

Skirl of the pipes give voice to the veterans memorial on Summit Avenue

Merriam Park piper can be heard there almost daily

By Anne Murphy

On any given day, Jim Johnson walks from his Merriam Park home to the World War I memorial at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard, opens the case that contains his bagpipes and plays for a while. Dr. Johnson has become a fixture beside the 36-foot granite monument that is dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of the First World War.

"I think I first played by the monument in 1991, shortly after we moved into our current house," Dr. Johnson said. "Initially I played there only intermittently. Nowadays it's almost daily from spring through autumn and also on warmer winter days."

"I go down to listen to him occasionally and always note the number of folks who stop and listen for a few minutes or longer," said Brenda Ryan, who also lives in the nearby Shadow Falls neighborhood.

Dr. Johnson said he was drawn to the spot because of its beauty and significance and the prospect of adding to the experience for people stopping by. "This spot attracts picnickers, bikers, dog walkers, runners, hanger-outers," he said. "Their presence gives a feeling of quasi perfor-



Jim Johnson plays his bagpipes almost daily beside the veterans memorial on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

mance or community involvement to what could otherwise be a very solitary experience."

Dr. Johnson has been playing the bagpipes for more than 50 years. He started playing while a student at Highland Park High School. "I was the son of a Macalester College professor, so I sort of had an in at Mac." There he became familiar with the venerable Macalester College Pipe Band. "They were trusting and seemed to like me and thought it would be OK to

have me be a groupie to the band," he said. "They even loaned me some practice materials. I made enough progress that they let me continue with them while I was a senior at Highland High. Then I went to Macalester, played in the pipe band and led the pipe band."

Dr. Johnson studied music at Macalester. "I was very interested in composing and arranging," he said. "I also sang in

VETERANS TRIBUTE ▶3

City opens draft plan for Summit Ave. bike trail to public comment

By Jane McClure

A draft plan to reconstruct Summit Avenue with off-road trails for bicycles and pedestrians drew close to 250 people to an October 27 open house at Hidden River (formerly Ramsey) Middle School. The response was decidedly mixed. Bicycling advocates hailed the design and how it connected to other off-road bike trails. Local residents and preservationists are concerned about the potential impacts to trees and the street's historic character.

The preferred option is to construct a one-way trail on either side of Summit separated from the traffic lanes with a narrow buffer and 6-inch curbs. The street's traffic lanes would be narrowed to allow the off-road trails to be built within the existing curb line. Parking would be retained west of Fairview Avenue and between Snelling Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Parking would be removed on one side of Summit east of Lexington.

An alternative to the above plan is to have a one-way trail on either side of Summit between Mississippi River Boulevard and Lexington Parkway and a two-way trail on one side of Summit between Lexington and Kel-

SUMMIT AVE. BIKE TRAIL ▶4

St. Paul property owners to pay more for garbage pickup next year

Those who generate the least amount of trash will see lowest increase

By Jane McClure

Owners of one- to four-unit dwellings in Saint Paul will see increases of around 5-9 percent in their 2023 trash collection bills, depending on their level of service. The Saint Paul City Council voted 5-0 on November 2 to approve next year's residential trash collection rates.

The council is trying to balance fuel and

inflation-driven increases with a desire to hold down collection costs for households that generate the smallest amounts of garbage. Council members Jane Prince and Nelsie Yang were absent.

Saint Paul will be entering its fifth year of organized residential trash collection. The program is overseen by the Department of Public Works with services provided by Saint Paul Haulers, a consortium of five local and national companies. They include Aspen Waste Systems, Gene's Disposal Service, Highland Sanitation, Republic Services and Waste Management.

The city is preparing to issue a request for proposals for a new contract once the

current five-year agreement ends next September 30. In testimony on the new rates last month, consortium representative Sue Stewart of Highland Sanitation suggested the city bypass that process and negotiate a new contract with the consortium. Council members said city officials would discuss that with the haulers.

Susan Young, who oversees trash and recycling programs for Public Works, said the 2023 negotiations went smoothly, as compared to past years where there was more back and forth between the city and the consortium.

For pickup of small (35 gallon) trash carts with every-other-week service, the

rate increases from \$14.35 to \$15.12 in 2023. Weekly collection of small carts will increase from \$16.89 to \$17.99. Collection of medium carts (64 gallons) will increase from \$23.37 to \$25.23, while the pickup of large carts (96 gallons) will rise from \$25.85 to \$28.17.

Service bills are sent out on a quarterly basis. When taxes are factored, households will see a jump in their quarterly billing from a range of \$59.30-\$106.81 this year to \$62.48-\$116.39 in 2023.

The city is also poised to increase its residential waste collection fee from \$29 to

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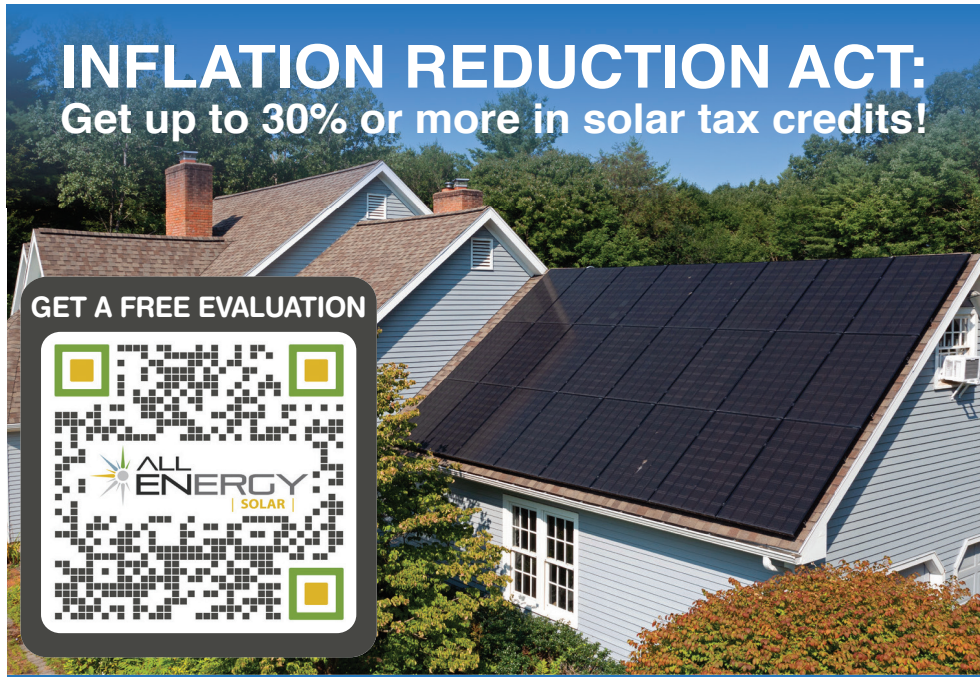


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Saint Paulites should expect to see more fee hikes in 2023

By Jane McClure

Along with residential trash collection, the Saint Paul City Council held hearings on November 2 on several city fee increases that homeowners could see next year. The council is poised to adopt the changes on December 7 as part of the 2023 city budget approval process.

While much attention has been focused on Saint Paul's proposed 15.34 percent property tax increase, rising fees and charges also impact what property owners pay for city services.

City budget manager Tara Barenok outlined the impact that fees, charges and the property tax increase would have on a typical Saint Paul home. The median home value in Saint Paul will be \$261,800 in 2023, which is a 14 percent increase from this year. Owners of such homes will see a \$231 increase in their property taxes (from \$1,017 to \$1,248) if the proposed property tax levy remains as is.

Part of the proposed increase includes

moving street maintenance service charges back onto property taxes.

The sanitary sewer base fee will remain at \$3 per month next year, but the volume charge will increase from \$4.79 to \$4.89 per cubic foot. For the typical home, the sanitary sewer bill will increase from \$323.40 to \$333.60.

The storm sewer charge for single-family homes and duplexes will increase by 3.5 percent next year, from \$108.60 to \$112.40. Metropolitan Council environmental charges will bring the total residential sewer charge increase to \$14.

The city's recycling charge will increase by 15 percent, from \$60 to \$69 for single-family homes and from \$38 to \$44 for multifamily residential.

Water charges for the average home are expected to increase from \$333 to \$381 in 2023. The Water Board held its public hearing on rate increases this fall and approved a series of changes based on usage and meter size, as well as other factors.



Brian Navarrete of Highland Sanitation works an alley between Laurel and Western avenues south of Selby Avenue in 2019 as part of Saint Paul's organized residential trash pickup. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ TRASH COLLECTION HIKE

\$33 next year. The fee is added to property taxes and covers such costs as cart replacement and the city's share of program administration.

Young said the contract factors in several issues when rates are set. Those include changes to the Consumer Price Index up to 3 percent and the actual average tonnage collected in the prior 12 months, which was 58,257 tons. Diesel fuel costs are also factored in. The haulers asked for but did not receive an additional charge for rising costs.

Costs also are affected by state and county taxes, and tipping fees charged at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Center in Newport. The tipping fee there is increasing from \$87 to \$103 per ton in 2023. "That's going to be a very significant increase next year," Young said.

The rates include one free cart size change each year, as well as the pickup of two free bulky items such as couches and one holiday tree per residential unit per year for the small carts. Collection includes three bulky items per residential unit for large carts. There are extra charges for additional trash bags beyond what fits in a cart, for yard waste and for additional bulky items.

Only two people, Stewart of Highland Sanitation and Summit Hill resident Peter Butler, testified on the rate increase. In written testimony, Butler cited the low usage of bulky items pickup as a reason to reduce the 2023 base rates.

Stewart said the haulers accept the rate increases and that the consortium has worked hard to continue to provide garbage collection services in a cost-effective manner. She urged the City Council to consider not issuing a request for proposals process when the contract expires next fall and said she is not aware of a requirement that the city seek bids for a new contract.

Cities including Bloomington, Oak Park Heights and Afton have rebid their garbage contracts and have seen cost increases instead of savings, Stewart said. Rebidding service could be complicated by staffing and the supply chain shortage, especially if the city contracted with one large hauler.

"For just two new trucks, it's a two-year wait now," she said.

Stewart said the haulers have been closely following the work of a garbage advisory task force, which has made several recommendations for the city to consider. One would have the city take over billing. Others include the ability to opt out of the program or share a cart with a neighbor, and to make service holds easier.

Council president Amy Brendmoen said that while Stewart's comments were outside of the rate increase issue, she would consider them to be the "start of a conversation" about the upcoming contract.

The city is also in the process of rebidding its recycling contract. The only bid submitted in a recent round was from current provider Eureka Recycling. City officials rejected that bid, Young said, and hope to draw more bids in a second try.



Jim Johnson takes a breather beside the Summit monument with his great Highland bagpipes in hand.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ VETERANS TRIBUTE

the elite choir. So I have this classical choral background and an interest in classical music, and all of these things led to my continued interest in playing the bagpipes.”

Dr. Johnson continued playing the pipes while in medical school at the University of Minnesota and throughout his residency in Seattle. After returning to the Twin Cities as a University of Minnesota professor and a physician with Veterans Affairs Health Care, he joined other musicians in creating what they called a piping society. It motivated him to work on his playing and eventually led to his impromptu recitals at the Summit Avenue monument.

Although bagpipe music is associated with the military, the pieces Dr. Johnson plays go beyond that. “A lot of the tunes I play are considered to be laments,” he said. “Some are salutes or an elegy or in praise of someone for their life. Some are cross genre, like putting the bagpipe to classical music or other folk kind of themes.”

Lloyd Enos, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot who flew over 1,000 hours during the Vietnam War, said he has always considered the World War I memorial on Summit to be “a place to pause and reflect. Then one day I heard my neighbor playing the bagpipes there. I’m telling you, there’s a bond between all those who have served. As you look at the monument and listen to the bagpipes, you’re transported to a place where the memories of those who served with you, before you and after you are present. There’s a certain sound that the bagpipes make that no other musical instrument can duplicate. It’s almost magical. Feelings of reverence, honor and respect come to the surface. It makes one proud to be a veteran.”

Randy Conaway, a social worker for Veterans Affairs and a member of a pipe band himself, said he has heard Dr. Johnson play on several occasions as he has biked down river road. “Dr. Johnson’s pipes seem to fill the valley,” Conaway said. “The slow airs and classical pieces pay respect to the fallen. I like to think of his music as yet another way to give back to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.”

Dr. Johnson said his affiliation with Veterans Affairs may have given him a sense of

“As you look at the monument and listen to the bagpipes, you’re transported to a place where the memories of those who served with you, before you and after you are present.”

connection to the Summit monument, but it “was subtle and unconscious. There’s just a special feel to the spot. I see the area as a confluence of everything, with the view across the Mississippi River, the sunset, everything that Saint Paul is and its relationship to Minneapolis and the country as a whole. When I was playing there recently, a hawk flew in and perched on the cross at the top of the monument. Nature, man, time and space meet there, so you could say there’s a sacredness or a grandness, a sort of eternal flavor at that spot.

“One of my neighbors raised an interesting question about the indigenous people who were here before the Europeans came,” Dr. Johnson said. “Was this spot important to them? I especially enjoy receiving indications of appreciation from non-white listeners. I feel I’m bridging an ethno-cultural gap and tapping into something universally human with my Celtic music from the northern British Isles.”

Dr. Johnson recalled the listener who wrote “Piper’s Point” in bright yellow chalk on the cliff just below the monument. He did not know who that listener was at the time. Then one day while walking home, he came across a woman sitting on the ground. She had fallen from her bike and, though not badly hurt, was waiting for a ride. After a brief conversation centered around the bagpipes he was carrying, she introduced herself as the one who had scrawled “Piper’s Point.”

