Break-ins put Como Avenue businesses on guard
By Judy Woodward
Allyson Tarasowski, general manager of the Muffuletta, isn’t likely to forget the date of the recent break-in at the Milton Square restaurant.
"It was the morning of Friday the 13th, of all days," she reported, when staff arriving to open the restaurant discovered that intruders had been there first.
Fortunately, internal security measures prevented any serious losses at the restaurant, but Muffuletta became the latest Como Avenue site to suffer in a series of incidents that have put St. Anthony Park businesses on alert.
Ellen Watters, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Business Association, confirmed that police had filed on four separate occasions involving Como Avenue merchants in the last few weeks.
...Most seriously hit was the Como Station Post Office, which lost over $14,000 in stamps during an overnight burglary in late September.
The Bibelot Shop and Emil Gustafson Jewelers also were apparently targeted, but the thieves appeared to have been deterred by the businesses’ alarm systems.
Commander Mike Smith of the Western District, St. Paul Police Department, acknowledged that commercial burglaries have risen in the past few months, even as the rate of violent crime in the city declined.
“We believe that small groups of people are responsible for these crimes, and that several pockets throughout the district,” Smith said.
Smith pointed to a section of the Grand Avenue area and a couple of stretches along University Avenue in addition to the St. Anthony Park commercial area, as target zones.
He added, “There is a relationship between these groups.”
Smith also said that the criminals, although possibly quite young, are hardly random amateurs since “It takes some sophistication to get into a commercial building illegally.”
Both Smith and Watters agreed that commercial crime in the Park seems to follow a cyclical pattern, with several years of little or no trouble followed by a rash of episodes like those experienced lately.
Watters complimented the St. Paul Police on their willingness to add extra patrols to the area. She also urged businessmen and people of the residents of the area to aid in crime prevention. “We want people to be extra alert,” Watters said. “We’re fortunate to live in [St. Anthony Park], a community with probably the lowest crime rate in the city, and we want to keep it that way.”
Suzanne Fante, owner of Emil Gustafson Jewelers, took confidence from the strong security defenses that apparently foiled a break-in attempt at her store, but she recommended that people be more vigilant.
“Don’t be afraid” to report suspicious activities or license plate numbers to the police, she advised. “Don’t worry about seeming nosy. Take the time to be responsible to your neighbors and your community.”
Fante also offered a word of warning to those who might try to take advantage of the community “Just because St. Anthony Park has the reputation for being quiet and charming, it doesn’t mean we’re stupid!”

Incoming Falcon Heights mayor strives for community-based method of governing
By Judy Woodward
The new mayor of Falcon Heights hopes to put her fellow citizens to work.
Sue Gehrz, who will be sworn in on Jan. 10, said she wants to involve as many residents of the community as possible in the decision processes of government during her administration.
She stressed that her political philosophy strives to involve citizens in decision making to best meet the decisions with the most input.
“People can count on me to ask them to be involved in the work of government,” said Gehrz, who garnered 75 percent of the vote in November’s election.
Gehrz began her political career by responding to the call of citizen participation in neighborhood issues.
Susan Lucille Gehrz grew up in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities and she admitted she didn’t have much interest in politics. The Twin Cities seemed too big an area for the individual to have much impact, she thought.
That attitude began to change when Gehrz moved to Laramie, Wyo., when her husband became a professor at the University of Wyoming.
“Laramie,” she said, “is such a small community that you couldn’t avoid getting to know the political issues and people. The experience demystified politics for me.”
In 1985, the Gehrz family, which by then included son Alex and daughter Andrea, moved to Falcon Heights, when Gehrz’s husband accepted an appointment as professor of astronomy at the University of Minnesota.
The family settled in Universi-
ty Grove, where Gehrz became active in the Grove Homeowners Association. She quickly advanced from block captain to secretary to vice president, then president of the organization.
Gehrz is a firm believer in the value of neighborhood associations.
“The threads that make the fabric of neighborhood association, get me by the beginning (in politics),” she said. “I think that’s often the case. People run for office because they get involved in a local issue.”
Gehrz to 11

Lauderdale town meeting participants ponder comprehensive plan
By David Anger
With an eye toward boosting its tax base and maintaining its civic character, over 40 people participated in a town meeting on Nov. 20 at Lauderdale’s city hall, where residents learned more about the city’s comprehensive plan.
“This is a vision for our city,” said Dr. Jeff Dazin, who opened the meeting. “This plan might appear to be a maze of ideas, but it’s not. Every maze is a very well-planned idea.”
As mandated by state law M.S. 473.85A-872, Lauderdale’s comprehensive plan will be advanced to the Metropolitan Council.
The Metropoitan Council must receive Lauderdale’s plan by 1998, but the plan must first be adopted by the city council.
City administrator Tim Crulkshank remarked that the final comprehensive plan will guide the community for the next 15 to 20 years.
Crukskhan said this holistic approach to planning considers such broad issues as community characteristics, land use and tax base, public utilities, housing, transportation, parks and public services and the environment.
In addition, the city administrator said that the plan can be handed down through political and administrative changes.
The highly detailed plan was developed by the planning and zoning task force, which began meeting in March of 1994. Last December, the task force hosted a town meeting about the plan.
Daniel Gummert, chair of the planning and zoning task force, stressed that the current comprehensive plan is a draft that will be further refined, following the community’s input.
After the 45-minute presentation by city officials, citizens visited kiosks—equipped with charts and visuals—that detailed the seven different issues.
The town meeting illuminated several issues that Lauderdale faces. For instance, the city hopes to improve its rental properties and forge a central business district, said planning intern Patrick Holister.
Then, too, this city of 2,700 people hopes to benefit from the redesign of Highway 280, which might create space for taxable enterprises.
At the end of the evening, Lauderdale residents cast their votes for the comprehensive plan.
The grass-roots town meeting reflected Lauderdale’s unique character.
"Perhaps no other town in Minnesota can claim to be so close knit yet so close to the amenities of city life," said Holister.
Lauderdale to 2

The comprehensive plan includes seven goals, which are followed by an abundant list of policies.
Community Characteristics: Maintain a strong sense of community, maintain Lauderdale as an independent community and ensure public safety in Lauderdale.
Land Use and Tax Base: Expand the city’s revenue; tax and employment base, create land use laws and city ordinances that are easy to interpret and consistent with Lauderdale’s goals, and maintain and improve the character and quality of residential areas.
Council actions at a glance
At its November 11 meeting, the council:
• Heard a report from the Parking Task Force. The Executive Committee will appoint a Task Force to look at permit parking and a Town Meeting in January will be held on the issue.
• Voted not to oppose the request for variance from Alum Products to move its loading dock from the Territorial Road entrance to the Charles Street entrance.
• Voted to support the 1996 work plan for the Neighborhood Energy Conservation Program.
• Voted not to hold Christmas tree pickups any more because the equipment at NSP for conning the trees to fuel is now working well. Paul Adams notified residents of arrangements. Usually there will be no charge.
• Held lengthy discussion on a proposal for allowing natural landscaping on private property and another proposal on allowing boulevard plantings.
• Moved to request signage, mirrors and striping on Raymond Avenue under the Soo Line Railway and the U of M Transteway to address the difficulties of accommodating both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Community Council fund drive under way—thanks 1995 contributors:
Timothy Abrahamson
Mary Ann Adducan
Alfred Aeppli
Teri Allendorf
Attila Alfridi
The Rev. Joel Anderson
Bob Andorfer
Dr. Frederick Ary
Robert Baeke
Wayne Bauder
Frederick Battell
William Bednarski
Merlin Berg
E. Bengtson
Howard Bergstrom
Kurt Bergquist
Bryan Bielko
Richard Bigler
W. Andrew Boss
Melbourne Boitron
Anne Brey
Abby Brinster
Nancy Browne
Linda Brunelle
Robert Butler
William Buiger
Consuelo Bustard
Christopher Cal
Carolyn Campbell
Eric Carlsen
Gerhard Castorf
Brigitte Cate
Willett Cenci
Celid Chally
Allison Christensen
Clifford Christenson
Arthur Christophersen
Niva Clarke
Edwin Clodder
Marie Comlay
Patricia Coppo
Constance Cowles
Bryce Crawford
Robert Cross
Claude Cunningham
Mrs. C. J. Curley
Francois Gaverpent
Verna Dee
Robert Delmas
Ruth Dill Macdon
David Duggan
Jacqueline Guba
Mary Pat & William Dunlap

Special thanks to EcoWater and Park/Bank for their contributions of printing for the fund drive, and all the volunteer envelope stuffers.

Council-sponsored meetings are listed each month in the Bugle Community Calendar (see page 21).

St. Anthony Park Community Council

Como Park District Council (District 10) changes its bylaws

By Bill Clausen

After months of discussion and debate, the District 10 board of directors voted to approve new bylaws, which continue to allow area residents to vote at the annual community meetings. However, residents who wish to vote must now also register at least three days in advance of a District 10 community meeting.

This change reflects District 10's commitment to the city's community identity, which requires that membership must be registered with the organization. For instance, Minnesota state law Chapter 317A, Section 439, requires that a membership list for meetings be posted "beginning two business days after the meeting notice is given."

Once residents have registered with District 10, they are eligible to vote at meetings until they move out of the area or remove their name from the membership list.

Because only District 10 council members can vote at board of directors meetings, the organization moved to separate board meetings from community meetings.

Previously, District 10's agenda alternated between board and community issues. This created confusion. However, District 10 anticipates holding community and board of directors meetings back-to-back.

Nonetheless, District 10 council members stressed that public comment is always welcome at board meetings.

Residents may register to vote at the District 10 office or by mailing their address, and phone number on a signed and dated letter. All registrations must be received three days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

District 10's office is open from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Its mailing address is: 1596 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Lauderdale town meeting ... from page 1

Public Utilities: Promote and maintain a healthy and efficient system for disposing of the city's wastewater, ensure a safe, sufficient and adequate water supply for all residents, and provide for efficient and safe drainage of storm water in the city.

Housing: Maintain and improve the quality of single-family detached housing stock, maintain and improve the quality of existing rental housing units.

Transportation: Improve the city's roads and related infrastructure, maintain them in good, safe condition and promote safety on all streets for all modes of transportation.

Park and Public Services: Maintain and improve Lauderdale's public facilities to provide recreation and community development opportunities, provide efficient public services to Lauderdale residents, and provide and maintain intergovernmental relationships.

Environment: Protect the environment within the community.

People attending the town meeting prioritized these goals. Citizens were strongly committed to retaining the community's characteristics. Twelve people voted to maintain a strong sense of community, while 11 thought that it is important to maintain Lauderdale as an independent community.

Land use and tax base issues also received much attention. For instance, 12 people believed that creating land use laws and city ordinances that are easy to interpret and consistent with Lauderdale's goals is vital. People attending the town meeting were less committed to public utilities. In terms of ensuring a safe water supply, for example, only two voters identified it as a critical goal.

In contrast, housing goals appeared to be a broader concern as eight people believed that maintaining and improving the quality of single-family detached housing stock is important.

Similarly, transportation concerns caught many people's attention. For instance, 12 people felt that improving the city's road and related infrastructure in good condition is a worthy goal. However, only six thought that promoting safety for all modes of transportation is important.

Under Park and Public Services:

Businesses:
• The Bibelot Shop
• Carter Avenue Frame Shop
• Mornings in the Park
• Minnesota Weis & Cable Co.
• Minnesota Graduate Club
• Olson Graphic Products, Inc.
• Paul Kirkegaard, dentist
• Raymond Computer
• St. Anthony Park Home
• St. Anthony Park Barber
• Summit Brewing Company
• Todd Grossman, dentist

Special thanks to EcoWater and Park/Bank for their contributions of printing for the fund drive, and all the volunteer envelope stuffers.

For look of more contributors in next month's column.
Megard’s victory nears a landslide

By David Anger

Despite a huge campaign war chest and the blessing of Mayor Norm Coleman, challenger Teri McLaughlin was handily defeated by incumbent city council member Bobbi Megard of St. Anthony Park, who ran with DFL endorsement. Megard carried 57 percent of the votes over McLaughlin’s 42 percent.

