

Commission limits special request for old Burger King lot

By Jane McClure

A new dental office can replace the long-vacant Burger King building at 1600 W. Seventh St., but with 46 off-street parking spaces instead of the 54 requested as the result of a decision on a conditional use permit by the Saint Paul Planning Commission on June 23.

Dr. Ben Thomas wants to demolish the fast-food restaurant, build a new dental office and move his practice there from 1150 Montreal Ave., just off West Seventh. He is proposing to build a two-story, 7,818-square-foot office with an attached one-story, 1,7440-square-foot commercial space for a tenant still to be named.

Thomas has 25 employees and sees an estimated 10-12 patients per hour. He said he has been trying for several years to acquire the site, which has been tied up in a federal bankruptcy case. He hopes to close on the purchase of the property in July.

Because of the city's ongoing efforts to limit off-street parking in new developments, Thomas must secure a conditional use permit to add more parking than what is allowed. The city's zoning code allows a maximum of 36 surface parking spaces at the site, while Thomas is requesting 54. He said his current 44-space parking lot is always full.

BURGER KING LOT ▶2



Summer Spark spreads its wings.

Laurie Witzkowski presented the puppet show "The Way of the Monarch" at the Latimer Library in downtown on June 17 as part of the Saint Paul Public Library's kickoff to its Summer Spark learning and reading program for young kids and teens. At right, Nicole and Jeanna Link enjoy the show with daughter Hazel, 5.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



City is struggling with the cost of repairing historic Walnut St. Steps

By Jane McClure

Add the Walnut Street Steps to the long list of public rights-of-way in Saint Paul in need of repair but with limited funds to pay for it. The 170-step stairway between Summit and Pleasant avenues has been closed since October 2020 following the collapse of a brick wall that abuts the steps. If and when the stairway can be reopened drew more than two dozen people to a June 13 meeting in City Hall. City officials are calling for a broad public effort to repair or replace the largest of more than 60 public stairways maintained by the city.

"Everyone is here because they think this site is really important," said Sean Kershaw, director of Saint Paul's Department of Public Works. He described the steps as a "unique community asset" that people have used for many years to traverse the bluff between Summit Avenue and the West End neighborhood.

Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker, the Summit Hill Association, the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, the historic preservation foundation Rethos and the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy are all involved in the effort.

The stairway was built in 1908 by railroad magnate James J. Hill on a portion of the then-

WALNUT STREET STEPS ▶3

Competitive swimming is lifelong passion for two local boomers

By Carolyn Walkup

Swimming is much more than an enjoyable hobby for Summit Hill neighbors John Reinartz and Robert King. For the two 59-year-olds, it is an integral part of their daily lives.

Lifelong swimmers, Reinartz and King met 25 years ago when they joined the Masters Swimming club at Macalester College, part of the U.S. Masters Swimming organization. They both excelled at the sport and became friendly competitors.

Reinartz learned to swim as a preschooler at the University Club, when his father was a lifeguard there. He and his older brother, TJ, went on to join the swim team

at Cretin-Derham Hall. They later learned that their maternal grandfather also swam for the Raiders. "It must be in the blood," Reinartz said.

King began serious swimming at age 15 on the swim team at Johnson Senior High School. He then swam with the Minnesota Swim Club while enrolled at the University of Minnesota.

A highlight of his younger years was swimming the 18-mile length of Lake Washington in Seattle. His favorite coach and mentor during his Seattle years between 1987-94 was Dan Tripps, who was the head coach at Seattle University. Coincidentally, Tripps' son Scott now coaches both King and Reinartz.

Both athletes have placed high in state swimming events, with Reinartz ranking in the top 10 for 1-mile races. King finished third last year out of some 700 racers in a 2.1-mile race in Lake Superior.

Usually competing against swimmers half their age, the two swim in a variety of races in local lakes, including 5-mile marathons in Lake Minnetonka. They especially like swimming in Lake Harriet in Minneapolis because no motor boats are allowed.

Their almost daily swimming routines begin about 6 a.m. before they go to work—Reinartz as a pathologist and King as a construction engineer. They regularly swim in the Macalester pool for 1½ hours and some days in Lake Harriet.

King has installed a shower in his truck for rinsing off after lake swims before going to work. During the COVID outbreak when indoor pools were closed, they swam only in lakes.

In addition to the physical fitness benefits of group swimming, there is a social component. "We go out for coffee afterward and have happy hours and parties," King said.

Their Masters Swimming coach, Wilson Josephson, said King's and Reinartz's enthusiastic yet competitive attitude sets a good example for the whole group.

"It's hard to do that kind of exercise by

MASTERS SWIMMING ▶2

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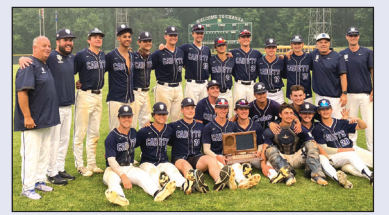
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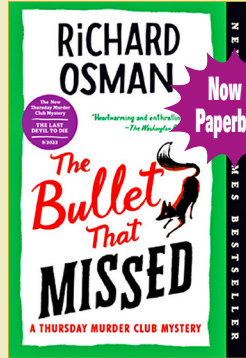
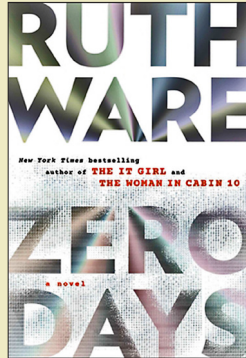
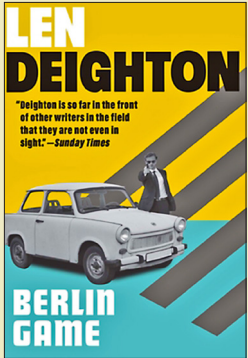
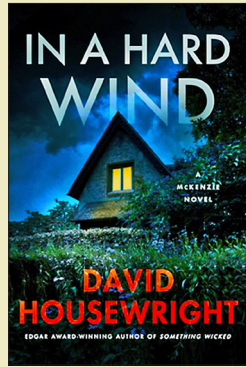
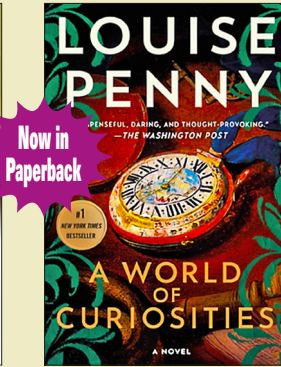
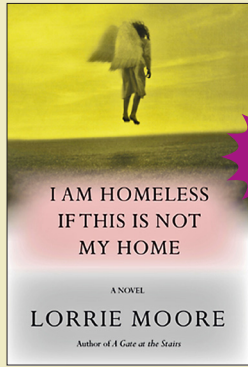
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John Reinartz and Robert King come ashore after a 2-mile swim on a local lake. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ MASTERS SWIMMING

yourself and not give up,” Josephson said.

Masters Swimming at Macalester is open to adults and currently has around 90 members ranging in age from their 20s to 70s. While there are no qualifying tests, a certain level of skill is expected. Although Macalester plans to open a second section in July, Josephson expects the long waiting list of some 70 potential members to remain. Some swimmers have been waiting as long as seven years for an opening.

A leading researcher on the health benefits of swimming, professor Hirofumi Tanaka of the University of Texas has found that almost anyone can continue to swim as they get age, even those with osteoarthritis.

Swimming is also the best exercise for upper body muscle development when compared to biking or running, which work only the lower body. That is according to David Tanner, research associate at Indiana University and co-editor of an educational handbook on the science of swimming. Studies have shown that swimming is also good for your back because it counteracts all of the time spent at a desk.

1◀ BURGER KING LOT

On-street parking in that area is limited due to parking restrictions and spillover parking from Victoria Park and the nearby Crosby Lake Business Center. The site has limited shared parking options, Thomas said, and it sits on bedrock, which rules out below-grade parking.

Senior city planner Anton Jerve recommended approval of the permit for 54 parking spaces. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation did not take a position on the permit request, and no one else from the neighborhood testified on the request.

After much debate on June 16, the Planning Commission’s Zoning Committee recommended allowing 46 spaces on a split vote. Some commissioners said Thomas made the case for more parking, while others said the request is inconsistent with the city’s plans for that area.

The Zoning Committee considered several issues in amending the maximum parking allowed. One was the proposed Riverview Corridor transit line. The city is currently working on station area plans. The closest potential station to the new dental office would be at Otto Avenue.



Robert King takes delight in sharing his makeshift shower with Masters Swimming cohorts, including John Reinartz rinsing off in a parking lot after paddling around a local lake.

Both Reinartz and King used to be runners and participants in triathlons. However, they gave up running because they found swimming to be more fun, as well as easier on their knees. Reinartz knew someone who was badly injured while running in a triathlon. Conversely, he knows a competitive swimmer who is 100 years old.

“We have to be more careful about stretching the older we get,” King said.

Reinartz foresees his long-distance speeds slowing down as he ages, but he intends to keep right on swimming. “We’ll enjoy it while we can,” he said.

Planning Commission chair Luis Rangel Morales said the commission needs to get serious about limiting off-street parking. He said the dental office application is the third in two months to seek more parking than the zoning code allows.

“This is contrary to the vision we’ve been working toward,” Rangel Morales said.

Commissioner Nate Hood questioned statements that the site is considered walkable, given its narrow sidewalks and proximity to I-35E access ramps. While noting that the added parking is not ideal, Hood said, “I’m comfortable with this as a way to improve the site.”

The property has been zoned for commercial use since 1922. In 1965 city officials issued a special use permit for a gas station there. A conditional use permit was issued in 1980 for a fast-food restaurant.

Burger King occupied the site for many years, but it was among the nine Burger Kings in the Twin Cities that were closed abruptly in 2018 by a Chicago-based company that had filed for bankruptcy. The vacant restaurant’s deteriorated condition has been a long-standing concern for the city, which has issued various orders in the past for cleaning up the site.

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14 WALNUT STREET STEPS

undeveloped Walnut Street right-of-way between his house at 240 Summit Ave. and his son Louis' house at 260 Summit Ave. Hill paid for the construction of a 680-foot-long stairway. In return, the city vacated the right-of-way, gave it to Hill, and was granted an easement to the 15 feet of right-of-way eventually occupied by the steps.

The steps originally extended to a section of Pleasant Avenue that was later vacated to make way for I-35E. About 50 percent of the stairway was removed. That section of the stairway was rebuilt, and it now leads to a pedestrian bridge over I-35E.