Dr. Johnson said his playing is well received for the most part and often earns him applause. He has rarely been asked to stop by someone who prefers quiet, and has only been the subject of one or two disturbing-the-peace complaints. The police officers on those occasions were very polite, he said, and he was happy to pack up his pipes and come back another day.

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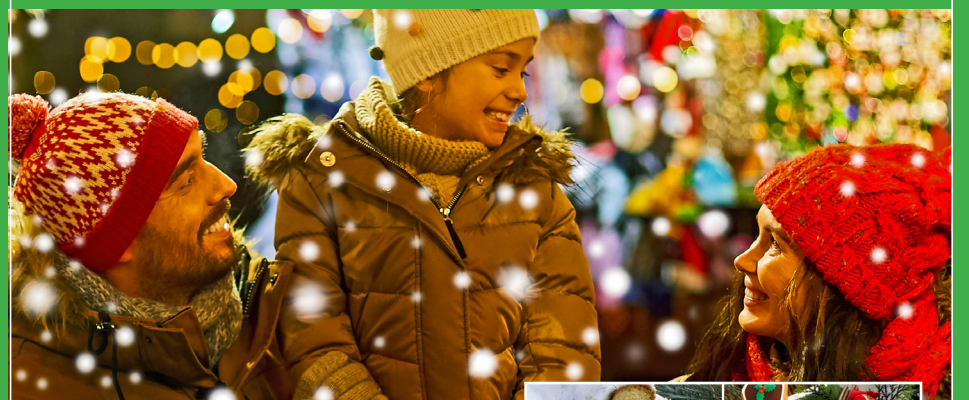
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1< SUMMIT AVE. BIKE TRAIL

logg Boulevard. The western part of Summit has a 200-foot right-of-way; the eastern part a 100-foot right-of-way. With a two-way trail, on-street parking could be retained on one side of Summit east of Lexington. Yet another option is to remove all of the parking east of Lexington and allow wider 7-foot bike trails and 5-foot buffers on either side of Summit.

The open house launched a 30-day comment period. One recurring theme on October 27 was a desire for more time to comment. Tom Darling, president of the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association, said 30 days is not enough. "We need at least 90 days to weigh in," he said, citing the upcoming holidays and the need to schedule meetings on the plan. "There's no reason to rush this along."

The design of the regional trail is about 60 percent complete, according to Mary Norton of Saint Paul's Department of Parks and Recreation. It should be finished this winter, she said, and comments received over the next 30 days will shape the final design.

Saint Paul Public Works director Sean Kershaw called the request for more time reasonable. However, Parks and Recreation director Andy Rodriguez said there would be other opportunities to comment after the current 30 days. Rodriguez noted that the project will need to be reviewed by the city's Heritage Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, State Historic Preservation Office, Metropolitan Council and its Open Space Commission. District councils, advocacy groups and the city's Tree Advisory Committee may also weigh in with their recommendations.

Project costs have been estimated between \$9.36 million and \$12.46 million depending on which alternative is chosen. Because the project is at least five years from completion, those costs could change. Until a master plan

is approved, the city cannot seek regional funding for the project.

One area of concern for local residents is the impact on Summit Avenue's Historic Hill and Summit Avenue West preservation districts and such historical features as the granite curbs at the east end of Summit. Years ago, city officials tried to replicate those historic curbs with dyed concrete curbs. The bright purple curbs did not sit well with local residents.

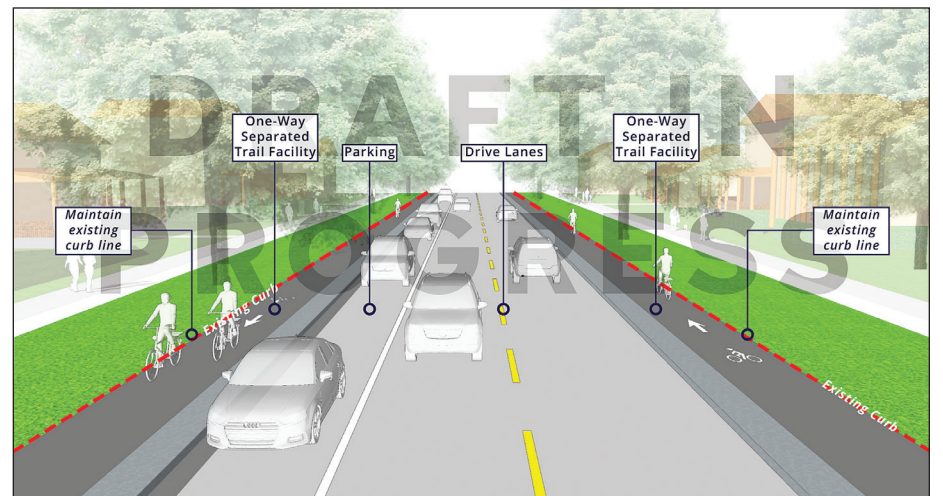
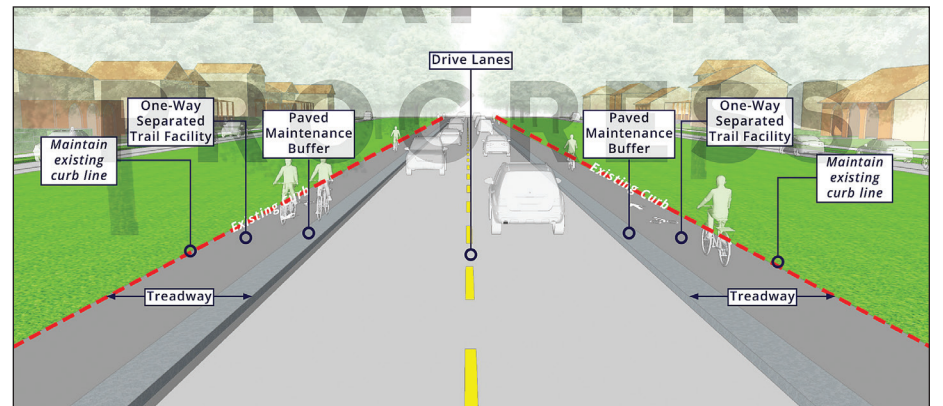
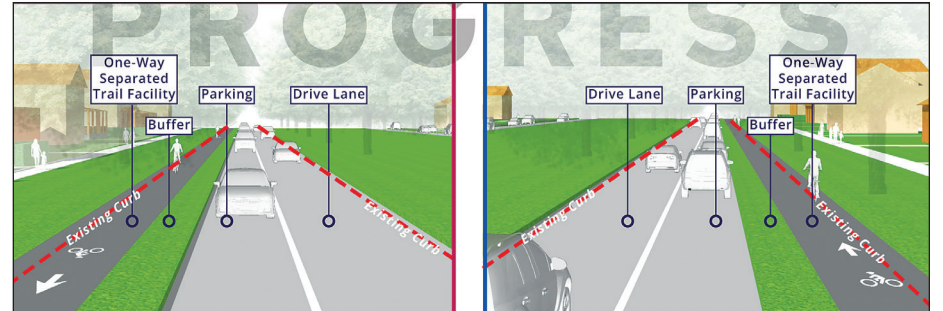
Several people raised concerns about Summit's tree canopy. There are 1,561 trees within the 5-mile-long Summit Avenue right-of-way. One hundred and twenty-two of them are considered vulnerable due to existing curb lines. Each of the various alternatives for reconstructing Summit consider 221 of the trees as being highly vulnerable.

Andy Singer, a leader of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition, praised the draft plan as a good compromise, fitting the off-road trails into the existing curb lines and protecting trees while providing a safer experience for bicyclists. "The one-way trails are much safer than the two-way trail," he said.

Cynthia MacArthur, who worked for years in the Minnesota Extension Service's bicycle programs, said a dedicated two-way trail along a street that also accommodates motor vehicles does create problems. That is especially true if the trail is shared with e-bikes, scooters and in-line skaters all traveling at different speeds, she said.

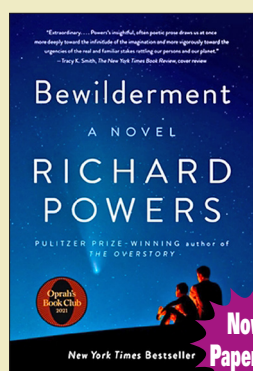
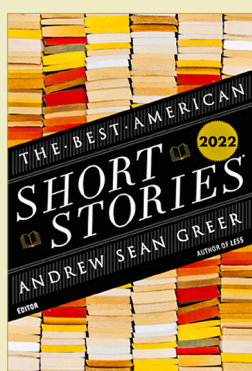
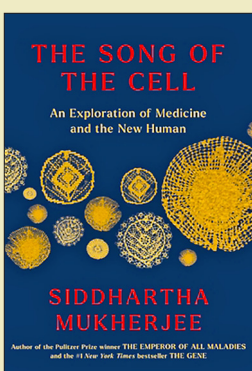
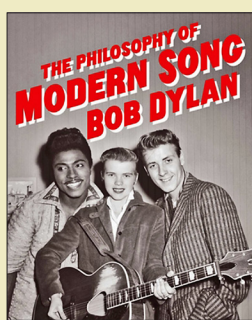
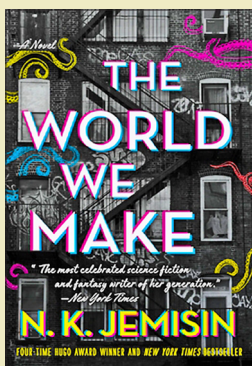
"Another concern I have with an off-road bike facility along an urban roadway is an unintentional but real disconnect of both riders and drivers," MacArthur said. "A bicycle is a legal vehicle on a roadway. An off-road facility, rather than integrate all road users with signage and lane striping, teaches everyone to consider the bicycle to be a recreational toy that needs to be accommodated rather than integrated."

To review the 239-page draft plan and to comment on it, visit engagstpaul.org/embds/projects/10770/survey-tools/12716.



Saint Paul's draft plan for reconstructing Summit Avenue with one-way, off-road trails for bikes and pedestrians varies from section to section: Pictured at top is the plan for Segments A and C between Mississippi River Boulevard and Fairview Avenue and between Snelling Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Pictured in the middle is the plan for Segment B between Fairview and Snelling. Pictured at bottom is the plan for Segments D, E and F between Lexington and Kellogg Boulevard.

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A closer walk with Mississippi

Proposed balcony exploits the bluff to give downtown better ways to access river

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul officials unveiled the final schematic last week for an ambitious redesign of the downtown riverfront that bridges the divide between the Mississippi and the high bluff along Kellogg Boulevard. The so-called river balcony includes a range of features that bring the river closer to people, including enhanced overlooks, landscaped trails, a stairway and land bridge from the bluff to the river and a boat launch. Small parks, an amphitheater, sports courts and event space would also be provided.

The river balcony has been on the drawing board since the Great River Passage plan began taking shape more than a decade ago. The City Council adopted the Great River Passage in 2013 with plans for the balcony and Great River Passage Conservancy following that.

“It has been a years-long process to get us to this point,” said Mary deLaitre, executive director of the conservancy.

Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough praised the vision for the river balcony. “You’ve

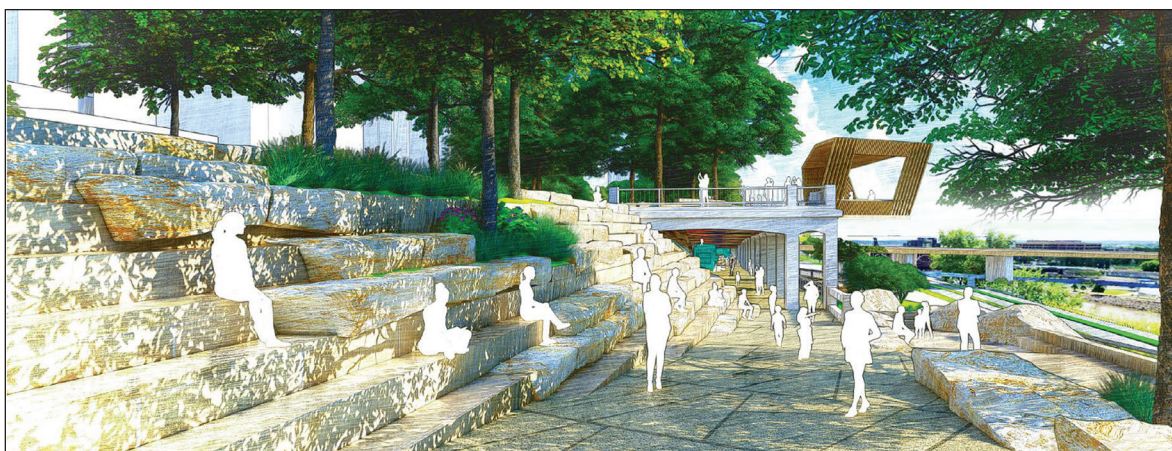
got to be bold, you’ve got to think big,” he said.

McDonough has worked on riverfront projects for years. He is stepping down from the County Board at the end of the year, but urged citizens to continue to push for the project to be completed.

