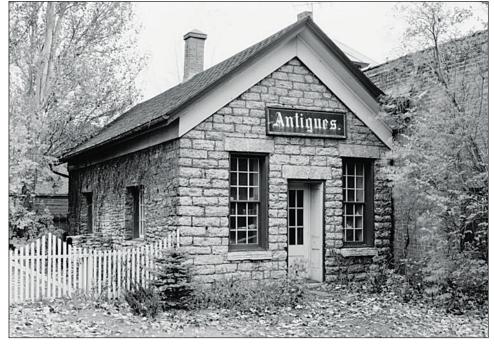
Justus worked in the grocery and real estate businesses, according to Minnesota Historical Society publications. He was elected to the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1851, and re-elected in 1853 and 1857. During those years, he commissioned the building of a house in the Greek Revival-style with locally quarried Platteville limestone, a timber-framed gable roof and 18-inch-thick walls.

The two-room house was built in 1852, according to the Saint Paul Historical website. However, its nomination papers for the National Register of Historic Places cites 1855-57 as the years of construction.

Though the house still bears his name, there is little evidence that Justus Ramsey lived there. Instead, he rented the property to various tenants. One was Robert Smith, who came to Saint Paul in 1853 to work for his brother-in-law, Minnesota territorial governor Willis Gorman, and served as Saint Paul's mayor for 16 years—from 1887-92, 1894-96 and 1900-08.

Justus Ramsey did not own the house for long. He lost the property in 1859 and after years of health problems committed suicide in 1881.

The house was a rental property for more than 70 years. Census records show



The Justus Ramsey House as it appeared in 1960, when it was being used as an antiques store.

PHOTO BY JACK BOUCHER, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

that several renters were Black families. Downtown, the West Side and later the Rondo area of Summit-University had the largest concentrations of Black families in Saint Paul, according to the book *They Chose Minnesota*. But Black families also lived in the Seven Corners area near West Seventh and Kellogg Boulevard, according to the U.S. Census.

The Justus Ramsey House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It is one of the most studied and documented historic structures in Saint Paul, according to Tom Schroeder, a local historian and owner of the nearby Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery on Smith Avenue. However, Schroeder said, little research has focused on the house's role in local Black history. "Multiple generations of Black families lived there up until about 1930," he said.

According to local historian Jim Sazevich, beginning in the late 1890s the house was home to a succession of Black families, most of whom had moved to Saint Paul from the South. Porters and waiters

for the railroads and cooks and maids for families in the Ramsey Hill and Summit Hill neighborhoods rented the house, paying about \$6 per month, he said. Other tenants were barbers and hairdressers who earned their living in a small frame shop that once stood on the same lot directly in front of the house, according to Sazevich.

"These Black families carried the surnames of Washington, James, Battle, Taylor, Allen, Perkins, Monroe and others," he said. "They were part of a much larger Black community that originated in the 1880s and flourished for several decades around the old Uppertown neighborhood of Seven Corners."

Sazevich displayed a page from the 1900 U.S. Census that showed that George Perkins and his wife Maria lived in the Justus Ramsey House. They were former slaves from Kentucky and South Carolina, respectively.

"Maria was unable to read or write," Sazevich said. "George worked as a porter based at the Palace Avenue railway yards down West Seventh Street. It's remarkable that this little building could house both the most popular mayor in the city's history and, a few years later, freed slaves that show up almost nowhere else in written history."

The Justus Ramsey House also served as the kitchen for a nearby boarding house. It housed an antique store from the 1930s to the 1970s before serving as a decorative fixture on the patio of Vine Park Brewing and later Burger Moe's.

Republicans challenge DFL's hold on District 64 Senate and House seats

By Dale Mischke

The party in control of the Minnesota Legislature hangs in the balance this fall as voters head to the polls to elect their state senators and representatives. All 67 Senate and 134 House seats are on the ballot. Adding to the uncertainty is the recent change in district boundaries following the 2020 Census.

Minnesota's District 64 encompasses the southwest quarter of Saint Paul, including the Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Summit Hill, Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline neighborhoods, the southern part of the Lexington-Hamline and Summit-University neighborhoods, and the western part of the West End neighborhood (see map).

The three DFL incumbents—District 64 Senator Erin Murphy and Representatives Kaohly Her of 64A and Dave Pinto of 64B—are being challenged by Republicans Robert Bushard, Dan Walsh and Lorraine Englund, respectively.

MyVillager asked the candidates about their priorities for the coming term, their qualifications for state legislator, what they would do to fight the rising crime rate, and if they advocate any changes in the regulation of abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade. Here are their answers:

Senate District 64: Bushard vs. Murphy

Murphy, 62, is seeking her second term in the Senate. She served in the Minnesota House from 2007-19. She was the DFL-endorsed candidate for governor in 2018, but lost to Tim Walz in the primary. A



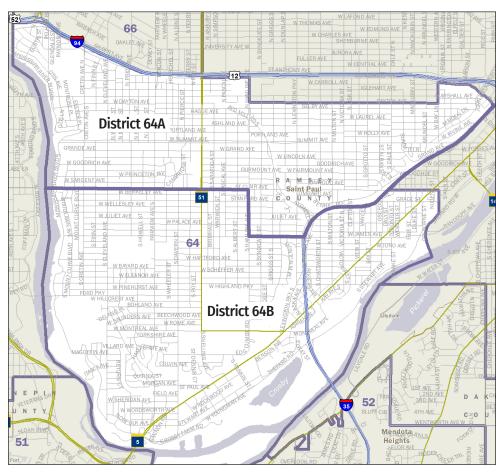
Erin Murphy

graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, she has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Saint Catherine University.

"I'm a registered nurse, a mother and married to Joe Faust, who owns a painting business," Murphy said. "I've spent a lot of time listening to Minnesotans, hearing their stories, talking about their needs, hopes and dreams. I work hard doing everything I can to be an advocate and a voice for Minnesotans."

Murphy said her priority for the coming session "is to pass a state budget that invests in the needs of Minnesotans and makes a serious commitment to fund our schools, raise wages, invest in infrastructure and address racial disparities, a budget that is funded in part by taxing the richest in our state when needed."

To fight crime, Murphy would increase Local Government Aid "so that communities can invest in the things that keep people safe. We need to keep guns out of



The new boundaries of Minnesota Senate District 64 and House Districts 64A and 64B.

the hands of criminals and eliminate ghost guns. Crime often stems from underlying conditions. Supporting those in need will go a long way (in preventing crime)."

As for abortion, Murphy said, "Minnesota should codify the rights that are currently protected in our state constitution and remove current barriers (to abortion) in law. We should make sure we are supporting women and protecting people's ability to make their own reproductive health decisions."

Bushard, 75, is a graduate of Central High School who was trained in electronics and radio communications by the U.S. Air Force. Retired following a career in information technology, he said, "I put my life on



Robert Bushard

the line in Vietnam for my classmates, not Lyndon Johnson. I'm putting my retirement on the line to end crime and inflation and put Minnesota back on the path of liberty and prosperity."

To fight crime, Bushard said, "I will not vote for any financial assistance for Saint Paul or Minneapolis to repair roads, build bicycle lanes or provide real estate tax relief until these cities properly fund and support the police, who protect us from crime.

"I personally am opposed to the (abortion) procedure," Bushard said, "but it's legal in Minnesota, and we have crime, inflation, the economy and education issues to fix"

As for his qualifications, Bushard said, "I'm not a Democrat or a member of the DFL Party that has foisted lockdowns and vaccine mandates on our economy, destroying lives and businesses in the name of protecting people from the pandemic flu."

House District 64A: Walsh vs. Her

Her, 49, is seeking her third term in the House. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in business administration, she earned an MBA in international management at Northeastern Uni-



Kaohly Her

versity in Boston and is working on her doctorate in education leadership at the University of Saint Thomas.

"I've been an effective legislator who is respected by my DFL and GOP colleagues," she said. "In my short time at the Legislature, I've passed bills important to my constituents, such as eliminating child marriages, increasing pediatric emergency mental health beds, prohibiting discrimination by insurers of organ and bone marrow donors, and providing free college tuition for foster children. But important legislation around gun violence prevention, tenant protections, affordable housing, bonding and education remains unfinished. My top priority for the coming term is ensuring my caucus works effectively so

we can pass bills that support Minnesotans."

In response to the car-jacking of one of her constituents, Her carried a bill to fund juvenile delinquency treatment homes and violence prevention and wellness efforts. "This would have provided an option between putting our youths in jail and releasing them back into the public," she said. "I'm committed to this work and will reintroduce the bill in the next biennium."

Her does not believe Minnesota should make changes that make it more difficult to access abortions. "Truthfully, Minnesota has many restrictive and medically unnecessary laws," she said. "We should work to remove these laws so that women have options and full reproductive health care."

Walsh, 52, is a graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall and Saint Cloud State University. He works in software sales and as a real estate broker. "I'm running for the House to see if a change of course is possible," he said.



Dan Walsh

"The current trajectory doesn't look good."

Walsh's top priority is public safety. "Issues around policing are not new problems," he said. "A strong political will is needed. Leaders need to refute the current narrative on policing. When the historical facts are put up against the narrative, a Grand Canyon-wide gap exists between the two.

"I think voters want common sense reestablished, a return to morals and values, certainly a safe community," Walsh said. "What is said and how it is said matters, and by not standing behind law enforcement, leadership has created a perception of an institution corrupt from top to bottom. The average offender is violent and not on the margins. With light sentences, no cash bail, and parolees not committed after reoffending, it isn't difficult to find a cause (for the rise in crime)."

As for changing the law regarding a woman's right to abortion, Walsh said, "it is in the state constitution. I've read how to change the constitution, and it's not a light task, almost impossible."

House District 64B: Englund vs. Pinto

Pinto, 50, is seeking his fifth term in the

House. A graduate of Harvard University with a juris doctorate and MBA from the University of Virginia, he works as a prosecutor in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.



