



No foolin', it's spring. Tris Bakke didn't let the remnants of a blizzard that dumped more than 8 inches of snow on the Twin Cities stop him from donning spring attire for a jog along Mississippi River Boulevard on April 1. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

City touts 1% sales tax to boost its budget

St. Paul Chamber opposes tax, voters may have final say

By Jane McClure

The city of Saint Paul's request for a sales tax increase continues to wend its way through the halls and hearing rooms of the state Capitol, but not without opposition from citizens and the Saint Paul Area Chamber. The bill was heard and then laid over March 28 by the Senate Taxes Committee for possible inclusion in a larger tax bill.

State lawmakers have received a record 38 local sales tax requests from Minnesota cities and counties. Saint Paul's request is unique in that it does not fund just one project. It covers a long list of street proj-

ects and parks maintenance needs as well as new park facilities. That could require an exemption from the state or a change in how projects are funded for the state's largest cities.

The proposal would increase Saint Paul's local sales tax from 0.5 to 1.5 percent, tying the capital city with Duluth as having the highest sales tax in the state.

Senator Sandy Pappas (DFL-District 65) introduced the bill. One of the Senate authors, Pappas said that three-quarters of every dollar raised would go to street projects, with the remaining quarter ear-

CITY SALES TAX ▶4

St. Paul task force calls for child care levy

Ballot initiative may be one tax proposal too many in '23

By Jane McClure

It appears a proposal to fund child care and early childhood education for low-income families in Saint Paul with an increase in property taxes will not be on the ballot in November.

The Saint Paul City Council's Early Learning Legislative Advisory Committee (ELLAC) presented a 65-page report on March 22. Among its recommendations is a dedicated property tax levy to provide financial assistance for low-income children.

However, the city is currently lobbying the Legislature for permission to place a lo-

cal sales tax increase on the ballot this fall (see the story above). The 1 percent sales tax increase would fund street repairs and parks maintenance. Saint Paul officials want that proposal to move forward first, and they do not want to see two tax questions on the same ballot.

A broad-based coalition of citizens has been pushing for a dedicated property tax levy for early childhood education for several years. In 2022 a petition drive to put universal preschool on the ballot fell short. That campaign was led by Saint Paul All Ready for Kindergarten (SPARK), a group

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ▶4

History by the book? Not in the hands of this artistic director

Thompson takes the helm of storied downtown stage

By Anne Murphy

The future is now for Saint Paul's History Theatre and its new artistic director Richard D. Thompson. Thompson succeeded longtime artistic director Ron Peluso at the beginning of the year. He is looking forward to the History Theatre's annual benefit on April 15 at Saint Paul's RiverCentre, "A Historic Night

Out: A Toast to What's Next." The event will feature a showcase of what lies ahead for the theater with performances by those who have appeared in past productions and a preview of the theater's next production: *The Defeat of Jesse James*, opening April 29 under Thompson's direction.

Thompson has been focused for the past few months on how best to further the theater's nearly 45-year tradition of producing new and existing dramas about the history of Minnesota.

It was Thompson's affinity for history and his impressive career that got him the

job, according to Karen Mueller, the History Theatre's managing director. A former producing and directing associate for History Theatre, Thompson directed the theater's productions of *The Meeting* (1991-92), *The Brotherhood* (1995-96), *Summer in the Shadows* (2001-02), *Joe* (2003-04), *Nellie* (2012-13) and *Not in Our Neighborhood!* (2021-22). He has also directed productions at Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, the Playwrights' Center and Children's Theatre Company as well as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

"History Theatre is a unique entity,"

Thompson said. "There's no other theater in this community, and none that I know of nationally, that is committed to presenting work truly about history. Many theaters may do a piece that is set in a historical time, but our mission is to actually take history that belongs to all of us and present it on stage. It's not necessarily about presenting a particular take on an event in history, but really looking at the people that make the event.

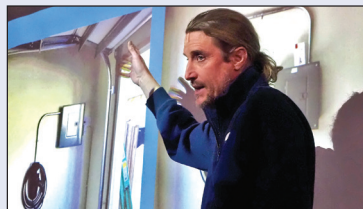
"History is not an event," Thompson

THOMPSON TAKES THE HELM ▶5

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CITY BEAT

Lawsuit seeks a fuller discussion of Summit Ave. trail planning ▶2

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Lawsuit seeks to delay city hearings on Summit Avenue trail

Plaintiff wants a fuller review of planning docs

By Jane McClure

The city of Saint Paul's proposed plan to construct two one-way recreational trails along the 4.7 miles of Summit Avenue is the target of a 20-page civil lawsuit filed last week in Ramsey County District Court by Saint Paul attorney Robert Cattanaach. The case has been assigned to Judge Laura Nelson, and a hearing has been set for April 5.

Cattanaach, a partner in the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney, has been providing pro bono legal counsel for Save Our Street (SOS) and the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association, who oppose the city's plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. Cattanaach has been an outspoken critic of the plan as well. A resident of Summit Avenue, he filed the lawsuit on his own behalf.

Cattanaach is seeking a temporary re-

straining order against the city of Saint Paul, claiming violations of the state's Data Practices Act. At issue is the release of detailed project documents and communications on the trail among city staff and between city staff and trail advocates.

Cattanaach said he has filed 10 separate Data Practices Act requests with the city, seeking documents, text messages and other communication regarding the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. None of those requests has been answered, he said. Cattanaach has asked that a public hearing on the Summit Avenue trail, scheduled for April 13 before the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, be delayed until his requests are answered.

Cattanaach is seeking varied and detailed information, according to court documents, including emails and text messages referencing the trail that were sent between staff from the city's Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments and outside consultants on the project, Andy Singer and other members of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition, members of the Bicycle

Alliance of Minnesota, Mischief Toy Store owner and trail proponent Dan Marshall, and Russ Stark, Mayor Melvin Carter's chief sustainability officer.

The lawsuit calls for all public data "created, produced, received, maintained or disseminated from January 1, 2020, to the present regarding all analysis, studies or documentations that were done, if any, to assess the suitability of alternatives other than Summit Avenue." These alternatives include Jefferson and Marshall avenues and the east-west streets between them. The data sought include comparisons of Summit to other bike routes in terms of safety along with environmental studies on the trail project. Cattanaach has also requested documents regarding potential sources for financing the trail project, including communication with the Metropolitan Council.

City officials are reviewing the lawsuit, according to Kamal Baker, a spokesperson for Mayor Melvin Carter. They said they have received and responded to several of Cattanaach's Data Practices Act requests,

some dating back more than a decade. The work to respond to those requests will continue, they maintain.

Saint Paul officials have conducted a public engagement process over the past 1½ years on the various Summit Avenue trail plans, the mayor's spokesperson said. The April 13 public hearing on the trail before the Parks and Recreation Commission is still expected to be held.

SOS held a public forum on the Summit Avenue trail in March at the University of Saint Thomas. Cattanaach was one of the panelists at the forum. One assertion made at the forum was the need for the city to do more to explore alternative routes for the regional trail. These routes could involve all or parts of Jefferson Avenue, Marshall Avenue and an extension of Ayd Mill Road's new bike trail.

City officials said they have studied alternatives for the regional trail, including Portland, Grand and Jefferson avenues. According to them, Summit Avenue best meets the needs of both commuter and recreational users of the trail.

Summit Ave. trail plan gets mixed reviews from district councils

By Jane McClure

The plan for an off-road recreational trail along the 4.7 miles of Summit Avenue is headed for its first in-person public hearing on Thursday, April 13, before the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission. It is scheduled to be reviewed by the Saint Paul Planning Commission's Transportation Committee on Monday, April 17.

The Parks and Rec Commission's hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Palace Com-

munity Center, 781 Palace Ave. The Transportation Committee meeting is open to the public, but it is not a public hearing. It will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Both groups will forward their recommendations to the City Council, which will hold a public hearing later this spring.

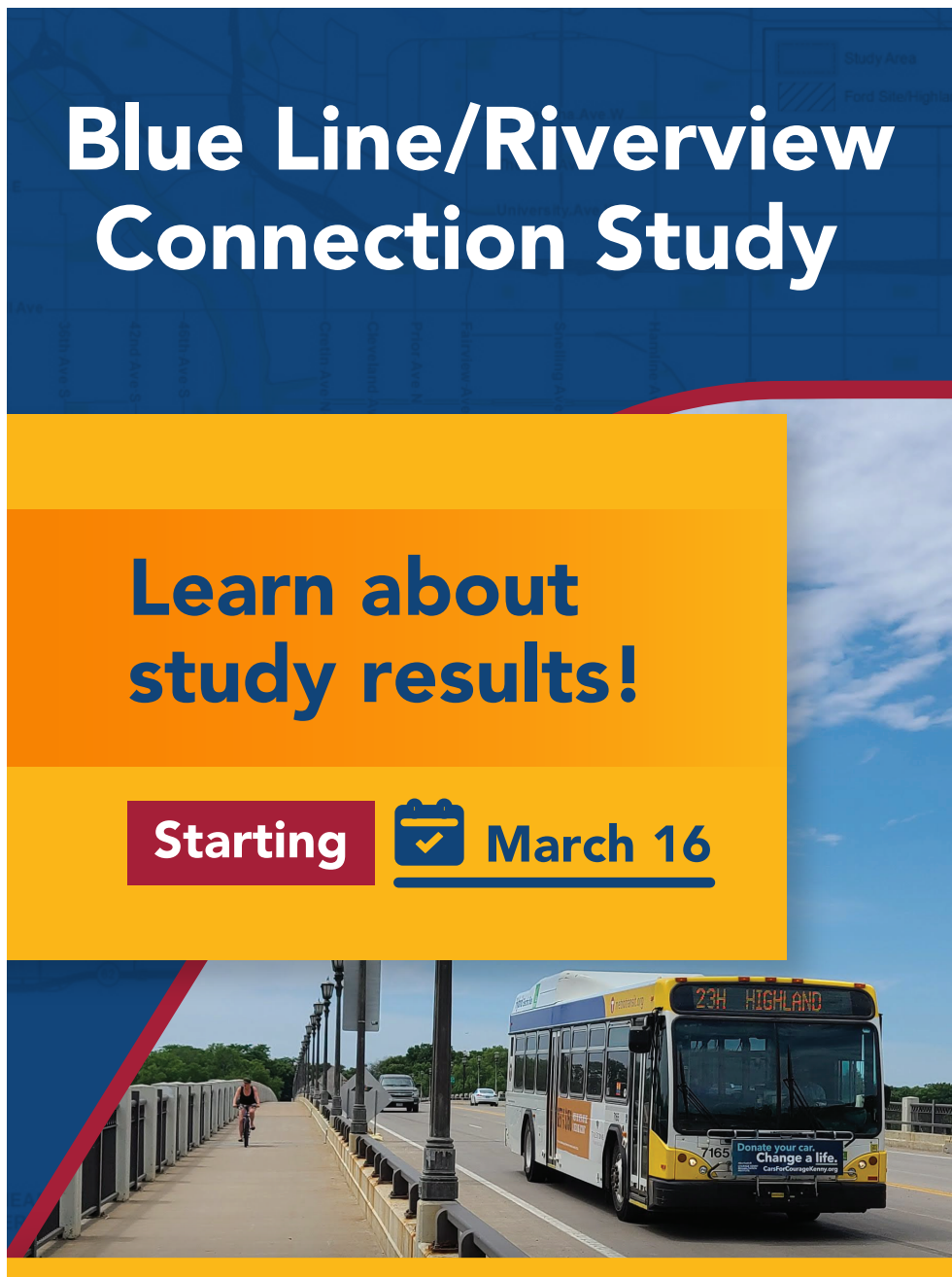
Two of the five district councils whose neighborhoods border Summit Avenue have made their own recommendations on the regional trail plan. The Summit Hill Association (SHA) offered its qualified

support in a letter sent to city officials in March. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council Transportation Committee, on a split vote, recommended that the city give greater consideration to the needs of children and youths in the design of the regional trail.

The Union Park District Council has yet to make its recommendation. The Summit-University Planning Council has opted not to take a position. Downtown's Capitol-River Council has also opted not to make a recommendation.


SHA president Simon Taghioff said the Summit Hill council "tried to balance a wide range of issues" regarding the design of the trail. The SHA expressed support for how the trail would be raised and separated from motor vehicle traffic and how the design "minimizes changes to Summit Avenue's structure and symmetry and does not expand beyond the current curb lines within Summit Hill." The SHA also likes the consistent experience for trail us-


SUMMIT AVENUE TRAIL ▶ 3



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Changes sought for last of four city parks planned at Highland Bridge

By Jane McClure

Proposed changes to Mica Park and parkland dedication at Highland Bridge will be discussed by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave. Any recommendation from the commission will go to the City Council for final approval, likely in late spring or early summer.