The incumbent’s support was solid throughout District 4, winning in all but two precincts. McLaughlin carried Precinct 11 in Hamline-Midway by three votes and Precinct 19 in Mac/Groveland by 35 votes. Megard ran extremely well in St. Anthony Park’s precincts 2, 3 and 6. In North St. Anthony precincts 2 and 3, the council member won by 337 and 220 votes, respectively. In South St. Anthony’s precinct 6, Megard carried the ward by 85 votes.

Megard narrowly carried precincts 4 and 5, representing Northwest Como. In precinct 4, she won by 21 votes, while edging out her opponent by 15 votes in precinct 5.

During her two years on the council, Megard frequently challenged the mayor’s proposals. Her opposition led him to back McLaughlin, who also ran for the seat in 1993. The Twin Cities Reader reported in its Nov. 15 edition that McLaughlin will have outspent Megard by over $180,000. However, final election reports are not due until Dec. 8.

Falcon Heights election returns

Mayor
Sue Gehrz 718
Robert Uhler 236
City Council/unchallenged
Sam Jacobs 519
Jan Gibbon Talbot 769
With only a contested mayoral race, Falcon Heights’ city election was a sleeper.

Mayoral candidate Sue Gehrz sailed by Robert Uhler, who garnered 25 percent of the vote. Before running for mayor, Gehrz had served on the city council. See story on page 7.

Incumbent city council members Jan Gibbon Talbot and Sam Jacobs ran unopposed for two-four-year seats.

Gibbon Talbot was the city’s most popular vote getter, gathering 760 votes.

— David Anger

Three DFL’ers and one conservative elected to St. Paul School Board

By David Anger

In the race for a St. Paul school board, three DFL-endorsed candidates—Neal Thao, Greg Flice and Al Oertwig—were voted into office, while conservative incumbent Tom Conlon was reelected.

Thao ran first in all area precincts. St. Anthony Park voters favored DFL-endorsed candidates, such as Flice, Jay Fonske and Oertwig.

Voters in Northwest Como were more conservative, opting for Conlon, Julie Glanz and Tom Snell.

Conlon’s support was strong throughout the area with the exception of North St. Anthony, where he placed fifth.

Several conservative candidates sought to dismantle Out for Equity, a privately funded support group for gay and lesbian youth that meets in the St. Paul schools.

Conlon, Glanz and Warren Grantham opposed Out for Equity.

St. Paul School Board
Neal Cheng Thao 24,254
Greg Flice 20,604
Al Oertwig 19,210
Thomas J. Conlon 18,172
Julie Glanz 15,766
Jay Fonske 14,435
Tom Snell 12,278
Warren D. Grantham 10,659

Lauderdale voters favor incumbents

By Barbara Clausen

Following a lively and contentious campaign, the Lauderdale electorate returned Mayor Jeffrey Dains and two incumbent council members, Jack Barlow and Karen Gill-Gerbig, to office.

Denise Hawkins was successful in her unopposed bid for the two-year council seat.

Mayor Dains received 66 percent of the vote with 310 votes, while Homer Lambrecht captured 34 percent with 162 votes.

The final results in the four-year council races were: Karen Gill-Gerbig, 311 votes; Jack Barlow, 247 votes; Julie Medbery, 199 and Daniel Gummit, 159.

Denise Hawkins received 491 votes.

Gill-Gerbig was appointed by the city council in April to replace former council member Gene Ohman, who resigned in March. She filled for the four-year position. Council Member Susan Bardill did not run for reelection.

"People are definitely emotional and passionate about the issues," said City Administrator Tim Cruikshank. "It seems to me that there are a lot of people who care about the community." he observed. "If there was indifference, that would be something to be concerned about.

Cruikshank also views the choice in this election as positive. "It’s always good to have a lot of candidates running. The electorate had options in the mayoral race and the four-year council seats."

Voter turnout, 475, was slightly less than the last city election in 1993, when 463 residents voted. Lauderdale has 1,524 registered voters.

"It was a 30 percent turnout, which is very consistent," Cruikshank commented. "When the election is not in conjunction with a gubernatorial or presidential election, the turnout is lower."

"The city council along with the community will be deciding what the future holds in terms of improvements in sanitary sewers, storm sewers and roads," Cruikshank said. "These are the issues coming up."

Lauderdale Election Results

Mayor
Jeffrey Dains 310
Homer Lambrecht 162

Council Member, 4 year
Karen Gill-Gerbig 311
Jack Barlow 247
Julie Medbery 199
Daniel Gummit 159

Council Member, 2 year
Denise Hawkins 406

Shepard Designs Shop
Gifts and Accessories for the Home
2236 Carter in Milan Square
647-0887

Holiday Hours: T-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5
Join us for Christmas Tea Saturdays and Sundays 2-5 p.m.
To every space there is a purpose

I had a difficult experience the other day which has caused me to do some thinking. In writing about the possibility that others may consider the issue and possible solutions.

It was a Friday afternoon. I was happy on my way home and stopping to do some errands in the St. Anthony Park shopping area. I do as much as possible there to support the local businesses. I like running into people I know, recognizing and being recognized by people who work at various establishments, and the feeling that I am a part of the neighborhood and consume.

So, in that glowing frame of mind, I walked into the drive-thru, took my coffee, and suddenly felt as though I'd been punched in the stomach. There were stacks of the garish "JOE KILLER" literature in two places and the "JOE KILLER" tarp was taped on the window. It was, as they say, "in your face." It was, though the bank was telling me how to vote. I felt angry. I felt oddly threatened. I felt unwarranted. I stood there and tried to be rational. I thought, "This is a private business, remember that. This is not a service to you. This is not a public space, much as it may feel like one. What's it all about?" I thought to myself that the owner from putting up other campaign literature, other political positions. Nothing! It's his business, not yours.

I had no recourse at that moment. I thought briefly of taking all my money out of the bank, but that's not a decision I'll make so quickly.

This experience is similar to one a few years ago when Park Service was promoting a petition on a city issue. I've enjoyed my interactions with people at Park Service and I genuinely respect the work they do, but I resent having the petition lying there as I passed my bike, imaging, as I did, that whatever side of the issue I was on mattered to the owner of the station.

As I mull over the issue, I can't help but think how very difficult it would be to be an employee of one of these businesses when the owner or management makes a decision to promote their opinion in the workplace. It seems to me that the business owner is taking unfair advantage of the fact that they "own" the space when they use it to promote a political opinion or candidate without equally representing the other side. They forget that they depend on our business as much as I rely on them.

So, here's a solution. Let all the businesses keep political literature out of them so that we neighbors and customers can shop without feeling compelled. Then, to promote dialogue and to give a voice for such things, let the businesses and neighborhood association own an area for such material. This would be an area where every side could be represented.

It could be a political kiosk, or a kiosk with seats nearby to encourage dialogue. Who knows, if we do it, someone may commission an artist to design a soupcon? Wouldn't that be fun?

Norm Conner
St. Anthony Park

No norm for governor?

It is interesting to me that Mayor Norm Coleman plans to run for governor, a position that becomes available in 1998. He promises that St. Paul voters will reflect him in 1997, only to have him turn around and throw his hat into the gubernatorial ring.

Mayor Coleman reminds me of another popular politician whose ambitions got the better of him. As a governor who appointed himself U.S. senator, Wendell Anderson learned the hard way that it is necessary to plot one's political career one election at a time.

Norm's ambition should be his problem, not St. Paul. We need a full-time mayor, one who will spend his time governing, not plotting strategy to carve the next notch in his political belt.

Richard Brown
St. Anthony Park

Report on Bugle's annual meeting

On Sunday, Oct. 28, I had the privilege of attending the annual meeting of Park Press, Inc., the corporation that owns and manages the Park Bugle.

I was impressed with the achievements reported in the meeting conducted by chairman Kent Ekland and wanted to share some of my observations with our readers. I think they'll be interested, too.

The Park Press board of directors is playing an important role in seeing that we have a good community newspaper that fills a need not met in any other way. As residents of the neighborhood, we are privileged to be serving and glad to serve on the board if asked. Further, we all can support our Park Bugle staff financially in the fund drives and other activities including its advertising services. And we can get in touch with the editor when significant community issues and concerns develop.

The board has efficiently organized its monthly meetings into 55-minute sessions at 7 a.m. Our editor, David Aufer, was welcomed and was complemented on the reader's issues. The Bugle business manager, advertising representatives and others on the staff all had good reports.

As one of the original incorporators of the Park Press and a member of the first board, I have an abiding interest in the Park Bugle. It is helping and will continue to help St. Anthony Park live up to its reputation of being one of the best places in the city to live.

The annual board meeting was a model of good organization. Members of the board and staff deserve our thanks. To find out who they are, look at the bottom of the editorial page where you'll finish reading this.

Gerald McKay
St. Anthony Park

Letters

Next issue

December 28

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News & classifieds deadline December 11

Bugle

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The Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc., a non-profit organization owned by an elected board of directors. Currently serving on the board are Cindy Allenberg, Elizabeath Brown, Alice Davel, Andy Collins, Grace Drugy, Kent Eklund, Connie Hillenbrand, Charlotte Holtzclaw, Peter Kirkgaard, David Nourse, Steve Plagens, Alba Potter, Jeanne Schaeftl and Marietta Spencer.

The Bugle is a community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Northwestern Como Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the reader communities and encourage community participation.

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I was watching TV when a news flash interrupted a regularly scheduled program. A hundred people, part of a strange religious group in South America, had committed mass suicide. This was November 18. "They were just nothing," they said. It was incomprehensible. I later discovered that this was where my college friend, Valerie, had died. The news flash reminded me of the people. "Was there such a thing possible?" I understood perfectly how it happened.

I met Valerie in 1971 in Ann Arbor during our first year of college. Valerie, originally from England, grew up in Hong Kong. We immediately liked each other and were inseparable. We shared not only the same interests, we were also, for lack of a better description, spiritual seekers. We wanted something more than our respective religious backgrounds had offered. We were searching for meaning.

The late 1960s and early 1970s yielded a bumper crop of alternative spiritual groups claiming to provide the Ultimate Answer. Ann Arbor had more than its share, including Hare Krishnas, Children of God, various covens and Charismatic Catholics. Valerie and I attended those groups' meetings. The summer before we said goodbye, I told her that I had found a group located in Detroit's inner city. The members lived communally and had a respectable mainstream church denomination, which seemed unconventional. Valerie joined another group in California, one that coincided with her own religion. As Valerie and I were accentuating to our respective settings, we lost track of each other. Living in community, as they called it, meant adjusting to extended household life and learning to survive in inner-city Detroit.

Early on, I learned to push Valerie and anything else that was my life before community onto the back burner. They were not my family, the declared community leadership told me, my new family.

They arranged our daily lives in such a way that facilitated that metamorphosis. I arose before dawn each day to make breakfast for 12. Then I headed to my full-time outside job. (Each member's paycheck from his or her outside job was given to the community's common pot.) Later I returned home to more cooking and housework. In the evenings we had to attend regularly scheduled community meetings that continued for hours.

Yes, this pace seemed tolerable then. Nevertheless, I eventually adapted to the community's rules and regulations. "Normal behavior" was dictated to us by the leadership—and that changed regularly, without notice. Initially, I was too exhausted to challenge this. Later, I would stay up late into the night to sort out my feelings and write them in my notebooks. This was the only time I had any privacy (a rare commodity in this lifestyle).

Yet, I often found the grueling pace a challenge and enjoyed escaping to the woods. We took care not only the tangibles in quantity, care for kids (also in quantity), repair cars, restore houses and assorted other feats, great and small. I was also part of our community's traveling music outreach. I grew to appreciate the structure and discipline that were absent in my upbringing.

Still, severe problems plagued our common life. They often manifested themselves during community gatherings, such as our "house meetings" where the theme was "walk in the light." This amounted to one or more people being forced to confess perceived "transgressions" before other household members who chastised them further by hurling additional accusations. After the accused crumpled in a heap of shame, he or she was declared forgiven and welcomed back into the fold.

The community was headed by a group called "elders." New elders were chosen when the existing ones determined that someone had "an anointing." What this was, and how they could see it, was anyone's guess. Once, a highly paid professional came around to pursue one of the community women. He didn't know it, but he was about to get more than he bargained for. The elders took him in and saw something even more desirable than his tremendous salary. He had peripheral and skills and a great deal of personal charisma (though he had no background or inclination). He married the woman and was immediately named an elder. Though he successfully spearheaded projects such as purchasing apartment buildings, he also had an obvious weakness for the many young, attractive community women. To me, it was obvious what was happening. When I raised concerns before the elders, I was summarily dismissed.