NGLUND VS. PINTO ▶6

Dave Pinto

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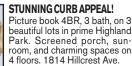




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ost of what we know, our wisdom and knowledge has been passed to us through life experience. More specifically through storytelling. Your story comes from the experiences you have had, the laughter, the tears, the moments of pure joy and the moments of heartbreak.

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Midterm test

Voters evaluate federal, state and local candidates in Nov. 8 election

MyVillager will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 8, to choose among candidates for U.S. representative, governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, state senator and state representative. Each ballot will also have a nonpartisan section with state and local judicial races and local races for county commissioner, county attorney and sheriff. Lilydale and Mendota Heights will each be electing a mayor and two City Council members.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 8. To find out what is on your ballot, consult the sample ballots below. Only contested races with two or more candidates per position are included in the sample ballots. The incumbent in the race, if any, is indicated with an asterisk after his or her name.

For information about voter registration, polling places, absentee ballots, early voting or other voter services, call the office of the Secretary of State at 651-215-1440 or visit sos.state.mn.us. In Saint Paul, you may call 651-266-2171 or visit ramseycounty.us. In Dakota County you may call 651-438-4305 or visit co.dakota.mn.us.

STATEWIDE BALLOTS

Governor and Lieutenant Governor— Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan*, Scott Jensen and Matt Birk, Steve Patterson and Matt Huff, James McCaskel and David Sandbeck, Hugh McTavish and Mike Winter, Gabrielle M. Prosser and Kevin A. Dwire.

Secretary of State—Steve Simon*, Kim Crockett.

State Auditor— Julie Blaha*, Ryan Wilson, Will Finn, Tim Davis

Attorney General—Keith Ellison*, Jim

SAINT PAUL BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 4—May Lor Xiong, Betty McCollum*.

State Senator, District 64—Robert Bushard, Erin Murphy*.

State Senator, District 65—Paul Holmgren, Sandy Pappas*.

State Senator, District 66—Mikki M. Murray, Clare Oumou Verbeten, Jeremy J. Peichel.

State Representative, District 64A—Dan Walsh, Kaohly Vang Her*.

State Representative, District 64B—Lorraine Englund, Dave Pinto*.

State Representative, District 65A—Miki Frost, John Schonebaum, Samakab



Hussein.

State Representative, District 65B—Maria Isa Pérez-Hedges, Kevin Fjelsted.

State Representative, District 66A—Trace Johnson, Leigh Finke.

State Representative, District 66B—Jay Hill, Athena Hollins*.

Ramsey County Commissioner, District 3—David A. Singleton, Trista Matas-Castillo*.

Ramsey County Commissioner, District 4—Darryl Spence, Rena Moran.

Ramsey County Commissioner, District 5—Bill Hosko, Rafael E. Ortega*.

MENDOTA HTS./ LILYDALE BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 2—Tyler Kistner, Paula M. Overby, Angie Craig*.

State Senator, District 53—Chris Rausch, Matt Klein*.

State Representative, District 53A—Mary Frances Clardy, Todd Kruse, Brent Iacobson.

Dakota County Commissioner, District 3— Janine Hudson, Laurie Halverson*.

Dakota County Attorney— Matt Little, Kathy Keena*.

Judge, 1st District Court 11—Matthew R. Hanson, Charles F. Webber*.

Lilydale Mayor—John E. Diehl, Steve Grego.

Mendota Heights Mayor—John P. Maczko, Stephanie Levine*.

Mendota Heights City Council Member (elect two): Sally M. Lorberbaum, Jeff Nath, John R. Mazzitello*.

5 ■ ENGLUND VS. PINTO

"I'm running for reelection to help build a state where everyone can thrive," Pinto said. "My top priority continues to be getting every young child off to a great start. The best way to support children is to support their families and communities. I'll continue to work toward a strong public education system, living-wage jobs, affordable housing and health care, clean water and air, and racial and gender justice.

"I've dedicated my life to public service," Pinto said. "I serve as a prosecutor with a focus on domestic violence and sexual exploitation. At the Capitol, I've led the fight for gun violence prevention. The House DFL majority passed my bill for criminal background checks. We've also passed funding increases for policing and community violence prevention, regulatory

changes to fight catalytic converter theft, and reforms for greater accountability in the criminal legal system. All of these would increase public safety and reduce crime; all have been blocked by the Republican Senate."

As for abortion, Pinto believes "people should be able to make their own health care decisions, including abortion and reproductive health care, with their physician and without government interference. In our state, the right to an abortion is currently protected only by a court interpretation. I favor putting it into statute, increasing protections and support for patients and providers, and supporting those traveling from other states for their care.

Englund, a resident of Macalester-Groveland, did not return *MyVillager*'s candidates questionnaire and could not be reached for comment or a photo.

Lexington Station is rising after all with half of its units affordable

By Jane McClure

he dirt is flying on the site of Lexington Station, a 304unit apartment building that is under construction at 411 N. Lexington Pkwy. "It's been almost five years in the making," said Chris Osmundson, director of development for Alatus, the Minneapolis-based developer. If all goes as planned, the six-story building should be ready for tenants by late 2024 or early 2025.

Lexington Station has had more twists and turns than the typical Saint Paul

development. "It's been an interesting project, obviously," Osmundson said. The development was the subject of numerous neighborhood meetings where it found itself in the middle of battles over gentrification and affordable housing.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) land use committee received a project update on October 17. "We really admire (Alatus') persistence and saving us from a permanent snow pile," said committee cochair Dean Cummings, referring to the vacant lot's use for snow storage over the past few winters.

In February 2021, the site plan for Lexington Station was rejected by the Saint Paul Planning Commission on an 8-7 vote. Alatus appealed the decision to the City Council, which voted 4-3 to uphold the Planning Commission's decision. However, Mayor Melvin Carter vetoed the council action, allowing the project to move forward. Then in November 2021, Saint Paul voters approved a rent control ordinance, placing an annual 3 percent cap on rent increases. As a result, Lexington Station lost much of its financing when two partners pulled out.

However, with a shift in the investment market and a new focus on affordable housing with social benefits, another partner stepped forward and Lexington Station was back in business. That was before the City Council amended the rent control ordinance to exempt new construction for up

Alatus purchased the 2-acre site this summer from the Wilder Foundation for \$2.5 million. In mid-September, Anderson Companies signed an \$8 million contract



An artist's rendering of the six-story mixed-use Lexington Station development on Lexington Parkway just north of I-94.

to pour the footings and construct the foundation.

The building will have a mix of studio, one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments and 288 underground and surface parking spaces. Half of the units will be market-rate. The rest will be affordable to households making 50 to 60 percent of the Twin Cities' area median income. Alatus hopes to obtain project-based housing vouchers to make more of the units affordable. Although a recent request for vouchers was turned down, Alatus will try again next year, Osmundson said.

The building will also have about 2,300 square feet of retail space on the first floor. A rooftop solar array will generate more than half of the electricity required by the building. Renewable energy is a major focus for the project, according to Osmundson, with a heat pump heating and cooling system.

UPDC committee members discussed other local developments that have stalled at its meeting on October 17:

Developer Jon Schwartzman had planned to demolish a small commercial building and two homes at 1708-16 Selby Ave. to make way for a four-story, 32-unit apartment building. The city approved the rezoning of a portion of the site from commercial to multi-family residential. However, the site is now up for sale for \$1.25

The plan for a five-story, 12-unit apartment building on the site of a vacant duplex at 1796 Grand Ave., which was approved by the city in 2020, also appears to have been abandoned. That site was put up for sale this summer for \$695,000.

4d is growing affordable housing

By Jane McClure

program for landlords is keeping 2,244 apartments in 289 buildings affordable to households making 60 percent of the Twin Cities area median income (AMI). The City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved new guidelines for the 4d Affordable Housing Incentive program on October 12 and reauthorized the program for another year.

The 4d program was first implemented in 2019 to preserve what is described as naturally occurring affordable housing, or NOAH. Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who chairs the HRA Board, described the program as a great incentive for landlords to make rental housing more affordable.

The program reduces the property taxes

on a multi-family building if a landlord agrees to keep all or some of the rental Saint Paul property tax abatement units affordable. The city program is tied to a state program that was instituted almost a decade ago. The state program is typically for buildings with 50 or more rental units. The 4d program can apply to much smaller rental buildings.

Saint Paul enrolled 66 properties in the 4d program in 2019 with a total of 410 units. This year 289 properties were enrolled with a total of 2,244 units. Of the units in 2022, 1,474 are affordable to households making 60 percent of the Twin Cities' AMI and 771 are affordable to households making 50 percent of the Twin Cities' AMI.

The program has reduced the property taxes of participating landlords by a total of \$1 million in 2022. It is also supported through the city's Housing Trust Fund with direct grants to landlords of up to \$1,200 per enrolled property.



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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

The winds of politics

Gary Hukriede bemoans the Democrat Party having changed from the party of JFK (*MyVillager* Inbox, September 14). Today, he says, the party is "driven by socialists and communists."

Though I vote Democrat, I am nostalgic for George W. Bush. He wouldn't declare a fair election to be invalid because he lost. He didn't dream of joining the ranks of dictators who are in power indefinitely.

Jane Thomson Summit-University

Single-issue advertising

Minnesota Democrats are a one-trick pony—abortion attack ads. They are betting it all that these ads will carry the day for them. And as pitiful as that is, they likely will be proved right.

T.J.Sexton Highland Park

Maczko has my support

I support the candidacy of John Maczko for mayor of Mendota Heights. It has become abundantly clear that new, competent, and experienced leadership is necessary if the city is to continue to be one of the most desirable metropolitan suburbs in which to live and raise a family.