Mica (pronounced MEE-cha), an abbreviation for “coyote” in the Dakota language, is one of four city parks at Highland Bridge. Land was dedicated and a design was prepared for the park off of Finn Street and Montreal Avenue. However, the park is now proposed to be shifted to the east to accommodate the University of Saint Thomas’ plans to build a sports complex on the site.

Maureen Michalski, who is overseeing Highland Bridge for master developer Ryan Companies, said the park’s relocation provides more usable space with fewer grade changes. The Highland District Council’s Community Development Committee supports the park changes.

Mica is the last of the city parks to be developed at Highland Bridge. Gateway and Unci Makha parks are finished and are already being heavily used. Gateway, which is near Ford Parkway and Mississippi River Boulevard, includes a skate park, storm-water basins, storm pond, seating and connections to the boulevard’s trails and walking paths.

Unci Makha (pronounced oon-CHEE mah-KAH), meaning “mother earth” in Dakota, is located near Montreal and Cretin avenues and includes a large storm-water channel, dog park, sand volleyball courts, adult fitness area, picnic shelter, tables and seating.

Assembly Union Park on Mount Curve Boulevard is to be dedicated this spring or summer. It includes basketball and pickleball courts, large play area, dog relief area, and picnic tables and benches.

UST’s development of the former Canadian Pacific rail yard will require a land swap and changes to how much parkland is to be provided at Highland Bridge.

Saint Paul has had a parkland dedication ordinance since 2007. It was championed by the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, but met opposition from some community development corporations, other develop-



The drawing shows the likely new site for Mica Park at Highland Bridge. The two fields for Highland Ball are shown to the north, with the proposed University of Saint Thomas sports complex to the west and its parking lot to the south. A possible office building is shown grayed out east of the park.

Maureen Michalski, who is overseeing Highland Bridge for master developer Ryan Companies, said the park’s relocation provides more usable space with fewer grade changes.

ers and the Saint Paul Area Chamber. One argument was that the city already had enough park property.

The ordinance was based on state law at the time, which allowed cities to require developments of a certain size to either add park space or pay a fee in lieu of it. The parkland was to be dedicated at the time a project’s building permits were issued or when a property’s plat was done. Parking spaces at a proposed development were factored in as a measure of density and intensity of land use, but that measure has since been dropped.

The Planning Commission began studying changes to the parkland dedication ordinance in 2012, in part to comply with changes in state and federal laws. Changes were adopted by the City Council in 2015 to tie parkland dedication more closely to developments that increase the number of residential units and increase the square footage of commercial buildings.

For newly platted land or larger projects, developers work with the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation to determine the location and guidelines for parkland dedication.

muters versus recreational cyclists. The SHA is asking the city for updated parking studies at multiple times of the day and on multiple days of the week. It is also asking for updated motor vehicle, bike and pedestrian counts before construction and traffic counts after construction to measure trail performance and assess its impacts on adjoining streets.

The Macalester-Groveland Transportation Committee recommends that more be done to engage children and youths in trail planning to better meet their needs, according to its chairperson Hugo Bruggeman. The trail would pass near seven schools, including Hidden River Middle School and Thomas More Elementary School directly on Summit, the committee noted, and it could provide children with a safer route to parks, recreation centers, dance and fitness centers, businesses and summer camps.

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ers all along Summit and the opportunity the trail provides to improve connections to the Grand Avenue business district.

However, the SHA stated, the unavoidable loss of trees during reconstruction “should be minimized and any tree loss should be repaired through replanting and watering to ensure long-term tree canopy health and sustainability.”

The SHA also requested that several issues be studied before construction plans are finalized, according to Taghioff. Those issues include a dedicated fund for maintaining the trail in winter, a “refreshed” analysis regarding trees, and an analysis of intersection safety.

The SHA is seeking more neighborhood involvement in the trail plan as well as a block by block examination of street crossings, parking, trees and the needs of com-

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SISTER BUSINESS

Final design chosen for downtown's Pedro Park

By Jane McClure

A final design for Pedro Park on 10th and Robert streets in downtown Saint Paul was unveiled by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation on March 27. However, it could be some time before a fully built park takes shape.

The design was released as the area was fenced off and demolition equipment began assembling by the former Public Safety Annex. The annex will come down to make way for the park.

Three designs for the park were released earlier this year, and public comments were used to select the final design. The chosen option features a curved walking path through the park, as well as green space, a plaza and fountain/splash pad. It will include play equipment for children,

pickleball courts, an open shelter, tables and seating, public art, a bee garden and a dog run. Part of the annex wall will remain as a decorative element.

It is unknown what it will cost to develop Pedro Park or when the park will be transformed. Past capital improvement dollars to pay for the park have been reallocated to other projects in recent years and the city currently has no funding earmarked for the improvements.

A park for that area of downtown has been discussed for more than two decades. The Pedro family donated the site of its former luggage store to the city in 2009 on the condition that it be combined with adjacent land for a park bearing the family's name. The Pedro building was torn down in 2011.

The annex was long eyed as part of the park, but in



The plan for an expanded Pedro Park at 10th and Robert streets.

2018 the city tried to sell it for redevelopment as retail and office space. Those plans fell through due to the pandemic and a lawsuit filed against the city by the Friends of Pedro Park. Meanwhile, the deteriorating annex continued to sit empty.

The expanded Pedro Park is expected to occupy two-thirds of the block bounded by 10th, Robert, 9th and

Minnesota streets. The rest of the block is privately owned and used for parking and the Union Gospel Mission Child Development Center.

Demolition of the Public Safety Annex is being funded with federal Community Development Block Grants. The area will reopen once demolition is complete with an interim park plan. Visit stpaul.gov/pedropark.

14 CITY SALES TAX

marked for parks. The sales tax is expected to raise about \$1 billion over 20 years, generating \$738 million for street improvements and another \$246 million for parks and recreation centers.

In his testimony before a state legislative committee, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter quipped that if committee members drove to the Capitol that morning, they in all likelihood received a "live demonstration" of the city's street maintenance needs. He also said that as a lifelong Saint Paul resident, it is his "birthright" to complain about street conditions.

A pavement condition index used to assess streets rates Saint Paul's collector and arterial streets at 48 on a scale of one to 100. That number will drop by about half in 20 years if major street maintenance is not undertaken, Carter said.

The city has received a record number of pothole-related damage claims from motorists this year. It received about 250 claims in just the first two months of 2023. There were 85 claims in all of 2022, Carter said.

In the city's Department of Parks

Saint Paul's streets are in "desperate" need of repair, chamber members agree, but street maintenance is a core function of city government and should be funded through other means.

and Recreation, the average age of buildings is 40 years, Carter said. Increased funding through the sales tax would pay for needed maintenance as well as a new East Side multi-purpose center, the planned river balcony in downtown and the proposed river learning center in Crosby Farm Park.

"None of this is feasible without local funding, which is what our local sales tax would accomplish," Carter said.

If the sales tax is approved by the Legislature, it will still need to be approved by a majority of voters in the city election this November. If that happens, the 1 percent would be added to the city's existing half-percent sales tax, which has raised money for neighborhood and cultural projects and RiverCentre for the past three de-

cadec.

"You'll certainly hear from individuals and groups who are uncomfortable with the 1 percent sales tax increase," Carter told the committee. However, he added, there is no disagreement about the increasing need for street maintenance, which he called "dire."

Amanda Duerr, vice president of public affairs for the Saint Paul Area Chamber, testified that a survey of chamber members found that 73 percent were opposed to the additional sales tax. Saint Paul's streets are in "desperate" need of repair, chamber members agree, according to Duerr, but street maintenance is a core function of city government and should be funded through other means.

Saint Paul businesses are already worn down by the steep 14.65 percent increase in property taxes this year, Duerr said, along with the city's 2022 rent control ordinance that has slowed multifamily residential development. She said business leaders want to see what happens this session with potential increases in Saint Paul's allotment of Local Government Aid before any decisions are made on a sales tax increase.

14 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

that City Council member Rebecca Noecker helped lead.

SPARK collected more than 20,000 signatures from voters, but Ramsey County Elections staff could only verify that about 8,500 of them lived in the city. An additional 3,000 signatures were needed. The City Council could have voted to put the measure on the ballot anyway. Instead the council created the 26-member ELLAC to study the issue.

SPARK's 2022 ballot proposal was to cover the costs of early childhood education for all 3- and 4-year-old children in Saint Paul whose families' income was at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line. That is about \$55,550 per year for a family of four. The plan was to raise property taxes by \$2.6 million per year for 10 years.

In its report, ELLAC recommended retaining SPARK's income threshold

The number of child care providers in Saint Paul has declined in recent years. Existing providers struggle to hire staff.

but expanding the assistance to children from infant to age 5. According to ELLAC cochairs Kristenza Nelson and Quentin Wathum-Ocama, state and federal programs for early childhood education have not kept up with rising costs, and many families are being left out.

Noecker and City Council members Mitra Jalali and Nelsie Yang served on ELLAC. Noecker said the report's recommendations need to be followed. She urged her council colleagues to make early childhood education a priority. Children cannot wait "years and years and years," she said.

According to ELLAC, the number

of child care providers in Saint Paul has declined in recent years. Existing providers struggle to hire staff. Thousands of families are on waiting lists for programs offered by Head Start and the Saint Paul Public Schools, the report stated. Many are waiting for state and federal financial aid.

The report recommends reducing the complexity in applying for state and federal child care assistance and giving families more flexibility when choosing a provider. The state offers a maximum of between \$8,500 and \$12,500 in assistance. That is not enough to cover the costs of many programs, according to ELLAC. Nor can state programs be used for all child care providers.

Governor Tim Walz's state budget calls for expanding the state's child care and dependent care tax credit. It also includes more money for early childhood education, but that money would be allocated statewide.

County study: Improving local bus service is the top priority in transit

By Jane McClure

A Ramsey County study's recommendation for improving mass transit in the Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Summit Hill, West End and Union Park neighborhoods of Saint Paul as well as the Longfellow neighborhood of South Minneapolis will be the subject of several open houses in April. Public comment is also being accepted online through April 28 at tinyurl.com/yckhnyah.

The intent of the study is to enhance connections to the light-rail Blue Line in Minneapolis and the planned Riverview streetcar line through the West End and Highland Park neighborhoods of Saint Paul. The top recommendation is to improve local bus service rather than add new bus rapid transit lines or add transit service along the former Canadian Pacific Railway spur that once served the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant.

The Ramsey County Department of Public Works will hold open houses from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy.; from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at Macalester College's Student Center, 1600 Grand Ave.; and from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, April 27, again at the Highland Park Library.

The transit study was requested by Saint Paul officials in 2017, but it did not begin until 2021. Ramsey County led the study with help from Hennepin County, the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Metro Transit and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Seven open houses and pop-up engagement meetings were held in 2022. What the study found was that low frequency, poor reliability and security concerns were the biggest deterrents to transit ridership. Other barriers included multiple transfers, poor pedestrian access to transit stops and extreme weather.

The study found that prospective transit riders wanted better connections to bus rapid transit, light rail and bike and pedestrian routes as well as improved transit in the Highland Bridge area of Highland Park where 3,800 new homes are expected to be built in the coming years. Top destinations for riders in the study area included Highland Village, the 46th Street Station in South Minneapolis, MSP Airport, the downtowns of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Rosedale Shopping Center and local schools.

The study's recommendation to improve existing bus service could affect current routes or bring back routes recently suspended by Metro Transit. Ridership took a big hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and several bus routes were suspended, including the 84 (Snelling Avenue), 134 (between Highland Village and downtown Minneapolis) and parts of Routes 46 (South Minneapolis) and 70 (Saint Clair Avenue).

The study considered new bus rapid transit lines on Randolph Avenue (Route 74), Cleveland Avenue (87) and 46th and 50th streets in South Minneapolis (46). While it rejected those, it recommended more frequent service on Routes 46, 83 (Lexington Parkway) and 87.

"(The 3,800 new homes at) Highland Bridge could generate a significant amount of need for transit service," said Ramsey County transportation planner Scott Mareck. However, Mareck and fellow planners found that use of the CP Rail spur for either bus or streetcar service would be too costly and impractical. Although those options were set aside, they could be brought back as ridership needs change. The Riverview streetcar is not expected to begin operating for at least a decade.

Ramsey County will submit the study to Metro Transit and other local units of government in hopes that it can be used to guide future decisions.