The city debate over the steps' future began almost 20 years ago after a portion of the brick wall between the steps and 260 Summit Ave. gave way. In 2012 the city's Department of Safety and Inspections ordered the Nicholson family, owners of 260 Summit, to repair the wall. The City Attorney's Office later negotiated an agreement with the family: The city would take ownership of the stairway if the Nicholsons made a one-time payment toward its upkeep.

"When the city acquired the steps, we agreed to make repairs," said Glenn Pagel, manager of Public Works' bridge division.

The brick wall was showing signs of failure at the time with bulging, displaced and missing bricks and a significant loss of mortar. In 2013 the city filled in the missing bricks and mor-



The Walnut Street Steps descend the bluff from Summit Avenue to the area around United Hospital on the West End. The stairway passes between the historic James J. Hill House (left) and the former home of Louis Hill (right). PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

tar. However, in July 2020 the sections of wall that had been repaired by the city collapsed. Other parts of the wall fell brick by brick due to crumbling mortar. The steps were then closed to the public.

Gar Hargens, an architect and former chair of Saint Paul's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), worked with the Nicholson family on repairs to their property adjacent to the stairway. He called the Walnut Street Steps a "major unique structure." Re-

habilitating them is something for which the city should have planned, he said.

The city had budgeted \$2.5 million for the stairway in its five-year Public Works plan, but that money was ultimately used to fund other needs. The city has been unable to identify another funding source to repair or replace the steps.

The oldest section of the stairway is near the top with the brick wall on the south side and a sandstone wall on the north side. The

brick wall and the steps themselves are in poor condition, according to Pagel. "There's nothing left of the (brick) wall," he said. "It's not repairable."

According to Pagel, only 20 percent of the stairway retains its historical appearance. Another 20 percent of the original stairway system has been modified. Erosion and settlement under the stairway slabs and treads has caused numerous stones to break. The damage and displacement have made the stairway unsafe.

One of the city's options is to vacate the stairway and sell the property to the Nicholsons or the Minnesota Historical Society, which owns the J.J. Hill House at 240 Summit. Another option is to remove the brick wall and stairway and stabilize the property for future stairway construction. That would cost from \$1.5-\$3 million.

Removing the brick wall and stairway and replacing them with a new stairway could take two forms. Reconstructing the stairway with historical materials would cost from \$7-\$9 million. Replacing the stairway with a prefabricated metal system would cost from \$5-\$6 million.

Reconstructing the stairway could be challenging, Pagel said. The work site is narrow, and portions of the walls and stairway are integral to adjacent private structures that must be protected and stabilized. The bluff itself would have to be stabilized, and temporary easements would be required during construction.

City officials have questioned how much use a reconstructed stairway would get. Local residents say they have missed the stairway. It provides a relatively convenient shortcut for getting up and down the bluff, they say, and makes for good exercise.

Funding for the project could come through the city's Capital Improvement Budget, private fundraising or the Minnesota Legislature. Any reconstruction would also require the approval of the HPC as the site is in the Historic Hill District.

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St. Paul readies referendum on raising the city's sales tax to just under 10%

By Jane McClure

It appears Saint Paul voters will have the final say on whether their city will impose the highest sales tax in the state. The Saint Paul City Council voted 6-1 on June 21 to direct city staff to prepare the ballot language for a November 7 referendum on a proposed 1 percent increase in the local option sales tax.

If a majority of voters approve, the extra penny on every \$1.00 of the purchase price of taxable goods and services is expected to raise as much as \$1 billion for the city over 20 years. The money would be used to repay the bonds that fund the capital maintenance of streets and bridges, the reconstruction of streets, and the maintenance of park facilities across the city.

This spring the Minnesota Legislature voted to permit Saint Paul to hold a referendum on the local sales tax increase. Under state law, the city has two years in

which to put the measure on the ballot.

Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Public Works director Sean Kershaw have touted the sales tax increase as a way to fund the reconstruction and regular rehabilitation of arterial and collector streets across the city.

According to Parks and Recreation director Andy Rodriguez, the sales tax could help his department deal with a \$100 million backlog in deferred park maintenance. The sales tax would also support the building of an East Side recreation and aquatics center and the renovation of a Rice Street athletics facility into a multi-field complex that could host large sporting events.

The sales tax in Saint Paul is currently 7.875 percent. That includes the statewide sales tax of 6.875 percent, Ramsey County's 0.5 percent sales and use tax for transit, and Saint Paul's 0.5 percent Sales Tax Revitalization program. This spring the Minnesota Legislature approved a 1 per-

cent sales tax increase in the metropolitan area to help pay for affordable housing and transportation projects.

The additional 1 percent increase for streets and parks in Saint Paul would raise the sales tax in the city to 9.875 percent, or close to 10 cents on every \$1.00 of the purchase price of all taxable goods and services. (Most clothing, food and medications are exempt from the sales tax.)

Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince cast the sole vote against holding the sales tax referendum. Prince said she supports the sales tax for street projects. However, she said, she struggles with building new park facilities that are likely to add to the city's backlog in park maintenance. "We have ample street maintenance issues all over our city," Prince said. "We've done a really good job in the city of finding funding for capital improvements, but we've done a terrible job of maintaining things once they're built."

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the sales tax increase. The chamber fears the increase will hurt businesses as they struggle to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under state law, the City Council must approve the ballot language for the referendum at least 90 days before the general election. The state requires that sales tax ballot questions specify the projects eligible for funding separately. Saint Paul has a long list of street and park projects, and how that will appear on the ballot remains to be seen.

If voters approve the sales tax increase, the City Council would have to pass another ordinance imposing the increase. The city would then have to file the ordinance with the Secretary of State's office and notify the state Department of Revenue at least 90 days before the sales tax increase takes effect.

City releases EAW on demolition of historic library as opponents sue to save building

By Jane McClure

Renovate 1558, the group that wants to save the historic Hamline Midway Library, filed suit on June 2 in Ramsey County District Court against the city of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Public Library to obtain a temporary restraining order and block the demolition of the 93-year-old library building. The group takes its name from the library's address at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. The city closed the library in late May with plans to tear it down this fall. A new 10,454-square-foot library would be built in its place.

The plan to replace the building with a new \$8.1 million library has caused a deep

split in the neighborhood. Some want a new library built at the site while others want the current library renovated on the site or the building preserved and a new library built at the Hancock Recreation Center or another nearby site.

"Taking legal action is a step we have sought to avoid throughout the two-year fight to save the historic Henry Hale Memorial Library," Renovate 1558 stated. "But the city's blatant disregard for the environmental review process and clear intent to demolish the library building as soon as possible left us with no other options."

The group noted that the Saint Paul Public Library is proposing to renovate both the Riverview and Hayden Heights branch

libraries. Renovate 1558 members claim that renovation is the clear preference of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

Proponents of a new Hamline Midway library contend that it would be more accessible and provide more usable space on one level. The city responded to the lawsuit by referring to the "vocal" community support for the new library.

Earlier this year, the Hamline Midway Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. While that does not prevent demolition, it does add additional steps for those wanting to demolish the structure.

The plaintiffs maintained that the city had not completed an environmental as-

essment worksheet (EAW) for the library site. Demolishing the building without an EAW and public review process is a violation of state law.

However, city officials announced on June 20 that the EAW process was underway. The completed document is now available on the city's website at stpaul.gov/HamlineMidwayEAW. Public comments on the EAW are being accepted until 4 p.m. on July 20. They may be sent to Josh Williams, Principal Planner, 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., Saint Paul, MN 55102, or emailed to HamlineMidwayLibrary_EAW@ci.stpaul.mn.us.



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Roads scholar

Swanson tells of the lessons learned in two years of cycling around world

By Anne Murphy

When Adam Swanson enrolls at the University of Minnesota this fall, he will have 20,700 miles and 680 days to his credit. The Ma-calester-Groveland resident graduated from Central High School in 2021 and set out on a two-year bicycle trip around the world. Now back at home, Swanson is resting his legs and reflecting on all that he learned about himself and the world in the course of his travels.

Swanson, 19, jotted down some of those lessons earlier this month during stops on the last leg of his journey to Saint Paul. “Now that I’ve had a few days at home,” he said, “I’m beginning to see with more clarity the different aspects of myself that I can compare to the people and places of my childhood.”

Swanson’s final days on the road were marked by a sense of accomplishment and the excitement of being back in familiar surroundings. His exuberance brought him home a day early. His parents Matt and Renee and sister Clare Swanson were not there when he arrived, so he showed up unannounced at the Merriam Park home of his grandparents, Bill and Karen Swanson.

“It was exciting,” he said. “Then I biked home, and my family was waiting for me in the driveway.”

Long bicycle trips have been a frequent diversion for the Swanson family. Just before the pandemic, they spent two sum-

mers biking across the United States. While growing up, Adam organized bicycle trips with his friends. It was during high school that he started thinking about a round-the-world tour.

The first year of his tour took him through the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. From there, he flew to Thailand. But when he tried to cross into Cambodia, he found the border closed due to COVID. So he flew to India and biked across the subcontinent.

During the first few months of his travels, Swanson was accompanied by his high school friend, Henry Phillips. His dad joined him for a couple of weeks bicycling across India.

Over the last year, Swanson said, “I crossed through Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Chile and Argentina. I ended by biking across the U.S. from Los Angeles.

“I spent a month cycling 1,000 miles across Turkey, riding from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean,” Swanson said. He started in the mountains and tea regions of that country, rolled into the high deserts and around volcanoes, then down to the sea. “What made Turkey so special were the generous, curious people,” Swanson said. “Every day I was held up by Turkish locals insisting on inviting me into their homes for tea, a meal and to chat.”

In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, he cycled along the ancient Silk Road, visiting fortress cities, caravan stops and bazaars that



Adam Swanson rides north on Carretera Austral through the Patagonia region of Chile.

have been in operation for thousands of years. He heard stories about what life was like during the Soviet era. “Since the fall of the Soviet Union was only 32 years ago, I was able to talk to people who had experienced it first-hand,” he said. “I saw relics of those days, such as old Soviet pins and medallions, being sold in the street for a few cents.”

Swanson spent four months biking along the roads and hiking up into the mountains of Patagonia at the southern tip of South America. “For the first time in two years, I was able to speak the same language as the locals—Spanish,” he said. “That opened up many opportunities to make friends with the locals. It made me feel at home to be able to freely communicate.”

Perhaps the most memorable leg of the journey was the hike from Argentina into Chile, he said. The mountainous trail led to the top of a glacier where he stood beside a 6,487-square-mile sheet of ice that twisted up into the mountains from the Pacific Ocean. The glacier “is so big that it engulfs some mountains and makes them look like little hills coming out of the ice,” he said.