It was that wasn't enough, the leader of the household in which I lived experienced continual bouts of rage that she attributed to "demon possession." At those times she physically, emotionally and verbally abused anyone in her path. I once witnessed this diminutive woman sucker punch and knock out a man who was trying to calm her. When several of us beseeched the leadership to get outside professional help for this woman, we were admonished for not trusting in God for her healing.

It took a few years until I could emotionally detach from the place and the things in perspective. By that time I was worn down by my household leader's frenzied outbursts and fed up with the elders. At the same time I had also lost much of my education skills and was coming into my own. As a result, I felt confident and believed that after surviving this, the outside world would be a place I could longer the aimless 21-year-old who arrived four years before, I learned to trust myself. I also knew that the longer I stayed, the more emotional damage I would sustain.

A series of events caused me to end up in the hot seat during one of our infamous house meetings. By that time I was no longer buying into the rhetoric. When accusations were flung at me, I shot them back without a pause, aiming for a few jugular veins. Amazingly enough, the leaders backed down—momentarily. Then one of them grasped for the old "Satan possess- sion" straw. I stopped the meeting cold with a flip comment: "Did you know that Satan in Greek means, "I accuse you?" I'd take the hint if I were you." I left the room and walked out. The next day I announced I was leaving the community. I packed what little I had including the notebooks. Before we who tried to leave, I was given no resistance.

........................................................................

That was nearly 18 years ago. Other than a few articles here and there (where I was actually quite kind to them because they are still doing vital work in inner-city Detroit), I've not said much publicly. I put it behind me and "got a life." I finished a couple of degrees, took up writing and music again and returned to my religious roots.

Then last year I heard the founder of our community had died. Prior to his death he had been accused of, and admitted, sexual misconduct. There were several others accused of similar misdeeds. I wasn't shocked at this revelation as much as amazed that my intuition at that time was so accurate.

At that point, former community members began contacting me. Conversations revealed that many had internalized the guilt and shame that was heaped on us when we were there. One woman concluded that "it didn't mean anything." I told her that that, "None of them measured up" The worst account was that of one of my closest friends, who was supposed "cured" of problems of he had with his own reli-

........................................................................

It was time for me to look at my life in community again. Through my research I inadvertently stumbled across some information about characteristics of cults that certainly applied to my community experience. Though my group was not a cult in the strictest sense, it certainly shared enough cultist attributes. Our community yielded a number of personal and isolating experiences—though nothing as dramatic as the Jonestown mass suicide. The community often practiced the relentless assault on the human spirit that leads to such large-scale , destructive acts.

As I investigated this phenomenon, I found that cults, sects and intentional communities have a long history in the United States. In reality, they are as much a part of the American tradition as apple pie. Then, so is the right to dissent and the right to free speech. Fortunately, my clinging to the latter two saved me.

........................................................................

It seemed time to chronicle my experience—to write the book that I always said I would. So I dug out those notebooks that I kept in community and have begun. Will it change anything? I doubt it. Many people, after all, will stick to their families of origin than did I in community. Yet people need to know that we were there and, for the sake of Valerie and others who cannot lend their voices to it, if all the more important.

........................................................................

OA OPEN HANDS
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December 1995
Park Bugle

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Block Nurse Program Fund Drive

...
Falcon Heights neighbors develop friendships

By Bill Claussen

Falcon Heights is hoping to find a little more humarbee. Not that it has none already. On the contrary, it has enough to warrant a little more.

The Swahili word, referring to people in a community pulling together, is one of the guiding principles of a new group trying to develop and preserve the strengths of their neighborhood. It is especially interested in creating more opportunities for people to get to know their neighbors better.

The group is called the Keeping Connected Team, and members will meet on a monthly basis in cooperation with the Falcon Heights City Council.

The team of 11 volunteers responded to an open letter written by city council member John Hustad this summer. The letter was distributed around local shops and printed in local papers.

"We are looking for 10 creative, energetic, and interested citizens to come together in the spirit of humarbee," the letter read, "to discover ways to keep our community connected, safe, and friendly." Though the council originally sought 10 citizens, all 11 who responded to the invitation were included.

Jean Ann Coon was one of the first volunteers to respond. Like Hustad, she came to the project with a particular concern for young people in the area. She said it seems particularly difficult for teenagers in the area to meet up with positive peer groups.

"I would like to see a place where they can go, which they don't have in Falcon Heights or Roseville, besides the mall," she explained. "I am interested in coming up with something in an existing building perhaps, to give them a new recourse."

Preserving a positive community for neighborhood kids to live in is also an emphasis for Hustad.

"When parents know each other they are more likely to look out for each other's kids," he said. "I'm convinced that it's not so much elaborate social engineering that makes a difference but these more basic things that make for good, safe communities."

In addition to humarbee, he noted that Keeping Connected was inspired by another African tradition as well, the proverb that states, "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

Bruce Miele is a team member who, as a neighborhood watch captain, appreciates the value of neighbors getting to know one another. He looks forward to facilitating neighborhood activities that will lead to tighter relations between neighbors. He thinks the team will come up with some good ideas to spread about the community.

"I see us trying to promote ideas like catching a neighborhood teen doing something good, and just remembering the value of things like smiling at your neighbor," Miele said.

Outgoing mayor Tom Baldwin thinks the team will be a good way for the city to capitalize on its unique strengths. While door-knocking, he had noticed that "people keep saying they love the small-town atmosphere and uniqueness of the area. When asked where that uniqueness came from, however, I got a lot of vacant looks. One thing the team will hopefully do is track down the qualities that create this uniqueness and find ways to capitalize on them."

But the council has been careful not to define any specifics for the team. The idea is to entrust this to the volunteers, who are all new to government. After their specific objectives are developed, they will likely need help from other volunteers to carry them out.

The group welcomes married and single people. In addition to longstanding residents, many are relative newcomers to Falcon Heights.

The other team members are Maureen Bluestein, Ann Gustafson, Wendy Hockeim, Reid Graas, Theresa Rothman, Conrie Thompson, Michael Tracy, Lynnanne Warren and Ken Winters.

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We reserve the right to sell quantities.
The Family English Program teaches new immigrants vital language and survival skills that help participants endure the hardships of life in an unfamiliar country.

Falcon Heights UCC is home to the Family English Program

By Laura F. Lee

The room is decorated in bright colors. Different activities are set up at various tables. The teachers are ready. But this scene is a little different—than the typical classroom in Falcon Heights. The objects around the room are labeled—table, chair, window—and the students are of all ages from all over the world.

The Family English Program offers classes in English and parenting for immigrants and their children. The program, which started in the Roseville School District, expanded and relocated to Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.

"The English program was a need that had to be met," said Sharon Buechner, manager of the Roseville Area Family Collaborative. "The diversity here has grown in the last 10 years. It is a good way for parents with young children to get out and improve their social skills and reduce isolation. They can get coping skills to better improve their abilities to function in our society."

Currently, there are nine families in the program. The participants are Vietnamese, Hmong, Hispanic and Romanian families, and sometimes the extended family is included as well. They meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings for two hours of classes.

The program consists of four components. For the first part, the parents and children spend time together. They sing songs, practice English vocabulary and participate in crafts and other activities for 45 minutes. Diana Neumann, the children’s teacher, said, "We promote family literacy. The mothers work with their children and we help them to realize that they are the children's first teachers."

Next, the families separate. While the children play and improve their social and emotional skills, their parents have classes. One part of the class is English. English as a Second Language teacher Sue Hamilton said the class is split into two different levels.

The lower level group concentrates on the alphabet, numbers and simple personal communication. The advanced level chooses topics of interest and has focused on American history, newspapers, pronunciation and vocabulary.

The second part of the classes consists of parenting concerns. "The parenting class runs a wide gamut," said Buechner. "One example is a class on parent/teacher conferences. We explain why it’s important and explain the process so they are not afraid of it."

Some classes discuss taking the public bus, banking, talking to the insurance company and other daily activities that can pose problems to people in a new country. "We educate families so they have confidence, English skills and they know how to survive in this community," added Buechner.

Mari McLaughlin, the parenting class teacher, said, "We talk about how children learn, discipline and even toilet training." The parents can also bring up issues. "If they get something from the school district that they don’t understand, we talk about it," said McLaughlin.

"We don’t discourage their own language," McLaughlin said. "Ours isn’t the only way. Children need to have a strong native language before learning a second language, so we encourage the parents to read to them in their own languages. We also share traditions."

To be eligible for the program the families must be permanent residents, live in the Roseville School District and have children under the age of 5. Families with older children have different options available to them through the Family Collaborative, which has been formed with help from a Minnesota state grant.

Focus groups revealed that there were community needs not being met. Out of this discussion, the Family Collaborative and the Family English Program were created. "We want to serve the family in a more holistic, user-friendly way," Buechner said.

Those involved with the Family English Program have been in the U.S. for various lengths of time—from two months to several years. The parents don’t all speak the same native language, but they find ways to communicate in English or with gestures.

"It’s a broadening experience for everyone to find that others around the world aren’t so different," McLaughlin said.

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Place: St. Anthony Park
United Methodist Church
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Date: December 12, 1995
Time: social 5:45 p.m.
dinner 6:15 p.m.
program 7:00 p.m.
Cost: $7 - non-members
$6 - members
$2 - children 4-12
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Children’s Care Provided
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A Prairie Home Companion’s Pop Wagner will join Adam Granger as musical guests for the December Dinner.

Tree Lighting & Holiday Caroling
Place: St. Anthony Park Library Lawn,
2245 Como Avenue
Date: December 3, 1995
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Hot drinks and goodies (complements of Taste of Scandinavia) will be served in the Library Community Interest Room until 6:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Association
President: Sandee Keiley
645-9053
Publicity: Tim Sande
642-9723
J Michael Compton: Church music is the most sublime expression of faith

By David Anger

If you know St. Anthony Park, then you know St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. And if you know St. Matthew's, then you must know J Michael Compton.

As the choir director and organist at St. Matthew's for 12 years standing, the sandwich-bread-thin man with an enthusiastic panache for sacred music is a familiar figure in St. Anthony Park and beyond.

During his tenure, St. Matthew's choir participation has increased dramatically—"We're out of chairs," sighed the director—and he has developed Evensong, a far-reaching concert series held monthly at the church on Sunday afternoons.

Compton's road to church music was accidental, not incidental. But, then again, it wasn't exactly a crash landing.

"I fell into church music," remarked Compton, "but I didn't fall into music."

Nowadays, Compton is a steadfast believer in the importance of classical music.

"As a professional musician, I believe that the works of the great composers are the most sublime expressions of faith and they were written for churches," Compton said. "It isn't often that you hear fine music in church. Of course, you can find it in concert halls, but that's not limiting for many people. So, our challenge is to present quality music."

"For example," continued the choir director, "Mozart's 'Ave Verum' is the most wonderful piece of music and it lasts for all of two or three minutes."

J Michael Compton directs the St. Matthew's choir on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m., featuring "Magnificat" by Pergolesi.

Raised in Bloomington, Minn., Compton started playing the piano at age 7. His family attended a Church of Christ congregation that lacked a strong music program.

During Compton's high school years, the musically savvy student suggested that the church choir take on Handel's famed "Messiah." When the choir director rejected Compton's request, he went shopping for another house of worship.

After high school Compton continued his musical studies at Boston University where he set his ambitions on becoming an orchestral violinist. At the same time, his roommate was studying the organ, an instrument that Compton had yet to master. In Boston, Compton's love of church music was further nurtured at a Unitarian church, where he performed as a paid vocalist.

Before arriving at St. Matthew's, Compton sang in the choir at St. Mark's, the cathedral church perched on the southern edge of Minneapolis' Loring Park. There, he became enchanted with Anglican traditions. Three trips to Britain followed. It could be said that Compton is a certified Anglophile, holding a passion for things English from tea to music.

"I'm always planning a trip to England," Compton revealed.

Through Compton's visits to Britain, he developed an unqualified appreciation of the English cathedral tradition. This ancient arrangement blends young and mature voices, which forges a singularly high-pitched treble sound that is uniquely Church of England.