THOMPSON TAKES THE HELM

said. "History is what people do that makes for an event. We want our plays to give insight into who they were, what their feelings were, what their motivations may have been, and have audiences draw their own conclusions about that history and the people who were involved."

"I tend to look at history like a pebble dropped in water," he added. "When a pebble drops in water, it has ripples. Sometimes pebbles drop at the same time, sometimes they may be intermittent. But we're affected by those waves of history no matter who we are, no matter what community we're in, no matter where we might be in the world."

Under Thompson's direction, History Theatre will continue to look at the "people who make history, the human condition, the human experience," he said. "When looking at an event and the group of people involved, there's always somebody on the podium or at the forefront. But I've always wondered, who are the individuals down below in the front row? Who are those people support-

ing an idea, an idea that they believe in? If it wasn't for those individuals and how they feel and how events affect their lives, leaders wouldn't be in place or outcomes would be different."

History Theatre's upcoming production of *The Defeat of Jesse James* is a case in point. With a book by Jeffrey Hatcher and music and lyrics by Chan Poling, the drama will present James as a rock star of sorts. He appears in a farewell concert that reenacts his dramatic rise and fall. It is "a mix of honkytonk cabaret and Wild West show," Thompson said, "with a grand finale in a place called Northfield, Minnesota."

"Audiences will watch the story of Jesse James unfold from his beginnings as a young man to his assassination by one who was in fact an admirer of him," Thompson said. "One could say there's a John Lennon sort of look to it." In the end, "we're going to take the story apart, we're going to examine all of his story so that audiences can come to their own conclusions," he added.

"What's usually highlighted in stories like these are notions of freedom

breaking out into the wilderness, the sorts of things that are very much a part of the myth of the American West," Thompson said. "But there's also a grittier side to these stories. With Jesse James, it's certainly that he and his brother and their gang were outlaws who went around stealing money from trains and banks." But what may not be pointed out is that they were taking money from hard-working people with no recourse, he added.

Another side to the story is Jesse James' reputation as a Southern sympathizer. "Following the Civil War, he was one of those believers in the lost cause," Thompson said. "Had it not been for the brave citizens of Northfield, we don't know how much further he would've gone."

"Many events in history happened because of social justice," Thompson said. "Whether you're an artist or a politician, a scientist or someone in technology, we all do these things to better the human condition."

For more information on History Theatre, its annual benefit or production of *The Defeat of Jesse James*, visit historytheatre.com.



History Theatre's new artistic director, Richard D. Thompson.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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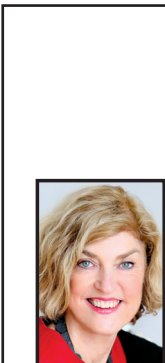
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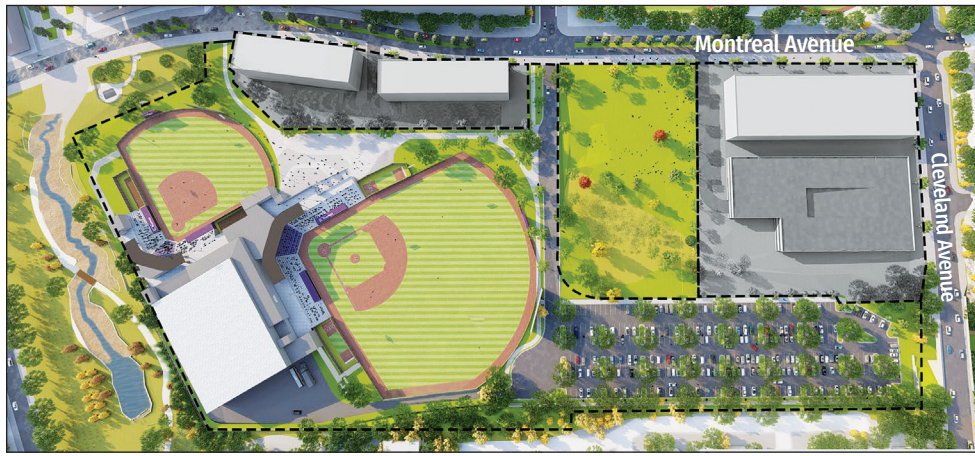
Master plan amendments sought for UST ballfields at Highland Bridge

Planning Commission sets hearing on six changes to original plan for Ford site

By Jane McClure

The University of Saint Thomas' plans to construct baseball and softball stadiums in the southeast corner of the Highland Bridge development requires six major amendments to the Ford site master plan. The Saint Paul Planning Commission will host a public hearing on those amendments at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, at City Hall.

The sports complex would be situated on 13.66 acres of land previously owned by Canadian Pacific Railway and used as a rail yard serving Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant. Saint Thomas wants to build a 1,000-seat softball stadium, a



This diagram shows the University of Saint Thomas' plan for new softball and baseball stadiums on the former site of the Canadian Pacific rail yard southwest of Montreal and Cleveland avenues.

1,500-seat baseball stadium, an indoor practice facility, a shared concourse and a 330-space parking lot on the site.

The property is now owned by the Saint Paul Port Authority, which will clean up

any pollution on the site before selling it to Saint Thomas. The property was part of the 135 acres studied for the Ford site master plan, but was not included in master developer Ryan Companies' plans for High-

land Bridge. The master plan approved by the City Council in 2017 suggested recreational uses for the former rail yard.

The Planning Commission released proposed amendments to the plan for public comment on March 17, following a review by its Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee. The Ford site's master plan has already been amended five times since it was adopted, according to city planner Spencer Miller-Johnson. If the latest amendments get City Council approval, the sports complex will still have to go through a site plan review.

Most of the questions raised by the Planning Commission thus far have centered on parking for the sports complex. The master plan calls for a 20-space maximum for surface parking lots in the zoning district where the stadiums would be located. One amendment would exempt civic and

MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS ▶7

Saint Paul seeks to make parking lots more attractive, safer

By Jane McClure

Changes in how new parking lots are designed in Saint Paul will be the focus of a public hearing before the city's Planning Commission at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, at City Hall.

The hearing is being held in tandem with one on amendments to the master plan for Highland Bridge. The University of Saint Thomas is proposing a sports complex on the southeastern corner of the property that calls for a 330-space parking lot.

Saint Paul has long had regulations for how parking lots should be designed, built

and maintained. They include screening lots with landscaping, providing space for stormwater runoff, and managing heat reflected from pavement.

The current landscaping requirements are only for lots adjoining a public street or sidewalk. UST's proposed lot would not meet the requirements.

UST and Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies have indicated that plans are being developed to landscape and screen the lot at the behest of residential neighbors. However, there currently are no requirements to do so.

City planner Spencer Miller-Johnson

said the proposed changes would ensure that all new parking lots in the city have quality landscaping. According to him, the current regulations are more applicable to larger, suburban-style parking lots and need to be amended to fit smaller-scale urban lots.

The city's adoption of traditional neighborhood zoning years ago promotes new developments built up to the street with parking at the rear. That has exempted many newer parking lots from being landscaped. The city is proposing to remove that exemption.

The city also currently requires park-

ing lots larger than 125,000 square feet to provide internal walkways in addition to landscaping. A key change in the regulations would require parking lots of 80,000 square feet or more to have walkways if they are within a quarter mile of a light-rail, streetcar or bus rapid transit (BRT) line. That would affect future development along the proposed Riverview Corridor on West Seventh Street, the B Line along Marshall and Selby avenues, and future BRT lines.

The walkways also must meet accessibility and other design and construction standards adopted by the city.



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RS Eden to convert Ashland group home into affordable apartments

By Jane McClure

RS Eden, a nonprofit housing and supportive service provider, has been granted a \$2.3 million loan from the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board to rehabilitate a vacant building at 532 Ashland Ave. and convert it to permanent supportive housing for up to 17 residents in single-occupancy apartments.

The Saint Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved the loan agreement on March 8. The money was drawn from the city's allocation of the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund.

Ashland Apartments had been operated by RS Eden as a group home with shared apartments for up to 34 residents. Following the renovation, the building will have 17 private bedroom and living spaces with a shared kitchen and bathrooms.

The HRA loan was granted on the condition that the apartments be affordable for

at least 40 years. The total cost to rehabilitate the building is \$4.83 million. The project also received a deferred loan of \$1.92 million from Ramsey County with money drawn from the county's own allocation of federal ARP funds.

The renovation work will include roofing, siding, windows and extensive physical and mechanical work inside. Among the new features will be an expanded commercial kitchen with new appliances.

Both Saint Paul and Ramsey County earmarked a portion of their ARP funds for housing for individuals or families with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income (AMI). For a single person, that is \$24,650 per year.

All 17 units will be rented to people with disabilities. Ten of the units will be reserved for residents who had been homeless. RS Eden will manage the property and provide the services. The building will be owned by an RS Eden affiliate, Ashland Apartments LLC.

64 MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS

institutional uses from that maximum.

Saint Thomas originally considered building a parking ramp when it looked at constructing hockey, softball and baseball facilities at the site. The plans now call for a surface parking lot, although a ramp could still be considered in the future.

The lot would be located east of the stadiums and south of a reconfigured Mica Park and proposed office building. Finn Street would extend south through the site.

Neighbors living near that area of Highland Bridge already deal with significant spillover parking from the two fields used by Highland Ball. Having a large lot nearby could provide ample parking for those field users, as well as for Mica Park and the proposed office building. Part of the lot could also be used if a proposed transportation corridor is developed for Highland Bridge.

A second amendment to the master plan is a technical modification that involves civic and institutional uses as a separate land-use category with its own maximum parking thresholds.

Other amendments are connected to the sports facilities themselves. One is to the plan's floor-area ratio requirement, which

is used to calculate building mass and in Saint Paul is typically used to promote density. Ryan and UST are seeking an exclusion to the requirement.

Another amendment would exempt civic and institutional buildings from the site's maximum right-of-way setback.

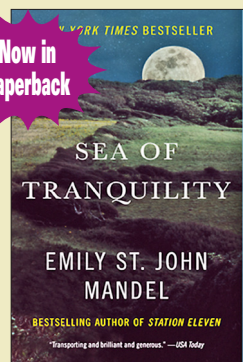
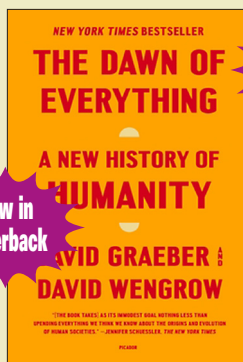
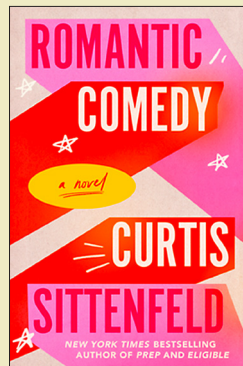
Two other amendments also are needed. The master plan calls for a transportation corridor through the site using the CP Rail spur and neighborhood streets. Ryan is seeking flexibility in routing and engineering decisions for the corridor as design work progresses.

The sixth amendment is to relocate Mica Park slightly to the east. Development of the former rail yard will also require additional parkland to be added to Highland Bridge.

Miller-Johnson said several other processes are proceeding at Highland Bridge at the same time the master plan's amendments are moving ahead. They include studies of environmental and parkland impacts, the relocation of wetlands and height issues as they relate to nearby Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.

The master plan amendments won the support of the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee on March 21.

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VIEWPOINT



Highland Park musicians Joe and Jessica Carey entertained friends in their home on Saint Patrick's Day 2023. PHOTO BY SARAH MAAG

St. Paul: One big family on Feast of St. Patrick

By Sarah Maag

Joe and Jessica Carey continued their tradition of giving a Saint Patrick's Day concert at their Highland Park home last month. Since then, I've been trying to articulate why this means so much. I guess when friends and neighbors gather to listen to music and sing along to some traditional (and non-traditional) Irish tunes, you realize we're all one big Saint Paul family.

Last year Earl, the neighbor across the street who is in his 80s, came over to listen. Afterwards, he told us about how his wife, who had passed away years before, loved to sew. He had yards and yards of fabric still left in his home. I pictured how his wife must have carefully selected all of the colors and patterns. I wondered how many people she had sewn clothing for in this neighborhood.

Earl talked of his children, his time at war, his joy and his pain. He shared a piece of himself with this Saint Paul family who had gathered on that melty, celebratory day in March. He said that for years and years, his house had been the Halloween House on the block. He reminisced about how he would dress up as a scarecrow and how happy it made him to have kids come over to his house on Halloween.

