PARK
AUGUST 1996 VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2
P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108

Miller’s sudden closing leaves Park without drug store

by David Anger

The abrupt and imminent closing of Miller’s drug store on Como Avenue not only shocks many St. Anthony Park residents, but it is also prompting widespread concern about the thoroughfare’s enduring vitality as a commercial center. “It’s a wake-up call,” remarked Ellen Waters, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Business Association. News of Miller’s going out of business sale follows the announcement that Park Hardware is for sale and the closing of Sheepdog Designs in Milton Square. Suddenly, the status quo on Como Avenue — a retail hub that is often the envy of communities across the Twin Cities — is faltering.

Waters believes that maintaining retail presence on the street, especially at the corner of Como and Doswell, is essential. When Miller’s closes, Speedy

Business failure raises anxieties about neighborhood’s future commercial vitality.

Market will be the lone retailer there. Bob Bulger, owner of the drug store building, is ill, and unable to comment about the future tenant. Local customers familiar with the closing at the beginning of July, when owner Bill Perry circulated a letter trumpeting a “vibrant Quitting Business

Sales” beginning on July 8. No explanation was offered for the closing, although rumors flourished. “Some believe that the store’s insurance rates skyrocketed, while others reported that profits were down.” Whatever the circumstances for the closing, Perry — who recently opened another pharmacy on Grand Avenue — declined to be interviewed. In addition, Miller employees were instructed by Perry not to talk with the media. But Perry did issue a statement concerning the closing. “Closin Miller Pharmacy was a very difficult decision to make,” Perry wrote. “I’ve been in this community since 1974 when I first started working at Miller’s.”

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Lauderdale workers unionize

by Jody Woodward

Collective bargaining is coming to Lauderdale. Rank-and-file employees at City Hall — all three of them — recently voted to join the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Two other City of Lauderdale positions, the city administrator and the administrative analyst, are not eligible for the union. Negotiations on the fledgling bargaining unit may begin this month.

Public Works Coordinator and Building Inspector Dave Hinrichs, a 12-year employee of the city, spearheaded the organizing drive. Because of past personnel actions by the city council, Hinrichs said that unionization became an ongoing topic of discussion among city workers. A major contention among employees was the existence of an “at-will clause” in their terms of employment.

“A true clause, common among private, nonunionized employers, states that an employee works at the will of the employer and can be quit or terminated at any time.”

“The dismissal of (former) City Administrator Kathleen Miller made employees believe it could happen to anyone because of the at-will clause,” said Hinrichs.

Kathleen Miller was dismissed by the Lauderdale City Council in 1995 and subsequently sued the city. Her case, which remains the subject of acrimonious litigation, would not have been affected by unionization, since the city administrator’s position will not be covered by the contract.

Another issue likely to be raised in the contract negotiations concerns employee cost-of-living raises. Hinrichs contended that, in the past, they have not been uniform. Salary increases, Hinrichs maintained, were based solely on merit.

Hinrichs, who also believes that Lauderdale employees are not being paid at the market rates established by surrounding cities like Roseville and Shoreview, looks forward to the presence of a union representative at the contract negotiations.

“Having union reps will separate employees from the process of wage negotiations,” Hinrichs commented. “A union can shield an employee who raises objections. Without the union, the employee would just be viewed as having a bad attitude. With the union, we’ll know where we stand with issues. Before you might find out you no longer have a job, not because of performance issues, but because of politics.”

Now that Lauderdale’s employees have a union that makes City Administrator Tim Cruikshank “management. It’s not a change that’s worrying Cruikshank.

“I think I have a good relationship with the employees,” said the city administrator. “I’m not treating anybody differently.” He added, “The union is just another entity to deal with. In some ways, it formalizes the structure. In a small group [like Lauderdale City Hall], there’s a temptation to become really good friends, but you have to draw the line between supervisor and employee.”

Cruikshank is unconcerned about the union situation.

“I don’t think it’s that exciting an issue,” he said. “Lauderdale is a great little city. Let’s focus on some other really neat things about it.”

Mill City Cafe owner Jack Whittemore battles leukemia

by David Anger

Last month Jack Whittemore — owner of the popular Mill City Cafe at Raymond and University avenues — battled his otherwise black hair blaring blonde. This is a spiky new, even for a South St. Anthony Park restaurateur. To top it all off, excuse the pun, the crown of his head is drenched iridescent purple.

Whittemore isn’t preparing for a bop Fishbone concert. Instead, the 36-year-old, who was diagnosed with leukemia on Dec. 30 of last year, is about to undergo a bone marrow transplant. Afterwards, he is set to receive a hefty dose of radiation therapy. All of these procedures are certain to keep him out of the kitchen until, at least, the winter.

So, typical of the free-spirited Gemini, he is facing this life-threatening disease in style. “All of my hair is going to fall out,” explained Whittemore, “so I’m having a little fun. My son, Miles, suggested that I dye my hair blue, but that was a little far out.” Then, he quipped, “Now I’ve got these nubbly roots.”

Mill City had only been open for eight months when Whittemore began battling extended bouts of fatigue. Initially, he shrugged off the symptoms as poor health. After all, Whittemore is accustomed to working ferociously hard and coasting over all. Then, too, opening the restaurant represented the realization of a long-held dream, and he wasn’t going to allow a little cold to halt the euphoria.

Before Mill City opened, Whittemore worked as a chef for the Green Mill, Rosen’s and, most recently, JD Hofty’s. Yet he yearned to create food in a noncorporate atmosphere, where he didn’t need to toss up a clichéd menu of chicken wings, hamburgers and taco salads. Whittemore.

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Photo by Tom Olson

Jack Whittemore is about to undergo a bone marrow transplant.

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Before the railroad tracks and industry, Brin-Neil Creek flowed through the woods

by Jillian Myrom

The industrial area that straddles St. Anthony Park and Southeast Minneapolis has a double nature—to some it is a site of primeval railroad tracks, light industry, and grain elevators; to others it is an oasis of scenic green space. Brin-Neil Creek flows broadly a Superfund site. Goodwill on Como Avenue sits on what used to be a group of woodland ponds and aPatient on the parking lot for shore where the water in the ground trickled. Preservation of the land south of Como Pond has split into four separate wetland fragments, contains a species of shrimp unique to the pond. At times it is called the Bridal Veil Waterfall, sometimes simply a wetlands; the official name "Southwest Minneapolis Industrial Area" does not convey the rich environmental legacy that researchers see in its acres.

As the Southeast Ecological Regional Ecological Committee's report makes clear, neighborhood communities concern the master plan for the area, which the state oversees the industrial area regularly go about their business. Karynn Eckman, adjunct professor in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota, continues her trips out to the area to document the range of species that make the wetland their home. In addition, James Cooper, College of Natural Resources, has spent ten years of research on the springs that feed the Como system. Then, Lance Jelonek, Landscape Architect, and his students cataloged all of the contaminated sites in the area so that the only such comprehensive map that exists. Eckman and researchers were temporarily halted by a group of transients who camped out in a particularly

Volunteers and planting locations sought

The Committee is seeking funds from the United for a tree planting project for Spring of 1997. Trees may be planted on both public and private property, (some matching funds will be needed from private property owners). We are looking for volunteers to help with planting the project, with the planting, and with maintenance after the planting. We hope that this will become an on-going project for some years. Locations for planting will be determined by the volunteer committee in consultation with the United guidelines. Call the Council office 229-7984, for further information and to volunteer.

National Night Out on August 6

St. Anthony Park. Blockworkers and other neighbors will be observing National Night Out by holding block parties and sharing information about crime prevention. This event is sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Police and co-sponsored locally by the St. Anthony Park Community Council. It is supported in our neighborhood by the Minneapolis Anti-Violence Action Coalition and the St. Anthony Park Association. Similar events will be held in over 8,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world.
National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighbors are organized and fight back.
In St. Anthony Park, events will strengthen already positive ties to our neighborhood, and reinforce the friendly, looking-out-for-each-other attitude so common in St. Anthony Park. One of the very best crime prevention tools is knowing our neighbors, something this neighborhood does exceptionally well. For more information and an "event kit" call Katie Urke at the Council Office 229-7984.

St. Anthony Park shirts available at the council office

The Community Council is selling embroidered T-shirts and long sleeve mock turtle neck shirts for $20 and $25 (slightly more for XL-1 size). Shirts are available at the Council Office, call 229-7984 for information.

Pharmacy closing...from 1

and I bought the business in 1988. The fact is, however, that I can't afford to keep Miller Pharmacy open any longer. Third-party insurance companies now control how much pharmacies get reimbursed for their services. Also, this neighborhood chose to purchase their prescriptions and other sundry items elsewhere. Miller Pharmacy recognizes its shares of the responsibility for Miller's closure.

Even so, the closing of neighboring pharmacies is a city-wide epidemic of consolidation, poor bookkeeping. Besides St. Paul, small pharmacies have closed in Edina, Minneapolis and Falcon Heights, although Bloomberg Pharmacy at 1583 Hamline Avenue is open. There was a time, before dominance of insurance companies and before the emergence of megastores, when St. Anthony Park boasted two drug stores. Beyond Miller's, a drug store pre-existed in the space that is now occupied by Manning's. Those days have passed.
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The chances of getting another pharmacy in the southwest neighborhood are slim to zero," said Watters. To strengthen the neighborhood's appeal, Watters implores residents to shop locally. Others believe that stronger organizing is the key. Lauren Carter of Lauderdale thinks that state legislation should be enacted to protect neighborhood pharmacies. Sen. John Marty is sponsoring the of the Prescription Fair Competition Act, which aims to allow state employees to buy their prescriptions locally. Marty plans to introduce the legislation in the next session.

Regardless of whether or not legislation is passed and regardless of whether or not the legislation is passed and regardless of whether or not the legislation is passed, new pharmacies will eventually fill Miller's space, neighbors are deeply saddened by the drug store's closing. "Miller's was more than a drug store," said Jane Delger Donohoo, whose father, Jack Delger, is a former Miller's partner. "It was a community center."" Miller's was more than a drug store," said Jane Delger Donohoo, whose father, Jack Delger, is a former Miller's partner. "It was a community center."
Miller v. Lauderdale litigation continues in civil court

by David Anger

K athleen Miller's lawsuit against the city of Lauderdale is now being played out in the U.S. District Court, where the former city administrator is demanding damages in excess of $200,000 plus legal fees.

Miller, who was fired by Lauderdale on April 1, 1992 and fired by a vote of three to two by the city council on Jan. 24, 1995, charges that not only were her constitutional rights violated, but that her character was defamed and that she endured emotional distress. In addition, Miller claims that the firing interfered with her two-year contract, which was signed at the beginning of her employment.

Lauderdale denies these allegations. Mark Kruger, an attorney at Gray, Plant, and Mooy, represents the city and answered Miller's complaint. Besides denying the allegations, he asked for the complaint's dismissal and that the court reimburse Lauderdale for its costs incurred in the lawsuit, including attorneys' fees.

Many observers are confused that the litigation is continuing because last Feb. the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that the municipality did possess the right to fire her at-will.

Deese Sarnson, Miller's attorney, said that Minnesota law dictates that all civic employees hired and fired by governmental bodies must first bring grievances before the Court of Appeals.

Even so, Sarnson said the scope of the Court of Appeals' investigation was narrow, limited to evidence only pertaining to the city council meeting that moved to terminate Miller's employment. Now, Miller is pressing arguments and seeking monetary damages on issues that were not addressed by the Court of Appeals.

The litigation is in the discovery stage in which both parties are compelled to produce documents related to Miller's tenure and dismissal. After the discovery period, which is set to conclude in Feb. of 1997, the court may review further motions, which could result in the dismissal of the case entirely. A trial may take place next summer, although the matter may be settled out of court.

Miller's firing proved to be a highly divisive moment in the city of 2,700 people and surfaced as an election issue last Nov. While several residents were dissatisfied with Miller's performance, others praised her accomplishments.

Thus, when the city council under the leadership of Mayor Jeff Dains moved to terminate her employment, many people were alarmed by the action. Besides Dains, council members Jack Barlow and Steve Froehlich voted to fire Miller, while council members Susan Bardill and Gene O'Brien disapproved.

Miller's complaint alleges that before firing the former city administrator garnered positive performance reviews and salary increases. Then, the complaint continues, Dains and Froehlich approached Miller on Jan. 19, 1995 and asked her to sign a letter of resignation.

Miller refused. Instead, she contacted Bardill, Barlow and O'Brien, who informed her that they were unaware of the move to fire her. The next day, Miller received a "Notice of Intent to Terminate" from the mayor and three days later, at the regular city council meeting, her employment was terminated immediately.

The complaint also alleges that Dains as well as Froehlich and Barlow "acted with malice in creating and communicating to the public false, defamatory and stigmatizing impressions about Miller related to her employment and termination. Miller is now employed by the City of Delano."

HOLLY HOUSE CENTER FOR INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

Learning To Live In Our Bodies: Untangling Emotions, Food and Body Image

Presented By: Rebecca Ruggles Radcliffe
Saturday, September 14, 1996
9-11 am
Holly House Center for Integrated Healthcare
St. Anthony Park Bank Building, 2206 Cunne Ave., Ste. 202, St. Paul, MN 55106
$20 Seating Limited
call Holly House at 645-6951 for tickets

Rebecca Radcliffe is the author of Enlightened Eating, Understanding and Changing Your Relationship With Food. Ms. Radcliffe will be signing her book at the conclusion of the program.

Sponsored by: Whole Foods Market, St. Paul
Beyond bitterness

M any residents of Lauderdale might be alarmed by the page three news, reporting that the employment surge between former City Administrator Kathleen Miller and the city that fired her 18 months ago is continuing in the courts. Her termination possessed strong implicaton of sex discrimination and accreditation problems. Now, more than halfway through 1996, it’s time not to assign blame but to contemplate how neighbors can move beyond the current acrimony and begin mending the open scars of the past.

Running the risk of sounding glib, possibly even dis- missing the efficacy of our usual community legal system, it’s important to understand that litigation doesn’t neces- sarily overturn the terrible effects of past injustices or eradicate the winners. For every legal opinion that is made, there is inevitably dissent. The O.J. Simpson ver- dic, rendered one year ago, offers a dramatic illustration that a jury’s decision doesn’t always relax public tensions. Long after the verdict has been rendered, but is it essential for creat- ing a sense of community. It’s time for friends and foes to acknowledge that both Kathleen Miller and the mem- bers of the Lauderdale city council are mere mortals. Just because Miller was fired doesn’t mean she’s a horrible person or an incompetent professional. Similarly, the council’s decision to revoke her job doesn’t necessarily make them sinister.

It’s Miller’s right to pursue this litigation and to seek a closure to a very unhappy chapter in her employment history. It’s also Lauderdale’s prerogative to contest. But whether Miller or the city prevails in this lawsuit, the residue of the past is certain to linger. The larger challenge will be to build a community in Lauderdale — to identify what lessons can be learned from this decade and to continue to build a better community in spite of it.

Festival a hit

The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on June 1 was a huge success. We had great vendors, great entertainment, great food, and great crowds. Everyone commented on how nice the Festival is, and how the community spirit really shows.

The St. Anthony Park Branch Library Associa- tion sponsors the Arts & Crafts Fair part of the Festival, raising virtually its entire yearly budget from fees paid by the artists and crafters. For 27 years, volunteers have put on one of the best art fairs in the Twin Cities. I would like to publicly salute the people who contributed this year.

Members of the library and business associa- tions staffed the information tent. Two local ceramics teachers provided day-long craft demon- strations. Lace makers and weavers also demon- strated their crafts. Neighborhood singers and dancers played to appreciative audiences. While other festivals rely on rock bands to draw a crowd, visitors to St. Anthony Park are entertained in a family-friendly atmosphere.

On behalf of the library association, con- gratulations to Ellen Wat- ters and the business associa- tion, co-sponsor of the Festival. It was a pleasure working with you.

Jane Dolger Danba
Arts & Crafts Fair Chairman

National Night Out

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, peo- ple can gather as a com- munity and reaffirm our commitment to crime- free neighborhoods. It's also a chance to meet new neighbors and renew our support in the fight against crime. Contact Katie at the St. Anthony Community Council (292-7884) and she will help arrange a visit from officer Jim Campbell. So, if you haven't done so yet, get your party orga- nized for National Night Out.

Commander Mike Smith

Bandstand celebration

The money to restore the bandstand in Langford came from John and Bernadine Dow and their family.

Hmong soccer festival

On July 5, during the Hmong soccer festival, I was at a Soccer Asian couple if they could park in front of my house near Como Park. I said, "Sure, anyone can park on public street." But, from July 5, parking was restricted by special permits on our street because of "resi- dents' concerns." I have concerns with the thousands of real estate agencies, corporate picnic, among others, parkers. Yet, parking permits are only enforced during the Hmong festival soccer goes live in St. Paul and pay taxes, but they can't park on the public streets around the event. There are cor- porate picnic groups that don't reside and pay taxes here that are allowed to park freely on our public streets. Could it be that their culture and Hmong identity has raised the moral concerns? Shame on us!

Catherine Pernos

Piano playing is a life-long lesson

I am a piano teacher. I deal daily with children (mostly) who prac- tice (or not) and come with trepidation (or not) to their piano lessons. In this last year I have come to understand their mindssets acutely. You see, I have begun taking lessons myself again.

I am a classically trained pianist and have always had plenty of confidence in my skill and competence. But I am not taking the kind of lessons I have had in the past. I am taking jazz lessons, and believe me, this has given me an insight into my own students that I have never had.

When I began lessons again, I thought that I would master this new skill in about two or three months. I began in May and figured that I would be ready by fall. But despite the fact that I was using the same fingers on the same keyboard, the approach is completely different, and one year later I am still bumbled by my own ineptitude.

It's not that I don't practice—I do, as my luckless neighbors can attest now that all the windows are open. But practice can only go so far where improvisation is concerned. I never know exactly what I will hear when I sit down in front of my teacher to play. My fingers seem to have a life of their own.

Sometimes the solo goes really well, also to my sur- prise. Other times I hear myself offering the same excus- es that I hear from my own students. "I did practice. That was better at home. It's this piano—not it sounds so much different than my own." Then I hear the same words from my teacher that I say. "Try it again. Slow down. It's the expression that I'm most concerned about." I know these things, but when my heart is rac- ing and my hands are sweating it's hard to concentrate.

Sometimes I quickly flip by a song that has been giving me trouble, hoping that my teacher won't notice. He lectured me bitterly but I didn't fool him. Sometimes I look at the clock saying, "Isn't the half hour almost up now?" When I first began, I tried to fill up the time talking about jazz or even having my teacher demonstrate what he would do with a certain melody.

But then I decided to face the music, as it were, and just play.

I find improvisation beggar bad improvisation. The adrenalin ("fight or flight") flows, the tempo speeds up, strange chords and hand rhythms make their appearance and both of us end up laughing at what just happened. Of course, it's not always bad, and I know that I have made quite a bit of progress.

I like older music, especially Gershwin and Ellington. I often spend a wonderful evening just playing through my favorites, oblivious to the rest of the world. That's what makes everything worthwhile.

Which is the whole point. Nothing ever does have to be for career advancement or even enhancing others' pleasure (as most musical performances do to). For me, it's enough that I am expanding my life by learning a skill that I didn't have before. If at some point I can actually perform, that will be just great.

Because I play, I often have other adults tell me that they wish they had continued the lessons that they took when they were children. Because I have taught many children, I know that if they quit then, they were never going to be really accomplished pianists no matter how many years they took lessons. But it's far better to have experience that has taught me that although adults learn more slowly, they can take more pleasure in small achievements of achievement than children do with their blithe attitude toward learning new skills.

It's so easy for them.

So, if you want to learn piano, or pottery, or even long-distance bicycling then don't say that you're too old. The process may be longer, but the rewards are great. Trust me.
I love film stars! As a kid, I was mesmerized by the characters they portrayed as well as their personal lives. Since I have felt self-conscious about this passion, I was referred to find that Joseph Campbell, in the "Power of Myth," believed that film characters serve as archetypes. He even concluded that they may be modern civilization's heroes. Campbell added that heroes are something that human beings have a deep need to connect with.

As a child, living in the years before home videos, films such as the "Wizard of Oz," were only shown once a year. The Wizard became a family tradition. We anticipated the trip down the yellow brick road with a fervor normally reserved for birthdays and holidays. An eternity passed between when the film's showing was listed in the TV Guide and its exhibition on the small screen.

When the special night arrived, even our mother was caught up in the excitement. She treated the family to a special meal, but, even better, we kids were popcorn and drank Koool-Aid during the movie. At the appointed time, we crouched in front of the black and white set. It didn't matter if this was our first or fifth viewing. The Wicked Witch terrified us. We never reached consensus whowas better, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man or the Cowardly Lion.

My sister and I had our special favorite: she wanted to be Glinda. Once, she even demonstrated her devotion to the Good Witch of the North by attempting to emulate her hair style. The result was less than enchanting. Big hair was not a look for a third grader in the 50s, so Mom had her chopped off for the summer months. She spent the summer of '65 resembling Moe of "Three Stooges" fame.

My heart belonged to Dorothy. From the moment she sang "Over the Rainbow," Judy Garland became a goddess to me.

Besides inspiring a new generation of children (for better or for worse), the Wizard showings probably helped a resurgence of Judy Garland's career vis-a-vis her weekly TV show in the '60s. I remember being especially disappointed after watching the show for the first time exclaiming to my mother, "That lady doesn't look like Judy Garland!"

She didn't look like Judy Garland. She looked worn out. There was one memorable scene where she tripped up, lookedlered through a song, and, then, at the song's conclusion, staggered off camera.

My mom, also a devoted Judy fan, excused her, saying, "She had a lot of problems." Mom then recited the familiar tragic triunity that is as much a part of the icon as her voice and her movie roles.

I wondered how a girl who had been to Oz and back could slash her wrists. Why in the world would this girl drink too much or overdose on pills? "Is she like cousin Henry's wife?" I asked my mother. She nodded and said nothing.

Not only was my hero human, she was like cousin Henry's wife, who the family called "she drank." It hustled me for quite a while that the lives of Dorothy Gale and Judy Garland were as far apart from one another as Oz was from Kansas.

Judy's tragedy showed me that a gifted, talented, beautiful soul is not necessarily transformed by her talents and may even feel tormented by them. When our heroes' flaws are exposed publicly, it often gives us the courage to evaluate our lives. Sometimes, we are inspired to come out of whatever closet we're hiding in, and get help if we need it. Hearing that a celebrity who has checked into a treatment center is hardly news, although just a few decades before it may have killed a career. Judy Garland helped further that cause. One choice that may even be more difficult to emerge from is mental illness. Another celebrity's recent misfortune helped bring that subject to the public's awareness again. When Margot Kidder, the actor who portrayed Lois Lane in the Superman movies, was found incoherent and disheveled, my heart broke a little bit again. Even if the actor and characters portrayed aren't quite heroes, the publicity still has an impact.

That particular week but spring was a bad one for Margot, as well as for a friend I'd gotten to know a few months before. Although I know of this woman's previous hospitalizations for psychiatric disorders, she seemed fine. I appreciated her candor. She had marvelous perspective about her situation and was one of the most articulate people I'd met in a while. I enjoyed getting to know her as I believed this was the beginning of a tremendous friendship.

We'd see each other every week, taking in plays, films, or just talking over dinner. One day I noticed that something seemed off—something I couldn't put my finger on. Our conversations stopped flowing. The munces and the gallows sense of humor that I found so amusing about me sailed by her. She being the interpreter of everything I said literally. For example, I told her I'd met her between 7:30 and 8:00. She heard it as "7:38" and began ranting about how ridiculous that was. I found myself in a trap cycle of getting irritated, stifling my anger because, after all, she probably couldn't help it, feeling guilty about getting irritated, and getting irritated all over again.

Little by little, I felt myself withdrawing, wanting to spend less time with her. The exchanges that were initially so fine and light were exhausting. I became tired and depressed whenever I spent time with her.

She became more demanding of my time, needing me to validate her views and behavior. I pulled away even more. I finally told her about my concerns and even mentioned that I felt afraid of her. She appeared to hear me and said she was going to get help. About two weeks later, she didn't seem to remember this conversation.

Instead, she laughed about it. I met her for lunch in April. By that time, I felt as if I was addressing a visitor to the planet who had no point of reference to our culture and our language. We said good-bye, and I haven't seen her since. That same week she suffered a nervous breakdown.

"What did you learn?" a friend recently asked.

"That it wasn't hell, but I could see it from there," I responded.

While I'd rather remember Judy Garland as Dorothy, Margot Kidder as Lois Lane, and my friend as she was initially, I learned that they are only facets of the seemingly vast parameters of the human personality. I like to think of a personality as a steady, static thing, but that's clearly not the case. That it could seem to disapper; and, in my friend's case have nothing to replace it with, was unserving.

Having a similar thing happen to Margot Kidder that same week gave me a point of reference when explaining to others why I felt so bad about something. I was frankly amazed that some of them recalled when I related this friend's plight.

For me it's horrifying to be so close to another's personal abyss. We fear that if we get any closer, we might somehow fall in too. Maybe that's why we pull away, why we have a need to deny, judge, and stigma-
tise. Maybe we're just afraid we'll fall in.

For me, as I struggle with the grief, questions, and guilt, I could use a few more heroes.
Upwards spiral in property taxes

by Judy Woodward

Property taxes are going up, and Carol Weber knows it. "The St. Anthony Park-based realtor received more than ten calls in the last few months from former clients and neighbors. All the callers ask variations of the same question, "Carol, is it really true? Is my house really worth what the tax bill says it is?"

Weber is often put in the uncomfortable position of explaining that, yes, real market values are strong in the Park and, yes, in today's market, you probably could get the dizzying sum proposed by the County Assessor as your house's estimated fair market value. The catch, of course, is that you have to sell your home first.

This role an elderly, semi-retired resident of Raymond Avenue. Noting that the house she owns for more than 30 years is now assessed at over $100,000 and that her tax bill rises a few hundred dollars each year, the homeowner, who asked to remain anonymous, complained, "When people are at the stage of life where their ability to make money is declining, it's the wrong time to raise taxes."

So-called "circuit breaker" legislation, which provides property tax breaks to senior citizens and other low-income residents, is not always the solution. For instance, City Council member Bobbi Megard cites a case of a divorced woman in the Park with a current annual income of $9,000 and a property tax bill of around $2,000. "This woman may lose her house," says Megard, "Circuit breakers don't work for extreme poverty cases."

Megard believes that one answer lies in finding ways to raise market values throughout the city, so that neighborhoods like North St. Anthony Park are not disproportionately asked to shoulder increases in the tax burden. Property taxes have risen faster here than in many other parts of St. Paul. Where the average city residence has seen its value for tax purposes increase less than 10 percent in the past five years, many homeowners in this area have faced double-digit annual increases. Part of the increase may be due to the shifting impact of taxes. Assessors paid by commercial and industrial taxpayers, which used to account for almost 40 percent of the tax base in recently, have slipped to about a third of the current total tax burden. City planner Mark Vander Schaaf said that the valuation of downtown commercial property fell by 50 percent over the last decade. Consequently, residential property owners have had to swallow the slack.

"Weber suggested another key to the problem. "Because we do get good prices for our houses in a very desirable neighborhood, valuations have gone up. What scares people around here is that they're jumping so fast."

The reality is that some tax valuations in the neighborhood are approaching 100 percent of what the house might sell for in today's strong real estate market. She worries that if external factors like rising interest rates or general economic trends were to push real estate values up, the property tax valuations would not necessarily follow suit. Under such a scenario, homeowners might pay steeper taxes than their lowered house values would warrant. St. Paul tax rates are already among the highest in the metro area, ranking fourth among the more than 100 Twin Cities communities in the latest annual Minnesota Taxpayers Association survey of property taxes. Weber is concerned that rising property taxes may push some city residents to leave the city. Despite the recognized attractions of the Park, she said, "Our city services are not as good, our houses cost more to maintain because they're older [than suburban homes] and the cost of schooling is higher in St. Paul. There's a temptation for people to say maybe it's time to move to the suburbs."

The City of St. Paul has worked hard to keep neighborhoods vital. Does it realize the effect that these rising taxes are having? Vander Schaaf agreed that sometimes, "There's a hometown influence to stay in St. Paul."

He emphasized that city leadership is very concerned with the problem, and that they've taken a strong line against any new tax levies. But Vander Schaaf believes that ultimate solutions must be regional in scope, involving suburbs as well as the urban core.

"The cities are left with rising needs [of a poorer population], and declining tax dollars. There's little a city can do by itself to get out of that predicament."

Megard called it "a fairness issue," noting that the metro region as a whole, including the central cities, is in effect subsidizing the development of outlying suburbs because of state and regional financial incentives for construction of roads and services. "The central cities have paid for our infrastructure. We can't afford the double whammy [of subsidizing the infrastructure of new communities]," Megard also stressed that the first-ring suburbs are beginning to face some of the same financial problems as the inner cities.

Despite the gloomy tax picture, nobody is talking about writing off neighborhoods like St. Anthony Park. Megard put it wryly, "I don't see any empty houses in the Park. Somebody is still willing to come in and buy the houses, pay the taxes."

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2201 Como Ave. St. Anthony Park
Brutlad pedals against AIDS

by James Weesley

S heryl Brutlag is a number cruncher. As an associate at the accounting firm of Baker Holtzman and Company, she calculates credits and debits for her client's financial well-being. But, for the last seven months, much of her free time has been occupied with an entirely different kind of arithmetic: logging hundreds of miles for the fight against AIDS.

Brutlag learned of the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride last year and decided to participate after a conversation with her aunt, who had recently lost a friend to the virus.

"I've been lucky that I haven't touched by the disease. Other people are not as fortunate," she explained. With her aunt's encouragement, and her own desire for a "physical challenge," Brutlag began training on a stationary bicycle throughout the winter months, averaging about 60 miles per week.

After tax season came to a close, her exercise regimen intensified to 30 miles each weekday, and between 40 and 70 miles on the weekends. Before the trek was to begin, Brutlag had covered hundreds of miles on her bicycle and was prepared to battle her way through some of the hilly terrain in Minnnesota and Wisconsin.

The grueling six-day journey began on July 1 in Minneapolis and ended on July 6 in Chicago. The ride was divided into six legs, varying from 58 to 110 miles in length, attracting over 1,400 cyclists from across the country.

To help participants, a volunteer of food, water, showers, and restrooms. At night, bicycle riders tents at resting points along the route.

"There was a real sense of community among the participants," said Brutlag. "The atmosphere was open, accepting, and very friendly. It didn't matter if you were gay, straight, positive, negative or whatever. It was non-discriminatory. We were all just there for the cause and the statement the ride represented.

Brutlag is enrolled for the AIDS Ride through the St. Paul Jaycees.

Pedaling against AIDS to 16

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 1990 Fourth in the Park—the list of those who contributed without recognition, those that donated money to support our celebration and all who enthusiastically participated in the festivities at Loring Park.

Chair: Sondeee Kelley
Community Organizer: Mary Barrick (Environmental Studies Chicken Barbecue Dinner), Mary Ann Bernard (Insurance and Permills), Joan Dow Stroie (Financial), Alice DeGreg (St. Anthony Park Independence Day Marching Band), Katherine Stedsh (Scheduling), Kent Ekblom (Ethics), Irv Garmen (Garden and Park Set-up), Mark Hansen (Recycling), Sondeee Kelley (Nixon Program and Door Prizes), John Magnuson (Dance moves and power wrestling), Sally Maguire Hat (Food), Sandy McClain (Raffle), Joan McCord (Food), Beth Peterson (Parade), Mike Peterson (Parade), Sue Peterson (Financial), Judy Probst (Parade), St. Anthony Park Elementary School, Environmental Studies Program—parents, students and family (publicity mailing and chicken barbecue), Cindy Vik Thraher (Publicity and Afternoon Music Program), and Blaine Thraher (Afternoon Music Program). For the service squads, publicity, Railla and Ticket Sales, and Set-up Volunteers: Muffy Abrahamson, Tim Abrahamson, Mary Jane Addison, Joy Albrecht, Jamie Anderson, Roger Arnold, Bob Beck, Mary Beck, Mary Ann Barrick, Alan Baudry, Marc Baudry, Mary Ann Bernard, Cindy Bevin, Boy Scout Troop 17, Mo Boynton, Mary Briggs, Eugene Bross, Suzanne Bross, Jeff Budaq, Bob Buck, Charlie Christopherson, Tony Christopherson, Bob Rich, Rachel Caina, Aaren Cohil, Alice DeGreg, Brett Davies, Hal Dragseth, Pam Dragseth, Ron Deale, Ken Ekland, Kent Ekland, Cael Eno, Christin Furlong, Andrew Gallaghan, Donna Gallenger, Libby Greier, Barb Groves, Julie Gowki, Bob Halten, Mary Hansen, Brenda Hansen, Ev Hanson, Hanson, Wlly Hanson, Victor Hansen, Steve HACKER, Marilyn Hackenger, Bill Hoth, Anita Kaag, Rita LaDue, Eric Lance, Julie Lee, Ted Lee, Lucille Lemkure, Sally Magazine-List, Susan MacEachern, Sandy McCauley, Ian McCord, Joe McCord, Steve Meltzberg, Kathy Meltzberg, Becky Melzer, Karen Myers, Mimm Myers, Paul Obintz, Doretha O'Brien, Denny Olson, Ron Olson, Bob Phillips, Randy Philty, Judy Pribol, Carl Reid, St. Anthony Park Community Council, St. Anthony Park Library Associates, Conny Seibert, Tony Schumacher, Jon Schumacher, Judy Schumacher, Mark Swanley, Emma Swanley, Anna Swanley, Nan Shephard, John Shepard, John Suberg, Gary Sore, Paul Swedenberg, Rita Swedenberg, Katherine Tenne, Bob Thayer, Nancy Thayer, Blaine Thraher, Rich Udskov, Sue Vandenbush, Holly Wacker, Becky Warden, Jeanne Willard, Jeff Willers, Sally Willens, Diane Young, and Kevin Young.


St. Anthony Park Businesses donated cash, in-kind help and door prizes: All Seasons Cleaners, Bake Holzman & Co. Ltd, the Bibloit Shop, Botanicals and Beyond, Bruegger's Bagel Bakery, The Buggy, St. Anthony Avenue Farm Shop, Como Chinaplace Health Center, Country Pkde, F.B. Fuller, Raymond Castle DDS, Todd Grossman DDS, Emil Gustafson Jewelers, Hampden Park Foods, Hermes Milling Co., McMillan Bookstore, Mid City Cards, Skirniss (Therapeutic), Movie Shell, Multifood Store, Northland Foods, Olson Graphic Products, Open Hands, Park Hardware, Park Service Inc., ParkBank, Parkview Cafe, Igor Raszkovszki, St. Anthony Park Association, St. Anthony Park Public Bank, St. Anthony Park Barber Styles, Don Schrert, Speedy Market, Susan's Deli, Taste of Scandinavian, WCHE10 and the 4th of July Committee.

Festival Reia: Caroline O'Connell, Mark Hufn, Tim Poof, A.J. Schumacher, and Jeff Willows.
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CENTRAL

The Evocative Photo of Doug Beals
by Amy Cauton

or most of us, who have a hard time taking a good picture even with an automatic camera that frames, focuses, and does all but say "cheese," the world of professional photography can seem incredibly technical and unfathomable. But for Doug Beals, that world has been home for his entire adult life. He is a professional photographer who, when he is not working in the basement studio at his St. Anthony Park home or in his Minneapolis studio, is traveling across the country taking pictures.

Beals grew up in Detroit, where he first became interested in photography when his father gave him an old camera. He went to the art school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where, he said, the photography classes were always full. He studied a number of things, including Eastern religions and Native American culture and went through a few different majors before getting into a photography class — his first formal instruction — and loved it. After receiving his B.F.A. in photography in 1980, Beals moved to the Twin Cities where he managed to land a job as a black and white printer at Mary Photography, a major commercial studio. Later, he worked as an assistant at other studios, and in 1984 he opened his own, Beals Photography, in downtown Minneapolis.

Beals excelled in fashion photography and advertising, working for numerous corporate clients, including Target, Dayton's, Saks, and Macy's. He now emphasizes annual reports for non-profits and corporate foundations, and college recruitment publications. He also does non-profit public service work for organizations such as the MS Society, the Minneapolis Urban League, and the American Cancer Society. These days, due to the changing nature of his work, he does very little shooting in his Minneapolis studio — most of his assignments are traveling location work.

He already has equipment for printing his basement studio; he hopes to move that he can work completely out of it he said. Beals also does what he calls several exhibitions of his work through Walker Art Center, the Hamnepin

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becoming more important to me."

He is planning to travel to Japan in December on a McKnight Founda-
tion Photography Fellowship. He gets another McKnight Fellowship five
years ago and went to South Dakota to do a photographic study on
"Sacred Sites of the Lakota." Now, with his trip to Japan, he hopes to expand
the idea to explore "how the sacred enters into everyday life." Beasley,
whose mother is from Japan and who is currently developing a Japanese
garden in his front yard, is looking forward to making his first trip there.

The Japanese project will be right in keeping with Beasley's work; he
deals often with spiritual themes, particularly spiri-
tual exploration. As for other trademarks of his
style, he says, "I try to have a sense of spontaneity" as
well as a sense of place. He
sums up his approach like this: "I want to show how
things feel to me rather
than how they look."
Remember National Night Out on August 6

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Whitemore ... from 1

a resident of South St. Anthony, also thought that the neighbor-
hood desperately needed another restaurant, one with inventive and
quality food.
Driving home from
JD Hall’s at 6:30 a.m. during
the depths of Jan., he noticed a
“For Rent” sign in the window of
the old Fitz’s Cove. Two
months, and a bank loan later
Mill City Cafe opened in mid-
April of 1993 to critical accolades.
The penumatic critics raved.
Better, still, customers roared into
the tiny space. It was, in sum, a
restaurant owner’s dream.
During Mill City’s early
months, Whitemore logged
8-hour weeks, but by the holi-
days he was draging. He dis-
covered a bruise on his body and
stopped procrastinating about
seeing a physician, who promptly
hospitalized him. Bad news fol-
lowed: On Dec. 30, Whitemore
was diagnosed with leukemia and
he left the hospital on New Year’s
Eve facing immortality.
Even though the combina-
tion of chemotherapy treatments
and a bone marrow transplant
offered the promise of recovery,
Whitemore is savoring life.
He moved to the Twin Cities in
1980, although his family owns
Minnesota roots. Before moving
to Washington, D.C., his father
chairman the English department at
Carleton College. They left
Northfield when his dad was
appointed poet-in-residence to
the Library of Congress.
Yet, Whitemore’s literary
pursuits are limited to reading
cookbooks and golf guides.
Always rebellious, he said blantly.
“I was a bad kid” and by age 15
his father suggested that he take a
vacation from school. He did,
lancing a job preparing sandwich-
chips for a deli on Capitol Hill.
For a time he lived in a peri-
peric Ruralia, but he always
worked in the food industry.
Along the way he com-
pleted high school and won a
cooking degree.
His life philosophy remains
constant: “You’ve got to get out of
life to the fullest. Don’t get
stagnant. I was getting stagnant.
Breathes every second and experi-
nce life.
So, Jack Whitemore isn’t giving
up. “I’m a dreamer,” he
tiaged. In fact, after the bone
marrow transplant and after
his recovery, he hopes to expand
the restaurant.
“Viva Mill City,” he sang.
But commerce isn’t Whit-
more’s sole life anchor. As Milks,
adorable at age 4, tears across
the lawn, he conceded, “He’s made all
of this make sense and he is why
I have to fight and lick to get
through this so that I can have the
honor of living with him.”
When asked how people can
help, Whitemore said like a true
businessman: “Keep eating at
Mill City.”
But the community has
been assisting in other ways too.
A recent fundraiser gathered
money to help defray his medical
costs. And financial con-
tributions can be mailed to the Jack
Whitemore Fund, c/o Jay Gold-
berg, 2450 Metropolitan Center,
333 South 7th Street, Minneapo-
is 55402.
The O’Neil’s amusing rides at Como Park

by Barbara Clark

O’Neil Amusements boasts a 67-year history in Como Park, bringing fun and thrills to generations of youngsters. In fact, “let’s go to the rides” is a common cry for those who live nearby. How the O’Neil family came to be synonymous with these rides harks back to the Depression, when a young couple named Fred and Louise met.

Louise, a St. Paul native, met Fred at the State Fair, where he was working at a concession stand. Two years later, in 1934, they married.

“We were married during the Depression,” Louise explained. “In those days there were no jobs — you had to make your own jobs.” So, they did what millions of other did during those lean years and made a living doing what they could.

They sold novelties in Como Park for 10 cents each. They also bought two concessions stands there, which they manned on the weekends. In addition, Fred worked on various WPA projects, including the construction of Monkey Island in Como Park.

During World War II, the O’Neils worked for Phil Little, staff ing concessions at state fairs. In 1946, Minnesota didn’t have a fair. However, Little won the contract for concessions in Milwaukee. Since a polio epidemic swept through St. Paul that year, the O’Neils were anxious to move their boys — Ted and Fred Jr. — away. A deal was struck and Fred O’Neil became Little’s new partner.

In 1949, the rides at Como Park came into existence under the ownership of O’Neil, Shunde and Little. They started with five small rides for the little ones — an American beauty merry-go-round, sky-fighter airplanes, tanks, the baby octopus and a boat ride. Tickets cost 9 cents for children and 12 cents for adults.

During those years, Louise O’Neil moved from supporter to owner status through another stroke of fate. In 1951, there was a convention showcasing the latest rides and trends. One of the partners wanted to buy a train ride and Louise advanced $1,000 for the purchase. The other partner backed out and Louise resolved to buy it. Thus, the G-16 train ride emerged at Como Park with Louise in the owner’s seat.

In 1955, the O’Neils bought out their partners, becoming the sole owners of what is now known as O’Neil Amusements. In that same year, Louise gave birth to a baby girl, Leah.

Nowadays, three generations of O’Neils are involved in operating the rides and concessions. "It’s a family affair," said Louise. "She’s not kidding. Even though the partnership is owned by her children, Louise occasionally still runs the ticket booth.

The grandchildren are also involved. Ted’s son — Ted Jr. — maintains the rides; while Fred Jr.’s son — Fred III — heads the concessions area. And Leah’s sons, Richie and Robbie, lend a hand in concessions too.

In the past 47 years, a number of things have changed. Fred Sr. died 11 years ago. The rides are bigger and there are more of them — 15 in all — including a merry-go-round, tilt-a-whirl and more. The tickets cost more, although they remain very reasonably priced at 50 cents each or $5.25 for a book of 12.

"It’s a beautiful business to be in," declared Louise. "It’s been a good life." Her children agree. "It’s nice out here with all the people," said Fred Jr. "You sure don’t get lonely.

They never advertise for employees or business. People just keep returning every year to work and the kids of yesterday bring their kids to experience the rides of today.

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COMO PARK

AARP meeting
Janet Kammer, director of volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House, is the featured guest at the Midway-Highland chapter of the AARP on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 1 p.m. The group meets at the Lyngblomsten Senior Center, 1298 Pascal Avenue. For information call 449-6728.

Don’t pollute Como Lake
The environmental committee of the District 10 Como Community Council is striving to clean up Como Lake by making people aware of the negative effects of storm sewer drainage. Motor oil, anti-freeze, paint, pesticides, fertilizers and animal excrement are all inappropriate for dumping into storm sewer drains. For more information call 222-2193.

Lemke on block nurse board
Dean Lemke is now serving on the board of the Como Park Living at Home/Block Nurse Program. He worked for the Social Security Administration for 18 years and currently serves on the St. Paul Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Aging.

LAUDERDALE

Day in the Park on July 28
Lauderdale’s annual Day in the Park attracts ordinary citizens, politicians and lots of kids. This year’s event is set for Sunday, July 28, from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Community Park on the corner of Roselawn and

ST. ANTHONY PARK

ParkBank Diamonds Club picnic
The St. Anthony Park Diamonds Club second annual picnic is set for Tuesday, Aug. 20, at the Como Park Pavilion. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a home-style meal. Entertainment by the St. Anthony Park Community Band follows dinner. The event costs $5. Call 647-0131 for reservations.

Gezabe volunteers
Neighborhood Alden Square need volunteer carpenters. The group is building an old-fashioned gazeebo this month in John Alden Square, a pocket-sized park between Brewer and Gibbs streets. Construction is set for the weekends of Aug. 10 and 17. Call 603-8895.

Sports registrations
Registration for fall soccer continues through Aug. 2 at Langford Park. Boys and girls, ages 5 to 14, are welcome. Call 298-5765.

Valleyfair excursion for youth
Langford Park and School St. Anthony recreation centers are hosting a trip to Valleyfair on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Call 298-5765.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

26 FRIDAY
- Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.–noon.

27 SATURDAY
- Parish/SHARE distribution and registration at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, 1435 Midway Pkwy, 9:30-11 a.m. Call 644-7495 or St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 8:30-10:30 a.m. Call 645-0371.

28 SUNDAY
- Lauderdale Day in the Park, Community Park, Roselawn at Fulham, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

29 MONDAY
- AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 8 p.m. Call 647-9446 or 770-2646, Every Monday.

30 TUESDAY
- Toastmasters, Hewlett Packard, 2025 W. Larpenteur, 7:30 a.m. Call 649-6285. Every Tuesday.
- St. Anthony Park Community Band rehearsal, Como Park High School Band Room, 7:30-9 p.m. Call 642-1559 or 666-4158. Every Tuesday.

31 WEDNESDAY
- Leisure Center, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Every Wed. except Aug. 21 and 28.
- Midway Mid-day Toastmasters, Huntington Engineering, 662 Cromwell Ave., noon–1 p.m. Also Wed., June 19.

1 THURSDAY
- Parent-child play group, St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 10 a.m.–noon. Every Thursday.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Physical Planning Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave. 5–7 p.m.

2 FRIDAY
- Falcon Heights/Lauderdale recycling day.

6 TUESDAY
- La Leche League meeting, 7 p.m. Call 644-0302 or 489-6356 for location.
- National Night Out.

7 WEDNESDAY
- Bookmobile at Hamline & Hoyt, 12:30–5:30 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 7 p.m.

8 THURSDAY
- Retired U of M professor Gerhard Neubeck reads from his new collection of poems at Micawber's from 7 to 8 p.m.

9 FRIDAY
- Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.–noon.

10 SATURDAY
- