

ARCHES

A newsletter for neighbors of the University of St. Thomas

July 2008

Work begins on Anderson Parking Facility at Cretin and Grand avenues

Construction work has begun in earnest on the university's new Anderson Parking Facility near the southwest corner of Cretin and Grand avenues.

Crews from Ryan Companies, the architect and contractor for the 725-car ramp, began work May 19 on the site and started excavation May 23. Work has

proceeded on schedule with a minimum of disruptions to nearby Cretin Avenue traffic flow.

"Our goal is to always have at least one lane of traffic open in each direction at all times," said Mark Welch, senior project manager at Ryan.

Temporary lane closures have

allowed the the city and Ryan to complete water and sewer work related to the project.

The east side of Cretin north of Grand will be widened, and the city will install new traffic lights at Cretin and Grand later this summer.

The campus entrance at Cretin and Grand will remain closed until late August, and the Cretin entrance north of the softball field has been eliminated. Motorists and bicyclists have been encouraged to use the Summit Avenue service drive west of Loras Hall. Lots N, T, U and a portion of Lot O will remain closed during most of construction.

The ramp will take about nine months to complete, depending on weather conditions. St. Thomas has not decided when it will open the ramp, but expects that to be during the spring semester. Permit and guest fees for the ramp have not been determined.

The Cretin-Grand intersection work will improve traffic flow through the following steps:

- Two turn lanes on Cretin at Grand – a northbound left-hand turn lane into the south

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You're invited to July 30 Neighborfest

The University of St. Thomas will host its annual community celebration, "Neighborfest," from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 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 celebrates the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. As usual, there will be

plenty of free treats for kids young and not-so-young: ice cream novelties, trail mix, San Zi Ma Hua (fried dough twists with cinnamon and sugar), popcorn and lemonade. And, for those who'd like to make a dinnertime visit, we'll fire up the grill, and make hotdogs, brats, burgers and sesame chicken kabobs for purchase, too. Live music and Olympics-style competition for the kids will make Neighborfest a relaxing and fun evening.

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



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS



Here's a peek at early excavation of the site for the new ramp, looking south.

Ramp: Project includes intersection improvements, too

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campus and a southbound left-hand turn lane onto eastbound Grand. The city will not use left-hand turn arrows initially but will add them later if necessary.

- 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.
- Three southbound lanes on Cretin as drivers approach Grand. The left lane, as noted above, will be an exclusive left-hand turn lane onto eastbound 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.
- 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.

Ryan expects between 50 and 70 employees on the construction site this month through November, declining to 20 to 40 in December and January.

St. Thomas has lost about 150 surface parking spaces within the ramp construction footprint and staging area. In addition, Ryan employees are using 20-70 spaces until November. The lost spaces are not expected to present a problem because ample parking is available elsewhere on campus during construction.

The ramp is named for Lee and Penny Anderson, whose \$60 million gift to the university is making possible its construction as well as a new student center and improvements to athletic and recreational facilities. Anderson is on the St. Thomas Board of Trustees.

Around the University of St. Thomas

UST 12th in NCAA Division III all-sports competition

St. Thomas placed 12th among 424 institutions in this year's NCAA Division III Directors' Cup all-sports standings – its best showing in eight years. UST has placed in the top 40 for all 13 years of the competition, which recognizes the nation's top collegiate athletics programs.



Interim executive VP named

Dr. Susan Huber, dean of UST's College of Applied Professional Studies, has been named interim executive vice president and chief academic officer. She succeeds Dr. Thomas Rochon, who recently became president of Ithaca College in New York. A committee will begin work this fall on a national search for Rochon's replacement.



Malone named vice president for mission, Neuzil named associate director for mission

Father John Malone has been named vice president for mission and Dr. Mark Neuzil has been named director of the university's Office for Mission. Malone, a longtime faculty member who serves on the university board, is retired pastor of the Church of the Assumption in downtown St. Paul.

Neuzil, of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, is former chairman of the UST Communication and Journalism Department, where he's taught Mass Communication and Society, Journalism History, and Theology and the Mass Media. He has taught at St. Thomas since 1993.

Over the back fence



**By John Hershey,
Neighborhood Liaison**

If you've passed by the Cretin-Grand

intersection lately, no doubt you've noticed we've dug a big hole in the ground and have begun construction on the Anderson Parking Facility, a project we hope to complete early next spring.

According to the approved construction management plan, crews are beginning work at 7 a.m. and closing up shop by 4:30 p.m., although work can continue until 6 p.m. to take advantage of good weather and to keep the project on schedule. If you're like me, you hope Ryan will

get it built and be gone as soon as possible!

You also should be aware that construction is not limited to the site but has and will occur in and adjacent to the street as various crews from the city, Xcel Energy and the cable company make utility connections. Also part of the plans are new sidewalks, an improved intersection with turn lanes and new traffic signals.

We will make every effort to keep Cretin Avenue open during the rest of the project. The majority of street, sidewalk and utility work should be done by mid-August. Ryan plans to reopen the campus entrance at Cretin and Grand in time for the start of school.

Obviously, I am available to answer – or find answers to – any questions you may have. We have

created a Web site where you may review the construction management plan, read weekly progress updates and be alerted to any community announcements; visit the site often at www.stthomas.edu/construction. I have regular contact with the site superintendent and will do my best to keep that information as current as possible.

I know it's never fun to experience inconveniences created by any construction project, let alone one which can feel at times like it's in your backyard or on your street. Please understand that we are doing our best to keep disruptions to a minimum. We ask for your patience as we make improvements to the campus.

Summertime puts the 'camp' in 'campus' at St. Thomas

It's 9 a.m. Do you know where your children are? They might be at ... St. Thomas! Here's a peek at a few of the dozens of youth camps and programs on campus this summer.

New UST head football coach Glenn Caruso hosted camps for gradeschoolers, as did Minnesota Vikings center Matt Birk and UST basketball coaches John Tauer and Ruth Sinn. Someday the budding athletes might draw a somersault or two from the Universal Cheerleading Association campers, who also were on campus this month.

Camp Masala, a weekend camp

for children of Indian heritage and their families, returned to UST for its fourth year June 13-15. Its theme was a "tour" of the northeast states of India: West Bengal, Sikkim and the "Seven Sisters": Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Learn more at www.campmasala.org.

St. Paul Public Schools hosted its two-week summer transition program for recent high school graduates with vision impairments, and the Minnesota Resource Center for Blind/Visually Impaired held its annual literacy conference in June.

UST also is home for six weeks to

Minnesota-based Sounds of Hope, an organization that invites young people from all over the world to live and rehearse together to create a nationally touring concert featuring songs and dances from the countries and cultures of the performers. Learn more at www.soundsofhope.org.

The 18th annual National Youth Sports Program drew hundreds of children from low-income families, most of them students of color and from inner-city neighborhoods in St. Paul and Minneapolis. They enjoy athletic and academic enrichment activities free. Health and fitness and academic achievement go hand in hand.

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.

Through Sept. 21

Exhibit: The Minnesota Center for Book Arts and the University of St. Thomas present "Face the Nation: How National Identity Shaped Modern Typeface Design, 1900-1960" at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Suite 100, Minneapolis.

The exhibit, free and open to the public, investigates how the need to reinforce, redefine or transcend national identities shaped modern typography design.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Programs to be held in conjunction with the exhibit include speakers at 7 p.m. July 15 and 29; a family "Design Your Own Font" workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. July 19; a screening of the film "Helvetica" at 7 p.m. Aug. 14; and a panel presentation by students in St. Thomas' M.A. in Art History program at 7 p.m. Sept. 16.

For details on all "Face the Nation" events, photographs from the exhibit and a downloadable audio for a guided tour, visit www.stthomas.edu/facethenation.

For a map and directions to Open Book, visit www.mnbookarts.org.



July 20

Music education seminar: One of Minnesota's best-known contemporary composers, Libby Larsen, is the 2008 speaker in the annual Jane Frazee Distinguished Scholar/Artist Series presented by UST's Graduate Programs in Music Education.

The seminar will be held from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in the third-floor lounge of Murray-Herrick Campus Center. Admission is free to students and \$10 for

the general public.

Composer of more than 400 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral and choral scores, Larsen is currently working on a book, *The Concert Hall That Fell Asleep and Woke Up as a Car Radio*, and an opera work based on the play, "Picnic," by William Inge. She is a co-founder of the Minnesota Composers' Forum.

Larsen's presentation is titled "What is the Mission of Music Education? Thoughts From a Composer."

For more information or for reservations, e-mail gradmusic@stthomas.edu.



Aug. 9

Cultural festival: UST hosts the 15th-annual Igbofest this afternoon on the lower quadrangle of UST's 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, or e-mail info@umunne.org.



Sept. 7

St. Paul Classic Bike Tour: Register now for the largest biking event in Minnesota and one of the largest in the nation. It begins and ends at St. Thomas.

Take a 15- or 31-mile ride through some of St. Paul's most scenic neighborhoods!

The tour map, volunteer opportunities and registration information are available at www.bikeclassic.org.

Neighbor Appreciation Day Sept. 6

Neighbors are especially invited to join the Tommies for some free football fun on Saturday, Sept. 6, in O'Shaughnessy Stadium.

In their first home game of the 2008 season under new head coach Glenn Caruso, the

Tommies will host the Scots of Macalester College - Caruso's former team. Game time: 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 Aug. 20 Highland Villager.

Concession Stand Coupon

Free popcorn and small soft drink
One per person while supplies last
Saturday, Sept. 6
O'Shaughnessy Stadium

2 Free Admissions- Football

St. Thomas vs. Macalester
Saturday, Sept. 6
O'Shaughnessy Stadium