John grew up, attended public school, and raised his family in Mendota Heights. He served as fire chief in its volunteer fire department for over 30 years. Now retired, he was employed by the city of Saint Paul in its engineering department, where he held many key positions, including city traffic engineer and city engineer. John's experience in these important and fundamental city roles makes him thoroughly and uniquely qualified to serve as the mayor of Mendota Heights. I ask residents to

The expansion and contraction of the American dream

The homes in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods reflect the times in which they were built. Examples include the razed farmhouse at Snelling and Lincoln avenues (now the parking lot of Sherman-Williams), which was probably the original house in the area at a time when people didn't require 20,000 square feet in which to dwell.

Then came the 1920s-30s stucco bungalows and the beautifully crafted brick apartment buildings such as those one sees around Saint Catherine University. We have the GI housing of the 1940s-'50s, such as the duplexes along Ford Parkway, and the 1960s ranch-style houses on Upper and Lower Saint Dennis.

After that, things started spreading to the suburbs and what was built became bigger and bigger. Then, with gasoline prices rising, people stayed in town or moved back and started adding on to the 1920s houses they

bought

Now we are going through an early 21st-century period I call the "chuglies" (for cheap-uglies)— apartment buildings that are jamming every possible occupant into the smallest possible space. They are mostly built in unimaginative cookie-cutter styles of the cheapest possible materials. Style and grace have nothing to do with these buildings, which one can hope don't last more than two generations.

We could have housed 160 single-resident-occupancy people in our 1980s multimillion-dollar, multipleaward-winning jail downtown. But, oh, Ramsey County tore it down about six years ago.

Shame on them!

Kathleen Deming Macalester-Groveland

cast their vote for him.

For the two open City Council seats, I urge you to vote for Sally Lorberbaum and Jeff Nath. Sally and Jeff are highly qualified to serve as council members and will be best able to work with John Maczko to provide the leadership the citizens of Mendota Heights deserve.

> Michael Ziskin Mendota Heights

Walz's record on tax rebate

In the letter, "Vote for prosperity in November" (MyVillager Inbox, October 12), the writer gives her reasons for voting for Republican candidates. However, at least one of her points is factually incorrect. The writer says that "Governor Walz continues to hoard Minnesota's budget surplus by refusing...to give taxpayers a rebate

check." However, a story in the July 28 Saint Paul Pioneer Press was headlined, "Tim Walz repeats call for special session to approve tax rebate. Republicans repeat opposition."

Carol Tauer Highland Park

Do write

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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Madison Julius Cawein





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Plan for off-road trail on Summit unveiled

By Jane McClure

aint Paul's latest plan for a new off-street bicycle and pedestrian trail along Summit Avenue will be unveiled at an open house from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at Hidden River (formerly Ramsey) Middle School, 1700 Summit Ave.

The Summit Avenue trail would provide a connection to the trails along Mississippi River Boulevard and the Samuel Morgan Trail along Shepard Road. Andy Rodriguez, director of the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, said the plan for Summit is about 60 percent complete. The goal is to have it finished by March 2023, he said.

"Our staff is working hard to ensure any future changes to the configuration of Summit Avenue meet the needs of all who use this important corridor now and in the future," Rodriguez said. "We've been listening to community members both locally and regionally, and look forward to sharing a summary of the feedback

master plan."

Summit has some of the city's oldest bike lanes, dating back more than 30 years. While bicycle enthusiasts support the off-road trail, many local residents and historic preservationists are concerned about the loss of green space, the potential impact on boulevard trees and the impact on the historical character of Summit.

The plans for the regional trail will need to be reviewed and approved by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee, the City Council and the Metropolitan Council. The Met Council has the final say because Summit Avenue is part of the regional trail system. Once approved, the project will enter the queue to compete for regional funding, which could happen in 2027-28 at the earliest.

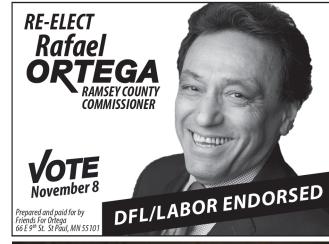
Rodriguez and Saint Paul Public Works director Sean Kershaw said they are frustrated by the "misinformation" about the bike trail project,

we've received as part of the draft especially in regard to its impact on trees in the public right-of-way. They emphasized that the city is looking closely at the impact of the proposed trail on trees and ways to mitigate damage during construction. It is obvious, they added, that people care greatly about Summit Avenue, and that it will be a challenge to make everyone happy.

> "I'm continuing to challenge our design staff on project details, and to consider public input as much as possible," Rodriguez said.

> However, Kershaw noted, if Summit were reconstructed in its current configuration, there would still be some level of tree damage since tree roots have extended beneath the pavement.

> The October 27 open house will commence a 30-day public comment period on the draft master plan. After that date, an online link to comment on the draft master plan will be available at engagestpaul.org/summit.





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Possibility of trail postpones Summit street work

By Jane McClure

he \$6.64 million reconstruction of Summit Avenue between Lexington Parkway and Victoria Street that had been scheduled for 2023 has been postponed due to tentative plans for the reconstruction of Summit with new off-street bike and pedestrian trails. Instead, the city will use the funds for maintenance on that stretch of Summit and the section between Snelling Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard.

The extent of the street maintenance work has not been determined, according to Saint Paul Public Works director Sean Kershaw. However, mill and overlay work is a possibility. Another is microsurfacing, or the placement of a protective sealcoat to extend the life of the pavement.

Mill and overlay and some curb reconstruction was done this year on Summit between Snelling and Lexington Parkway. Mill and overlay is when a street's surface is ground off and replaced with a new surface.



Summit Avenue looking west at its intersection with Lexington Parkway.

The city intends to postpone the full reconstruction of any section of Summit until there is an approved plan and funding in place for new bike lanes along its 4.5-mile length, Kershaw said.

Much of Summit Avenue has not

been fully reconstructed since "William Howard Taft was president," he said, "or about 1910. That being said, we know the pavement conditions on these sections of Summit cannot wait another year without some form of maintenance in 2023."

Council issues first rulings on rent control appeals

By Jane McClure

he Saint Paul City Council's first-ever rulings on appeals of rent increases above the 3 nt maximum in the city's new rent control ordinance had different outcomes for different properties on October 18. Both appeals involved rent increases of close to 8 percent for properties owned by Plymouth-based Dominium. The council denied Hannah Gray's appeal at Union Flats, 787 Hampden Ave., and it reduced to 6.1 percent the rent increase for Katherine Banbury's apartment at the Cambric, 720 E. Seventh St.

Landlords can apply for rent increases above the annual 3 percent cap if they meet certain conditions and can provide evidence for why a higher increase is needed. Inflation, increased operating costs, the cost of needed repairs and a reasonable return on investment are all considered legitimate reasons for seeking a higher rent increase. Tenants must be notified by the landlord whenever a higher rent increase is sought.

Increases of up to 8 percent can be elf-certified by landlords. Increases above 8 percent are reviewed by a legislative hearing officer and the City Council.

Gray's and Banbury's appeals were filed before the City Council amended the rent control ordinance. The changes, which do not take effect until January 1, 2023, include exemptions from the 3 percent cap for affordable housing and for new construction.

Both buildings involved in the appeals fall under the exemption for affordable housing as well as the exemption for new construction. The 20-year exemption for new construction is retroactive to the first 20 years of any apartment building. Union Flats was built in 2018-19. The Cambric was built in 2015-16.

Dominium representatives testified at the hearings about an array of increased operating expenses. Expenses at Union Flats have gone up by more than 9 percent, they said.

The issues concerning the Cambric were more complicated. Dominium used the costs of maintaining comparable properties and then applied those costs to their other buildings that were also subsidized with lowincome housing tax credits. Legislative hearing officer Marcia Moermond said that analysis was not applicable to the Cambric. Instead, city staff recommended a 6.1 percent rent increase.

Both tenants were represented by Jack Cann of the Housing Justice Center. Cann objected to the rationale used for the Cambric, saying Dominium is well over its projections for return on investment. "They are not hurting," he said.

f in 🛠

Redressing the past

Ketz is recognized for her work restoring cultures lost to history

"We set up this

company right at the

point that Saint Paul

was beginning to re-

envision itself around

the Mississippi

River.... We talked

about the importance

of place and culture.

It really resonated."

By Anne Murphy

nne Ketz has traveled widely as CEO and service director of 106 Group. Based in Saint Paul's Energy Park, the cultural resource planning firm that Ketz co-founded 30 years ago with her husband David Ketz has projects throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"Whenever the plane touches down at the airport here, I'm always so glad that this is home," said the longtime Macalester-Groveland resident. "In Saint Paul

there's still a sense of the importance of your fellow man, your fellow humans, your neighbors, of taking care of each other, of understanding how you're connected to a greater community."

Those values are behind Ketz's recent nomination to the Minnesota Women Business Owners' Hall of Fame. Ketz and four others will be inducted into the Hall during a November 3 gala at the Metropolitan Ballroom and

Clubroom in Golden Valley. Ketz is being recognized for her work with 106 Group to increase the knowledge, understanding and preservation of cultural sites and resources around the world.

"I feel incredibly honored," Ketz said. "It was very unexpected. And although the award is in my name, the company wouldn't be what it is without my husband and business partner, David. I might have made a great career as a historian or archaeologist, but without the synergy of the two of us, 106 Group would not have accomplished what it has."

The name 106 Group comes from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. "That is the law that requires the kind of work we do in historical and archaeological investigations and regulatory processes," Ketz said.

Ketz grew up in the United Kingdom,

and her parents supported her attending graduate school in the United States. "That was 35 years ago," she said. "At the time, there was still a very strong social class structure in the UK. I remember my father saying that in America I was going to have more opportunities to really blossom, and that's exactly what happened."

Ketz met her future husband in graduate school on the East Coast. "It's no accident that David and I decided to put down roots in Saint Paul," she said. "We came here because of my husband's family connections.

> but we saw so much more here. We decided that we really wanted to work together and build this company. Our timing was really quite remarkable. We set up this company right at the point that Saint Paul was beginning to re-envision itself around the Mississippi River. Up until that point, the city was very much a drive-through area. It was developed around I-94.