More than 100 people turned out November 3 to see the final schematics for the 1.5-mile-long project. There, city staff and project consultants described the challenges in getting a plan developed. These included defining the balcony area boundaries, involving the many property owners affected, and doing much of that despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The balcony plans have dramatically expanded over the past seven years, incorporating such proposed developments as a new RiverCentre parking ramp and rooftop and Ramsey County’s \$788 million RiversEdge mixed-use development on the former site of the county jail and government center. The plans also tie in to the Science Museum of Minnesota, Lambert’s Landing, Kellogg Mall Park, RiverCentre and Rice Park.

The river balcony plans are divided into four areas. A “big



Two views of the proposed river balcony show the new multi-layered look of Kellogg Mall Park near Minnesota Street (top) and the Bluff Garden Walk just east of the Wabasha Street Bridge.

woods” area between Seven Corners and the Science Museum includes a landscaped parking area and trail leading from Kellogg Boulevard to Shepard Road and the river. Among its features are an amphitheater, enhanced overlook and bluff stairs by the museum.

The area around the proposed RiversEdge would include public space atop the bluff and a land bridge from the blufftop, over the railroad tracks to the Samuel Morgan Trail and the river.

The area around Kellogg Mall Park has some of the most ambitious designs. These include a

multi-level bluffside park with interactive water features and a dramatic river overlook. The Second Street area below Kellogg Mall would be repurposed as public space on the side of the bluff. At the bluff’s base, what is now parking area could be event space and sports courts.

The area around Lambert’s Landing would have an improved boat launch, a new welcome center and riverfront promenade and seating.

Those involved in the project cautioned that there are challenges ahead, beyond raising the funds needed to pay the as yet un-

known costs. One is changing the character of Shepherd Road and calming traffic there. Another is involving outside partners in balcony programming and ongoing operations and maintenance.

With the design in place, determining program governance can get underway to define partner roles and responsibilities. A financing strategy needs to be developed, along with a timeline for construction.

For more information about the river balcony and to view the plans, visit greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-balcony.

Tenant advocates ask to intervene in lawsuit over rent control

They aim to represent the will of voters who approved ordinance

By Jane McClure

Tenant activists and tenant advocacy groups want to intervene in a federal lawsuit over the city of Saint Paul’s new rent control ordinance. The 63-page motion was filed on October 20 by the Housing Justice Center on behalf of tenants Katherine Banbury and Angela Wilhight, the West Side Community Organization (WSCO), the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability and HOME Line.

The lawsuit had been filed in June by two

landlords—Woodstone Limited Partnership at 2335 Stewart Ave. and the Lofts at Farmers Market at 260 E. Fifth St. Defendants include the city of Saint Paul, Mayor Melvin Carter, the City Council and Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections director Angie Weise.

Saint Paul voters approved rent control in a referendum last November, capping rent increases on residential units at 3 percent per year. Since then the City Council has approved various rules and exemptions that allow landlords to exceed the 3 percent cap under certain circumstances.

The landlords claim that the 3 percent cap violates the U.S. Constitution because it does not allow automatic adjustments for inflation. Their lawsuit cites a failure to follow due process and an illegal taking of

property. Rent control, they contend, has eroded the market value of their properties.

In court documents, the intervenors argue that they can best represent voters who supported rent control last November. Their intervention is “critical” to making sure that voters’ and tenants’ interests are “vigorously” represented, they state.

The tenant advocates also take aim at the amendments to the rent control ordinance that were approved this fall by the City Council. The amendments, which take effect on January 1, 2023, include exemptions for new construction and affordable housing. In their motion, they state, “city government cannot be relied upon to defend the initiative’s result with the interest of those who voted for the initiative as

paramount.”

The city has not responded to the request for intervention. The landlords filed a motion in late October opposing intervention. “The city adequately represents (the tenants’ and tenant group’s) shared goal to uphold the ordinance,” the landlords stated. “Allowing proposed intervenors to intervene and argue the same points as the city will add nothing of value (but) will only complicate the case and unfairly tip the scales by adding five new voices to echo the city’s arguments.”

The two sides in the lawsuit have agreed to file cross-motions for summary judgment to resolve the matter as soon as possible. A hearing on those motions is set for January 30, 2023.

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A St. Paul cop for 24 years, Henry is nominated to lead department

By Casey Ek

Commander Axel Henry, who has been with the Saint Paul Police Department in various roles for 24 years, has emerged as Mayor Melvin Carter's choice to serve as the city's next police chief.

In announcing his nomination on November 1, Carter highlighted Henry's role in implementing the body cameras that Saint Paul police officers began wearing in 2018 and his work fighting domestic violence across the city. Henry's familiarity with the city, Carter said, was another factor in his choosing Henry over the other four finalists for the job.

"Commander Henry's rich patrol and command experience, his lifetime of service to Saint Paul and his forward-thinking approach to safety have earned him broad support from our officers and residents alike," Carter said. "He is the perfect candidate to lead our nationally renowned police department."

The City Council will vote on whether to confirm Henry's nomination on November 16. If accepted, Henry will begin his six-year term as police chief on November 19.

Henry, 54, resides in the Little Bohemia area of Saint Paul's West End neighborhood. The son of a Macalester College professor, he grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and attended Groveland Park and Webster elementary schools, Murray Junior High and Central Senior High School. He received a bache-

Henry would become chief of police under tough circumstances. Saint Paul had a record 38 homicides in 2021, and the perception of public safety among business leaders, particularly in the downtown area, has been shaken.

lor's degree in business administration and accounting from the University of Saint Thomas and later returned to UST to earn a master's degree in educational leadership and administration.

"Some would say it's a pretty boring existence," Henry told reporters of his lifetime in the city, "but I'm very proud of it."

Henry joined the Saint Paul Police Department in 1998 after three years with the Roseville Police Department. In his 24 years with the SPPD, he has been a patrol officer, sergeant, commander of the Central District and senior commander of the Eastern District from 2016-19.

Henry has command experience in every division of the SPPD. He currently serves as commander of Narcotics, Financial Intelligence & Human Trafficking, but has also held command positions in the Office of the Chief and the Family and Sexual Vio-



Toward the end of his address at the press conference announcing his nomination as Saint Paul's next chief of police, Axel Henry thanked his partner, Mikeya Griffin (center), for her support as Mayor Melvin Carter applauded. PHOTO BY CASEY EK

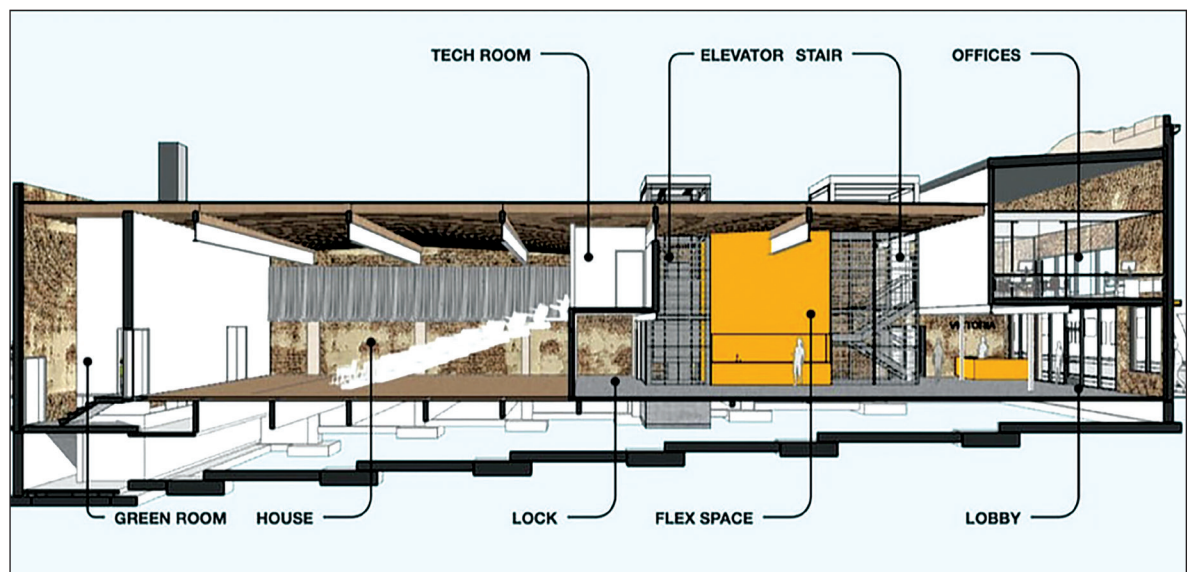
lence Unit and was the chief of logistics for the city's emergency response at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Henry would become Saint Paul's chief of police under tough circumstances. The city had a record 38 homicides in 2021, and the perception of public safety among business leaders, particularly in the downtown area, has been shaken.

According to Mayor Carter, the challenges in public safety brought about by the pandemic and the calls for police reform following the 2020 murder of George Floyd may be bigger than they have ever been. However, Henry embraced the situ-

ation, saying the key to overcoming the challenges will be the Police Department's willingness to work with the community. "We can co-produce a public safety strategy for this city that can be a role model for the entire country," he said.

Henry told reporters on November 1 that as chief, one of his priorities would be to rework the department's internal processes to ensure that employees have an adequate say in department decisions. "We don't want employees to follow orders; we want employees to believe in the mission," he said.



Extensive renovation is expected to start next year to convert the old Victoria Theater at 825 University Ave. into an arts center. Pictured at left is a rendering of what the renovated building could look like when it is expected to open in January 2024. Above is a drawing of the plans, which include a 120-seat theater, flexible public space and offices. The overall fundraising goal for the project is now \$6.2 million.

Curtain finally rising on efforts to renovate historic Victoria Theater

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul City Council approved a \$1 million state grant on October 26 to assist in turning the city's historic Victoria Theater at 825 University Ave. into an arts center.

The grant is part of a \$5.5 million goal to launch construction. Extensive renovation of the vacant, 107-year-old building is expected to start in 2023. Theater supporters hope to open the doors for public use in January 2024.

"We're really thrilled," said Victoria Theater Arts Center executive director Tyler Olsen-Highness. "Thanks for sticking in there with us. It's been a long haul."

The arts center is a nonprofit organization with a 13-member board. Planning to save and renovate the building has gone on for more than a decade. The group has an

overall fundraising goal of \$6.2 million.

Plans call for the center to have flexible public space for meetings, classes, workshops and small performances. A 120-seat theater would host larger performances and meetings. The interior work will include a blend of historic and new architecture. Olsen-Highness said the spaces offer the potential for a wide range of events.

Ward 1 City Council member Russel Balenger called the architectural plans "beautiful" and added, "I'm excited to see it come together."

The pandemic has taken a toll on fundraising as the organizers had hoped to open a renovated facility next year. They have held numerous events inside and outside of the building as well as virtually, working with many neighborhood groups and arts organizations.

The theater was built as a silent movie

house in 1915. It later became a nightclub and cabaret. It was the Victoria Cafe speakeasy during the Prohibition era and featured cabaret-style floor shows and dancing when it was not being raided by police.

It was also where the song "Moonshiners Dance" was recorded by the cafe's orchestra. The song is included in the six-album "Anthology of American Folk Music," a 1952 release that played a key part in the American folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s. Area resident and historian Kurt Gegenhuber did much of the initial research on the theater's musical history.

Efforts to save the building began years ago. It had been vacant since 2006, when a lighting store moved out. When a previous owner wanted to demolish the building to make way for a parking lot in 2009, historians and others rallied to save it.

In April 2011, the City Council designated

the Victoria Theater as a heritage preservation site. The Twin Cities Land Bank purchased the property in 2014 and held it so the Victoria Arts Theater Initiative could raise money to acquire and renovate it.

One huge challenge is the property's poor condition, according to a city staff report. The Land Bank made repairs to preserve the property on an interim basis. The theater group organizers were able to purchase the property in 2021.

Project costs have risen from estimates of about \$2 million to \$6.2 million over the years. The project has drawn on private foundations and individual fundraising as well as Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority loans and grants, and the now-closed Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, which supported projects along light-rail Green Line.



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VIEWPOINT

Siblings' brush with great art was a master stroke for weary Mom

By Beth L. Voigt

Even when finances were tight, Mom always saved enough for art lessons for her children. Each Saturday at 10 a.m., she stopped vacuuming, folding laundry or putting away groceries to hand \$1 bills to each of us—her seven budding artists, ages 6 to 16—to pay Mr. S for painting lessons.

Weekly, we created masterpieces in Mr. S's basement art studio down the alley. They truly were stunning works of art. Simply glorious. Unfortunately, we often did not actually paint them.

One Saturday in particular was memorable. We all grabbed our paint-spotted smocks on the hooks as we entered his back door. I headed to the corner of the basement where Mr. S stacked magazines. Sitting cross-legged on the floor, I waded through the glossy journals before ripping out a picture of a blue jay.

I usually came home with paintings of a single flower awash in a background of blue. But no longer! At 8, I was ready to take on a challenge like my older siblings. Thrusting the magazine picture at Mr. S, I said, "I want to paint this one."

He raised his dark, bushy eyebrows, straightened his brown plaid painting

shirt and smiled. "It's pretty intricate." I stood my ground.

"Are you sure you don't want to try something simpler? An apple, or even an entire bowl of fruit, perhaps?" He raised his eyebrows at me again.

I shook my head and held his gaze. "OK, then. A blue jay it is." He clapped his thick hands together.

I pulled tubes from the paint rack and squirted a dime-sized blob onto my wooden pallet. I soon felt Mr. S looking over my shoulder.

"Nice selection of blues to create just the right shades and add depth and texture," he said.

I beamed at him, smooshed three shades of blue together and added another brushstroke to my canvas.