This year some friends came over to listen to the Careys with their 3-year-old twins, Declan and Nora. The best part was seeing the boy and girl dressed in green and proudly carrying the shiny coins they got at the Saint Patrick's Day parade earlier that afternoon. Seeing people of all ages come together to celebrate and connect through music, seeing small children and young families keep these traditions alive, it was like we were telling Earl that his memories of having the Halloween House on the block still matter, that all he did in his youth to make this community what it is today, his joy and his sorrow, all matter.

As these kids grow up, they too will make it known that this Saint Paul family, this community, these traditions all matter. The tradition the Careys continue to honor matters. Music ties us all together. It brings together Earl and Declan and Nora and all of the ages in between to celebrate where we come from and where we're heading. With all of the unknowns and darkness and unpredictability in the world, some things remain beautiful. They give us hope that in 80 years, Nora and Declan will be walking across the street to hear music and share their life stories with their neighbors.

So now it makes sense to me why Joe Carey was determined to make this concert happen this year despite the brutal wind and cold temperature. It makes sense why he kept trying to light the fire outside for friends to warm their hands while he and Jessica sang their songs. It makes sense that after many attempts to start the fire, the Careys didn't give up. Instead, they invited those who braved the cold into the house where they kept the tradition going.

We all just piled into the living room and dining room and listened. We listened and we looked around at one another knowing that this tradition doesn't require us to say it out loud. The music speaks for itself. The music tells us that each of us was meant to be here today, to connect as a family, to find comfort in knowing that this tradition is a part of this big, messy, beautiful circle of life.

Sarah Maag is a resident of Highland Park.

City, it's time we got back to the basics of life

By Ginny Housum

I read with interest your article, "Public Works takes the heat for condition of Saint Paul's streets" (*MyVillager*, February 22). There can be no disagreement that the quality of life has declined in Saint Paul over the last several years, but it isn't fair to blame it on the Public Works Department. The street maintenance issue is a function of bad public policy by the City Council and mayor's office. Public Works can only accomplish what city leadership asks it to do.

When one thinks about the problems the city has had with plowing this winter, it relates to more cars being on the streets, making it hard for the plows to get through. Yet the City Council eliminated the requirement for off-street parking for new construction just a couple of years ago, which made the plowing problem not just inevitable, but permanent.

The decision to eliminate the parking requirement was based on the idea that renters would use public transportation, ride bikes or walk. But I'm not aware of any effort being made to ask renters whether they had cars that would be parked on the streets or whether they hoped to own cars in the future. This winter has proved that the elimination of the parking requirement for new construction was a serious error. In fact, the city implicitly acknowledged the error when it opened eight city parking garages to residents to get the cars off the street during the snow emergencies following the storm of February 22-23.

Again and again, we see the City Council and mayor's office failing to focus on quality-of-life issues. City Council members seem to think of themselves as visionaries who are smarter than their constituents. They don't think they work for their constituents; they

seem to think their constituents have a duty to follow them down whatever new path they choose.

We see this reasoning with respect to the plans for new bike lanes on Summit Avenue, the relaxation of parking restrictions, their approval for massive but nonexistent redevelopment around Allianz Field, the potholes in the roads and, most important, the endemic crime.

Were they elected as visionaries or to act as competent managers who could address the very real problems people in Saint Paul are facing right now? When confronted with the expense and problems their own decision-making has caused, the response of the City Council and mayor's office has been to raise taxes, especially sales taxes.

I recently asked about the installation of a traffic light on Grand Avenue and Cambridge Street, and was told by city planners that the city cannot afford a traffic light at that dangerous intersection right next to Hidden River Middle School. Nothing has been done about traffic calming on Cretin Avenue, despite greatly increased traffic resulting from the Highland Bridge development. Surely the planners and City Council appreciated that there would be a lot more traffic on Cretin Avenue as that development proceeded.

In a poor paraphrase of Jerry Jeff Walker, it feels like it's time to get back to the basics of life. Better roads, improved traffic management, better recycling and garbage pickup, crime prevention, and attention to policing and fire suppression.

Visions are great, but with limited resources, let's first deal with the potholes and the failed snowplowing and recycling.

Ginny Housum is a resident of Macalester-Groveland.

INBOX

Trail would make Summit safer

Save Our Street (SOS) has been spreading misinformation about the proposed plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. As a Saint Paul resident who has biked to work since 2009, including in the winter, a curb-separated bike path keeps me safer than any bike lane.

SOS wants to keep Summit's bike lanes. As a cyclist, paint on the street does not stop car doors from hitting me on my right. Paint or bollards do not stop distracted or drunk drivers from swerving into me on my left. Paint on the street doesn't stop Amazon trucks from parking in the bike lane and forcing cyclists into the traffic lane. However, an off-street bike path would stop these threats and make Summit safer to bike in the winter.

At its meeting on March 21, SOS asserted that one-way bike paths are less safe. It cited a study claiming biking on a path has a 1.19 times greater risk of crashing or falling compared to biking in a street without bike infrastructure. However, the 95 percent confidence interval for this figure is 0.46-3.10—i.e., twice as safe to almost three times as risky. This number is also for a lane with "lighter separation" when the proposed path is more appropriately categorized as a lane with "heavy separation." Bike lanes with this heavier separation are safer no matter how you slice it.

SOS claims that the driveways and streets intersecting the paths will make them dangerous. This issue is not new. Motorists on Summit already need to watch for pedestrians and bicyclists as they back out of their driveways or turn onto Summit. The plan for the Regional Trail mitigates these hazards with raised crosswalks at intersections, forcing cars to slow down. These crosswalks also make cyclists and pedestrians more visible at intersections.

SOS claims that the proposed trail has no pedestrian improvements. This is wrong. In addition to the crosswalks, the plan would decrease the distance for pedestrians crossing Summit—from 48-plus to 31 feet east of Lexington Parkway.

SOS talks about the potential loss of trees. What they do not mention is that, under the proposed plan, there will be more space for tree roots. The plan proposes swapping the parking lane and the bike lane locations, and elevating the bike lane to a bike path with a curb separating it from the road. Roads meant for cars need layers of special materials several feet deep to support

heavy vehicles driving at higher speeds. Bike paths carry lighter loads at lower speeds and do not need as deep a layer of materials. This means there is more room under bike paths for tree roots to grow.

Meridith Richmond
Summit-University

Potholes are public safety issue

I have been hesitant to write this letter because I know that the condition of our city streets is not the most important item for City Hall to be concerned with. We have violence in our public schools and rec centers, violence at a celebration of life for victims who have lost their lives, security problems on the light-rail system. All of these are seemingly more important than the condition of our city streets—until I read the *Pioneer Press* on March 9: One-sided parking for the rest of the season.

Mayor Carter is quoted as saying, "...it's about making sure if we need to get to the neighbor's house as quickly as possible." So now it is a public safety issue! So what happens if an ambulance or fire truck or police car is delayed in their response because the city streets are in such terrible condition? What happens if they hit a pothole and blow a tire? Who is responsible? The city? What if that extra time to answer a call results in someone dying?

West Seventh Street and Grand Avenue have potholes so deep that the old streetcar rails are showing. Edgcombe Road is practically not drivable from Highland Parkway to Hamline Avenue. Northbound Snelling Avenue in the right-hand lane is a total mess between Randolph and Grand avenues. Elway from Montreal Avenue to Shepard Road is like driving through a plowed field. Shepard Road is so bad, the potholes so deep and so frequent, that they have given up and just put up orange signs saying "rough road" and reduced the speed limit from 50 to 20 mph. Summit Avenue is unbelievably bad.

I am not asking for perfect streets, just drivable ones. Would the city please do something before just losing hubcaps, blowing tires and visiting the body shop get replaced by something much more serious?

C. T. Killian
Highland Park

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Food shelf demand is spiking, driven by inflation, end of extra SNAP benefit

By Carolyn Walkup

Local food shelves and hunger relief organizations are finding new ways to meet growing demand in the wake of steep increases in grocery prices and the end of extra benefits provided by the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Hunger is a real problem in Minnesota,” said Nancy Brady, president of Neighborhood House, which operates the Francis Basket Food Market at 1293 E. Maynard Drive in Highland Park. Families who have never applied for free food before are regularly visiting food shelves, according to Brady. To meet the increased demand, Francis Basket has added weekend and evening hours and expanded storage capacity for fresh foods. “Proteins, produce and dairy, especially eggs, are a huge part of our budget,” Brady said.

SNAP benefits are based on household size and income. During the pandemic, families qualified for the maximum allotment for their household size no matter their income, but that extra benefit ended on March 1, “and the impact of that is starting to hit,” Brady said. Francis Basket is also seeing a growing number of retired people on fixed incomes seeking free food, she added.

Keystone Community Services has expanded its outreach through mobile outlets that bring free food to neighborhood sites and senior and low-income housing developments. Keystone has also expanded the hours of its Midway food shelf at 1916 University Ave. to five days per week with morning and afternoon hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and morning and evening hours on Wednesday. The food shelf counted 1,600 new enrollees in February, and that was before the end of the extra SNAP benefits.

“We’re readying ourselves for this change,” said Keystone president and CEO Mary McKeown. “Many households don’t have a rainy-day fund, so it’s difficult when grocery prices continue to be high.”

Keystone has hired a full-time employee to help people apply for SNAP benefits. It has also established partnerships with Neighborhood House



Volunteer VaNita Miller helps a customer fill her grocery bags from the cooler and bins in the bus that serves as Keystone Community Services’ mobile food shelf. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and other agencies that do not have mobile food programs.

Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St., saw its biggest increase in new clients in 2020 when its numbers mushroomed by 4,000 percent, according to Jonathan Palmer, executive director. He anticipates another significant bump in demand in April and May when the full impact of the SNAP reduction is felt.

Hallie Q. Brown has changed its food allotment for regular clients from monthly to weekly. “When it was once a month, families often would run out of food,” Palmer said.

Hallie Q. Brown’s hunger relief services are now provided by appointment only. The community center will deliver groceries within 10 miles for those who are homebound, do not drive or cannot carry a 25-pound bag of food. It partners with Metro Mobility and Door Dash for deliveries.

Palmer and others are planning to step up their lobbying efforts at the State Capitol this spring. “There’s a misconception (in the Legislature) about the need,” Palmer said. “This is about the common good and what government is supposed to provide.”

Open Hands Midway offers a twice-monthly food shelf at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N. Roy St. It has seen “a number of new faces” in recent months, according to president and CEO Kay Kuehn. “We don’t ask questions,” she noted, so she was not able to provide any details about demo-

graphics. In addition to the food shelf, Open Hands provides hot lunches on Mondays and bagged lunches on Wednesdays free of charge.

Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) provides free meals for elementary and secondary school students on weekends. Any family is eligible, regardless of income, to receive a free bag of food to take home from its school on Fridays. The number of families receiving weekend meals this school year has increased 26 percent over the previous school year, according to spokesperson Rob Williams.

The Roseville-based agency receives no government assistance but is funded by private donors. It gets its food from 30 or so vendors from all over the country, and meals can be tailored to special diets or preferences.

Another agency helping to address the rising cost of groceries is the Food Group. Its Fare for All program provides fresh produce and frozen meats at prices that are 40 percent below retail.

Fare for All trucks make scheduled stops throughout the region, including the West Seventh Community Center at 265 Oneida St. from 10 a.m.-noon, usually on the first Friday of the month, though not on April 7. Included are two sizes of assorted meats, an assortment of fresh produce and monthly “bonus” buys such as maple syrup, cheese or holiday meals.

Names in the News

Charlie Franta of Macalester-Groveland, a member of Scouts BSA Troop 9091 sponsored by Pilgrim Lutheran Church, has earned his Eagle Scout Award. For his Eagle project, the Central High School senior constructed eight garden planters that children are now using to grow vegetables at recreation centers in Saint Paul. Franta has also spent many hours volunteering at Free Geek, a nonprofit computer recycling operation in South Minneapolis.



Patrick Michael Redmond, owner of Patrick Redmond Design in Merriam Park, is included in the new Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Centennial Timeline. The timeline features notable recipients of Scholastic Art & Writing Awards during the 100 years that the program has been inspiring creative teenagers across the U.S. An award-winning artist and graphic designer, Redmond was recognized by the program for his artwork while he was in high

school. For information on the awards program, visit artandwriting.org. To view the timeline and recipients and view or read their early works, visit tinyurl.com/yrzsc8pj.

The Reverend Cynthia Riffin has been named the new minister of congregational life at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Riffin joins lead minister the Reverend Adam Blons. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ and has served in pastoral ministry for more than 20 years in both the Pacific Northwest and the Twin Cities.