"Somehow adult sopranos don't grow on trees," remarked Compton, who is training his choir in the English cathedral tradition.

In addition to his work at St. Matthew's, Compton is a free-lance musician, performing as a singer and violinist. He also holds down a non-musical job—the inevitable plight of a creative person—by working as a bookkeeper for a local doctor.

A downright iconoclast in a techno world, Compton's office is a veritable antique treasure trove. For instance, there's a threadbare rug covering the cold cement floor and a manual typewriter sits prominently atop his desk.

Then there's the question about his name: J Michael Compton without a period after the J. According to Compton, he went to court to remove his seldom-used first name, which began with a J, but he kept the letter because he liked the way J Michael Compton sounded.

Some people have spotted the high-energy Compton walking from his apartment on Oak Grove Street in Minneapolis to work in St. Anthony Park. Their eyes were correct. Every Wednesday, Compton makes the journey on foot. In addition to being good exercise, it is a considerate move that allows his partner, who works a different schedule, to attend choir practice by car.

"Churches are concerned about staying alive into the 21st century," said Compton. "There's a lot of discussion about the music. And yes, many are correct that the church has to change, but we don't need to forget about our musical traditions."

"A lot of people are asking for mindless pop music, which is junk," concluded Compton with characteristic frankness. "One of our biggest assets is the churches' rich musical heritage."

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Fast times at J.T.’s Feathered Denims

By Tony Grundhanser

Sometimes when you pass a storefront, the shop name or a striking image on the sign in the window makes you wonder what could possibly be inside. Looking at J.T.’s Feathered Denims’ sign, I wondered, what exactly is a feathered denim?

Images from my own junior high school days in the ‘70s invaded my mind like a bad dream starring Shawn Cassidy or Leif Garrett. Farrah Fawcett feathered hairdos, Bonnie Bell lip gloss—Dr. Pepper or bubble gum flavor—strung around girls’ necks. Nike sneakers—the kind with the red stripe if you were cool. Oversized plastic combs sticking out from everyone’s back pocket as you walked down the hall. And, of course, the dreaded silk shantung guys wore unbuttoned to their waist.

I opened the door and was greeted by the slow Southern drawl of the owner, J.T.

“Howdy! Welcome to my store,” he beamed. A curly-haired former school teacher and social worker from the Ozarks, J.T. looked happy to have his own place.

J.T.’s Feathered Denims is actually a used clothing store in the basement beneath The Coffee Grounds at 1583 Hamline Avenue in Falcon Heights. Even though the ‘70s are back in style with today’s molded youth, there was not a silk shirt in the place. J.T. does, however, have a large stock of bell-bottom jeans.

“We do get a lot of the kids from the schools and colleges in the area that are going to ‘70s parties,” he said.

Leading me through the labyrinth of theme rooms—boots, jeans, flannels, suits and ties, women’s, children’s, and vintage, to name a few—I realized this was no dumping ground for people trying to clean out their closets.

“People like this place because it’s organized and it’s clean,” he said of the store that in only one year has expanded from one room to about 10.

There are no barrels of wrinkled shirts or piles of shoes thrown into a corner like you will see at some used clothing shops. Everything is organized by size and type. Customers walk into the boot room and can easily identify a pair of size 12 Tony Lama’s, if that’s what they’re looking for. The jeans are neatly piled by size and easily accessible.

J.T. also only deals with quality brand names such as Levi, Lands’ End and Pendleton.

“You have to get here early for a good flannel shirt,” he said. “They go the quickest.”

With winter coming, J.T.’s is also a good place to pick up a winter jacket for yourself or a growing child.

“All right,” I had to ask after the tour had nullified my preconceptions, “What the heck is a feathered denim?”

J.T. laughed and pointed to a pencil drawing on the wall depicting eagle feathers. “Part of it comes from my art and the other part is that feel you get from old jeans after they’ve been worn for a while. They feel like a feather.”

Satisfied, I decided if it’s the 1970s you want, go to the video store and rent “Fast Times at Ridgemont High.” If you’re after quality used or vintage clothing, drop in on J.T. and he’ll be glad to oblige.

For store hours and directions, call 649-1452.

December 1995
Park Bugle

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Enjoying a fish boil in Fish Creek, Wis., are Ethel Cutkomp, Laurence Cutkomp, Marie Nodland and Mary McKay. (Photo by Gerald McKay)

ParkBank Diamonds enjoy journey to Door County, Wis.

By Gerald R. McKay

Seventeen St. Anthony Parkites spent four days of the last week in September on a delightful bus tour visiting the Door County peninsula in east central Wisconsin. The trip was organized by Marvin Chapple of St. Anthony Park State Bank, who directs the ParkBank Diamonds program for seniors. This program, which has included a number of other events, was started about a year ago.

Those in the ParkBank Diamonds group included Margaret Billings, Jane Rose, Ann Brey, Marvin Chapple, Ethel and Laurence Cutkomp, Margaret Eugene, Gladys Hansen, Gerald and Mary McKay, Vera Mikesh, Marie Nodland, Dora Soine, Dorothy Swanson, Leonard and Shirley Unger and Louise Love. A few others outside the Park completed the busload.

Door County makes up the last 65 miles of a 90-mile-long peninsula extending from the city of Green Bay out into Lake Michigan. The west side of the peninsula is the east edge of the water of Green Bay. The county averages only about 10 miles in width except at the south end, where it is 10 to 15. The south entry point of Door County is approximately 300 miles from the Twin Cities, an easy day's bus ride.

The two days we spent in Door County itself were filled with exciting activities, including a fish boil, seeing new cherry picking equipment, a trip to Washington Island beyond the end of the peninsula, a visit to Sturgeon Bay, a shipbuilding center, and a visit to a winery.

The fish boil awaited us on our first night there, a very traditional feature of everyone's first visit to Door County. A wood fire heated water in a large kettle to boiling. To this was placed a steel wire basket of potatoes with the skins on, a few large onions and a generous amount of salt. After a few minutes of cooking, several large pieces of freshly caught whitefish were placed on top. The final touch was to throw about a quart of fuel oil on the fire to create an intense heat for a couple of minutes. To say the fish was delicious would be an understatement.

At another location we saw a demonstration of a newly invented mechanical cherry picker. The machine, mounted on a tractor, would clamp onto the trunk of a loaded cherry tree and shake the tree so the cherries would fall on a conveyor or belt, which would take them to a packer. Door County produces between six and ten million pounds of cherries annually. The cherry industry is Red Tart Montmorency.

We spent one day visiting Washington Island (by ferry), a few miles beyond the tip of the peninsula. Before the beginning of this century, Washington Island was the home of several Native American tribes.

This island, with a permanent population of about 550, is almost entirely a tourist center now, although a few farms are still operating. The island is approximately seven miles square and has many beautiful summer homes as well as a number of tourist accommodations. Commercial fishing is important for those who live on the island.

At the Door Peninsula Winery, we saw wines being made from cherries as well as from other traditional fruits—grapes, pears, raspberries and strawberries. The building itself had been remodeled from an old schoolhouse. Wine tasting and some purchasing wound up our visit there.

Sturgeon Bay, the county's major city, with a population of about 10,000, is primarily a manufacturing center. Through its history, shipbuilding has been a key industry, but in recent years other forms of manufacturing have replaced some of the shipbuilding.

Although cherries are Door County's main cash crop, apples are important and generate a good share of income. Livestock farming, particularly dairy, also is a stable income producer in many parts of the county.

Serving tourists is of main interest in Door County, however, and after enjoying their hospitality and beautiful accommodations in eating, sleeping, sightseeing and interest centers, the 17 St. Anthony Parkites who spent the last part of September there would heartily agree. We all enjoyed the trip.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Seasons Greetings to Our Friends and Neighbors

We all wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season and want to thank you for your nineteen years of patronage and support. We've enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and look forward to many additional years of being part of the St. Anthony Park community.

The Staff at Muffuletta

MUFFULETTA

2260 Como Ave. on Milton Square 644-9116
(Take 194 to 280, exit on Como and head East 6 blocks.)
Great reading with local appeal for the hungry bibliophile

By David Auger

Similar to the flood of Holly- wood movies that hit the screen on Thanksgiving Day, book publishers release a mass of titles aimed at capturing our holiday- shopping attention. Everyone loves a good book, especially if it speaks to our local landscape.

• "The Architecture of Edwin Lundie" by Dale Mullinger (Min- neosta Historical Society Press)

Throughout his remarkable career, architect Edwin Lundie created over 300 buildings, including four homes in Universi- ty Grove. Lundie's first contribu- tion to this academic village appeared in 1931 at 2273 Folwell.

• "Northeast State House" by Thomas M. Sullivan (Pogo Press)

Art historian Thomas O'Sullivan crafted this comprehensive and accessible guidebook—the first since 1976 about the art and architecture of Cass Gilbert's triumphant Minnesota State Capitol building.

• "The Epic of Minnesota's Great Forests" by Hazel Thorson Stock Stoecker

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hazel Stoecker's famous Green Hill book, local writer Park resident wrote a petite booklet to preserve its artistic and environmental legacy for generations ahead.

• "26 Minnesota Writers" edited by Emilio and Monica Drelana DeGratia (Nodin Press)

This fine collection of fiction and creative nonfiction by Jack El-Hal, Ellen Hawley and Richard Brodnerick, among 23 others, speaks to our widely diverse Min- nesota experiences.

• "Journey of the Heart: Reflections on Life's Way" by Gerhart Frost (Augustsp Floor)

The great Lutheran theologian Gerhart Frost's words endure in this collection of poetry, carefully edited by his daughter, Naomi. Steeped in Christian thought, Frost's works are insightful, warm and anything but dogmatic.

• "Abandonings: Photographs of Otter Tail County, Minnesota" (Clark Press)

Through majestic photographs and solid text, this stunning collection of forgotten yet beautiful sites in Otter Tail County is a universal tale of love and loss.

• "Peef the Christmas Bear" by Tom Heg, illustrations by Warren Hanson (Waldman House Press)

From the dynamic duo that brought us "A Cup of Christmas Tea" comes a new holiday story that tracks the life and times of Peef, a charming little teddy bear. Despite the bear's work in Santa's workshop, the cuddly thing longs to be loved by a younger—a wish St. Nick fulfills.

• "Gracious Countryside: Her Life, Her Loves and Her Library" by Jane Peja (Nodin)

Walk over to Minneapolis for Jane Peja's insightful biography and generous display of Progressive Gracious Coun- tryman, who forged the Minneapolis Public Library system and influenced librarians nationwide.

Sue Gehrz breezed into office in Falcon Heights with 75 percent of the vote ... continued from page 1

Gehrz thinks local issues are especially important as political springboards for women candidates. "Very competent women often don't run for office," she remarked, "because they don't think they can. Sometimes it is for one person to say to a woman, 'I think you could do it.'"

In Gehrz's case, she was encouraged to run for higher office by several of her fellow members of the homeowners association. She was first elect- ed to the Falcon Heights City Council in 1990 and reelected in 1992. She has two more years left to her term, but Gehrz will resign her council seat when she is inaugurated as mayor.

Residents are looking for some dramatic changes of polit- ical course under a Gehrz administration will be disap- pointed. Gehrz says she plans to continue many of the projects that "we've worked hard on." Chief among those is her term as a "planning stance."

As a fully developed city, Fal- con Heights has the option of taking long-range views and involving maximum citizen participa- tion in the planning process, Gehrz said. "We're not like newer communities," she said, "where so much of the energy of government gets wrapped up in land-use decisions."

She does admit to some differ- ences of style with her prede- cessor, Tom Baldwin. "I'm not the same person that Tom Bald- win is," Gehrz remarked. "He fre- quently commented on pro- ceeding during city meetings. My meetings will move pretty fast."

Gehrz believes her approach is more personal, but she was quick to praise her predecessor as a "really good mayor."

One tradition Gehrz is eager to preserve is the nonpartisan nature of Falcon Heights polit- ics. She has never sought politi- cal party endorsements, saying that the role of organized politi- cal parties is not relevant to local issues. She said that in Falcon Heights city council meetings, "You can't predict in advance how people will [vote], and that's how it should be. It means people are making deci- sions on the issues, not because of personal or political alle- giances."