He put his hand over mine, guiding the paint brush for a few more strokes. "Here, let me

show you a technique the masters use," he said, and gently took the paintbrush from my hand.

I moved to the side and watched as his hand moved swiftly back and forth from canvas to pallet and back again. "Get me another brush—fine-tipped—would you please?"

I found one and stood behind him, holding out the brush. Soon, I was leaning over his shoulder and handing him paints,

He put his hand over mine, guiding the paint brush for a few more strokes. "Here, let me show you a technique the masters use," he said, and gently took the paint brush from my hand.



A self-portrait of the writer, created in Mr. S's basement studio.

cleaning his brushes and giving him paint rags. I watched in awe as he not only recreated the blue jay from the magazine but improved on it. He got every color, every detail right. The result was exquisite. He let me add the beak and feet to finish it off.

"It's beautiful," I gushed. "Can I bring it home?"

He stood back and smiled. "It is nice, isn't it? You made a fine selection with that magazine picture. But your painting is a bit wet still. How about bringing it home next week?"

"I really want to show it to my mom

today," I said, my hands in a praying position. "Please. I'll carry it carefully by the edges."

He mussed my hair and said, "Be careful."

As class ended and we cleaned up, I added B-E-T-H in black block letters to the bottom of the painting. Ahead of my siblings on the way home, I gingerly held the canvas by the edges and burst through the door and presented my painting to Mom. She smiled and delivered her usual positive but succinct comments on each of our paintings: "Very nice. Another beauty. Marvelous." Then she took one more sip of coffee and picked up a dish towel.

"Set them on the buffet for Dad to admire later," she said. And there we lined up our stunning works of art: sailboats in the harbor, a stormy sea, a clown, a horse, a bowl of fruit, a vase of flowers and my blue jay.

Mom always seemed happy when we left for and came home from our art lessons—not, I later learned, because her children were growing up to be Vincent van Goghs or Georgia O'Keefes. She was well aware that Mr. S was the only artist in the neighborhood and we were not creating our signed masterpieces alone.

Her wise investment in art lessons gave her happy children, a clean home and a few quiet minutes for a cup of coffee. And at \$1 per child per hour, Mr. S was the cheapest babysitter in town.

Beth L. Voigt grew up in Highland Park and now lives in Summit Hill.

Living the dream

On behalf of the St. Paul NAACP, I write to congratulate Mayor Melvin Carter on his appointment of Commander Axel Henry to be Saint Paul's next chief of police.

Commander Henry has long been an important and trusted partner in building the relationship between the Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD) and the NAACP as well as our entire community. Commander Henry has been an advocate for reform when changes have been needed and an ally in finding ways to engage and involve our community in critical public safety initiatives.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with

INBOX

him in his new role. Our newly signed Addendum to the 2001 Agreement between the city, SPPD, and NAACP provides a strong road map, and our first meeting under the new addendum on December 7 will be an important next step in the joint work of the SPPD and NAACP to continue to make Saint Paul an even better community for all.

*The Reverend Richard Pittman
President, Saint Paul NAACP*

Saving Summit

Instead of Save Our Street, the Summit Avenue citizens group should call itself Pave Our Street.

*Elizabeth Ellis
Summit-University*

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Upper Landing residents tackle train noise

By Frank Jossi

Residents of Saint Paul's Upper Landing hope recent meetings with city and railroad officials will lead to fewer freight trains idling day and night for hours at a time near their condominiums and apartments. The trains from Union Pacific Railway idle on tracks along Shepard Road at Eagle Parkway awaiting clearance from two other railroads before traveling east to the Hoffman Yard terminal near Pig's Eye Lake. The trains are not only noisy, but dirty; they leave soot on nearby windows.

Two condominium owners, John Carnahan and Paul Thomas, reached out to local politicians and representatives of the Union Pacific, BNSF and Canadian Pacific railroads in hopes of solving the problem. According to them, trains waiting to travel to the terminal idled between 100 and 150 hours a month in April, May and June.

According to Carnahan, the problem came to a head last summer

when Union Pacific trains were idling for 10 to 12 hours at a time. "We heard the noise of diesel engines running all night and putting forth whistles and big, rumbling, heavy machinery sounds," he said. The trains emitted diesel fumes, and their vibrations could be felt in nearby buildings.

The idling declined to 100 hours in July and 50 hours in August, according to Carnahan and Thomas. Nevertheless, they organized two meetings. The first meeting in August involved representatives of Union Pacific and City Council member Rebecca Noecker, whose Ward 2 includes the Upper Landing. A second meeting in October in Noecker's office at City Hall was attended by representatives of Union Pacific, BNSF and Canadian Pacific.

According to Noecker, officials from the three railways agreed to speak to one another when problems emerge. Union Pacific also intends to study the possibility of having its trains idle in Lilydale across the Mississippi River

from downtown while waiting for the signal to advance. Those signals can now be sent digitally, Noecker added.

Carnahan embraced the idea. "The proposal to have trains wait in Lilydale before using the swing bridge to cross the river to downtown is a very positive step," he said.

Upper Landing neighbors understand that train noise is a part of living along the riverfront, Thomas said. Local residents like the trains, and some come from families whose members worked for the railroads, he said.

However, overnight idling should not be a regular occurrence, according to Noecker said, and Union Pacific officials agree. "They don't like their trains idling," she said. "They see it as a waste of money and time."

"I think people (along the Upper Landing) deserve a quality of life," Noecker added, "to be able to be outside in the summertime and keep the windows open without inhaling fumes or hearing trains idling morning and night."

Affordable housing in Highland is financed

By Jane McClure

The financing for two affordable housing projects at Highland Bridge is now in place. The Saint Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved the funds on October 26 for the Nellie Francis Court and Emma Norton Services Restoring Waters buildings.

Both apartment buildings are being developed by Project for Pride in Living (PPL). They were designed by UrbanWorks Architecture.

With their construction and the construction of CommonBond Communities' 60-unit Lumin building for low-income seniors, Highland Bridge will be a quarter of the way to its goal for affordable housing, according to Sarah Zorn, city manager of the Highland Bridge project.

Ryan Companies' development agreement with the city requires that at least 760 units, or 20 percent of the housing, at Highland Bridge be affordable to households making 60 percent or less of the Twin Cities' area

median income (AMI). Ryan Companies plans to build as many as 3,800 housing units on the 122-acre site.

Restoring Waters will be a five-story building for formerly homeless women and their dependent children. It will have 56 efficiency apartments and four one-bedroom units.

The apartments are reserved for households earning no more than 30 percent of AMI. Thirty of the units will be reserved for people who were previously homeless, and nine will be reserved for people with disabilities.

The \$23 million Restoring Waters will also house the offices of Emma Norton Services, replacing a facility on Robert Street that was recently purchased by Regions Hospital. It will have 28 underground parking spaces.

Restoring Waters' construction costs are being covered through a variety of sources, including low-income housing tax credits, private fundraising, and funds from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing and the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Tax increment financing (TIF) will provide another \$3.5 million or so. Multifamily revenue bonds may be requested for up to \$11.5 million of the cost.

Nellie Francis Court is being built as workforce housing for PPL. The five-story, 75-unit building will have 26 efficiency, 30 one-bedroom and 19 two-bedroom apartments reserved for households making no more than 60 percent of AMI. Its 40 underground parking spaces will be shared with Emma Norton.

The \$24 million-plus cost of Nellie Francis Court will be paid through low-income housing tax credits, a grant from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and just over \$9 million in TIF. Up to \$11.2 million of multifamily revenue bonds may also be requested.

The TIF for Restoring Waters and Nellie Francis Court accounts for about 90 percent of the funds generated by the TIF district that is centered around Presbyterian Homes' nearby Marvella development.

City offering \$20 million for new affordable housing

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul's efforts to provide housing for people with very low incomes continues this fall with the second round of the 30 Percent Area Median Income (AMI) Deeply Affordable Housing Program.

The city is using \$37.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds and Local Fiscal Recovery funds to pay for new and rehabilitated housing. About \$17 million was allocated in the first round this spring. The remaining \$20 million will be allocated to developers who apply by November 30. The intent of the program is to provide housing that is affordable to households earning about \$35,190 per year for a family of four.

The 30 Percent AMI program has helped the city increase the number of deeply affordable housing units

by 10 in 2021, 110 in 2022 and an estimated 100 in 2023. According to program manager Erika Byrd creating a single deeply affordable housing unit has an average cost of about \$160,000.

The program's focus in the second round is to help homeless people move into permanent supportive housing. How much each project receives will depend on the number of applicants. Developers must close on their financing by the end of 2024 and keep the housing affordable for at least 30 years. Projects that promise 40 to 50 years of affordability will be given priority.

City Council members questioned the tight deadline for applications in the second round. Noting the more relaxed application period in the first round, Ward 7 council member Jane Prince asked if the city is giv-

ing developers enough time. Saint Paul housing director Tara Beard explained that city officials are working under a tight deadline to spend the available funds.

Among the projects receiving funds in the first round was developer JB Vang's Twelve-Twenty-Two Project. The former Saint Paul Casket Company building at 1222 University Ave. will have 55 apartments, 13 of which will be affordable to households making 30 percent AMI.

Other first-round projects include PAK Properties' Marshall Avenue Flats at 1619 Dayton Ave. and RS Eden's Ashland Apartments at 532 Ashland Ave. Ten of the 98 Marshall Avenue Flats will be affordable to households making 30 percent AMI. All 17 of RS Eden's Ashland Apartments will be affordable to those making 30 percent AMI.

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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You want atmosphere?

Ingrams' Apostle Supper Club transports downtown diners to Palm Springs circa 1960

By Carolyn Walkup

Saint Paul has another option for upscale dining with the opening of the Apostle Supper Club on the ground floor of a new apartment building at Kellogg Boulevard and West Seventh Street. The 400-seat restaurant is the most ambitious undertaking to date for Brian and Sarah Ingram's Purpose Driven Restaurants, which also owns Hope Breakfast Bar off West Seventh, the Gnome on Selby Avenue and the Apostle Supper Club atop the Radisson Hotel in Duluth.

"This is something new for the Twin Cities," Ingram said of the Apostle and its 1960s Palm Springs supper club atmosphere.

No ordinary eatery, the Apostle's expansive dining room is laid out with several seating arrange-

ments, including upholstered booths big enough for small groups, counter seating overlooking the kitchen, a sunken living room with a fireplace at its center, a piano bar, and the False Eye Doll Lounge tiki bar.

The furnishings are done in colors that were popular in the 1960s, such as turquoise and coral. The windows are blacked out to help patrons forget where they are, Ingram said. Come spring, an outdoor patio is planned with another 400 seats for diners.

Ingram is excited to be offering the kind of food he formerly prepared as a chef at major restaurants in New York and Chicago. Many of the menu items come in large portions that are intended for sharing. Among the entrées in the \$40 price range are the Tomahawk pork chop, the halibut with white wine butter sauce and caviar, the Manhattan strip steak, and the chicken-fried lobster.

A menu more suited to the budget-conscious is available in the tiki bar. It includes Hawaiian chicken salad, fried Spam tacos and a chili dog, all for under \$14. Some retro items are available, including shrimp cocktails and ice cream cakes. Ingram also plans to introduce special chef dinners on Tuesday nights, featuring the creations of out-of-town chefs on occasion.

The Apostle boasts a comprehensive list of contemporary cocktails along with such classics as the grass-



Brian Ingram was all smiles as he readied his new Apostle Supper Club for what he hoped would be a good turnout on the evening of his first Minnesota Wild hockey game across the street at the Xcel Energy Center. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

hopper, the brandy alexander and the old-fashioned. The tiki bar has a variety of tropical-themed drinks made with rum, fresh fruit juices and house-made syrups. A martini cart with all of the trimmings is wheeled up tableside for patrons who want to watch their libations being prepared to order. The restaurant also has a sizable spirit-free drink list.

The Apostle has been welcomed by downtown restaurateurs and tourism officials. "We're super-excited for Brian and his team," said Joe Spencer, president of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance. "It's cool because it's a brand new addition created from scratch."

Jaimee Hendrikson of the Visit Saint Paul convention and visitors bureau predicted the Apostle will attract its share of patrons who come downtown for Minnesota Wild games or concerts and plays at the Xcel Energy Center, the Ordway, Park Square and History theaters and other venues.

"Brian (Ingram) has been very successful," said Richard Dobransky, president of Morrissey Hospitality, which manages the Saint Paul Hotel and Saint Paul Grill and Momento restaurants. "If he can bring more

people downtown, let's do it. It's great to have another option for upscale dining."

The workforce in downtown Saint Paul has yet to return to its prepandemic levels. However, Momento has been doing pretty good dinner business, Dobransky said. The casual restaurant, which is in the space formerly occupied by Pazzaluna, plans to add breakfast in January, he said.

Business has also been picking up at Noyes & Cutler, the upscale restaurant that opened in July in

the former Public Bar & Kitchen space near Mears Park, according to general manager Jorge Robertson.

Although Noyes & Cutler specializes in steak and other high-end items, Robertson does not call it fine dining but rather "polished casual." It plans to begin serving lunch soon, Robertson said, and then to reopen the Green Lantern nightclub on the lower level with live music, stand-up comedy and open-mic nights.



The Apostle Supper Club across Kellogg Boulevard from the Xcel Energy Center.



The piano bar at the new Apostle Supper Club.

Business Briefs

Evergreen Collective, a home goods shop specializing in sustainable and ethically made items, recently opened at 1104 Grand Ave. Owner Taylor Hall said the inventory will range from zero waste cleaning products and refillable cleaning solutions to kitchen and cooking utensils, vegan makeup, toiletries, reusable takeout containers, home decor, and baby and pet products.

