

## Saint Paul sets sights on safe firearm storage

Amendment aims to keep guns out of wrong hands

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul gun owners will be required to place their firearms in secure storage and separate from ammunition if a proposed ordinance amendment is adopted by the City Council as soon as May 3. The measure, brought forward in response to rising gun violence, has drawn passionate reactions from both supporters and opponents.

Dozens of people, many wearing Moms Demand Action T-shirts, attended a public hearing before the council on April 26. Some of the people who spoke in support of the amendment described how they or their family members had been victims of gun violence, or how they lost loved ones to suicide by gun.

Highland Park resident Isaac Russell, who co-chairs the city's Neighborhood Safety Community Council, is a gun owner who supports the amendment. "It's time to act," said Russell, who had a family member fatally shot in a parking lot.

Other speakers included medical

SAFE GUN STORAGE ▶3



**Slippery when wet.** A stairway at Upper Landing Park disappeared into the swollen Mississippi River on April 27. The river crested the day before in downtown Saint Paul at 18.24 feet, which is about a foot above major flood stage. Water levels have slowly started to recede, but flood conditions are expected to continue into early May. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## City's proposal to increase density in single-family zones gets mixed reaction

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul's plan to add more infill housing citywide as part of a 1-4 Unit Housing Study drew a sharp response from both sides of the issue during a Planning Commission hearing on April 14. Proponents believe the changes would add needed housing and density, while opponents say the city risks wiping out single-family neighborhoods.

The commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee is now reviewing more than 250 pages of public comments as well as testimony from 16 people during the hearing.

The study's recommendations, if adopted, are aimed at increasing density with "neighborhood-scale housing." In addition to duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes, the study encourages the building of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), cluster developments and tiny houses in the city's single-family, two-family and townhouse zoning districts. These are the so-called "missing middle" units of housing between single-family homes and large apartment buildings.

The City Council called for the study in 2018 and the first phase was adopted last year. If approved by the Planning Commission, the zoning code changes would go to the City Council for a

1-4 UNIT HOUSING STUDY ▶3

## Commission recommends approval of Summit bike trail

By Jane McClure

The proposed construction of a raised and separated recreational trail along the 4.7 miles of Summit Avenue continues to wend its way through City Hall. The Saint Paul Planning Commission voted 11-0-1 on April 28 to recommend the approval of the trail. The city's Parks and Recreation Commission will make its own trail recommendation when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 11. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the project at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24.

The city is facing a June 30 deadline to

approve a master plan for the regional trail. The deadline is part of an agreement the city made with the Metropolitan Council in April 2021 when it accepted a \$125,000 state grant to help plan the trail. If the deadline is not met, the city may have to forgo any additional state aid for the project.

The Planning Commission's Transportation Committee recommended approval of the trail plan on an 8-1 vote on April 17. Planning commissioner Omar Syed cast the lone vote against the trail, citing concerns about the potential loss of trees. However, Syed voted to recommend approval of the trail on April 28, saying his

concerns about trees had been addressed.

The trail would extend from Mississippi River Boulevard to Kellogg Boulevard, connecting to several other bicycle routes along the way. Its design would vary somewhat as the width and configuration of Summit varies with a median west of Lexington Parkway and a double median between Snelling and Fairview avenues. The trail would be constructed within the existing curb lines for the most part. On-street parking would be eliminated on one side of Summit east of Lexington. Where the parking lanes are preserved, they would be situated to the left of the trail.

The plan for the Summit Avenue Region-

al Trail is favored by many cyclists, who say that it would make for safer riding and improved maintenance during the winter. Opponents contend that the trail would harm Summit's historic character and lead to the loss of more trees as the rest of the street is reconstructed.

Transportation Committee members raised several questions about the trail plans, including the impact on trees, the design of intersections and how to accommodate parking for people with disabilities. Many details about the design will not be known until the plan is fully completed.

SUMMIT BIKE TRAIL ▶2

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**Judge orders city to release data related to planning of Summit trail**

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul officials were given until the end of the day on May 1 to turn over information related to the city's plans for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. Ramsey County District Court Judge Patrick Diamond ordered the documents to be turned over following a day-long hearing on April 27. The two sides were scheduled to be back in court on May 2, after this issue of *MyVillager* went to press.

The city and attorney Robert Cattanch are battling over access to city emails and documents related to the plan to construct a raised and separated bicycle trail along both sides of Summit between Mississippi River Boulevard and Kellogg Boulevard.

A Summit Avenue resident, Cattanch sued the city in March under the Minnesota Data Practices Act. He is also representing the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA), which was allowed by the judge to intervene in the lawsuit.

SARPA and Cattanch individually are seeking a delay in any decision by the city on the proposed Summit Avenue trail until all documents are released and there is time to review data. Information is being sought on such issues as public safety; project costs and funding; evidence of community support for the project; equity concerns; and trail alternatives that would destroy fewer trees and be less harmful to the historic character of Summit.

City officials contend that delays could jeopardize project funding.

Cattanch has been making data access requests on the Summit trail project since last July. He has made about 20 requests for project documents and email exchanges between city staff and bicycling advocates, including Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition co-chair Andy Singer.

Several emails show that Singer and the Bicycle Coalition have had many months of involvement in the project, providing detailed input. In one email, Singer indicates he already has four City Council members

in support of the project. Information that has been released so far is being compiled in a data blog.

April 27 was the last of several days of back and forth between the city and the court. City clerk Shari Moore; Drew Nelson, the deputy director of the Office of Technology and Communications; and city public information officers Clare Cloyd and Lisa Hiebert testified. Cloyd works for the Parks and Recreation Department; Hiebert for the Department of Public Works.

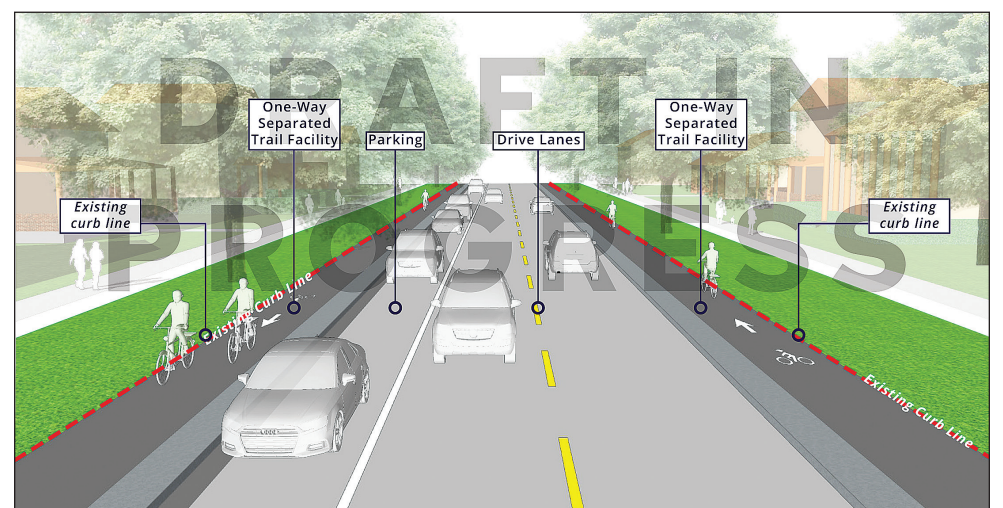
The hearing was an opportunity for the city to explain how it responds to data access requests. The wide-ranging discussion addressed city protocol, data search terms and email retention policies. The city retains emails for six months unless there is a specific need to retain them for longer, such as litigation, according to Nelson.

Moore explained that the city received more than 15,000 data access requests in 2022 and has received almost 5,000 requests so far in 2023. Some requests are simple, such as a request for a copy of a city ordinance. Others are more complex. Each city department has staff assigned to handle data access requests. The Office of Technology and Communications handles requests for emails.

In court proceedings in the last week of April, Diamond took issue with the city's transparency on the project. Diamond also raised questions about how the city has responded to data access requests and whether those responses are in compliance with state law.

Diamond questioned how citizens can make requests for data, saying that the system in place is not easy to use for people wanting data from more than one city department. The judge also rejected the city's request to postpone the cross-examination of its employees.

The city has asked the Minnesota Court of Appeals to get involved, seeking a writ of prohibition. That step is sometimes taken to prevent a lower court from issuing orders. However, the higher court has not opted to step in.



The diagram above illustrates the plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail between Kellogg Boulevard and Lexington Parkway with parking still available on one or the other side of Summit.

**1◀ SUMMIT BIKE TRAIL**

The city is saying the design is now 90 percent complete.

Transportation Committee chair Jeff Risberg asked how the public would be involved in the planning from here on. The city has been criticized by trail opponents for a dearth of public engagement in the planning so far (see story above).

Mary Norton, who has led project planning for the Parks and Recreation Department, assured Risberg that there would be public engagement throughout the rest of the design process and before the trail is constructed. The construction of the trail is expected to take close to a decade as money becomes available to reconstruct various

segments of Summit Avenue.

The city has not set aside any funding for the project. A 1 percent increase in the sales tax in Saint Paul has been proposed to pay for Summit's reconstruction and other street projects in the city; however, its prospects appear dim (see story on page 4).

Planning commissioner Brian Martinson asked about the use of electric bikes on the regional trail. "We anticipate that cyclists who travel at higher speeds will use the street as they do now," Norton said.

For more information on the plans for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail, visit [stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/summit-avenue-regional-trail](http://stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/summit-avenue-regional-trail).

**1-4 UNIT HOUSING STUDY**

public hearing in mid-summer. The council would vote on the matter in the fall.

Comments on the 163-page study ran the gamut. A wide range of housing, sustainability and development organizations have supported the changes, as have the Highland, Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland community councils. Instituting design guidelines and paying more attention to a neighborhood's existing character were requested by several groups. Macalester-Groveland qualified its support with the condition that only homesteaded properties be eligible for increased density.

Desnoyer Park resident and developer Jeff Chermak said the proposed zoning changes would help him construct small multifamily buildings on properties he owns. "Please help the small developers in this city," Chermak said.

Midway homeowner and Summit-Uni-

*"I don't think people appreciate what a massive change this will be," said Summit Avenue resident Tom Darling.*

versity duplex landlord Barb Allen said she could easily add a third unit in her duplex and an ADU on the garage without displacing existing renters.

One barrier that developers cited is the cost of building even smaller-scale multifamily housing. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is among the nonprofit developers struggling to find affordable lots to build housing on in Saint Paul. The Metropolitan Consortium for Community asked that the city consider waiving fees and providing grants for developers of "missing middle" housing.

Luke Hanson, co-chair of Sustain Saint Paul, said the ability to add housing would also benefit the city's property tax base. The advocacy group is urging the Planning Commission to consider changes that would encourage more housing density around neighborhood commercial nodes and transit stops.

Some of those who weighed in warned the Planning Commission to consider unintended consequences. Macalester-Groveland architect Gaius Nelson agreed with the need for more housing options in the city, but cautioned commissioners, "Just because you build new housing doesn't mean it'll be affordable."

Nelson recalled the issue of smaller, affordable starter homes being torn down in Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland in order to build so-called "McMansions." Residents had to push for design guidelines to keep new houses from taking up the entire lot and towering over existing homes. He suggested several technical changes

to the proposed regulations, and urged the commission to look at impacts on a surrounding neighborhood when infill housing is built.