Mary deLaitre will step down as executive director of the Great River Passage Conservancy on April 4. Communications and development manager Laura Bray will act as interim director following her departure. DeLaitre joined the city of Saint Paul in 2016 to help lead the Great River Passage Initiative, which aimed to reconnect Saint Paul to its 17 miles of Mississippi Riverfront. Out of that initiative came three capital projects—the River Balcony in downtown, the River Learning Center in Highland Park and the East Side River District. DeLaitre helped found the Great River Passage Conservancy and left her city job to take on the role as its executive director in 2019. The search is on for her permanent replacement.



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Volume 71, Number 3
Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991
241 Cleveland Ave. S., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105-1208
MyVillager.com • 651-699-1462



MyVillager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. Annual memberships may be purchased for \$39.88-\$59.88 by visiting MyVillager.com or sending a check to MyVillager, 241 Cleveland Ave. S., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105-1208.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Charging ahead

Getting garage ready for electric vehicle is becoming common part of to-do lists

By Frank Jossi

Macalester-Groveland residents Mark and Margo Dickinson ordered their first electric vehicle (EV) in January 2022 and installed a charger in their garage while waiting for their Volkswagen ID.4 SUV to be assembled and delivered.

The couple hired Adam Wortman, a master electrician who owns Ray of Light Electric in Mac-Grove. For the past few years, Wortman has focused nearly all his business on installing EV charging stations. A neighbor of Dickinson suggested Wortman, who contacted Xcel Energy before installing the charger.

The electrician installed a 240-volt panel and meter that measures only power used by the charger. Xcel Energy dropped a separate line to Dickinson's detached garage, avoiding the need a dig a trench to connect the charger to his home's electrical system.

Retired after decades in facilities management at Macalester College and Saint Paul Academy, Dickinson wanted to be prepared. "I want to be proactive," he said. "I wanted to get the charging station in before we got the car."

Wortman and other electricians installing chargers have been busy for the last few years as EVs have taken off in Minnesota. According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, only about 0.43 percent of vehicles sold in the state as of last October have been EVs or plug-in hybrids (about two-thirds are pure EVs).

Despite the small figure, Highland Park resident and EV market consultant Jukka Kukkonen believes EV sales will continue to grow as car manufacturers constantly add more models and inventory. Around 70 EVs are available in the United States now and many of those models can be found at Minnesota dealerships.

Kukkonen sees a considerable surge in

EV sales and considers chargers a necessity. Owners can charge their vehicles using a standard 120-volt outlet, but at a rate of adding only 4 miles to the batteries every hour. Or they could use public chargers, which require staying at a location as the charging occurs.

Most owners are installing Level 2 chargers at home that add 25 miles to batteries every hour. "It provides more flexibility," Kukkonen said. "It ensures you can always have a full battery charge every morning, no matter how much you drive."

Level 2 chargers even work for people with plug-in hybrids that may have a range of 35 miles on electricity. By plugging in every time after parking in their garages, they save money by operating on electricity only during lower-speed runs around the city.

Wortman points out most people drive their EVs no more than 20-30 miles a day and will not find themselves suddenly out of juice on a deserted highway. He said having a charger in the garage is like having your own gas pump, with EV owners topping off their batteries nightly so they will be fully charged by morning.

Chargers can be programmed to take advantage of cheaper overnight electricity rates offered by Xcel Energy. Drivers using chargers from midnight-6 a.m. spend significantly less on electricity than during peak hours from 3-8 p.m.

"You just schedule the charge for those times and the charger takes care of it," Wortman said. "Most vehicles driven around the city just need a couple of hours of charging."

Typical charging setups in local neighborhoods for single-family homes differ slightly. Wortman wires homes with attached garages into their current electricity grid and adds a 240-volt breaker to their electric panel before installing the charger.

For homes with detached garages, he typically asks Xcel Energy to drop a power



Ray of Light Electric owner Adam Wortman showed off slides of his electric vehicle charging station installations during the Home Improvement Workshop Day sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland and Highland district councils on March 11. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

line to the garage. Then, he installs a service panel for the new 240-volt service that runs to an Xcel meter and charger.

The location for the charger depends on the EV's charge port. Some ports are at the back of vehicles, while others are at the front. It does make a difference whether homeowners drive in or back into their garages, Wortman said.

For customers with two EVs, he suggests charging them a day apart to avoid having to install two stations. "This way both cars will stay nearly fully charged," he said.

Kukkonen has two EVs and he argues that installing two chargers makes everything easier. If power availability becomes an issue, the units can be programmed to split the charging power.

"Switching the cars around gets old in a hurry and it's not that big of an expense to add a second charger," he said.

Wortman said Tesla remains the charger most clients buy, although he installs technology by ChargePoint, ClipperCreek, Wallbox and other companies. He said

garage charging stations cost around \$3,000 for labor, permits, the Xcel line to detached garages, a wall-mounted charger and any other associated costs.

Other options exist through Xcel's EV Accelerate At Home program. A rental option costs \$16.48 a month after Xcel installs a charger for no upfront fee. Customers can also buy the charger from Xcel for \$6.68 a month and pay \$770 to have it installed. He said either program serves some customers well. Not included is the cost of getting a 240-volt line to the charger and any permit fees.

Dickinson hopes his Volkswagen finally arrives in the next two months. The hybrid Toyota he drives now leaves him with little legroom and he was itching to go electric. A Wallbox Pulsar Plus charging station is waiting.

"We wanted to support the Green Movement and get an electric vehicle," he said. "We tried different EVs and the ID.4 seemed to fit me well."



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District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Citywide spring cleanup—Saint Paul's annual citywide spring cleanup will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Locally, volunteers should meet at the Highland Park Pavilion. Gloves, bags, treats and coffee will be provided. Visit stpaul.gov/news/spring-celebrations-events.

1-4 Unit Housing Study—In 2021, Saint Paul initiated a two-phase study to look at ways to increase the supply and types of one- to four-unit dwellings in the city. Phase 1 is now complete. Public comments on the Phase 2 amendments are being sought prior to the Planning Commission's meeting on April 14. Visit stpaul.gov/1to4study.

Safe streets for all—The city of Saint Paul is developing a Transportation Safety Action Plan to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from vehicle crashes for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers. Share your thoughts at stpaul.gov/TransportationSafetyPlan by April 15.

Ward 3 candidate forum—A forum for Ward 3 City Council candidates Saura Jost and Isaac Russell will be livestreamed on Facebook from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. For more, visit tinyurl.com/2p9dh875.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Citywide spring cleanup—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will have two groups participating in the citywide spring cleanup from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22. One group will meet at Dunn Brothers on Grand Avenue for a cleanup project along Summit Avenue. The other will gather at the monument on the western end of Summit for a cleanup project along Mississippi River Boulevard. Supplies will be provided by the city. Volunteers will receive free coffee and a chance to win a Macalester-Groveland T-shirt. Register at bit.ly/MGCitywideCleanup.

Board elections—Candidates for the community council's board of directors may apply online at mac-grove.org/boardelections or pick up a paper form at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Applications are due by April 13. A board information session will be held from

5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Groveland Tap, 1834 Saint Clair Ave. Register by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org. Board elections will be held April 20-27.

Annual meeting—The community council will host a virtual annual meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 20. All those who live, work, learn or play in Macalester-Groveland are invited to participate. Email mgcc@macgrove.org or visit macgrove.org/boardelections.

Upcoming meetings—Community Building Team on Monday, April 10; Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, April 19; and annual meeting on Thursday, April 20. All of the meetings will be held via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m. For log-in details, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5; Transportation Committee with city crime prevention coordinator Patty Lammers speaking on CIB proposals, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 10; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 17; and Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. For access, email info@unionparkdc.org or see the calendar on the website.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Looking Back, Moving Forward—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation will celebrate its 50th year during its annual meeting and board elections from 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. Snacks will be provided and beer will be available for purchase. Board candidates are still being sought. For more information, visit the website or email fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20. Most meetings are now being held virtually via Zoom. Visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar.

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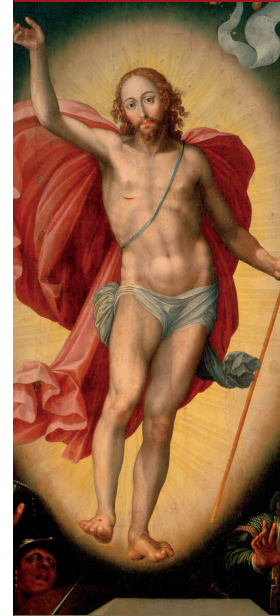
Tenebrae Wednesday 5:30PM
Maundy Thursday 7PM
Good Friday 7PM
Great Vigil Saturday 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY
Worship 8AM & 10AM
Easter Egg Hunt 9AM

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APRIL 9TH, 2023

7:00 AM ENGLISH LOW MASS
8:00 AM EF LATIN LOW MASS
9:00 AM ENGLISH MASS
WITH HYMNS
10:30 AM OF LATIN SUNG MASS
WITH SCHOLA, CHORALE,
& ORCHESTRA
Joseph Haydn's *Grosse Orgelmesse*
Twin Cities Catholic Chorale,
Under the Direction of
Dr. Marc Jaros
12:15 PM OF ENGLISH MASS
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Holy Week 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday | April 2
10 a.m. | Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday | April 6
12 p.m. Elizabeth Chapel Service
7 p.m. The Office of Tenebrae with the Lord's Supper | Sanctuary

Good Friday | April 7
12 p.m. Elizabeth Chapel Service
7 p.m. Good Friday Vespers | Sanctuary

Easter Sunday | April 9
7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service | Elizabeth Chapel
9 and 11 a.m. Festive Worship | Sanctuary

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Easter

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Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2
8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Blessing of Palms

Holy Monday - Holy Wednesday, April 3-5
5:00 p.m. Daily Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 6
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Good Friday, April 7
7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy and Adoration of the Cross

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 8
8:00 p.m. First Eucharist of Easter

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, April 9
8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir, Brass, and Organ

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Suspects were buzzed into an apartment building and stole a large toolbox from a garage on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue on March 12-13.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., at 3:45 p.m. on March 12.

—Thefts were reported from buildings by Pulte Homes in Highland Bridge between 2:46-3:10 p.m. on March 15.

—A man wearing a black mask reportedly stole three purses from an unlocked car at the BP Station, 2005 Ford Pkwy., at 9:38 p.m. on March 19. He fled in a black car with a light red interior.

—A scooter was reported stolen at Gracewood Assisted Living and Memory Care, 1925 Graham Ave., at 6:24 p.m. on March 19.

—Items were reported stolen from a vehicle at Hidden Falls Park between 5:22-6:10 p.m. on March 21. A loss valued at more than \$1,000 to city property was also reported at Hidden Falls Park at 5:45 p.m. on March 26.

—Eyeglass frames valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen at Pearle Vision, 2024 Ford Pkwy., at 1:15 p.m. on March 24.

Arson—A fire was reported in a bathroom at Highland Park High School at 12:15 p.m. on March 15.

Miscellaneous—A 27-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle on the 2600 block of West Seventh Street at 9:03 a.m. on March 19.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A carjacking was reported on University Avenue and Lexington Parkway between 7-8 p.m. on March 25.

Burglary—The storage garage was broken into at the Express Bike Shop, 1150 Selby Ave., at 1:13 a.m. on March 22.

—A 24-year-old man was arrested for felony burglary at the Midway Target at 5:20 p.m. on March 25.

Theft—Incidents at the Midway Target included a 44-year-old man with multiple warrants arrested for shoplifting at 7:45 p.m. on March 18, a 28-year-old man arrested for felony theft and drug possession at 1:06 p.m. on March 21, and a man arrested for felony theft after he snatched a phone from a victim and tried to run at 6:34 p.m. on March 21.

—Items valued at over \$1,000 were re-

Amazon driver charged with West End assault

Tre'von Marquise King, 26, of Minneapolis has been charged with felony assault following a dispute with a 50-year-old man over an Amazon package delivery at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 25, on the 900 block of Randolph Avenue.

Officers found the victim lying face down in the middle of the road bleeding from his face. He was taken to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with broken bones around his eye and a skull fracture.

According to the complaint, the victim said he received a notification that a package had been delivered to his back step. When the package was not there, he saw an Amazon truck and asked the driver, King, about the delivery.

The victim and King got into an argument and were recording each other on their cellphones. The victim reportedly tried to hit the phone from King's hand, when King punched him in the face and drove away. King returned to his workplace, where he was arrested. He faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

ported stolen from a vehicle on the 1200 block of Concordia Avenue on March 21.

Assault—Terroristic threats were reported at Central High School at 8:16 p.m. on March 22. An assault was also reported at the school at 12:14 p.m. that day.