Sunrise Banks, 2525 Wabash Ave., has received Fast Company's Brands That Matter Award, a national honor that judges companies based on their on cultural and business impacts and ingenuity. This year, Sunrise was acknowledged along with numerous other brands ranging in size from one to 1,000 employees.

Dayna Martinez has been named the new executive director of the Twin Cities Jazz Festival. She will work alongside event founder Steve Heckler on the 25th annual festival that is set for June 23-24, 2023, around Mears Park in Lowertown. Heckler plans to retire after that event. Martinez comes to the Twin Cities Jazz Festival from the Ordway Center, where she most recently served as vice president

of programming and education. Since 2012, she has also served as director of the annual Flint Hills Family Festival.

The Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation has announced its Outstanding Disability Employers for 2022. Locally, they include Lunds & Byerlys for metro-area large employers, and New Perspective Highland Park for metro-area midsize employers.

Spinning Wylde's Cotton Candy Cafe held a preview party on October 30 to debut its new location in the Head House of the Saint Paul Union Depot, 214 E. Fourth St. The cafe plans to open in phases in the coming months.

Flava Cafe and **Urban 29** held their grand openings recently at Frogtown Crossroads, University Avenue and Dale Street. Flava Cafe founder Shaunie Grigsby offers espresso drinks, sandwiches, salads and pastries, branded merchandise and local artwork. Urban 29 owner Joyce Sanders is selling men's clothing and accessories. Both women received assistance from the Neighborhood Development Center, which offices at Frogtown Crossroads.

City honors small businesses

By Jane McClure

Four small businesses in the area served by MyVillager were honored on October 26 by the City Council at a special meeting and reception.

Selby Wines & Spirits, 778 Selby Ave., Ward 1, received the Traditions Award, given to a business that has been active in the city for at least 20 years.

In Black Ink, 938 Selby Ave., was runnerup for the Alice O'Brien Award, given to a woman-owned business that is committed to equity and empowerment.

Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles, 520 N. Prior Ave., won the Good Neighbor Award for its dedication to improving the community. Runner-up was Vig Guitar, 595 N. Snelling Ave.

NEOO Partners, 370 N. Wabasha St., received the New Kid on the Block Award, given to an outstanding business that opened in the last five years.

The awards program was launched in 2017 to recognize outstanding businesses in Saint Paul. The winners were selected by a committee of past winners.

District Councils

Highland Park

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Turkey Trot—The 11th annual Highland Park Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 24. After the 5K run, participants are invited to stop at Tiffany's Sports Lounge for a free breakfast for all and a free Bloody Mary for those age 21 and older. People who register at highlandpark-turkeytrot.com by November 10 will receive a race shirt. Proceeds from the event will benefit Highland Catholic School and the Highland Friendship Club. Items will be collected for the food shelf.



HDC board retreat—Highland District Council board and committee members met for their annual board retreat in late October to discuss areas to focus on this year. For information on board and committee meetings, see highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Highland's history—The Highland Heritage Project will host a presentation on the history of the Highland Park neighborhood from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, November 12, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The stories shared will start from the time of the Native American presence before Fort Snelling and continue with the pioneer farmers and the establishment of churches, synagogues, schools, parks, housing and businesses in Highland.

Western District crime meetings—Public meetings to discuss recent crime trends are being held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Saint Paul Police Department's Western District Office, 389 N. Hamline Ave. Registration is not required. Contact olivia.scullark@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-5423 for details.

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. A survey about the areas around

the proposed stations at Montreal Avenue, Homer Street, Saint Paul Avenue and Davern Street can be found at surveymonkey.com/r/98FPKRB.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 15; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, November 28. HDC meetings are held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with the option to join online. Get the Zoom link at highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Board positions available—The Summit Hill Association is seeking volunteers to assist at various activities and to join its board of directors. To volunteer, email info@SummitHillAssociation.org. For information on applying, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/join-the-board.

Upcoming events—SHA annual meeting, 7 p.m. Thursday, November 10 (location to be announced); and winter plant sale pickup, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, November 19, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 Saint Clair Ave. (preorders required). For updated information and log-in instructions, visit SummitHillAssociation.org/calendar.

West Seventh

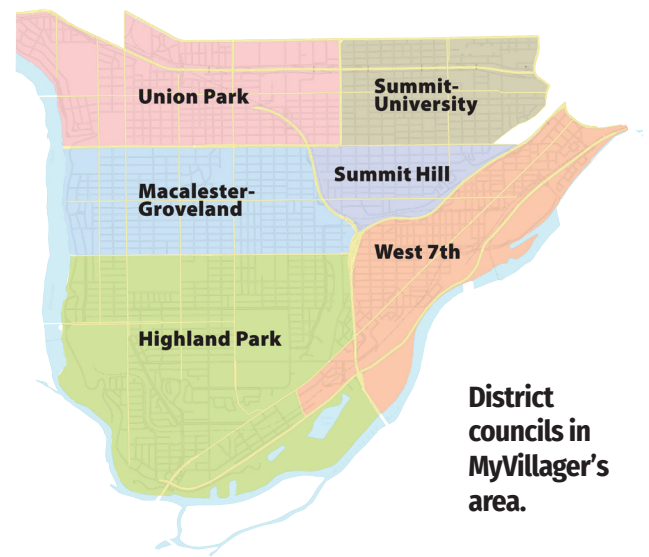
fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, November 14; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17. Meetings are on Zoom. For log-in information, visit fortroadfederation.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 engraved plaques for their buildings to identify their age.



District councils in MyVillager's area.

People can 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. Donations to the community council are now being matched by its board of directors. Visit givemn.org/macgrove or macgrove.org/donate for more information.

Join the snow team—Volunteers are needed to help keep the Macalester-Groveland organics recycling drop-off site free from snow and ice this winter. Volunteers can expect to shovel two or three times during the season. Sign up by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org.

Mac-Grove pride—Macalester-Groveland T-shirts can still be ordered online and delivered to your home within days. Visit macgrove.org/tshirts for information.

Upcoming meetings—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 begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.



*Old homes! old hearts! Upon my soul forever
Their peace and gladness lie like tears and laughter;
Like love they touch me, through the years that sever,
With simple faith; like friendship, draw me after
The dreamy patience that is theirs forever.*

Madison Julius Cawein

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Vacant annex faces wrecking ball for expanded Pedro Park

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul City Council agreed on October 26 to use \$500,000 in surplus federal funds toward razing the city's former Public Safety Annex this winter to make way for an expanded Pedro Park on 10th and Robert streets in downtown.

The surplus is from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that must be spent by March. The rest of the anticipated \$1.4 million in demolition costs will come from a regular CDBG allocation. Not spending down the surplus could reduce future federal allocations.

Demolition of the annex at 100 E. 10th St. would allow the adjacent Pedro Park to almost double in size from its current .45 acres. The building site would be seeded with grass in 2023. Money for development of the park could be sought next year as part of the city's 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) cycle. Downtown residents have also been discussing private fundraising for the park.

Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker has long called for the annex to be razed and its site used for a bigger park.

"This is really a big step toward the realization of the long-held community dream for the expansion of Pedro Park," she said.

Earlier this fall, the State Historic Preservation Office determined that the annex has no historic significance. The annex was erected in 1925-26 for Tri-State Telephone Company. Starting in the 1950s, several city departments and offices occupied the building. Renovations were made for the Police Department in 1975. Police operations moved to a new facility on Lafayette Road in 2017.

A park in that area of downtown has been discussed for nearly 25 years. Originally dubbed Fitzgerald Park, the name was changed to Pedro Park in 2009 after the Pedro family closed its longtime luggage shop in 2008 and donated the site to the city on the condition that it be combined with adjacent land for a park bearing the family's name.

The annex was long eyed as part of the park site, but earlier plans stalled due to lack of funding. Instead of tearing down the annex, the City Council voted in 2018 to sell the building to the Minneapolis-based Ackerberg Group, which planned to convert it into retail and office space.



The city's old Public Safety Annex (shown with red circles) is expected to be razed this winter to finally make room for a much larger Pedro Park in downtown Saint Paul.

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

The proposed sale angered park supporters, who wanted the annex demolished and its site added to create a park that would take up the entire block.

Ackerberg dropped the project in 2020 and a lawsuit against the city filed by the Friends of Pedro Park was dismissed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals. That same

year, the City Council took \$800,000 in previously allocated CIB funds away from the park to help balance the city budget.

Now the structure is deteriorating. Planning director Travis Bistodeau said the city is spending up to \$100,000 a year to keep the annex standing.

In 2021, the CapitolRiver Council formed a working group that pushed the benefits of expanding Pedro Park, including helping retain downtown workers and providing an amenity for a portion of downtown that lacks park space.

Elevated pollution in Summit-U prompts MPCA to take action

By Jane McClure

The Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) heard a presentation on October 25 regarding hazardous underground chemicals near Selby Avenue and Grotto Street, and efforts by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to find funding to remedy the situation.

MPCA officials want to add the area to the "permanent list of priorities" as a Minnesota Superfund site. They plan to notify affected property owners this month and hold a public meeting to outline the issues.

The MPCA is focusing on an irregularly shaped area roughly bounded by Marshall and Laurel avenues, and Avon and Saint Albans streets. The area has expanded since testing began about five years ago. The MPCA is trying to convince local property owners to agree to have air samples taken

to help determine the extent of concern.

High levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) have been found in the Selby-Grotto area. According to the MPCA, groundwater contaminated with these and other chemicals can release vapors that can contaminate the soil and seep into buildings through basement slabs, side walls and foundation cracks. The so-called vapor intrusion can create health hazards.

"It's a heavily populated area and we need to get it on the permanent list of priorities," said MPCA project manager Doree Husnik.

The possible health effects from breathing PCE depends on the amount in the indoor air and how long people breathe it. Long-term exposure at very high levels may increase the risk of certain types of cancer or cause neurological effects, such

as vision changes or delayed reaction time.

It is not known where pollution at Selby and Grotto came from, Husnik said. Possible sources include a former dry cleaner, auto repair shop and burial vault manufacturer. Those buildings were gone by the 1980s. A concrete block building later went up that housed a fraternal organization and then Morningstar Baptist Church.

Morningstar partnered with Premier Housing Management and Mesaba Capital Partners to redevelop the property as Seven Hills Senior Living and a new church building, winning city approvals in 2018. In 2017, the developers enrolled the site in the MPCA's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) Program to address soil vapors that had been found at the site when soil on the block was excavated for underground parking.

A mitigation system was then installed

beneath the new building to protect its occupants from breathing in any vapors. However, residents in nearby homes and apartments may not be protected from vapor intrusion.

The testing involves drilling holes in a basement floor and taking air samples. If unsafe levels are found, a mitigation system can be installed. The system is similar to those installed in homes where high levels of radon are detected.

Installing a system can cost \$5,000-\$10,000. The state will pay to install systems in owner-occupied homes, but apartment and commercial property owners must pay for it themselves.

SUPC board member Jonathan Palmer said he is concerned about what remediation could mean for low-income renters. "Families could get stuck with a rent increase they can't afford," he said.

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Dance like no one's watching. TU Dance instructor MerSadies McCoy had 6-month-old Cobi Scott looking out from her arms as she led a creative movement program for children at the Merriam Park Library on November 4. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

KIOSK

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 10

SHOP BY CANDLELIGHT this evening in the Selby-Snelling business district. The cafes and shops at and around the intersection of Selby and Snelling avenues will be offering free munchies and beverages, prize drawings and special discounts between 5 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 12

THE HISTORY OF HIGHLAND PARK from 18th century to the present day will be addressed by representatives of the Highland Heritage Project. Their presentation and slide show will run from 2-3 p.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Visit highlandheritageproject.org.

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.

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 13

"ILLUMINATING DARKNESS: Visitor Experiences at Dark Tourism Sites" will be addressed from 10 a.m.-noon at the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave. Or Emet members Michal Moskow and Scott Chazdon will discuss visitor experiences at three dark

tourism sites: the site of the killing of George Floyd, the place in Mankato where 38 Dakota Indians were hanged in 1862, and Holocaust sites in Germany and Eastern Europe. Admission is free, but attendees are required to wear a mask and be up to date on vaccinations or have a negative COVID test that day.

WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 16

THE HIGHLAND LEISURE AGE GROUP gathers from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. today and every Wednesday to play 500 and other card games at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 700 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free.

FRIDAY/NOVEMBER 18

A LUTEFISK & SWEDISH MEATBALL dinner will be served in three seatings this evening by the Men's Club of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. The 71st annual family-style dinner will feature lutefisk with melted butter and cream sauce, lefse, meatballs and gravy, Yukon Gold potatoes, early June peas, cranberry sauce, Scandinavian fruit soup, milk, ice water and coffee. Patrons will be seated at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for children ages 6-12, free to kids under 6. Childcare will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the Young Fiddlers of Minnesota. Proceeds will benefit the church's mission outreach programs to fight hunger and poverty. A bake sale featuring lefse, Scandinavian delicacies and other baked goods will be held from 4-7 p.m. Immanuel's Boy Scout Troop 90 will be selling jars of gourmet pickled herring. For reservations, call 651-699-5560 or 651-698-1260.

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—Multiple bottles of alcohol were reported stolen during a break-in at Bucca di Beppo, 2728 Gannon Road, at 5 a.m. on October 19.