"We started talking and working with some of the

visionaries from the Riverfront Corporation and the city's parks and rec and planning departments," Ketz said. "We talked about the importance of place and culture. It really resonated with the people who were trying to rethink Saint Paul and how that relationship with the river should be. So we were incredibly fortunate. We got involved with those very early projects."

Ketz is proud of 106 Group's work on the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and its Wakan Tipi Center, which recognizes Wakan Tipi Cave as a sacred site for the Dakota people. The center "is going to be a gateway to a much broader experience of indigenous cultures and peoples," she said.

Another important project for 106 Group was African American Context, a study of the historical development of Saint Paul's African American neighborhoods. The project provided the framework for a bet-



Anne Ketz, CEO of 106 Group, displays one of the current projects of her Saint Paul firm. She will be inducted on November 3 in the Minnesota Women Business Owners' Hall of Fame. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ter understanding of the key historical, architectural and cultural sites for the city's African American community.

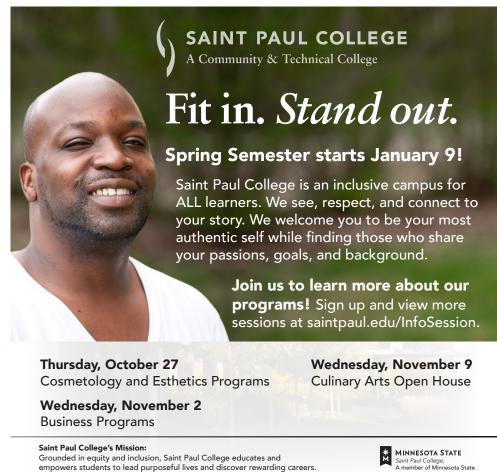
Ketz is also enthused about 106 Group's work with the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. "They're in the process of planning and developing a new cultural heritage center," she said. 106 Group has also been working to restore the Mohawk homeland known as Akwesasne in New York, Ontario

"We all struggle with trying to improve on decisions made in the past that were wrong in areas such as infrastructure," Ketz said. "That people are trying is a testament to the community. Saint Paul has that sense of community—the caring, the constantly wanting to make things better,

while not taking for granted certain parts of the past. That's part of what makes Saint Paul one of the best-kept secrets in

Ketz is hoping that her recognition by the Minnesota Women Business Owners inspires other women to pursue their interests and realize the importance of family support, role models and mentors.

"I've had many mentors in my life," she said, "people who've helped me get to where I am now. You don't necessarily have to have the strong husband that I've had to be able to do this. But you do need strong mentors and friends who understand you and what you're trying to do and who can provide that support network. Women don't have to go it alone."





News Briefs

Fire-damaged Merriam Park building may be replaced with variance for front-yard setback

A Merriam Park building that was damaged in a fire and later demolished may be replaced on its existing footings with the approval on October 3 of a front-yard setback variance. The Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) unanimously approved GV Investments LLC's request to construct a new two-story commercial structure at 15 Oakley Ave. with the same 24.5-foot setback from the right-of-way.

The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 3, which requires a setback of from 0 to 10 feet. Removing the footings and constructing a new building to meet the required setback would have required regrading the property.

City transfers title of 38 more properties to school district

The cleanup of property records between the city of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Public Schools continued on October 5 with City Council approval of the conveyance of 38 city-owned properties to the school district.

A recent title search by school district administrators identified 51 properties that have long been under the jurisdiction of the district but the title for which was in the city's name. The public schools in Saint Paul were governed by the city until 1965 when the separate school district was created. It is not clear why the titles of those properties were not transferred earlier, according to Bruce Engelbrekt, real estate manager for the city.

Six city properties were conveyed to the school district last February. The properties conveyed on October 5 included such local schools as Bridgeview, Global Arts Plus Lower and Upper, Hidden River (formerly Ramsey) Middle, Central High, Four Seasons A+ Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion (formerly Homecroft Elementary), J.J. Hill Montessori, Randolph Heights Elementary and Groveland Park Elementary.

Seven properties still await City Council action, Engelbrekt said. The conveyance of those is considered to be more complex. In some cases, a school building shares space with a city recreation center. In others, a ballfield is shared. Those transfers may require more than a simple quit claim process, which has been done with the 44 other property transfers.

Hearing slated on long-awaited update of city's river regulations

The Saint Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on its draft regulations related to the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) at 8:30 a.m. Friday, November 18, at City Hall. The changes are needed for the city to comply with Minnesota's latest river corridor rules, which were adopted in 2017.

The lengthy and complex process of amending the city's river regulations has been a frustration for Highland Park residents living near a proposed four-story, 91-unit apartment building at the northeast corner of Mississippi River Boulevard and Highland Parkway. Under the current height limits, developer Paster Properties can construct the apartment building up to 50 feet high. Under the new rules, the height limit would be 35 feet.

"I think we're all anxious to get this done," said principal city planner Allan Torstenson, who presented the 138-page draft report to the Planning Commission on October 14.

The draft amendments are based on a 2019 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) model ordinance with specific provisions, definitions and regulations necessary to comply with the MRCCA rules. Protecting scenic resources and river views are a primary focus for the MRCCA, which covers the 72-mile stretch of the river through the seven-country Twin Cities area.

Torstenson outlined the years of back and forth discussions over the amendments, with public hearings, exchanges with the DNR and even a proceeding before an administrative law judge. Saint Paul has also met extensively with other cities' staff working on their own ordinances.

Last summer, the DNR found Saint Paul's draft ordinance to be in substantial compliance with what it has proposed, and gave it a conditional OK. That sent the rules back to the Planning Commission and eventually the City Council.

Adding a layer of complexity is the need to meet changing federal Emergency Management Agency requirements for flood insurance eligibility. In areas near Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, there are other height regulations.

For more information on the draft ordinance, visit tinyurl.com/bdx38yfs.

Selby Commons gets permit for conversion to affordable housing

Selby Commons, a 120-year-old commercial and residential building on the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Milton Street, is one step closer to its transformation to all housing. The Saint Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee recommended approval of a conditional use permit on October 20. The full Planning Commission will review the recommendation on October 28.

The Planning Commission had earlier recommended that the City Council rezone the building and its parking lot from general business and parking to traditional neighborhoods 2.

The two-story building has been owned by the Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation (TCHDC) for many years. It has 10 affordable housing units on its second floor and those units would remain.

The first floor has been occupied by an array of businesses over the years, including a day care center, insurance offices and a dance studio. The rezoning and conditional use permit would allow the first-floor retail spaces to be converted into eight two-bedroom apartments that are affordable to households making 60 percent of the Twin Cities' area median income. Rezoning the parking lot would allow for future housing or mixed-use development.

Planning commissioner Jake Reilly praised the attention to detail that TCHDC has demonstrated in adding housing yet retaining the building's character. "It's unusual to see such care taken," he said.

With commercial to residential conversion, the city's zoning code requires that elements of traditional storefront design be retained when possible. That includes door and window openings.

The Selby Avenue side of the building has five primary doors; four would be replaced with windows. One of the two doors facing Milton Street would be replaced in the same manner. The primary entrances to the new apartments would instead be off a shared interior hallway. Johnson said retaining the current doorways would create security issues for the residents. Removing the recessed entries also adds interior space for the apartments.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.





Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Thousands of dollars worth of items were stolen from a residence on the 1900 block of Pinehurst Avenue between 3-5 p.m. on October 12.

—A burglary was reported at the Twin Cities hydroelectric plant, 965 S. Mississippi River Blvd., at 3:14 a.m. on October 15.

—A break-in of an apartment building was reported on the 500 block of South Snelling Avenue at 6:04 p.m. on October

Theft—Thefts were reported from five vehicles at Hidden Falls Park on October 3, 15 and 17.

—A trailer was stolen at 740 S. Mississippi River Blvd. between October 7-10.

—A male suspect stole more than \$1,000 in eyeglasses from Pearle Vision, 2024 Ford Pkwy., at 11:44 a.m. on October 11.

—Bicycles worth more than \$1,000 were reported stolen outside Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., on October 11, and on the 1200 block of Hartford Avenue on October 13.

—A window was broken and a purse was reported stolen from a vehicle at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., between 2-3:23 p.m. on October 18.

—A running vehicle was reported stolen at Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, 1930 W. Seventh St., at 8:25 p.m. on October 6. A 34-year-old man was later arrested in Maplewood for theft and fleeing police.

Assault—A 29-year-old man was arrested for theft and felony assault of a security guard after he was caught shoplifting at Target, 2080 Ford Pkwy., at 2:35 p.m. on October 4.

Miscellaneous—Criminal damage to property was reported at Erik's Bikes and Boards, 2191 Ford Pkwy., at 4 a.m. on October 9.

—A man said his ex-girlfriend smashed his vehicle with a hammer on the 1600 block of Beechwood Avenue at 11:33 a.m. on October 11.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A 17-year-old boy was able to run away after four males reportedly tried to steal his shoes at Central High School at 3:04 p.m. on October 10.

Theft—Bicycles worth more than \$1,000 were reported stolen on the 1100 block of Hague Avenue on October 3, and the 1200 block of Selby Avenue on October 11.

—Four juveniles were seen in a stolen van at the Midway Target at 10:41 a.m. on October 12. They fled when police arrived, but one was caught and was facing charges of tampering with a stolen vehicle.

Assault—An assault was reported at Aldi, 1134 University Ave., at 7 p.m. on

Predatory offender public meeting set

notification meeting regarding seven Level III predatory sex offenders registering to live in Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 1, at the Western District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave.

Locally, the list includes James Nicholas Dahlager, 41, who has registered to live on the 2400 block of Stewart Avenue; Eugene Paul Glaraton, 53, on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue; Matthew Antonio Johnson, 34, on the 2100 block of University Avenue; and Christopher Nicholas Sonsalla, 40, on the 800 block of Armstrong Avenue.

For information, contact officers Koski or Doverspike at 651-266-5617 or 651-266-5871. Information about other predatory offenders in the area can be found by visiting https://coms.doc.state.mn.us/publicregistrantsearch.