Miscellaneous—A 37-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property at Pizza Lucé, 1183 Selby Ave., at 11:23 p.m. on March 16.

—A 29-year-old man was arrested for fleeing police and providing false information after he was seen acting suspiciously around outdoor storage containers at the Midway Target at 4:54 p.m. on March 27.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., was robbed by a person who claimed to have a gun at 7:35 a.m. on March 26.

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 1000 block of James Avenue between March 24-27.

Theft—A suspect stole a shopping cart full of merchandise from Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., at 6:21 p.m. on March 27.

Assault—A 22-year-old man was arrested for aggravated assault and possession of a gun without a permit at the Communities of River Crossing, 1735 Grand Ave., at 3:47 p.m. on March 26.

Mendota Heights

Theft—Lottery tickets were reported stolen from a business on the 1200 block of Mendota Heights Road at 9:55 p.m. on March 18.

Assault—An assault was reported on the 2000 block of Dodd Road at 8:28 p.m. on March 19.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A 39-year-old woman was arrested for burglarizing a residence on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue at 2:31 a.m. on March 17.

—A residential break-in was reported on the 1700 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:17 p.m. on March 21.

Assault—A felony assault with a gun was reported at the Fairview Avenue light-rail station at 7 p.m. on March 15.

—A 28-year-old woman was arrested for assaulting another woman at the Quality Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 9:10 p.m. on March 25.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—Cash was stolen from the register during a break-in at Feist Animal Hospital, 1430 Marshall Ave., between 1:25-9:11 a.m. on March 21. A burglary was also reported there at 12:58 a.m. on March 26.

Assault—A man was stabbed at the Midway Cub Foods at 5:27 a.m. on March 25.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A 23-year-old man was arrested for robbery at gunpoint at 7:17 p.m. on March 27 at CVS, 1040 Grand Ave.

Burglary—An apartment break-in was reported on the 500 block of Lincoln Avenue between 5:52-8:26 p.m. on March 19.

—Seasoned Speciality Food Market, 1136 Grand Ave., was burglarized at 11 p.m. on March 22.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 700 block of Grand Avenue at 11:15 a.m. on March 20.

Miscellaneous—A 45-year-old man was arrested for DWI and tampering with an ignition interlock device after he was found slumped over in a vehicle near Grand Avenue and Milton Street at 10:50 p.m. on March 26.

Summit-University

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery and assault were reported on the 200 block of North Avon Street on March 17-18.

—A 19-year-old man was arrested for felony aggravated robbery and possession of a gun without a permit at Saint Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave., at 11:45 a.m. on March 22.

Burglary—A break-in was reported at the Blair Apartments, 400 Selby Ave., at

7:16 a.m. on March 21.

Theft—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Laurel Avenue during the evening of March 25-26.

Assault—An assault with a gun was reported on the 1000 block of Carroll Avenue at 11:39 p.m. on March 27. Shell casings were retrieved at the scene.

Arson—A car fire was reported on Saint Anthony and Western avenues at 2:17 a.m. on March 27.

West End

Burglary—A break-in was reported at Joe and Stan's Pub & Grill, 949 W. Seventh St., at 5:55 a.m. on March 25.

—Residential break-ins were reported at Irvine Park Towers, 291 W. Seventh St., at 2:52 p.m. on March 25, and on the 400 block of Goodhue Street at 1:15 p.m. on March 26.

—A change machine was reported stolen during a break-in at Speedway, 1734 W. Seventh St., at 2:12 a.m. on March 26.

Theft—Two guns were stolen from a vehicle in the Holiday Inn parking lot at 175 W. Seventh St. between 10:32 a.m.-12:03 p.m. on March 19. Another vehicle was also entered illegally in the lot around that same time.

—A male suspect stole a purse from the front seat of a vehicle while the owner was pumping gas at the BP Station, 675 W. Seventh St., at 11:32 p.m. on March 29.

Assault—An assault victim suffered broken bones and a concussion during a Lucky Palooza event at McGovern's Pub, 225 W. Seventh St., at 8:30 p.m. on March 11. Three men also reported being assaulted by staff at McGovern's during separate incidents between 9-11 p.m. on March 17.

—Two men said they were assaulted by a bouncer who kicked them out of the Eagle Street Grille, 174 W. Seventh St., at 2:48 a.m. on March 18.

—A male was shot in the leg on 35E and Kellogg Boulevard at 1:58 p.m. on March 28.

—A 35-year-old man was arrested for assaulting officers while being discharged from Children's and United hospitals at 11:09 a.m. on March 28. The suspect also had several outstanding warrants.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported at the Saint Paul Tap, 825 Jefferson Ave., at 11:30 p.m. on March 15.

—Someone tore off the city's no parking/tow away signs that were posted for Saint Patrick's Day on March 17 on Fifth Street between Seventh and Wabash streets, and on West Seventh between Kellogg Boulevard and Walnut Street.

—A 38-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he crashed into multiple vehicles at the McDonald's on West Seventh Street and Jefferson Avenue at 8:04 p.m. on March 18.

Criminal behavior has building owners wanting to close skyways earlier

By Jane McClure

The CapitolRiver Council's Skyway Governance Committee rejected a request from Kellogg Square/Bigos Management on March 24 to close its skyway at 9 p.m. to stem ongoing criminal behavior.

Property manager Stephanie Ecklund said the request was made due to people trespassing in the Kellogg Boulevard building and assaulting staff. A security guard was knocked unconscious in one incident. "The tower is being breached multiple times a day," she said.

Downtown residents said that while they were sympathetic, allowing an earlier skyway closing could create a domino

effect. They and committee members also opposed a request from Madison Equities to close seven skyways at 7 p.m. for the Alliance Bank Center, U.S. Bank Center, 375 Jackson St. and First National Bank building. That request was later withdrawn.

For now, Saint Paul police officers will be patrolling the skyways during their normal operating hours of 6 a.m.-midnight. Committee members are still waiting for recommendations from a group working on ways to improve downtown safety.

More than 50 people attended the Skyway Governance Committee virtual meeting on March 24. Many residents expressed opposition to shorter skyway hours, saying they need to be able to get to and from their destinations via the skyways during the

evening. Some speakers noted that as more downtown buildings are converted from offices to residences, pressure to keep the skyways open will only increase.

Downtown skyways are owned by the city and maintained by building owners, who can request shorter hours. Those requests go to the Skyway Governance Committee and are researched by city staff and the City Attorney's office before going to the City Council for a final decision.

Downtown residents said Madison Equities posted 7 p.m. skyway closings on March 1 and then took them down within a few days. Tom Ferrara, a Saint Paul safety inspector who works on skyway issues, said city staff learned of the earlier closings when skyways to their offices at 375

Jackson were posted.

Kelly Hadac, legal counsel for Madison Equities, said the early closings were sought due to large groups of young people fighting in the skyways. He said the Alliance Bank area has had many problems and that security staff for the buildings deal with a lot of criminal behavior.

"They're threatened daily. They're punched daily," he said.

A tower that connected the light-rail Green Line Central Station platform to the skyway system closed late last year after two people were fatally shot there. The tower was closed to consider possible safety improvements, but has not reopened. Hadac said that since then, skyway problems have only gotten worse.

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ON THE TOWN

Art of engagement

Spring brings four weekends of open studio events to Saint Paul

By Anne Murphy

The Saint Paul Art Crawl has been a bridge between local artists and the community since 1991. Merriam Park artists Andrea Okeson and Anne Spooner and Highland Park artist Claire Stokes are hoping to strengthen that connection on April 14-16 when they open their studios in the F.O.K. Building at 106 Water St.

This is the third year the Art Crawl is spanning several weekends to highlight the various art districts in Saint Paul. Founded by the Saint Paul Art Collective, the event is believed to be the longest running art crawl in the country. In recent years, it has involved more than 300 artists and attracted more than 20,000 art lovers.

The studios and galleries of Harriet Island, Ramsey Hill and Summit Hill will be open to the public on April 14-16. West Seventh Street and the area around University and Raymond avenues are up next on April 21-23. The artists and galleries of downtown and Lowertown take their turn on April 28-30. Then it is on to Merriam Park, Payne-Phalen and South Como on May 5-7.

Okeson, Spooner and Stokes are all relatively new to F.O.K. Studios. According to them, the historic warehouse building and its growing collection of artists are well worth a visit.

Barbara Evan agrees. Evan has been involved in the Art Crawl for over 20 years and has had a studio in the F.O.K. building for eight years. "Approximately 30 resident artists and 20 guest artists have said they will participate (in the event at F.O.K.)," she

said. "F.O.K. artists now occupy the third and fourth floors of the building. About 10 of the artists share one large studio on the fourth floor. They call themselves OTA, aka Old Town Artists."

"I contacted one of the Old Town Artists in early 2022," said Stokes, a painter. "When an opening came up, I was glad to be accepted. The building is well loved by its artists. The new studio space on the third floor is starting to fill up and will add to the vibrancy of the arts community on Harriet Island."

"I've been involved in two-dimensional art for a little over three years, and I'm still doing lots of experimenting," Stokes said. "For a long time, photography was my creative outlet. This was a good avocation to combine with full-time work." When she retired in 2019, Stokes took a watercolor class and a drawing class. Then during the pandemic, she learned through art books and online classes.

"I do all of my oil painting at the studio," Stokes said. "At home, I work on small watercolor studies, sketching and preliminary work in preparation for oil painting. For years, I've created greeting and Christmas cards with my photographs. I'm now turning many of my watercolor studies into cards."

Okeson, a painter, moved into her studio at F.O.K. in December 2020. Previously she shared a studio in the Dow Building on University Avenue. In addition to affordability, her space on Harriet Island "has allowed me to make much bigger art and more art," Okeson said. "I'm also part of the Harriet Island community. It's kind of magical and has been really inspiring."

"I've made art most of my life," Okeson

"I think all of us were happy to be able to host events again," Spooner said. "In a tumultuous world, art brings people together and can foster an understanding among diverse communities."



Artists Claire Stokes, Anne Spooner and Andrea Okeson pose with samples of their art in Spooner's studio in the F.O.K. Building. They will be among 50 artists who will be displaying their works on April 14-16 on several floors of the former Harriet Island warehouse. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

said. Of her works in the Art Crawl, she said, "expect a lot of bright colors. I really like to go with the season with a lot of flowers. I focus on animals as well, deer and birds. Children seem to gravitate to my work. I think they like the bright colors and the whimsical nature of it. I hope to see many families with young children at the Art Crawl. Just prepare yourself for a splash of color and the good spring feeling which we can all use."

"I just love the Art Crawl and seeing everybody and the energy," Okeson said. "Holding the event over multiple weekends allows people to visit more studios. With our amazing arts community in Saint Paul, there's too much to see. And I think the change to more than one weekend has allowed each artist community to shine on its own."

Spooner has been part of the Harriet Island artist community for three years. For the Art Crawl, "I will be showing my current paintings along with some additional clay and mixed-media pieces," she said. An artist for over 30 years, Spooner works

with acrylics in combination with other media, such as permanent marker, graphite and paper. She describes her work as autobiographical, focusing on the bond between humans and animals, especially in relation to children.

"I love our West Side community," Spooner said. "We have an enthusiastic and dedicated group of creatives. We hope people will think of our historic turn-of-the-20th-century warehouse as a vibrant arts destination. As we were coming out of COVID and folks were beginning to socialize more, I noticed a renewed interest in open studio events. Visitors were visibly interested and there were positive comments about the space and the quality of the art."

"I think all of us were happy to be able to host events again," Spooner said. "In a tumultuous world, art brings people together and can foster an understanding among diverse communities. Saint Paul has a long tradition of noteworthy art happenings. To be a part of this is very rewarding."

For more information on the Art Crawl, visit stpaulartcollective.org.

ON THE TOWN Briefly

Exhibits

"An Interrupted Childhood," stories and photos of seven Polish World War II survivors in Minnesota, are displayed through April 30 in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. The exhibit offers lessons in suffering, survival, resilience and gratitude. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

"Exquisite Creatures," an exploration of earth's biodiversity through reclaimed animal specimens, is on view through September 4 at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. Arranged by artist and naturalist Christopher Marley, this seemingly endless variety of colors, textures and structures creates a mosaic of the natural world. Admission to the museum is \$29.95, \$19.95 for children ages 4-17. For information, visit smm.org or call 651-221-9444.

"Ukraine: War and Resistance," photos depicting life in Ukraine during the Russian invasion, is on view through May 14

at Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. The large-scale photos were captured by Fulbright scholars in the wartorn Eastern European country. Most of the images were taken in the past 12 months, but some date back to 2014 when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and invaded the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The exhibit is open free of charge from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 612-341-7555 or visit mnhs.org/millcity.

