

# ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

July 2007

## WSNAC supports ramp proposal, discusses traffic analysis

A neighborhood committee has endorsed a St. Thomas proposal to construct a parking ramp on the university's south campus next year.

The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee voted June 12 to support the plans for the 704-car ramp, which St. Thomas proposes to build in 2008-2009 on the tennis courts near the southwest corner of Cretin and Grand

avenues.

The committee met on five occasions since last October with representatives from St. Thomas, Ryan Companies, SRF Consulting and the city's traffic engineering staff to discuss the project.

The most-recent discussions, in May and June, centered on a SRF analysis of the impact that the ramp would have on vehicular traffic flow on Cretin Avenue and on motorists who park in the

ramp and then walk across Cretin to the main campus north of Summit Avenue.

SRF recommended, and the city said it will require, the following steps:

- Creating two left-hand turn lanes on Cretin at Grand – a southbound left-hand turn lane onto eastbound Grand and a northbound left-hand turn lane into the south campus. The city does not want to use left-hand turn arrows initially but would add them later if necessary.

- Creating two northbound lanes on Cretin between Lincoln and Summit. This will be accomplished by prohibiting parking at all times on the east side of Cretin between Lincoln and Grand and removing about three feet of boulevard between Grand and the alley north of Grand.

- Creating three southbound lanes on Cretin as drivers approach Grand. The left lane, as noted above, will be an exclusive left-hand turn lane onto Grand. The middle lane will be a through lane. The right lane will double as a through lane and a right-hand turn lane into the campus.

## You're invited to Aug. 1 Neighborfest

The University of St. Thomas will host its annual community celebration, "Neighborfest," from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, in Foley Plaza on the university's St. Paul campus.

The event, which first was held in 1981, has attracted hundreds of St. Thomas neighbors to the campus. Neighborfest is free and open to neighbors, their families and friends.

The atmosphere is relaxing, and this is a great opportunity to see our campus "all dressed up" for the summer, with gardens in full bloom.

This year's fest has a Tour de France theme. As usual, there

will be plenty of free treats for kids young and not-so-young: fruit kabobs, ice cream and ice pops, lemonade and French breadsticks. And, for those who'd like to make a dinnertime visit, we'll fire up the grill, and make hotdogs, brats, burgers and chicken and beef kabobs for purchase, too. Music and sports and safety clinics for the kids make Neighborfest a relaxing and fun evening.

In the event of rain, the festivities move indoors to nearby Murray-Herrick Campus Center. Questions? Call the university's University Relations office, (651) 962-6400.

*Continued on the next page*



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

# UST new home for American Museum of Asmat Art

The University of St. Thomas soon will house a museum known nationally for its collection of tribal art from New Guinea.

The university this summer will become the new home for the American Museum of Asmat Art, which since 1995 has been located at the provincial headquarters of

the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Shoreview, Minn.

The museum is one of two established since this order of Catholic priests and brothers began missionary work in 1958 with the Asmat, a tribal people indigenous to the southwest coast of the island of New Guinea - a

region known as Irian Jaya or West Papua, Indonesia.

About 70,000 Asmat are scattered today among 120 different villages of the region's rainforests. First seen by Dutch traders in 1623, the Asmat today are a hunting-and-gathering culture noted for exquisite woodcarving and veneration of ancestors.

Dr. Marisa Kelly, dean of the university's College of Arts and Sciences, called the museum's collection "one of the premier collections of its kind in the United States." Insured for more than a million dollars, it consists of more than 1,500 objects, in addition to publications and multimedia resources, and includes carvings, masks, shields, canoes, drums and other artifacts of Asmat culture.

The museum's collection and offices will be relocated to the university's St. Paul campus beginning this summer. Long-term plans include a permanent gallery on the campus and continued collaborative off-campus exhibitions.

Kelly said that the museum's first exhibit on the St. Thomas campus is likely next spring.

## Ramp: Community councils to discuss plans

*Continued from front page*

- Creating a partial second southbound Cretin lane south of Grand. Motorists continuing south on Cretin initially will be in one of two lanes, which will merge into one lane before Lincoln.

One level of the ramp will be below grade and the other four levels will be above grade, with the top deck of parking at 33 feet above grade. The ramp will be constructed to allow the addition of one or two levels (150-300 cars), although St. Thomas has no plans for any such expansion at this time. The university's Special Condition Use Permit allows a ramp height of up to 60 feet.

St. Thomas also will seek endorsements from two community councils this summer.

The Housing and Land Use Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council will discuss the ramp at its 7 p.m. July 25 meeting at Edgcumbe Community Center, 320 S. Griggs St., with board discussion to follow in September. The District 13 Community Council board will discuss the ramp at its Aug. 8 or Sept. 12 meeting.

The university this fall will submit its plans to the city for site plan review, with hopes to begin construction next May and to open the ramp in the summer of 2009. St. Thomas needs to construct the ramp to replace parking spaces that will be lost to construction of a new student center on the northeast corner of Cretin and Summit as early as 2010-2011.

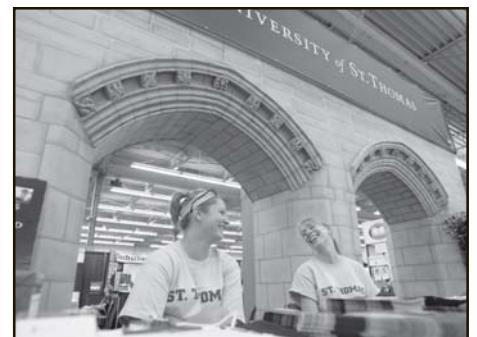
## 'Our state fair is a great state fair ...'

If you plan to attend the Minnesota State Fair Aug. 23-Sept. 3, be sure to stop at the arches.

UST's booth, an award-winning replica of the university's Summit Avenue arches, is easy to find in the fairgrounds' Education Building.

Just walk into the building, and there we are, straight ahead.

What are we giving away this year? That's top secret until the fair, but here's a hint: A first stop at the UST booth will bag you an item to make your fair goods easier to tote the rest of the day. See you there!



*More than 175 student, faculty and staff volunteers work the booth each year.*

## Over the back fence



**By John Hershey,  
Neighborhood Liaison**

I admit to skepticism when I heard St. Thomas

had to create a neighborhood advisory committee. Put the community councils, SARPA, Neighbors United and UST officials in the same room, given our five-plus-year history of “negotiations”? Remember the lawn signs? I thought the idea was nuts. I felt even more skeptical when I was appointed a co-chair of the committee that wrote its own bylaws and began calling itself the West Summit

Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Three years later, I know I was wrong. WSNAC is working. We’re communicating, sharing ideas and thoughts and plans and we continue to address substantive issues in an ongoing way. Here’s a brief review of some recent accomplishments.

McNeely Hall opened in September 2006. WSNAC contributed actively and thoughtfully to the construction management plan and helped minimize neighborhood impact. WSNAC assisted in developing a pedestrian management plan which has increased pedestrian safety and random Summit crossings. WSNAC felt so strongly about reducing the number of crosswalks that it contributed funds to achieve a more effective outcome.

WSNAC’s Housing Subcommittee has sponsored two community forums and produced a neighbor relations guide. The Traffic, Parking, Safety and Student Relations group wrote a proposal to improve Summit lighting. The Campus Development Subcommittee spearheaded a design review and traffic study as plans go forward for UST’s new parking ramp. For more information, visit [www.wsnac.net](http://www.wsnac.net).

I never like to say I was wrong; just ask my wife or kids or any of the basketball officials I’ve criticized during my years on the coaching sidelines. But I was. So when you see a WSNAC member, says thanks.

## WSNAC creating stronger neighborhood, university



**By Doug Hennes,  
Vice President  
for University  
and Government  
Relations**

WSNAC is working.

By saying that, I don’t just mean that the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee gets together on a regular basis, discusses issues and makes decisions. True, that’s work.

What I really mean is that the WSNAC process is working – bringing together representatives from four neighborhood organizations and St. Thomas to create conditions that foster a stronger neighborhood and a stronger

university.

Our most-recent success story involves our plans to construct a parking ramp. We brought the idea to WSNAC last October at the beginning of the process – before architects from Ryan Companies put pencil to paper – to get the committee’s feedback. Ryan came back with design sketches in January; got a lot of constructive criticism and ideas, and returned in April with a better plan.

Another important element was to analyze the ramp’s impact on Cretin Avenue traffic. We knew we would have more cars and more pedestrians. The traffic engineers at SRF Consulting presented preliminary recommendations to WSNAC in April, got constructive criticism and ideas and returned in June with a better plan.

The key word here may be “constructive.” Gone, for the most part, are the skepticism, cynicism and even distrust that characterized parts of our five-year effort to obtain a Conditional Use Permit to redevelop two blocks on Summit Avenue. Present is a genuine interest to work together.

I’m not naïve enough to believe that a mostly harmonious ramp project means every other project will be trouble-free when it lands on WSNAC’s table. But I like the odds and the atmosphere more today than I did three years ago, and I certainly prefer going into meetings these days with a sense of optimism, not pessimism.

And that’s because WSNAC is working.

# At St. Thomas

Join the St. Thomas community for these speakers, events and performances.  
For more information, call the number listed with the event or (651) 962-6400.

## Aug. 18

*Cultural festival:* UST hosts the 14th annual Igbofest this afternoon on the lower quadrangle of the St. Paul campus (rain site: Schoenecker Arena).

The free festival, designed for families and celebrating the heritage and culture of Igbo-speaking people from eastern Nigeria, is co-sponsored by the Umunne Cultural Association.

Igbofest includes storytelling, traditional dancing, masquerades, ethnic foods and fashions and other Igbo traditions.

For more information, call the Umunne Cultural Association, (651) 644-2010, or visit the organization's Web site, [www.umunne.org](http://www.umunne.org).



## Sept. 5

*Classes begin:* It's the first day of fall-semester undergraduate classes at St. Thomas. Please watch out for lost-looking pedestrians and be patient with those who haven't yet learned where (and where not) to park. Wish students well on the first day of school. If you have concerns about student neighbors, call Neighborhood Liaison John Hershey, (651) 962-6123.



## Sept. 9

*St. Paul Classic Bike Tour:* The largest biking event in Minnesota and one of the largest in the nation begins and ends at St. Thomas.

Riders enjoy a 15- or 31-mile ride through some of St. Paul's most scenic neighborhoods. Live music, great food and hundreds of friendly volunteers have made this a signature event in the region.

The tour map, volunteer opportunities and registration information will be available at [www.spnec.org](http://www.spnec.org).



## Sept. 17-Oct. 26

*Art exhibit:* Mark your calendar for St. Thomas' fall art exhibit, "Landscapes of the Mind," featuring works by printmaker Stephanie Hunder, photo-collage artist Karen Klein, sculptor Alis Olson and painter Mary Olson.

These artists reinterpret the concept of landscape to arrive at highly personal artistic statements. Hunder's work reveals variety in texture and mood; Klein's black-and-white photographs are surreal but "hyper real" at the same time; Olson's assemblages describe the world with a satiric bite; Olson melds realism and abstraction to bring light and movement to the landscape.

See the exhibition in the Lobby Gallery of O'Shaughnessy Educational Center. Its opening reception, free and open to the public, will coincide with the College Art Gallery Collaborative Fall Tour, 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5. For details, see [www.stthomas.edu/arhistory/exhibitions](http://www.stthomas.edu/arhistory/exhibitions).



## Dec. 20-31

*A Christmas to remember:* The St. Thomas Alumni Association invites UST alumni and friends to join the university's Liturgical Choir for Christmas at the Vatican.

In addition to performing other concerts in Assisi and Florence, the internationally renowned choir will sing at Christmas Eve Mass at St. Peter's Basilica -- and you can have a reserved seat.

Other highlights of the pilgrimage include three nights in Florence (where you'll see Michelangelo's "David") and visits to Assisi and Siena. Father John Malone, former St. Thomas professor and co-pastor of the Church of the Assumption in downtown St. Paul, leads the pilgrimage.

Alumni and friends of the university and their families (children age 10 and older) are welcome.

Paid reservations are due Oct. 20.

Learn more here: [www.stthomas.edu/alumni/events/ItalyTour](http://www.stthomas.edu/alumni/events/ItalyTour). Questions? Call Rachel Wobschall, 651-962-6992.

## Neighbor Appreciation Day Sept. 15

Neighbors are especially invited to join the Tommies for some free football fun on Saturday, Sept. 15, in O'Shaughnessy Stadium.

In their first home game of the 2007 season, the Tommies will host the Gusties of

Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Game time is 1 p.m.

Tickets and treats are on us; bring the family! Use the coupons below. If you need additional coupons, see our ad in the Sept. 12 Highland Villager.

### Concession Stand Coupon

Free popcorn and small soft drink  
One per person while supplies last  
Saturday, Sept. 15  
O'Shaughnessy Stadium

### 2 Free Admissions- Football

St. Thomas vs. Gustavus Adolphus  
Saturday, Sept. 15  
O'Shaughnessy Stadium