The lessons Swanson took from his trip would fill more than a notebook, he said. “When I was growing up, I was always nervous about social interactions,” he said. “My teachers would tell my parents that I needed to talk more in class. Overall, I’m very comfortable now and I owe that to my solo traveling. I’ve learned that the best moments in life come when you don’t expect them, and to always take advantage of opportunities that present themselves because they may end up being some of your best memories.

“I’ve learned that I don’t really need many material objects to be happy,” Swan-

son said. “I’ve lived the last two years of my life content with only four small bags of necessities. I found happiness being out on my bike in the middle of nowhere admiring the mountains and making spaghetti over a camp stove. That’s bliss for me.

“I’ve learned the importance of valuing the resources you have,” he said. “After seeing so many people who live with next to nothing, I understand how lucky I am to have been born into a household in Minnesota having water, food, shade and shelter all easily accessible.

“I’ve learned how to read people,” Swanson said. “I’ve learned the importance of having faith in my fellow humans, that hitchhikers aren’t scary, and that goals are achievable with hard work and determination. You just have to have confidence and believe in yourself. So many people thought I’d be home in less than a year, and even I wasn’t fully sure. But sure enough, with commitment, I completed my trip, and I’ll forever be grateful for my persistence.”

As Swanson prepares to pursue a degree in Sustainable Systems Management at the U of M, he thinks a lot about the lessons he learned on the road as he adjusts to life back in Minnesota. “I’m finding myself having to get used to all of these resources constantly available, like going to the sink for water instead of climbing down into a river valley to fill my water bottles. It all just feels too easy and a little uncomfortable.”

Swanson is planning a public presentation about his trip. As of press time, the date and location had yet to be determined, but it will be held in July or August. For more information, visit his Instagram at [acrosstheworldbybike](https://www.instagram.com/acrosstheworldbybike).



Adam Swanson poses with a Kyrgyz family. The nomads of Central Asia had invited him into their yurt.

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City Council questions whether rent control is working for tenants

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul City Council voted earlier this month to deny the appeals of five tenants whose landlords are seeking rent increases above the maximum of 3 percent set by the city's new rent control ordinance. The failure of the appeals had tenants and some members of the City Council questioning the effectiveness of the ordinance. City Council members said they would like to revisit the exemptions to the rent control ordinance and determine if changes are warranted.

"The unfortunate reality is that the rent stabilization we passed last year doesn't do enough to protect tenants," said Ward 1 City Council member Russel Balenger.

Four of the tenants' appeals heard on June 14 concerned a single Summit-University apartment building. A fifth appeal on June 21 was for a building in Merriam Park. While Balenger and other City

Council members said the rent increases in these cases were legally justified under city process, they would still like to review the application and appeal process for rent increases above 3 percent.

In a citywide referendum in November 2021, Saint Paul voters approved one of the most stringent rent control measures in the U.S., placing a maximum 3 percent cap on annual rent increases. A city task force in 2022 recommended numerous changes to the rent control ordinance, including a wide range of exemptions to the cap.

The City Council approved an exemption for new construction and apartment buildings of up to 20 years old and an exemption for affordable housing. The council also approved application and appeal processes for both landlords and tenants.

Landlords can apply for increases above the 3 percent cap under certain circumstances if they are needed to realize a reasonable return on their investment. Ten-

ants can appeal if they think an increase is too much.

The appeals on June 14 and 21 were for rent increases of between 3 and 8 percent that the city allows landlords to self-certify when their expenses are unusually high. The landlords must submit an application to the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) and provide documentation to justify the rent increase. Reasons for a higher increase can include property tax increases and capital improvements to the property.

Landlords and tenants can appeal DSI's decision. Landlords also have to notify tenants before they seek increases above 3 percent, and they have to wait 45 days before implementing approved increases.

The four appeals heard on June 14 were made by tenants of the 91-unit Blair Apartments at 400 Selby Ave. Tenants Jamele Watkins, Christine Hackney, Levi Indvik and Erica Mumm objected to the 8 per-

cent rent increase sought by their landlord, Selby Realty LLC. They told the City Council of the financial hardship the higher rent increase would create.

At a legislative hearing, representatives of Selby Realty LLC said it planned to implement varying rent increases of up to 8 percent depending on the condition of a unit. They cited a 13 percent property tax increase as well as increased operating expenses in seeking more rent.

The appeal on June 21 was made by Gaius Poehler, a tenant at 476 Herschel St. Poehler's landlord, Housing Hub, is seeking varying increases of up to 8 percent for the 16 units to cover an increase in operating costs. Poehler, who has lived in his apartment for more than 20 years, complained about ongoing maintenance issues in his appeal. City staff recommended approval of the increase, a decision with which the City Council agreed.

Plan for Bohland median takes a turn as part of Fairview resurfacing

By Jane McClure

A controversial project to resurface Fairview Avenue between Randolph Avenue and Edgcombe Road this fall is proceeding, but with a change to a center median at Bohland Avenue.

The Highland District Council's Transportation Committee reviewed the change on June 13. The original plan was to add 8-foot-wide medians on Fairview at Eleanor, Bohland and Saunders avenues. The medians would eliminate left turns from and to Fairview as well as east-west through-

traffic at those intersections.

The median on Bohland will now have an opening to allow northbound traffic on Fairview to make left turns. The change is seen as an aid to motorists headed to Highland Catholic School. The school has no bus service, so many parents drop their children off. While the school did not take a position on the issue, many parents and neighbors called for a change or eliminating the Bohland median altogether.

Over the objections of some Transportation Committee members, the other two medians will not be changed. Bumpouts

are also planned at Bayard Avenue and Highland Parkway to make Fairview safer for pedestrians.

Jimmy Shoemaker, senior transportation planner for the Saint Paul Department of Public Works, said the median locations were chosen to improve pedestrian crossings near neighborhood schools. Emergency vehicles will still be able to pass over the medians or detour as needed.

Of the city's five resurfacing projects scheduled for 2023, Fairview has generated the most controversy. Public Works has received more than 250 comments about

the project. A virtual meeting on May 9 drew about 40 people, while nearly 50 people turned out for one at Highland Park Middle School on May 17.

HDC board and committee members have objected to the resurfacing planning process itself, and what some see as a lack of neighborhood input. The district council is sending a resolution outlining its objections to city officials.

Though the City Council will hold a public hearing on July 26 regarding assessments, final decisions on the pending projects are made by Public Works.

District Councils

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Pizza and movie night—The Highland District Council's series of summer events on Thursdays will continue at 6 p.m. on July 13 at the Sibley Manor Apartments, 1300 W. Maynard Drive. Outdoor games and pizza will be provided by the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, followed by a showing of the animated PG movie *DC League of Super Pets* (2022) at dusk.

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. Applications are due by July 13. Visit the website or contact info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org or 651-695-4005. Elections will take place online from July 20-25.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 11; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 18. Meetings are held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with the option to join online. For the Zoom link and meeting agendas, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

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

Century building plaques—Orders are currently being accepted for the next round of century building plaques for structures built in 1928 or before. Find out more at macgrove.org/100years.

Call for exhibitors/sponsors—There are multiple opportunities for people to get involved in this year's MacGrove Fest on Saturday, September 9. There will be a Makers Market where people can sell their arts and crafts, and a Business Marketplace featuring the products and services of local businesses and organizations. The registration deadline is July 13. Visit macgrove.org/2023registration.

Open board seats—The Macalester-Groveland board of directors currently has openings for an at-large business

representative and an at-large education representative. Learn more by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org.

Upcoming meetings—Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, June 28; Community Building Team on Monday, July 10; and board of directors on Thursday, July 13. The meetings will be held at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St., and via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m. To log in, visit macgrove.org/participate.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Driveway puppet show—Open Eye Theatre will perform *Tucker's Robot* at 7 p.m. Friday, June 30, on the upper lawn at Linwood, 860 Saint Clair Ave. The show includes puppetry and live music. Afterward, kids will be able to meet the puppeteers and get a behind-the-scenes look at the production. Donations will be collected for Open Eye.

Summit Hill House Tour—Join the SHA from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, October 8, for a return of the Summit Hill House Tour. Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$135 for VIP access, which includes brunch and early viewing of the homes. Visit Summithilltours.org.

Summit-University

summit-university.org • 651-228-1855

New office—The Summit-University Planning Council will move into a new office in the community area of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., at the end of July. The SUPC board will return to in-person meetings beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, at the new site.

Victoria Street resurfacing—A neighborhood forum will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the SUPC's new office to discuss the Victoria Street mill and overlay project set for this year between Summit and Concordia avenues.

Taste of Rondo Block Party—Join the SUPC for the inaugural Taste of Rondo Block Party from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at Concordia Avenue and Chatsworth Street. The free event will feature food and beverages, live music, drum and drill team performances, spoken word and poetry, face painting, games and more.

Stay informed—The public is invited to like the SUPC on Facebook and sign up for its e-newsletter, "The Porchlight," by visiting its website.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Slow Ride—The second Slow Roll bike trip along Summit Avenue will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 1. Meet on Summit Avenue and Syndicate Street.

Neighborhood cleanup—A University Avenue cleanup will be held by the Transportation Committee from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, July 15. Volunteers should meet at the northwest corner of Snelling and University avenues.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 5; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 10. Meetings will be held via Zoom. For access information, 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.

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Federation updates—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation is requesting proposals for the reconstruction of the Justus Ramsey House. Participants must submit a letter of intent by July 21. For information about the RFP or process, contact executive director Julia McColley at 651-298-5599 or julia@fortroadfederation.org.

Board member openings—Area 2 and 3 coordinators are being sought to serve on the Fort Road Federation's board of directors. Those who are interested are being asked to email fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org.

Yoga in the park—Join instructor Ginny from Heartwild Living for yoga from 7-8 p.m. Monday, July 17, at the Bay Triangle on Bay Street and Tuscarora Avenue. Admission is free, but donations would be appreciated.

West Seventh social—A summer social will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20, on the lawn of the Keg & Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St. Join neighbors for a night of socializing, games and getting connected.

Upcoming meetings—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 for information.

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VIEWPOINT

Here in river city, protecting health of Mississippi begins with you

By Lily Dimmel

The Mississippi River has long been a center of culture, natural resources and infrastructure in the Twin Cities. From businesses to parks to wildlife, it is a quintessential feature of life in the metro area. However, over the years, the health of the river has been depleted by pollutants. Storm sewers carry litter and other contaminants into the river, harming local wildlife.