"Terms of Engagement," paintings by David Amdur of Twin Cities jazz musicians, the May Day parade, and people in nature or demanding justice, will be displayed through May 5 in Vaaler Art Gallery at the Alliance Francaise, 227 Colfax Ave. N. in Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Visit afmsp.org. **Seventy-two works** by 72 artists that flout expectations are featured in "Defying

Sameness 2," the second show in the 2023 curatorial series on view now through May 28 at Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 E. Prince St., Suite 130. An opening reception with live music and light refreshments will be held from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, April 29. Admission is free. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 651-224-3757 or visit theazgallery.org.

The Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at Saint Catherine University will open two new exhibits with a reception from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, April 15. In the West Gallery, "When Women Were Girls" will feature artist Lissa Karpeh's portraits of Liberian-American women in Minnesota. She will discuss her art at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26. In the East Gallery, "The Living Room" will feature the art of SCU students Mathis J. Edwards, Callie Korzeniowski, Maya O'Reilly, Dee Taropurua and Theo von Weiss. The exhibits will remain on view through May 21. Admission is free. For COVID policy, visit stkate.edu/coronavirus-info/health-safety.

Books

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host free readings and discussions with author Joe Milan Jr. and his novel, *The All-American*, at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6; editor Paul Bogard and his book, *Solastalgia: An Anthology of Emotion in a Disappearing World*, with contributors Roopali Phadke, Angela Pelster and Kathryn Nuernberger, 6 p.m. Monday, April 17; author Claire Wahmanholm and her book about doom, *Meltwater*, and author Emily Strasser and *Half Life of a Secret*, her book about the United States' covert nuclear weapons facility in Tennessee, 6 p.m. Monday, April 24. Visit nextchapterbooksellers.com or call 651-225-8989.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host free readings and discussions with Carleton College professor Deborah Appleman and her book, *Literature and the New Culture Wars*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April

14 ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

13; and author Jody Lulich and her book, *In the Company of Grace: A Veterinarian's Memoir of Trauma and Healing*, at 7 p.m. Monday, April 24. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Author Thomas Brussig will read from *The Short End of the Sonnenallee*, his moving story about life in East Berlin before the fall of the wall, at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. Newly translated into English, the novel confounds stereotypes of life in totalitarian East Germany. An audience Q&A and book signing will follow. For information, call SubText Books at 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Dance

Dancers from Ballet Co.Laboratory will perform in a free program at noon Tuesday, April 11, in the Landmark Center cortile. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

"Opera in Motion," newly transcribed excerpts from Mozart's *Magic Flute* and *Marriage of Figaro* and Gluck's *Orfeo et Eurydice*, will be played on period instruments by the Wolfgang ensemble on Sunday, April 23. The program will feature choreography by Penelope Freeh performed by advanced students from the Saint Paul Ballet. It begins at 4 p.m. at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is by donation.

Music

Three-time Tony Award-winner Patti LuPone will interpret Broadway tunes by the likes of Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Jule Styne, Stephen Schwartz, Charles Strouse, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 14, in the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets start at \$58. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

The similarities between hip hop and the Baroque music of the 17th century will be demonstrated on Saturday, April 15, by Bach Society of Minnesota associate artistic director Marco Real-d'Arbelles and hip hop artist See More Perspective. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts, 3754 Pleasant Ave. in Minneapolis. It will include pieces by Monteverdi, Charpentier, Rameau and Perspective. Also performing will be vocalists Elena Stabile and Katherine Parent, lutenist Phillip Rukavina and pianist Rie Tanaka. A meet-and-greet will follow. Tickets are whatever you will pay. Visit eventbrite.com.

The Bakken Ensemble will be joined by violinist Natsuki Kumagai, violist Jenni Seo and clarinetist Sangyoon Kim at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 16, in Antonello Hall at the



Classical lass. Italian pianist Beatrice Rana, Gramophone's 2017 Young Artist of the Year, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 16, in the Ordway Music Theater. Her program includes Bach's French Suite No. 2 in C minor, Debussy's *Pour le piano* and Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat ("Hammerklavier"). Tickets are \$36-\$75. Call 651-292-3268 or visit schubert.org.

MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. The concert will include George Crumb's Sonata for solo cello, Gabriela Lena Frank's "Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout," and Bernard Hermann's "Souvenir du Voyage." Tickets are \$25. Visit bakkensensemble.org.

Experience Scottish culture when the Macalester Pipe Band presents a bagpipe and highland drum concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 16, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College.

The Jasper String Quartet of Philadelphia will be joined by Venezuelan soprano Maria Brea in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at Saint Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Tickets are \$23 and \$33. Call 651-292-3268 or visit schubert.org.

Jazz and finger-style guitarists Cassius Stein and Mike Dowling will perform in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert on Tuesday, April 18, in Fingal's Cave at MetroNome Brewery, 289 E. Fifth St. Stein will play at 6 p.m. and Dowling from 7-9 p.m. Admission is free. Visit mnguitar.org.

Ramsey Hill drummer Peter Kogan and his Monsterful Wonderband will perform from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 20, in Fingal's Cave in the basement of MetroNome Brewery, 385 Broadway St. Joining Kogan on stage will be Jake Baldwin, trumpet; Pete Whitman, sax; Nick Syman, trombone; Geoff LeCrone, guitar; Kaviesh Kaviraj, piano; and Kameron Markworth, bass. Admission is free.

Lyra Baroque Orchestra will celebrate "Il Violino Moderno" in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes music

by Muffat, Rosenmuller, Schmelzer, Biber and Froberger. Tickets are \$5-\$35. Call 651-321-2214 or visit lyrabaroque.org.

Theater

The Revolutionists, a riotous comedy by Lauren Gunderson about four strong women caught up in the French Revolution of 1789-99, is being performed on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 27 W. Seventh Place. Directed by Shelli Place, the collaboration with Prime Productions stars Alison Edwards, Tia Tanzer, Jasmine Porter and Jane Froiland. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays (except April 9) through April 16. Tickets are \$40-\$55 with discounts for students, seniors, teachers, military and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

She Stoops to Conquer by Irish playwright Oliver Goldsmith will be performed on weekends from April 7-16 by Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. April 6, 7, 14 and 15 and at 2 p.m. April 8 and 16. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors, and whatever you can pay on April 6. Visit celticjunction.org.

Returning to Haifa, a compelling drama about a Palestinian and an Israeli family who are forced into an intimacy they did not choose, will open on April 21 at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. Fourth St. in Minneapolis. The play was adapted by Naomi Wallace and Ismail Khalidi from a novella by Ghassan Kanafani. Directed by Dipankar Mukherjee, it stars Ernest Briggs, Mohamed Haji, Rasha Ahmad Sharif, Sayli Khadilkar and Esther Ouray. Show times are 7:30 p.m. April 21, 22, May 3, 4 and 5, and 2:30 p.m. April 23

and May 6. Panel discussions about the play will be held at 7:30 p.m. April 28 and 2 p.m. April 29. Tickets are \$22, \$18 in advance, \$15 for students and seniors. Visit pangeaworldtheater.org.

Playwright Sam Shepard's masterwork, True West will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays from April 21 through May 14 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Skirting the line between violently tragic and darkly funny, this classic drama tells of two brothers who clash over the production of a Hollywood movie. Tickets are \$25, or whatever you will pay for the additional show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 1. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Film

Little Richard: I Am Everything (2023), director Lisa Cortes' inside look at the artist credited with creating rock 'n' roll music, will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$13. Visit soundunseen.com.

MSP Film Society will present the 42nd Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival from April 13-27 at Main Cinema, 115 SE Main St. in Minneapolis, the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis and Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul. For the complete lineup and information on tickets and all-festival passes, visit mspfilm.org.

Family

KidsJam, an interactive program of traditional New Orleans jazz with Riley Helgeson of the McNasty Brass Band, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 18, in the Schubert Club Museum at Landmark Center. Tickets are \$5, free for adults with children. Call 651-292-3268 or visit schubert.org.

Minnesota JCC Symphony Orchestra will present a free, informal, interactive and educational concert for families from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at the JCC's Capp Center, 1345 Saint Paul Ave. For reservations, visit eventbrite.com.

Et cetera

More than 300 student artists, vocalists and instrumentalists will take part in the Saint Paul Public Schools' 30th annual Honors Concert at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Ordway. In addition to the musical performance, a video of the students' original visual art will be shown. Hip-hop artist Desdemona will emcee the event, which is cosponsored by the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Admission is \$5. The art may also be viewed at spps.org/HonorsArt.

TUESDAY/APRIL 11

A SENIOR DRIVER refresher course will be offered from noon-4 p.m. at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Drivers age 55 and older who complete the class may qualify for a three-year extension on their 10 percent auto insurance discount. The cost is \$24. For information, call 1-800-234-1294 or visit mnsafetycenter.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 14

MINNESOTA HISTORY through the lives of Hypolite and Angelique Dupuis will be addressed by Dan Munson at 6 p.m. at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. Admission is \$20. For reservations, call 651-452-1596 or visit dakotahistory.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 16

THE SAINT PAUL HIKING CLUB will take a five-mile hike through the West End neighborhood this afternoon. New members are welcome. Members will step out at 2:30 p.m. from the Saint Paul Tap, 825 Jefferson

KIOSK

Ave. For information, call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

MONDAY/APRIL 17

THE GARDEN CLUB of Ramsey County will meet at 7:25 p.m. at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Rebecca Webster of the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota-Duluth will speak about seed rematriation, a process for restoring ancestral seeds to indigenous people for cultivation. The meeting is open to the public free of charge. For information, visit ramseygardeners.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

A FREE "SHRED IT" EVENT will be hosted from 9 a.m.-noon at Coldwell Banker Burnet, 1991 Ford Pkwy. Dispose of your documents confidentially, and while

you are at it, enjoy free coffee and doughnuts served by the Distad Team. For information, contact Claire Distad at 651-307-7260 or claire.distad@cbrealty.com.

WARD 3 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES Saura Jost and Isaac Russell and District 64B Representative Dave Pinto will discuss their strategies for advancing a multi-racial democracy with a caring economy from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Lumen Christi Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The forum is sponsored by the ISIAH coalition. To register, contact Kathy Chinn at 651-361-0395 or akchinn@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY and help clean up a winter's worth of litter along the Mississippi River from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Sponsored by the Friends of the Mississippi River, the family-friendly event will begin in the parking lots on West River Parkway at 36th and 44th streets in Minneapolis. Bring gloves if you have them. Other supplies will be provided. Groups of more than 10 should register in advance by calling 651-222-2193 ext. 27.

SPORTS

Prep softball preview

Coaches stress strength up middle

By Bill Wagner

Most people would agree that the best way to build a softball team is to be strong up the middle. That's especially true when it comes to shortstop and center field. Several local coaches said athletes playing those positions need a variety of tools, including good range, a strong arm, speed and softball smarts.

"It's good if your pitcher can get a lot of strikeouts," said Visitation coach Dan Jameson. "But once a ball is put in play, the shortstop and center field positions are key."

"At shortstop, you need someone who's the captain of the infield," he continued. "And you need to have a good center fielder who has good reactions and enables you to know that when a ball is hit there it'll be played properly."

Two Rivers coach Jenny Carpenter agreed that those two positions have great import in a team's success. However, she pointed out that overall team defense shouldn't be discounted.

"The shortstop and center fielder are like quarterbacks," Carpenter said. "They take control and cover a lot of ground, but every position is important."

Minnehaha Academy coach Megan Thurow said who you have on the mound matters as well. "It really depends on your pitcher," she said, "but those two spots are where a lot of balls are hit. Players at those two positions are faster than most other players. All successful teams have good defense at those two spots."

Strong in the middle or not, here's how local teams shape up as the softball season gets into full swing:

CENTRAL

League: Saint Paul City
Previous record: 10-10
Coach: Fiona Lodge

Key players: junior center fielder Evie Daly, sophomore pitcher/third baseman Ellen

Hendricks, sophomore first baseman Regina Williams.

Outlook: Central doesn't field any seniors, but coach Lodge feels good about her junior and sophomore classes. She said there's reason for optimism this season.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Previous record: 11-14
Coach: Carolyn Osboda

Key players: sophomore pitcher Brooke Nesdahl, senior third baseman/first baseman Sophie Black, senior pitcher Catie Gaertner, junior center fielder Sammy Haider.