Tom Dimond, a former City Council member, called the proposal "a ban on single-family housing, on single-family neighborhoods." He said residents need more of a say if entire swaths of the city are going to be rezoned without property owners' consent.

"I don't think people appreciate what a massive change this will be," said Summit Avenue resident Tom Darling. He and others said the 1-4 Unit Housing Study needs more public scrutiny before it moves on.

City planning director Luis Pereira said the proposal would not make single-family homes nonconforming or illegal. However, it would allow a greater diversity of housing options in districts currently zoned exclusively for single-family homes, as well those that allow duplexes, triplexes and townhouses.

**SAFE GUN STORAGE**

professionals and advocates for domestic violence victims. They included the Reverend Rolf Olson, whose daughter was fatally shot in 2007 after she answered a Craigslist job posting for a nanny.

"As a gun owner and hunter myself, I'm not opposed to guns, but I certainly know how deadly they are," Olson said. His daughter's killer took a handgun from a dresser drawer before shooting her. It was stored with a pill bottle full of bullets.

Another person who testified was former council member Dave Thune, who also is a gun owner. Thune said he was taught that every gun should be treated as if it were loaded.

The council received 100 pages of written comments, both pro and con. Gun

rights groups have proposed taking legal action against the city if the amendment is adopted.

"As a Second Amendment advocacy organization, we cannot stand idly by while the city of Saint Paul attempts to infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners," said Rob Doar, leader of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus. "We strongly urge the city of Saint Paul to reconsider the proposed change and to respect the Second Amendment rights of its residents and guests."

Gun rights advocates contend that state law prevents local units of government from passing regulations similar to the one proposed in Saint Paul.

Some written comments from opponents got personal, with one person referring to the "band of idiots" in Saint Paul.

Another person said council members are "Communists bent on destroying Second Amendment freedoms."

The ordinance amendment was brought forward earlier this spring by Mayor Melvin Carter and Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker. Noecker, who has worked closely on gun control measures with Moms Demand Action, thanked the group for its efforts.

"Loose guns pose a danger to our entire community," said Carter in a statement. "Responsible gun owners must do their part to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands."

Carter had two guns stolen in a burglary of his home in 2017. He said at the time that he kept the guns in a lock box.

The proposed amendment would penalize people who leave firearms where they

could be stolen. That includes motor vehicles. It does not apply to people who secure their firearms and ammunition. A violation would be a misdemeanor.

Unsecured firearms have placed an additional strain on Saint Paul police officers, who have responded to more than 5,000 calls for service since 2020 where firearms were reported to have been discharged. During the same time, Saint Paul police recovered 1,902 firearms, 150 of which were stolen.

Police Chief Axel Henry and Deputy Chief Paul Ford have both spoken out in support of the amendment. Ford said safe gun storage is a key part of reducing gun-related crimes.

According to Ford, 227 guns were reported stolen in Saint Paul last year, about half of them from motor vehicles.

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# Hopes dim for city sales tax increase to help pay for streets and parks

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter's annual State of the City address on April 18 was more about the state of the city's infrastructure. He used the speech at Oxford Community Center to highlight his proposed increase in the local sales tax to help pay for street and park improvements. But as the 2023 session of the Minnesota Legislature winds down toward its May 22 adjournment, the prospects for such an increase appear increasingly dim.

The sales tax championed by Carter and the City Council calls for a 1 percent increase in the city's portion of the sales tax—from 0.5 to 1.5 cents on the dollar. The tax is expected to raise almost \$1 billion over 20 years. Seventy-five percent of that revenue would be used to rebuild arterial and collector streets. The rest would be earmarked for parks and recreation center projects. If the proposed increase is approved by the

Minnesota Legislature, it would still need to receive the support of a majority of voters in a citywide referendum.

Carter has repeatedly said that the citizens of Saint Paul should not be the only ones paying for the improvement of the city's streets. The mayor cited the many motorists from outside of the city who travel on those streets. According to him, the sales tax is a more equitable way to pay for those improvements than the property tax levy.

The mayor blamed recent decades of deferred street maintenance for Saint Paul's perennial pothole problem. The city, he said, should be reconstructing its streets every 60 years, but that cycle of street reconstruction is currently closer to 124 years. "The last time Summit Avenue was reconstructed, William Taft was in the White House," Carter said.

Saint Paul's lack of investment in street maintenance has resulted in numerous

claims against the city for vehicles damaged by potholes. This year has been especially expensive. From January to mid-April, 475 motorists filed claims against the city for damages their vehicles incurred by hitting potholes. There were 85 such claims in all of 2022. The claims that have been upheld this year have averaged about \$800 each.

However, the city's request for a sales tax increase faces an uncertain future. Saint Paul is one of almost three dozen cities and counties that have been lobbying the Legislature this year for permission to raise their local sales tax. Some of the requests are holdovers from 2022.

Mayor Carter's proposal has run into opposition from the Saint Paul Area Chamber, whose leaders have urged city officials to push instead for an increase in Local Government Aid from the state.

Saint Paul's sales tax request received a hearing earlier this session in the Sen-

ate. However, members of the House have raised red flags about the many pending sales tax requests. The House tax plan, which was released on April 18, includes a one-time, \$30 million allocation for Saint Paul's streets.

Another road block for the city's sales tax increase are the regional sales tax increases that have been proposed to help pay for affordable housing and transit. The House on April 19 passed a bill for a 0.75 percent sales tax increase in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to pay for transit primarily. The Senate is considering a smaller sales tax increase for transit.

Representative Michael Howard (DFL-Richfield) is the lead sponsor of a 0.25 percent sales tax increase in the Twin Cities area to pay for housing vouchers and new affordable rental housing. However, the Senate housing package passed on April 25 does not include a sales tax increase for affordable housing.

# MnDOT considers bike and pedestrian upgrades on John Ireland Bridge

By Jane McClure

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is considering three possible designs for rebuilding the John Ireland Boulevard bridge over I-94 in 2026. The 56-year-old span, which has cracks in its superstructure, is still in good condition, according to MnDOT, but it needs what is called "focused structural repair" to ensure that it remains safe for travelers based on modern vehicle weight limits.

MnDOT is now soliciting public comments on the design of the rebuilt bridge. Almost two dozen people attended an

April 25 hearing to learn about the project and share ideas. To join the discussion, visit [dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/johnirelandbridge/index.html](http://dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/johnirelandbridge/index.html). A final design will be chosen this summer.

The John Ireland bridge connects the area around the Saint Paul Cathedral to the state Capitol. Matthew Parent, north area coordinator for MnDOT's Metro Division, said the rebuilding project is an opportunity to make safety and cosmetic changes as well as extend the bridge's life. The bridge deck will be replaced. Sidewalk repairs, updated bike and pedestrian facilities, accessibility updates and railing replacement are also planned.

The project has an estimated cost of \$16.2 million. Work will begin in 2025 with painting and restriping. Construction will follow in 2026. The bridge will be taken down piece by piece and then rebuilt within the same footprint. It will be closed during the project.

The John Ireland bridge currently has two lanes of motor vehicle traffic, a 7-foot on-street bike lane and a 10-foot raised sidewalk in each direction. It also has a 26-foot-wide grass median.

The median remains in the three new designs for the bridge. However, the four motor vehicle lanes are narrowed, and the bike lanes and sidewalks are reconfigured.

In the first option, the sidewalks are unchanged but the bike lanes are widened to 10 feet.

In the second and third options, the bike lanes and sidewalks are both raised and separated from the traffic lanes by a barrier. One option has a 20-inch barrier, and the other has a 6-inch barrier. In both of these options, the bike lanes are 6 feet wide and the sidewalks are 10-feet, 10 inches wide.

At the hearing on April 25, several people asked why the bridge cannot be reduced from four lanes to two. Parent cited traffic

JOHN IRELAND BRIDGE ►5

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# News Briefs

## Groveland Tap can add patio with liquor service despite objections

The Saint Paul City Council voted on April 26 to allow the Groveland Tap, 1834 Saint Clair Ave., to add an outdoor patio with liquor service. The approval was made despite objections from some Macalester-Groveland neighbors.

Four Berkeley Avenue residents voiced their concerns during a recent legislative hearing, which grew heated at times. Neighbors have complained that they already deal with spillover parking, noise, trash and patron behavior issues connected to the restaurant.

The patio raised the most objections from neighbors who spoke at a Macalester-Groveland Community Council Housing and Land Use Committee meeting this spring. The district council recommended approval of the license changes, which include expansion of the restaurant's indoor liquor service area.

The Groveland Tap recently completed a \$2 million renovation and expansion into spaces previously occupied by a hair salon and comic book shop. Business owner Stephanie Shimp, co-owner of Blue Plate Restaurant Company, said the plan is to not have a sidewalk cafe license anymore and to move all outdoor service to the back patio. The patio has gone through city plan review and is complete.

The city placed several conditions on patio service. They include that outdoor food and beverage service must end at 9 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays with the area cleared no later than 9:30 p.m., and at 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and cleared by 10:30 p.m. Conditions were also clarified on trash pickup near the business and noise monitoring.

## Council seeks public's help with picking Audit Committee topics

The Saint Paul City Council is again reaching out to residents, district councils, businesses, city employees and others to suggest topics to be considered for study by the city's Audit Committee.

The committee was established in August 2020 to evaluate the financial and program performance of city departments. It released its findings from its first study on constituent and customer services this past January.

Council members Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince serve as the committee co-chairs. The group also includes council member Amy Brendmoen (ex-officio) and community advisors Ellen Brown, Dana DeMaster, Stephanie Dilworth and James Farnsworth.

Online surveys to receive public input on topic suggestions can be found at [stpaul.gov/auditcommittee](http://stpaul.gov/auditcommittee). Topics may also be submitted by calling 651-266-8539 or visiting [CCAuditCommittee@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:CCAuditCommittee@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

## Rondo Land Trust to redevelop vacant site at Marshall-Oxford

The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board awarded tentative developer status to the Rondo Community Land Trust on April 26 for redevelopment of 1036 Marshall Ave. as affordable housing.

The decision gives the land trust until March 31, 2025, to get a project planned and financed, and to return to the HRA for final developer status.

The vacant site includes two adjacent parcels on the southeast corner of Marshall and Oxford Street. A five-unit affordable rental building was on the property for some time. It was owned and managed as part of the Families First Project, a partnership between Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and Model Cities of Saint Paul.

In 2007, the partners determined that the building was no longer viable for their purposes. The lower-level units had extensive water damage. Each of the five units was deemed to be too small for families.

In December 2007, the HRA approved the forgiveness of debt of Families First related to their purchase of the site. PPL then transferred ownership of the property to the Family Housing Fund. It transferred its interest to the HRA in 2009 with a stipulation that the site be redeveloped for affordable housing.

The HRA used federal Community Development Block Grants to demolish the five-unit building. Nicolle Goodman, director of the city's planning department, said the use of federal funds means only a certified community-based development organization, such as the land trust, can redevelop the property.

*News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.*

## 4 JOHN IRELAND BRIDGE

volumes. From May 2021 to April 2022, the bridge carried a daily average of 7,276 vehicles, 264 pedestrians and 176 bicyclists.

Other questions addressed improving the buffer between motor vehicles and cyclists and pedestrians, methods for slowing traffic, winter maintenance of bike lanes and planting the median with native vegetation.

The bridge is located in an area governed by the Capitol Area Architecture and Planning Board. Because of that it must have a design similar to other Capitol area bridges, according to Parent. MnDOT must also conduct what is called a federal Section 106 review to study the project's impact on structures and other features considered to be historic. Parent noted that while the bridge is not historic, the Capitol area, the Cathedral and the adjacent Hill District are.

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## Edina Realty leads local market for 22nd consecutive year!

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# Variety is the spice of these four new establishments in St. Paul

By Carolyn Walkup

People out for a bite to eat or a glass to drink have a variety of new venues from which to choose. Whether it's burgers or Mexican fare, coffee, tea or sambusas, specialty cocktails or eggs-traordinary sandwiches, these establishments are holding a table for you:

## Centro and Everywhen Burger Bar

If you're headed out to eat but can't quite make up your mind between burgers or Mexican, you may want to check out Centro. The new eatery at 750 S. Cleveland Ave. was expected to open late last week, as this issue of *MyVillager* went to press, and it offers diners plenty of both cuisines in two separate dining rooms.

The Mexican section features tacos, oysters and a full bar specializing in margaritas. Signature items include lamb barbacoa tacos; fish tacos; carnitas with pork shoulder, grilled pineapple, salsa verde, cilantro and pickled onion; and black bean enchiladas. A pastry case, an ice cream chest with house-made ice cream sandwiches, and a cold case with house-made salsas and sauces for carryout are also displayed in that section of the restaurant. It seats up to 48 diners at high-top tables, bar stools and tables with wooden benches. When weather permits, 28 additional seats will be available on the sidewalk patio.

Centro's other section is known as the Everywhen Burger Bar, a classic diner that seats up to 65 patrons and serves a variety of burgers, tater tots, chicken sandwiches and salads.

"I'm excited to be opening a restaurant in my own neighborhood," said Jami Olson. A Highland Park resident, Olson is



Server Yeni Barrientos hoists a spicy burger with a side of yuca fries at the new Centro and Everywhen restaurant in Highland Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the owner and CEO of Centro Restaurant Group, which operates two other Centro restaurants in Minneapolis.

The Highland Park Centro is open from 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Brunch is served from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## Rafiki Coffee and Cafe

Community organizer Ian Oundo and his wife Laura have opened a coffee house and cafe on the first floor of the Griggs-Midway Building at 540 N. Fairview Ave. Rafiki,

which means "friend" in Swahili, serves a full line of espresso drinks and teas, including a Kenyan chai flavored with ginger, cardamom, cloves and cinnamon. Breakfast pastries, bagels, hot and cold sandwiches and house-made soups are also served.

A native of Uganda, Oundo's aim is to operate a coffee house that celebrates "Saint Paul's rich diverse community," he said. His entire menu is sourced locally, from the coffee beans purchased from True Stone Roasterie to the sambusas, an East African favorite made with a pastry crust

and a meat or vegetable filling.

Rafiki is open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Oundo plans to add outdoor seating when the weather permits. He also plans to offer his space as a gallery where local artists can show and sell their works with 100 percent of any sales going to the artists. Eventually, he would like to host live performances, such as poetry readings and concerts.

## Green Lantern

Madison Restaurant Group has reopened the Green Lantern on the lower level of its Noyes & Cutler steakhouse at 229 E. Sixth St. The nightclub is named for the notorious Wabasha Street saloon that served as a hangout for gangsters during the Prohibition era. The club is open from 8-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It is serving specialty cocktails and food from the Noyes & Cutler menu until a separate menu for the club can be developed. Entertainment ranges from live music to comedy. Valet parking is available.

## Big E

The former site of Grand Old Creamery at 750 Grand Ave. is currently being remodeled as a sandwich shop called Big E. No opening date has been set, but proprietor and celebrity chef Justin Sutherland expects construction to proceed quickly. He previously opened a Big E in Portland, Oregon, and is planning a third in Minneapolis.

Eggs will be the main ingredient in many of the sandwiches. Service will be primarily carryout, although a few indoor seats will be provided. The restaurant has applied for a beer and wine license. Prices are expected to be in the \$15 range.

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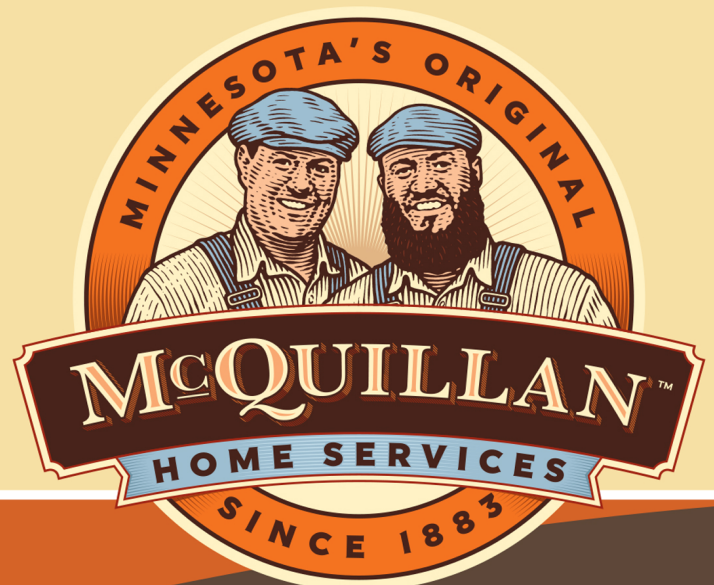
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# VIEWPOINT

## Slow the process, broaden the debate over Summit Ave. trail

By Elizabeth Dickinson, Andrew Rorvig and Abu Nayeem

The debate over the construction of new bike trails along Summit Avenue has engendered considerable angst on both sides. On one side are the bike supporters headed by the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition whose members seek safer routes. On the other side is Save Our Street, whose members are concerned about the loss of trees and the destruction of what historian Ernest R. Sandeen described as “the best-preserved example of the Victorian monumental residential boulevard” in the United States.

The city of Saint Paul’s current plan is to replace the existing on-street bike lanes with raised and separated bike trails at a cost of \$12 million and the potential loss of from 200-plus (city’s estimation) to 1,000 (independent arborist’s estimation) mature trees to the overall reconstruction of Summit Avenue.

While some City Council members have taken positions on the issue, Mayor Melvin Carter’s administration has been curiously silent. Who in the city is providing the impetus for a quick adoption of the plan? Why is the city spending millions to replace bikeways on Summit while other areas of the city with limited transportation alternatives have no bikeways at all?

Few public policies under consideration this year would have more obvious consequences than the plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. It would forever alter the appearance and usability of the most famous street in Saint Paul. Such a plan requires enormous amounts of sagacity and public input to ensure an outcome that maximizes the public good and reassures people that their views are being taken seriously.

What city leaders seem to have left unaddressed are answers to some basic questions about background and process. These concerns were recently echoed by

*Few public policies would have more obvious consequences than the plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. It would forever alter the appearance and usability of the most famous street in Saint Paul.*

Ramsey County District Judge Patrick Diamond, who in response to a lawsuit brought by neighbors seeking data and studies regarding the proposed Summit Avenue trail, issued an order that stated:

*If the City Council were to conduct its May 24 meeting and approve the trail project while legitimate and unobjectionable data requests are pending, the legitimacy of the council’s decision on the trail project and its approach to governing in general would suffer. Similarly, if documents responsive to the data request were to appear in the public realm, but only after council approval of the project, the approval would be deprived of substantial legitimacy.*

While we are not taking a position on the bike trail itself, we believe that good municipal policy is based on transparency and accountability. Therefore, we believe the city administration should address the following concerns.

First, by the time the city solicited public comments last February, 90 percent of the draft plan was in place, with the intent to have it move through committees in March, leaving little time for a divided public to react. Only now are news stories surfacing showing public reaction and the public’s need to know and understand more about this plan.

Second, while public comments are available online, it is not clear if the comments have been categorized or are reflected in any actual changes to the final draft document. Which begs the question: Why solicit public comments if they are not going to be used in any way, even as a basic calculation of the number for or against, and then shared with the public?

Third, most of the city’s video on the Summit Avenue Regional Trail plan focuses on its impact on the people who are designated as “users.” What that term appears to actually mean are bicyclists.

In any plan with substantive social, environmental and historical impacts, users should be defined more broadly to include walkers, residents, motorists, etc.—those from all backgrounds who enjoy what Summit Avenue offers. Given that all city residents will be paying for the trail, has the city conducted any research into how many walkers and bicyclists currently use Summit Avenue each day? Has the city projected how those numbers will increase or decrease with the proposed trail? Have any environmental studies been conducted to compare the change in carbon emissions resulting from the potential increase in biking and potential loss of trees?

We suggest that the city heed Judge Diamond’s reminder that “strongly held views, passion and a sense of custodial responsibility are critical ingredients for strong cities” as well as his recommendation that the city commit to these core values of good governance as it decides this highly charged and expensive project.

*Elizabeth Dickinson is a former candidate for public office from the West Side. Andy Rorvig is a trial lawyer from Summit Hill and board chair of Historic Saint Paul. Abu Nayeem is a former mayoral candidate from Frogtown. They are all members of the steering committee of Saint Paul STRONG, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving open and representative government in Saint Paul.*

## INBOX

### City needs to rethink sales tax

Our mayor and City Council need to rethink their proposed 1 percent sales tax increase. The sales tax revenue it would raise would pay for a combination of city needs and city wants. Our roadways definitely need to be rebuilt, and deferred park maintenance needs to be addressed. However, almost \$210 million of the proposed increase is to fund new park facilities, including Pedro Park, Lower Landing Park, Kellogg Mall Park, Mears Park, Harriet Island and Wacouta Commons, a new multi-purpose recreation center on the East Side, new bike and pedestrian connections for the Bruce Vento Trail, and the proposed River Balcony, Mississippi River Learning Center and National Park Service headquarters.

So over 20 percent of the sales tax request is for a new capital facilities fund. The city of Saint Paul needs to go on a new-facilities diet. The city can’t keep adding new facilities when the existing tax base can’t support and maintain current facilities. The very fact that the city now needs a sales tax increase to raise \$800 million for deferred maintenance on our roads and parks proves the point. Adding these new facilities will only grow future budget shortfalls.

Our city leaders have kicked this can down the road for too long. Mayor Carter was part of the problem when he was a City Council member. Most of the council members have been in office long enough to own the problem, too. They can’t shift the blame entirely.

History also shows that city leaders can’t be trusted to use these sales tax revenues for their original purposes. This administration and City Council have shown a tendency to not address the city’s basic needs but rather add new programs for select citizens. Given these new funds, how are we to believe they will be used for the city’s basic needs that affect all of its residents?

The city needs to consider reducing the proposed 1 percent sales tax increase to something more moderate. Our citizens and businesses can’t afford a 1 percent increase, coupled with a 15 percent property tax increase, record inflation and increased recycling and trash fees.

*Peter Engel  
Highland Park*

### Careful what you whine about

Minnesota’s default conversation starter is the weather. The newscasts have been filled with angst: Where is spring? Be careful what you ask.

Typically, we do not have consistent warmth until Memorial Day. We jumped from snow straight to summer this spring. By August we will be grouching about the heat. People without air conditioning will be in danger of heat exhaustion, crops will be compromised by drought, and tornado activity will be tearing lives apart.

When you are 6 feet under, no one is going to wax poetic about your stellar yard, growth in profits and performance on the stock exchange, especially when they are wondering where their next glass of drinking water is coming from because the aquifers are contaminated or sucked dry.

*Mary Therese Nelson  
Highland Park*

### Tea party for two

A West End resident writes that his property tax bill went up by 15 percent this year, which is exorbitant and usurious (*MyVillager* Inbox, April 19). He says it’s time to have our own Boston Tea Party tax revolt. I agree. And his letter appeared before we got the news that Governor Walz is launching a \$6-plus million refurbishment of the governor’s mansion. Another outrage. I’m sure there’s a master plan for revamping the mansion. Let it be done room by room, and let the governor stay there with the mess as “regular” people have to do when a major home improvement project is done. If it’s too awful, Mr. Walz can sleep on a cot in his Capitol office.

I’m going to stage my own property tax revolt. My income is so low that I get a rebate for my entire second-half property tax. However, the state doesn’t send me a check for that rebate until the last week of September, which barely gives me enough time to get the check deposited in the bank to pay the tax. So I’m going to divide in half what I’m due as a refund and subtract that from my first-half property tax payment, which I have to borrow on my house to pay anyway while putting off badly needed repairs. Then I will pay the second-half property tax after deducting the remainder owed me.

I know that I’ll probably get socked with a penalty and a lien on my house, but so what? The state can collect it

when I die.

Why should the state have the use for five months of a refund owed me? It’s not right. In the meantime, I’m going to start sending the dried tea from my used tea bags to city, county and state officials to underline my Tea Party protest. We have to do something to get the attention of those in power. They don’t seem to be tuned in to the squeeze that property taxpayers are feeling.

*Kathleen Deming  
Macalester-Groveland*

Being a senior citizen on a low and fixed income, Bidenflation has greatly deflated my financial well-being. I do not have deep pockets with wads of money to pay the first half of my unrealistic, unaffordable, outrageous, out-of-control, irresponsible property tax bill. But I do have deep pockets with wads of lint. Hmmm. So maybe I should fill a small plastic baggie with wads of my pocket lint, enclose it in my property tax envelope with a dry used tea bag, and drop it in a neighborhood mailbox.

*Sue Shetka  
Macalester-Groveland*

### A trail for our children’s future

At a time when most people walked to their destinations, Saint Paul’s Summit Avenue was designed as a monumental boulevard with a park-like feel. With its many Victorian-style houses, broad medians and majestic trees, people traveling along Summit experience the breadth, beauty and grandeur of a boulevard that embraces all ages. Summit had the first painted bike lanes in Minnesota, positioned between the driving and parking lanes. Many people today consider it unsafe to bike between moving and parked cars, and the parked cars often intrude on the bike lane, especially during winter.

Over the next decade, Saint Paul will have to replace Summit’s aging infrastructure. The reconstruction offers a perfect opportunity to build new bicycling facilities that meet modern safety standards and support improved winter maintenance. The city of Saint Paul has developed such a plan. The proposed Summit Avenue trails would be raised and separated from the roadway to be safe and attractive to users of all ages. The trails would provide



**84 INBOX**

children with a safer place to spend time outdoors on foot, bicycle, scooter or other mobility devices.

Young people's mobility has changed dramatically over the past 70 years. Children no longer roam miles from home. Their parents or guardians often don't allow such roaming because they worry about their kids' safety on streets that are unsafe to cross and bike, walk or roll on. Children have lost opportunities for spending time outside with their friends, taking part in unsupervised adventures and learning how to become independent beings. Reconstructing Summit with a trail that is safer for kids will give them better access to outdoor activities.

There are 4,000 to 4,500 children enrolled in schools on and near Summit Avenue. These children could be traveling daily on Summit's trails to school and local businesses and to meet with their friends. By making the trails safe for young people, Summit will be safe for all.

We lead by example. By building the trails as proposed, Summit will become a corridor for travel by foot, bicycle, scooter or other non-carbon-based mobility devices. And we will have demonstrated to our children that we care about their health, happiness and safety and are committed to joining them in fighting climate disruption.

*Hugo Bruggeman  
Macalester-Groveland*

*Editor's note: The writer represents Grid 2 on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors.*

**True cost of Summit bike trail**

Given the challenge of climate change, it's disappointing that the city of Saint Paul is considering chopping down anywhere from 200 to 1,000 mature trees for a bike lane on Summit Avenue. These mature trees absorb a huge amount of carbon from cars and trucks year around as they drive on Summit—much more than the handful of cyclists save as they bike largely from spring to fall.

Surely there are other areas they can bike without requiring chopping down hundreds of mature trees. As for safety, I drive down Summit many times a month. Most of the safety challenges come from bicyclists failing

to stop for stop signs or to signal turns. In addition, the cost of repairing Summit is going to be expensive as it is. Adding the estimated \$12 million for this bicycle project is a luxury the city cannot afford.

Bicyclists have many options to travel in Saint Paul. The city doesn't need to invite this huge environmental and financial cost just to add another bike lane.

*Jim Piga  
Mendota Heights*

**Who's watching out for St. Paul?**

I totally agree with Bill Hosko's guest editorial pulling back the curtain on our mayor and City Council's out of control spending ("Existing taxes should be enough for streets, parks," *MyVillager* Viewpoint, April 19). They are endlessly asking us for more money to fix problems that they already had money for. They say an increase in Saint Paul's sales tax will fix the roads, but they could have and should have fixed the roads before.

I have lived in Saint Paul for nine years and in the metro area for 25 years. I am a retired professional on a fixed income. On a scale of 1 to 10, I thought Saint Paul was an 8 when I moved here. Today, we are down to a 2 or a 3. Mr. Hosko's letter covered most of the reasons; however, crime cannot be stated enough as the primary one.

I have repeatedly seen the open selling and using of drugs on light-rail trains and the open shoplifting at Walgreens. The Lunds & Byerlys store downtown keeps its front door locked permanently—we must use the parking ramp entrance—and has a police officer there at all hours to discourage shoplifting or worse. We hear gunshots at night. And the Walmart on University Avenue did not close for lack of business; it closed for lack of paying business.

I believe the mayor does not care, nor does our City Council. How could they, when they see what is going on and our quality of life getting worse all the time. If they truly cared, they would do the job they were elected to do—keep this city safe. Instead, those who commit crimes are not charged, or if they are charged, they are for the most part let back out as soon as the paperwork is done. No one is truly watching out for Saint Paul anymore.

*Jean James  
Downtown Saint Paul*

**KNOW YOUR  
MyVillager  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

Volume 71, Number 5

**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.

**Editors**

Dale Mischke,  
John Wadell  
news@myvillager.com

**Display Advertising**

Gary Ball  
gball@myvillager.com

**Publisher**

Michael Mischke  
mmischke@myvillager.com

**Graphic Designer**

Craig Schuster

**Classified Advertising and Legal Notices**

Craig Schuster  
wantads@myvillager.com

**Circulation**

Craig Schuster  
membercare@myvillager.com

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Roger Barr, Matthew Davis, Casey Ek, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Anne Hauth, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Mary Maguire Lerman, Jane McClure, Lou Michaels, Steve Michaels, Anne Murphy, Melenie Soucheray, Brad Stauffer, Jennifer Stewart, Bill Wagner, Carolyn Walkup, Dave Wright.



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**Mayor sets public sessions to help shape city budget**

A series of public conversations are being held this spring to give residents a chance to share their priorities as Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter prepares his proposed 2024 city budget.

Participants are encouraged to bring a smartphone, tablet or laptop. A limited number of laptops will be available for use. Using an online tool, they will be able to select from a variety of spending proposals to incorporate in a simulated city budget. They will also get to weigh in on how to raise the revenue needed to balance the budget.

The conversations are free. They are being held in each of the city's wards beginning at 6:30 p.m. Still coming up are:

- Monday, May 8, at the Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne Ave.
- Tuesday, May 16, at the Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion St.
- Thursday, May 18, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.
- Tuesday, May 23, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

To register for a meeting, visit [stpaul.gov/2024-city-budget-engagement](http://stpaul.gov/2024-city-budget-engagement).

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# GARDENING

## Growing community CSJ gardens feed the hungry, nourish a spirit of cooperation

By Anne Murphy

Barbara Parisien spends her Tuesday evenings in the spring and summer tending to vegetables and flowers growing not in her own backyard in Highland Park but on the property of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ). She is one of the regulars who take care of the CSJ community gardens just west of the Administration Building at 1884 Randolph Ave. and behind the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Ave.

"Two things bring me back to the Saint Kate's gardens each summer," said Parisien, "the people, young and old, working together each Tuesday evening, and the fact that we're providing healthy food for people who can't afford to buy fresh vegetables."

Parisien has been tending the gardens every week for 18 years, finding friendship, promoting sustainability and alleviating food insecurity. She and the other community gardeners take home produce and flowers throughout the season. The excess is distributed through the emergency food shelf at Saint Catherine University.

It was 19 years ago that the gardens were first plotted, according to Jennifer Tacheny, director of Young Adult Spirituality & Community Engagement for CSJ and the Saint Kate's/CSJ Food Access Hub. "In 2004 the ministry convened a group of young adults from the Twin Cities to discuss authentic community building and contributing to the common good," said Tacheny, a resident of Saint Paul's West End. "The idea to host a community garden sprang from those conversations with the goal to intentionally grow more than we need so we can share it."

Initially, there was one large garden where the Carondelet Village retirement community is now located. "When Carondelet Village was built, we needed to find other full sun spots for the garden,"

Tacheny said. "So that's why we're on the two little plots now. They aren't the largest of growing spaces, but we're able to grow quality organic produce. And we're always trying to improve our methods for soil health and using the space in the most creative ways."

In the early days of the CSJ garden, excess produce was donated to the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center and Keystone Community Services food shelves. "But then we realized food insecurity was even an issue on the Saint Kate's campus," Tacheny said. "So we redirected that excess produce to the larger Saint Kate's community."

"It isn't just students who are facing food insecurity today," said Hannah White, who works with Tacheny as the coordinator of Young Adult Spirituality & Community Engagement and the Saint Kate's/CSJ Food Access Hub. "In these times and in this economy, really anyone could be struggling. So even though the majority of our clients are students, we also have faculty and staff who come in to shop."

The Food Access Hub serves the residents of the Project Home family shelter in the former CSJ Provincial House on Randolph Avenue. Patients of Saint Mary's Health Clinics, another CSJ ministry, also benefit from the free food. "Saint Mary's is a free clinic for those who don't have health insurance," said White, a Merriam Park resident. "We open our doors to those patients on our foodshelf days and have a pop-up food distribution center for them, too."

From the beginning, attention was paid to fostering community spirit among gardeners, according to Tacheny. "We decided to set up our garden in a communal fashion and not rent out or subdivide plots," she said. "We had learned a lot from other community gardens about what works well and what are the challenges. Managing unkempt plots was a perennial issue for community gardens. So we took a com-



Hannah White, Barb Parisien, Jennifer Tacheny and Sarah Butzow organize the seedlings they will transplant in the Sisters of Saint Joseph's community gardens later this spring. At right, a tomato seedling is carefully prepped for eventual transplanting. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

munal approach to address that issue and to build community. We work and tend the open plot all together."

"At the foundation of this garden is community," said Sister Jill Underdahl of the CSJ Leadership Team who has worked with Tacheny on the garden since its inception. "The vibrancy and harvest of this garden rely on people in community showing up in body, mind and heart to make decisions, work and enjoy all that happens. That's community and giving at its best."

"So much wisdom, humor and promise are shared when folks gather in the garden," Underdahl said. "Gardening provides a wholesome, spiritual connection to the community found in earth and people. In these relationships, stability, healthy food and emotional support can be experienced."

The number of volunteers participating in the Tuesday night gardening program averages about 25, according to White and Tacheny. They range from college age to



older neighborhood residents, White said, "and I think that brings a lot of vibrancy to the garden."

"I've lived in Saint Paul for almost 50 years," Parisien said. "The neighborhoods here are like small towns with big hearts. People watch out for each other. The community gardens reflect that spirit."

Anyone interested in becoming part of the CSJ community gardens is invited to join the effort from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesdays from late May through October. For more information, visit [csjstpaul.org/celestes-dream/community-garden/garden/](http://csjstpaul.org/celestes-dream/community-garden/garden/).

## Home & Garden Clippings

**Friends School** will hold its annual plant sale on Mother's Day weekend, May 12-14, at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand. The event will feature more than 2,100 varieties of annuals, perennials, vegetables, shrubs, trees, climbers, miniatures, herbs and rare plants. The sale will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Everything left on the last day will be one-third off. Parking and admission are free. For more information, visit [friendsschoolplantsale.com](http://friendsschoolplantsale.com).

**The Garden Club of Ramsey County** will meet at 7:25 p.m. Monday, May 15, at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Kim Sullivan will speak on bee-friendly lawns. Sullivan has been a Master Gardener and tree care advisor for 21 years and a lawn specialist for 18 of them. All meetings are free and open to the public. For information, visit [ramseygardeners.org](http://ramseygardeners.org).

**The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota** will hold its 40th annual garage and plant sale from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 19-20, at 1647 Laurel Ave. Heirloom and hybrid tomatoes will be available, along with peppers, herbs and a large variety of annuals and perennials for both sun and shade. The sale is the main fundraiser for ANSR, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing the harms from tobacco. Call 651-646-3005 or visit [ansrnmn.org/garagesale](http://ansrnmn.org/garagesale).



The popular Twin Cities Bungalow Club Home Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 20. BUNGALOW CLUB PHOTO

**The Twin Cities Bungalow Club** will bring back its popular self-guided tour of early 20th century homes from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 20. There are five homes on this year's tour: two in Saint Paul, two in Minneapolis and one in Maplewood. They range from snug bungalows to larger Arts & Crafts-style houses. Maps with the addresses and descriptions of the homes may be picked up after 10 a.m. on May 20 at the first house on the tour: 1036 Goodrich Ave. in Saint Paul's Summit Hill neighborhood. Admission is free for Bungalow Club members and \$10 for others. Reservations are not available. For information, visit

[bungalowclub.org](http://bungalowclub.org) or contact 612-724-5816 or [mail@bungalowclub.net](mailto:mail@bungalowclub.net).

**Ramsey County Master Gardeners** will host their annual plant sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at Church of the Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Pkwy. The sale will include a large selection of native plants, vegetables, tomatoes, herbs, annuals, perennials, houseplants, plus garden gloves and other gardening items. Funds raised support Master Gardener educational programs in Ramsey County. Visit [RamseyMasterGardeners.org/plantsale](http://RamseyMasterGardeners.org/plantsale).

**The Garden Club of Ramsey County** will hold its Great Plant Sale from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 20, at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. The sale will feature many varieties of tomato plants, houseplants, shrubs, curly willow and red twig dogwood branches, container planters, themed seed kits, and gently used garden tools and supplies. Visitors can hire club members as garden helpers by the hour. Visit [ramseygardeners.org](http://ramseygardeners.org).

**The Temple of Aaron**, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will hold its annual pollinator-friendly plant sale from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 21. A variety of annuals and perennials that are pollinator magnets will be available, along with herbs and tomato plants. All items are organically grown.

# District Councils

## Highland Park

**HDC committees**—Those who would like to become committee members are encouraged to attend this month's meetings at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. They include Transportation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9; Community Development at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16; and Community Engagement at 7 p.m. Monday, May 22. There also is an option to join online via Zoom. Visit [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/committees](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/committees).

**Transportation fair**—Residents can hear about transportation projects in Highland Park from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave.

**Free youth golf clinic**—A free golf clinic for youths 6 and older will be held from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at Highland National Golf Course. All equipment will be provided and free ice cream will be served.

**Neighborhood garage sale**—Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill will hold a joint garage sale on June 9-10. Pay the \$25 fee by June 1 to be included in promotions for the event. Visit [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/garage-sale](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc-event/garage-sale).

**Upcoming meeting**—Board of directors at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with an option to join online. For the link see [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar).

## Macalester-Groveland

**Garage sale extravaganza**—The Macalester-Groveland, Highland and Summit Hill district councils will hold a joint garage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 9-10. Mac-Grove residents can register their sales at [macgrove.org/garagesale](http://macgrove.org/garagesale) by June 1.

**Spring cleanup kudos**—A total of 115.07 pounds of trash and 24.15 pounds of recyclable materials were collected between the two Macalester-Groveland sites during the Citywide Spring Cleanup on April 22.

**Annual meeting and elections**—Those who missed this year's annual meeting can watch it at [macgrove.org/boardelections](http://macgrove.org/boardelections). The results of the board elections will be announced on May 5.

**Little Free Library Tour**—The community council is seeking 10 Little Free Libraries in Macalester-Groveland to be part of a tour. More information will be coming in the next few months.

**Meeting schedule**—Community Build-

ing Team on Monday, May 8; board of directors on Thursday, May 11; and Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, May 17. All meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. For log-in details, visit [macgrove.org/participate](http://macgrove.org/participate).

## Summit Hill

**Reimagine Linwood Park**—The Summit Hill Association is working on a plan to refresh Linwood Park. Fill out a survey at [summithillassociation.org](http://summithillassociation.org). Those interested in being on the steering committee may contact [info@summithillassociation.org](mailto:info@summithillassociation.org).

**Summer garage sale**—The SHA is teaming up with the Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park district councils to put on a garage sale extravaganza on June 9-10. Watch the website for how to sign up.

## Union Park

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 3; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 8; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 15 (with a presentation on Keystone's new food center in Union Park); and Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 16. For access information, email [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org) or see the calendar at [unionparkdc.org](http://unionparkdc.org).

## West Seventh

**Board election results**—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation celebrated its 50th year at its annual meeting and board elections on April 25. Elected to the Executive Committee were president Meg Duhr, vice president Maria Sarabia, secretary Ruthanne Atkinson and treasurer Andrew Greenlee. Elected as area coordinators were Paul Hardt, Ryan Bresnahan and DJ Devan for Area 1; Maggie Rock and Annie Reiersen for Area 2; and Tanya Fabyanske Beck for Area 3. Another Area 3 coordinator is being sought. For information, email [fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org](mailto:fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org).

**Neighborhood pride**—West Seventh merchandise is now available for purchase. Orders will be filled by Weird Ink Society. See [fortroadfederation.org](http://fortroadfederation.org) for details.

**Upcoming meetings**—Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3; board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, May 8; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18. Visit [fortroadfederation.org/calendar](http://fortroadfederation.org/calendar).

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Fatal accident**—Two people were killed in a one-car traffic accident on West Seventh and Homer streets at 4:39 a.m. on April 16. Excessive speed was determined to be a contributing factor.

**Robbery**—A robbery was reported near Macalester Street and Bayard Avenue at 2:30 a.m. on April 20.

**Burglary**—A television was reported stolen during a home break-in on the 1900 block of Bohland Avenue at 8:08 p.m. on April 21.

**Theft**—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle at the Highland Target, 2290 Ford Pkwy., at 9:06 p.m. on April 15.

—Two bicycles were reported stolen from the garage at the Finn Apartments, 725 S. Cleveland Ave., between 9:28-10:10 p.m. on April 23.

**Assault**—A felony assault was reported on the 1100 block of Rankin Street at 9:45 p.m. on April 19.

**Miscellaneous**—A 28-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found parked in traffic near Cretin and Bohland avenues at 10:47 p.m. on April 17. He tried to drive off when police arrived, but was stopped. His blood alcohol level was more than three times the legal limit.

—A 30-year-old woman was arrested for DWI and felony drug possession after being stopped for using a handheld cellphone while driving on West Seventh Street and Lexington Parkway at 5:24 p.m. on April 19.

—A 36-year-old man was arrested for DWI following a hit-and-run accident near Howell Street and Ford Parkway at 3:07 p.m. on April 25.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Burglary**—A 32-year-old man was arrested for trying to steal clothing from the Midway Target at 7:58 p.m. on April 23. He had earlier been banned from the store for a year and had multiple felony warrants from Dakota County.

**Theft**—A 28-year-old man was arrested for shoplifting at the Midway Target at 9:27 p.m. on April 15. The man reportedly had a history of theft from the store dat-

ing to July 2022 totaling nearly \$2,500 in merchandise.

—A 45-year-old woman was arrested for felony theft after she tried to steal \$1,700 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 10:31 a.m. on April 21.

**Weapons**—Five men ages 20-24 were arrested for felony possession of a gun with an altered serial number after they were seen passing the weapon around in a vehicle near Marshall Avenue and Syndicate Street at 8:07 p.m. on April 21.

—An illegally parked vehicle with an uncased gun in the back seat was impounded by police on Carroll Avenue and Syndicate Street at 3:54 p.m. on April 22.

**Assault**—An 18-year-old man was arrested for felony assault with a knife after reportedly stabbing another male near Aldi, 1134 University Ave., at 7:05 p.m. on April 25. The victim was taken to the hospital with injuries that were deemed not life-threatening.

**Miscellaneous**—A boy wanted for an assault at gunpoint was picked up by police at the High School for Recording Arts, 1166 University Ave., at 10 a.m. on April 25.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Theft**—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1400 block of Stanford Avenue at 2:24 p.m. on April 18.

## Mendota Heights

**Theft**—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Calahan Place at 10 p.m. on April 16.

**Miscellaneous**—A person was found asleep in a vehicle and arrested for an outstanding warrant and drug-related charges at 3:42 a.m. on April 15 on the 1000 block of Dakota Drive.

—Police responded to a 911 hang-up and arrested a man for drugs and domestic-related crimes against a woman at 10:12 p.m. on April 15 on the 1000 block of Mendota Heights Road.

## Merriam Park

**Robbery**—A male was robbed of his iPhone and \$700 in cash by a male and female on the 1600 block of Iglehart Avenue at 8:02 p.m. on April 25.

**Burglary**—Several items were reported stolen during a home break-in on the 1900 block of Summit Avenue on April 15-22.

**Theft**—Two computer tablets and two cellphones were reported missing from a room at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., during the evening of April 14-15.

**Miscellaneous**—A 21-year-old man was arrested for DWI and drug possession after police responded to a report of a driver slumped over in a vehicle on the 2100 block of Roblyn Avenue at 7:42 a.m. on April 25.

—A 35-year-old man was arrested for felony DWI, child endangerment and driving after cancellation of his license on Vandalia Street and I-94 at 4:08 p.m. on April 25. A school social worker had alerted police that the suspect was driving while intoxicated with his children in the vehicle.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Burglary**—An occupied residence was burglarized on the 1500 block of Portland Avenue between 1-5 a.m. on April 19.

—A break-in was reported at Spoils of Wear, 1566 Selby Ave., at 6:41 a.m. on April 25.

**Theft**—A motorcycle was reported stolen on the 200 block of North Pascal Street on the weekend of April 22-23.

**Weapons**—Officers recovered rifles that were found on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue at 5:39 p.m. on April 25.

## Summit Hill

**Theft**—A 44-year-old woman was cited for auto tampering after she was seen trying to open the doors of vehicles in the garage of the Oxford Hill Condominiums, 1060 Grand Ave., at 7:30 a.m. on April 19.

—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Summit Avenue at 12:40 p.m. on April 18.

**Miscellaneous**—A 22-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he struck several parked cars on the 800 block of Saint Clair Avenue at 8:05 p.m. on April 15.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A woman was assaulted and robbed of her cellphone on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at 10:48 a.m. on April 17.

**Theft**—A theft of items valued at more than \$1,000 was reported at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., at 3:15 a.m. on April 17.

**Assault**—Police responded to a report of a man hitting a woman with a hammer in an apartment on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at 6:31 p.m. on April 17. The woman was found passed out inside a closet.

A 65-year-old man was arrested for felony assault.

—An assault was reported at the Rondo Education Center, 560 Concordia Ave., at 9:45 a.m. on April 20.

## West End

**Burglary**—A break-in of an occupied unit at the Weinberg Apartments, 760 Perlman St., was reported at 10:36 p.m. on April 22. A witness said the suspect was the same male who previously had been breaking into vehicles there.

**Theft**—A 35-year-old woman was arrested for theft and drug possession after she was found driving a stolen vehicle on the 200 block of West Seventh Street at 1:27 p.m. on April 14.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen near Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, 258 W. Seventh St., at 1 p.m. on April 14.

**Assault**—A valet attendant at United Hospital, 333 N. Smith Ave., reportedly kissed a woman on the mouth several times without her permission at 7:30 p.m. on April 19.

—A 26-year-old woman was arrested for assault after she reportedly punched an employee in the face at Patrick McGovern's Pub, 225 W. Seventh St., at 11:06 p.m. on April 21.

—A juvenile patient assaulted at least five victims at United Hospital at 8:11 p.m. on April 22.

—A 29-year-old man was arrested for making felony terroristic threats and possessing an assault weapon after he was seen waving a knife in the entryway of Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, 248 W. Seventh St., at 8:46 p.m. on April 23.

**Weapons**—Gunfire was reported on Forbes Avenue and Wilkin Street at 12:40 a.m. on April 21.

**Miscellaneous**—A public notification meeting regarding four Level III sex offenders who have registered to live in Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. Locally, the offenders include Michael Van Belt, 46, who has registered to live on the 800 block of West Seventh Street, and Shannon Michael Miller, 51, who has registered to live on the 300 block of Sturgis Street. For more information, contact officer Jeremy Doverspike at 651-266-5871.

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# ON THE TOWN

## The way we wore

Artist Olson's life story is spun from the clothing that dressed her years

By Anne Murphy

When Ramsey Hill artist Patricia Olson was going through her childhood home after the death of her parents, she found an unexpected gift. Her mother had carefully packed away "a trove" of clothing from her early years. That collection, discovered in the late 1990s, eventually inspired the artist's new book, *What I Wore: A Visual Memoir*.

Arranged by decade from 1951 onward, Olson's self-published book includes photos of the clothing her mother collected and garments from later years with the artist wearing some of them. A narrative accompanies the photos as well as images of gouache paintings that Olson created to reflect the patterns and colors found in the clothing.

Olson will launch her book with an exhibit of those paintings and other original art at Boreal Art Loft, 2276 Como Ave. Titled "What I Wore...and More," the show runs through May 30 with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 5. "Filling out the show are figurative paintings in which the clothes are an important part and screen prints from the 1970s inspired by fashion magazine photography," Olson said.

"Coming upon my old clothes...evoked many emotions for me," Olson writes in the Introduction of her book. "Each garment recalled not only a place and a time, but also my enthusiasms and interest in being part of the zeitgeist, in being stylish. My mother and I often went clothes shopping together in those years, an interest that kept us connected even as I started to become my own person."

Professor emerita of art and art history at Saint Catherine University, Olson's paintings have been exhibited throughout

the Midwest. They are in the permanent collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Museum of American Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the University of Minnesota.

Olson began work on *What I Wore* around the beginning of last year. "I had all these wonderful, significant old clothes. How could I throw them away?" she asked. "At the same time, what could I do with them? They were taking up space, and I wasn't going to wear a miniskirt again. Eventually, I decided they might take up less space in a small book. As I described this idea to a friend, she remarked, 'While you can blame your mother for the first 20 years of keeping these old clothes, you're obviously responsible for the next 30.'"

"I began by deciding on pieces to include, taking photographs, doing the little paintings," Olson said. "I didn't work on it 24-7, so it took me the better part of a year to pull it together."

In the process, she established Queen of Sheba Publishing, which produced her book. "I was in the design business for many years," Olson said. "I ran a business called the Cat's Pajamas. Both of the names came from my mother. I was the sort of kid who always stuck her nose in a book when I was supposed to be doing chores. So I'd be accused of either being the cat's pajamas or the Queen of Sheba."

Each decade chronicled in the book comes with a brief narrative. Of the 1950s, Olson writes, "My mother dressed me in appropriate clothing for a little girl of the time, with pastel colors and bits of lace." Following are photos of dresses, a romper, Olson in her Brownie uniform, a dance recital costume and a drawing she did of a favorite second-grade outfit.

Turning to the 1960s, Olson relates how "I started making my own decisions about

*"I had all these wonderful, significant old clothes.... What could I do with them? They were taking up space, and I wasn't going to wear a miniskirt again."*



Ramsey Hill artist Patricia Olson displays some of the clothing and portraits she has incorporated in her new self-published book, *What I Wore: A Visual Memoir*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

clothes when I was a teenager. Fourth grade followed third grade, Brownies became Girl Scouts. But then the Beatles showed up... and clothes changed from proper to popping." A photo of Olson going to a Beatles concert in 1965 shows her in a favorite dress. There are also photos of mod sleeveless shifts and Olson going to prom in 1967 in a dress her mother made.

An item of particular note from the 1970s is a mustard jacket that was her mother's before Olson claimed it. "My mother bought it at Harold, an exclusive shop on Nicollet Avenue," she said. "It's just a remarkable piece of clothing." A photo shows Olson in the jacket at a ladies' luncheon with her mother in 1975. By that time, it was vintage.

"The '70s were all about vintage for me," Olson writes. "It was a time when a lot of people discovered recycling, what we now call upcycling." There is a photo of a painting Olson did from memory of a beloved sweater she found at a Midway shop. "I was rummaging through the sale bins," she recalled. "There it was: A black knit sweater with short puffy sleeves. Rosebud-like motifs were knit into the V-neck band and along the sleeves."

There is also a photo from Olson's graduation from Macalester College where she earned a degree in studio art. "I wore

a dress with cherries on it," she said. "It was 1973 and everybody was too cool to wear a graduation gown, except the Black students. They were obviously honoring the occasion and their accomplishments, while the rest of us thought we were too cool for school."

The 1980s followed along with an interest in ethnic, handmade textiles on one hand and power suits on the other, "for women...entering professions and careers formerly closed to them," Olson writes. "The 1990s saw a more informal way of dressing...aligned with a particular Midwestern aesthetic."

The latter decade is illustrated with self-portraits that speak to aging with grace and strength. There are photos of a quilted green jacket and the earthy brown gown and hood that Olson wore when graduating from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design with a master's degree in visual studies.

"As a Midwestern woman living in the middle of a continent, born in the middle of the century and raised in a middle-class household, I hope my whimsical reminiscence has some resonance for others," Olson said.

Copies of *What I Wore: A Visual Memoir* are available for \$35 at Boreal Art Loft (651-560-9900) or by emailing Olson at patriciaolsonart@gmail.com.

## ON THE TOWN Briefly

### Books

**Next Chapter Booksellers**, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings and discussions with author Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah and his debut novel, *Chain-Gang All-Stars*, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 9; author Jim Landwehr and his memoir, *At the Lake*, 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 17; poets Amie Whittemore, Allison Blevins and Melissa Cundeiff, 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18; and sisters Sheri and Peggy Brenden and Sheri's book *Break Point*, about Peggy's 1970s Title IX court case, 6 p.m. Monday, May 22. Visit [nextchapterbooksellers.com](http://nextchapterbooksellers.com) or call 651-225-8989.

**Literary Bridges** on Sunday, May 7, will feature readings by Claire Wahmanholm and her book *Meltwater*, Lynette Reini-Grandell and her book *Wild Things: A Trans Glam Punk Rock Love Story*, Bryan

Thao Worra and his science fiction poetry, and poets Marion Gómez and Moheb Soliman. The free program will begin at 2 p.m. at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Visit [nextchapterbooksellers.com](http://nextchapterbooksellers.com) or call 651-225-8989.

**Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport**, a book about the 669 Jewish children who were rescued by Nicholas Winton in 1938-39 during the Holocaust of World War II, will be discussed by author Caren Stelson, on Sunday, May 7. A Minneapolis resident, Stelson will tell of how she first heard of this story and researched it. The free program will run from 10 a.m.-noon at the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave. A social will follow. For reservations, visit [tinyurl.com/bde5cnvp](http://tinyurl.com/bde5cnvp).

**Poet Chaun Webster** will discuss his book, *Wail Song*, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9,

at SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St. Admission is free. Call 651-493-2791.

**Author Elisa Bernick** will discuss her new book, *Departure Stories: Betty Crocker Made Matzoh Balls (and Other Lies)* with Rabbi Debra Rappaport at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Poignant and provocative, *Departure Stories* peers through the lens of recent history to reveal an intergenerational journey through trauma. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Visit [minnesotajcc.org](http://minnesotajcc.org).

### Dance

**Our Stories Chapter 2**, original choreography that tells the story of people who identify as LGBT or transgender, will be presented from May 7-14 by Collide Theatrical Dance Company. Directed by

Jarod Boltjes, the cabaret-style performance will feature Grace Kidder, Javan Mngrezzo, Michael Mossucco, Ben Siglin and Connor Simone. Mistress Ginger will emcee. Show times are 2 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at Landmark Center; and 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, May 12-14, at Collide, 755 N. Prior Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 651-395-7903, ext. 701, or visit [collidetheatrical.org](http://collidetheatrical.org).

### Exhibits

**The Catherine G. Murphy Gallery** at Saint Catherine University is displaying two new exhibits through May 21. "When Women Were Girls" features portraits by artist Lissa Karpel of Liberian-American women in Minnesota. "The Living Room" features the art of SCU students Mathis

**134 ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY**

J. Edwards, Callie Korzeniowski, Maya O'Reilly, Dee Taropurua and Theo von Weiss. The five students will discuss their works from noon-1 p.m. Thursday, May 4. Admission is free. Visit [gallery.stkate.edu](http://gallery.stkate.edu) or call 651-690-6644.

**Theater**

**The Wanderers**, a new play by Anna Ziegler about two couples from different worlds and their responses to the pleasures and challenges of commitment, is playing through May 14 on Six Point Theater's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Show times are 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 14. Tickets are \$15-\$40. For reservations, visit [sixpointstheater.org](http://sixpointstheater.org) or call 651-647-4315.

**The Defeat of Jesse James**, a time-warping, nail-biting, side-splitting ride through Northfield in 1876 when the brave inhabitants of this small town stood up to the James Gang, is being performed through May 28 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The drama by Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling is directed by Richard D. Thompson. Sasha Andreev, Jen Burleigh-Bentz, Suzie Juul, Jordan Leggett, Adam Qualls, Jim Ramlet, Randy Schmeling, Dane Stauffer and Angela Timberman star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$70. Visit [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com) or call 651-292-4323.

The classic American drama, **Our Town** is playing through May 28 at Open Window Theatre, 5300 S. Robert Trail in Inver Grove Heights. Directed by Kari Steinbach, the story about the Webb and Gibbs families of Grover's Corners stars Pete Colburn, Katherine Kupiecki, Craig Johnson and Katie Kaufmann. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays, May 13, 20 and 27. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 612-615-1515 or visit [openwindowtheatre.org](http://openwindowtheatre.org).

**Ghoulish Delights**, a theatre that specializes in sophisticated suspense, will stage an expanded version of its 2014 Minnesota Fringe Festival production **The Tourist Trap: A Midwestern Gothic**, from May 5-20 at Crane Theatre, 2303 Kennedy St. NE in Minneapolis. Written and directed by Tim Uren, it stars Merit Burgett, Shanan Custer, Sean Dillon, Catherine Hansen, Jay



Kistler, Alicia Lane and Ariel Pinkerton. **The Tourist Trap** is set in a sinister roadside attraction where tourists may peruse relics of a notorious 19th-century death cult that terrorized the people of South Dakota. Show time are 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Visit [ghoulishdelights.com](http://ghoulishdelights.com).

**Coco's Barrio** will stage a parody of the classic "War of the Worlds" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11-14, at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Tickets are \$12-\$25. Visit [tickettailor.com](http://tickettailor.com).

**Antigonick**, Anne Carson's new translation of the Sophoclean tragedy about a daughter's fight for justice against authoritarian rule, will be performed from May 17 through June 4 by Full Circle Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays and Saturday, June 3, at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. Fourth St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are priced from \$5-\$35 depending on ability to pay. Visit [fullcircletheatermn.org](http://fullcircletheatermn.org).

**W;T**, Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a brilliant English scholar who is forced to reassess her life and work upon a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, will be staged from May 18-27 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Kari Steinbach directs this collaboration with Hypnic Jerk Theatre. Show times are 7:30 p.m. May 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 2 p.m. May 21. Tickets are \$25. Visit [theatreintheround.org](http://theatreintheround.org) or call 612-333-3010.

**Thriller in Mill City.**

Brandon Holscher, Timothy Korsmoe (back), Luna Fries (front) and Ariel Cordes play the Duke Mantee Gang in Classics Lost 'n' Found Theater's production of **The Petrified Forest**. The 1930s thriller by Robert E. Sherwood will open on May 5 at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St. in Minneapolis. Set during the Great Depression in a diner on Route 66, the drama tells of the budding relationship between the diner owner's daughter and an aspiring writer and the mayhem that ensues when Duke Mantee and his gang arrive. The curtain rises at 7 p.m. May 5, 6 and 12, and at 2 and 7 p.m. May 13. Tickets are \$12-\$15. Call 612-724-4539.

**Film**

**Driver 23 (1999) and The Atlas Moth (2001)**, newly restored documentaries about aspiring Minneapolis rock guitarist Dan Cleveland and his band Dark Horse, will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Director Bolf Belgium will take part in a Q&A after the screening. Tickets are \$13. Visit [soundunseen.com](http://soundunseen.com).

**Music**

**Pianist George Li** will perform Debussy's Preludes, Book II, and Chopin's Preludes in recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$40. Visit [chopinsocietymn.org](http://chopinsocietymn.org) or call 612-822-0123.

**Violinist Ariana Kim** and pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute will present the Minnesota premiere of Maksimal by Daniel Tempkin in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Violinist Young-Nam Kim, violist Sally Chisholm and cellist Jane Cords O'Hara will then join the duo in Schumann's E-flat Piano Quintet. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 651-560-0206 or visit [chambermusicmn.org](http://chambermusicmn.org).

**The Kanneh-Masons**, seven siblings ages 13-26, will perform the music of Brahms, Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, Vittorio Monti, Bob Marley, Florence Price and Jerry Bock at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets start at \$36. Visit [schubert.org](http://schubert.org) or call 651-292-

3268. The concert will also be streamed free of charge at 6 p.m. that Sunday on a 23-by-13-foot "video wall" in nearby Rice Park.

**Bach Society of Minnesota** will present a two-week Bach Festival beginning with a Bach & Friends Workshop from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. The workshop will be led by associate artistic director Marco Real-d'Arbelles and soprano Carey Shunskis. The \$35 fee includes lunch. The festival will also feature "Magnificat," the music of J.S. Bach and his son C.P.E. Bach performed by the Bach Society choir and orchestra and guest soloists at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 19, at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St. in Minneapolis, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Church of Saint Thomas More, 1079 Summit Ave. Mini-concerts at outdoor venues throughout the Twin Cities and Minnesota will follow. For information about the time and location of mini-concerts, visit [bachsocietymn.org](http://bachsocietymn.org).

**The Saint Paul Civic Symphony** will celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote with a performance of Stacy Garrop's "The Battle for the Ballot" at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 14, in Landmark Center. Jeffrey Stirling will conduct the free program, which will also include Tower's Sixth Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, Thomson's Excerpts from "The Mother of Us All," Farrenc's Overture No. 1 and Copland's Appalachian Spring Suite. All ages are welcome.

**"Walden Pond: The Earth Sings,"** a concert by the Singers, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at Westwood Lutheran Church in Saint Louis Park. The program includes Argento's Walden Pond, Runestad's Come to the Woods, Smiley's Stand in That River, Grau's Kasar mie la gaji, Culloton's Famine Song, Hailstork's Nocturne and others. Tickets are \$35 or whatever you can pay. For reservations, visit [singersmca.org](http://singersmca.org).

**Hamline Church's Festival Chorus and Orchestra** will perform "A Choral Cadenza" at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21, in the sanctuary at 1514 Englewood Ave. The program will feature Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G Major, various motets, part songs, and solos. Admission is by donation.

**THURSDAY/MAY 4**

**THE MINNESOTA MUSEUM** of American Art, 350 N. Robert St., will hold its annual benefit from 6-8:30 p.m. Join executive director Dr. Kate Beane and the M's board of directors for entertainment and an art auction featuring the work of Harriet Bart, Jose Dominguez, Luis Fitch and others. A tour of the exhibit, "Im/perfect Slumbers," and a behind-the-scenes look at the M's renovation and expansion will be featured along with food, drinks and dessert. For tickets, visit [mmaa.org](http://mmaa.org).

**FRIDAY/MAY 5**

**"WHY I LOVE TOLSTOY"** will be addressed this evening by University of Iowa Professor Anna Barker. Sponsored by the Institute of Theological and Interdisciplinary Studies, the free program will begin at 7:30 at the Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. in Minneapolis. A free dinner will be served at 6:30. Call 651-983-3846.

**SATURDAY/MAY 6**

**A RUMMAGE SALE** will be held from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Saint Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Good clean household goods, books, clothes, toys and holiday items will be available. Finer items will be available in the Treasure Room. Hot coffee and other treats will be served. Call 651-228-1164.

**"THE LIGHT WE GIVE: Sikh Wisdom for Cultivating Empathy and Justice"** will be addressed by Simran Jeet Singh of the Aspen Institute at 11 a.m. in the outdoor amphitheater of the Iversen Center for Faith at the University

**KIOSK**

of Saint Thomas. The lecture is the centerpiece of a day-long Multifaith Leadership Workshop that is also free and open to the public. Visit [tinyurl.com/wkwtxe83](http://tinyurl.com/wkwtxe83).

**A TALKING DRUM WORKSHOP** will be conducted by guest artist Fatawu Sayibu from 2-5 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The fee for the coed event is \$40. No experience is necessary, and drums will be provided. Visit [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

**SATURDAY/MAY 13**

**A FOUR-HOUR DRIVER REFRESHER** course for motorists age 55 and older who want to maintain their 10 percent auto insurance discount will be offered from 8 a.m.-noon at Hidden River Middle School, 1700 Summit Ave. The cost is \$24. For more information or to register, call 1-888-234-1294 or visit [mnsafetycenter.org](http://mnsafetycenter.org).

**METRO REPUBLICAN WOMEN** will hold its monthly breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Mendakota Country Club, 2075 Mendakota Drive in Mendota Heights. Loren Spivack, aka the Free Market Warrior, will speak. To register, call Elaine at 651-423-0556 by May 7.

**MORE THAN 100 USED BICYCLES** for children and adults will be for sale from 9 a.m.-noon in the Nativity School gym, 1900 Wellesley Ave. All of the money raised by the sale will go to Nativity Scouts BSA Troop 9067. To

donate a bike, email [nativitybike@gmail.com](mailto:nativitybike@gmail.com).

**TUESDAY/MAY 16**

**AGING IN PLACE**, or how to maintain an independent lifestyle regardless of age, will be discussed at 11:30 a.m. at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Free and open to the public, the Lunch & Learn program will be led by attorney Brenna Galvin. To register, contact Ali Lilja at 651-328-2258.

**SATURDAY/MAY 20**

**HELP RID THE RIVER GORGE** of garlic mustard from 9-11 a.m. today. Friends of the Mississippi River will be uprooting the invasive species on the sand flats off West River Parkway in Minneapolis. Tools and training will be provided. To register, visit [fmr.org](http://fmr.org). For more information, call 651-222-2193 ext. 27.

**SUNDAY/MAY 21**

**A BARBECUE CHICKEN DINNER** will be served from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Saint Peter Claver Church, 369 N. Oxford St. Come out and support the church, enjoy great food and take a chance at winning amazing prizes. Meal tickets are \$15. Call 651-646-1797 or visit [spcchurch.org](http://spcchurch.org).

**THE SAINT PAUL HIKING CLUB** will gather for a five-mile hike beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the intersection of Minnehaha Parkway and 35th Street in South Minneapolis. The hike will follow Minnehaha Creek to Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha along paved trails. New members are welcome. Call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

# SPORTS



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### Here's to unsung heroes of spring

A person might have a hard time convincing the folks in charge of maintaining the playing fields around these parts, but according to the calendar spring has been with us for more than six weeks. Last week's mainly sunny, dry weather alleviated some of the headaches local groundskeepers have had to endure this spring. However, that doesn't erase the fact that the previous weeks were, to say the least, troublesome.

For many years, Jim O'Neill's primary worries in the spring was who would be the starting pitchers and what starting lineup he would field for the Cretin-Derham Hall varsity baseball team. He gave up his role as head coach a few years ago and is now in charge of taking care of the school's playing fields.

The first couple of weeks of April are often dicey for spring sports teams. This year's run of inclement spring weather made it a challenge just to get CDH's bandbox of a baseball field ready for play. "A lot of it is prep work," O'Neill said. "Like ours, a lot of the infields are agrilime. It soaks up water quickly and is very hardy."

That's a good thing, but it was no match for the snowstorm that hit in mid-April. The pitcher's mound and batter's box were covered by tarps and the snow melted quickly on the infield, but the outfield was an entirely different matter. To play ball, the high schoolers grabbed shovels to remove the snow from the grass as quickly as possible. There were still a few soft spots here and there, but with the regular season slated to end in just three weeks, prep baseballers just had to grin and bear it.

As a result, baseball scheduling is often tricky in the spring. Central and Highland Park, both off to good starts in the Saint Paul City Conference, ended up playing doubleheaders against Washington on April 18 and 24, respectively. Thanks to early postponements, Two Rivers, Saint Thomas Academy and CDH all had five games slated in an eight-day stretch ending May 3.

Softball presents a different problem. Most softball

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 16



Saint Thomas Academy senior pitcher Mike Miller's fastball has been clocked at more than 93 mph. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Strength in numbers

### Highland girls on track for even more success

By Bill Wagner

Despite being set back by inclement weather, members of the Highland Park High School girls' track and field team have shown that they can hit the ground running when they finally do get a chance to compete.

The Scots began the Saint Paul City Conference competition with a one-sided win in a quadrangular meet on April 13. They put up 94.5 points to outdistance second-place Central's 67.5, followed by Como Park (62) and Humboldt (14).

That more than made up for the Scots' finish five days later in a triangular meet at Saint Thomas Academy. Big-school host team Wayzata was expected to win by a wide margin and it did, with Breck and Highland taking second and third place, respectively.

Just before spring break, the Scots turned in a solid performance at the Griak Indoor Classic-Maroon at the University of Minnesota. They placed ninth out of 13 teams with 33 points at the March 31 event.

If some of these numbers sound like no big deal, that's not the case because Highland coach Emily Klatt likes her team to face rugged foes. She didn't place too much stock in the results against Wayzata.

"That team is so deep," Klatt said about the highly rated Trojans. "If we have one or two, they have five or six (performers). But we want to run against the best."

At the Griak, the Scots got first-place finishes from sophomore Ellie Moore in the 400 with a time of 1:00.87, and from senior Delia Johnson in the 800 with a 2:20.11. Freshman Madeleine



Among the talented athletes on the Highland Park girls' track team are, from left, junior Luna Scorzelli, sophomore Ellie Moore and senior Delia Johnson. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Klevay finished eighth in the 800.

In the 1600, Highland had three girls crossing the finish line in a row. Sophomore Grace Lewis-Mosher was sixth with a personal best of 5:41.40, sophomore Sam Palm was seventh at 5:43.00 and freshman Ingrid Haaland was eighth with a personal best of 5:45.92.

The Scots also took fifth in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:24.19 featuring Moore, Johnson, Klevay and sophomore Yao Buchl.

All in all, Klatt said that she was happy with her club's outing at the

Griak. She said this year's team is different from past squads that had been long on distance runners, but a little short on depth.

"There's a different buzz this year because this is the biggest team we've ever had," Klatt said. "We have sprinters, medley, field events. This team has more than just distance runners."

"Our girls have been working so hard," she added. "It's really fun to see them put it all together on the track."

Highland gets a lot of its talent from

HIGHLAND GIRLS' TRACK ▶ 16

## Miller brings the heat for highly ranked Cadets

By Bill Wagner

It turns out that Mike Miller likes the view from in front of the plate more than behind it—and Saint Thomas Academy is reaping the benefits.

Miller, a senior right-handed fireball pitcher for the Cadets, started out as a catcher, but was also pitching by his sophomore season. Last spring, he was pitching almost exclusively and the more time he spent on the mound, the more he liked it.

"I like the competitive nature of pitching," said Miller, who lives in Mendota and is headed for Duke University next year. "Pitching is a hard position that requires a lot of work, but I like the way you're in control of the game."

Of course, getting hitters out is always easier if you have good stuff, and the 6-foot-3 Miller has good stuff to burn. His fastball has been clocked at 93.5 mph. However, he can also intimidate hitters with a curve that buckles the batters' knees and a slider that looks tempting to hitters at first, but then seems to disappear.

Another benefit of moving from

catching to pitching has been improved health. Because he grew at an uncommon rate as a youngster, Miller started having knee problems and crouching behind the plate wasn't helping. Since he moved to the mound, Miller said his knees have been fine.

Miller also plays some third base while swinging a potent bat that enables STA coach Bobby Thompson to pencil him in the No. 5 or 6 spot every game.

He has been attracting attention from colleges for quite a while now. Miller committed to Ohio State at the end of his sophomore season, but when the Buckeyes changed coaches he said it was a relatively easy decision to go with Duke instead.

Miller found immediate chemistry with Blue Devils head coach Chris Pollard and pitching coach Brady Kirkpatrick. And he liked the fact that he might not have to wait long before he sees action in college. "I was told that I'd have a good chance to play right away," Miller said.

His love of baseball began when he was 3-4 years old playing in the

backyard with his father. He attended Nativity School and speaks fondly of his time playing Little League ball in Highland. "I miss those days for sure," he said.

Miller knows that playing for Duke is bound to require adjustments, but he said he's looking forward to it. "In college ball, you get so many more guys who are Division I pitchers and hitters," he said. "It can be hard for a guy who just got there. But I'm grateful for the opportunity to go there and compete."

Thompson sees Miller as a prize player with great potential beyond high school. "His ceiling is very high," Thompson said. "When he's throwing the ball and he's in a zone, he gets a lot of swings and misses. And he's always open to learning."

STA, which was 5-2 overall as of April 27 and ranked fourth in Class AAA, appears to be capable of making another run at the state tournament. The Cadets graduated only one senior who logged substantial playing time on last year's team that went 19-9 and competed at state for a second straight year.

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fields don't have infield grass. There are also a few indoor places where softball teams can get games in. However, those facilities cost money that usually isn't budgeted. The alternative is to either get the rakes out and work on the infield or do what Jim Rubbelke has done at Hamline University from time to time and use a flamethrower to dry out the field. You do what's necessary to play ball.

Links recover from snowy winter

At Highland National Golf Course, head pro John Shimpach had to deal with a different problem this year. Minnesota golfers were itching to get back on the course. During the long winter months, many of them sojourn south to get their swings in. Once back here, they're chomping at the bit to get out on the links.

The first issue for Shimpach and his crew was to make sure Highland's grass had recovered from a winter of cross country skiers who use the course. "Snow mold is an issue early," Shimpach said. Attention also must be paid to areas like the Snoopy bunker to ensure the frost didn't do any damage.

Highland National usually opens on April 10. This spring, Shimpach greeted the first golfers a day later when the temperature reached 82. It was even warmer for the next three days. Things had dried out to such an extent that carts were even allowed on the course. The Highland 9-Hole Golf Course, which almost always opens after the 18, also was ready for business. Life was good on

Montreal Avenue.

Then came Saturday when the thermometer dropped into the low 50s. That discouraged a few folks, but golfers are a hardy lot and the Highland courses had an OK day. However, on Sunday, the high was 33 and the snow was flying.

"You can play in the snow," Shimpach said. "The problem is potential frost damage and some greens freezing."

Courses like Highland's have roughly a six-month window for playing each year. The financial projections for the year include rain days. But once they're open, a stoppage due to cold weather or snow isn't part of the process.

Before coming to Highland, Shimpach worked at Como Golf Course. To get the season under way there, the usual routine was to have players go just nine holes. They'd tee off on No. 1 and then play Nos. 11-18. The reason was Nos. 2-10 are hilly and shaded and the ground simply wasn't ready for action.

But as noted, Minnesota golfers are a hardy bunch. Thus, at 10 a.m. on April 22 and a brisk 36 degrees, Shimpach told an inquiring reporter there were, indeed, golfers on the Highland links. "It's a weekly men's club that has some very avid golfers," he said. "I think some of the guys got shamed into playing."

Still, as Shimpach reflected, things could have been worse. He recalled the time he took some young golfers in the spring to play Northland Golf Club in Duluth. "We were playing 36 holes," he remembered. "We played

the morning round. In the afternoon, the fellows were surprised to see scenery they hadn't noticed earlier."

The reason for the pleasant discovery? The dense morning fog had finally lifted.

Minnehaha Academy Arena goes iceless

For most of the past five-plus decades, Minnehaha Academy's ice arena was a busy place. Originally known as Breck Arena, it started as an outdoor facility. In 1969, it morphed into a semi-indoor rink with an open end. In 1980, Breck moved to a new campus, and sold the property to Minnehaha, which promptly covered the arena completely and installed a 200-by-85 artificial rink. It remained one of the chilliest places to play in, but it served the purpose while the school had its own hockey teams.

As has happened at other schools, the Redhawks ran out of enough players to field its own team a few years ago and are now part of a six-team co-op led by Saint Paul Academy for boys' hockey, and a three-team co-op led by Blake for girls' hockey. The arena, however, stayed in business for rentals and youth games. But as happened at the State Fair Coliseum, a lack of business and a need to replace refrigeration pipes would have cost millions.

The financial wizards who run Minnehaha didn't need a calculator to make the decision. The ice is now gone and the old rink will be covered with turf so it can be used for indoor practices and intramural activities.

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

15◀ HIGHLAND GIRLS' TRACK

individuals who have excelled in other sports. According to Klatt, about one-third of the team members have been in Nordic skiing and cross-country running.

"We love our multisport athletes," she said. "We understand that track might not be their No. 1 sport, but they also know that track can help them."

Highland has some powerful individuals in key events, as was evident at last year's state meet when the team finished

fifth overall. Moore, who can run many different events, won the state 400 title as a freshman, while junior Luna Scorzelli finished second at state in both the 1600 and 3200. It was kind of a natural progression for Scorzelli, who won the state cross-country title last fall.

Klatt described Johnson as a smart runner who knows how to navigate her way through a race. Johnson finished fourth at state last year in the 800 and is part of the 4x800 team that holds the school record. She provides solid senior leadership with

Chloe Koch, who is versatile in the 800, 1600 and 3200. "Those two are the main leaders of this team," Klatt said.

The 4x800 is also a big plus for Highland this year, with Johnson, Haaland, Palm and Lewis-Mosher doing most of the work. Lewis-Mosher had the biggest challenge in that event, being charged with replacing the graduated Molly Moening. But she has adjusted to her relay role.

The Scots also have a solid youngster in Buchl, who is probably the team's best high hurdler right now, according to Klatt.

Freshman Alexa Ramirez is a basketball player who has just started in track, but already shows promise in the 100 and 200.

Seniors Clara Baleen and Carrie Galloper also add to the team's strength. Baleen competes in the 100, 200, 400 and sprint relays, while Galloper takes part in the long, triple and high jumps.

Next up for Highland is the seven-school City Conference True Team meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, at Griffin Stadium. That will be followed at 4 p.m. the next day by a triangular meet at Highland.



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