

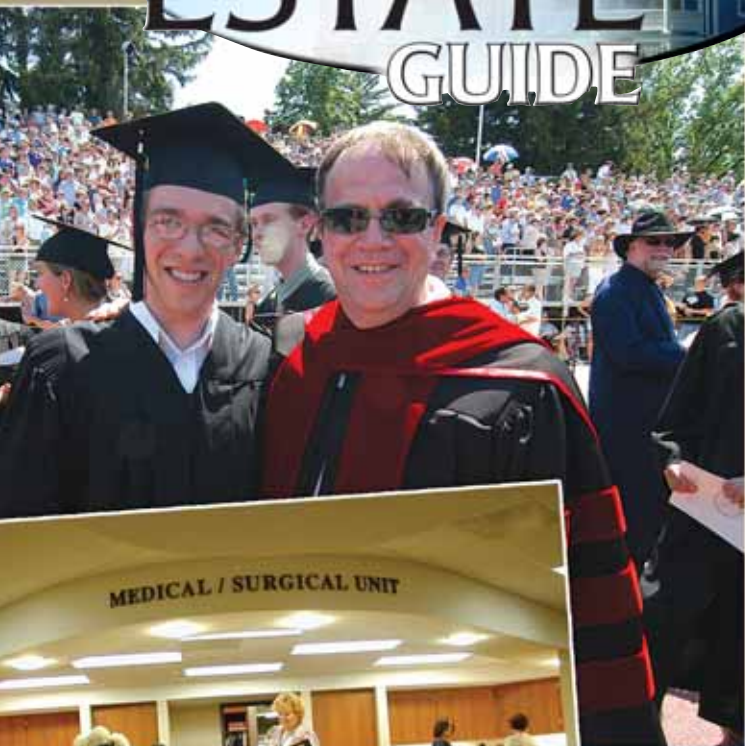
# REAL ESTATE GUIDE



**FREE**

December 12, 2007  
Vol. 1, Issue 12  
*Published every two weeks*

Northfield Arts Guild  
**ArtSwirl**  
Arts & Culture  
Commission



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# Welcome to the Northfield Area REAL ESTATE GUIDE

As 2007 draws to a close, we've taken a look back at the "about Northfield" articles that have appeared in our Real Estate Guide this year. And so, mixed in amongst the real estate-related supporters of this publication, you'll find valuable insights into some of the significant resources that make Northfield so special. **Amy Boxrud** looks at the two colleges that have stood like bookends since our earliest days. **Scott Richardson** covers the modern-day expansion of medical services here and nearby. **Michael Fallon** sheds light on the city's support of and benefit from its rich menu of arts and cultural activities. For a taste of what Michael is talking about – visit [www.northfieldguide.com](http://www.northfieldguide.com) where you'll find an amazing array of happenings every month. Thanks for picking up this Guide and let our advertisers know you saw them here.



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**December 12, 2007**

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**About the Guide:**

The *Guide* is published twice monthly except November and December, when it will come out once in the middle of the month. It is distributed free throughout the Northfield area and at key locations south of the Twin Cities.

Though primarily an advertising vehicle for real-estate related services – we also strive to incorporate a sense of the community that surrounds it all through pertinent perspectives by local experts.

**Share your expertise.**

**Contact us.** Be it editorial or cover photos – we'd like to hear from you.

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**For great links to find more on the Northfield community, go to [www.northfieldguide.com](http://www.northfieldguide.com) and click on Northfield.**



**AMY BOXRUD**

communications specialist

explores the rich relationships – historic and present day – that exist between the St. Olaf and Carleton colleges and the community.



**SCOTT RICHARDSON**

points out that services are not the only benefits that medical facilities can bring to a community.

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**MICHAEL FALLON**

provides background on Northfield's commitment to supporting the arts and how the arts support the community.

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507-271-4599

### FEATURED REALTOR



**Larry Defries**  
507-321-1431

Larry has been a resident of the Northfield area for over 27 years, and prior to this, lived in Richfield, Minnesota, and on a farm in southwestern Minnesota near Slayton. His career path has included being an engineering tech for Hennepin County Highway Dept., project manager for a small construction company in Chaska, sales representative and part owner of a materials handling company in the Minneapolis area, and a Realtor for the past 21 years, having owned and managed his own real estate office for 11 of those years.

Larry has been a member of the Northfield Rotary Club since 1991, a past member of the Northfield Chamber of Commerce Board, served for 6 years on the Northfield Planning Commission, and 4 years on the Northfield Historical Society Board. He has enjoyed making these contributions to the community. Larry is also a member of Emmaus Baptist Church.

Larry has been married to Pat for 43 years and they have two grown children, Kim and Dan, both are married and living in the Minneapolis area. Pat and Larry enjoy their two grandchildren and look forward to their third one in December.

Even after 21 years in the real estate business, Larry still finds great satisfaction in helping people buy and sell a home. Over the years the process has become very involved. His first purchase agreement in 1987 consisted of one page. Now with the required disclosures, financing and contingency addendums, it is very common to have a purchase agreement contract be 15 or more pages.