Outlook: CDH's first-year coach likes her pitching and offense, and the fact that the program has 50 players participating on the varsity, JV and ninth-grade teams. "It should be a pretty solid year," Osboda said. "We lost only two starters."

HIGHLAND PARK

League: Saint Paul City
Previous record: 8-8
Coach: Louie Neurer

Key players: senior utility player Abby Altman, senior outfielder Bella Jack, junior catcher Kate Reubish, junior pitcher Ella Johnson, sophomore pitcher Morgan Johnson, sophomore third baseman Hannah Gliedman.

Outlook: Neurer lost five seniors from last season, but has what he called "a good nucleus" of younger players. The Scots should compete for the conference title. "We have a few girls who can throw, so pitching should be all right," Neurer said, "and we have smart players who can pull the younger players along."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Previous record: 13-7
Coach: Megan Thurow

Key players: junior pitcher Maddie Ciccarelli, senior first baseman Camryn Thurow



Highland Park senior Abby Altman takes batting practice in the school's field house as head softball coach Louie Neurer passes behind. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

(the coach's sister), senior shortstop Danae Goree, senior third baseman Abby Theisen.

Outlook: The Redhawks will face some growing pains this season. "It'll be a rebuilding year," coach Thurow said. "Our goal is player development, and having a successful season for the (four) returning players." The coach figures that her team is still good enough to finish among the top three in the league.

TWO RIVERS

League: Metro East
Previous record: 9-13
Coach: Jenny Carpenter

Key players: senior pitcher Sofia Braun, senior outfielder Paige Nowak, junior catcher Anna Wilson, junior outfielder Emily Rosen.

Outlook: The Warriors don't have a lot of experience, but they do have some skilled younger players. "We have one of the toughest conferences from top to bottom," coach Carpenter said. "We lack experience

at the varsity level, but we have some talent. We're excited about this year."

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro
Previous record: 3-16
Coach: Dan Jameson

Key players: senior pitcher Grace Ritzenhaler, sophomore third baseman Grace Twomey, freshman shortstop Abby Hemauer, sophomore catcher Hannah Schreier, senior outfielders Jana Christensen and Clare Olson, senior utility player Mary Witkowski.

Outlook: Coach Jameson is expecting better things after an uncharacteristic off-year, and Visitation has more players out for the program. "We have room to grow," Jameson said. "We have stronger pitching than last year, and we're a lot faster." The coach figures the Blazers can contend for the conference title.

Editor's note: Saint Paul Academy didn't respond in time to be included in this preview.



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Redhawk boys come close in state hoops

State tournaments are unusual events in the life of a coach. You prepare all season for the possibility of getting to one. When you get there, you finish one game and you need to quickly forget it to prepare for the next one. And even if you're a guy like Minnehaha Academy head boys' basketball coach Lance Johnson, who just took part in his ninth state tournament, you never know exactly what to expect.

The fifth-seeded Redhawks came up just shy of a fifth Class AA state championship on March 25, falling to second-seeded Albany 72-65 in the title game at Target Center. The exhilarating ride it took to get that far was one that Johnson admitted took some time to come down from. A couple of days after the title game, he was asked if he had decompressed yet. "It takes a few hours," he conceded, "but I've gotten used to it by now."

When you have the kind of success Minnehaha (23-9) has enjoyed in recent years, expectations are always high at the start of the season. Johnson understands that, but he cautioned fans from the start that it might take a while for this year's team to jell.

"We're a work in progress," he said at the start of the season. Indeed, after winning the opener by 41 points over Rochester Lourdes on December 2, Minnehaha fell to Maple River the next afternoon 68-63.

But as time went on, the regular season saw considerably more ups than downs. As he has done in the past, Johnson scheduled games against tough nonconference foes. Accordingly, his young team had a few missteps, losing 106-97 to Orono in December and by a startling 101-56 to Holy Family in mid-January. "We just were off that day," Johnson said about the latter loss to the Fire.

But he saw progress in January and February. By the time section play began in March, the Redhawks seemed to be in gear. They won the Section 4AA title impressively, outscoring their three foes by a combined 111 points.

The luck of the draw at state had Minnehaha facing the same Maple River team that had handed the Redhawks their first defeat of the season. Minnehaha came out fast, taking an 11-point lead at halftime. Maple River fought back, getting within a pair of points several times. But the Redhawks prevailed 53-48 behind 26 points by junior guard Jerome Williams. The sharpshooting Williams, who scored in double figures in nearly every game all winter, was one of the players Johnson cited for getting

better and better as the season progressed.

Because the Timberwolves had a Wednesday game at Target Center, Minnehaha played on the tournament's first day, a Tuesday. That gave them plenty of time to prepare to take on top-seeded Holy Family on Friday.

"Honestly, my hope before the game was just to keep it close," Johnson said. "Everything had to be in order for us have a chance to win it."

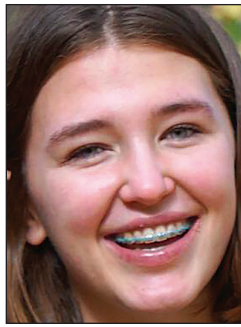
Minnehaha needed to stay out of foul trouble and find a way to get the Fire in it. That worked out as two Holy Family starters fouled out. Meanwhile, Redhawk sophomore Harrison Aligbe and junior Lorenzo Levy played with four fouls, but avoided a fifth.

Up front, the 6-foot-9 Rolyns Aligbe, the lone Redhawk senior seeing action, needed to hold his own against the Fire's 6-foot-11 twin towers, Collin Mulholland and Boden Kapke. Rolyns did just that, scoring 17 points, grabbing 14 rebounds and drawing nine fouls.

Despite that, the Fire grabbed an early 11-2 lead and were up 35-30 at intermission. But Minnehaha refused to go away and when Levy hit a three-pointer with 2:32 remaining, the Redhawks had their first lead at 63-62.

Things rocked back and forth from there. Levy sent the Target Center crowd into a frenzy when he drained a jumper with two seconds left to force overtime. Minnehaha hit just one basket in the extra session—a Levy three-pointer—but got the rebounds when they needed them and drained four free throws in an

Athena Awards mark 29th year of recognizing Saint Paul's top female athletes



Maeve Lindsay



Anna Stangler



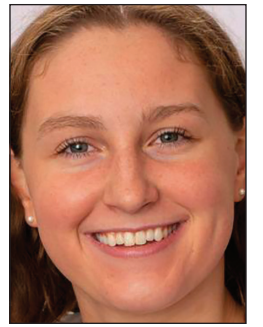
Delia Johnson



Heidi Deuel



Ava Warford



Ella Passe

The 29th annual Saint Paul Area Athena Awards ceremony will take place on April 19 at Saint Paul RiverCentre. Around 47 young women representing the Saint Paul area's public and private schools will be honored for excellence in athletics and academics. The local winners include the following:

Central Maeve Lindsay

Sports: cross-country (4 letters, 2x all-conference, honorable mention, 2x captain, coaches award, gold scholar); Nordic skiing (4 letters, 3x honorable mention, captain, MVP, Up and Coming, Most Improved, Most Cheerful Racer, state participant); track and field (2 letters, conference champions); Minnesota Biathlon (U.S. National Guard champion-sprint, 2nd in U.S. National Championship-pursuit, USBA YJCH Trials, USBA Nationals); figure skating (intermediate free skate, figure skating instructor).

Activities: Lost Dog Running Pacers, Cathedral Choristers, Feed My Starving Children, track and field volunteer.

Scholastic honors: National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honors, excellence in French 2 years, excellence in physics 1 year, 4.74 GPA, Century College EMT certificate candidate, 7x Central honor roll, Grand Concourse Award winner, B2 DELF Pass.

Post-high school plans: Major in biological sciences, minor in French and run cross-country.

Cretin-Derham Hall Anna Stangler

Sports: soccer (4 letters, academic all-state, all-conference, captain); lacrosse (4 letters, academic all-American, all-section, academic all-state, all-conference, Rookie of the Year, 2x captain).

Activities: People Finding People, Sustainability Club, Gillette Children's Hospital volunteer.

Scholastic honors: National Honor Society, ExCEL Award, GPA 4.344, President's List, honor roll.

Post-high school plans: undecided

Highland Park Delia Johnson

Sports: cross-country (6 letters, 2x captain, 6x all-conference, 6x state qualifier, all-state, 2x team state champion); Nordic skiing (5 letters, captain, 4x all-conference, 5x team conference champion, sprint relay conference champion, state qualifier); track and field (2 letters, captain, 3x conference champion, 4x section champion, 3x state qualifier, 3rd in state 4x800, 4th in state 800, 4x800 school record holder).

Activities: student council, Service Club, Dare 2 Be Real, FFA section champion, FFA state qualifier, HGRA youth track and field and cross-country coach, Minnesota Youth Ski League coach.

Scholastic honors: National Honor Society, academic all-state in cross-country and track and field.

Post-high school plans: Run track and

cross country while attending the University of Minnesota.

Saint Paul Academy Heidi Deuel

Sports: soccer (5 letters, 2x captain, 2x all-conference, 2x honorable mention, IMAC section champs, state runner-up, 2x Spartan Spirit Award, Most Improved); hockey (4 letters, captain, all-conference, honorable mention, Minnesota Hockey Senior Classic, Unsung Hero Award); NSSA Soccer (5x captain, Final Four champion, USA Cup champion).

Activities: Outdoors Club president, ASL Club, senior mentor, YMCA volunteer, Dodge Nature Center volunteer.

Scholastic honors: 8x honor roll, Chemistry Book Award.

Post-high school plans: Attend Saint Olaf to study math and biology.

Two Rivers Ava Warford

Sports: tennis (3 letters, all-conference honorable mention, captain, MVP); gymnastics (5 letters, MIP, all-conference); track and field (3 letters, all conference 100 hurdles, all-conference 4x100, Rookie of the Year, 2nd in section 100 hurdles, 1st in section 4x100, state participant in 100 hurdles and 4x100, 2x captain).

Activities: Warrior leadership team president, Link Crew leader 2 years.

Scholastic honors: National Honor Society, 4-year honor roll student, GPA 3.768.

Post-high school plans: Study interior design at the University of Minnesota.

Visitation Ella Passe

Sports: swimming (5 letters, 5x all-conference, 17x all-state, 2x captain, 3x individual state champion, 2x relay state champion, 4x team state champion, 4x most dedicated, 3x MVP, school record holder in 500 freestyle); basketball (letter).

Activities: Elementary and Middle School (CAA) swim coach, Leadership Club, orchestra, Dakota Woodlands Women and Family Shelter tutor.

Scholastic honors: High Honor Roll, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, National French Exam Gold Award.

Post-high school plans: Major in biology (pre-med) and swim at Duke University.

The Saint Paul Athena Awards program will be held from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. (a new venue for 2023).

Ashley Ellis-Milan, the 2005 Athena winner from Central High School and head girls' basketball coach at East Ridge High School, will be the keynote speaker. Randy Shaver of KARE 11 will be the master of ceremonies.

For information, visit stpaulathena.com.

16 WRIGHT CALL

exhausting 76-72 triumph.

"It wasn't a good shooting game, but the defense was outstanding," Johnson said. "In terms of drama, however, it was great."

When Minnehaha and Albany faced off for the 1 p.m. championship game the next day, Johnson knew early on that things were different. "We got off to a decent start and fought hard all game," he said, "but I could tell some of the guys were tired."

Levy, Rolyns Aligbe and Williams all played roughly 40 minutes the night before. Albany had played the later game on Friday, but had an easier time of it, grabbing an early lead and rolling to a 79-64 win over Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton.

Although Williams and Levy missed a few shots early in the championship game, Johnson told the pair to stick to their guns. "With shooters, you tell them to just keep

shooting," he said.

Minnehaha led by six points at 25-19 with 5:30 left in the first half, but Albany sprang to life to go up 39-31 at the break. As the game wore on, it was the Huskies who were able to get to the free throw line and grab the rebounds. The Redhawks whittled the margin to two, but the Huskies upped it back to six in short order.

"We had to foul at the end," Johnson said with a sigh, "but we had a great run."

With six juniors and five sophomores returning, Minnehaha could be a serious force again next winter. If the lads needed any additional encouragement as to what could be, all they had to do was watch the game that was played later that same night. In 2022, Park Center defeated Wayzata in the Class AAAA championship game 58-53. In this year's final, the script was flipped when Wayzata topped Park Center 75-71.

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



Minnehaha's Jerome Williams puts up a shot in a win against Maple River in the state boys' basketball quarterfinals. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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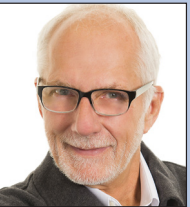
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