—Frameworks, 2022 Ford Pkwy., was broken into at 10:38 p.m. on October 22.

—A residential break-in was reported on the 1400 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard at 7:42 p.m. on October 25.

—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle in a secure parking garage on the 2200 block of Youngman Avenue between 1:57-2:57 p.m. on October 27.

Theft—Thefts from vehicles were reported at Crosby Farm Park between 9:45-10:45 a.m. on October 19, and around 5:25 p.m. on October 29.

—A theft valued at more than \$1,000 was reported at Highland National Golf Course between noon-6 p.m. on October 22.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—Two firearms were reported stolen from the 1200 block of Selby Avenue at 8:30 a.m. on October 20.

—Incidents at the Midway Target included a purse-snatching on October 23, a 23-year-old man arrested after trying to steal more than \$370 in merchandise on October 24, a 31-year-old woman cited for trying to steal more than \$500 in items on October 27, and a man who had previously taken \$3,000 worth of merchandise and was caught shoplifting again and carrying a weapon on October 30.

Miscellaneous—A work truck was damaged by six juveniles in the Midway Target parking lot at 2 p.m. on October 20. They smashed both front windows with landscaping rocks taken from the truck bed.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Home break-ins were reported on the 2100 block of Saint Clair Avenue at 4:41 p.m. on October 23; and on the 2100 block of Stanford Avenue at 6:54 p.m. on October 24.

—Around \$1,200 in jewelry was reported

ed stolen during a home break-in on the 2100 block of Berkeley Avenue between 12:30-3 p.m. on October 24.

—A break-in was reported at Red 6 Games, 1326 Grand Ave., around 10:33 a.m. on October 31.

Theft—Five males were reportedly stealing items from yards and putting them into a wheelbarrow at 12:19 a.m. on October 23 on Fairview and Grand avenues. Two of the males were cited after providing officers with fake IDs.

—A shoplifter threw a football at an employee before making off with more than \$500 in merchandise from Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., at 8:56 p.m. on October 30.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A man was arrested for drug possession, theft and weapons charges after he was pulled over for speeding in a stolen vehicle on Highway 13 near Riverside Lane at 1:09 p.m. on October 27.

Assault—A 28-year-old woman was arrested for assaulting an officer, obstructing the legal process and drug possession after she reportedly was seen walking away from an arson fire on the 1800 block of Lilydale Road at 8:24 p.m. on October 21.

Miscellaneous—An unconscious juvenile was taken to the hospital after reportedly consuming a large amount of alcohol on the 2200 block of Aztec Lane at 10:52 p.m. on October 14.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A woman was robbed of her phone and purse on the 1800 block of Feronia Avenue at 1:32 p.m. on October 25.

Burglary—A safe was reported stolen during a break-in at Gus Gus, 128 N. Cleveland Ave., at 9 a.m. on October 23.

—A residential burglary was reported on the 300 block of North Finn Street at 10 a.m. on October 25.

—Tools were reported stolen from a construction site at Our Lady of Peace, 2076 Saint Anthony Ave., between 7:27-8:17 a.m. on November 1.

Theft—A 26-year-old man with an outstanding felony drug warrant was arrested after he was found with a stolen vehicle at the Quality Inn, 1964 University Ave., around 11:13 p.m. on October 31.

—Two suspects reportedly stole a man's cellphone at Denny's, 1664 University Ave.,

around 8:34 p.m. on October 31.

—A trailer was reported stolen at Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles, 520 N. Prior Ave., around 7:11 p.m. on October 31.

Assault—A 48-year-old man was arrested for assault, reckless discharge of a firearm and carrying a gun in public without a permit after police responded to multiple reports of shots fired on the 300 block of Pierce Street at 9:51 p.m. on November 1.

Weapons—Two 9 mm shell casings were recovered after gunfire was reported on Herschel Street and University Avenue at 11:42 p.m. on October 21.

—A 34-year-old man with 15 felony convictions was arrested for possession of a gun and ammunition by a felon, and drug possession on the 300 block of Pierce Street at 3:29 p.m. on October 26.

Miscellaneous—The wires of 16 light poles were cut in an apparent copper theft on Mississippi River Boulevard and Marshall Avenue at 11:29 p.m. on October 27.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A phone, purse and wallet were reported stolen from a vehicle at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., at 7:12 a.m. on October 26.

Miscellaneous—Pedestrians were taken to the hospital after being struck by vehicles on University and Snelling avenues at 6:52 p.m. on October 20, and on Hamline and Concordia avenues at 8:01 p.m. on October 24.

Summit Hill

Theft—A chop saw was reported stolen from a work truck on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 9:30 a.m. on October 20.

—A motorcycle was reported stolen on the 600 block of Grand Avenue between 4-10:57 p.m. on October 22.

—Construction equipment worth more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 800 block of Saint Clair Avenue between 2:13-3:12 p.m. on October 25.

—Tools were reported stolen from a work vehicle on Goodrich Avenue and Oxford Street at 12:23 p.m. on October 26.

—A woman said two girls stole her purse and phone after she tried breaking up a fight in the parking lot behind Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave., at 2:47 a.m. on October 30.

Assault—A felony assault was reported

near Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave., at 10:02 p.m. on October 25.

—A man reported being stabbed at the Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand Ave., at 4:14 a.m. on October 27. He was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Summit-University

Burglary—Money was reported stolen from the cash register during a break-in at Mother Plants, 162 N. Dale St., on the evening of October 18-19.

Theft—A scooter was reported stolen at the Saint Paul Curling Club, 407 Selby Ave., at 9:11 p.m. on October 23.

—A purse-snatching was reported on Virginia Street and Selby Avenue at 6:50 p.m. on October 25.

Miscellaneous—A 14-year-old boy was arrested on multiple felony warrants after he was pulled over for driving recklessly in a stolen vehicle at 12:15 a.m. on October 31 on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue.

West End

Burglary—Focus Beyond Transitions, 340 Colborne St., was burglarized at 1147 a.m. on October 30.

Theft—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1100 block of West Seventh Street at 9:06 a.m. on October 23.

—A 29-year-old man was cited for breaking into a vehicle on the 600 block of Palace Avenue at 1 a.m. on October 30.

—Eight lanterns were reported stolen from a residence on the 200 block of Cliff Street at 1:09 a.m. on October 30.

Assault—A 29-year-old woman was arrested for assaulting another woman on the 1400 block of West Seventh Street at 2:07 p.m. on October 20.

—A suspect punched the manager in the face at the Truck Park Bar, 214 W. Seventh St., at 10:49 p.m. on October 22.

—A man was assaulted by two males in an elevator at the Holiday Inn, 175 W. Seventh St., around 1:39 a.m. on November 2.

Sex crime—A 29-year-old man was arrested for indecent exposure on Douglas Street and Harrison Avenue around 12:15 p.m. on October 31.

Weapons—Four 9 mm shell casings were recovered after police responded to a report of gunfire on the 700 block of Tuscarora Avenue at 7:35 p.m. on October 25.

ON THE TOWN

'Art music of our time'

Local composers premiere their latest creations in debut of Vanguard New Music Series

By Janet Lunder Hanafin

Twin Cities composers Emily Boyajian, Jared Coffin, Aaron Kerr and Jonathan Posthuma will present a collection of new works in concert at 7 p.m. Friday, November 18, at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. The performance is the first in the Vanguard New Music Series showcasing local talent and classical music of the here and now.

The Twin Cities are home to an abundance of composing talent, according to Kerr. "We've been meeting for years and showing our music to each other," he said. "Many of us get our music played at concerts and festivals, but it's kind of hit and miss. Last year we decided it was time to start a music series so the public could hear our music."

The November 18 concert will feature a variety of vocal works ranging from the setting of a William Butler Yeats poem to a Latin hymn to a short opera based on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

"We all had some vocal pieces ready to go, so we're starting with that," Kerr said. Twin Cities singers Ian Cook, Todd Harper, Tara Priolo and Carole Schultz are the featured performers. They will be accompanied by organ and piano.

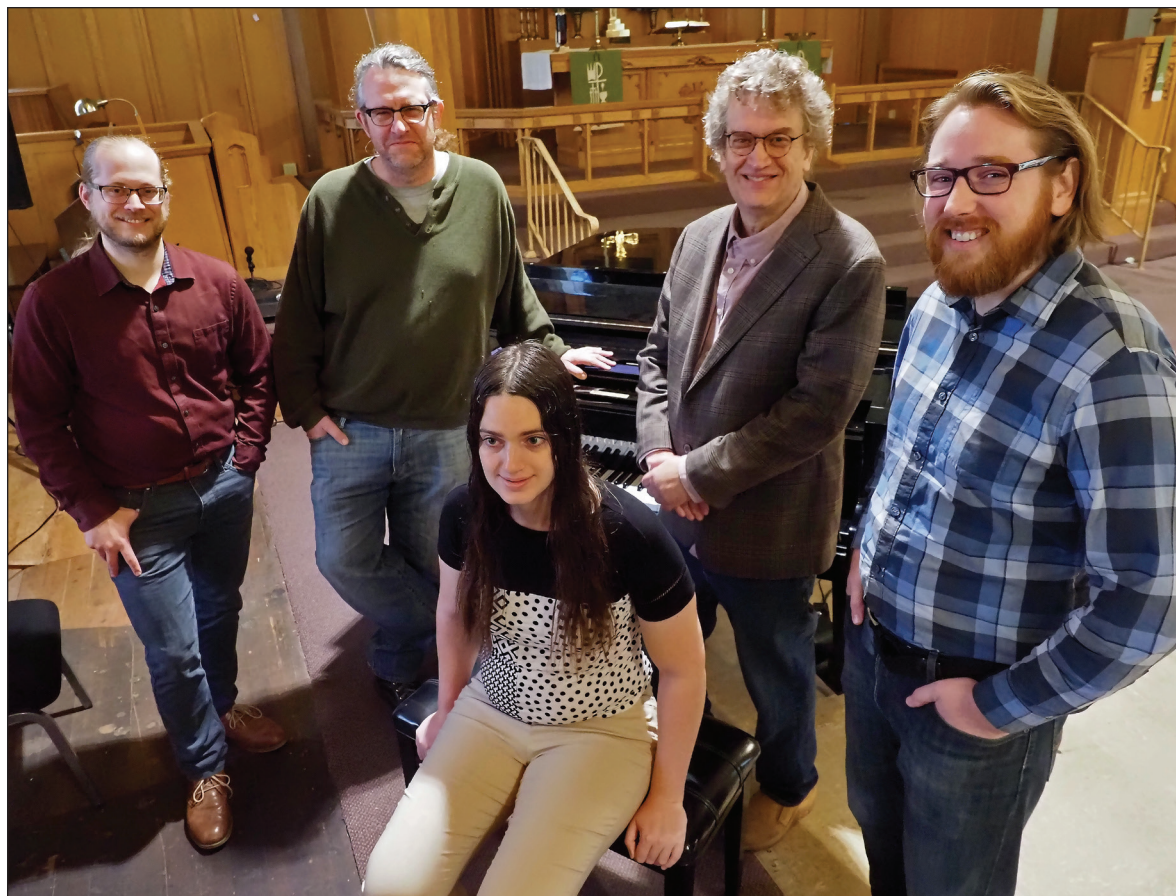
The compositions are described as "new music," a term

that may seem a bit mysterious. "It's the art music of our time," Coffin said. "The moniker was adopted by the creators in this generation, since 'classical' didn't fit and 'contemporary' has been used for anything after 1900."

Kerr, a resident of Saint Paul's Como neighborhood, is a classically trained musician, but he learned to play all styles of music through his participation in high school orchestra and jazz and rock bands. "At some point in high school, I became really blown away with the idea that a composer could be anyone, at any age, who played any instrument, not just dead guys who sat at a piano," he said. "When I started composing, it was this really liberating, powerful moment. I realized I could control sound by creating musical structures. There was no going back."

Coffin, a longtime resident of Saint Paul's West End, has set his music to a poem by William Butler Yeats, "The Young Man's Song," about falling in love. "I've always enjoyed Yeats' poems, but this one had a quality that could be set to my style of composing well," he said. Coffin wrote the work for voice and piano a few years ago, but it has never been performed. "I'm very excited to hear Ian Cook and Jonathan Posthuma premier the piece at this concert," he said.

Coffin, too, began playing music as a youth, but mostly in punk and hard-rock bands. His high school band director



Singers Ian Cook (left) and Todd Harper (second from right) will join composers Aaron Kerr (second from left), Emily Boyajian and Jonathan Posthuma in the first Vanguard New Music Series concert on November 18 at Zion Lutheran Church.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

programmed a piece by John Adams "that really captivated me for what concert music could look like outside of the 'old music' I heard on the symphony field trips," he said.

In college, he wrote and played mostly pop music. A mentor made it possible for one of his compositions to be played, and "from then on," Coffin said, "I was captivated by the feeling of having my music interpreted by musicians. I wrote more and performed less. Now I consider myself only a composer, not a performer."

Several years ago, local composer Michael Miaoran hosted a series of informal conversations on composing at his home, and that is where the four collaborators of the Vanguard Series first connected. "I consider them all great colleagues and friends," Coffin said. "These small artistic communities are what make the Twin Cities such a fervent place

for new music."

Posthuma's "Chant Etude" employs a Latin text associated with Advent in a chant melody. "It's a religious text about the coming of Christ, but it also has a secular meaning about finding rest and nourishment in a too often divisive and unsustainable world," he said. Kerr describes the work as "very open and ethereal."

The melody is fluid, and Posthuma gives the singer liberty to emphasize different words or parts. Posthuma will play the organ, which will be in dialogue with the singer, going back and forth between verses. "There will be improvised cadenzas that are not written out where the organist will respond in the moment," he said.

Posthuma, who in his youth regularly played the piano at church, started composing in high school. His earliest compositions were piano settings of hymns for preludes

and offertories at church. In college he began writing more vocal and choral music, as well as orchestra, band and chamber music for many different ensembles.

"My favorite themes in music are finding the sacred and beautiful in our daily lives as well as inspiration from visual art and nature," he said. "I'm a religious person, but my music is open-ended and inviting for audiences to explore the brokenness in our world and what they believe to be sacred and beautiful."

"I'm really excited about this series," Kerr said. "Once I started working with this group of composers, it became my mission to get their stuff out to the public. Part of the fun of all this is getting to hear music so new that no one has heard it yet."

The November 18 concert is billed as an all-ages affair. Admission is \$15 at the door, cash, check, Venmo and PayPay accepted.

ON THE TOWN Briefly

Music

The women's choral ensemble Lumina will perform songs by Abbie Betinis, Linda Kachelmeier, Natalie Nowytski, Jonathan Posthuma, Catherine Dalton and others in a free concert at noon on Thursday, November 10, at Landmark Center.

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.

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.

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 chopinsocietyymn.org or call 612-822-0123.

"Humoreske," works by Enescu, Korngold, Prokofiev, Fauré, William Bolcom, Britten, Shostakovich, Brahms and Ravel will be performed by the Boston-based Merz Trio in a Schubert Club concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 13, at Saint

Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Tickets are \$23-\$33. Visit schubert.org or call 651-292-3268.

The Minnesota Guitar Society will present a "double duo" guitar concert on Tuesday, November 15, in Fingal's Cave at MetroNOME Brewery, 289 E. Fifth St. Ryan Picone and Jose Betanzos of the Red Hot Django Peppers will perform from 6-7 p.m. followed by Pavel Jany and Dean Harrington from 7-9 p.m. Call 651-317-9080 or visit metronomebrewery.com.

"Our Song, Our Story: A New Generation of Black Voices" will be presented by pianist Damien Sneed, singers Raven McMillon and Raehann Bryce-Davis and a string quartet in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 18, at the Ordway Concert Hall. The program will pay homage to fellow Black opera singers Marian

Anderson and Jessye Norman. Works by Handel and Mozart will also be played. Tickets start at \$7. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Ellen Stanley of Mother Banjo will celebrate her 20 years of hosting KFAI radio's "Womenfolk" show on Sunday, November 20, with a concert featuring some of the top folk, roots and bluegrass musicians in the region. Ann Reed, Molly Maher, Jonatha Brooke, Becky Schlegel, Mary Cutrufello, Ellis Delaney and the OK Factor will be among those performing at 7 p.m. at Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$21 at the door, \$30 VIP. Visit theparkwaytheater.com.

"Three Lapsed Lawyers," music by Telemann, Heinichen and Graupner, all of

14 ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

whom were lawyers earlier in life, will be performed by Lyra Baroque Orchestra and harpsichordist Marc Destrubé at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 20, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$5-\$35, \$15 for the live stream. Visit lyrabaroque.org.

Lessons and carols for Advent will be presented by the Mount Olive Cantorei and organist David Cherwien at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 27, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The program will open with a solemn procession. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dance

Waltz or polka to the music of George's Concertina Band and move to the folk rock of SloVczech. The two ethnic bands will be playing live on Saturday, November 12, at the 60th anniversary dance party of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Dance lessons, assorted pop-up fun, a silent auction, ethnic food and a cash bar will be featured from 4-10 p.m. at the CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or \$8 each and \$15 per couple in advance at tancuj.org. The party is a fundraiser for the folk dance group's performance tour of the Czech Republic (and maybe Slovakia) in August 2023. Call Louise at 651-271-3601.

Theater

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 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday in the theater of the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For reservations and COVID protocol, visit sixpointstheater.org.

The messiness of family, duty, disappointment and forgiveness takes center stage in *The Boys Room*. Playwright Joel Drake Johnson's drama about two adult brothers who seek the sanctuary of their childhood home is playing through November 27 at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Linda Kelsey, Peter Hansen, Dan Hopman and Lucy Farrell star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$32, \$28 for seniors, half price for patrons under age 30. Call 1-888-718-4253 or visit gremlintheatre.org.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles, a new drama based on an Agatha Christie mystery, will open on November 18 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Published in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* introduced readers to detective Hercule Poirot as he investigates the midnight poisoning of a family matriarch. Christie's colorful characters and gift of misdirection are on full display. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through December 18. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

A Servants' Christmas, a look at life on Saint Paul's Summit Avenue during the holidays at the end of the 19th century, will be performed from November 19 through December 18 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The drama tells of a young Jewish woman who takes a job as the "second girl" in the home of a strict Christian widower. Afraid of losing the job, Rachel Leibovich changes her name to Monica Leary to keep her faith a secret from the family. Ron Peluso directs a cast



"Elementary, my dear Watson."

Examine history with the skills of the incomparable 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.

that features Gary Briggie, Serena Brook, Jennifer Burleigh-Bentz, Erin Capello Kopp, Sullivan Cooper, Cathleen Fuller, Norah Long, Eric Morris and Nicola Wahl. Tickets are \$15-\$70. For reservations, visit historytheatre.com or call 651-292-4323.

Film

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.

Director Louise Woehrle's award-winning documentary, *Stalag Luft III: One Man's Story*, will be screened at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 13, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. The film features former Saint Paul resident Charles Woehrle as he relives his harrowing experience flying in the Mighty Eighth and as a prisoner of war in the Nazi prison camp made famous by the 1963 Hollywood film, *The Great Escape*. A Q&A with Woehrle will follow the film. Tickets are \$10. Visit whirlygig-productions.ticketleap.com.

Exhibits

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

"Between the Stripes, Under the Stars," art by 10 women that answers the question, "Who is an American?" is being displayed through December 11 in the Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at Saint Catherine University. Exhibiting their art are Hend Al-Mansour, Susan Armington, Nida Bangash, Roya Farassat, Nina Ghanbarzadeh, Farida Hughes, Fawzia Khan, Ifrah Mansour, Kimberlee Joy Roth and Helen Zughuib. Admission is free. Visit

gallery.stkate.edu.

"Threads of Freedom," the art of veteran Jeffrey Stenbom, is on view through January 8, 2023, in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. Using primarily glass, Stenbom has created works shaped by his experiences in the Armed Services. A reception for the artist will be held from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, November 15. Stenbom will also discuss his art in the gallery at noon on Thursday, December 8. Admission is free and open to all.

Explore the nooks and crannies of the historic Washburn A Mill 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 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 Twin City Model Railroad Museum has brought back its Night Trains experience. From 3-7 p.m. on Saturdays (except Christmas Eve) now through February, the lights will be turned down at the museum and the model trains and the miniature villages through which they pass will be covered in snow and softly aglow with holiday decor. Admission to the museum at 668 Transfer Road is \$15 for Night Trains, \$10 at other times, free for children age 4 and under. Visit tcmrm.org or call 651-647-9628.

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

Peter and the Starcatcher, a prequel to J.M. Barrie's classic 1904 drama *Peter Pan*, will be staged from November 11-20 by the students of Visitation School and Saint Thomas Academy. A wildly theatrical

adaptation of the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, the play upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unlikely heroes, *Peter and the Starcatcher* playfully explores the depths of greed and despair and the bonds of friendship, duty and love. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays in DeSales Auditorium at Visitation, 2455 Visitation Drive in Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Visit visitationnet.ludus.com.

Books

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host free readings and discussion with poet Caleb Tankersley and his debut collection, *Sin Eaters*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 10; and author Peter Geye and his novel, *The Ski Jumpers*, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 16. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Free poetry workshops will be offered by Cracked Walnut from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturdays, November 12 and December 3, 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@donnaisaacpoet.com.

Celebrate the release of the 13th volume of *Saint Paul Almanac* on Wednesday, November 16. Contributors to this edition, *A Path to Each Other*, will read from their pieces beginning at 6 p.m. at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. They include Wendy Brown-Báez, Annette Gagliardi, Tara Flaherty Guy, Heidi Fettig Parton, Lee Colin Thomas, Sara Dovre Wudali, Maryam Marne Zafar and James Zimmerman. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Et cetera

"Lights, Camera, Fashion. Oh My!" a panel discussion on the intersection of costume design and fashion, will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, in the atrium of the Ordway Center. Taking part in the free program will be costume designers Samantha Rei and Ryan J. Moller, Susan Leppke of Fashion Week Minnesota, and stylist and brand creator Marcus Styles of VZNCY. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Two Rivers has a week to remember

In a crowded athletic landscape, four teams at Two Rivers High School had impressive efforts worth retelling as October came to a close.

It started on October 25 when the Warriors made a return visit to Hastings for a first-round Section 3AAAAA football game. Less than three weeks earlier on the same field, the Raiders jumped to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back en route to a 42-6 win. Two Rivers head coach Tom Orth didn't fear heading back for a rematch in the playoffs.

"We felt we made a few mistakes that gave them easy scores," he said in reflection. "We felt if we cleaned a few things up, we could play with them."

This seemed like a brave view considering the fact that the Warriors had scored just 52 points while posting a 1-7 record during the regular season. It turned out Orth knew something others didn't. "Our guys have hung together all season. They believe in each other," he said. "We approach each game as a one-game season. We just want to be 1-0."

In the rematch, the sixth-seeded Warriors broke fast, grabbing a 24-14 halftime lead. Third-seeded Hastings rebounded to lead 28-27 after three quarters. Undeterred, the Warriors marched back with senior Gabriel Goldenman rumbling in for a touchdown and an eventual 33-28 win.

As it developed, Goldenman and the Warriors were just warming up. Four days later, Two Rivers trekked to No. 2 Bloomington Kennedy for what turned out to be one of the wildest games of the season. The first half was tight with a Mason Boyken field goal on the last play of the half giving the Warriors a slight 3-0 lead. The teams traded third-quarter touchdowns. Kennedy scored early in the fourth to make it 14-10. That was still the score with less than five minutes left when the game exploded. Orth described what happened next.

"We had a nice drive and scored to take the lead," he said. "They broke a long run on the next series and we were behind again (21-17). We drove back a bit, but got stopped on fourth down at midfield."

With just three minutes left, more wackiness ensued. "Kennedy has the ball," Orth said. "It's a bad snap. They pick up the ball and start scrambling. It turns into a pass play that ends up a touchdown."

Two Rivers was suddenly down 28-17 with two minutes left. The Eagles decide to go for a killing dagger with an onside kick. They recover it and things looked grim for the Warriors.

But the Eagles were penalized for a personal foul on their first play from scrimmage, which backed them up and stopped the clock. The same thing happened on the next play. "Now it's like first and 30 plus yards," Orth said. "They throw a pass and we intercept it."

The Warriors moved quickly with Goldenman running in for a score. A two-point conversion made it 28-25.

Two Rivers tried an unsuccessful onside kick, but still had three timeouts. A defensive stop and there was still a chance to pull the game out.

Which is exactly what happened. The Warriors got the ball back and marched down to the Kennedy 1 yard line with 10 seconds left. Goldenman, who had been all over the field all day (in addition to three rushing TDs, he had 13 tackles at linebacker), got the call. However, instead of running toward the goal line, he threw it to Owen Watson for a touchdown with seven seconds on the clock. Boyken hit the extra point for a 32-28 lead.

Game over, right? Not quite. The Eagles got the ball back and a penalty on the final play of regulation led to giving them one last shot. The Warriors defense made the play and Two Rivers was now heading to the section championship game at Saint Thomas Academy for the second time in three years. (The Warriors also battled the

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STA junior Savion Hart eludes Warrior tacklers on his way to the first score of the game. The Cadets upended Two Rivers 45-0 for the Section 3AAAAA title on November 4.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Football playoffs

STA tops Two Rivers for return trip to state

By Bill Wagner

Saint Thomas Academy started out slow, but finished strong to punch its ticket to the state football tournament with a 45-0 win over Two Rivers in the Section 3AAAAA title game on November 4.

The Cadets had drubbed the Warriors earlier this fall and there was little to suggest that the two would meet again in the section title game, since Two Rivers had logged only one regular-season win. But the sixth-seeded Warriors caught fire in the playoffs, beating No. 3 Hastings 33-28 in the opening round and then No. 2 Bloomington Kennedy 32-28 in the semifinals to earn another crack at top-ranked STA.

Cadet coach Dan O'Brien said his staff and players were taking nothing for granted in the section final. "We were all concerned," he said about the Warriors. "They were a lot better and we were all concerned."

STA (10-0) earned its fifth consecutive section crown and is making its 26th trip to state. It will face Mahtomedi (9-1) in the first round of the state Class AAAAA tournament at noon Saturday, November 12, at Woodbury High School. The state semifinals and final will be played on November 18 and December 3, respectively, at U.S. Bank Stadium.

In the section final, the Cadets were back on their heels a little bit against the Warriors early on. Using an effective running attack, Two Rivers dominated possession during the first quarter, in which STA was able to run only four plays from scrimmage. But it didn't pay off in any points for the Warriors, and the Cadets were able

to score the period's only touchdown on a 40-yard run by junior Savion Hart. From then on, the Cadets pulled away. By halftime, the score was 21-0 in favor of STA.

The Cadets played at high levels during the game on both offense and defense. Senior running backs Love Adebayo and Hart combined for five touchdowns in the game. Senior Jordan Wold caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from junior Maximus Sims, who threw for two scores.

O'Brien was not one to overlook his offensive line as he singled out the play of junior tackles Teddy Knapp and Brendan Gerber. Gerber had missed time since the sixth week of the season with a separated shoulder.

STA junior kicker Declan Wilson booted six extra points and one 36-yard field goal in the game.

The Cadets defense was much improved against Two Rivers, O'Brien said. He was especially encouraged by the play of his defensive backfield, which he said sprung some leaks during the team's 55-19 win over Apple Valley in the section semifinals. That total was the most points scored against STA this season. The Cadets have posted two shutouts and had allowed just 70 total points going into state.

"Our defensive backs were a lot better in this game," O'Brien said about the section final. "We didn't allow any big plays. We know we have a good group back there, and they showed it in this game."

Sticking out in the defensive backfield was senior safety Jake Borman, whose two interceptions against Two Rivers gave him nine picks for the year, a new school record. Borman

also tied a school career interception record.

The team's defensive backs had been beset by injuries this season. O'Brien said the team's "best cover guy," senior cornerback Mark Rogalski, missed several games with ankle issues, but has returned to the lineup. Senior safety Anthony Bickford separated his shoulder in the Apple Valley game, but it's hoped that he can play in the state tournament.

All year long, the defense has been anchored by senior linebacker Jackson Cercioglu, who has been the team's leading tackler with 45 going into state.

The Cadets were looking forward to playing Mahtomedi in the first round of the state tournament. These two clubs know each other well, with STA having defeated the Zephyrs 28-14 earlier this fall. That margin represents the closest an opponent had come to the Cadets this season. "The final score was not indicative of what kind of game it was," O'Brien said.

Both teams sport lethal ground attacks, and STA will be relying on being able to get more mileage out of backs Adebayo and Hart, while the defense tries to slow down the Zephyrs.

Mahtomedi defeated Central 20-0 in the Section 4AAAAA final on November 4 to earn its chance for another shot at STA in the state tournament. Mahtomedi won that game despite leading by only 6-0 at halftime. However, the Zephyr defense was stout throughout.

Third-seeded Central made it to the section final by defeating North Saint Paul 36-22 in the opener and then second-seeded Highland Park 20-7 in the semifinals.

SPA boys win state Class A soccer title, while girls finish second

By Bill Wagner

It had been a decade since the Saint Paul Academy boys' soccer team had made it to a state championship game. But the fourth-seeded Spartans made the best of their opportunity at U.S. Bank Stadium on November 4 by defeating Saint Anthony 2-0 to capture the state Class A crown.

SPA was making its 18th trip to state. It had won four state championships between 1986-1994, but hadn't been back to the title game since placing second in 2012. So it's not surprising that coach Max Lipset, a former Spartan soccer player himself, was enthusiastic about the season his team enjoyed this fall.

"What an unbelievable ride," he said about this year's Spartans, whose 14-3-3 season concluded with a 12-game winning streak. They hadn't lost a game since September 17 against Breck.

Lipset said his players who were with the club last year derived great incentive from their disappointing end to 2021, when they lost in the section finals. Those players imparted this motivation to their new teammates, with a new goal set this season.

"They were focused all year," Lipset said. "This group was willing to be selfless. They understood what their roles were on the team. I had no issues with behavior or anything off the field. This was such a solid group to coach."

Lipset pointed to his team's deep dedica-

tion to defense. The Spartans completed their season with six consecutive shutouts. They hadn't allowed a goal since posting a 4-2 win on October 8 over Minnehaha Academy. Lipset credited Buzz Lagos, the legendary former SPA coach who now serves as an assistant, for the defensive discipline that the Spartans have exhibited.

"It's a system that requires a lot of training and it requires a lot of energy," Lipset said. "The objective is to allow minimal chances and minimal goals."

Against Saint Anthony, the Spartans took charge early with two goals in about an eight-minute span in the first half. Senior Cooper Bollinger-Danielson jumped on a rebound to make it 1-0, and then senior Nathan Cohen connected off a corner kick to make it 2-0, as senior Yash Kshirsagar logged the assist.

Lipset said another key point in the game came when center back Cohen made a big tackle on the first play of the game.

"This set the tone, and we didn't really give them a whole lot," Lipset said. "You could see that the guys were right on the ball."

SPA junior goalie Cooper Olson helped preserve the team's momentum when needed. He made a great double save on a Saint Anthony attack in the second half by first stopping a crossing attempt and then shutting down a shot off a loose ball from only about 4 yards out.

"He didn't just save it, but he caught it

and held onto the ball," Lipset said.

SPA got to the final by defeating Saint Cloud Cathedral 6-0 in the opening round and then Maranatha Christian Academy 6-0 in the semifinals.

Bollinger-Danielson and Olson were named all-state first-team performers, with Cohen and sophomore Ezra Straub selected for the second team. Lipset added that Kshirsagar also is among the state's outstanding players.

Lipset saluted his players for maintaining their concentration after the start of the state final was delayed for nearly two hours. That kind of delay can sometimes be distracting for players revved up to compete. "But they were ready," he said.

SPA girls' soccer

The SPA girls' soccer team came close to matching the accomplishments of the boys' squad, but fell short of a state championship as the Spartans lost 3-2 to Saint Anthony in their state final on November 4 at U.S. Bank Stadium. The third-seeded Spartans could not match the attack of the fourth-seeded Huskies and finished with a record of 11-6-3.

The Spartans surrendered goals early in both halves and were unable to pull out a win despite getting to within one goal twice. Sophomore Sawyer Bollinger-Danielson got the first SPA goal to make it a 2-1 game, while senior Maryeva Gonzalez picked up the second one on a header to

bring the score to 3-2 with about 11 minutes left in regulation. Bollinger Danielson got the assist.

SPA coach Aileen Guiney kept things in perspective after the loss. "Well, you have to be pretty happy with (finishing) second in the state," Guiney said. "Our seniors were quite upset afterward, but that's understandable. Athletes compete to win, whether it's a regular-season game or a state championship. But playing here (in U.S. Bank Stadium for the state title) was an amazing experience."

The Spartans missed a golden opportunity in the second half when freshman forward Clare Ryan Bradley had a break-away shot that was saved. The Huskies sometimes deployed six defenders in their alignment, which Guiney said, "was a bit unusual."

Still, Saint Anthony (14-3-1) was able to hold the Spartans at bay and got some redemption for their state quarterfinals defeat last year. That game marked the Huskies' first state tournament appearance ever.

Guiney had nothing but good things to say about her squad, whose loss to Saint Anthony was the team's first since October 6. "We peaked at the right time," she said.

The SPA girls were making their seventh trip to state and the first since 2016. They got to the title game by defeating Saint Charles 1-0 in the opener and then second-seeded Breck 3-2 in the semifinals.

Sports Shorts

Central High School recently inducted three players and a coach into its Hall of Fame. The inductees include David Vogel (class of 1977), a football and hockey star; Adam Hunkins (1998), an outstanding baseball player and now assistant athletic director at the school; Angelique Angel Robinson (2007), a Ms. Basketball honoree who was a big part of Central's 32-0 season and Class AAAA state title win over Minneapolis South; and Phil Toconita (1982-99), who started Central's boys' soccer program and won five City Conference crowns and 114 conference games in 17 years, second most in league history.

The Saint Paul Public Schools has established a yearlong partnership with the national nonprofit organization Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). The partnership provides

the district with access to PCA's training for coaches, sports parents, student-athletes and administrators through live group workshops, online courses and additional resources for using sports as a positive youth development tool. The workshops have begun. For information about the dates and locations, contact district athletic administrator Monroe Thornton at monroe.thornton@spps.org.

Two Rivers High School has decided to end its partnership in girls' lacrosse with Mounds Park and Gentry academies. The District 197 School Board approved a resolution to dissolve the partnership in August. Two Rivers School administrators said participation in the sport has grown to the point where Two Rivers can now sustain the girls' lacrosse team on its own.

Peter Maki has been appointed as the interim head men's and women's golf coach at Concordia University-Saint Paul for the 2022-23 academic year. Maki had served as the program's top assistant coach for the previous four seasons. He fills the head coaching position vacated by Taylor Ramirez, who stepped down after leading the men's program to its first NSIC championship last season and earning NSIC Men's Golf Coach of the Year honors.

The Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo will return to Xcel Energy Center at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 3-4. The event will spotlight fan favorites, such as bull riding, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding and women's barrel racing. Tickets begin at \$20. Visit wtrodeo.com.

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Cadets for the section title in 2020.)

In more than three decades of coaching, Orth readily admitted this might have been the wildest finish he'd ever been part of. The fact that the Warriors would face STA, which beat them 51-0 in the second week of the regular season, didn't matter. "I told them they've earned a chance to play another game," Orth said. "It's all because of the hard work they put in. It's something they should be very proud of."

The Warriors' bid to make the state tournament for the first time since 1977 ended when the Cadets claimed a 45-0 win on November 4. Still, Orth and his team have a playoff tale that'll be remembered for a long time to come.

Warrior volleyballers, runners prove tough

Fifth-ranked Two Rivers took a 9-14 record to No. 4 Cretin-Derham Hall for the first round of the Section 3AAA volleyball playoffs on October 25. The back-and-forth battle went to a fifth set, with the Warriors emerging with a 15-12 win. That sent them top-seeded Highland Park three nights later. The Scots had swept the Warriors in the regular-season finale 10 days earlier. The rematch started on a familiar note with Highland winning the first set, but Two Rivers turned the tables with an exhausting 30-28 win to even things up. The Warriors won the next two sets as well to earn a trip to No. 3 DeLaSalle on November 3 for the section title. Their state tournament dreams died there, however, as the Islanders won 3-0.

Not to be outdone, both Two Rivers cross-country teams gave Highland Park a run for its money at the

In more than three decades of coaching, Two Rivers football coach Tom Orth readily admitted this might have been the wildest finish he'd ever been part of. "I told them they've earned a chance to play another game," Orth said. "It's all because of the hard work they put in. It's something they should be very proud of."

Section 3AA meets on October 27. The Scots had handily won both City Conference meets the week before. However, at the boys' sectional the Warriors edged Highland 49-51. The Scots' Gavin Roberts and Davis Isom finished first and second, with the Warriors' Patrick Donohoo and Lucas Esten finishing third and fourth. The deciding factor came down to the fifth finisher for both teams, with the Two Rivers' runner placing 17th and the Scots' taking 23rd.

Both Two Rivers and Highland returned to the state meet on November 5 at Saint Olaf. Saint Thomas Academy took third at sections and had three top 10 finishers, including Philly Solomon, Henry Landsem and Vincent Audette, who placed 6-8, respectively, to run as individuals at the state meet.

In girls' cross-country, the defending state champion

Scots showed off their depth with four finishers in the top 10 to handily win the meet with 26 points. Two Rivers came in second with 60. (Saint Paul Academy was fourth and Visitation fifth.) Leading the way for the Scots were Luna Scorzelli and Delia Johnson finishing first and second, with teammate Ellie Moore taking fourth. For the Warriors, Maggie McEllistrom finished sixth and Charlotte Chandler was eighth.

Highland wins girls' cross-country title

Both Highland and Two Rivers lived to run another day at the state girls' cross-country meet on November 5 in Northfield. The young but deep Scots' ran away from the field to repeat as the state Class AA champions. Highland junior Scorzelli blazed the 5K course at state in 17:45.1, some 33 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor to win the race. Sophomore teammate Moore came in 15th and Johnson, the team's lone senior, placed 19th. Sophomores Samantha Palm (48th) and Grace Lewis-Mosher (52nd) rounded out the Highland scoring.

The Scots' team total of 79 points bettered second place Alexandria by 26 points. Two Rivers finished 11th in the 16-team field with 268 points. McEllistrom, a junior, was again the top Warrior across the finish line with a 24th place showing in the field of 158 competitors.

On the boys' side at state, the Scots placed sixth with 165 points and the Warriors finished 11th with 234 points. Donohoo, a junior, was the top Two Rivers runner, coming in 31st. Roberts and Isom, who are both seniors, finished 33rd and 34th, respectively, in the 160-runner field.

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

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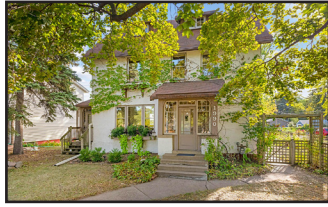


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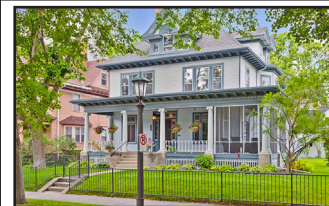
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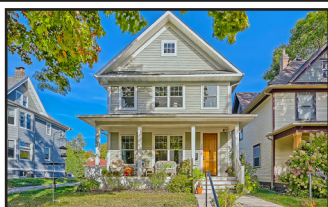
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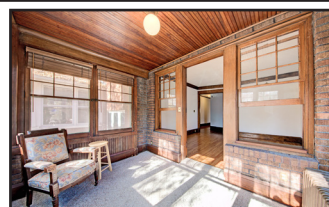
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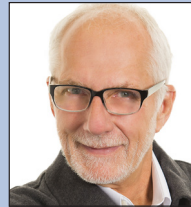
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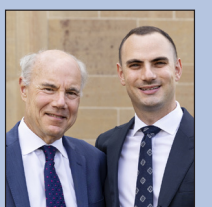
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