When asked about the anger and bitterness that seem to typ- ically politics at higher levels, Gehrz answered with relief that such divisiveness doesn't play much of a role in Falcon Heights. She remarked, how- ever, that she is saddened by "the level of distrust" that many peo- ple feel toward government in general. She hopes that as mayor she will be able to make herself available to combat cynicism about politics. In addition to holding elected office, Gehrz—who has degrees in psychology and counsel- ing—works full time for a feder- al program designed to promote chemical health and drug pre- vention. Her job involves deal- ing with many community groups, and she believes psychology background helps her in her work.

Perhaps it's her training in counseling that fuels her enthusias- tism for creating awareness of what she termed "neighbor-to-neighbor" issues. Working together with a committee of volunteers called "Keeping Con- nected," Gehrz hopes to generate ideas for "positive alterna- tives to adversarial code enforcement," such as backyard dogs and weedy lawns. "They appear small, but can loom large in people's lives. People don't want to confront their neighbors about these prob- lems. They contact city hall instead. Then what happens is alienation between neighbors."

Gehrz hopes that city hall can encourage people to contact each other directly and com- municate in a respectful manner to help resolve prob- lems. But, she added, "People should always be aware that the city is there to back you up."

Between her work and her political activities, the mayor-elect doesn't have much time for leisure. Free time is likely to be devoted to her 80-year-old mother or to a family outing to watch her college-age son play football.

"I don't cook," Gehrz said, "so that saves time. Luckily, my husband, Bob, enjoys cooking, and he's good at it." When she gets the chance, Gehrz report- ed, "I enjoy doing things with my husband." That's not a bad motto for someone who has shown she plainly prefers a hands-on approach to her community and in her political life.
What do you give a person who has everything or just doesn’t want anything more? That cute Santa Claus tie will hardly impress. And she already has a dozen potpourri holders in storage. Here’s a starter list of gifts that you can’t put on the coffee table or in the closet.

A little time
More specifically—your time. Some examples of services you could provide for your friends are cleaning, babysitting, fixing a car and preparing a gourmet meal. Sure, you say, but how do you wrap up your time and put it under the tree? My aunt and uncle had a nice solution; they created a nice-looking certificate stating they would paint my grandparents’ dining room.

A box of favors
This family tradition has always been one of my favorite gifts to give and receive. Each holiday season at least one family member will receive a box that makes a certain noise when it’s shaken. We all know what it is; we have all given this present at one time or another. Inside the box are dozens of three-inch long scrolls, rolled tightly and secured with a red ribbon. The scrolls say things like, “I owe you breakfast in bed” or “I’ll take you out to a movie of your choice.” The scrolls, of course, are redeemable at any time.

A store or a season full of choices
If you just can’t figure out what to get them maybe you should let them decide. Almost everywhere you look the sun offers gift certificates. Local restaurants, theaters, orchestras, beauty salons, bookstores, catalogs, day cares, bed and breakfasts—they all have them. Pick one that matches your friend’s interests.

An evening out or a day of fun
Here’s where you can really use your creativity. Plan a day that will bring a huge smile to your friend’s face. Maybe it’s skiing and hot cocoa. Maybe it’s dinner and miniature golf. Or it could be the Omnitheater and horse-drawn sleigh ride. The options are endless.

Another card for the wallet
Everyone appreciates a piece of plastic—especially if it will get them something. Instead of increasing the amount of stuff a person owns, give a loved one a membership to a museum or organization. The following memberships are good for one year. Family memberships include two adults and all dependent children:

- **Walker Art Center**
  Individual: $35
  Benefits: free admission to the museum, invitations to “members only” events and discounts in the bookstore located in the Walker on tickets to Walker events. Information: 375-7622.

- **Science Museum**
  Individual: $37, Household: $52
  Benefits: a limited number of free Omnitheater admissions (four per individual and 10 per household), unlimited free admission to exhibit halls, free Omnitheater reservations, discounts on classes and trips, monthly newsletter and discounts in the store and on guest tickets. Membership also gains admission to more than 170 science centers worldwide. Information: 221-9409.

- **Children’s Museum**
  Household: $49
  Benefits: free admission, a subscription to the museum’s newsletter, discounts on classes, workshops, birthday parties and in the museum store. Information: 225-6004.

- **Minnesota Zoo**
  Individual: $30*, Household: $52*

*Also offers a “plus option” at both levels. This means that for each visit the persons covered by the membership plus one guest are admitted free. Individual plus memberships are $40. Household plus memberships are $60.

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**Checklist for year end planning:**

- Do tax projection for 1995
- Consider income/expense timing
- Maximize retirement savings
- Prevent underpayment penalties
- Pay off personal debt
- Offset capital gains/losses
- Buy equipment for instant tax write off up to $17,500
- Start flexible benefit plan
- Use your plan—save taxes
- Get a headstart on 1996

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on the coffee table

- Bell Museum of Natural History
  Individual: $25; Household: $35
  Benefits: free admission, two free guest passes, quarterly newsletter, invitations to "members only" events, discounts in the museum bookstore, classes, field trips, lectures and birthday programs. Information: 624-7083.
- Minnesota Historical Society
  Individual: $25; Household: $35
  Benefits: free admission to more than a dozen historic sites, exhibit previews, double discount shopping days, the quarterly magazine, a 25 percent discount on parking, a 10 percent discount on Minnesota Historical Society Press publications and at the store and cafe, special rates in the copy center, a calendar of events and discounts on programs and classes. Information: 296-0332.

New skills or ideas

Has he always wanted to learn Chinese cooking? Does she want to learn karate? I provide the gift of a new skill by enrolling your friend in an educative course. You might even want to take the class too. A variety of options is listed under "Schools" in the Yellow Pages:

- Community Education
  Price: usually under $25
  Offers: wide variety of classes such as basket-making, embossing paper, writing children's books, country line dancing, cooking, as well as academic pursuits. St. Paul: 253-8728 (St. Anthony Park) and 293-8811 (Cono). Roseville: 684-3786.
- Open U
  Price: $15-415;
  Offers: classes in computers, business finances, art, spirituality, alternative health, relationships, travel, writing and publishing. $25, $50 and $100 gift certificates applicable on classes beginning after Jan. 1 are currently available at a 10 percent discount. Information: 349-6073.

Illustration by Warren Hanson

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Dec. 5 South African Gospel Concert
Christian Explorers, a popular 20-member Gospel group from South Africa, will perform a benefit for a music school planned in their country.
Free will offering. Open to the public.
7:00 p.m. Chapel of the Incarnation

Dec. 10 Service of Advent Lessons, Carols
Advent celebration led by master of sacred music degree students. Free and open to the public.
5:00 p.m. Chapel of the Incarnation

Dec. 1-15 "Minnesota: Images of Home"
An exhibit of 38 black and white photographs by Jim Brandenburg with captions by Paul Gruchow. A Minnesota Historical Society Traveling Exhibit.
Faculty/Staff Board Room, Olson Divinity Center

Jan. 3-5 Mid-Winter Convocation
Call (612) 641-3419 for details.

For more information: Office of Public Relations (612) 641-3520. Lutheran Seminary "Welcome Line" (612) 641-5333.
For arrangements for group tours, call (612) 641-3519.
Bookstore hours: 10:00-5:00, Mon.-Fri., and 11:00-2:00, Sat.

A better world
It's something none of us have but something we can all work toward. You can give your friend the satisfaction of knowing that he or she did something for the environment, the arts or humankind by donating in their name.

- Donate an evergreen tree
  St. Paul and Ramsey County Friends of Parks and Trails
  For $35, a tree will be planted in a Ramsey County park. A hand-stamped holiday card announcing your gift will be sent to the person you wish to honor. The tree will be planted by park staff next summer. After it is planted, the person of honor will be sent a map of the tree's location. Information: 888-4563.

- Adopt-an animal
  The Minnesota Zoo
  Through this program you can adopt one of three animals for your friend. For instance, by adopting a red panda for $50, your friend will receive a plush panda and a photo. An arctic fox and dolphin adoption are also available. With each adoption also comes a personalized "adopt" certificate, a fact sheet on the animal, an invitation to adopt-sponsor day, an adopt-an-animal magnet, a gift card and recognition on the "adopt-sponsor" wall. Proceeds will go toward feeding and caring for the over 2,800 animals at the zoo. Information: 431-9216.

- Give to the less fortunate
  Merriam Park Community Service
  Donations are needed to provide over 500 families in need with holiday baskets this holiday season. Items needed include new toys for children (up to 17 years old), cash donations, and holiday menu items such as canned soup, canned fruits and vegetables, potatoes, muffin mixes, dry milk, coffee and sweets. Donation deadline is Friday, Dec. 15. Information: 645-0439.

- Donate a toy
  Santa Anonymous
  Donate a toy to a deserving young one through Dec. 19 at the St. Anthony Park State Bank, 2300 and 2265 Como Avenue. Information: 673-7074.

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FDIC
Skilled ceramic artist Denise Tennen enjoys sculpting beautiful objects

By Amy Causton

To many, ceramics is a hobby to study at community ed classes. But for local artist Denise Tennen, ceramics is a lifelong passion.

Tennen creates all kinds of clay works, although she said, "I think of myself more as a sculptor." St. Anthony Park residents may have seen her "Cuppa tea" earnings sold at Hampten Park Co-op, tiny glazed ceramic teapots and teacups.

The idea for the earrings came from a miniature tea set Tennen made about a year ago for a friend's 4-year-old daughter's dollhouse. Tennen's son even loved it, so she made some more. When she showed the tea sets to Hampten Park Co-op coordinator Kathy Vaughan, Vaughan suggested making them into earrings. Tennen has sold the earrings, as well as pottery, at The Bibelot Shop.

Tennen has had relatively little formal instruction in ceramics. She began working in clay when she was 15 and she participated in the ceramics club in high school. She enjoyed clay work, but left it in 1976 to go to architecture school.

Though she tried to keep up with her ceramics, even setting up a studio in her dorm, her architecture career relegated it to the back burner. In 1988 she quit architecture to work on ceramics full time, that was also around the time she moved to St. Anthony Park.

While she has worked with a potter's wheel, the traditional tool for claywork, Tennen believes her strength is in sculpture. She says she used to feel she had to create "useful" things until she took a seminar that taught her that "objects of beauty had utility without being utilitarian." She has created many sculptures since then and says her dream is "to install a large piece on a wall in Italy or Japan," two countries whose styles of design she most admires.

Tennen has shown her work at the St. Anthony Park Festival for several years, as well as art exhibits in the Twin Cities. She has considered working with art dealers, but she says she prefers to deal one-on-one with her buyers.

"It's almost like the sculptures are alive to me," she said. "I just want to know where they are." She also has been commissioned to do pieces for homes, an arrangement she enjoys: "I like that collaborative process. I guess it's the architect in me."

Tennen crafts her work at a studio on Front Avenue. The studio is owned by Mary Jo Schmitt and Kevin Bangsund, partners in Stoneware Specialties, a company that fills large orders for specialized ceramic items for over 250 retailers. They also do special design work, including designing dinnerware sets for individual customers. Walk into the studio and you see hundreds of mugs, jars and dishes waiting to be glazed and fired. Tennen is one of four artists who rents studio space from Stoneware Specialties. Occasionally the artists do combined sales under the name Front Avenue Clayworks.

Tennen is working on a series of sculptures representing different goddesses. The works are for an art exhibit she is organizing called "Liquid Tales, The Ebb and Flow of Myth in Everyday Life," which will open at the Tweed Museum in Duluth in the fall of 1996.

Tennen says she tries to strike a balance between these bigger pieces and the more "readily accessible" ones like the tea sets and earrings. Add her responsibilities as a mother of a young son, and it's quite a juggling act. However, when asked what she enjoys most about ceramics, Tennen's answer is simple and succinct: "I like making stuff."

Ceramic enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the Front Avenue Clayworks studio open house on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The studio is located at 195 Front Avenue, between Lexington and Dale, in St. Paul.

St. Anthony Park ceramic artist Denise Tennen, whose work will be exhibited in a forthcoming show at the Tweed Gallery in Duluth, is looking forward to welcoming people to her studio on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2.

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Carol Weber
636-3760

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Arts Calendar

Literature
Marsha Qualey is set to read from her new novel for young adults called "Hometowns" on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 3 p.m., at Micawber's Bookstore in Milton Square. The Cloquet, Minn., resident is a former St. Anthony Park neighbor.

