



Heat and humidity failed to deter tens of thousands of revelers from enjoying Grand Old Day's return on June 4. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Grand Old Day marks 50th by getting back on road again

By Carolyn Walkup

An estimated crowd of nearly 175,000 festival-goers endured 90-plus-degree temperatures and high humidity to celebrate the return of the Twin Cities' first rite of summer when Grand Old Day marked its 50th anniversary on June 4.

"We've had tons of positive feedback—it was a great day," said co-chair Chris Jensen, president of the Grand Avenue Business Association

(GABA), which sponsors the festival.

The event, which was making a comeback after a three-year absence due to the pandemic and organizational issues, took nine months of planning and a lot of fundraising to produce. Jensen said GABA needed around \$300,000 to break even, with the biggest costs being \$100,000 for security and \$40,000 for garbage collection and cleanup.

Some of the most popular events during the day were the parade from

Dale Street to Fairview Avenue, wiener dog races at Macalester College, a Knockout Net game sponsored by the Minnesota Wild, and Norm's Family Fun Zone centered at Hidden River Middle School. Jensen noted that this year's festival was intentionally more family-friendly than in the past.

The event also brought back activities from earlier years, including a 2-mile fun run in which 160 runners

GRAND OLD DAY ►2

Environmental study to estimate impacts of new arena at UST

By Jane McClure

An environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for the University of Saint Thomas' proposed arena at Grand and Cretin avenues will be released for public comment on June 27. A public open house on the EAW will also be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at UST.

The EAW will provide an overview of the potential impacts of the arena in such areas as traffic, parking, noise, spillover lighting and stormwater runoff. The EAW will recommend ways to mitigate those impacts. It will also be used by local officials to guide decisions on the arena's site plan and any permits that are needed.

The EAW is being prepared at UST's expense by the consulting firms of Kimley Horn and SRF. The Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development will review the document and make a decision by August 15. The city could accept the EAW and its mitigation strategies or ask for further study.

A separate traffic analysis for the arena project is being prepared at the same time, according to Anthony Adams of Ryan Companies, which is working with UST on the arena. The analysis will address potential traffic impacts as far away as I-94, Highway 5 and West Seventh Street.

The design of the arena is now well underway, with groundbreaking expected in the spring of 2024 and completion in the fall of 2025.

UST ARENA ►3

Crowd gathers for hearing on new Billy's on Grand licenses

By Jane McClure

Whether Billy's on Grand can stay open until 1 a.m. was still up in the air following a three-hour legislative hearing on June 1. More than 60 people squeezed into a City Hall hearing room to speak for and against city licenses for the bar and restaurant at 857 Grand Ave.

Hearing officer Nhia Vang is reviewing the testimony and public comments, including 167 letters, before making her recommendations to the City Council. At the hearing, she questioned business operator DWD Group and representatives of the city's Department of Safety and In-

spections (DSI) and Saint Paul Police Department about past license violations and criminal activity in and around Billy's.

Vang also focused on proposed changes at the restaurant, which is slated to close in August for refurbishing and reopen in September as Gather Eatery and Bar. Some of the changes planned include a new staffing model and menu, improved security measures, and a more family-friendly atmosphere.

DWD Group is seeking a 1 a.m. closing time, while the local Summit Hill Association voted on May 23 to recommend midnight.

Nine license conditions are being proposed for DWD Group, including those for

security cameras, security personnel and late-night operations. Outside sweeps of the area would have to be conducted every half hour after 10 p.m., and patrons would not be allowed in 30 minutes before closing time.

Another condition is that past license violations at Billy's can still be considered in regard to any future issues. Typically a new liquor licensee gets a clean slate when taking over a bar and restaurant.

DWD Group's Wes Spearman said when he and his partners took over Billy's in 2021, the plan was to continue operating an "iconic" sports bar. But according to him, that business model is no longer working at that location. "We've learned

that it has to change," he said.

Spearman said DWD Group "inherited a lot of problems" at Billy's and has had to learn from its mistakes. He and his advisors said they continue to work with police, DSI and the public to improve safety.

Along with the midnight closing, SHA executive director Monica Haas said the neighbors want to see improved security measures at Billy's and the gun violence stopped. Some neighbors have asked for the revocation of Billy's licenses due to the high number of police calls near 857 Grand.

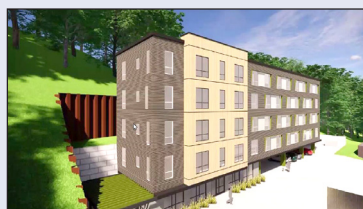
"People are desperate and we're asking the city to do something," said Sum-

BILLY'S ON GRAND ►3

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ARP FUNDS AWARDED



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Rondo Days, Highland Fest, County Fair still no-shows this summer

By Jane McClure

For the first time since 2019, Grand Old Day returned as Saint Paul's largest one-day street festival on June 4. However, other festivals are still not being held this summer, including Rondo Days, Highland Fest and the Ramsey County Fair.

Organizers of all three canceled festivals said they are not gone for good and are planning comebacks in 2024. However, attendees should expect them to appear in different forms or even different locations.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down local summer festivals starting in 2020. One challenge in making a return is that costs have risen dramatically since then, especially for security.

Rondo Days

"We're pretty excited about Rondo Days coming back in 2024," said Gayle Smaller, board chair for the festival-producing Rondo Avenue Inc. Ideas being considered include having events spread out over several days at various sites, rather than hosting a big parade leading to one large site.

Rondo Days organizers are looking at how to appeal to younger attendees while still honoring the festival's past and what it

represents. Rondo Days, which would have been 40 this year, honors the history of the predominantly Black neighborhood that was split in two by the construction of I-94 through Saint Paul in the 1960s. Smaller's father Floyd Smaller and Marvin Roger Anderson launched Rondo Days in 1983.

This year's cancelation was announced to let other Rondo area events move ahead, including the inaugural Taste of Rondo Block Party from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at 976 Concordia Ave. The party will feature food and beverages from the Taste of Rondo Bar & Grill at that location and at other local venues, along with live music and other entertainment.

Another issue is changing leadership. The Rondo board has had turnover recently as elders step down, and newcomers are needed to step up. Gayle Smaller said he is excited about the new people and energy. The board will start taking applications for new members on August 1.

"We've been through a lot—the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and other challenges," Smaller said, "but we can come back bigger and better."

Highland Fest

The Highland Business Association also

is looking to relaunch Highland Fest next year. The three-day festival was last held in 2019. It would have celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, while the juried Highland Art Fair would have turned 56.

The HBA indicated in 2020 that rising costs and challenges in raising sponsorship dollars affected the event. Executive director James Farnsworth said a group is getting together in late summer or early fall to plan for a return in 2024. A smaller event has already been discussed.

Ramsey County Fair

A third group eyeing a 2024 comeback is the Agricultural Society of Ramsey County, organizer of the Ramsey County Fair, which has not been held since 2019. The fair's return may not be at the longtime fairgrounds in Maplewood near Aldrich Arena. Fair organizers have clashed with county leadership and county commissioners over costs.

Youths in 4-H who have had projects judged in smaller events for the past few years will participate in a Ramsey County showcase at the Washington County Fair in Lake Elmo in August.

"We've missed having the county fair," said Joan Miller, a longtime leader of

the Randolph Raiders 4-H Club. Though Miller said the chance to be part of a fair again is appreciated, she was unsure how many club members will participate in the Washington County event.

Ron Suiter, who chairs the Ramsey County Fair board, said the fair could return in 2024 at a new location. One possible site is Harriet Island. The fair was held there in 1998 as part of the dedication celebration for the Wabasha Street Bridge.

"We haven't made any decisions yet," Suiter said. "We're looking at a lot of different options."

There have been Ramsey County fairs dating back more than 100 years, including more than 60 years in Maplewood. In 2019, county officials told the fair board that they could no longer use the second floor of the barn that holds the Ramsey County Extension offices due to structural and fire hazard issues.

County officials also want the fair board to pay \$25,000 for setup, teardown, trash and recycling services. That is consistent with what it charges other outside events.

The Agricultural Society pushed back, saying the costs would make it impossible to host a free fair as it has for many years.

1 GRAND OLD DAY

participated, and a car show featuring 30 classic motor vehicles. A new feature this year involved pickleball demonstrations by top U.S. women's players.

Jensen said the festival was able to make a little bit of a profit this year, but figured the weather kept food sales down. Still, he called it a "great, successful day." He said there were no calls into the festival's complaint line and lots of compliments from neighbors saying it was best Grand Old Day ever.

"The whole idea of the festival is to be able to get people together to celebrate," he said.

Co-chair Brian Wagner said most events tend to break even. Proceeds from the sales of wristbands outside six beer gardens at \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the festival went to defray the costs.

A decision on whether there will be a Grand Old Day next year has not yet been made. However, Jensen noted that if it is held it will be for a shorter distance than this year's 2½-mile stretch because of

street work next summer west of Snelling Avenue. A shorter length could eliminate some of the stretches of inactivity between attractions that were noted this year.

The fenced-in beer gardens were set up in the parking lots of bars and restaurants and other venues along Grand and featured live bands. A stage sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio and The Current in the parking lot of Coulee Bank was a huge success, according to Wagner. All ages were allowed at that stage, though wristbands were required for those wanting to drink alcohol.

Sponsors of the Emmett's Public House and Saji-Ya stage in the Walgreens' parking lot were happy with the turnout there.

"It was a good day, though we could have used more people," said John Wolf, a partner in the restaurants' ownership group. The two restaurants are scheduled to reopen in the new five-story Kenton House development this fall.

The sponsors of other music stages featuring beer gardens included the Red Rabbit, Billy's on Grand and the Iron Ranger.

Students and staff of the School of Rock

on Cleveland Avenue performed on the Pride stage. There also was a youth stage in the Family Fun Zone. Both of those stages also were open to all ages.

Restaurants on the avenue provided welcome air-conditioned relief from the heat and humidity. The one-year-old eM Que Viet on Grand and Hamline avenues did brisk business all afternoon instead of closing between 2 and 4 p.m. as it usually does. "It was a fun event. Next year we might open earlier," said owner Brianna Le.

Colossal Cafe owner Elizabeth Tinucci noted that festival-goers came inside her restaurant at Grand and Hamline avenues to escape the heat. "It was a lot of fun," she said.

Jensen said GABA is working behind the scenes to try to convince Saint Paul to help pay for security, trash and other expenses for local festivals, just like other cities do.

He also noted that many helping hands are responsible for producing Grand Old Day.

"We believe in the corridor we're all part of," he said. "We were fortunate to have a lot of volunteers."



Sonny Pavek, 2, gets a mouthful of his first corn dog during Grand Old Day. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Billy's on Grand drew a good crowd while celebrating the return of Grand Old Day. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

14 BILLY'S ON GRAND

mit Avenue resident Eric Ruhland, who recently had a bullet fly through his young son's bedroom window after closing time at Billy's.

Avon Street resident Betty Foy asked why neighbors have to beg the city for safety. "Why is it OK to put the neighbors at risk?" she asked.

"This has been portrayed as a race issue," said Portland Avenue resident Susan Schuster. "It's a safety issue." She said she and her family have dined at Billy's and want to support the business, but are at a point where they are afraid to be patrons.

Spearman and his supporters have countered that Billy's does face racism. Spearman said it is difficult to operate without neighborhood support as the only Black-owned business on Grand.

City officials are looking at a complicated licensing history. Longtime Billy's owner Bill Wengler is part of a partnership that owns the Victoria Crossing East Mall where the restaurant is located. Wengler

14 UST ARENA

The arena will be located near the center of UST's south campus. Its main entrance will face the driveway that extends west from Grand Avenue. The arena will seat about 4,000 for hockey, 5,000 for basketball and 6,000 for large convocations and graduation ceremonies. It will include two basketball practice courts and a second ice sheet for hockey practices. Locker rooms, coaches' offices and other training facilities are planned.

About 30 local residents attended UST's June 5 update on the project. Most of their questions concerned traffic and pedestrian safety. "It seems like you're creating a bottleneck for traffic at Grand and Cretin," said Kobie Bourdouille of Macalester-Groveland. UST has a large parking ramp at Grand and Cretin, and Bourdouille wanted to know how many vehicles would be exiting the parking ramp after arena events.

Jim Brummer, UST's vice president for facilities management, said the ramp has two entrances and two exits and should be able to handle the expected traffic volume. Arena patrons may also be directed to other campus parking lots, according to Brummer, and additional parking could be provided off-site with a shuttle service to the arena.

Several residents raised the issue of arena access from Goodrich and Summit avenues. Macalester-Groveland resident Marc Manderscheid, who worked on UST's city

operated Billy's for about 35 years before it was sold in 2020 to Randall Johnson and RJMP Group. Johnson signed a management agreement with Spearman and DWD Group in the spring of 2021. DWD has been operating under the previous licenses until it can get its own and is now three years into a seven-year lease.

License violations have repeatedly delayed DWD Group's efforts to obtain its own licenses. Billy's was fined \$500 in February 2022 and \$1,000 this past February for license violations and the high number of police calls believed to be connected to the establishment.

The City Council decided in April that DWD Group could apply for its own on-sale liquor and other business licenses. That vote angered some neighbors, who asked why the city did not revoke the licenses instead.

Liquor license revocations are rare in Saint Paul. Once a liquor license is revoked, a business operating at that address cannot obtain another one for 15 years.

permit in 2004 when it expanded onto the south campus, suggested that UST close the service drive from Goodrich as a show of good faith. The service drive extends north to the Binz Refectory, which still offers some food but no longer provides a major food service for UST students.

UST is planning to use the service drive off of Summit Avenue for buses and service vehicles headed to the arena. The lights from these vehicles "will be shining into my bedroom windows," said Summit resident Dan Kennedy. He asked that UST consider using another service drive off of Cretin Avenue.

Neighbors asked how often the arena will be hosting basketball and hockey games. According to UST athletic director Phil Esten, the hockey arena would not be extensively rented to outside groups. The second sheet of ice for practices may see some public use, Esten said, but that would be limited since UST men's and women's teams will need the rink.

The city's site plan review for the arena project will likely begin in September. City staff may opt to have the site plan reviewed by the Planning Commission as well. The public may also petition to have the Planning Commission hold a public hearing on the site plan.

The arena project will also be reviewed by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission since its northern edge lies within the Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District.

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Commissioners question size of UST parking lot at Highland Bridge

Plan for new stadiums passes muster otherwise

By Jane McClure

The University of Saint Thomas' plan for new baseball and softball stadiums at Highland Bridge appears to be rounding third and headed for home. The Saint Paul Planning Commission on May 26 recommended the approval of five amendments to the Highland Bridge master plan to accommodate the stadiums. The amendments addressed building setbacks and density and the relocation of new Mica Park.

However, the commission recommended the denial of an amendment that would allow UST to build a 330-space parking lot adjacent to the stadiums. The Saint Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on the amendments on June 28.

UST has proposed building a 1,500-seat baseball stadium, a 1,000-seat softball stadium, a concourse linking the two, additional practice facilities and a parking lot southwest of the intersection of Cleveland and Montreal avenues. The new facilities would occupy 13.66 acres that were previously used by Canadian Pacific Railway as a rail yard.

The project would cost about \$75 million, and UST still needs to raise \$55 million to make it happen. If the fundraising goal is not met, UST could scale back the project or sell the site to another user, according to senior city planner Spencer Miller-Johnson. The original master plan for Highland Bridge, which was approved by the City Council in 2017, envisioned parks and open space at the site.

The Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommended the approval of all six master plan amendments on a 4-2 vote earlier in May. The debate over the amendments has largely centered on the parking

lot. The master plan for Highland Bridge currently limits parking lots there to 20 spaces.

The 330-space parking lot has the support of the Highland District Council and local residents. Their hope is that it will help address the spillover parking when Highland Ball plays baseball and softball games on its two diamonds just to the north. The parking lot would also be available for motorists who are visiting Highland Bridge's city parks.

Planning commissioners questioned the need for so much off-street parking. They noted that the office buildings that are envisioned for the Highland Bridge parcels just to the east would have their own parking facilities. That could mean a lot of parking spaces in a fairly small area, they said.

Planning Commission chair Luis Rangel Morales praised UST's proposed development and its positive impact on the neighborhood. However, he said he is concerned about the amount of parking. Other commissioners agreed, citing the goal of the city's comprehensive plan to limit off-street parking and get more people out of their cars.

Some planning commissioners questioned the level of public access to the new stadiums. Assistant City Attorney Peter Warner said that while the Planning Commission can state its preferences, it cannot require public use as a condition to any master plan amendments.

The city and UST are currently negotiating a memorandum of understanding on public use of the stadiums. In any case, the parking lot would be available to the public free of charge when UST is not using it.

The stadium project is on a tight time line. State law requires cities to act on zoning matters within 60 days. UST and master developer Ryan Companies have already agreed to a 60-day extension. That gives the City Council until July 14 to act on the amendments. A City Council vote is anticipated on July 12.

Proposed rules for new parking lots include more landscaping, walkways

By Jane McClure

Making parking lots more attractive and safer for pedestrians is the focus of proposed regulatory changes that will be considered by the Saint Paul City Council during a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 28. The new regulations could be adopted as soon as July 12.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the changes on May 26. The hearing will be on the same date as one on master plan amendments for proposed University of Saint Thomas baseball and softball stadiums at Highland Bridge. A 330-space parking lot is planned there and would be shared by parks and trails users and those who attend nearby Highland Ball games. (See related story above.)

The city has long regulated how parking lots are designed, built and maintained. There are standards for landscaping and screening, plants and drainage. Requirements take into account everything from managing stormwater runoff to preventing vehicle headlights from shining onto neighboring properties.

UST's plans at Highland Bridge prompted city staff to look at how citywide parking lot requirements could be amended to require more landscaping and improve pedestrian safety. The amendments were

released in March and a public hearing was held in April.

Spencer Miller-Johnson, senior city planner, said the city's current requirements are only for parking lots adjacent to a public street or sidewalk. That is not the case for the UST lot at Highland Bridge.

The university and Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies have worked with the Highland District Council and neighbors on plans for the parking lot. Landscaping is planned, but is not required under the city's current regulations.

Merriam Park resident Barb Thoman was the only person to submit written suggestions to the city regarding the proposed regulations. Her ideas and the commissioners' recent discussions could mean that smaller parking lots must be built with pedestrian walkways. The current requirement is that parking lots larger than 125,000 square feet have internal walkways. The recommendation to the City Council would reduce that to 75,000 square feet.

The Planning Commission is also recommending that walkways be provided in all lots that meet the size limit, not just in lots within a quarter mile of a light-rail, street-car or bus rapid transit line.

There would also be standards for how the internal walkways are designed and the materials that are used.

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Nonprofits get \$120M boost from state infrastructure bill

By Jane McClure

Keystone Community Services, Walker West Music Academy, Reconnect Rondo and other local nonprofit organizations were among the winners in the chase for state capital improvement dollars in the recently concluded session of the Minnesota Legislature.

Governor Tim Walz signed the largest infrastructure bill in state history on June 1. The \$2.6 billion spending package will not only pay for government projects, but includes \$120 million for nonprofits, \$403 million for transportation, \$501 million for water infrastructure, \$72 million for bus rapid transit and \$72 million for public housing.

Keystone will use \$2.6 million in state funds for the construction of a new food center on University Avenue. New Keystone president and CEO Adero Riser Cobb and operations director Julia McCarthy met with the Union Park District Council's land use committee in May to provide an update on the project.

Aging facilities and an increasing demand for food prompted Keystone to look for additional space. Demolition is now underway to convert a former furniture store and transmission repair shop into a new 20,000-square-foot food center. The

goal is to open it late this year.

The new facility would replace the organization's existing food shelves on University Avenue and Rice Street. It would allow for expanded hours, more food storage, freezer and refrigerator space, and private space for meetings.

The center would be set up more like a supermarket than the typical food shelf. "This site will be a game changer for us," McCarthy said.

Keystone would also expand its foodmobile fleet and provide them with secure parking. The theft of catalytic converters from the foodmobiles several months ago hampered its food distribution program.

The organization has seen a 70 percent increase in demand for food over the past two years, especially from people 65 and older. As an example, it saw 1,663 new clients in March 2023 compared to 863 in March 2022.

Other local projects to receive state funding include the following:

- Walker West Music Academy was awarded \$4.1 million toward its relocation from 760 Selby Ave. to a former Wilder Foundation building at 650 Marshall Ave. The academy has outgrown its space and its lease was not renewed. Walker West is seeking to raise \$5.4 million for a new building and \$4.7 million for programming.



The preliminary design for Keystone's new food center on University Avenue. IMAGES BY 4RM+ULA ARCHITECTS

- The Cathedral Hill YWCA received \$2.3 million toward moving out of its longtime facility at Selby and Western avenues and possibly into a new facility on the Saint Paul College campus on Marshall Avenue.

- FilmNorth was awarded \$2 million for updating its facilities in Vandalia Tower near Cretin and Vandalia avenues.

- The Playwrights' Center received a \$4 million allocation toward the redevelopment of a former warehouse at 710 Raymond Ave. into theater rehearsal and public gathering spaces.

- Reconnect Rondo's ongoing efforts to build a land bridge over I-94 got \$1 million to help fund the Rondo Innovation Campus. The project would include the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression and Commemorative Plaza.

- Listening House received \$2.95 million toward its planned new daytime drop-in center in the former Red's Savoy Pizza location on East Seventh Street.

- Ain Dah Yung ("Our Home" in Ojibwe), which serves homeless Native American youths with emergency shelter and longer-term housing and support services, received \$2.2 million for the renovation of its building on Portland Avenue in the Summit-University neighborhood.

- Saint Paul Urban Tennis was awarded \$750,000 for improvements to its facilities. Based at the Eastview Recreation Center, it offers programs at other local recreation centers as well.

- Other recipients of state funding include bus rapid transit (\$72 million) and skate parks (\$4 million).

Legislature pads city and county capital and general fund budgets

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul and Ramsey County officials had much to celebrate at the conclusion of the Minnesota Legislature's 2023 session. At a May 31 event, Mayor Melvin Carter described the outcome as an "extreme makeover" for the city.

Along with bonding for various capital improvement projects, Saint Paul received a boost in local government aid (LGA) of about \$8 million, a 10 percent increase. Ramsey County's state aid programs benefited from an extra \$6 million.

How those allocations will impact overall spending and property taxes should become apparent in August when city and county administrators release their proposed budgets for 2024.

Saint Paul's city budget in 2023 totals \$781.5 million. That budget is supported by about \$73 million in state LGA and just over \$201 million from property taxes.

Ramsey County's 2023 budget stands at \$785.4 million. Property taxes make up 44 percent of that total or about \$345 million with intergovernmental aid at about 28 percent.

Minnesota had a record \$17.5 billion surplus this spring, and that allowed for transformational changes, according to the DFL



An artist's rendering of what the planned River Learning Center at Crosby Farm Park might be like.

officials who control the state House and Senate as well as the governor's office.

Saint Paul received funding in the state bonding bill for several parks and public works projects that had been pending for years. These included the Kellogg Boulevard Bridge that passes near the Xcel Energy Center, a half dozen recreation center projects, and money toward the development of a new river learning center at Crosby Farm Park, the River's Edge mixed-use development downtown, and the redevelopment of Hillcrest Golf Course in the city's northeast corner as the Heights mixed-use

development.

Saint Paul received \$13.6 million in one-time funds from the state for its Police and Fire departments as well as its Office of Neighborhood Safety. Community violence prevention and intervention will continue to be key focuses, according to city officials.

Ramsey County received a one-time allocation of \$11.4 million for Heading Home, its comprehensive program for unsheltered persons. Heading Home Ramsey County includes almost 30 service providers. The Minnesota Department of Human Services

also added to its budget for unsheltered people statewide with the expectation that there will be funds available on a competitive basis in future years.

The city lobbied for state funding for the replacement of lead water service lines across Minnesota. Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert was among those who testified at the Capitol for the need for lead water service replacement. Tolbert recently spent \$6,000 to replace the lead water service lines to his family's Macalester-Groveland home.

As of last year, Saint Paul still had about 26,000 lead water service lines. In 2022, Saint Paul officials announced the allocation of \$4 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds to replace lead water service lines across the city. Among the Saint Paul homes that still need to have their lead water service lines replaced is the governor's mansion on Summit Avenue.

Governor Tim Walz's infrastructure bill included \$240 million for the replacement of some of the 100,000-plus lead water service lines in Minnesota. The state funds provided access to an additional \$43 million in federal funds for lead line replacement. The cost of replacement statewide is estimated at \$1 billion.

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County awards \$14.4M in ARP funds for affordable housing projects

By Jane McClure

A \$14.4 million allocation of federal taxpayer funds to support eight Ramsey County affordable housing projects includes three in Highland Park, one in downtown Saint Paul and one in the Summit-University neighborhood. The County Board approved the expenditures of federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars on June 6.

The awards complete the county's distribution of \$37 million in ARP funds earmarked for affordable housing. Commissioners, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority board, also approved HRA levy funding on June 6 for 11 affordable housing projects totaling \$4 million, including one on University Avenue.

"Our commitment to investing in affordable housing is intentional and important," said HRA board chair Mai Chong Xiong. "Creating and building a prosperous economy...where we all can feel valued and thrive begins with a place to call home."

Projects receiving ARP funding by Ramsey County in the last two years are expected to add 406 affordable rental units to the current housing supply. That is expected to make housing more available for residents who earn at or below 30 percent of the area median income (AMI), which is \$35,200 for a household of four.

Max Holdhusen, deputy director of the county's housing division, said the federal funds have provided needed growth in the supply of deeply affordable housing. However, there remains a great need. The county reportedly has a deficit of 15,000 units of affordable housing at 30 percent AMI.

No developers received funding to cover 100 percent of a project's costs. They in-



Trellis will receive \$375,000 in federal funding for its Treehouse senior apartments that will be built into the hill behind the Highland Chateau on Saint Paul Avenue and West Seventh Street.

stead must assemble an array of funding sources, including grants and loans, Low Income Housing Tax Credits and tax increment financing.

Panorama

Local projects receiving ARP funding include Panorama, a proposed 72-unit building at Graham Avenue and Sue Street in Highland Park. Presbyterian Homes and Services is the developer of the project, which won city approval as workforce housing but may add senior units. Panorama was awarded \$2.5 million. The building will provide a mix of affordable units at 30, 60 and 80 percent AMI, as well as market-rate units. Construction is ex-

pected to start this year or in 2024.

CommonBond Ford II

CommonBond Communities CB Ford II was tentatively awarded \$2.4 million in ARP funds for a 60-unit senior building south of Bohland Avenue between Mount Curve Boulevard and Woodlawn Avenue in Highland Bridge. It will have a mix of one- and two-bedroom units, with 23 of them at 50 percent AMI and the rest at 30 percent AMI. The county funding is contingent on successfully receiving state funding in 2023. Construction is set to begin in 2024.

Treehouse

Trellis' Treehouse, a planned 36-unit senior housing building behind Highland

Chateau on Saint Paul Avenue and West Seventh Street, will receive \$375,000. Twenty-seven units are earmarked at 30 percent AMI, with the rest at 50 percent AMI. The project also received \$490,000 in ARP funding last year. Construction is expected to start in 2023.

Laurel Flats

Laurel Flats is a proposed eight-unit rehabilitation project by Outlaw Development in the Summit-University neighborhood. It received \$957,970. The building will include a mix of affordability, including one unit at 30 percent AMI and seven at 50 percent AMI. Construction is estimated to start this year.

Mary Hall

One downtown Saint Paul project is the renovation of Mary Hall on Ninth Street and Dorothy Day Place. Nonprofit developer Aeon was awarded more than \$2.39 million in ARP funds. Built years ago as a nurses' dormitory for Saint Joseph's Hospital, Mary Hall is being eyed as an 88-unit adaptive reuse project. Forty-six units would be offered at 30 percent AMI, with 42 at 50 percent AMI. The project also received \$109,064 from the county's HRA on June 6, and was awarded \$1.8 million from county bonds and HRA funds in 2022. Construction is expected to start in 2024.

833 University

One University Avenue project was also funded with \$90,936 in HRA dollars on June 6. The six-unit building at 833 University is owned by Model Cities. Residents make less than 30 percent AMI and use Section 8 vouchers. One of the units and the exterior cladding need work due to water damage. Construction is estimated to begin this year.

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District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Summer Thursdays in Highland—The Highland District Council will kick off a series of summer events on Thursdays with a concert at 6 p.m. on June 15 at the Historic Highland Pool House, 1333 Montreal Ave. There will be family-friendly activities and food to purchase from Pigs Unlimited, Pizza Karma and Cold Front ice cream. The Experience with Zippy Caplan will perform rock 'n' roll and surf music of the '50s and '60s starting at 7 p.m.

Cleanup with Chuck Day—Join the HDC, Highland Business Association and Tiffany's Sports Lounge from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, June 17, for a cleanup in recognition of Chuck Nehls' longtime volunteer efforts to maintain common areas in Highland Park. Participants will help with outdoor maintenance tasks in Highland Village and then enjoy a brunch buffet at 11 a.m. from Tiffany's. Registration is required. Details can be found on the HDC's website.

Board openings—Candidates are being sought to serve on the HDC board of directors, including a two-year term representing Grid 3 (see map at tinyurl.com/f3jd2h45) and a one-year term representing Highland businesses. Candidates must be age 18 or older. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, July 13. Visit the website or contact info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or 651-6954005. Elections will take place online from July 20-25.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, June 26. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with the option to join online. For the Zoom link, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Annual Alley Garden Awards—Macalester-Groveland residents are invited to get their properties ready for the annual Alley Garden Awards. Judging will take place in July. Learn more by visiting macgrove.org/aga.

Call for exhibitors/sponsors—This year's Mac-Grove Fest will be held on Saturday, September 9, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. There will be a Makers Market where people can sell their arts and crafts, and a Business Marketplace where the products and services of local businesses and organizations will be featured. Register by July 13. For information email alyssa@macgrove.org or visit macgrove.org/2023registration.

Open board seats—The Macalester-Groveland board currently has openings for an at-large representative of local businesses and an at-large representative of local educational institutions. Email mgcc@macgrove.org.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee on Monday, June 26; and Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, June 28. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in person at the Edgumbe Recreation Center and via Zoom. To log in, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Walk the B Line—Join the Union Park District Council's Transportation Committee to walk the future B Line bus rapid transit route from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 22. Participants should meet at the A Line stop on Snelling and Dayton avenues. For information, see the UPDC website.

Slow ride, take it easy—The second Slow Roll bike ride along Summit Avenue will be held from 9:30- 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 1. Meet at Summit and Syndicate Street.

University cleanup—Join the UPDC for a cleanup of University Avenue from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 17. Meet at the northwest corner of Snelling and University.

Upcoming meetings—Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 19; and Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20. The meetings will be held via Zoom. For access, see the calendar on the website.

Contact us—The public is invited to "like" the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter at @UnionParkDC, and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing info@unionparkdc.org.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill House Tour—The Summit Hill House Tour is back after a four-year hiatus. Join the Summit Hill Association from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, October 8, for a showcase of some of the most stunning and historic homes in the neighborhood. Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$135 for VIP access, which includes brunch and early viewing of the homes. Visit Summithilltours.org.

Concert in the park—The SHA will host a concert featuring the music of jazzy pop duo Rada K at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, on the upper lawn at Linwood Park, 860 Saint Clair Ave. Families are being encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, bug spray and picnic dinners.

Driveway puppet show—Open Eye Theater will perform *Tucker's Robot* at 7 p.m. Friday, June 30, on the upper lawn at Linwood Park. Kids will have the opportunity to see the puppets up close and meet the puppeteers after the show. The SHA will pass a hat for the performers.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Justus Ramsey House proposals—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation is requesting proposals for the reconstruction of the Justus Ramsey House. Those interested must submit a letter of intent by July 21. An engagement night will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, June 22, in the Brewhouse at the Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St. For information, contact executive director Julia McColley at 651-298-5599 or julia@fortroadfederation.org. A link to the RFP can be found at tinyurl.com/j9mr2eet.

Board member openings—Area 2 and 3 coordinators are being sought to serve on the Fort Road Federation's board. Email fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org.

Upcoming meetings—Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15; Transportation and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 5; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, July 10. Visit fortroadfederation.org/calendar.



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VIEWPOINT

Spring flood highlights hazards of Ford’s dump

By Colleen O’Connor Toberman

The Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) have been waiting for the river to flood to gather more information about the hazards posed by Area C, the old dump on the flood plain next to the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Highland Park. This year we expect to have that data.

Area C is located on the riverbank across Mississippi River Boulevard from the old Ford Plant (now the Highland Bridge development) and right next to Hidden Falls Regional Park. FMR has been working to bring more attention to this unremediated dump for many years. Our collaboration with the Capitol Region Watershed District has helped increase oversight of the Ford-owned site. Most notably, we asked the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to require Ford to add more groundwater monitoring wells to the site in 2020.

While there have been monitoring wells on the property for many years, independent engineers hired by the Capitol Region Watershed District did not believe the wells were in the right locations to record how floods affect Area C. In August of 2020, Ford installed new monitoring wells at those locations.

Area C has a layer of hazardous waste (such as barrels of old paint and solvents) buried under a heap of construction debris several stories deep. Whenever the Mississippi River reaches a high enough flood stage, we worry that river water will inundate that waste. We don’t know how much hazardous waste remains at the site, nor what happens when the flood waters flow into it.

This year, the Mississippi River reached major flood stage in Saint Paul for the first time since the wells were installed. Ford collected water samples from the monitoring wells during the one to two weeks that the waste pile was inundated by the river.

The MPCA has said that it would prefer to gather groundwater monitoring data during two flood cycles—in addition to Ford’s regular ongoing data collection—before deciding what hazards Area C may pose and what remediation may be required.

The monitoring results from this spring’s flood should be available to the public later this summer or fall. We will be looking to independent experts to review and interpret the findings. One flood cycle may not be enough to answer all of our questions about the dump site. But once the MPCA is satisfied with the amount of monitoring data collected, it will work with Ford to develop a feasibility study to explore various options for cleaning up the site, weighing factors such as environmental risk, cost and the acceptance of the surrounding community.

The public will have a chance to comment on a draft of the study. Then the MPCA will select a cleanup alternative and request that Ford implement it. Cleanup alternatives may range from minor actions, such as requiring ongoing monitoring and addressing surface debris and erosion, to the complete removal of the waste pile. The better the monitoring data, the better our understanding of the risks and benefits of different cleanup scenarios.

Public involvement has been critical in raising the profile of Area C and encouraging more attention from the MPCA. In February 2020, more than 150 people attended a community meeting to share their questions and concerns with the MPCA. Once we have this new data, the Friends of the Mississippi River will call on the community to advocate for the cleanup of the dump site. A profitable international corporation should not be allowed to leave its mess behind on our riverfront.

Colleen O’Connor Toberman is the director of land use and planning programs for the Friends of the Mississippi River. This article first appeared in FMR’s monthly “Mississippi Messages” newsletter.



INBOX

Strengthening our democracy

Due to the collaboration of strong community leaders, more Minnesotans are now able to cast their ballots in elections, especially young voters. That strengthens Minnesota’s democracy.

When I was 16, the thought of voting was far off. It was an action adults could take, but something I was a ways away from even considering. I never thought about registering to vote or what voting means for democracy. At 18, when I voted in my first election in college, I learned that my vote matters not just as a civic duty but for upholding a strong and reliable political system.

The Minnesota Legislature recently passed the Democracy for the People Act. It allows 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote, and dramatically increases the likelihood they will become lifelong voters. When more Minnesotans can and do vote, we strengthen a democracy that reflects our diverse communities.

Lauren Witt
Ramsey Hill

Done with No Mow May

Has anyone stopped to consider the hardship caused to lawn care professionals by the delayed mowing of lawns during the No Mow May nonsense? I would think that lawns, fresh off the winter and spring months, grow the most in May. Seasonal workers likely lose a good portion of a month’s pay sitting at home predicting that the number of pollinators actually buzzing around in yards is no more than the number of digits counted on one hand.

Today is June 1 and the sound of lawn mowers is buzzing. Several landscapers are out in full force knocking down lawn hay. No Mow Mayers must care more about the welfare of a bee over the welfare of a seasonal, hard-working taxpayer. Can we be done with this?

Mark Kirchner
Highland Park

Rootless in Mac-Groveland

I could cry. Saint Paul seems determined not to have a history. It won’t leave historic Summit Avenue alone, even though bicyclists are currently using it, and it’s attempting to raze the Hamline Midway Library, though it has been designated a historic building.

For those too young to remember, the city was hell-bent on tearing down Landmark Center in the early 1970s to build a parking garage—the building that is now the jewel in the crown of downtown. If one woman hadn’t fought City Hall with an army of like-minded preservationists, we’d now have a dilapidated parking garage facing Rice Park.

I was in awe of the buildings I saw five years ago in England which are still in use as homes or public buildings, serving meals and libations to travelers as they did in the time of Shakespeare. I’m sure those buildings didn’t have indoor plumbing or electricity, yet they have been preserved as evidence of a proud history.

We need to preserve our precious historic places.

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

Summit should be protected

I read Jane McClure’s recent articles about the proposed Summit Avenue bike trail. I agree with using Portland, Grand or Jefferson avenues as an alternative. The trees and historic character of Summit Avenue should be protected.

Sharon McCord
Highland Park

Not as rare as you think

I live in Macalester-Groveland and I subscribe to *MyVillager*. Thank you for keeping our community updated on everything happening around us. I really appreciate it. I have a comment about a recent article about fascial stretch therapy or FST. The article, “Entering the Mainstream” (*MyVillager*, May 31) mentions that Lisa Albert might be the only FST therapist in Minnesota. I have been a Level 3 medical certified FST practitioner

for almost a decade, and there are dozens of other FST practitioners in Minnesota. I also serve as the official sports acupuncturist for the Minnesota Vikings. They love it when I throw some FST moves their way.

Dr. Hillary Patzer
Macalester-Groveland

Poetic poke at the 2023 session

The crosswalks aren’t painted,
The potholes aren’t filled.
Let’s start some new boondoggles
And send taxpayers the bill.

Ann Redding
Tangletown, Minneapolis

Reducing crime on light rail

I strongly agree with guest editorialist Matthews Hollinshead about the need to make light rail safe (*MyVillager* Viewpoint, May 17). But I got stuck on his notion that Donald Trump and the COVID pandemic have caused an increase in crime. Neither has anything to do with it. Criminals are the cause of crime. Refusal to acknowledge this fact is an obstacle to addressing it.

Celeste Riley
Mendota Heights

Politicians and public hearings

There was never, from day one, any question that the Saint Paul City Council would approve the new Summit Avenue bicycle autobahn, no matter the cost or the wishes of a majority of Saint Paul taxpayers. So why have the big public hearing? The answer is simple, but one which takes cynicism to grand heights. It was to buy cover, something for which politicians crave with every vote. We are supposed to believe they care what we taxpayers feel about the inherent virtue of pedaling.

T. J. Sexton
Highland Park

Monsters on the right

I’m confused. With Roe v. Wade overturned, why this rush in some states to pass the most extreme abortion laws conceivable? Why this race to barbarity? Why laws that guarantee women will die unnecessarily? Why laws that the majority of their citizens oppose? Most important, why do multiple Minnesota legislators openly advocate these same laws here? Is it fear of being primaried from the right? What’s it going to take to bring the Supreme Court to the conclusion that women’s lives are of higher value than constitutional originalism? How many women will have to die before the extremists are finally revealed for the monsters they are?

Mark Greiner
Highland Park

Pretty in pink?

Their doctors and employees truly believe they are performing good works for the betterment of women, but their flawed mission and thought process can be reduced to utilitarian expediency. No matter how they paint it, they are a business that sells surgical and pharmaceutical solutions that have nothing to do with health care. Planned Parenthood: Death disguised as a smile.

Mary Therese Nelson
Highland Park

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

Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 2000 block of West Seventh Street at 10:15 p.m. on June 2.

Burglary—A suspect broke into a condominium on the 2200 block of Youngman Avenue at 5:36 p.m. on May 24.

—Multiple firearms were reported stolen during an apartment burglary on the 1300 block of Davern Street at 4:15 p.m. on May 24.

—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1700 block of Hartford Avenue between May 25-29, the 1700 block of Eleanor Avenue between May 25-30, and the 1600 block of Watson Avenue on May 28.

Theft—A trailer was reported stolen on the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue between 1-8 a.m. on May 26.

Assault—A victim was hospitalized following an assault that occurred at Highland Park Middle School, 975 S. Snelling Ave., at 4:45 p.m. on May 26.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—Two women, ages 31 and 34, were arrested for committing credit card fraud at the Midway Target at 7:39 p.m. on May 24. They were part of a group that arrived at the store in a stolen vehicle.

—Items worth more than \$1,000 were stolen from a vehicle at Speedway, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., on May 28-29.

—A semi-automatic handgun was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle at the Midway Target at 5:18 p.m. on May 30.

Assault—An assault was reported at the High School for Recording Arts, 1166 University Ave., at 4:08 p.m. on May 23.

—A suspect punched a staff member in the face at the Verizon store, 474 N. Hamline Ave., at 10:51 a.m. on June 2.

Miscellaneous—A pedestrian was taken to the hospital with minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Saint Anthony Avenue and Lexington Parkway at 8:20 a.m. on May 25.

—A bicyclist was injured in a collision with a vehicle on Griggs Street and Concordia Avenue at 7:45 a.m. on May 31.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Residential break-ins were reported on the 1500 block of Grand Avenue on May 24, and the 2100 block of Fairmount Avenue on May 28.

—Subway, 1820 Grand Ave., was broken into at 5:52 a.m. on May 30.

—A break-in was reported at the eM Que Viet restaurant, 1332 Grand Ave., at 2 p.m. on May 30.

—Money was stolen from the cash registers during a break-in at Shish Mediterranean Restaurant, 1668 Grand Ave., at 5:25 a.m. on May 30.

Theft—Trailers were reported stolen on the 400 block of Mount Curve Boulevard between May 26-29, and on Woodlawn and Jefferson avenues on May 31-June 1.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 700 block of Main Street at 8:51 a.m. on May 23.

Animal call—A girl was taken to the hospital after being bitten in the face by a neighbor's dog at 9:17 p.m. on May 26 on the 2300 block of Apache Court.

Assault—An adult was arrested for assault with an "edged weapon" on the 2300 block of Pilot Knob Road at 10:34 a.m. on June 1.

Miscellaneous—A convicted felon was arrested for possession of a firearm, DWI and active warrants after he was found slumped over in his vehicle with a gun under his leg on Highway 62 and Lexington Avenue at 2:03 a.m. on May 28.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A male suspect with a gun fled after being interrupted stealing items from a vehicle on the 100 block of Otis Avenue at 2:35 p.m. on May 31.

—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 2000 block of Saint Anthony Avenue at 6 a.m. on May 28.

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 200 block of Aldine Street between 11:14 a.m.-1:04 p.m. on May 30.

—A burglary was reported at Wirtz Beverage, 489 N. Prior Ave., at 12:02 p.m. on June 5.

Assault—An assault with a gun was reported on the 1500 block of Saint Anthony Avenue at 2:34 p.m. on May 27.

—A 29-year-old man was arrested for

making felony threats after he was seen brandishing a knife and bolt cutters and tampering with vehicles on the 1900 block of Feronia Avenue at 12:56 a.m. on May 28.

—A felony assault with a gun was reported at an apartment on the 400 block of Pierce Street at 12:50 p.m. on May 31.

Arson—A stolen vehicle was found engulfed in flames on the 2100 block of Saint Anthony Avenue at 3:20 a.m. on May 25.

—Arson was reported on the 1700 block of Laurel Avenue at 8:20 a.m. on May 25.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A motorcycle was reported stolen on University and Snelling avenues during the evening of May 27-28.

Assault—A 28-year-old man was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon on the 1500 block of Iglehart Avenue at 10:17 a.m. on May 30.

Level III meeting—A community notification meeting for six Level III predatory sex offenders moving to Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The offenders include Tijuana Donte Johnson, 41, who has registered to live on the 1500 block of Laurel Avenue.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Residential break-ins were reported on the 300 block of Grand Avenue on May 19, and the 800 block of Osceola Avenue on the evening of June 3-4.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 12:15-1 p.m. on May 31.

—A 51-year-old man was arrested for fleeing police after he was seen driving a stolen vehicle near Victoria Street and Osceola Avenue at 11:55 a.m. on June 6. He later abandoned the vehicle, fled down a steep riverbank in Highland Park and had to be rescued from the Mississippi River.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on Saint Clair Avenue and Lexington Parkway at 12:24 a.m. on June 6.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man was robbed while meeting a person to buy a cellphone on the 200 block of North Western Avenue at 1:32 p.m. on June 5. Police said a juvenile suspect stole the man's money while an associate assaulted him. Police located the sus-

pect's vehicle and arrested four males ages 16-20 for robbery and possession of a gun with no serial number.

Burglary—Residential burglaries were reported on the 900 block of Laurel Avenue on May 27-28, and the 700 block of Marshall Avenue on June 3-4.

Theft—A 22-year-old woman was arrested for auto theft, fleeing police and providing false information after she stole a backpack with car keys from a business and then took the victim's car at Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping, 477 Selby Ave., at 5:32 a.m. on June 5.

Miscellaneous—A 29-year-old woman was arrested for DWI after she was found drinking vodka in the driver's seat of a vehicle with an 8-month-old baby in the back seat on the 300 block of North Milton Street at 6:45 p.m. on May 24.

Level III meeting—A community notification meeting for six Level III predatory sex offenders moving to Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The offenders include Eugene Paul Glaraton, 54, who has registered to live on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue.

West End

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported at West Seventh Pharmacy, 1106 W. Seventh St., at 5:44 p.m. on June 6.

Theft—A purse-snatching was reported on the 400 block of West Seventh Street at 6:54 p.m. on May 27.

—Tools valued at around \$5,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked outside of Grand 7 Saloon, 315 W. Seventh St., between 4-5 a.m. on May 29.

Assault—A man was punched in the face on West Seventh Street and Otto Avenue at 9:33 p.m. on May 26.

—A man was assaulted by an unknown male in Irvine Park, 281 Walnut St., at 11:44 a.m. on June 4.

Weapons—Shell casings were recovered in front of a business on the 1100 block of West Seventh Street at 1:10 p.m. on May 31.

Level III meeting—A community notification meeting for six Level III predatory sex offenders moving to Saint Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The offenders include Rashad Jutuan Taylor, 42, who has registered to live on the 800 block of Armstrong Avenue.

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ON THE TOWN

Suds and song

Brewery boosts young performers with a mash of live music and beer

By Anne Murphy

Timing may not be everything, but without it MetroNOME Brewery would not have opened a year ago and be flourishing at 385 Broadway St. The brewery owes its existence to what founders Matt Engstrom and Bill Eddins call a serendipitous friendship.

“Both of our kids were on the same baseball team,” said Engstrom, who lives in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. “Bill was the head coach and I was an assistant. It was out of sideline banter that we started talking about brewing beer. The next progression was, ‘Can I borrow this or that piece of equipment?’ Eventually, we just put everything at one person’s house and all the while we were getting more serious.”

It was during the pandemic and in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder that Eddins, who is a professional musician, began thinking about starting a brewery that would offer live music and donate a portion of its proceeds to buy instruments for children and support music education. He asked Engstrom to team up, “and the rest is, as they say, history,” Eddins said.

“There was no debate about the need for a space for live music,” said Engstrom, who played saxophone throughout his high school and college years. “Music is so important for people when they’re growing up. Unfortunately, it’s also one of the first things on the chopping block whenever there are budgetary problems at the state or local level.”

“There are kids in our society who want to learn music, want to play it and be involved in it, who cannot afford to do that. And there’s absolutely no reason for it,” said Eddins, the music director emeritus of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and a frequent guest conductor of orchestras around the world. “I don’t care what kind of music you gravitate

toward. I have my own tastes, but it’s music that’s important. And I just want to help young people have the chance to learn whatever music touches them.”

Engstrom and Eddins developed a business plan, sought investors and began looking for a location. “First, we found a defunct brewery downtown,” said Engstrom, who left a career with IBM to operate MetroNOME. “The owner had left the equipment behind. But then we realized the facility wasn’t conducive to live music. Fortunately, we found the space where we are now.”

The name MetroNOME is a play on words, according to Eddins. “Of course, there’s the metronome, the machine to help keep rhythm,” he said. “Then there’s ‘Metro’ for the Twin Cities and ‘NOME’ for Nurturing Outstanding Music Education.”

Live music at the MetroNOME is played on the lower level in a room that seats 50 and is regularly at capacity with performances and other events almost every day of the week. The room is named Fingal’s Cave, after the Scottish cave that has long been revered for its acoustics. “Our Fingal’s is an intimate and immersive space, hidden yet welcoming, where performers and listeners are immediately at home,” Eddins said.

On any given week, you can hear jazz, folk, country, funk and more in Fingal’s Cave played by soloists, duos, trios and quartets. For the second year in a row, the cave will be hosting shows as part of the Twin Cities Jazz Festival on June 22-24.

“On Thursday we have Take That Back at 7 p.m.,” Eddins said. “The band is led by veteran saxophonist Joan Hutton. Then on Saturday, the MN Hard Bop Collective plays at 3 p.m., the MZ3 Organ Trio at 5 p.m., and Kenny Thomas at 7:30 p.m.”

MetroNOME will kick off Jazz Fest weekend with a show at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, by the Will Aldrich Quintet, a collection of students from



MetroNOME co-owners Matt Engstrom (left) and Bill Eddins gather 'round the grand piano in Fingal's Cave, the performance space located on the brewery's lower level. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Saint Paul Central and Roseville Area high schools.

Early on, MetroNOME hired Kevin Welch as its brewmaster, a professional musician who knows his way around hops as well as the French horn. “The brewery is currently in summer mode,” Eddins said. “Our highlights are the Squeeze Play IPA, Jam Session Lingonberry Sour, Wheatarade Tangerine Blonde and Can-Can Kölsch.”

Squeeze Play IPA is featured on tap at nearby CHS Field, and Squeeze Play IPA and Jam Session Lingonberry Sour are available in cans at such liquor stores as Surdyk’s and Zipp’s. “Several of our beers are on tap around the metro area,” Eddins said. “A full list is on our website.”

“MetroNOME is not yet consistently profitable,” Engstrom noted. “But at the

end of 2022, we were able to give a couple grand each to Hopewell Music in North Minneapolis and Walker West Music Academy in Summit-University.”

Looking back at the last year, Engstrom and Eddins especially remember the night last fall when Wynton Marsalis played at MetroNOME. The jazz trumpeter was in town to perform with the Minnesota Orchestra.

“Bill knows Wynton,” Engstrom said. “They’ve performed together. And that was kind of the crown jewel of what we’ve done so far—to have Marsalis play in Fingal’s Cave, an absolutely magical moment.” It was, Eddins and Engstrom agreed, another example of the perfect timing that has made MetroNOME click and “pay it forward one pint at a time.”

ON THE TOWN Briefly

Books

Everyday Dad author Tim Delmont will discuss his book about the challenges of raising two young children following the death of his wife in a free program at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Crooked Lines: A Single Mom’s Jewish Journey will be discussed by author Jenna Zark in conversation with Beth Friend at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at the Minnesota JCC’s Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Crooked Lines addresses the challenges of divorce, parenthood, interfaith marriage and losing parents. A light snack and refreshments will be served. Child care will be available for ages 6 weeks and up. For more information and to register, visit minnesotajcc.org.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host free readings and discussions with authors Nancy Crochiere and her novel, *Graceland*, at 6 p.m. Thursday,

June 22; Nicole Baart and her thriller, *The Long Way Back*, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27; and Mary Christine Kane and Sandra Hager Eliason, contributors to the anthology, *True Stories About Love Vol. 2*, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Exhibits

Four artists working in fabrics, painting, printmaking, clay and found objects are exhibiting 40 of their works through June 30 at Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave. The artists are conducting workshops from 5-7 p.m. on Thursdays in June. The schedule includes denim wear with Briana Williams on June 15, polymer clay dragonflies with Layl McDill on June 22, and repurposed jewelry with Barbara Bridges on June 29. The workshops are free, but space is limited. To register, email drb@bridgescreate.com.

“**Vol. 2 Together**,” a solo exhibition by artist Jacob Z. Wan, is on view through July 29 at Friedli Gallery, 943 W. Seventh

St. With paintings, books, paper objects and installations, Wan expresses the longings and belonging of a gay man. Visit friedliartsgallery.com.

“**Defying Sameness 3**,” 75 works by 75 artists that don’t meet the viewers’ expectations, are on view through August 27 at Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 E. Prince St. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. A reception for the artists with live music and light refreshments will be held from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, July 29. Admission is free. Call 651-224-3757 or visit theazgallery.org.

Free walking tours in and around downtown Saint Paul are being offered this summer by the Landmark Center Volunteer Association. The tours step out at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. The Great River Tour on June 21 follows the mighty Mississippi, highlighting the buildings and other landmarks that made Saint Paul the city it is today. The Rice Park Tour on June 28 circles the public space with stops outside the buildings that gave the park its central role in events and cele-

brations. Reservations are required. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

Theater

The enduring tale of a hero of the people, *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood* is being staged through July 2 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Stephen Long directs this drama by Ken Ludwig. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 19. Tickets are \$25 or whatever you can pay on June 19. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

“**Pirates in the Park**,” a collection of four short plays, will be presented free and outdoors on June 16 and 17 by Classics Lost ‘n’ Found Theater Company. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy *Tobey of the High Seas* and *Pirates-in-Law* by Greg Bastien, and *Poop-Deck Petey and His Adventures in Pirateland* and *Blackbeard’s*

10◀ ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

Lament by Noreen K. Brandt. Show times are 6:30 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday at the Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. in Minneapolis. In case of rain, the shows will be moved inside Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St. Minneapolis.

Playwright Sharon Bridgforth’s latest performance installation, *bull-jean/we wake* will be staged from June 22 through July 2 at Pillsbury House and Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. All three of Bridgforth’s bull-jean productions have centered around poetic tales of the captivating bull-dog-jean and her journey through love and healing. The playwright envelopes the senses with incantations, memories and visions, putting audiences in touch with their deepest longings. Aimee K. Bryant and Omi Osun Joni L. Jones star. Daniel Alexander Jones directs. Show times are 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are whatever you can pay. Call 612-825-0459 or visit pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org.

Music

Pack a picnic supper, dancing shoes and a blanket and you can be Groovin’ in the Garden from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays in front of the Como Park Conservatory. The free concert series will feature 13 Arrows on June 14; Ty Pow & the Holy North, June 21; and Red Eye Ruby, June 28. Hot dogs, ice cream treats, beer and wine will be available for purchase. If it rains, the concert will be moved inside the Visitor Center porch.

Local Music for Low Strings, new music by Leyna Papach and Daisy Swimmer, will be performed on Friday, June 16, by bassist Jason Wells and cellists Elise Butler-Pinkham, Eric M. C. Gonzalez, Aaron Kerr and Olivia Quintanilla. Part of the Vanguard New Music series, the concert will begin at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. Admission is \$15 at the door, cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.

Singers Jen Burleigh Bentz and Bradley Beahen will channel long-time collaborators Carole King and James Taylor in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The “You’ve Got a Friend” show will also feature guitarist Troy Norton, bassist Andy DeLuca and drummer Beth Valera. Tickets are \$20-\$30. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

Under the Lex, a series of free concerts, will be presented from 5:15-6 p.m. in the superior acoustics under the bridge by the Historic Streetcar Station at 1224 N. Lexington Pkwy. Bring a lawn chair if you



Camille Thurman and Paquito D’Rivera will be among the jazz luminaries performing at close to two dozen downtown venues on June 22-24.

Jazz Fest returns to Lowertown

The Twin Cities Jazz Festival will mark its 25th anniversary when it returns to downtown Saint Paul for two days of free entertainment on Friday and Saturday, June 23-24. Regional and national jazz artists will be featured on three outdoor stages, offering almost continuous entertainment. Eighteen indoor venues throughout the downtown area will also be hosting live jazz from Thursday through Saturday, June 22-24. The schedule includes the following:

FRIDAY

Main Stage in Mears Park—Will Kjeer Trio, 4 p.m.; Camille Thurman and the Darrell Green Quartet, 6 p.m.; and Paquito D’Rivera and the Dizzy Gillespie Afro Latin Experience, 8:30 p.m.
Fifth Street Stage in Mears Park—Selby Ave Brass Band, 5 p.m.; Jack Brass Band, 7:30 p.m.
TPT Street Space, 172 E. Fourth St.—Mississippi, 4:30 p.m.; World Jazz Collegium, 6 p.m.; Dale Alexander Quartet, 7:30 p.m.; Wolverines Trio with Maud

Hixson and Arne Fogel, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Main Stage in Mears Park—Walker West and MacPhail Center youth ensembles, noon; Kevin Washington and RA Spirit, 2 p.m.; Patty Peterson Presents Jazz Women All-Stars, 4 p.m.; Davina & the Vagabonds, 6 p.m.; Christian McBride, 8:30 p.m.
Fifth Street Stage in Mears Park—Salsa del Soul, 3 p.m.; New Lowdown Jazz Band, 5 p.m.; Maryann and the Money Makers, 7:30 p.m.
TPT Street Space, 172 E. Fourth St.—Aja Parham, 2 p.m.; Sarah M. Greer Quintet, 4 p.m.; Avant Garde Presents Nabaté Isles’ En Motion, 5:30 p.m.; Travis Anderson Trio, 7 p.m.; a Butch Thompson Tribute featuring Southside Aces and Jon Weber, 8:30 p.m.

* * *

For the complete, three-day Jazz Festival schedule and information on its clinics and master classes, visit the website twincitiesjazzfestival.com.

like and enjoy the music of Rachel Kurtz and Kelley Larson on June 21 and Jaedyn James on June 28. Youa Vang of Third Daughter, Restless Daughter will emcee the show.

Summer Nights in Rice, a series of free concerts, is being presented from 5-7 p.m. on Thursdays in downtown Saint Paul’s Rice Park. The schedule includes the hot jazz of the Twin Cities Latin Band on June 22. In case of rain, the concert will be moved inside Landmark Center. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

Dred I Dread, a reggae band from Minnea-

polis, will open the Minnesota History Center’s summer Bands on the Boulevard series on June 27 on the lawn at 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The free concerts will be presented from 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Bring a lawn chair. Food trucks, craft activities, lawn games and dancing will all be part of the fun beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Landmark Center’s Music on the Cortile series continues from noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays with the sythesized retro music of Lazerblade on June 28. Admission is free. Bring a bag lunch or purchase one from a food truck. Call 651-292-3063.

Film

Women Talking (2022, PG-13), in which the women of an isolated religious group struggle with reconciling a brutal reality of their faith, will be screened at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at the Minnesota JCC’s Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-698-0751.

Family

The Saint Paul Public Library will kick off its summer-long Spark programming with a party from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 17, in the Kellogg Boulevard Courtyard of the Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. An art exhibit, craft activities, live music and prizes will be featured. Admission is free. The puppet show *The Way of the Monarch* will be presented at 11 a.m. in the library.

Free Family Days with craft activities, photo opportunities and a 1 p.m. performance of *Tucker’s Robot* by Open Eye Puppet Theater will be held on June 17 and 18 in the courtyard at Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. The programming will run from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Visit mnhs.org/millcity or call 612-341-7555.

The professional **DanceCo** returns this summer with a series of free, interactive performances at 10 and 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays at various outdoor locations. Narrated by Paul Bunyan, the series includes shows on June 24 at Springboard for the Arts, 262 W. University Ave.; July 1 at Minnehaha Falls Park Pavilion, 4825 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis; and July 8 on Raspberry Island. The program includes a short children’s workshop on dance followed by a 45-minute show with opportunities to join the dancers on stage. Visit DanceCoMN.com.

Et cetera

The **Experience with Zippy Caplan** will take you back to the 1950s and ’60s with rock ’n’ roll and surf music from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 15, beside the historic Highland pool house, 1333 Montreal Ave. Sponsored by the Highland District Council, the concert will feature family-friendly activities and a food truck.

Party for the Parks, a benefit for the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at the Phalen Park picnic pavilion. Live music by the Johnny Brown Experience, ethnic food, adult beverages and a bouncy house will be featured. Admission is free. Meal tickets range from \$25-100. Visit saintpaulparksconservancy.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

SAVE OUR SONS will mark its more than 30 years of mentoring at-risk youths in the Saint Paul area with a fundraising celebration and potluck dinner from 5-6:30 p.m. at the home of Toni and Melvin Carter Jr., 405 N. Western Ave. Live music and other entertainment will be featured. For more information, call 651-335-0734 or visit saveoursonsmn.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

WORKSHOPS ON THE PERCUSSIVE music of Brazil will be conducted today by ethnomusicologist Colleen Hass, founder of the Women’s Drum Center. An Introduction to Brazilian Music will be taught from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. Playing Brazilian Music will follow from 1-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for one session, \$50 for both. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

THE NAACP’S SAINT PAUL CHAPTER will celebrate its 110th anniversary at a Freedom Fund Banquet from 6-9 p.m. at the Intercontinental Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. The evening will open with a social hour followed by dinner, a program and awards presentation. A panel discussion on the challenges facing youths today will also be featured. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com or call 651-235-0841.

KIOSK

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

A MARKET WITH FRESH vegetables, flowers, fruit and herbs grown by Hmong farmers is open from 8 a.m.-noon every Sunday through October 1 in the parking lot of Saint John the Evangelist Church, Summit Avenue and Kent Street.

MONDAY/JUNE 19

JUNETEENTH will be celebrated with live entertainment, food trucks and a job fair from noon-5 p.m. at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza, 820 Concordia Ave. Sponsored by the Rondo Center of Diverse Expressions, the event will feature a formal observance of the holiday and the hope for better days ahead from 3-4 p.m. Speakers, awards and a keynote address by Dr. Marvin Dunn of Florida International University will be included.

TUESDAY/JUNE 20

A FOUR-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE for motorists age 55 and older who would like to keep their automobile in-

surance discount current will be offered from 5-9 p.m. at the Global Arts Upper Campus, 810 Palace Ave. A certified instructor from the Minnesota Highway Safety Center will update participants in traffic safety, defensive driving, new laws and technology. The cost is \$24. For more information or to register, visit mnsafetycenter.org or call 1-888-234-1294.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23

THE LEXINGTON-HAMLIN Community Council is sponsoring a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave. To make an appointment for donating blood, platelets or plasma, visit tinyurl.com/hfcbpvwa.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

THE FEAST OF SAINT JOHN the Baptist as it was celebrated by the early French Canadian residents of this area will be marked from 3-8 p.m. at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. The free event will feature dancing, singing, refreshments, cultural demonstrations and a large bonfire. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and join in the fun. Registration is not required.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

STA back to state baseball tourney

When the Saint Thomas Academy baseball team lost three of its last four regular-season games, it would've been understandable to be concerned as the Section 3AAA playoffs began. However, STA coach Bobby Thompson wasn't part of that camp. "We intentionally scheduled some Class AAAA schools at the end of the regular season," he said. "We wanted our kids to get challenged to prepare for section play."

So, a 4-2 loss to Cretin-Derham Hall on May 22 and a 4-3 setback to Totino-Grace the next day were used by Thompson as learning tools. He merely told his troops that these were as good of competitors as the Cadets would see the rest of the way.

"The bats slowed down a bit," he admitted, "but we learned from the games. We had better approaches when the sections started."

And how.

Top-seeded STA scored in double digits in its first three section games, finishing with an 11-1 semifinal win over Two Rivers on June 1. That set up the Cadets for having a potential second game in their back pocket when they took on Holy Angels on June 6 for the section championship.

The Cadets knew what to expect. After all, they had 13 players back from last year's team that defeated Two Rivers twice in the section final to earn a trip to the state tournament. They had four or five players who had been on the 2021 team that finished third at state.

And they had 6-foot-6 Jac Wright on the mound against the Stars. "He's a very mature sophomore," Thompson said of Wright. That maturity got a quick test in the championship game when Holy Angels scored four runs off of just five batters in the top of the first inning.

"There was nothing special about it," Thompson said. "They just put a couple of hits together and we were suddenly in a hole."

Wright settled down after that and kept the hole from getting any deeper. Rex Fitzgerald's RBI single in the second inning gave the Cadets new life. Wright kept the Stars at bay and the game stayed at 4-1 until a lively seventh inning.

WRIGHT CALL ▶13

SPA boys repeat as state tennis champs

By Bill Wagner

Saint Paul Academy didn't mess around in winning its second straight Class A state boys' tennis team title on June 6-7 at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. The Spartans, who finished 17-3 overall, won their sixth title and fifth since 2004 by blanking Breck, Foley and Rochester Lourdes by 7-0 scores.

There were some pockets of competitiveness, such as at No. 1 singles in the championship match. SPA eighth-grader Zahir Hassan outlasted Rochester's Marjan Veldic 7-5, 3-6, 11-9 in a grueling battle.

The Spartans, whose regular rotation included three middle schoolers, have their entire starting lineup expected to return next season.

In the opener against Breck, SPA swept singles with Hassan at No. 1, seventh-grader Winston Arvidson at No. 2, junior David Schumaker at No. 3 and sophomore Aidan Williams at No. 4. Winning at doubles were juniors Leo Benson and Maik Nguyen at No. 1, juniors Jacob Colton and Baasit Mahmood at No. 2, and junior Ben Macedo and eighth-grader Isaak Senaratna at No. 3.

The only variation in the lineup was in the semifinals against Foley when freshman Allan Wang stepped in at No. 4 singles.

The only teams to defeat SPA during the regular season were Class AA powerhouses Eden Prairie, Blake and Edina.

Luke Elifson, who collected his second state title in just two seasons of coaching the Spartans, couldn't have been happier for his charges. He admitted to be a little concerned going into the first round. But those fears proved to be unfounded.

"This was a perfect storm of players coming to us at the right time," Elifson said. "It was a great run. Not only are we a team of talented players, but those players are indeed a team from top to bottom. Every player in our lineup has really taken to his role."



Top singles player Zahir Hassan, grade 8, and first doubles team Leo Benson and Maik Nguyen, both juniors, helped lead the way for the Spartans at state. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Elifson said his first-round jitters had to do with some uncertainty. "Our Nos. 2-4 singles players were playing in the first state matches of their careers, so you were bound to think there might be a nervousness factor," he said. "But we got it done."

He said the youngsters played like vets at every turn. "It doesn't matter as much about age as it does (poise)," Elifson said.

Schumaker had to fend off a good challenge at third singles against Breck in the opener, but prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 10-7. His ability to overcome the early deficit spoke well of SPA's team character, Elifson said.

The Spartans needed to keep at it after the first-round rout of Breck. "I knew (Foley) would be ready," Elifson

said. "It was looking for a chance to upset us."

When asked who he would cite as the team's most valuable player, Elifson didn't hesitate. He named Mahmood, one of the team captains. "He made some great strides in the off-season," Elifson said. "He made a lot of progress in his game."

In the state individual tournament, Benson/Nguyen were first in doubles and Hassan took third in singles.

The Spartans got off on the right foot this spring with a six-game winning streak before suffering their first loss—against Blake. SPA also made a shambles out of its conference as it was never really challenged. The team logged four shutouts during the regular season.

CDH wins the bronze in state softball

By Bill Wagner

The Cretin-Derham Hall softball team got off to a rocky start to the season when it lost its first three games, including the opener by 18 runs. But then it embarked on a six-game winning streak that set the tone for the season and helped propel the Raiders to the Class AAA state tournament on June 8-9.

Once there, CDH outlasted Becker 1-0 in the first round, loss a tough 7-6 game in 10 innings to eventual champ Mankato East, and then shut out Delano 4-0 to finish third.

The loss to the top-ranked Cougars in the semifinals deprived the fifth-seeded Raiders of a chance for a true Cinderella story. However, CDH (18-9 overall) was more than happy with the way its season ended, especially after the slow start.

"Overall it's been a very good season. We were trying to pretty much

figure out our lineup early on, but you could see us coming together the more games that we played," said CDH coach Carolyn Osboda, who was an assistant at Mankato East prior to leading the Raiders.

Osboda said the 0-3 start of the season was not so much a product of how CDH played, but when it faced certain teams. "We started out with the three best teams in our conference," she said in a salute to the rugged Suburban East. Osboda pointed to a 6-4 victory over league-leading Stillwater on May 1 as a real turning point in the season.

The Raiders may have been down after the loss at state to Mankato East, but they regrouped the next day to blank second-seeded Delano. Sophomore pitcher Brooke Nesdahl, who hurled every inning at state for CDH, allowed only two hits while striking out five. "She was in command all the way," Osboda said about Nesdahl.

CDH got more than enough offense in the third-place game. Senior Sophie Black pounded a two-run homer and Nesdahl added another round-tripper. Senior Catie Gaertner added a hit for an RBI.

"It was great to end the season with a win," Osboda said. "Not many teams get to do that."

The Raiders opened the tournament with a hard-fought 1-0 triumph over fourth-seeded Becker that once again found Nesdahl at the forefront. She allowed just two hits, struck out 12 and walked only one batter over the seven innings.

The Raiders didn't do much offensively, but they didn't have to. Seventh-grader Maddie Mulcahy scored the only run of the game in the fifth inning on a Becker error. Nesdahl then took to the mound and locked things up.



Sophomore pitcher Brooke Nesdahl warmed up her arm as the CDH softball team got in a practice before state. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

CDH SOFTBALL ▶13

12◄ WRIGHT CALL

It started ominously when the Stars added a run to make it 5-1. When it was his team’s turn at the plate, Thompson didn’t offer a pep talk to inspire the troops. “Even when we were behind all game, the bench stayed up and alert,” he said. “They had confidence in their ability to rally.”

As the Stars had done to start the game, the Cadets rattled off five hits that were good for four runs to tie the score at 5-5. Up stepped junior Maximus Sims, the No. 9 batter who Thompson likened to a leadoff hitter for his propensity to get on base. Sims did just that, rapping a single to right field to plate the winning run and send the Cadets (18-6) to their third straight state tournament.

STA was scheduled to return to action at Jordan on June 13 for the state Class AAA quarterfinals. The semifinals were the next day, with the championship games in all four classes moving to CHS Field on June 16. Until then, the Cadets had to do some improvising.

“A week off is a long time,” Thompson said. “We’ll figure out something to do to stay sharp.”

Locals teams excel at state track meet

Thanks in part to a first-place finish in the 4x100-

meter relay, the Minnehaha Academy girls finished in second place with 49 points, trailing only Eden-Valley Watkins, in the Class A state track and field meet on June 8-10 in Saint Michael. The winning relay included senior Cadence Tanner, seventh-grader Aaleyha Gulyard, and sophomores Ima Jones and Grazina Troup.

Tanner was third in the long jump and eighth in the high jump. Troup was fourth in the triple jump and Jones was eight in the 100. Minnehaha earned a fifth-place effort from senior Halle Whitman in the 1600 and sixth in the 3200.

The 4x400 relay took fifth with junior Tennyson Shultz, Gulyard, sophomore Leah DiNardo and senior Molly DiNardo. The 4x800 relay also ran fifth with Shultz, junior Hailey Siwek, senior Margo Charpentier and Molly DiNardo.

The Redhawks came in 11th overall in the state boys’ competition, edging out Nova Classical Academy by one point. Minnehaha’s 4x800 team was a close second, just two ticks behind Saint John’s Prep. The Redhawk relay included seniors Lima Laddusaw and Luke Seuntjens, junior Finn Christiansen and sophomore Makai Bates.

Junior Zarion Irby was the top individual finisher for the Redhawks, placing fifth in the 300 hurdles. Nova’s Henry Peklo had a productive day, coming in seventh in

the 200 and eighth in the 100.

It was a weekend to remember for Central junior Harlow Tong. The speedster zipped to victory in the 400 with a time of 47.90 seconds. He placed second in the 100 in 10.49 seconds, a mere .02 off the lead. Tong capped the day with a ninth-place showing in the 200. As a team, Central tied for 11th place with 29 points. The Central girls were 34th with seven points.

Saint Thomas Academy’s relay teams led the way to a 12th-place standing at the Class AA state boys’ meet. The 4x100 tandem was a close second, while the 4x200 group came in fifth and the 4x400 quartet was seventh. Senior Michael Thompson was the top individual finisher for the Cadets with a solid third-place effort in the 300 hurdles. He clocked in at 39.04 seconds, a mere .08 off the lead.

Highland Park senior Delia Johnson was less than a second out of the top spot in the AA state girls’ 300, coming in second in 2:13.96. Sophomore teammate Ellie Moore was fifth in the 400. The Scots finished in 20th place with 15 points, six spots ahead of Saint Paul Academy, which totaled a dozen points. Spartan freshman Elizabeth Tuttle took sixth place in the 100 hurdles.

Dave Wright can be reached at dwright53@msn.com

12◄ CDH SOFTBALL

The semifinal round was a real heart-breaker for CDH as it tried to topple the tourney’s top seed. The Raiders got off to a 2-0 lead, but Mankato East charged ahead before the game reached extra frames.

CDH, normally a pretty sound defensive team, hurt itself with five errors that helped lead to four unearned runs for Mankato East. The last of those came in the

top of the 10th as the Cougars went up 7-6. The Raiders got two runners on base in the bottom of the 10th, but couldn’t score the equalizer.

“Once it got later in the game, it was probably going to come down to who made that last error,” Osboda said. “I was very pleased with our performance against a top team.”

Nesdahl pitched all the way again, striking out eight and allowing only nine hits

with no walks against Mankato East. She also went three-for-six at the plate with an RBI.

Freshman shortstop Allie Castro went three-for-five against the Cougars, while first baseman Black hit a homer and drove in two runs. Sophomore catcher Hannah Yaeger went two-for-six. The Raiders left 13 runners on base in the game.

“What more can you say about Brooke except that she was phenomenal,”

Osboda said.

Both Nesdahl and Black were named to the all-tournament team. Osboda expressed disappointment that center fielder Sammy Haider, who made some great plays in the outfield, did not get chosen.

Osboda said she was looking forward to next season. Though the team will miss Black, it will have some talented returnees. “We have some good young players,” she said.

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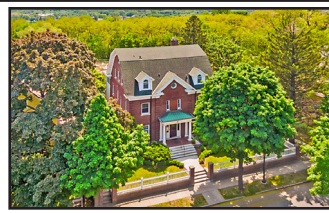
961 OAKDALE AVE
Lovely sunny West St Paul home on spacious corner lot. Lots of space with 3 finished levels, NEW roof, new bathroom, lower level finished area. GREAT back yard! There's even space for gardens and chickens too! GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com

SUE JOHNSON CRS, GRI
651-329-1264



FREE HOME SELLER SEMINAR!
Is now the time to be selling your home? Attend a one hour seminar. No obligation or pressure! Tuesday, June 20 from 6-7pm and Saturday, June 24 from 9-10am. Call or email for more information. GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com

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MASTERPIECE HOME ON THE BLUFF!
This spectacular 6-Bedroom, 6-Bath brick beauty will entice you with 3 fireplaces, gorgeous hardwood, sparkling sunroom. Formal dining + breakfast room. Owner's suite, terrace, 2-car, sport court! 772 Linwood Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS
651-270-1667



STATELY FOUR PLEX, GREAT LOCATION!
Exceptionally spacious 4-plex, each unit features 2-Bedrooms, living room, eat-in kitchen. Hardwood floors, bright windows, storage lockers plus shared laundry. On the busline, near schools, parks! 473 Howell Street South. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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ANITA C. HILL
651-707-6408



ROBBIE GROSSMAN
651-434-7887



PETER DONOVAN
651-336-8050



TOM & MIKE DISTAD
612-275-1343



MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



JIM BURTON
651-690-8556



KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245

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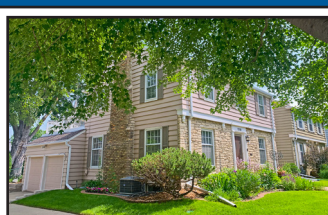
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593 SARATOGA - \$449,900!
And is an absolutely stunning and stately French Country Tudor inspired 2BR, 2 new BAs, remodeled kitchen & complete lower level w/high end appointments & lovely professional landscaping, fence, patio & walk ways. Just beautiful.

LOLLY SALMEN
612-810-4238
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



CLASSIC COLONIAL - HEART OF HIGHLAND!
3BR, 2BA beauty-completely updated & meticulously maintained by same owners for 43 years. You will find all new sun-drenched custom designed open-concept kitchen w/state-of-the-art decor, main floor sun room & rare 2 car attached gar. Landscaped corner lot - It's all here & just beautiful!! Call Lolly Salmen.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$549,900



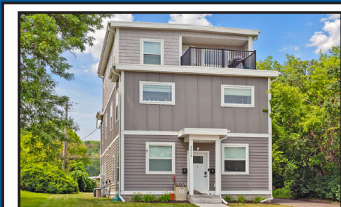
CHARMING HIGHLAND PARK BUNGALOW!
Fantastic space in Highland Park! Nearly 2,500 finished sq ft with 3+BRs & 2BAs. Stunning hardwood floors, main floor sun room & family room, plus open living spaces. Wonderful back deck + patio area, and 1.5 car garage. Come add your touches! 1651 Hartford Ave. claire.distad@cbrealty.com

CLAIRE BISANZ DISTAD
651-307-7260 • \$359,900



ONE-OF-A-KIND FIND IN CROCUS HILL!
This Dutch Colonial-style home features hardwood floors throughout, 4 bedroom, 4 baths, 4 car garage, tons of built-ins, on generous lot with incredible landscaping. 874 Fairmount Avenue.

PAULA GLEESON
MARY SCHOLLER
651-329-0069
\$895,000



2219 YOUNGMAN AVENUE, SAINT PAUL!
Do you have some older rental properties with different maintenance and lower rents? Great opportunity to maximize your depreciation and minimize your maintenance! Gorgeous newer construction duplex with 4 BRs & 3BAs per side in bustling Highland Park. New Duplex Listing!

MIKE DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$725,000



1965 ASHLAND AVENUE, SAINT PAUL
Timeless two story home in top tier Merriam Park neighborhood, this home sits in an idyllic location just blocks from Summit Ave, restaurants, and miles of some of the nation's best trails & parks. Don't miss the 3BR on one level, the main floor office, main floor laundry, & oversized yard with a 2 car garage. This is a must see!!

MIKE DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$419,900



COMING SOON!!!
1890 Highland Pkwy: Immaculate 3 bedroom 3 bath featuring attractive hardwood floors, updated kitchen, main floor family room, king sized bedrooms, and completely renovated lower level.

JIM BURTON
612-723-7653 • \$665,000



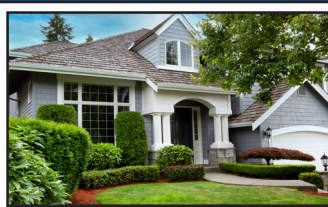
745 GRAND AVE #605
Rarely available top floor condo! Enjoy this 2 BR/2BA light filled SW corner unit overlooking Grand Ave. Features include C/A, cedar closets, wood-burning FP, in-unit laundry, private balcony, elevator, secured building, storage unit, underground heated parking, & pet friendly. www.nancykmaas.com

NANCY K MAAS
651-235-8581



NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MAC GROVELAND!
Gorgeous new construction w/all the walkable amenities of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. 5BR/5BAs, over 4,000 sq ft of timeless luxury & beautiful finishes. 1524 Lincoln Ave. www.wahlbergttoohey.com

MICHAELA TOOHEY
PHILIP WAHLBERG
651-336-2410
\$1,445,000



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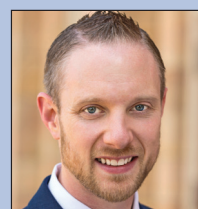
160 WOODLAWN AVE
Remarkable Brick & Stone Mediterranean Manor in Kings Maplewood. Less than 2 blocks to the Mississippi. Award-winning Vujovich Design-Build full home renovation. Lives for todays modern living. 5BR, 5BA, 3GA. 5500+ sq feet. Gorgeous.

TJ PIERRET
651-755-6669 • \$2.1 M



2118 HIGHLAND PARKWAY
Charming one level Mid-Century Bungalow. 3BR, 1BA. HW floors. Galley kitchen. Hi end appliances. Architect designed kitchen expansion. Sunroom. New Marvin Windows. New HVAC. Gracious patio/pergola. Stunning gardens. Corner lot. Attached garage.

TJ PIERRET
651-755-6669 • \$499K



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BRIAN WAGNER, M.ED.
651-497-4387



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