Many organizations have stepped up to protect the health of the Mississippi. The Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is one such organization. "The Mississippi is the heart of the Twin Cities, and an essential source of drinking water for a million people here and many more millions down stream," said Sue Rich, FMR's director of communications.

It is the small things that often make the biggest impact on the health of the Mississippi, according to Rich. Microfibers found in synthetic fabrics can bypass water treatment facilities and subsequently pollute the river. FMR encourages people to be mindful of the fabrics in their clothes and conscientious of the environment when washing them. The use of a filter when washing laundry can be an easy way to reduce microplastics making their way into the river. The proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications and being mindful of pollutants that could be swept into the river through storm drains are

"Picking up smaller trash can be surprisingly impactful. Things like cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastics and pet waste can be quite toxic and poison wildlife and plants as they make their way down the river."

other ways to protect the health of the Mississippi.

With Minnesota ranked fifth in the country in agricultural production, it is a critical industry, supporting numerous jobs and generating much revenue for the state. Unfortunately, it can also have a negative impact on the Mississippi River. According to FMR, the excessive runoff of fertilizer from farms is a major source of pollution in the Mississippi. Many modern fertilizers are highly inefficient, according to FMR. More than half of the nitrogen in fertilizer is lost through water runoff. Meanwhile, the rate of fertilizer use has more than tripled since 1961, according to FMR.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) promotes several remedies to pollutants from farms. One is the implementation of shallower and more controlled drainage systems to reduce runoff. Another is the use

of buffer zones of vegetation on the banks of streams and rivers to absorb excess nitrates and other nutrients. Finally, the MPCA encourages diversifying the agriculture industry to include a greater variety of crops to best utilize the soil and improve crop yields.

On its web page, "Five Ways You Can Reduce Lesser-Known Water Pollutants," FMR encourages individuals to engage in its mission to protect the river. "It's important for people to pick up trash on their own," Rich said. "Picking up smaller trash can be surprisingly impactful. Things like cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastics, and pet waste can be quite toxic and poison wildlife and plants as they make their way down the river and accumulate. They lead to the deaths of many marine animals every year."

FMR arranges a host of volunteer programs focused on the stewardship of the Mississippi River. They encourage people to reach out and help preserve Minnesota's natural resources. "Digging in deepens our connections to our favorite places and improves habitat," FMR states.

The Mississippi River is an integral feature of the Twin Cities and has a vast impact on almost every aspect of life. We need to protect and preserve this fundamental resource for future generations.

Lily Dimmel is a senior at Saint Agnes High School and a resident of the Como neighborhood of Saint Paul.

INBOX

Bike paths will ruin Summit

As I looked down Summit Avenue recently, I felt a knot in my stomach thinking of the proposed destruction of this beautiful and historic street and neighborhood. It is an unbelievable gem in the middle of our city.

The owners of many Summit Avenue homes pay more than \$15,000 per year in property taxes. They must abide by stringent regulations if they wish to make changes to their properties because they live in a historic district. The view with concrete replacing hundreds of mature trees should make any rational person reconsider the whole idea. The minds that conceived this plan certainly were not prioritizing climate change.

The city process for destroying this street and historic neighborhood has not been transparent. Neighborhood residents should be able to vote on this extremely consequential plan. When I think about how this regional trail is being forced down the throats of Saint Paul residents—particularly Summit Avenue residents—it seems there just might be a private agenda behind the scenes. Money? Connections? Maybe both.

We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us*

The atmosphere's sickly, the earth's heating quickly,
The ice caps and glaciers are melting away.
The climate's gone nuts, the biosphere more so,
And fires, floods and mudslides get worse by the day.

The coastlines are shrinking, the islands are sinking.
Less water for drinking and farming and play.
The roads are dissolving, and no one is solving
The puzzle of making repairs that will stay.

The oracles told us, and now they can scold us
For scoffing and dawdling and looking away,
For all our denying and sad lack of trying:
"Too little, too late!" Now the piper's to pay.

But we keep on jetting and drilling and felling
And driving and eating more beef, and delay
Taking critical actions, and turn to distractions
To comfort ourselves: "Surely, we'll be OK."

So where does this leave us? With none to relieve us,
Our leaders complicit, not pointing the way;
No knight in bright armor, miraculous charmer;
We must become heroes ourselves. Now! Today!

*James Johnson
Merriam Park*

* A quote from *Pogo*, a comic strip by Walt Kelly.

MyVillager KNOW YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

Volume 71, Number 9
Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Safety keeps appearing as one of the arguments for the bike trail. I do not recall a study about the number of bicyclists who use Summit Avenue year-round or the number of bicyclists injured or killed using the current road and bike lanes. And if bicyclists have been injured or killed, were they wearing helmets? Were they riding single-file or side by side? Did they stop for stop signs and red lights as a bicyclist must when he or she is sharing the road with automobiles?

The entirety of this proposal needs public transparency before proceeding. Better yet, put it on the ballot and let the public vote. Choice is one of the pillars of American democracy, isn't it?

As a lifelong commuting bicyclist I find the bicycle lanes on Summit Avenue entirely adequate. All that is needed is repaving the street and repainting the bike lane lines. There is more than enough room in the existing lanes to bicycle safely. Bicyclists and motorists can share the road. It is a daily experience in most of the world, and most countries have much narrower roads than we do.

This reconstruction of Summit Avenue will destroy a beautiful and thriving city neighborhood that can never be replaced. Remember Rondo?

*Gayle Breutzman
Macalester-Groveland*

Highland cleans up with Chuck

Thanks to the Highland Business Association, Highland District Council, Tiffany's Sports Lounge and anyone else who was involved in organizing Cleanup With Chuck Day on June 17. It was a great way to get together with others in our community and do our part to honor all that Chuck Nehls does, pull some weeds, spread some mulch and enjoy a brunch at Tiff's afterwards. I hope there are more opportunities like this.

*Claudia Dieter
Highland Park*

No place for families to bike

It has been 25 years since I last wrote a letter to the editor of *MyVillager*, but the ill-considered Summit Avenue bike trail moves me to do so again.

Imagine three bike rides from the western end of Summit Avenue at Mississippi River Boulevard. The first curves northwest via bike paths to the Guthrie Theater—about 5 miles with two road crossings. The second goes south and then east on the same bike path, forming a large "U" as it hugs the river, ending below the Science Museum of Minnesota—10 miles with four road crossings. The third goes east on Summit to the University Club. This one is 4 miles but has 32 road crossings.

I've made all three of these trips scores of times over the past 20 years. Cyclists on off-road bike paths are oblivious to cars. Motorists next to the off-road bike paths rarely see the adjacent bikes. The 32 crossings on Summit will become scenes of tragedy with the proposed off-road bike paths.

I'm a huge, life-long fan of bikes and bike riding, but a street with that many crossings is no place for constructing a family-oriented bike trail.

*David Moore
Summit Hill*

Do the write thing

MyVillager welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. However, 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 via our website at myvillager.com/editorial. The views expressed are not the views of MyVillager.

In pitch for funds, St. Paul commits to reducing serious accidents

By Jane McClure

Traffic accidents causing deaths or serious injuries have increased over the past five years in Saint Paul. City officials would like to cut those incidents in half over the next 10 years and eliminate them completely by 2045, according to a resolution adopted by the City Council in a unanimous vote on June 14.

The city's new Vision Zero Traffic Safety Commitment is part of its Safe Streets for All Transportation Safety Action Plan, which calls for safety improvements on all city streets and county and state roads within the city limits (but not interstate freeways). The plan lays out practices and goals for traffic safety. It is required of all local governments that apply for federal Safe Streets for All grants.

"This is a big step for the city," said Ran-

dy Newton, traffic engineer in the city's Department of Public Works. Saint Paul is seeing more of what Newton described as "really horrible driving behavior" on its streets and highways.

Minnesota as a whole is seeing a downward trend in fatal and serious injuries in traffic accidents, but only after experiencing a 24 percent increase in such accidents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saint Paul, on the other hand, is facing some "sobering statistics," according to Newton. Between 2018 and 2022, 60 people were killed in motor-vehicle accidents in the city, he said. There were an additional 264 motor-vehicle accidents causing serious injury. Between 2018 and 2022, 699 pedestrians and 296 bicyclists were hit by vehicles in Saint Paul. Twenty-one of the pedestrians and bicyclists were killed and 111 were seriously injured.

Federal Safe Streets for All grants provide up to \$30 million for projects aimed at reducing or eliminating serious crashes. Saint Paul's Capital Improvement Budget has about \$225,000 available each year for bike, pedestrian and traffic safety measures. However, the city increased that amount to \$750,000 in 2023. A separate city program is providing \$1.535 million in each of the next four years for sidewalk reconstruction.

That money does not go very far when the cost of individual projects is considered. For example, a Safe Routes to Schools program near Bruce Vento Elementary School on the East Side has been estimated at \$1.392 million. The construction of a sidewalk along Marshall Avenue between Snelling Avenue and Albert Street has a price tag of \$400,000.

All seven City Council members agreed

that measures to promote traffic safety need to be included in the upcoming 2024 city budget. They also agreed that the priority should be given to the safety of pedestrians first, and then bicyclists, transit users and motorists. Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert said he would like the city to place a higher priority on installing sidewalks along streets where none exist.

Mayor Melvin Carter sent the council a letter supporting the resolution. "Vulnerable users, such as people walking and bicycling, as well as people living in neighborhoods with lower average household incomes, are disproportionately impacted by crashes," Carter said. "Inequity comes in many forms, and these greater impacts to our lower-income neighbors who are more likely to walk and use public transportation are unacceptable."

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

Theft—Police received a report on June 9 that a 39-year-old woman in an electric cart stole \$200 in crab legs as well as cleaning supplies at Lunds & Byerlys, 2170 Ford Pkwy.

—Several items were stolen from a vehicle at Hidden Falls Park between 7:30-8 p.m. on June 20. Criminal damage to property was also reported there at that time.

Arson—Fireworks caused a fire in a portable toilet near the Talmud Torah of Saint Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave., at 11:05 p.m. on June 16.

Miscellaneous—Officers were called to assist security from the Saint Paul Public Schools regarding Gateway to College students who were fighting at the Frey Theater at Saint Catherine University at 9:30 a.m. on June 12.

—A Saint Paul squad car was spray-painted on the 2000 block of Saunders Avenue at 12:28 a.m. on June 15.

—Felony damage to a garage was reported during a hit-and-run incident on the 400 block of Mount Curve Boulevard at 5:47 a.m. on June 17. Police believe the driver may have been trying to break into the garage.