The St. Anthony Park Writers' Workshop will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., at 2116 Skillman Avenue W. in Roseville. For further information, call 639-9465.

Dance
"Winter Lights," a holiday program of modern dance performed by Young Dances, brightens the stage of the St. Paul Student Center Theater, 2017 Buford Avenue, on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota, on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. The performances feature Larry Lee VanHorne's "Winterlights," the revival of the favorite "Dance for Dinah," and dances choreographed by company members.

Tickets are available through the University of Minnesota Arts Line, 624-2345.

Drama
Falcon Heights United Church of Christ presents "The Clown of God" on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

This dramatic adaptation of the classic tale of a jester who discovers the true nature of his gift will be presented as a special holiday gift to the community. The production includes juggling, mime, slapstick comedy and storytelling, a suitable and visually enjoyable treat for the whole family.

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ is located at 1795 Holton Street. There is no charge for admission.

Music
Popular singer and ragtime pianist Max Morath opens the Candlelight Concert Series on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the University of Minnesota in the North Star Ballroom of the St. Paul Student Center. Morath presents a musical glance at an earlier America, blending humor, music and satire into his affectionate backwoods glance.

The evening includes cabaret-style seating, a served dinner consisting of an appetizer of black linguine with white clam sauce and black caviar garnish, a salad of white asparagus with black walnut vinaigrette, goat cheese creations on pumpkin, nickel and black mushrooms, an entree of sea scallops or chicken in black bean sauce over rice, and a dessert of poached pears in a dark chocolate sauce.

Tickets may be purchased through the University of Minnesota Arts Line at 624-2345 or at Northrop Auditorium. Individual tickets for Morath's concert are $26 for center section seating and $22 for side section seating.

The Lyra Concert continues in 1995-96 season of superlatives" with "Musica Festiva," a special program to open the holiday season, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Luther Seminary's Olson Campus Center.

Natural trumpet virtuoso Fred Holmgren and Baroque oboeist Stanley King are soloists in an extravagant suite by Telemann.

Christian Explainers, one of the top gospel groups in South Africa, is set to perform at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Chapel of the Incarnation in the Olson Campus Center at Luther Seminary. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering to benefit the school will be taken during the concert.

and in Vivalli's "Gloria in D Major" with sopranos Maria Jette and Lisa Habec, mezzo-soprano Lisa Drew, and the Lyra Chorale. Veteran Dick Hensold also performs Giuseppe Sammartini's beloved "Recorder Concerto in F Major."

Individual tickets for Lyra performances are $15 for adults and $12 for seniors, students and public radio members. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 404-8632.

Arts Calendar to 16

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Broderick elected to coaches hall of fame

By Michelle Christianson

When he was told that the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association had voted to induct him into its Hall of Fame, Bernard (Bernie) Broderick didn't believe it. After all, he reasoned, he didn't even belong to the association. Never mind that he had brought six teams to the state hockey tournament and was the first coach to bring teams from two different schools.

Broderick, who was born to U.S. citizens in Canada and grew up in Winooski, was the self-described "runt of the litter" in his family. Weighing only 115 pounds, and as a high school graduate, he had never played team sports when some friends at St. Cloud State suggested that he join the hockey team. He played for all four of his years there, finishing with three English Majors. In math and industrial arts he took a job teaching in Warroad, Minn., where he also accepted the position of hockey coach.

"I never had any training in coaching, so I read books and subscribed to a Canadian coaching magazine to learn how to do it. I was fortunate to have teams with a lot of talent," Broderick said.

Broderick had been at Warroad for only one year when World War II erupted. He joined the Navy and served as a communications specialist for three and a half years. After the war, he taught at Thief River Falls for a year and then another seven years at Warroad, bringing three teams to the state tournament where they were twice runners-up and once the third-place finisher.

In 1953, Broderick replaced Al Sandberg as hockey coach at Murray Senior High School. "In Warroad all I had to do was coach, but at Murray I was in charge of everything," Broderick said. "I was building the boards to maintain the ice. I had great kids on the teams, though, and they did most of the work," he said.

The risk was located on the site of the present gymnasium and new building. Hockey pucks often went through the windows of the library and were returned at the end of the season by the good-natured librarians. After the addition was built on the school, the team practiced at a rink at what is now Murray Field. At this time Broderick also taught math and industrial arts and agreed to coach cross country in addition to hockey.

Although he had no training in that sport, either. He later coached tennis and volleyball.

During his tenure at Murray, Broderick brought teams to the state hockey tournament in 1955, 1959 and 1963. He credits the success to "sincere, coachable athletes" and states that he was just "in the right place at the right time."

Broderick stayed at Murray until the high school was moved to Como Park. Then he retired after a few months at Como, but was asked to work in the math lab at River Hills Community College, where he worked for 10 years.

Although now retired, Broderick keeps up a busy pace with volunteer activities. He works for Project for Pride in Living, doing property management at rental units. He also volunteers for the city of Falcon Heights, picking up deliveries, and at the Little Brothers organization doing building maintenance and helping with dinners.

Broderick has been honored before, receiving the District 15 Coaches Recognition Award, the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Meritorious Service Award, the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Recognition Award, the Murray High School Appreciation Award and, in 1994, induction into the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Broderick received his award at a dinner on Nov. 11. A statement from a neighbor and fellow coach, Roy Magnuson, sums up Broderick's achievements: "He is one of St. Anthony Park's most respected neighbors, coaches and teachers."

People

St. Anthony Park resident Lisa Letournau, an occupational therapist at Phoenix Service Corporation, and recent graduate of the College of St. Catherine, was one of 68 speakers chosen to make a presentation at the annual conference of the Minnesota Occupational Therapy Association. "A Fieldwork Model for Non-Traditional Community Practice," was especially relevant given this year's conference theme: "Occupational Therapy—Pathway to the Community."

Julie Alby, who grew up in St. Anthony Park, graduated cum laude from the law school at the University of Minnesota last May. Following the bar exam, Julie commenced a one-year law clerkship with the City of Minneapolis. After the clerkship, Alby will become a special assistant attorney general in the Minnesota attorney general's office.

St. Anthony Park businesswoman Sheryl A. Bratlag received a master of business administration degree from the University of Minnesota in October. Bratlag joined Baze, Holzclaw and Company, a public accounting firm, one year ago.

Common Cause Minnesota presented Sea, John Marty with an award honoring his work for government ethics reform.

Roseville Rep. Mindy Grelling was also honored. Sen. Marty and Rep. Grelling have authored and co-sponsored legislation to mandate fair ethics regulations.

David Schultz, president of Common Cause Minnesota, was pleased to announce the presentation of the awards. "I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Sen. Marty and Rep. Grelling with this award," Schultz said. "The people of Minnesota have benefited from these representatives' continued leadership in the area of ethics reform."

The Minnesota Bankers Association (MBA) announced that Richard B. Beeson, Jr., president of St. Anthony Park State Bank, was elected to the MBA board of directors.

Beeson will serve a three-year term, beginning in June 1996. He will represent MBA District 3, which includes the counties of Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington.

The College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota, recently honored Leanne Matthiasson of Falcon Heights with a scholarship sponsored by the John Williams Fund.

This fund was established in 1969 with a gift from Robert H. Tennant dedicated to John G. Williams, who served as a dean of the University of Minnesota. Because of Williams' great interest in agriculture, these funds were designated as scholarships for students with at least two years of previous college work who are pursuing degrees in agriculture.

Greg Peterson was elected president of the Langford Park Booster Club.

The Volunteer Center recently recognized board members Judie Russell, Dan Nott, Peter Doyon and Bonnie Sikplins and volunteers Lois McCordell, Lisa Heaton and Sandy Kniernt.

The St. Anthony Park-based Volunteer Center of St. Paul is a referral and resource center where information can be obtained about a variety of volunteer positions in a wide range of organizations.

Marjorie Jamieson of St. Anthony Park is the new president of the Twin City Lineaa Home's board of advisors. Jamieson has served on the board since 1991. She succeeds James Pederson.
are invited to attend the meet-
ing on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.
La Leche League meetings provide breast-feeding
information and support on an
informal, mother-to-mother
basis. A lending library on a
variety of related topics is also
available.
For meeting location or more
information, call Jeanne at
444-0302 or Faye at 489-6356.

Holiday recycling change
Because of the Christmas
holiday, the city of St. Paul will
not be picking up recycling on
Monday, Dec. 25. Instead, recy-
cling in the Como Park neigh-
borhood will be picked up on
Friday, Dec. 29.
Please have materials out
before 7 a.m. on this day. Any
questions or concerns can be
directed to 644-SORT (7678) or
our TTY line (for the hearing
impaired) 649-3805.

District 10’s
holiday potluck
District 10 is hosting a holiday
potluck on Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.,
at Como Lakeside Pavilion, follow-
ing the monthly community
council meeting.
Everyone in the community is
welcome to attend, provided
they bring a dish to share.
Please RSVP to the District 10
office at 644-3889.

Conservatory’s
80th year celebra-
tion continues
The annual poinsettia show
dominates the sunken garden
with shades of red, white and
pink. Decorated trees showcase
natural ornaments.
Events featuring live music
and storytelling are scheduled
during December:
“Sunday’s Live,” from 2-4 p.m.
featuring Classic Brass, Inc., on
Dec. 3; The Oxford Carolers on
Dec. 10; and Greenwood Tree
on Dec. 17.
“Children’s Story Time” on
Saturday, Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m.,
presents “The Shoeshine Story-
teller.”
“Music for a Holiday After-
noon,” 1-3 p.m.; Wednesday,
Dec. 29, harpist Laurie Leigh;
Thursday, Dec. 21, Lydia
Holsten and Kathleen Abel;
Friday, Dec. 22, Baroque Trio.
“Holiday Open House,” 4-
7 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 26.
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LAUDERDALE

Property tax hear-
ring set for Nov. 30
The Lauderdale city council is
hosting a public hearing on its
budget and property tax
proposal on Thursday, Nov. 30,
7:30 p.m., at City Hall, 1891 Wal-
ut St.
Lions donate new park
benches
Upon noticing that the bench-
es in Lauderdale Community
Park needed repair, the Lions
Club of Falcon Heights and
Lauderdale donated two new
benches.
The new benches can be
found near the ball field in the
southeast corner of the park
and are a welcomed addition.
The city of Lauderdale and the
city council recently sent a let-
ter to Ken Welinski, president
of the club, thanking the group
for its efforts.

Snowbird parking
remains in effect
Lauderdale City Hall reminds
residents that after two inches
of continuous snowfall, no vehi-

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Happy Holidays!

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of continuous snowfall, no vehi-
Delinquent payment hearing on Dec. 12
A public hearing to assess delinquent payments—including utility bills, false alarms and fire inspection fees and so on—will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, 207 W. Larpenteur Avenue.

To register, please call 644-8204 on Tuesday mornings only between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

League of Women Voters honors elected officials
The League of Women Voters serving the communities of Falcon Heights, Roseville and Maplewood will hold its annual VIP coffee for elected officials on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Falcon Heights City Hall.

For further information, contact Florence Sprague at 779-0594.

Public hearing on city budget
The Falcon Heights City Council will hold a public hearing about the proposed 1996 budget on Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., at City Hall.

In September, the city council adopted the proposed budget. The total budget is $2,792,054, which is a 5.7 percent decrease from the 1995 total budget.

Citizens are invited to attend the budget presentation, which will be followed by a question and answer session.

See page 20 for more Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Park neighborhood news

Nilles Builders, Inc.
1032 Grand Ave.
Remodeling • Roofing
Additions Windows & Siding
General Contracting
222-8701
Brad Nilles

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Skillman and Cleveland. 631-0071
Bethany Baptist Church, 10:00 AM Worship 10:45 am
Filipino-American Worship 10:45 am
Pastor Bruce Petersen

COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
1306 W. Hoyt Ave. 646-6877 Handicap-accessible
CPLContact Ministry 646-1897
Sunday Schedule (Nursery Provided).
Rides available for 11 am worship. Call 646-7127 by noon Friday.
8 and 11 am Worship
(Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)
9 am Children and Family Worship, Voice of Praise
Rehearsal; Witness to the Word (Adult Ed.), Youth Handbells
9:45 am Sunday School
10 am Adult Forum,
Monday Schedule (Nursery Provided)
7 pm Old Testament 202
Wednesday Schedule (Nursery Available)
6:45 am Bible Study at Key’s Lexington
9 am Handbell Rehearsal
10 am Old Testament 202
5:30 pm AEA for everyone (Adults $3, kids 15 years and under $2, not to exceed $10 per family)
6 pm Choir School, Joyful Ringers
7 pm Confirmation, CPLC Choir, God’s Giants (Adult Ed)
Friday Schedule:
6:45 am Men’s Breakfast Fellowship at CH Brown in Har Mar
Advent Vespers 7 pm Dec. 6, 13, 20
Sunday School Program Dec. 17, 7 pm
Dec. 24 Worship Schedule
9 am Children’s Service, 10 am Sunday Worship,
3, 4:30 and 11 pm Christmas Eve Services
Pastors Paul Harris and Rolf Jacobson
Christmas Day Worship 10 am Dec. 25
Office Closed Dec. 25 and 26
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Tom Myers
Director of Music Ministries: Scott Rohr

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH
2131 No. Fairview at County Road B. 639-8888
Meaningful liturgies in a new worship space.
A welcoming community. Handicap-accessible
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 9:30 and 10:30 am
Communal Penances Wed., Dec. 6, 7:15 pm
Sun. Dec. 17, 7 pm
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8, 8 am and 7 pm
Dec. 23 regular schedule
Dec. 24, 9:30 Mass only
Christmas Masses 5 and 11 pm. Carols 10:30 pm
Dec. 25, 9:30 am Mass only
Dec. 30 and 31 regular schedule
Jan. 1, 9:30 am Mass only

MOUNT OLIVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (A WELS Congregation)
1460 Almond at Pascal. 645-2575
Sunday Worship: 9 am
Dec. 17 Children’s and Choir Service 9 am
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service 9 am
Sunday Education Hour 10:30 am

PEACE LUTHERAN 1 LAUDERDALE
Walnut at Lone. 644-5440
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am Eucharist 1st and 3rd Sundays
Sunday Church School and Bible Classes 9:15 am

ROSE HILL ALLIANCE CHURCH
Roselawn at Cleveland. 649-0173
Sunday Worship: 9:15 am
Sunday Coffee Fellowship 10:30 - 11 am
Sunday School 11 am
 Sundays 6 pm Sr. Hi Group
Wednesdays Jr. Hi Group & Awana 6-45 pm (Sept. - May)
Wednesday 6th: Women’s American Culture Class 12:30 pm (Sept. - May)

ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN
Como and Lutter Place. Handicapped-accessible. 645-0371
Pastors: Paul Offstaha, Nancy Koester. Intern: Jon Hootman. Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 11 am. Nursery at 8:45 service
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Sunday School and Adult Education 9:50 am
Search Bible Study Tuesdays 10 am and 7 pm
Quillers Thursday, 9 am
Men’s Prayer Group 1st and 3rd Fridays, noon
Men’s Advent breakfasts 8:30 am Dec. 2, 9 and 16
Handbell Concert by Choir from Como Park Lutheran 7 pm
Dec. 5 sponsored by WELCA. All women in the community
December 8 Hanging of the Greens 6-8 pm
December 10 Sunday School Program, 2:30 pm prelude, 3 pm program. Refreshments following.
December 24 Sunday Services 8:45, 11 am. No Sunday School.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4 and 11 pm
December 25 Christmas Day Service 10 am
Visitors welcome.
Our van is available for transportation to and from services.

ST. A.P. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2129 Commonwealth at Chelmsford. 646-7173
Sunday Worship: 10 am (Dec. 24 - regular service)
Sunday Education Hour for Children, Youth and Adults: 9 am
(no Education Hour Dec. 24)
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5 pm Family Service
11 pm Candlelight Service
Alternative Christmas Fair During Fellowship Hour
Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24
Rev. Rollin Kirk, Interim Minister

ST. A.P. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME
Como and Hilde. 646-4889
Sunday Schedule
Education for Adults: 9:30 am
Education for Children and Youth 10 am
Choir: 10:15 am
Worship: 10:45 am
Fellowship: 11:15 am
Wednesdays:
9 am - 1 pm Leisure Center with noon lunch
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
Fridays
7 pm Youth Activity Night

Dec. 9, 9:30 am Fitness and Fellowship. Walking at Como Lake.
Dec. 16, 8:30 pm Fitness and Fellowship.
Bowling at Student Center
Dec. 3, 4 pm Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 10, 10:45 am Choir Service
6:30 pm Fiction and Fellowship. Bring a favorite Christmas book
Dec. 24, 5 pm Christmas Eve Service

ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cromwell and Bayview Place. 646-4602

Saturday Mass: 5 pm
Sunday Masses: 10 am at church (nursery provided) and 8:30 am at Sea Hi-Rise, 820 Seal St. (Handicapped accessibility)
Daily Mass: 7 am at the Parish Center
Holy Days Mass 7 am: 12:35 noon, 5:30 pm at the Hi-Rise
Dec. 12, 7 pm Penance Service
Dec. 23, 9 pm, 4th Week of Advent
Dec. 24, 8:30 and 10 am Service for 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service 8:30 am at the Hi-Rise and 10:30 am at church.

ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 645-3058
Sunday Schedule:
8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 am Eucharist Rite II
Nursery and child care at both services
9:15 - 10 am Education Hour for All Ages
Christmas Choir Concert Dec. 15, 7:30 pm
Dec. 24, 8 and 10:15 Eucharist
Christmas Eve Family Eucharist 4 pm
Festival Service 10 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Chapel Eucharist 10 am
The Rev. Grant Albert, Rector
The Rev. Lynn Lawyer, Deacon

WARRENDALE PRESbyterIAN CHURCH
1040 Como Ave. at Oxford. 489-8604
Sunday Worship: 10:15 am (nursery provided)
Sunday Church School: 9 am
Dr. Robert Bailey, Minister

Life in the Church:
Come and Share.
ST. ANTHONY PARK

Lay school courses

The dynamics of depression, the synaptic gospels and the relevance of Luther's Large Catechism are the three courses offered by the Lutheran Seminary of Theology at Luther Seminary during the winter quarter.

“Out of the Depths,” taught by Bob Albers, professor of pastoral care, examines insights provided by the faith tradition, medicine and psychiatry and discusses resources for individuals and families suffering from depression.


Walter Sundberg, professor of church history, addresses faith and life issues as seen through the model of Luther’s Large Catechism as a guide for fundamental Christian beliefs and a manual of Christian practice.

The classes will meet on five consecutive Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Northwestern Hall on the corner of Hennepin Avenue and Fulham Street. The session will run from Jan. 8 through Feb. 5. Registration is $35 per course and must be received two weeks before the first sessions begins.

For more information or registration materials, contact the Lay School of Theology at 641-3517.

Langford/South St. Anthony Recreation Centers

Langford Park and South St. Anthony will hold a “Supper with Santa” on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Langford Park. Please call 288-5765 to register by Dec. 13.

The St. Anthony Park Winter Carnival preliminary is set for Saturday, Dec. 29. This event is held for girls and boys in grades 7-10 who are interested in representing St. Anthony Park at the 1990 Winter Carnival a distinct Royal Junior Royalty Carnival.

Langford Park is currently seeking adult volunteers for the instructional hockey program (ages 4-6), which begins in January.

The registration period for winter quarter activities is from Jan. 8 through 19. Activities at Langford Park include chess club, figure skating, pencil drawing, tolley and tumbling. Activities at South St. Anthony include parent-child play group, the senior program and adult volleyball.

Upcoming field trips sponsored by Langford and South St. Anthony include a Big Ten women’s basketball game, Minnesota vs. Ohio State, on Jan. 12 and the Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Sacramento on Jan. 15 at the Target Center.

The Langford Park Classic features a 10U and 12U girls’ basketball tournament in addition to the 11U and 13U hockey tournament. It will be held on Jan. 11 and 12.

Langford Park’s annual Winter Sports Days will be held Jan. 20 and 21. A complete schedule of activities will be available on Jan. 13.

As an early reminder: Registration for youth volleyball will be held Jan. 29 through Feb. 9. Girls ages 9-14 may participate.

For more information about these activities, call 288-5765.

Linnea receives $450,000 gift

The Twin City Linnea Home received its largest gift when Ethel Barton’s estate donated $450,000 to the St. Anthony Park-based nursing home.

Ethel Barton was the daughter of Bertha Berg, a Swedish immigrant who lived at Linnea during the 1950s.

“Ethel Barton’s gift was a tremendous surprise,” said Linnea administrator Susan Loechler. “It is an acknowledgement that makes us proud of those who combined hard work and care for Linnea residents for many, many years.”

Holiday dinner a big success

The fourth annual St. Anthony Park Business Association Holiday Lights Dinner and Silent Auction, held Nov. 16, was by all measures the best ever.

A record crowd of 595 people, 25 percent more than last year, enjoyed the evening and helped raise $4,450 for the Business Association.

Members of the St. Anthony Park community joined members of the business association for this festive gathering, including representatives of the St. Anthony Park Library Association and the St. Anthony Park Association who turned out to support the business association.

This year, 131 items were available at the silent auction, including a vintage 1942 Philco radio, a chef’s dinner for six at Mulitaste and a wine and hors d’oeuvres party for eight. While many guests were able to get good deals on the auction items, a few lots ended up paying much more than the item was originally valued.

Dane Bane, a partner in Bane, Holczwic and Company, a CPA firm, bid $250 for the gold package at the Town and Country Club donated by St. Anthony Park Bank. The package was valued at $135.

Another hotly contested bidding war erupted over the honorary bar boy or girl package donated by the St. Paul Saints. Rick Beeson, president of St. Anthony Park Bank was the top bidder with a bid of $205.

Organizers say planning is already under way for next year’s event, which will be Nov. 23 at the Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Advent forums

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church will feature advent topics during its Adult Forum sessions in December. The forums are held Sundays during the education hour, 9:50 to 10:50 a.m., and the community is invited to attend.


Community Calendar

DECEMBER

1 Fri.
Falcon Heights/Lauderdale recycling day.
Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.-noon.

Youth Activity Night, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 7 p.m.

2 Sat.
League of Women Voters VIP coffee, Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

4 Mon.
AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 9 p.m.
Call 647-9446 or 770-2646.

Every Mon.
Boy Scout Troop 17, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., 7 p.m. Call 644-5651.

Every Mon.

5 Tues.
Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.-noon.

Youth Activity Night, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 7 p.m.

6 Wed.
Leisure Center, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Midway Mid-day Toastmasters, Huntington Engineering, 662 Cromwell Ave., noon-1 p.m. Call Dave Breedenberg, 646-4061.

7 Thurs.
Parent-child playgroup, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 10 a.m.-noon.
St. Anthony Park Community Council Physical Planning Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 5 p.m.
Falcon Heights City Council public hearing on 1996 budget, City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur, 7 p.m.

8 Fri.
Youth Activity Night, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 7 p.m.

11 Mon.
Como Park recycling day.
Park Press (Park Bugle) board meeting, Park blank community room, 7 a.m.
Falconeers Senior Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1-3:30 p.m. Call 488-3361 or 644-0605.

12 Tues.
Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.-noon.

Youth Activity Night, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 7 p.m.

13 Wed.
St. Anthony Park recycling day.
Leisure Center, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bookmobile at Hamline & Hoyt, 12:30-5:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Community Council, Lutheran Social Service Building, 2485 Como Ave. Room 10, 7 p.m.
Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.

14 Thurs.
Parent-child playgroup, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 10 a.m.-noon.

15 Fri.
Como Park/Lauderdale recycling day.
Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.-noon.
Youth Activity Night, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 7 p.m.

16 Sat.
FareSHARE distribution and registration for January at Holy Childhood Church, 1435 Midway Parkway.

26 Tues.
Toastmasters, Hewlett Packard, 2025 W. Larpenteur, 7:30 a.m. Call Greg Fields, 649-4265.

27 Wed.
St. Anthony Park recycling day.
Leisure Center, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Book discussion.
Bookmobile at Hamline & Hoyt, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

28 Thurs.
Parent-child playgroup, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 10 a.m.-noon.

29 Fri.
Como Park recycling day.

The Community Calendar is sponsored monthly by Wellington Management, Inc.

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- Office and Retail Space Leasing
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- Investment Real Estate

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2301 Como Avenue Suite 202
St. Paul, Minn. 55108 644-1147

Chiropractic Physician
Obituaries

Edith Holmsten

Edith Quick Holmsten died on Nov. 8, at the age of 97. She was a longtime resident of Como Park, having lived at Pascal and Host for over 50 years. In recent years, she resided at the Bethany Covenant Home in Minneapolis.

Holmsten was born in St. Paul on Sept. 19, 1898. She grew up near Seminary Street and Grotto, attending Jackson Elementary School and Central High School.

Holmsten was a charter member of the Elm Covenant Church on Como Avenue in 1913 and continued her association throughout her life. It was through this church that she met her future husband, and both were involved in the activities of the congregation.

Preceded in death by her husband, Bertel, she is survived by her son, Richard Holmsten of Roseville; two daughters, Marion Fladeland of Temple, Texas, and Carolyn Oliver of Marion, Iowa; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mary Lustig

Mary C. Lustig, age 96, died on Nov. 9. She was a resident of Falcon Heights.

Lustig was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Lustig, Sr., and is survived by four daughters, Lorraine Iverson, Jan Brodie, Pat Henke and Kathleen Lustig; two sons, Raymond Lustig, Jr., and Mark Lustig; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Virginia Sohre

Virginia Gillespie Sohre died on Oct. 17. A resident of St. Anthony Park for over 50 years, she was 95 years old.

She was born at Spencer, Iowa, on Sept. 23, 1908. Sohre attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from Miss Wood’s Kindergarten and Primary Training School.

She taught at Good Thunder, Minn., for five years and met her future husband, Walter Sohre, there. They were married on June 16, 1925. In 1928 they moved to Wood Lake, Minn., where Mr. Sohre was cashier at the bank.

In 1943, the Sohres moved to St. Paul, where Mr. Sohre worked during World War II for the federal government. They made their home on Chelmsford Street. Walter Sohre opened his own accounting firm on Donwell and Como, where he practiced for 20 years. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1975, a year before his death. Sohre was a member of Wood’s Algaeae, Lydia Alden Chapter of D.A.R., and a charter member of both the Science Museum and the Friends of the St. Paul Library.

Philippe Verbruggen

Philippe Verbruggen died at age 93 on Nov. 16. Born July 25, 1902, at Coblyn Bay, Wales, he lived in St. Anthony Park for over 50 years. He was the second son of Henri Verbruggen, conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra from 1923 to 1951.

Educated in Scotland and in Australia, he worked as a stockman in Australia for seven years. After coming to the U.S. in 1929, he owned and operated Kangaroo Ranch with his brother Marcel in northern Minnesota from 1930 to 1938. He married Lois Hopkins of Cromulla, Australia, in 1933. He established the Braemer Camp for Boys on Long Lake at Park Rapids.

In 1942, Verbruggen joined the faculty of Breek School, then located on Como and Henson. He was the athletic teacher in the primary school and the horseback riding instructor to the whole school, where he was known affectionately as “Sir.” He retired in 1968.

Preceded in death by his brothers, Adrien and Marcel, and his sister, Gabrielle, he is survived by his wife, Lois; his son, Henri; his daughter, Denise McFarland; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church on Dec. 16 at 11 a.m.

Compiled by Ann Bagder

FOR THE HOLIDAYS
ORNAMENTS, TRIMMINGS, INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIGHTS AND GIFT IDEAS FOR EVERYONE.
Bugle Classifieds

December 1995

For Sale

LaVALLE PAINTING. Interior and exterior painting, patching, texturing, reasonable, prompt and professional. Insured. References. 483-6834.
LAVENDER MAID: A quality, reliable housecleaning service providing regular or occasional service. 724-0452.
HOLIDAY HELP: Seminary student will help serve and clean up your holiday dinner parties. Arlene, 647-9892.
MAID IN HEAVEN: Immaculate cleaning at affordable rates. 729-7552.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR with 15 years experience. Repairs, replacements, additions of windows, doors, decks, roofs, etc. Kitchens, baths, and family rooms. Local neighborhood references are available. Call Terry, 645-9399.
PRUNING. Shrubs, hedges and small trees expertly pruned. 30 years’ experience. Call Swiss Gardens. 642-9883.
BRENNING'S CLEANING SERVICE. 724-4117.
HILLIARD E. SMITH general contractor. Carpenter work, block, stone, cement work. Interior, exterior remodeling, insulation, underpinning porches. 46 years in the Park. Small jobs are our specialty. Licensed, bonded, insured. 644-0715.
CLEANING. Established business. Your honest, reputable and skilled service. 646-0154.
WINDOW WASHING inside and out. ’85 Ford. ’85 F150. Call for a free estimate. 642-9985.

Wanted

PASSPORT PHOTOS-$9.00 international Institute. 1694 Como Ave. Hours Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.–noon, 1-4:30 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon.
PLANO TUNING AND REPAIR. MacPhail certified. Call Dorothy Tosstigard, 631-2891.
QUAINT antique first day. Natural herbal based. doctor recommended. 100 percent money-back guarantee. 70 percent + success ratio. 738-1514.
SWISS GARDENS. An old-world approach to the art of distinct landscape design and installation. Call Philippe for a free consultation. 642-9985.

Freebies

The Bugle doesn’t charge for your ad to give away an item. FREE cnite, friendly, funny rabbit, hop ear angora, with cage, food and everything he needs. Stays outside year-round. Perfect Christmas gift. 644-3927.

Messages

REMODELING. ALL TYPES: Carpentery and home repairs, kitchens and old-time specialist. References. Licensed, bonded and insured. Call Mark for estimates. 488-6252.

Employment

PART-TIME COUNTER HELP needed mornings and every other Saturday. Good wages + plus vacation and paid holidays. Apply in person at All Season's Cleaners, 2234 Carter at Como in Minot Square.
FULL-TIME TODDLER TEACH (with benefits), part-time p.m. preschool assistant, teacher, and part-time cook. Sandcastle Child Care Center. 35E and West 7th, 293-3453.

Home Services

REMODELING. ALL TYPES: Carpentery and home repairs, kitchens and old-time specialist. References. Licensed, bonded and insured. Call Mark for estimates. 488-6252.

Carpet Cleaning:
Lavender Maid: A quality, reliable housecleaning service providing regular or occasional service. 724-0452.
Holiday Help: Seminary student will help serve and clean up your holiday dinner parties. Arlene, 647-9892.
Maid in Heaven: Immaculate cleaning at affordable rates. 729-7552.
General Contractor with 15 years experience. Repairs, replacements, additions of windows, doors, decks, roofs, etc. Kitchens, baths, and family rooms. Local neighborhood references are available. Call Terry, 645-9399.
Pruning: Shrubs, hedges and small trees expertly pruned. 30 years’ experience. Call Swiss Gardens. 642-9883.
Brenning’s Cleaning Service. 724-4117.
Hilliard E. Smith: general contractor. Carpenter work, block, stone, cement work. Interior, exterior remodeling, insulation, underpinning porches. 46 years in the Park. Small jobs are our specialty. Licensed, bonded, insured. 644-0715.
Cleaning: Established business. Your honest, reputable and skilled service. 646-0154.
Window washing inside and out. ’85 Ford, 642-9985.
Alternations By Barbara: Formerly of Norstrom’s, Harold, Lienmand’s, SAP location, reasonable, 645-7230.
Child Care
Newborn Daycare: On a personal basis in my daycare home (Larpenteur & Snelling) starting March. Licensed, responsible, experienced with references. 646-1335.
Babysitting Wanted: Our two kids, 5 & 6, want us to go out more. We need help to achieve their goal. Call 467-0063.
Childcare available in our Prospect Park home. Share our wonderful nanny! Part-time or full-time 7 a.m.–5 p.m. M/F starting Jan. 1. 996. Call Gretchen or Roger at 379-0596 for details.

Professional Services

Passport Photos-$9.00 International Institute. 1694 Como Ave. Hours Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–noon, 1–4:30 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon.
Plan Tuning and Repair. MacPhail certified. Call Dorothy Tosstigard, 631-2891.
Quaint Antique. First day. Natural herbal based, doctor recommended. 100 percent money-back guarantee. 70 percent + success ratio, 738-1514.
Swiss Gardens. An old-world approach to the art of distinct landscape design and installation. Call Philippe for a free consultation. 642-9985.

Housing

For Rent: Upper duplexes, 2324 Bayes Place. 6550 North, New Ulm, 2 BR, available Jan. 1. 489-5055.
Want to Rent: Mature, responsible University employee/graduate student who knows people in neighbor hood looking for roommates or one bedroom in a neat, quiet duplex in St. Anthony Park. Leave message at 729-8409.
For Sale: 2345 Buford, 4 BR. Contemporary flair, main floor family room. $161,500. Peggy Spurr, Edina Realty, 638-6383.
For Rent: 2 br. duplex Como Pl. Dr. Fycl. Off-street parking. 642-6360 includes utilities and laundry. Available 1/19/96. 646-6660.

Ann McCormick’s Hair Styling Salon

Tuesday-Saturday by appointment
1540 Fulham, St. Paul (in St. Anthony Park)

Freebies

The Bugle doesn’t charge for your ad to give away an item. FREE cute, friendly, funny rabbit, hop ear angora, with cage, food and everything he needs. Stays outside year-round. Perfect Christmas gift. 644-3927.

Instruction

Performance Associates Unlimited. Music training for singers/keyboard players. Individual/group instruction. All ages/interests. Basic skills, stage improvisation, etc. 647-0882.
Classes: Quilting, rug hooking, stenciling, clothing. (612) 655-0945 brochure, Blue Moon Impressions.
Innovative Roseville Preschool seeks 3-year-old to join four other children. Four families have hired a wonderful licensed preschool teacher to facilitate the group. The focus will be interactive play, discovery and books. Call 461-0654 for more information.

Ann McCormick’s Hair Styling Salon

Tuesday-Saturday by appointment
1540 Fulham, St. Paul (in St. Anthony Park)

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Commentary

Almost happy holidays ...

By Barbara Claussen

We had just finished a long discussion in my parenting class about avoiding stress at holidays. The teacher suggested that we should start early and keep it simple. I smiled smugly. It was two weeks before Christmas and I had already purchased two gifts. I only had 14 to go.

"Start early and keep it simple," I repeated to myself. Since I had a new baby, I thought this was wonderful advice.

I turned down several invitations to plasticware parties and creative stitchery demonstrations. I decided to invite only 18 people for Christmas dinner and serve pies from Rainbow Foods without feeling guilty. I skipped the Advent wreath project and I successfully resisted the temptation to have my daughter's school picture retake.

Then I found myself rushing around wildly. I had to drill Anne, my oldest, on her lines for the Christmas program. I stamped 50 holiday cards and rushed them to the mailbox. I suffered the worst possible humiliation—my cookies for the cookie exchange failed. I had to deliver them in a disguise.

I planned a craft project so that my children could experience the joy of giving. I spent countless hours driving all over the city looking for fabric crayons and white dish towels.

On the eve of the school party, I triumphantly assembled all the materials in the kitchen and announced to my children that this year we were going to make gifts for our teachers. My oldest looked me in the eye and said, "I don't want to." Two hours later I was offering them money to draw a nice design on a dish towel. So much for my noble ideas about combating commercialism and inspiring creativity.

I drove to five stores in a 20-mile radius to find the perfect gift for Uncle Don—my last gift. I sped to the post office to mail my Christmas packages. I struggled to the entrance with an armful of carefully wrapped and labeled brown boxes just as a man was locking the door.

I knew things had gotten out of hand when I found myself sobbing hysterically after Anne asked me, "Mom, when are we going to get our Christmas tree?"

My husband asked me to iron his gown for the choir concert. After dressing the kids, buckling them into the car and driving eight miles to the church, I realized that his choir robe was hanging next to the ironing board at home, neatly pressed.

I finally found my tickets to the "Nutcracker" buried under a pile of wrapping paper and tangled in ribbons. After spending two hours dressing up in our best clothes, we rushed off to the auditorium and discovered that we had arrived on the wrong day. There was an icy silence in the car on the way home.

We attempted to take our annual holiday portrait. Nobody was smiling.

One of my friends later asked, "Why was your Christmas letter so incoherent this year?"

It was probably because I resolved to start early and keep it simple.