October 7.

Weapons—A juvenile with active warrants for weapons possession was arrested at Central High School at 9:07 a.m. on October 6.

Miscellaneous—A 29-year-old man was cited for trespassing inside the former Saint Paul Casket Company building, 1222 University Ave., at 7:14 a.m. on October 9.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 1200 block of Edgcumbe Road between 8:43-10:43 p.m. on October 15.

Theft—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 1600 block of Grand Avenue around midnight on October 5.

—Motorcycles were reported stolen on the 200 block of Woodlawn Avenue on October 11, and the 1300 block of Grand on October 15.

—Trailers were reported stolen on the 1100 block of Palace Avenue on October 12, and the 1700 block of Grand Avenue on October 19

—A gun was stolen from a vehicle on the 2100 block of Stanford Avenue between noon-4 p.m. on October 12.

Assault—A man was shot twice in the leg during an aggravated assault on the 1800 block of Summit Avenue at 2:47 a.m. on October 10.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A television was reported stolen from a building on the 2500 block of Lexington Avenue at 4:12 a.m. on October 1.

Miscellaneous—An officer pulled over a vehicle for speeding on I-35E and Highway 13 at 3:19 a.m. on October 1, and saw the

male driver and female passenger switch seats after their vehicle came to a stop. The man was driving after the cancellation of his license and was taken to jail.

—A man was arrested for an outstanding theft warrant after he set off a burglary alarm at a construction site on the 700 block of South Plaza Drive at 4:56 a.m. on October 6. He told officers that he entered the property to use the bathroom.

—A suspect was cited for disorderly conduct and obstruction after trying to drive away drunk and fighting with officers at a business on the 1300 block of Highway 13 at 8:08 p.m. on October 8.

<u>Merriam Park</u>

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 1700 block of Selby Avenue at 3:17 p.m. on October 9.

Theft—Motorcycles were reported stolen on North Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue on October 10, and the 1600 block of Ashland Avenue on October 14-15.

Miscellaneous—A victim said someone punctured a hole in her vehicle's gas tank on the 1800 block of Feronia Avenue at 11:09 a.m. on October 11.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—The rear window was broken out, the ignition was damaged and a camera was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Marshall Avenue between 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on October 11.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A residential burglary was reported on the 700 block of Summit Avenue during the evening of October 8-9.

—Jewelry was reported stolen during a home break-in on the 1000 block of Lombard Avenue at 7:51 p.m. on October 15.

Theft—Several items worth more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue on October 9.

—A suspect ran into Fjällräven, 797 Grand Ave., and quickly ran out with more than \$1,000 in stolen merchandise at 4:53 p.m. on October 17.

Miscellaneous—A 25-year-old man was cited for trespassing inside the vestibule of U.S. Bank, 1071 Grand Ave., on two occasions during the evening of October 5-6.

Summit-University

Burglary—Estetica Salon, 165 N. Western Ave., was burglarized during the evening of October 5-6.

Theft—A motorcycle was reported stolen on the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue during the evening of October 7-8.

Assault—An assault with a knife was reported in an apartment on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue on October 6-7.

Weapons—Officers recovered 60 shell casings after responding to a report of gun-

fire near Fisk Street and Selby Avenue at 8:56 p.m. on October 6.

—A fight was followed by gunfire at a funeral on the 600 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:52 p.m. on October 7. No injuries were reported.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported at the offices of the American Lung Association, 490 Concordia Ave., at 12:30 p.m. on October 3.

West End

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 700 block of Tuscarora Avenue at 7:51 a.m. on October 9.

—A 25-year-old man was arrested for burglary at the Marathon Gas Station, 675 W. Seventh St., at 2:52 a.m. on October 10.

—Grand Stop Station, 236 Grand Ave., was broken into at 3:18 a.m. on October 12.

Theft—Construction material valued at more than \$1,000 was reported missing on Montreal Avenue and Elway Street at 7:50 a.m. on October 10.

—A 44-year-old man was arrested for felony receipt of stolen property and several outstanding warrants after he was found driving a stolen vehicle near McDonald's, 551 Jefferson Ave., at 3:19 p.m. on October 13. A 34-year-old female passenger also was cited for tampering with a motor vehicle.

Assault—An assault with a knife was reported on the 800 block of Otto Avenue at 8:31 p.m. on October 8.

—Shots were reported near the White Squirrel Bar, 974 W. Seventh St., at 1:22 a.m. on October 12. Shortly afterward a victim with a gunshot wound to the chest arrived at United Hospital.

—A 55-year-old woman was cited for assaulting a security guard at United Hospital at 9 p.m. on October 11.

Arson—A fire was reported in a dumpster at 2:56 a.m. on October 16 near the Downtowner Woodfire Grill, 253 W. Seventh St.

—Arson was reported on Irvine and Western avenues at 9:51 a.m. on October 18.

Weapons—A man was threatened by a male carrying a gun at 3:49 a.m. on October 12 on the 800 block of Otto Avenue.

Miscellaneous—A 57-year-old man was arrested for DWI at 7:38 p.m. on October 8 on West Seventh and Chestnut streets after he was found asleep behind the steering wheel of his vehicle.

—A stolen vehicle was recovered after being involved in a hit-and-run accident on the 800 block of Randolph Avenue at 10:34 p.m. on October 11.

—Felony damage to property was reported at Keller Fence, 505 Randolph Ave., between October 10-12, the 300 block of North Chestnut Street on October 11, at Bad Weather Brewing Company, 414 W. Seventh St., on October 11-12, and on the 100 block of Forbes Avenue between October 14-16.

UST plans to fill neighborhood liaison position, change certain duties

By Jane McClure

he University of Saint Thomas hopes to fill the vacant post of its longtime neighborhood liaison early next year. Neighbors had been asking questions about the position ever since former liaison Amy Gage retired in August. Though the job will be filled, there will be changes in how some of the duties are handled, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee was told on October 11.

Earlier in the month, the Union Park District Council passed a motion asking that UST fill the liaison post. Until that happens, several university staff members and offices are dividing the tasks, said UST chief of staff Amy McDonough.

The job opening is to be posted soon, with the goal of having a new hire in place by the start of the spring semester.

McDonough said one change being made is that instead of the neighborhood liaison and public safety staff both responding to such calls as off-campus student parties, they will now be answered by public safety personnel first. They will then provide information to the liaison and other UST staff.

UST assistant dean of students Josh

Hengemuhle said his office will continue to handle complaints when students violate the school's code of conduct.

The university is continuing to work closely with landlords of student housing. Hengemuhle noted that in one case this fall students had their lease terminated after a couple of large off-campus gatherings.

UST has a stepped-up public safety response on weekends and for large events, McDonough said. School security and offduty Saint Paul police handle those duties, which will not change.

UST has had a neighborhood liaison in place since 1990 when former City Council

staff member Andrea Albrecht was chosen to fill the post. John Hershey then took the helm for 16 years before retiring in 2014. Gage was hired to succeed Hershey.

The position has evolved over the years to become the director of neighborhood and community relations. It has gone beyond working with student neighbors and party houses to also focusing on city issues, such as zoning code changes.

Most recently, Gage worked with neighbors of the Highland Bridge development on the site of the former Ford plant, where UST is considering constructing a new athletic complex.

ON THE TOWN

Life with mother

Brothers get a second chance to heal wounds of childhood in 'Boys Room'

By Frank Jossi

fter a two-year hiatus brought about by the pandemic, Gremlin Theatre will return to the stage on November 4 with a drama about two brothers who return to their childhood home to escape the struggles of adulthood.

Written by Joel Drake Johnson, The Boys Room is a study of both comedy and pathos as the brothers move back in with their mother. Artistic director Peter Hansen said the play is typical of the Gremlin's oeuvrean original drama largely unknown except for its inaugural production in Chicago a decade

"I like either new plays that nobody's heard of or old plays that nobody's heard of and then once in a while a play that everyone's heard of," Hansen said. "This is a good play that feels a lot more timely than it did a few years ago. When I think of where we are in society right now, there's a crisis of being a grownup, and this play is about that."

A resident of Macalester-

The Boys Room is about "living in a family" and finding out "how hard it can be to get people to love one another," Kelsey said.

Groveland, Hansen plays the younger brother, Tim, a middleaged man whose job, marriage and life have all fallen apart. Dan Hopman plays the older brother, Ron, whose wife has cancer and who is hoping to escape the consequences of that disease.

"Nobody can say 'I love you' in the play," Hansen said. "As human beings, we let people down. We need to rebuild relationships. We have to recover from the stupid things we do. But our lives are interwoven, and we do find a way."

The Boys Room is directed by Brian Balcom, a Chicago resident with whom Hansen has often collaborated. In fact, Balcom is the one who suggested the play to Hansen.

Susan (played by Linda Kelsey) consoles her granddaughter Roann (Lucy Farrell) in a rehearsal for *The Boys Room*, opening November 4 at Gremlin Theatre.

Lucy Farrell, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, plays Ron's teenage daughter, Roann, who shows up at her grandmother's home to ask him when he plans to return to their

Linda Kelsey plays the brothers' mother, Susan. A Merriam Park resident, Kelsey starred as Billie Newman in the 1970s television show "Lou Grant," a role for which she received three Golden Globe and five Primetime Emmy nominations.

Kelsey views The Boys Room partly through the lens of the pandemic when many adult children came home to live with their parents. "A lot of families had to live intergenerationally because of the circumstances, she said. "The adult children may have been visiting their parents and couldn't go home during the lockdown. People who never expected to be living together ended up in the same house."

Kelsey described her character as "complicated" with a problematic personality shaped by events that are revealed over the course of the play. The Boys Room is about "living in a family" and finding out "how hard it can be to get people to love one another," she said.

It has been two years since Kelsey has acted in theater, and she is happy to be performing. "It's a joy," she said. "I feel at home again, being with actors, working on stage and having deep discussions about the characters we play and what the play is about. It's what I love to

Keeping the Gremlin going through the COVID era was challenging, Hansen said. He wrote three different business plans during the lockdown, considering what to do during the first four months, the first eight months and then a year afterward, and he followed all



Ron (played by Dan Hopman) stands above his defeated brother, Tim, (Peter Christian Hansen) in rehearsal for Gremlin Theatre's The Boys Room.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

three of them.

The Gremlin's supporters stepped up to help the theater through the initial shock of the shutdown. "They helped us in our time of need, and that was beautiful," Hansen said. Then an audiovisual company agreed to lease the Gremlin's space. The company, Avex, turned the theater into a production studio for online events. "They helped us keep the lights on, and we helped them transition to a slightly different business model," he said. "We were lucky."

The Gremlin secured an economic injury disaster loan as well as a grant from the state of Minnesota's Save Our Stages program. In January, the theater reopened its stage for other

companies, including Dark & Stormy Productions and its presentation of God of Carnage earlier this year with Hansen in

Though the Gremlin's schedule is getting back to normal, the theater's finances may be in more peril today than during the two years of COVID. Avex has moved on to a new location, and "we're losing more money now than last year," Hansen said.

The Boys Room will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. Sundays from November 4-27 on the stage at 550 N. Vandalia St. Tickets are \$32, \$28 for seniors, half price for patrons under age 30. For reservations, call 1-888-718-4253 or visit gremlintheatre.org.



Information Night

Preschool, Elementary & Middle School Principal presentation and meet with faculty. Wednesday, November 9 • 6:30pm Registration not required.



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ON THE TOWN Briefly

Books

The Friends of the Wentworth Library's Fall Book Sale will be held from October 28 through November 3 at Wentworth Library, 199 E. Wentworth Ave. in West Saint Paul. A wide selection of books, audio books, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes and magazines will be available (cash or check, no credit cards). Members of the Friends may take advantage of the preview sale from 1-5 p.m. Friday (a membership good through 2023 is \$10). The public sale will follow from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A bag sale will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host a reading with author Marcie Rendon and her new Cash Blackbear mystery, *Sinister Graves*, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 2; and a Literary Bridges reading with Asian American writers Lia Rivamonte, Wang Ping, Npaus Baim and Minna Zhou at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 6. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

A free poetry workshop will be offered by Cracked Walnut from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, November 12, in the first floor meeting room of the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Bring eight to 10 copies of an original poem to share and have critiqued. Please RSVP to donna(a) donnaisaacpoet.com.

Dance

The Seven Deadly Sins, an immersive performance, is being presented through November 6 by Collide Theatrical Dance Company. Meet the lustful broker, gluttonous bachelorette, greedy fashionista and others in stories told through dance and popular music. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays in the Prior Works Building, 755 N. Prior Ave., Suite 208. Tickets are \$32-\$45 and include a beverage.

Exhibits

Examine history with the skills of detective Sherlock Holmes in a new exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Holmes, a creation of author Arthur Conan Doyle, was ahead of his time. Learn how he used seemingly trivial observations to solve some of the most puzzling mysteries. Then see how his techniques are used today in criminal investigations. The exhibit will remain on view through April 2. Admission to the history center is \$12, \$10 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Visit mnhs.org or call 651-259-3000.

Explore the nooks and crannies of the historic Washburn A Mill from 2:30-4 p.m. Saturday, October 29, or from 10:30 a.m.-noon on Sunday, November 13. The National Historic Landmark is the home of the Minnesota Historical Society's Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in



"Between the Stripes, Under the

Stars." Artwork by 10 women that answers the question, "Who is an American?," will be displayed from November 5 through December 11 in the Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at Saint Catherine University. Participating artists Hend Al-Mansour, Susan Armington, Nida Bangash, Roya Farassat, Nina Ghanbarzadeh, Farida Hughes, Fawzia Khan, Ifrah Mansour, Kimberlee Joy Roth and Helen Zughaib will attend the opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, November 5. Admission is free and open to all. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

Minneapolis. 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 is \$16, \$14 for seniors and college students, \$12 for children ages 5-17. Visit mnhs.org/millcity.

Family

The Saint Paul Public Library will offer the following events for young children in November: Creative Movement with TU Dance at 10:30 a.m. November 2 and 9 at Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St., and at 10:30 a.m. November 4 and 18 at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; an interactive concert at 10:30 a.m. November 15 at West Seventh Library, 265 Oneida St.; interactive arts at 10:30 a.m. November 15 at Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy.; and clowning with Cahoot Theatre at 10:30 a.m. November 29 at Highland Park Library. Call 651-266-7000.

Film

Seven German films about women who strive to instigate change will be screened on November 3-6 at Main Cinema, 115 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. Sponsored by the Germanic-American Institute, the inaugural Twin Cities German Film Festival will feature Cleo (2019), about a woman who hunts down a mysterious clock with the power to turn back time, at 7 p.m. Thursday; Amelie Rennt (2017), a coming-of-age adventure set in the Alps, at 10 a.m. Friday; Unser Kurzes Leben (1980), about an idealistic woman who leaves her job and marriage for a fresh start, at 7 p.m. Friday; Mission Ulya Funk

(2021), about a girl who steals a hearse and travels across Eastern Europe to witness the impact of an asteroid, at 1 p.m. Saturday; Solo Sunny (1979), the story of an aspiring singer, at 7 p.m. Saturday; Sputnik! (2013), about a young girl who is about to change the course of history, at 1 p.m. Sunday; and Nasim (2021), a documentary about an Afghan mother in the largest refugee camp in Europe, at 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance at gaimn.org/filmfest.

The Minnesota JCC will present the Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival with five live and 10 virtual screenings from November 10-19. The schedule includes an opening night party and the Israeli film Karaoke at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 10, at the Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave.; the documentary Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17, at the Capp Center; and a closing night party with the Coen brothers' A Serious Man at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, November 19, at Main Cinema, 115 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. For information on the virtual lineup, visit minnesotajcc.org.

Music

The Seward Concert Band will open its season with the concert program, "Crazy for Cartoons," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 28, in the auditorium of Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Revisit the cartoons of childhood through works by Rossini, Liszt, Strauss, Julius Fucik, Christopher Lennertz and Robert Sheldon. Tickets are by donation with \$6 suggested, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for students. Visit sewardconcertband.org.

The Bakken Ensemble will be joined by guest violinist Sarah Grimes, violist Hyobi Sim and pianist Hanna Hyun-Jung Kim in works by Leonard Bernstein, Jessie Montgomery and Erich Wolfgang Korngold on Sunday, November 6. The music will begin at 4 p.m. at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25. Visit bakkenensemble.org.

Cross Community Players will perform choral and solo selections from Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!, Cinderella, The King & I, South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Carousel and more at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 6, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is by donation.

The 35-voice Kantorei will be joined by pianist Dan Bridston on Saturday, October 29, in music of healing and restoration. The program "Will We Remember?" is anchored by Cambridge composer Joshua Shank's "He Was Singing," a piece dedicated to Ben Larson, a missionary who was buried alive in the Haiti earthquake of 2010 and could be heard singing to himself before he died. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$25. Audience members are encouraged to wear masks. Visit kantorei.net/oct-tix.

Uilleann piper Tom Klein will be honored

for a lifetime of contributions to traditional music in an Irish Arts Minnesota program and concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 11, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. Tickets are \$15 at the door. A cash bar will be available. Guests are asked to bring a dessert to share.

Chinese pianist Haochen Zhang, winner of the Van Cliburn Gold Medal, will perform in recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 13, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. His program will include Schubert's Allegretto and Sonata in G Major and Liszt's Transcendental Etudes. Tickets are \$40. Visit chopinsocietymn.org or call 612-822-0123.

The 40-voice Singers in Accord will explore the impact of sound and singing on the soul at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 12, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. The concert will include works by Dale Warland, Moses Hogan and Jake Runestad's "A Silence Haunts Me." Tickets are available at the door and at singersinaccord.org.

Theater

Fire in the New World, a new detective caper from playwright Rick Shiomi featuring hard-boiled private eye Sam Shikaze, is being performed by Full Circle Theater on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through November 6. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

From Tudor queens to pop icons, the drama Six remixes 500 years of historical heartbreak as a celebration of 21st-century girl power. The Tony Award-winning musical by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss is playing through November 6 at the Ordway. It features an all-woman cast and an all-woman band. For show times and tickets, which start at \$40, call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

J.C. Cutler plays a struggling middle-aged actor who inherits a shabby old coat from a deceased uncle and learns about its rich history in *Uncle Philip's Coat*. The one-man show by playwright Matty Selman is playing through November 13 at Six Points Theater. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For reservations and COVID protocol, visit sixpointstheater.org.

Weathering, a sobering drama about excruciating loss and the health disparities in maternal and infant care, will open on October 13 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Playwright Harrison David Rivers' commission reflects the pain of generations of Black women in a story of deliverance from grief. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 4 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through November 6. Tickets are \$20-\$45. Masks are required. Call 651-224-3180 or visit penumbratheatre.org.

FRIDAY/OCTOBER 28

THE INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGICAL and Interdisciplinary Studies will host a free presentation by William Miller on water and how it is being affected by chemicals and plastics at 7:30 p.m. at the Anderson Center at the University of Saint Thomas. A buffet dinner will precede the program at 6:30 p.m. For reservations, email alan@astonishme.org.

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 30

ACT TWO, a discussion group for men who are planning their life after retirement, will hold its first meeting

KIOSK

from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Family Service, 1633 W. Seventh St. The group is facilitated by Stan Lapidos, who retired two years ago after a 45-year career in the field of aging and health care. For reservations, contact Anne Myers at amyers@jfssp.org or 651-359-7775.

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 3

Boston College history professor Charles R. Gallagher, author of *Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten History of*

the Christian Front, will address Christian nationalism in America, its history and resurgence at noon in Schoenecker Hall on the lower level of the Iversen Center for Faith at the University of Saint Thomas. Admission is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 12

THE WOMEN'S DRUM CENTER will hold a benefit concert and silent auction this evening in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The silent auction begins at 6 p.m. The concert follows at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

SPORTS



The Wright Call
By Dave Wright

Nova volleyball sets sight on state

rom the first day of practice nearly three months ago, Nova Classical Academy's volleyball team has been laser-focused. The Knights remember well how close the West End charter school came a year ago to making it to the state high school tournament for the first time, falling just short to Mounds Park in the Section 4AA championship match. Head coach Tom Dobbs saw what he had returning and decided this year was the time for his team to make the move to the next level.

"Some of these girls have been playing together here and in the off-season for 4-5 years," he said. "They know each other well and are very mature."

Accordingly, Dobbs upped the ante and got his team matches this fall against schools previously considered to be out of the Knights' range. They took on much larger Highland Park, Central, Hill-Murray, Andover and Forest Lake and beat them all, losing just two sets in the process. They also went to the Minnesota Volleyball Showcase to tangle with Pequot Lakes and Watertown-Mayer, schools at their level of play who have 37 wins between them.

The Pequot Lakes win stands out in Dobbs' mind. The Knights lost the first set 25-21, but rallied 25-19 and 15-9 in the next two sets to win the contest at the September showcase. At the time, Pequot Lakes was undefeated and ranked No. 1 in Class AA.

When all was said and done, the Knights finished the regular season 28-0, losing just seven sets along the way. "We've had a great season so far," Dobbs said. "I thought we might lose a couple of times, but overall I had high expectations."

Those expectations were fulfilled in part due to the efforts of the three Ball sisters. Seniors Samantha and Allison lead the Knights on the front line, often taking a feed from sophomore setter Ava. The sisters also have 175 service aces among them.

But numbers only tell a small part of the story. "These kids have been focused from the start," Dobbs said. "They understand that nothing is given to them."

They also understood that their excellent regularseason numbers are already old news. The Knights will

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Spartans double up

SPA boys top Redhawks for state soccer berth

By Bill Wagner

he top-seeded Saint Paul Academy boys' soccer team defeated second-seeded Minnehaha Academy 1-0 in a thrilling Section 3A final on October 18 to earn a trip to the state tournament for the first time in 10 years.

The winning goal came off the foot of senior Spartan standout Cooper Bollinger Danielson after being set up by sophomore midfielder Ezra Straub. Cooper eluded the Minnehaha defense and ripped a far-post shot from 20 yards out in the match's 76th minute to carry SPA to victory. It was Bollinger Danielson's 20th goal of the season.

Earlier that evening and playing on the same field at Saint Thomas Academy, the SPA girls got the game-winner from Bollinger Danielson's sister, Sawyer, to beat Minnehaha by an identical 1-0 score (see accompanying story).

"Isn't that amazing?" exclaimed SPA boys' coach Max Lipset.

The Spartan boys (11-3-3) finished second to Minnehaha (13-4-1) in the Independent Metro Athletic Conference this fall, but had beaten the Redhawks twice during a four-game winning streak before the playoffs.

SPA had outscored its opponents 23-5 in the second halves of games this year. The Spartans shook off a three-game losing streak in midseason before mounting an 8-0-1 run that ended with the section title.

In the first half in that championship tilt, the Redhawks hit the crossbar once. But aside from a late-game corner kick that produced a flurry of activity in front of the net, that would be as close as Minnehaha would come to scoring. Coach Lipset, a former SPA player himself, couldn't have been prouder of his team.



SPA senior Cooper Bollinger Danielson, seen pivoting for the ball between the Redhawks' Donovan Sinicropi and Malachi Snell, got the game-winner in the Spartans' 1-0 victory over Minnehaha Academy in the section title game on October 18. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Lipset said he knew his team had the confidence required to get to state after his squad defeated Minnehaha 2-0 when the two teams met for the first time this season. The Redhawks were rated No. 1 in the state in Class A at the time. "But it didn't feel like an upset to us," Lipset said.

The Spartans were dominating en route to the section finals. They defeated Nova Classical Academy 5-0 in the quarterfinals and then Saint Croix Lutheran 4-0 in the semifinals.

"I knew that our skill level was there to get to state," Lipset said. "We defended really well against (Minnehaha). We didn't give them much."

Lipset saluted the efforts of several individuals for the win. He said junior

goalie Cooper Olson has all-state potential. Senior center midfielder Yash Kshirsagar missed four weeks with a broken leg, but returned for the playoffs and set up Straub before he fed Bollinger Danielson for the winning goal. Junior midfielder Orion Kim broke his thumb in the first game of the season this year, but is healthy now

Last year, the Spartans were rated No. 1 in the state, but lost in the section finals.

No. 4 SPA will face No. 5 Saint Cloud Cathedral in the opening round of the Class A state tournament at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at Eden Prairie. The semifinals and finals are on November 1 and 4 at U.S. Bank Stadium.

SPA girls follow with own state-qualifying win

By Bill Wagner

t's really hard for any team to beat the same opponent three times in a season, and nobody knows that more than the Saint Paul Academy and Minnehaha Academy girls' soccer teams.

It wasn't very close the first two times the teams played each other this fall. The Redhawks won regular-season contests 6-0 and 2-0 against the Spartans in September. But how things changed when second-seeded SPA and first-seeded Minnehaha met in the Section 3A final on October 18 at Saint Thomas Academy. This time it was the Spartans' turn to post a gritty 1-0 win to earn their way to state for the first time since 2016.

The Spartans (9-5-3) certainly didn't look like they were upset-minded going in. Minnehaha (15-2-1) had suffered only one previous loss against Breck back in mid-Septem-

ber. The Redhawks had run away with first place in the Independent Metro Athletic Conference, scoring six goals or more eight times.

SPA, meanwhile, had to weather a pair of four-game winless streaks this fall and finished fourth in the IMAC. However, the postseason Spartans showed that they were a big upgrade over their earlier selves.

"We have a lot of young players who are all hitting their stride," SPA coach Aileen Guiney said. "Our conference is really competitive. I think it's a matter of peaking at the right time."

Third-seeded SPA will face Saint Charles in the operning round of the Class A state tournament at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at Eden Prairie. The semifinals and finals will be held on November 2 and 4 at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Guiney wasn't so bold as to predict a state championship, but she did say: "If we play like we did (against Minnehaha), we'll be just fine."

The Spartans got their hardearned win early in the first half. Sophomore forward Sawyer Bollinger Danielson steamed down the left side off a nice feed from freshman outside midfielder Elizabeth Tuttle and buried a low far-post shot to give the victors the only goal they'd need.

Bollinger Danielson, who had 20 goals through 12 games, and freshman Clare Ryan Bradley, who had seven, give SPA a promising start to their attack. But Guiney stressed another vital part of her team's win over Minnehaha: the fact that SPA held Redhawk junior Berit Parten, widely acclaimed as the best player in the state, in check.

"We were ready to play them this time, and we neutralized Berit," Guiney said. "She was frustrated. Our defenders just did a great job, and (senior goalie) Lindsay Browne made a couple of huge saves."



SPA sophomore Sawyer Bollinger Danielson also scored the only goal in the Spartans' section final win over Minnehaha. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Visitation tennis team earns first trip to state tournament

By Bill Wagner

his week, Visitation is going where none of its tennis teams have gone before—the state high school girls' tennis tournament.

The Blazers entered the Section 3AA tournament as the third seed and proceeded to knock off Woodbury 5-2, second-seeded East Ridge 4-3 and then top-ranked South Saint Paul 5-2 to earn the berth at state.

Visitation (18-2) was scheduled to face Rochester Mayo (38-8) in the quarterfinals of the Class AA state tennis tournament at the Baseline Tennis Center at the University of Minnesota. Team competition runs October 25-26, with individual play following on October 27-28.

To say the Blazers' sterling performance this fall has produced excitement on campus is putting it mildly. And second-year head coach Nicol Krumpholz, a former Vis player herself, couldn't be happier.

"I knew we had potential, for sure," she said. "I knew we had it in us. This is just thrilling. We put in a lot of hard work."

Entering state, the Blazers' only setbacks this season were to East Ridge and Holy Angels back in September.

The Visitation lineup contains the across-the-board level of skill that makes a team very hard to beat. Krumpholz said her club has heavy hitters, stay-at-home volleyers and everything in between. "Each girl brings something special to the table,"

The Blazers also have enough youth to make opponents fearful for a long time to come, including eighth-grader Reese Foley, the team's top singles player, and sophomore Meryl Rosenberger at No. 2 singles. At No. 3 singles is senior Mary Kate Commers. Freshman Kiersti Joerger, who moved up from doubles halfway through the season, plays No. 4 singles and recorded big victories against both East Ridge and South Saint Paul in sections.

Visitation's doubles teams also have proven to be a handful for opponents. They include senior Julia Harms and junior Lily



Visitation's state-bound tennis team, from left, includes head coach Nicol Krumpholz, Grace Keeley, Meryl Rosenberger, Jordyn Jarpe, Claire Kodama, Kiersti Joerger, Sarah Kodama, Lily Callanan, Keneley Barberot, Reese Foley, and assistant coach Molly Hynes. Not pictured are Julia Harms, Mary Kate Commers, Norah Commers, Elizabeth Wenger and CeCe Marvin. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Callanan at No. 1, freshman Nora Commers and junior Grace Keeley at No. 2, and junior Sarah Kodama and eighth-grader Jordyn Jarpe at No. 3.

Krumpholz made her own mark in Blazer tennis back in her day. She became the first Vis player to qualify for state in 1984, and did it again in 1985 and 1986.

Individual section participants for Visitation this fall included Foley and Rosenberger in singles, and Mary Kate Commers/ Keeley and Harms/Callanan in doubles.

15 ■ WRIGHT CALL

enter the postseason as the top-rated team in Class AA, but none of that matters now. "Rankings are great, but it's just noise," Dobbs said. "We remind ourselves we have to earn every point in every game."

Dobbs referred to the October 13 home match against Visitation. The Knights prevailed 3-0, but the margin of victory shrank with each set. "It was Senior Night and that's always a different type of vibe," he said. "The fact is we were sloppy at times."

Two days later, the Knights were at Bloomington Jefferson for an all-day tournament. They blanked Belle Plaine, winner of 17 matches, 2-0 in the first round. Three more wins followed, including a shutout over Mounds

The top-seeded Knights will host a team that was still to be determined in the Section 4AA quarterfinals at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 29. The challenging section includes second-seeded Concordia, which won a set against Nova in an earlier meeting; third-seeded Saint Croix Lutheran, winner of 15 matches this fall; fourthseeded Minnehaha Academy, a 19-win team; and fifthseeded Mounds Park, the defending state champ.

"It's tough to explain to the girls how special the season has been so far," Dobbs said, "but there'll be time for that

For now, Nova's focus is on winning the section title game on November 5 and making it to Xcel Energy Center for its first state volleyball tournament on November

9-12. It's something Dobbs could only have dreamed about when he took over the program three years ago. He's already aware of how far his team has come. Earlier this year, a parent came up to Dobbs after a match and told him how impressed he was with the Knights, saying, "They all have gotten better from last year."

Dobbs appreciated the compliment, but he's filing it in the back of his mind for now.

"The first half is done," he said. The heavier lifting starts October 29.

Cadet gridders are undefeated, but...

It's in the nature of coaches to find something to worry about and Saint Thomas Academy football coach Dan O'Brien is no exception. The Cadets wrapped up a perfect regular season with a 49-3 win at Tartan on October 19. They had just one game when they were seriously pressed—a 28-14 win at tough Mahtomedi—and finished the regular season outscoring their foes 332-51. As the top seed in Section 3AAAAA, they earned a first-round bye and will face the winner of the Bloomington Jefferson-Apple Valley game on their home field at 1 p.m. on October 29.

If it's Apple Valley, it'll be a rematch of the October 13 encounter that STA won 42-7. Oddly enough, that game provided O'Brien with some of the anxiety that afflicts all coaches. "The great news is we won, but we can play a lot better," he said the day after that game. "We have some issues we need to clean up."

O'Brien was likely referring to a pair of long kickoff returns and a lengthy pass completion that led to the Eagles' lone score. It didn't matter that night because the STA defense rose to the occasion when called upon. But if the Cadets want to get to state, those are the sorts of plays that can do a team in.

Going 8-0 during the regular season is impressive. In this case, it was made more so by the fact that quarterback Noah Erickson suffered an off-field injury and is sidelined. Maximus Sims has been excellent as STA's other signal-caller, completing 65 percent of his passes. Running backs Love Adebayo and Savion Hart have combined for nearly 1,600 yards and 25 touchdowns.

"I always ask our team, 'Did we do our best?"" O'Brien said. In the same breath, he added, "It's been a special season. They need to hear that. The kids have been locked

In addition to Apple Valley, Section 3AAAAA includes Hastings and Two Rivers. Though STA beat both schools by large margins during the regular season, O'Brien frets the second time around won't be so easy. "It's hard to beat a team twice," he said. "It's even tougher if it's a rival

Nevertheless, the Cadets have been able to do just that to qualify for the last three state tournaments. But that was in the past. "Football is an emotional game," O'Brien said. "We need to be ready for anything we face."

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

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District Councils

Highland Park

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UST sports complex—Representatives from the University of Saint Thomas and Ryan Companies presented an update on a potential sports complex at Highland Bridge during the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee meeting on October 18. Watch the presentation at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/ford-site.

Fall deer hunt—Saint Paul's 2022 archery hunt to cull the local deer population will continue from 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 on those dates.

River Corridor station survey—The Riverview Corridor is a proposed 12-mile streetcar line that would run along West Seventh Street between downtown Saint Paul and the Mall of America. The four proposed station areas in the Highland Park neighborhood are at Montreal Avenue, Homer Street, Saint Paul Avenue and Davern Street. A survey to help guide developments around those stations can be taken by visiting surveymonkey.com/r/98FPKRB.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, November 3; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, November 7; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 15. HDC meetings are held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., and there is an option to join online. Get the Zoom link by visiting highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Century plaques—The owners of homes and commercial buildings in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood

that were built in 1927 or before are still eligible to buy an engraved plaque for their buildings to identify their age. Order by November 28 to receive a plaque by the holidays by visiting macgrove.org/100years.

Doubled donations—This year's Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 17, and donations to the community council are being matched by its board of directors. Early giving begins on November 1. Visit givemn.org/macgrove or macgrove.org/donate for more information.

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, October 26; board of directors on Thursday, November 10; Community Building Team on Monday, November 14; Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, November 16; Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, November 23; and Transportation Committee on Monday, November 28. The meetings will all begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For monthly meeting notices and log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Annual meeting and elections—The Union Park District Council's annual meeting and elections will be held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, November 2, in McNeely Hall at the University of Saint Thomas. Those who are interested in joining the board of directors are being asked to contact wako@unionparkdc.org.

Upcoming meetings—annual meeting and elections, 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 2; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 14; Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, November



15; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, Monday, November 21. All board meetings, with the exception of the annual meeting, will be held on Zoom. To access meetings, email wako@unionparkdc.org, Leah@unionparkdc.org, or see 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— Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 2; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, November 14. Meetings are on Zoom, unless otherwise noted. For log-in information, visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

There are plenty of spirited events on tap for this Halloween

Still looking to scare up a happy and healthy Halloween? Here are a few of the local events taking place in the week leading up to All Hallow's Eve:

Trick or Treat on Grand will be held from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, October 30. The Summit Hill Association and Grand Avenue Business Association will team up to offer a one-way, staggered scavenger hunt for kids beginning at Authentic Construction, 740 Grand. There will be trick-ortreating, photo stops and other activities along the route. Sign up for a time slot at tinyurl.com/3ssw422y.

Shadows and spirits will stalk the halls of the state Capitol during tours on the half-hour from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, October 27-29. Tour-goers will meet historical "spirits," including a night watchman, a Civil War veteran and a woman suffragist. The cost is \$11-\$15. Call 651-259-3015 or visit mnhs.org/capitol.

Fort by Torchlight programs, featuring a bonfire, music and a reserved seat at a re-enacted 19th-century court martial of Lieutenant Phineas Andrews, will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 28-29, at Historic Fort Snelling. The cost is \$18-\$22.50. Visit tinyurl.com/mvty67te or call 612-726-1171.

An MJM Halloween Bash will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 Mackubin St. The bash is also being cohosted by the Merriam Park and Jimmy Lee



Guests are invited to come dressed in costume for the Halloween spooktacular that is scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, October 30, at the BOOnion Depot, 214 E. Fourth St.

recreation centers. There will be a haunted house, games and more. For information, call 651-290-8695.

Gangster Ghost Tours featuring characters playing the spirits of Saint Paul criminals, G-men and judges will take place from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, October 26, at Landmark Center. Tickets are \$10. The tour is suitable for those age 12 and older. Register at landmarkcenter.org or 651-292-3063.

Trick or Treat in Highland will be celebrated from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, October 29, in Highland Village. The Highland Business Association will once again conduct a one-way, staggered scavenger hunt for kids. Trick-or-treating will take place along a route that begins at Langford & Karls Chiropractic, 730 S. Cleveland Ave. There will be photo stops and other activities along the way. The suggested donation

is \$5. Visit highlandba.com to sign up.

Sibley Family & the Witch Trials will be held from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, October 29, at the Sibley Historic Site in Mendota. Visitors will meet "ghosts" who played roles in the Salem Witch Trials of the 1600s, including one of Sibley's relatives. Afterward, visitors can make s'mores at a bonfire. The cost is \$8-\$10 and space is limited. Register at tinyurl.com/42fx3t6u.

The BOOnion Depot, 214 E. Fourth St., will host a Halloween spooktacular from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, October 30. Guests are invited to dress in costumes and partake in pumpkin crafts, a dance zone, trickor-treating and face painting. The first 500 children under age 12 will receive a complimentary candy tote. Visit uniondepot.org.

The Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, October 30, at Landmark Center. The free event will include a kids' DJ, crafts, treats and a costume parade. Call 651-292-3225 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

A Trunk or Treat event will return after a two-year hiatus from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 30, in the parking lot of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Adult volunteers will be handing out candy, children's books and more from their car trunks. The event will be moved inside if the weather does not cooperate. For information or to decorate a vehicle for the event, visit kidsministry@gloriadei stpaul.org or call 651-699-1378.

Business Briefs

Thomas M. Ellis, a marriage and family therapist at the Crocus Hill Counseling Center, 541 Selby Ave., and Beaver's Pond Press owner Lily Coyle are the co-authors of *Enzo Isn't There*. The children's book uses the story of a little fox who has lost a sibling for helping children deal with grief and loss. Ellis is also the author of the self-help book *This Thing Called Grief: New Understandings of Loss*. Copies of both books are available for purchase at the Crocus Hill Counseling Center.

Lowertown Bike Shop, located in the Union Depot at 214 E. Fourth St. for the past six years, has partnered with Backstory Coffee Roasters and local bakeries to carry coffee and pastries alongside its selection of new and used bicycles. Operator Crystal Sursely was a former coffee shop manager and had envisioned adding coffee service to the bike shop for years. The coffee station is available before and during regular hours at the shop, which recently moved across the Head House and is now in Suite 120.

Kowalski's 4 Kids, a private, nonprofit foundation created by Kowalski's Markets to educate and otherwise support Twin Cities' youths, has reached a milestone in giving more than \$2 million to charitable partners over the last 10 years. The latest contribution came as the result of Kowalski's 28th annual charity golf tournament in August. This year's recipients, Washburn Center and Best Christmas Ever, will each receive \$300,000 over three years.

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