—Other felony damage to property was reported on the 500 block of Mount Curve Boulevard on June 16-17, the 1600 block of Hillcrest Avenue on June 19, the 1900 block of Rome Avenue on June 19-20, and the 1700 block of Graham Avenue on June 20.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A male shoplifter who had been banned from the premises was arrested for burglary and drug possession at the Midway Target at 9:13 a.m. on June 12.

Theft—Two men, ages 20 and 26, were arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 8:02 a.m. on June 12. Other thefts at the store included more than \$1,000 in items on June 13, and a cellphone on June 15.

Assault—Police were called regarding the assault of a student in a classroom at Central High School at 2 p.m. on June 9.

—A 30-year-old woman was arrested for felony assault of her fiancé on Lexington Parkway and Marshall Avenue at 7:25 p.m. on June 18.

—A victim was reportedly assaulted by two or three girls at the Midway Target at 3:53 p.m. on June 16.

Multiple people injured in shooting on West End

Police responded to multiple reports of gunfire on Cliff and Superior streets at 9:11 p.m. on June 21, and discovered that two males and a female had been shot. Police and deputies rendered aid until medics arrived. All three victims were taken to Regions Hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening.

Squads later set up a perimeter and a Ramsey County Sheriff's drone was launched due to the suspect still being in the area. A police SWAT unit and a county helicopter were called in for additional assistance. According to media reports, the suspect had climbed onto a roof, but was taken into custody. He also reportedly had suffered gunshot injuries during the earlier incident.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 1600 block of Stanford Avenue at 9:55 p.m. on June 10.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported at the Macalester College tennis courts on June 7, and on the 2000 block of Grand Avenue on June 13-14.

Mendota Heights/Lilydale

Burglary—Burglaries were reported on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 12:58 p.m. on June 2, and the 1300 block of Furlong Lane at 5:45 a.m. on June 14.

Theft—Police responded to a report of identity theft on the 1000 block of Esther Lane at 12:24 p.m. on June 14. A woman said she was called by someone stating she had won a Publisher's Clearing House prize and was asked to provide personal information to claim her winnings. She did so, but canceled her accounts before any loss was incurred.

Weapons—A restaurant on the 2000 block of Dodd Road reported a disturbance involving a gun at 9:15 a.m. on June 6.

—Gunfire was heard on the 1800 block of Lilydale Road at 11:45 a.m. on June 14.

Miscellaneous—A driver was arrested for DWI after he was found passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle that was blocking traffic on Dodd Road and Highway 62 at 3:27 p.m. on June 9.

—A wrong-way driver tried to flee, but was arrested for DWI following a two-car accident on the 1300 block of Highway 13 at 10:29 p.m. on June 12.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A break-in was reported at the apartments at 1940 Marshall Ave. between 4-5 p.m. on June 6.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on Dayton and Cretin avenues on June 9, and the 1700 block of Ashland Avenue on June 17.

—A purse-snatching was reported in the lobby of Episcopal Homes, 1879 Feronia Ave., at 8:30 p.m. on June 21.

Sex crime—A 55-year-old man was arrested for exposing himself to staff members at the Quality Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 6:56 p.m. on June 12.

Arson—Suspicious fires were reported in a multi-unit residential building at 1787 Carroll Ave. at 4:02 a.m. on June 9, and in a dumpster on the 400 block of Pierce Street at 11:38 p.m. on June 21.

Snelling-Hamline

Assault—A 24-year-old man was arrested for assault after police were called to LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., regarding a fight at 10:13 p.m. on June 10. Police found the suspect standing on top of the victim.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle near the Midway Dollar Tree, 1420 University Ave., at 3:11 p.m. on June 14.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported at M Health Fairview Clinic, 1390 University Ave., at 2 p.m. on June 12.

—A 29-year-old man was arrested for violating a no-contact order and fleeing police at the Midway McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., at 12:04 a.m. on June 19.

Summit Hill

Robbery—Speedway, 925 Grand Ave., was robbed at gunpoint at 4:03 a.m. on June 14. The suspects included two 21-year-old women, a 19-year-old man and a juvenile. They fled in an SUV, but were later arrested. Two guns were recovered.

Theft—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue at 4:30 p.m. on June 8.

Miscellaneous—A 30-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found asleep in a vehicle on Avon Street and Linwood Avenue at 8:10 a.m. on June 21.

Summit-University

Burglary—House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., was burglarized between 6-7:55 a.m. on June 5.

Theft—A gun was reported stolen

from a vehicle on the 700 block of Dayton Avenue on June 18-19.

—Two girls were arrested for felony theft, possession of burglary tools and trying to flee police after officers responded to a report of juveniles going through a vehicle with flashlights on the 700 block of Selby Avenue at 11:08 p.m. on June 20.

Assault—A man was found bleeding from his head in an apartment on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at 5:59 a.m. on June 15. He said his ex-wife hit him with an ash tray and fled. He was taken to the hospital.

—A felony assault was reported on the 400 block of North Lexington Parkway at 12:41 p.m. on June 21.

Weapons—Police received multiple calls about gunfire on the 800 block of Concordia Avenue at 9:37 p.m. on June 7.

Miscellaneous—A tenant was taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation and a mental health check after refusing to leave his apartment during a stove fire at Dale Street Place, 313 N. Dale St., at 3:20 p.m. on June 14.

—Two juveniles were taken to the hospital following a traffic accident involving a bicycle on Saint Albans Street and Marshall Avenue at 5:07 p.m. on June 15.

West End

Burglary—Three motorcycles were stolen along with custom truck rims during a residential break-in on the 300 block of Michigan Street on June 9-10.

—A 38-year-old man was arrested for burglary, drug possession and having a gun after breaking into a residence on the 300 block of Michigan Street at 8:45 a.m. on June 16.

—A 34-year-old woman was arrested for burglary and criminal damage to property after breaking into Hope Breakfast Bar, 1 S. Leech St., at 6:15 p.m. on June 19.

Theft—A 43-year-old man was arrested after he tried to pull the driver out of a car on the 500 block of Jefferson Avenue at 10:55 a.m. on June 8.

—A scooter was reported stolen on the 400 block of Bay Street on June 18-19.

Assault—A man said he was assaulted with a weed trimmer on the 400 block of North Smith Avenue at 9:22 a.m. on June 12.

Miscellaneous—A man was arrested on a felony warrant and two counts of providing false information to police after he was stopped for a moving violation on Randolph Avenue and View Street at 8:56 p.m. on June 14. The suspect reportedly identified himself as one of his brothers, admitted to lying and then gave police the name of his other brother. The vehicle and the suspect's dog were turned over to a friend.

ON THE TOWN

Bouwman taps her inner child for tale of loss and love

By Anne Murphy

As a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Saint Thomas, children's author Heather Bouwman is asked from time to time why she chooses to write for young readers.

"I just naturally gravitated toward writing for kids," she said. "I never really considered writing for anyone else. One of the cool things about writing for kids is that they're still meeting their favorite books. And if they love a book—love it passionately—it may influence much of their lives."

Bouwman hopes her newest book will fall into that category. Written for 8- to 10-year-olds, *Gossamer Summer* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, May 2023, 192 pp.) is the story of four sisters who find enchantment while striving to move beyond the pain of losing their beloved grandmother. The book is about the value of family and finding a new friend, the magic of storytelling and how to remember without grieving.

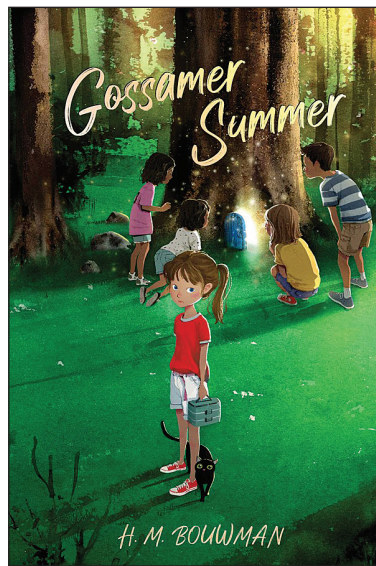
The modern fantasy is the fourth children's novel and seventh book for young readers written by the Macalester-Groveland resident, all under the pen name H.M. Bouwman. Her three previous novels were historical fantasies for middle-school readers. Those titles include the highly praised *A Crack in the Sea* and its sequel *A Tear in the Ocean*, as well as *The*

Remarkable and Very True Story of Lucy and Snowcap.

As one of four sisters herself, Bouwman was inspired by her own childhood. "I started writing *Gossamer Summer* right before and during the (COVID-19) lockdowns in 2020," she said. "I was trying to think of things that would make me happy. I began thinking back on my childhood and how much I loved growing up with my three sisters."

"We played a lot of games and did a lot of imaginative and creative things together. Actually, a lot of the activities that the kids do in *Gossamer Summer* are things that my kids did when they were growing up—fossil collecting, building fairy gardens, things like that."

While writing *Gossamer Summer*, Bouwman said she felt the freedom to be highly creative with the storyline. That



freedom "is one of the reasons I want to keep writing for kids," she said. "Kids don't have strong preconceived ideas of what makes for a good story. They're open to experimentation. An adult may be thinking they know how a mystery is supposed to work, but kids don't blink their eyes at how a story goes. They're just excited about the monster or the fairy."

Gossamer Summer refers to a time that contains both joy and grief, Bouwman said. "This summer for these kids is particularly fragile because they've gone through trauma," she said. "But it's also beautiful because they've experienced deep love and they're caring for each other."

The word gossamer comes into play when the girls remember building fairy gardens with their grandmother. Ten-year-old Jojo would tell stories about fairies of one kind or another, including one that had gossamer wings. When 11-year-old Maisie and 5-year-old twins Amy and Bee ask what gossamer means, the book's omniscient narrator interjects, "Wafty and delicate. Like gossip without the meanness."

As the story goes, Jojo sees an odd looking fairy—small, muddy and green. The girls build new fairy gardens in hopes of attracting their new neighbor. As the muddy fairies come to life, they are threatened. The children team up to save the fairies and feel again the magic



Author Heather Bouwman at home in Macalester-Groveland. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

of the love they had with their grandmother.

"I think imaginative reading is really important," Bouwman said. "Sometimes we suffer from a dearth of imagination and creative play."

By creative play, Bouwman means play that is unconstructed and without the set endings so often found in the structured

games and activities that dominate so much of the play of children these days.

"One of the reasons I have the sisters building fairy gardens is because it's exactly that kind of play," she said. "It's not play for a particular purpose. It's play for play's sake. I wanted the kids to have the sense of a very unstructured summer."

ON THE TOWN Briefly

Theater

The enduring tale of a hero of the people, playwright Ken Ludwig's *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood* will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 30-July 2, at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Playwright Sharon Bridgforth's latest installation, *bull-jean/we wake* will be performed at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 28-July 2, at Pillsbury House and Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama tells of the captivating bull-dog-jean and her journey through love and healing. Aimee K. Bryant and Omi Osun Joni L. Jones star. For tickets, visit pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org or call 612-825-0459.

"Like an episode of 'Columbo' that has been cast by the Coen brothers," that is how playwright Jeffrey Hatcher describes *Glensheen*. The musical about the 1977 murders of Duluth heiress Elisabeth Congdon and her night nurse returns from July 8-23 to the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Jen Maren, Dane Stauffer and Wendy Lehr reprise their roles. The music is by Chan

Poling. Ron Peluso directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$74-\$15. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

Canada's Cirque du Soleil will present the enchanting *Corteo* from July 13-16 at Xcel Energy Center. *Corteo* ("cortege" in Italian) is a joyous mixture of comedy, acting and acrobatics. A clown imagines his own funeral procession, juxtaposing the large with the small, the ridiculous with the tragic, and the magic of perfection with the charm of imperfection. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday. For tickets, visit cirquedusoleil.com.

Music

Under the Lex, a series of free concerts, is being presented from 5:15-6 p.m. Wednesdays under the bridge next to the historic Como Park streetcar station at 1224 N. Lexington Pkwy. Bring a lawn chair if you like and enjoy the music of Jaedyn James on June 28 and Kinfu on July 12. Youa Vang of Third Daughter, Restless Daughter emcees.

Pack a picnic supper, dancing shoes and a blanket and you can be Groovin' in the Garden from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays outside of the Como Park Conservatory.

The free concerts will feature Red Eye Ruby on June 28; Flowtus, July 5; and Mubbla Buggs, July 12. Hot dogs, ice cream, beer and wine will be available for purchase. If it rains, the concert will be moved inside Como Visitor Center.

Composer Steven C. Anderson will perform a solo concert on his Bösendorfer grand piano at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Commodore, 79 N. Western Ave. Tickets are free with a suggested donation of \$10. The doors and a cash bar will open at 6 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Visit eventbrite.com.

The Minnesota JCC's new Show Choir will make its stage debut on June 29 and 30 with a program of Broadway show tunes by Jewish composers and lyricists. Solos, duets and ensemble numbers will be sung in concerts at 7 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday at the JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Admission is by donation with \$15 suggested. Call 651-698-0751.

Free Bands on the Boulevard concerts are being held from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays outside of the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music of Nunnabove on July 11. Food trucks, craft activities, lawn games and dancing will all be part of the fun

beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The free Music on the Cortile series continues from noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays at Landmark Center. Bring a bag lunch or purchase one from a food truck and enjoy the Americana of Jaspas Lepak on July 12. Call 651-292-3063.

Reggae, jazz, big band, blues and Latin music are all on tap for Summer Nights in Rice. The free concert series is being presented from 5-7 p.m. Thursdays in downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park. The schedule includes the International Reggae All-Stars on July 13. In case of rain, the concerts will be moved to Landmark Center. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

Songs of Hope, an ensemble of children from around the world who are taking part in the Sounds of Hope summer arts camp, will present a free concert on Saturday, July 15, in collaboration with the band the Eddies on the River. The music will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Wacouta Commons, 465 Wacouta St. In case of rain, the concert will be moved inside First Baptist Church at 499 Wacouta St.

Twenty minutes of taiko drumming will be followed by a screening of the film *Finding Her Beat* in a free program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, outside of

10 ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

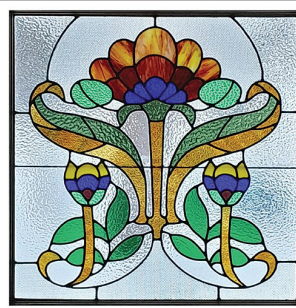
the Ordway Center. *Finding Her Beat* tells of Taiko artists Jennifer Weir and Megan Chao Smith who assemble the world's best women taiko drummers and strive to overcome their differences in culture, age, language, and performance style to form an artistic whole. In case of rain, the program will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 16.

Exhibits

"Vol. 2 Together," a solo exhibition by artist Jacob Z. Wan, is on view through July 29 at Friedli Gallery, 943 W. Seventh St. The paintings, books, paper objects and installations express the longing and belonging of a gay man. Visit friedliartsgallery.com.

"Defying Sameness 3," 75 works by 75 artists that don't meet viewers' expectations, are being displayed 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. Admission is free. Call 651-224-3757 or visit theazgallery.org.

Free historical walking tours in and around downtown Saint Paul step out at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Sponsored by the Landmark Center Volunteer Association, the programs include the Rice Park Tour on June 28, featuring the iconic park and the surrounding area; It Happened Right Here on July 12, on the origins of downtown Saint Paul and its buildings; and the Great River Tour on July 19, highlighting the mighty Mississippi and the buildings and other landmarks that



Art at Saint Kate's returns from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, to the grassy expanse of Saint Catherine University near the corner of Randolph and Cleveland avenues. The juried fair will feature works in a variety of media by more than 100 artists. Admission is free. Refreshments will be available from a variety of food trucks. For more information, visit artistscircle.org.

made Saint Paul what it is today. For reservations, visit landmarkcenter.org or call Sydney at 651-292-3063.

Family

The professional DanceCo will present a series of free, interactive performances at 10 and 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Narrated by Paul Bunyan, the programs will be presented on July 1 at Minnehaha Falls Park Pavilion, 4825 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and on July 8 on Raspberry Island. They include a short dance workshop for children followed by a 45-minute show with audience participation. Visit DanceCoMN.com.

Outdoor games, pizza and a movie will be presented by the Saint Paul

Parks and Recreation Department at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13, outside of Sibley Manor Apartments, Maynard Drive and West Seventh Street. The sci-fi movie, DC League of Super Pets (PG-2022), will be shown at dusk. Visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

Film

Hollywood blockbusters are being shown at 7 p.m. every Friday on the giant screen of the Omnitheater at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The schedule includes *Life of Pi* on June 30; *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, July 7; and *Men in Black*, July 14. Tickets are \$9.95, free for children under age 4. Call 651-221-9444.

Desperate Souls, Dark City and the Legend of Midnight Cowboy, a documentary about how the 1969 film *Midnight Cowboy* captured New York City in a troubled time of cultural ferment, will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$13. Visit soundunseen.com.

Books

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings and discussions with Mary Christine Kane and Sandra Hager Eliason, contributors to the anthology, *True Stories About Love Vol. 2*, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28; and poet Courtney LeBlanc and her new collection, *Her Whole Bright Life*, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 18. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Et cetera

Put on your red, white and blue and take part in Saint Anthony Park's annual Fourth of July parade and picnic. The parade begins at 11 a.m. at Luther Place and proceeds down Como Avenue to Langford Park. The picnic will follow with speeches and volleyball, pickleball and horseshoe tournaments. Bring a lunch or patronize one of several food trucks. The kids' zone will have pony rides, gaga ball, an inflatable obstacle course and races. The bandstand from 1-6 p.m. will feature hour-long sets by the Pig's Eye Jass Band, Good Morning Bedlam, Art Vandalay and Light of the Moon Trio. To preregister for the morning 2- and 4-mile fun runs (\$10 fee), visit tinyurl.com/4thRaces2023.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

INDEPENDENCE DAY as it was celebrated 125 years ago will be recreated from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Historic Fort Snelling. Experience the sights and sounds of the Fourth of July circa 1898, including military parades, live fife and drum music and the boom of the cannon. The programming will span the 23-acre site, including the new prairie landscape, Plank Museum and Visitor Center. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for children ages 5-17, free for Native Americans and veterans and their families. Call 612-726-1171 or visit ftsnelling@mnhs.org.

MONDAY/JULY 3

FRIENDS OF COLDWATER will lead a midsummer walk to the sacred springs under a full moon. The walk will begin at 7 p.m. at the park entrance, 5601 S. Minnehaha Park Drive. For more information on this monthly tradition, visit friendsofcoldwater.org.

KIOSK

SATURDAY/JULY 8

THE THIRD ANNUAL Premium Automotive Showcase presented by Modest will return to Saint Paul's River-Centre from 2-8 p.m. Over 150 vehicles will be displayed. Local shop vendors will be promoting their products and services. Live music, games and prizes will be featured. Refreshments will be available.. Tickets are \$30, \$10 for children ages 13-17, at the door or \$20 in advance. Visit rivercentre.org.

MONDAY/JULY 10

THE BASICS OF HAND DRUMMING will be taught from 5-6 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$15. Drums are provided. For information, visit womensdrumcenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

A FOUR-HOUR DRIVING REFRESHER course for motorists age 55 and older will be offered by AARP from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Participants who have taken the initial eight-hour driving course are entitled to keep their 10 percent auto insurance discount current. The cost is \$25. For more information, call 952-835-1882.

A FOUR-HOUR DRIVER REFRESHER course for motorists age 55 and older who want to keep their automobile insurance discount current will also be offered from noon-4 p.m. at the Rondo Community Library, 461 N. Dale St. A certified instructor from the Minnesota Highway Safety Center will update participants on traffic safety, defensive driving, new laws and technology. The cost is \$24. To register, visit mnsafetycenter.org or call 1-888-234-1294.

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SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

CDH boys' golfers impress at state

Cretin-Derham Hall is used to being in the spotlight during state high school sports tournaments in the spring. As it turned out, this year's greatest post-season success for the school came from its boys' golfers who earned their way into the Class AAAA tournament meet on June 13-14 at Bunker Hills.

Head coach Bob Kinne had high hopes when he assembled his troops on March 20 for their first practice. Until Mother Nature cooperated and Highland National Golf Course was available in early April, Kinne and his players spent their practice time indoors at Top Golf near Blaine.

"We knew we had a talented team," Kinne said. Junior Miles Bollinger and sophomore Joe Honsa had shown promise the previous year. Then sophomore Sam Udovich, who won last year's Class AA individual title while at Saint Croix Lutheran, transferred to CDH, giving the Raiders a solid 1-2-3 punch off the tee.

"Joe and Sam are tall, about 6-foot-4, but they're all big hitters," Kinne said. "We did a lot of early work on their short game."

When it came to putting, Kinne improvised to keep his team's attention. "We had a game called Make or Miss," he said. "When there was one player left, the others had to say whether he'd make or miss the putt. Guess wrong and you did pushups."

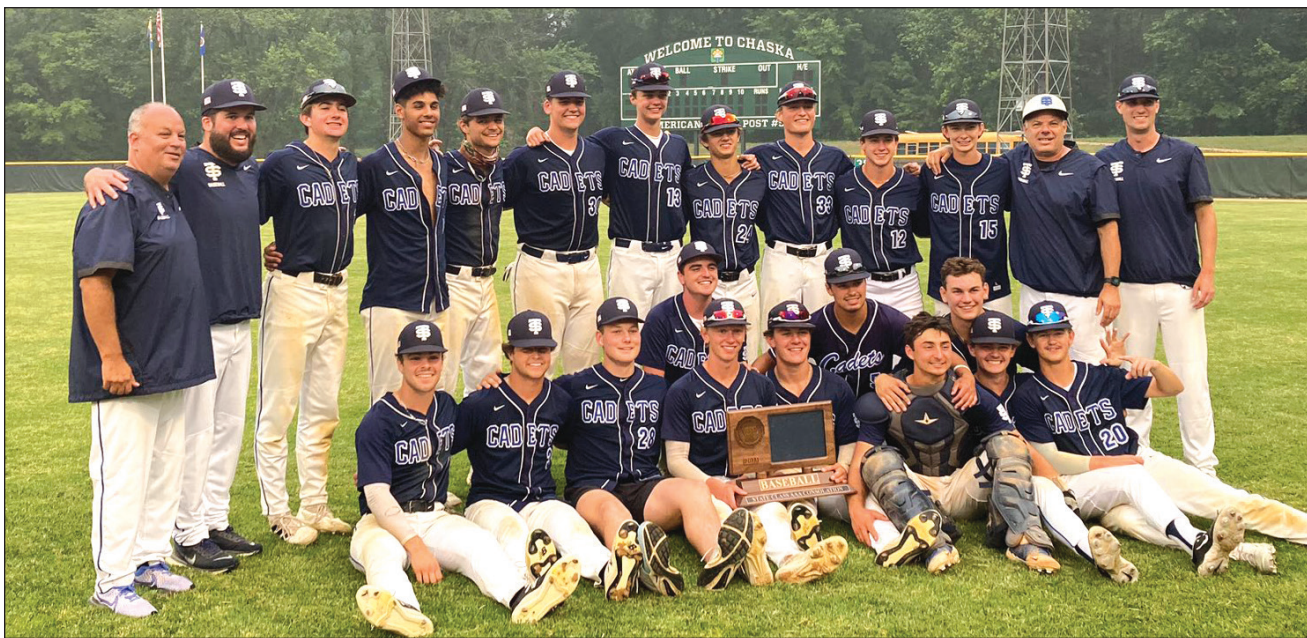
Like just about every other prep golf team in the state, the Raiders didn't face an opponent until a meet on April 25 at Gross National Golf Course in Minneapolis. The Raiders fared very well in their various early meets, placing high in all but one of them. Their ranking by the Minnesota Golf Association rose from 137th on April 10 to 10th by the end of the season.

CDH's goal was to win the Section 4AAA tournament at Bunker Hills at the end of May. Unfortunately, Mahtomedi managed to take home the top spot, which earned that team an invitation to the state meet. Honsa, Bollinger and Udovich played well enough to earn invites to the individual part of the meet.

So the trio went back to Bunker Hills. On Day 1, Honsa tore up the track, shooting a 4-under-par 68, two shots behind leader Jake Birdwell of Spring Lake Park. Bollinger shot 73 and Udovich 74.

The next day, Honsa came in at 70 to finish at 138, second to Birdwell's 136. Bollinger and Udovich each

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 13



The Cadets pose for a photo after winning the state consolation title with a 10-8 win over Benilde-Saint Margaret's on June 14 in Chaska.

STA baseballers take state consolation crown

By Bill Wagner

Saint Thomas Academy won two of three games during the state Class AAAA baseball tournament earlier this month. But despite finishing the season with a 20-7 record and the consolation crown, you couldn't blame the Cadets if they were left wondering what might have been.

STA, which won the tough Metro East Conference title with a 13-3 record, was forced to play the entire postseason without the services of senior pitcher Mike Miller. The fireballing right-hander, who is headed to play at Duke University, went down with a shoulder injury in mid-May, just before the conclusion of the regular season.

The Cadets did the prudent thing and kept Miller from pitching for the rest of the season. He did his best to help the club by playing third base and serving as a designated hitter. Still, having Miller on the mound might well have helped second-seeded STA get that one more win needed to win a state title.

"It would've been nice," STA head coach Bobby Thompson said, "but that's baseball."

The Cadets lost in the first round of state to Grand Rapids 5-0 on June 13 at the Mini Met in Jordan. They

knew that the Thunderhawks were a solid team, but they were taken aback by having to face something besides heaters.

"We were a fastball-hitting team," Thompson said. "It's the off-speed stuff that's given us trouble."

The Cadets recovered to top Byron 10-7 and then Benilde-Saint Margaret's 10-8 to win the consolation title.

"Our pitching was really good and we did some timely hitting," Thompson said. "Our bats finally woke up against Byron. We couldn't get any timely hits against Grand Rapids."

Junior closer Maximus Sims saved both wins at state by blowing some hard stuff past opposing hitters.

Thompson praised junior Jonathan Dobis and sophomore Jac Wright for taking up some of the pitching slack in Miller's absence. That was especially true of Dobis, who was virtually un-touchable on the mound.

Dobis, who is expected to play at Northwestern University, led the team with five wins and had a 0.49 earned run average. Asked to name the team's most valuable player, Thompson didn't hesitate. "Dobis," he said. "And he's such a great team leader."

The season started inauspiciously for the Cadets when they dropped two of their first three games. After

that, they won nine in a row before losing to Centennial on May 8. They stayed sharp in the latter portion of the season, gaining state with a hard-fought 6-5 win over Holy Angels in the Section 3AAA final on June 6.

Thompson pointed to two regular-season wins against Mahtomedi and Hastings as key accomplishments. Both those teams had been thorns in the Cadets' side in recent seasons.

The fact that STA made it to state for the fourth straight year (there was no tournament in 2020) wasn't really a surprise to Thompson. "We had 11 seniors on our team," he said. "I knew that our guys had experience and knew how to play in important games. They didn't panic."

The team had some outstanding individual numbers. Senior first baseman Gavin Engelbert led the squad in batting average with .455, pounding out 10 doubles in the process. Sims, who played outfield in addition to pitching, slugged two homers, as did Dobis. Senior outfielder Daniel Dahl led the team with 13 steals.

Despite losing a large number of players to graduation, Thompson said his squad should be able to follow up this season with another good one in 2024.

"I think it's a reload (instead of a rebuild)," he said.

Raider boys cap off season with first trip to state lacrosse tourney

By Bill Wagner

Matt Hourigan knew early on that this year's Cretin-Derham Hall boys' lacrosse team had the kind of potential he hadn't seen before in his seven seasons as head coach.

"I could tell from the beginning that we had something special," he said.

Well, maybe not from the beginning. The Raiders lost four of their first five games, but then rolled off six straight victories en route to finishing the regular season 7-6 overall and 6-3 in the rugged Suburban East Conference.

However, it wasn't until it got to the Section 3 playoffs that the team really turned heads. CDH beat East Ridge 8-5 and Woodbury 8-7 in the first two rounds. Then in the section final, the Raiders topped Eagan 9-8 in quadruple overtime in one of

the most exciting matches their fans could ever hope for.

That earned CDH its first trip to the state boys' lacrosse tournament. The outcome there wasn't quite as it had hoped. The Raiders bowed 7-5 on June 13 to eventual state champion Lakeville North and then 12-7 two days later to Chisago Lakes in the consolation match.

As disappointing as it was to go two and out, the Raiders (10-8) had a lot to be proud of as they looked back on the season. Hourigan rated his team's performances against league-leading Stillwater on April 28 and top 10-ranked Saint Thomas Academy on May 23 as mileposts for how far the Raiders came this spring.

And, believe it or not, both of those games were losses.

CDH trailed Stillwater 6-1, but showed it could play with the best by fighting back

in a 9-6 loss against the Ponies. The squad was down 6-2 against STA, but outscored the Cadets by three goals in the third period before losing 10-8.

Probably the biggest thrill of the season, though, was the Eagan game for the section title. The Raiders were ahead 8-7 in regulation, but the Wildcats tied the score with just two seconds to play, forcing the marathon overtime competition.

Junior Joey Henningsgard got the game-winner with an assist from freshman Nate Chorlton with 1:30 left in the fourth overtime. The Raider offense against Eagan was paced by senior Louie Bailey with four goals. Junior Jack Murphy scored twice for CDH, while junior Luke Chorlton, senior Charlie Cantwell and Henningsgard each added a goal.

Raider senior goalie Eddie Kielkopf stole the show in the section final with 17 saves,

despite being hurt by a cross-check in the first quarter. Afterward, it was determined that Kielkopf sustained broken ribs and a collapsed lung that he had played through.

"Eddie is some kind of a warrior," marveled Hourigan.

The Raiders showed opponents a solid team defense this spring, but enough can't be said about their offense. Going into state, the team was led by attackers Bailey (39 goals), Luke Chorlton (37) and Murphy (14). Cantwell led the team in assists with 27. Kielkopf had a .607 save percentage and posted all 10 wins for his team.

Hourigan predicted a bright future for CDH boys' lacrosse, noting that the program now has 80 players spread out over three teams.

"I can tell that we're building momentum," Hourigan said. "Things are starting to fall in line."

Saint Paul rolls out updated draft of citywide bicycle plan

By Jane McClure

A proposed update of Saint Paul's citywide bicycle plan calls for more separated bikeways, improved winter snowplowing, and completion of the Grand Round and Capital City bikeways. It also recommends using former railroad corridors to add bikeways and providing greater geographic equity in deciding where new biking facilities are located.

The draft plan was released this spring and is the subject of a final round of public comments before it is taken up by the City Council this summer. An open house on the plan will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at the Frogtown Community Center, 230 Como Ave.

Jimmy Shoemaker, a senior planner in the city's Department of Public Works, calls the draft plan a "significant update" from the current bike plan that was adopt-

ed by the council in 2015. Since then, the city has made more than 60 miles of bike improvements, including additions to the Capital City Bikeway in downtown and to the Grand Round citywide bike and pedestrian trail system.

The city also continues to add bike lanes when streets are rebuilt or resurfaced. New developments, such as Highland Bridge on the former Ford plant site, and parks projects also provide opportunities to add bike facilities.

Public engagement on updating the bike plan began in 2021, and public comments have been incorporated into the new draft. The city received almost 1,700 survey responses during the first phase of public engagement.

A significant focus of the draft plan is on providing more bike facilities that are physically separated from motor vehicle traffic to improve safety. "That was one of

the top requests," Shoemaker said.

Bicyclists also wanted to see slower traffic speeds on streets where they bike. Other requests were for improved street maintenance, better upkeep of bikeways in the winter, improved bike network connections and more bike parking facilities.

In the current phase of public engagement, Shoemaker said greater efforts are being made to reach out to minority communities, and to the West Side and neighborhoods east of downtown.

He said every bike route identified in the original bike plan was re-evaluated as part of the current draft. Several streets previously identified as candidates for on-street bike lanes or shared facilities are now being suggested for separated lanes.

Local streets recommended for changes include Ford Parkway, Saint Clair and Cleveland avenues. Hamline and Summit avenues are among bike routes identified

as priorities, along with Marshall Avenue east of Snelling. Bike facilities along busy University Avenue and West Seventh Street are also being explored.

The recommendation to use former railroad corridors for bikeways could draw on past plans for the Canadian Pacific Railroad spur in Highland Park, and the CP Rail line leading west from Ayd Mill Road to an old rail bridge over the Mississippi River.

The draft plan also calls for removing some bike routes from the original plan because of the close proximity to other routes. Highland Parkway west of Snelling Avenue would be removed, since there are bike lanes two blocks away on Ford Parkway. Fuller Avenue, once seen as a potential east-west route, was removed due to uncertainties about property acquisition.

For more information and to take a survey on the draft plan before the July 31 closing date, see stpaul.gov/bikeplan.

12-1 WRIGHT CALL

chopped a stroke off their previous day's effort to finish tied for seventh at 145 and 13th at 147, respectively.

"One of my assistants figured out that if you only took the low three scores from everybody who played, we would've finished first overall," Kinne said.

Now that the shortened prep golf season is done, the Raider trio will stretch out for the summer, looking for Minnesota Golf Association and junior events around the country to play in.

"They all have aspirations to play Division I golf," Kinne said. "To do that, you have to be seen by folks."

They will also work on the parts of their game that Kinne emphasized in the spring. "They all can hit the ball a long way," he said. "They know they need to work on their approach shots."

Raider nine fall short in sections

Many people thought this would be the year the CDH baseball team would make a triumphant return to state for the first time since winning its record 11th big-school crown in 2007. Once the snow cleared this spring, the top-ranked Raiders came out swinging, scoring 45 runs in winning their first three games of the season. The hits just kept on coming as the Raiders won 11 of their first 12 games, including a pair of lopsided decisions over Suburban East Conference rival East Ridge.

Things continued going well and CDH finished the regular season with a 16-4 mark – the last win being a 4-2 decision over Saint Thomas Academy.

In the sections, the Raiders won their first two games, lost a third-round encounter to East Ridge, but rebounded to eliminate Stillwater and blank the Raptors to force a winner-take-all second game. In that one, CDH led 4-3 after one inning, but the Raptors' bats were too much and they went on to win 13-5. The Raiders' season ended with an impressive 20-6 overall record, but no trip to state.

Unusual end to prep baseball season

The second day of the state Class AAAA baseball tournament ended in an unusual fashion at CHS Field. As per custom, the quarterfinal winners met up in a pair of semifinal games with the winners going to the finals two days later and the losers quickly regrouping to play for third place later that same day.

It's a particularly tough thing to do if you're the team that loses the latter of the two semifinals. In this case, it was Edina. The Hornets got a break of roughly a half-hour before they were scheduled to face longtime rival Minnetonka in the third-place game. At the same time, CHS Field was being engulfed in a gray layer of unhealthy air brought on by the Canadian wildfires. Edina and Minnetonka had split a pair of games during the regular season. Thus, this game would also be for bragging rights in the western suburbs.

Both coaches looked at the sky and then consulted with the state high school league officials in charge. Edina coach Tom Nevers basically settled matters when he said, "If the Yankees can cancel a game because of haze, so can we." Indeed, the game was cancelled due to poor air quality and the teams will share third place.

Before everybody went home, however, both teams stood together for a picture at home plate. It wasn't the ending either team wanted, but both knew it was the right thing to do.

With Target Field unavailable, CHS hosted all four state championship games for the first time. All appeared to go well with the day being capped off when East Ridge edged Rosemount 1-0 in a taut Class AAAA affair that lasted a mere 87 minutes. It was a fitting finale to a week that reminded us why baseball can be among the most unpredictable sports of them all.

In addition to the snappily played AAAA title game, there were two oddities in earlier AAAA games at CHS. In a quarterfinal game, a batter hit into a double play while getting two RBI at the same time. The next day, Rosemount scratched out just one hit in five innings and then scored 10 runs in the sixth en route to a 12-2 semifinal win over Edina.

As Yogi Berra once noted, "In baseball, you don't know nothing."

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

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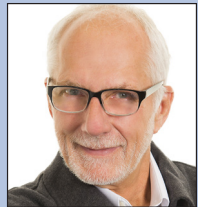
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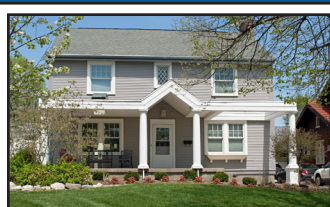


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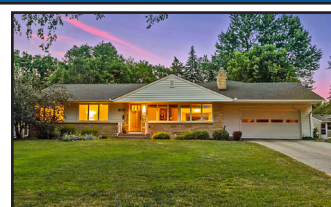
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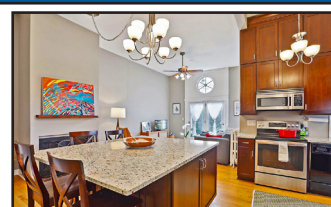
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Step inside Unit #4 in the historic converted Castle House! Enjoy soaring ceilings, expansive windows, lovely hardwood! Updated kitchen with granite, dining room. Owner's suite, W/I closet, spiral staircase! 112 Western Avenue N #4. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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MIKE JAMBOR
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TJ PIERRET
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Just Listed!
782 JAMES AVENUE
If you would enjoy relaxing on your front porch or entertaining in your backyard, this W 7th home is just for you! From the welcoming front porch to the original woodwork and stained-glass windows, this 3 BR, 2 bath home exudes charm.
www.nancykmaas.com

NANCY K MAAS
651-235-8581 • \$339,000



Sale Pending!
846 DEER PARK
Leave the lawn mowing and snow removal behind! Enjoy living in newer construction in a prime Highland location! 3 bedrooms, 4 baths and there's even a generous-sized deck to enjoy spring and summer evenings.
www.nancykmaas.com

NANCY K MAAS
651-235-8581 • \$470,000



Coming Soon!
WEST 7TH CHARMER! 891 BAYARD AVE
Live in the heart of the West 7th/Fort Rd corridor. Entry through the front porch perfect for sitting and enjoying the evening breeze. One BR on the main floor w/ full bath plus 3 BR's w/walk-in closets upstairs and lovely outdoor space in back yard w/deck and perennials.
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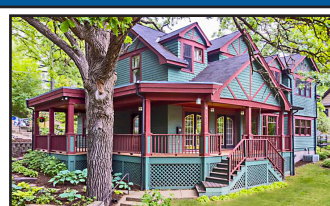


TOM EDELSTEIN, CRS
HENRY EDELSTEIN, CRS
651-695-4300



SOLD
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.

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651-755-6669 • \$499K



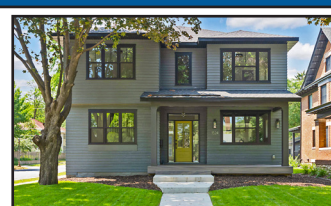
SAINT ANTHONY PARK GEM!
Historic grandeur meets high-end custom remodel. Open floor plan, wrap around porch, dream lot! 6 bedroom, 4 bath, 2 car garage with possible ADU. Must see!
www.Q@QMoet.com

Q MOET
651-222-1007 • \$1,190,000



OVERLOOKING COMO LAKE!
Charming Brick Cape Cod home with original architectural details, spacious addition, and picturesque back yard. Lake views and paths allow you to take in the Como Pavilion, Golf Course, Zoo, and more.
www.LiveInComo.com

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

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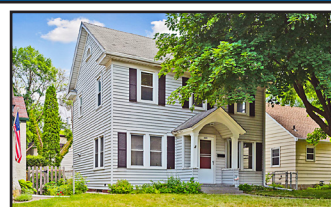
SOLD before print!
CLASSIC AMERICAN FOUR SQUARE!
Extremely well maintained and is larger than most! Lovely entertainment-sized living & dining rooms. Large updated kitchen w/4 true BR's & 2BA's on the 2nd flr & one in the LL. Stucco, roof, mechanicals have been dashed & updated as well. Lovely backyard & deck plus beautiful front porch for lazy days. Call Lolly Salmen for details.

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



SOLD
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



2085 PALACE AVENUE
Opportunity knocks! Located in demand Mac-Groveland, this two-story home features 3BR's, 2BA's, hrdwd flrs, FP & finished basement. The addition off of the 3rd BR would be a wonderful nursery, walk-in closet, extra BR or potential for additional BA. Enjoy the home in its current condition, or bring your renovation ideas to life.

MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



JUST LISTED!!!
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
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651-334-3659



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651-263-0552



Under Contract!
TWO STORY CHARMER IN ST PAUL!
This two story charmer is sure to impress both inside and out. First time to be available in 38 years! You'll be wowed by the architectural details throughout, crown molding, original corner built-ins in the dining room, hardwood flooring, French doors, and more. Spacious kitchen includes breakfast bar.
www.SaintPaulChamer.com

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612-247-5106 • \$465,000



New Listing!
RARE OPPORTUNITY ON CHARLEY LAKE!
Extraordinary all brick, custom built home with architectural details throughout. Gourmet kitchen is sure to impress—curved custom cabinetry, center island, and informal dining space that looks out over Charley Lake. Generous sized rooms throughout the home with ensuite baths in each bedroom and a main floor owner's suite. You'll love the curved staircase as you enter the large foyer. Head outside to enjoy the in-ground swimming pool.

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106

\$1,795,000

www.NorthOaksLakeShore.com



CUSTOM BUILT HOME IN NORTH OAKS!
Two story living with wide open views and privacy in North Oaks! Spacious kitchen includes center island, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances and pantry. Head upstairs to find 5 bedrooms. Private owner's suite with walk-in closet and private bath. This home has all of the spaces that you've been looking for!
www.NorthOaksTwoStory.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$895,000



KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245



MICHAELA TOOHEY
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