## NEW LISTINGS

**109 Lexington Avenue S,  
New Prague**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$124,900 MLS#3464467**  
Cute rambler in the heart of New Prague. Close to pool, park, school and more. Lots of potential!

**1000 Cannon Valley  
Drive #141**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$174,900 MLS#3464289**  
Attractive one-floor condo with many amenities: common room, free laundry, whirlpool, shop, common garden, guest suites, patio and attached, heated garage.

**10892 Dennison Blvd**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$219,900 MLS#3469624**  
Privacy and panoramic views of the country on 1/2 acre lot. Minutes from downtown with 3-season porch, vaulted ceilings and fireplace.

**8388 172nd Street W,  
Lakeville**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$219,900 MLS#3467258**  
Beautiful 4BR/2BA home. Floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace in family room. 2-car garage, deck and flowered yard.

**8367 Shields Court,  
Lonsdale**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$224,900 MLS#3466475**  
Beautiful contemporary home in an exquisite country development. Deeded lake access.

**749 Sibley Drive**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$229,000 MLS#3467283**  
Adjacent to Park! Five bedroom home with updated kitchen and baths, featuring a private backyard adjacent to parkland.

**33642 Highway 56  
Boulevard, Dennison**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$349,900 MLS#3466489**  
Beautiful home, 50x120 pole barn, horse shed, chicken coop, pond and creek, and so much more...All on 36 Acres!

**910 Clover Court**



**NEW LISTING**

**\$359,900 MLS#3467577**  
Great family home in quiet neighborhood with large living spaces, great storage, 5 BRs, 3 BAs and 3,180 square feet!

## NEW PRICES

**1107 Highland Avenue**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$65,900 MLS#3332575**  
One bedroom, one bath condo! Close to St. Olaf and downtown. Best Deal In Town!

**103 Orchard Street S**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$189,000 MLS#3426120**  
Great location, wonderful yard, and lots of room! New carpet, new siding, new roof, and new garage door.

**1704 Washington Street**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$199,900 MLS#3451823**  
One-Level townhome with spacious master suite with walk-in closet and whirlpool. Bright sunroom with pond views, kitchen with walk-in pantry...and more!

**101 Lincoln Street S**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$208,000 MLS#3305669**  
Investment property with four bedrooms, two baths and 1,480 square feet. Close to St. Olaf College.

**4950 90th Street E**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$239,900 MLS#3453934**  
Heath Creek meanders through a wooded lot with a 3BR/2BA rambler. Fireplace, screened porch and windows overlooking creek and woods!

**1408 Blue Flag Court**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$299,900 MLS#3467747**  
Main floor living is possible here in this outstanding Prairie Hills townhome where the lower level great room has beautiful hand-crafted features.

**1112 Woodland Trail**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$389,000 MLS#3459796**  
Wooded privacy within city limits! Quality and TLC is evident everywhere. Spacious living rm, dining rm, kitchen, breakfast rm and family rm.

**100th Street**



**NEW PRICE**

**\$400,000 MLS#3442955**  
Come Home to the country! 38 Acres of peace and privacy.

**10 10th St NW, Faribault**



**\$69,900 MLS#3423853**  
Great bones...but needs a facelift! Your TLC will make this house shine!

**Featured Listing:  
33370 Highway 56 Boulevard, Dennison**



**\$474,900 MLS#3263788**  
Acreage, creek and trees! Spacious rambler with walkout and pole building...on a blacktop road – everything one desires!



**27 Spruce Street, Farmington**



**\$115,900 MLS#3460192**  
2BR/1BA home offering large, fenced backyard, oversized, 2-car garage and great location near downtown and schools.

**813 Poplar Street**



**\$128,900 MLS#3445939**  
2BR/1BA home located near a park. Large family kitchen with many cabinets, main floor laundry, den and dining room!

**18262 Emerald Trail, Farmington**



**\$164,900 MLS#3373823**  
Great beginnings start here. This charming home offers 3BR, 2BA and so much more.

**508 6th Street E**



**\$194,900 MLS#3433954**  
Charming inside and out! Ideal location, deep backyard, open front porch, sun room, and spacious deck! Immaculate condition!

**703 4th Street E**



**\$219,900 MLS#3461018**  
Cozy, vintage cottage home with hardwood floors, formal dining room, spacious 3-season porch and beautiful backyard with paver brick patio.

**1118 Maple Street**



**\$219,900 MLS#3421128**  
Build equity immediately! Estate owned and priced to sell! Walkout rambler, 4BR on main floor, 3BA, hdwd and ceramic flooring, 2 fps, family rm and great backyard!

**509 9th Avenue NE, Lonsdale**



**\$229,900 MLS#3405463**  
Beautifully landscaped lot with a beautiful four-bedroom, two-bath home.

**206 Maple Street S**



**\$239,000 MLS#3438948**  
Linger on the enchanting screened porch overlooking lush shade gardens! Prime eastside location close to arboretum, parks and downtown.

**812 College Street**



**\$244,900 MLS#3349031**  
Delightful, sun-filled rooms! Walk-up attic, bow window, two porches, three bedrooms and two baths...a terrific home!

**1005 Greenvale Avenue W**



**\$249,900 MLS#3451194**  
Comfortable rambler on nearly 1/2 an acre lot with beautiful views. Many mature trees and plenty of garden space. Spacious living room with wood fireplace!

**405 Afton Drive**



**\$334,900 MLS#3409281**  
Stunning 4-level walkout. Lovely maple solid doors, cabinetry, trim and flooring. Open and flowing floor plan, deck, patio and fireplace!

**105 Bluestone Drive, Dundas**



**\$349,000 MLS#3413696**  
Exceptional workmanship with quality materials. Cherry cabinets and entertainment center, Red Birch floors, Trex deck, walk-in pantry and stainless steel appliances.

**7801 132nd Street E**



**\$1,200,000 MLS#3423728**  
Newer brick home on 24 acres. Craftsman 4,000 sq. ft. interior accented with walnut trim and gourmet kitchen.

## CONDOS/TOWNHOMES

**1114 Greenvale Avenue W**



**\$99,900 MLS#3446036**  
Affordable condo near St. Olaf College. Quiet, well-kept, cozy home with beautiful views. Renovated in 1999.

**402 Archibald Lane, Dundas**



**\$139,900 MLS#3445712**  
You'll love this spacious, charming two-bedroom, two-bath townhome! Perfect for your first home. Modern décor throughout.

**711 Lincoln Street N**



**\$157,000 MLS#3450820**  
Ideal Location! Sun-capturing windows, oak cabinetry, French doors, central staircase, abundant storage, private deck, brick patio and birch woodwork.

**415 1/2 Division Street S**



**\$169,900 MLS#3171663**  
Downtown living with all of the conveniences, completely renovated. Two bedrooms and 1,100 square feet.

**1303 Presidential Drive**



**\$175,000 MLS#3450703**  
Immaculate townhome. Very well-cared for! One-level living is possible here. Immediate possession – motivated seller!

**14756 Embry Path, Apple Valley**



**\$179,000 MLS#3467220**  
Great townhome! Great location! Very private, 3BR/2BA, with a wood-burning fireplace.

**1702 Humphrey Court**



**\$199,900 MLS#3432120**  
Pristine townhome offers one-level living, gas fireplace, 4-season porch, deck, lunch counter and bay window! Lower level adds a guest bedroom and 3/4-bath.

**703 Hackerson Court**



**\$219,900 MLS#3434902**  
Enjoy the convenience of one-level living in this spacious westside twinhome. Large kitchen with breakfast rm, MF laundry, and 2 MF BRs w/ private BAs.

**608 Meldahl Lane**



**\$245,000 MLS#3455794**  
Twinhome on Northfield's west side near a park with a walking path. Features: finished walkout LL, 3BRs, 2BAs, sunroom, deck, attached double garage and patio.

**609 Zanmiller Drive W**



**\$250,000 MLS#3470393**  
Comfortable twinhome on Northfield's west side. Spacious living room with "L," MF laundry, finished walkout LL and no association!

**1279 & 1283 Woodley Street E**



**\$290,000 MLS#3126692 #3126602**  
Ideal location! Close to golf club, ponds, parks, and trails in established townhome community.

**1744 Quie Lane**



**\$419,900 MLS#3443814**  
Beautiful detached rambler townhome. Open floor plan with views of countryside! Cherry kitchen cabinets with granite countertops. Fabulous!

## SOLD/PENDING

**6700 168th Street W, Rosemount**



**\$139,900 MLS#3458603**

**416 2nd Street W**



**\$144,900 MLS#3362322**

**1321 Ash Street NE, Lonsdale**



**\$179,900 MLS#3382293**

**1210 Archibald Court**



**\$199,900 MLS#3453834**

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# A tale of two colleges

By Amy Boxrud

Cows, Colleges and Contentment. Northfield's well-known slogan makes it clear that the city's two colleges are central to its identity. The history of the colleges and the town are intertwined, and the mutually beneficial relationships between Carleton, St. Olaf and Northfield, along with all the benefits the colleges provide, help to make this unique town a great place to live.

"Both colleges are involved in our daily community life in many positive ways," says Northfield Mayor Lee Lansing, "just as the City of Northfield makes a positive contribution to the colleges."

## Founding of the colleges

Northfield's character has been shaped by the colleges since 1866, when Carleton College was founded.

Originally called Northfield College, the school's first classes began in 1867. By 1870, the school formed its first college class, began construction of its first building, and hired the Rev. James W. Strong as president. Although now autonomous and non-sectarian, the college was supported by the Congregational church throughout its formative years. By the fall of 1871, the college's name was changed to honor an early benefactor, William Carleton of Charlestown, Mass.

In 1874, in the same year that Carleton celebrated its first graduation, a group of pioneer pastors, farmers and businessmen were laying the groundwork for another school on a hill-top nearby. Named for Norway's patron saint, St. Olaf's School operated as an academy, offering a program of liberal studies to students preparing for careers

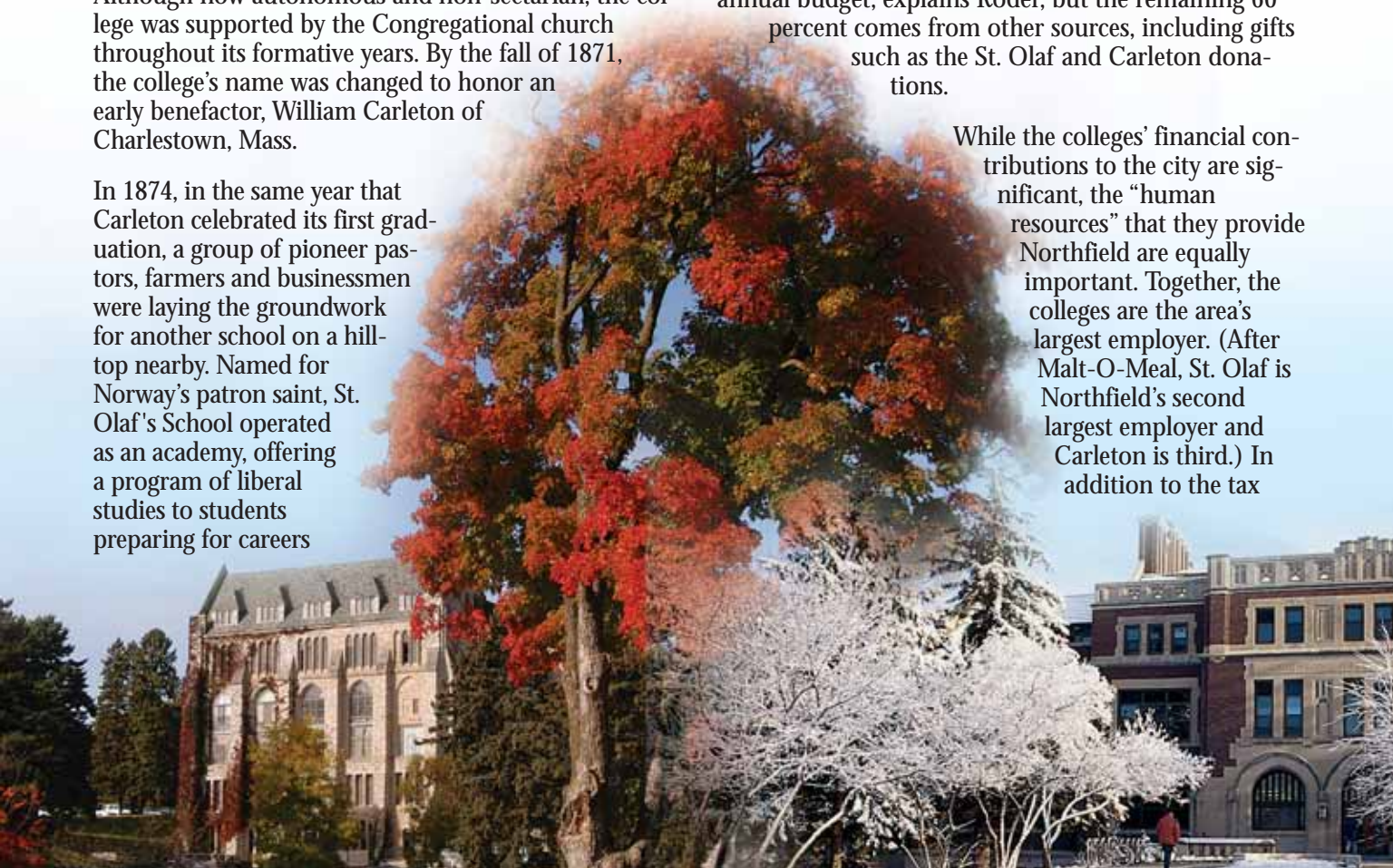
in business, politics, the clergy and other professions. In 1886, a college department was added and in 1889, the school changed its name to St. Olaf College. The first college class graduated in 1890.

## Good neighbors

The colleges expanded their offerings, attracting students, erecting new buildings, and hiring more faculty and staff. As the colleges grew, so did their role in the community. Recognizing the importance of this relationship with the city, St. Olaf and Carleton were among the first colleges in the nation to make a financial contribution to their host city. This annual tradition that dates back to the 1920s continues today. Last December each college presented the city with a \$71,000 check, for a total donation of \$142,000 to the city's general operating fund.

"The partnership between the City of Northfield and the two colleges is vital to Northfield's continued success," says city administrator Al Roder. Northfield relies on property taxes for approximately 40 percent of its annual budget, explains Roder, but the remaining 60 percent comes from other sources, including gifts such as the St. Olaf and Carleton donations.

While the colleges' financial contributions to the city are significant, the "human resources" that they provide Northfield are equally important. Together, the colleges are the area's largest employer. (After Malt-O-Meal, St. Olaf is Northfield's second largest employer and Carleton is third.) In addition to the tax



base provided to the city, many employees of the colleges are active citizens who are involved in a variety of local civic and cultural organizations.

The colleges' 5,000 students (3,000 at St. Olaf and 2,000 at Carleton) are another vital resource for the city. Both colleges encourage volunteerism in the community, and students share their time and talents with local organizations and schools. College students create a year-round work force for many area businesses. In turn, the students spend a significant amount of their hard-earned dollars here in town.

### **The endless perks of a college town**

Financial benefits aside, the colleges provide Northfield with resources and cultural opportunities that would normally be found only in a much larger community.

Looking for a good meal? Both St. Olaf's Stav Hall and Carleton's East Dining Hall welcome visitors. The college's coffee shops are also open to the public, with St. Olaf's Cage located in Buntrock Commons and Carleton's Snack Bar found in Sayles-Hill Campus Center. For more exclusive fare, The Kings' Room at St. Olaf provides a fine-dining experience and accepts reservations for lunch during the academic year.

At any time during the academic year, sports enthusiasts will find an athletic event happening on one of the campuses. Whether it's a soccer match, a swim meet or the "Cereal Bowl" — the annual St. Olaf-Carleton football game sponsored by Malt-O-Meal — college sporting events offer affordable entertainment for the whole family.

If you want to be more than a spectator, both colleges encourage the public to make use of the natural lands surrounding the campuses. Carleton's Cowling Arboretum offers 880 acres of natural lands adjacent to the college that is available to the public for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. St. Olaf's campus also has nearly 700 acres of natural lands, where trails wind through the varied terrain of prairie, wetlands and forest.

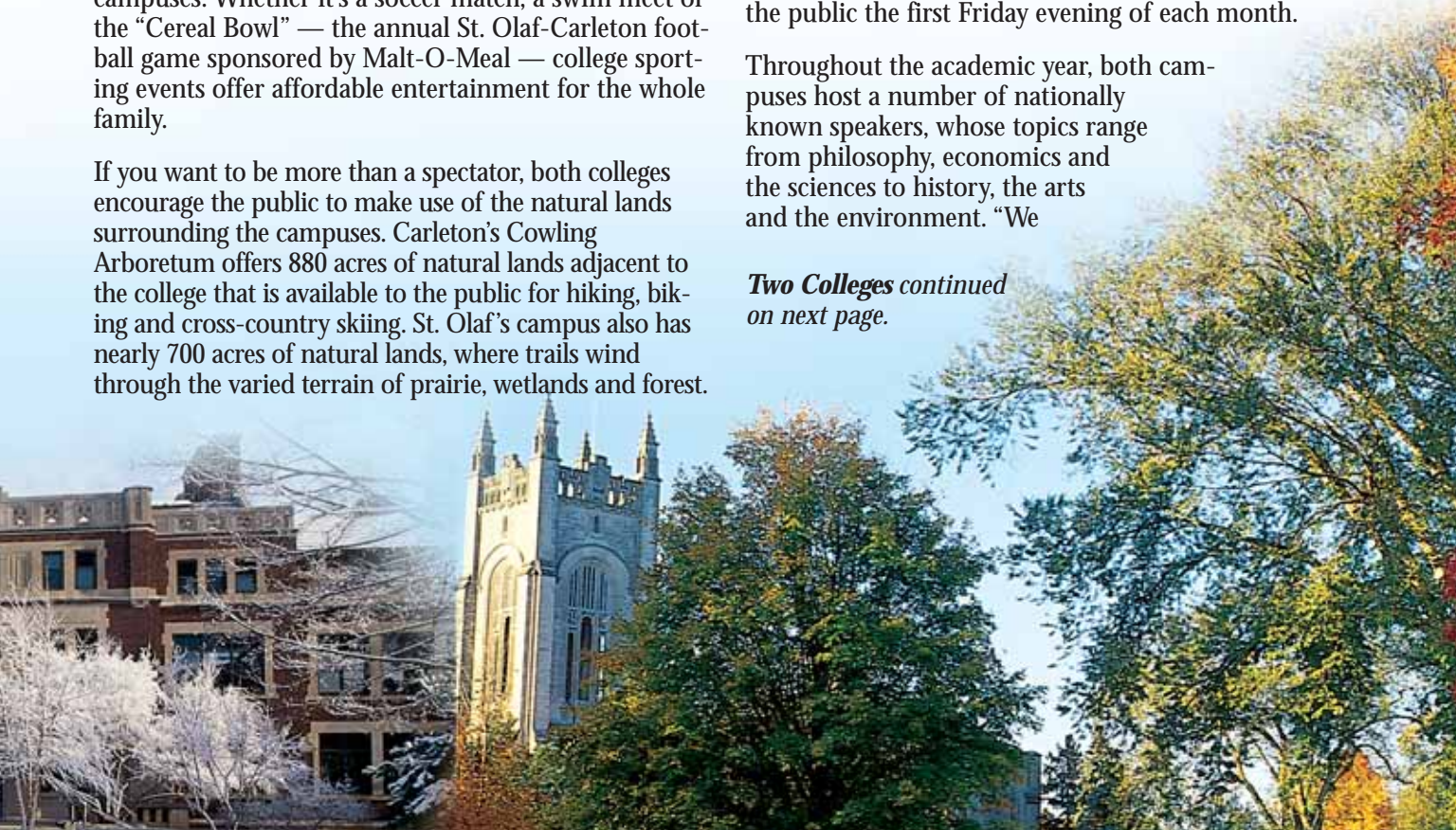
Visitors to the campus bookstores may be surprised by the variety of merchandise. "Both college bookstores are like mini department stores," says Dan Bergeson, a St. Olaf alumnus who serves as director of auxiliary services and special projects at Carleton. "You can buy office supplies, computers and even used DVDs. And there's a much greater selection of general reading books than you might expect." Carleton also owns and operates River City Books, which provides Northfielders with convenient shopping downtown.

For those who love the arts, the quality and variety of events and exhibitions at the colleges are outstanding. Concerts, recitals and dance performances are open to the public, usually at no charge. St. Olaf's Flaten gallery and The Gallery at Carleton exhibit art shows of regional, national and international significance and both galleries are mainstays of Northfield's frequent citywide art crawls. Both colleges also produce plays, musicals and even an occasional opera production for Northfielders to enjoy.

The colleges provide Northfield with a number of intellectual resources. The colleges' libraries are open to the public year-round and area residents can easily obtain a library card. Carleton is also home to Goodsell Observatory, which is the nation's oldest observatory on a college campus. In continual operation since it was built in the 1890s, Goodsell is open to the public the first Friday evening of each month.

Throughout the academic year, both campuses host a number of nationally known speakers, whose topics range from philosophy, economics and the sciences to history, the arts and the environment. "We

*Two Colleges continued on next page.*





**2107 Erie Drive**  
**\$249,000**

What a great opportunity for you! Our cottage homes model is now for sale at a fantastic price. Extremely efficient Energy Star Certified home built by Northfield's most respected Schmidt Homes. This 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home is loaded with nice extras: gas fireplace, 2-story vaulted ceilings, red birch floors, custom enameled cabinetry, Pella windows, large master suite and much more! Call me for a private showing today. Open every Saturday and Sunday from 1-5.



**10892 Dennison Blvd**  
**\$219,900**

This wonderful property is located just 2 minutes from downtown Northfield and sits on 1/2 acre of well-landscaped paradise. This home also features a 3-season porch, vaulted ceilings, updated windows, gas fireplace, heated garage and a fenced in backyard.



**813 Poplar Street**  
**\$128,900**

What a great opportunity for you to own a home that is within walking distance to downtown. This diamond in the rough sits on a great lot with a garage, deck, NEW CARPET and a great kitchen! Call me if you would like to see this home or any other home that is for sale!



**2110 Erie Drive**  
**\$359,000**

Another quality-built home by local favorite and 26-year master builder, Schmidt Homes! This 4-bedroom home features Energy Star Certification, 2,500 FSF of living area, Corian countertops, Cherry cabinetry, fireplace, Trex deck, built-ins, red birch floors, 3 panel Maple doors and much more. Stop by and see what a great neighborhood this has become! Open every Saturday and Sunday from 1-5.

*If you would like to visit one of these properties, or any property in the area, please give me a call.*

**Michael Jordan** CRS, GRI  
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*Two Colleges continued from previous page.*

have world-renowned scholars, artists and musicians," says Bergeson. "There's so much to take advantage of on both campuses."

Carleton holds a weekly convocation every Friday in Skinner Chapel, while St. Olaf holds daily chapel services in Boe Memorial Chapel, both of which are attended regularly by visitors to the campuses (and streamed live and archived at [stolaf.edu](http://stolaf.edu)).

Each summer the colleges open their doors to youth by offering special programs. Summer activities at St. Olaf include music, theater, swimming and chess camps. For younger children, Carleton offers "Prairie and Wood," a nature day camp staffed by Carleton students.

Finally, both colleges offer the chance for area businesses to connect with students who can help research and improve business practices. And Northfield's fiber-optic network that was built by St. Olaf (which runs its own telephone company) is helping draw tech-savvy companies to town.

Both college websites feature an impressive calendar of events, including concerts sporting events and lectures that are open to the public. With so much happening on the campuses, can Northfielders take advantage of it all? Never. But many Northfield residents enjoy the challenge.



*Amy Boxrud has lived in Northfield with her family since 2002. In addition to freelance writing, she manages communications for Northfield Youth Choirs. She is a member of Northfield's Arts and Culture Commission and can be reached at 507-645-4812 or [aboxrud@gmail.com](mailto:aboxrud@gmail.com).*

**A D V E R T I S E**

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## *Northfield becoming regional medical destination*

# NORTHFIELD HOSPITAL

By Scott Richardson  
*Northfield Hospital*

Since moving to its new location on the northwest edge of the city in May of 2003, Northfield Hospital has developed a network of primary care clinics, and partnerships with premier providers, including Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System. The result – expanded primary care medical services in Northfield, Lonsdale, Farmington and Lakeville and the opportunity to attract more medical specialists to the area.

This expansion of medical services is a realization of the vision adopted several years ago of Northfield Hospital's Board of Trustees. The objective is to provide medical care within the communities we serve whenever feasible, so that we minimize the number of times residents are forced to travel outside the community to have their medical needs met.

### **The new hospital came first**

It all started with the construction of a 125,000-square-foot facility on land leased from St. Olaf College. The new hospital is 75 percent larger than its predecessor, an aging, landlocked building parked in a residential neighborhood. It has been designed to address the needs of 21st century medicine. It has twice the space for outpatient care, room for advanced diagnostics, private rooms, more surgery suites and a larger, more efficient emergency department.

The new hospital has been designed around the needs of the patient. Efforts were made to create a softer, healing environment that honors patients' needs for privacy, safety and access to family, friends and caregivers.

### **Partnerships**

The next step was development of affiliations with providers to assure that medical services would continue to grow and develop in the community. In 2004, Northfield Hospital initiated its first partnership arrangement when it acquired an established orthopedic practice, Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic (OFC) of Northfield, 1381 Jefferson Road. The hospital now



This sculpture "Pente" (five), by Jeff Barber (Goodhue, Minnesota) is one of the first things that many guests see as they enter the Northfield Hospital. It's symbolic of the mission of the hospital to provide excellent medical services while at the same time, provide an atmosphere where a significant focus is on the comfort of the family.

owns and operates the clinic and contracts with Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic Professional Association for physician services of Robert Shepley, MD; Brad Wille, MD; and Clint Muench, MD; who were already practicing in Northfield, and William Laney, MD. Erik Stroemer, MD, has since joined the practice.

A second partnership was created in 2004 when hospital acquired an existing OB/GYN practice from Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System. The clinic, now called the Women's Health Center of Northfield Hospital, has been relocated to the new clinic space attached to the hospital. The hospital owns and operates the clinic. The services of Deb Suppes, MD; Ann Friedmann, MD; Melanie H. Dixon, MD; and Justine Politz, NP; are provided by Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System. This partnership has already led to development of comprehensive women's services that would be hard to match by any other community of Northfield's size.

*Hospital continued on next page.*

**Hospital** continued from previous page.

Next came affiliation with Jose Fulco, MD, a general surgeon, who came to Northfield from the Twin Cities in the fall of 2005. As a result, the Northfield area now enjoys access to a surgeon who can perform a full range of general surgery services and has additional expertise in colorectal, breast and a variety of cancer surgeries and many types of laparoscopic procedures.

### Primary care clinics developed

Meanwhile, Northfield Hospital embarked on the development of four primary care clinics under the banner of FamilyHealth Medical Clinics. The hospital wanted to extend services to rapidly expanding communities west and north of Northfield.

The first clinic opened in Lonsdale in the fall of 2005. By 2006, the hospital and Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System were partnering on clinics in Farmington, Northfield and Lakeville. The hospital owns and operates the clinics; Cannon Valley Clinic-Mayo Health System provides the physician services. This unique partnership blends personalized, community-based care associated with Northfield Hospital with the expertise and resources of Mayo Health System.

The Farmington clinic opened in January of 2007. The Northfield clinic opened in May. The Lakeville clinic opened Dec. 1.

These clinics offer family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, OB/GYN services, general surgery, occupational medicine, and ear, nose and throat services. They also create the opportunity to develop a patient population that will support additional specialists in the area. Already urologists from Urology Associates of the Twin Cities are spending a day a week in Northfield. Plans are in the making for cardiology, oncology, nephrology services and other specialties to have a consistent presence in Northfield.

Besides, addressing day-to-day medical needs of the community, the hospital is deeply involved in emergency planning and community health improvement. Staff time is dedicated to planning and training for events that produce mass casualties, such as pandemic flu and natural disasters that have a lasting impact on individuals and communities. The hospital also supports the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative, Healthfinders, the Northfield Area United Way and other programs that address community health issues.



*Scott Richardson, a 30-year resident of Northfield, is director of community relations at Northfield Hospital. He can be reached at 507/646-1034 or richardsons@northfieldhospital.org.*

**Happy Holidays!**

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# NORTHFIELD & The Arts

*Since its earliest days, Northfield has strived to develop and support the arts within the community. As a result – we now enjoy an impressive menu of opportunities to take in the creative side of our citizenry. The Northfield Arts Guild has a long tradition of providing leadership in this area. We are fortunate that they have been joined in these endeavors by newer organizations including ArtOrg, The Northfield Downtown Development Corporation and the Arts & Culture Commission (see sidebars).*

*By Michael Fallon, executive director  
Northfield Arts Guild*

The Northfield Arts Guild was founded in 1959 by a group of Northfield artists and community members with a common commitment to the arts. Their mission was to organize and direct efforts of the greater Northfield community in a variety of creative arts and to work to make the arts available to everyone in the area.

In 1978, the city of Northfield offered the Guild the opportunity to lease the city-owned historic YMCA building in the downtown retail area at 304 Division St. Because of the growth of its programs over the Guild's first 20 years and because this space was in a highly visible location, the Guild accepted the offer and moved all but the theater program to this location. This new site provided the Guild with space for a gallery, gift shop, dance studio, recital room, two classrooms and administrative offices, adding to the theater space the Guild already owned on the other side of town.

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***“Northfield is a fertile landscape for arts activities and arts education.”***

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Northfield is a growing and increasingly diverse community with a high regard for education and cultural endeavors. With two private colleges, a strong public school system, two private high schools, three charter schools, an alternative learning center, and a significant number of home-schooling families, Northfield is a fertile landscape for arts activities and arts education. As a result, Northfield attracts an increasing number of

professional artists and creative people, numerous self-employed entrepreneurs, and families from diverse backgrounds. Currently, the community role of the Northfield Arts Guild is twofold: To maintain a high quality and broad range of arts and culture events, activities and services, and to be responsive to the dynamic changes occurring in the region.

The vision and goals of the early founders of the Northfield Arts Guild remain relevant to current times. The Guild is well-respected in the community as it

*The Arts continued on next page.*



**ARC  
Committee**

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Since 2003, the Northfield Downtown Development Corporation and Northfield Arts Guild have co-sponsored the Arts, Recreation and Culture committee. Its charge is to “develop the identity of Northfield as a center for arts, culture and recreation.” It launched ArtSwirl three years ago and is committed to making it an annual event. It was instrumental in gaining city funding for developing ArtsPlan06, which led to formation of a city arts and culture commission (see sidebar, page 12) as the means to implement that plan.

The boards of NDDC and NAG recently recommitted to jointly support the committee and have invited the Northfield Historical Society to join them, as a step toward a community-wide organization. The committee is advocating to keep the public library downtown, as a focal community cultural asset, and for creating an arts and culture “collaborative” to coordinate arts and culture marketing and events.



200 Division St. • 645-2555  
www.artorg.com

Founded in 2004 by a group of visual artists to create more opportunities for artists by promoting the arts in Northfield and the surrounding communities. Their mission is to engage the community in the arts through education, business partnerships and contemporary art venues.

ArtOrg held more than 100 classes in its first year. In 2006, class offerings peaked at more than 250 hours of instruction.

ArtOrg is also home to the Moving Walls Gallery where artists display their work. It also operates a 2500-square-foot printmaking studio located under the Art Store at 314 Division St. The studio offers letterpress, etching and lithography capabilities.

***“The arts are important to communities – not only for the effect they have on quality of life, but also because they provide economic benefits.”***

works cooperatively with other service organizations, institutions and businesses and schools.

The arts are important to communities – not only for the effect they have on quality of life, but also because they provide economic benefits. A 2006 report, “The Arts: A Driving Force in Minnesota’s Economy,” provides strong evidence that nonprofit arts and culture are a significant industry and economic incubator across the state. There are, according to the study, at least 1,584 arts and culture organizations in Minnesota that generate \$838,527,669 in direct economic activity each year. Our particular region – Southeast Minnesota – is the third-most-active arts region in the state with at least 140 arts and culture organizations that generate \$17,854,752 in yearly economic activity.

**Happy Holidays**  
from  
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## Arts & Culture Commission

[www.ci.northfield.mn.us](http://www.ci.northfield.mn.us), click on City Hall and then on Boards and Commissions.

The commission was established in 2007 after a year-long community arts and cultural planning process that assessed current realities and citizen's aspirations for the future. Its purpose is to advise city council on the development of arts and cultural activities, organizations and facilities to assist Northfield in becoming a community in which arts and cultural activities are:

- recognized as vital components of community life worthy of investment and support
- valued and promoted for their economic benefits and development potential
- include new ethnic groups
- represent an integral part of Northfield's educational mission and programs for young people
- engage the talents and involvement of retirees and senior citizens
- develop opportunities for collaboration between faculty and student artists at the two colleges and community artists
- and cooperate to enhance Northfield's identity and quality of life.

The vast majority of the Guild's activity filters economically directly back into the community providing pay for working artists, purchasing ads in community publications, buying materials and supplies from community businesses, paying local workers for services and so on. When community members support the arts, they not only enhance the community's quality of life, but they invest in the community's overall economic well being.

Today, the Northfield Arts Guild remains a hub of arts activity, where everyone is welcome. The Guild is a wide-ranging organization that acts as an arts producer and educator in all five arts disciplines. It supports and oversees the operations of a community theater, a regional orchestra, a dance program, an exhibition gallery, a retail shop, and a literary program, and it is a downtown anchor, providing programs and services from its Center for the Arts on Division Street.

The impact of the Northfield Arts Guild in our community of about 17,000 (from the 2000 census) is clear

when you look at the number of participants in the Guild's programs (from the 2005-06 fiscal year):

- 6,153 theater tickets sold
- 15,000+ total adult audience-participants in all NAG programs
- 5,500 child-participants in all NAG programs
- 650 artist-participants in all NAG programs
- 470 volunteer-participants; 17,800 volunteer hours donated to the NAG

For nearly 50 years, the Northfield Arts Guild has been a place where community members committed to and interested in the arts come together and a unique part of this community's cultural and economic landscape. With continued support of the Northfield community, we are looking forward to the next 50 years of valuable artistic activity in Northfield.




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*Michael Fallon is executive director of the Northfield Arts Guild. He's been a high school teacher, printer-in-residence at Minnesota Center for Book Arts, managing editor at a small publishing house and an art critic and founder of the Visual Art Critics Union of Minnesota. He has an MFA in Book Arts and a master's degree in arts administration from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He can be reached at 507/645-8877 or info@northfieldartsguild.org.*




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From,  
Mrs. Claus

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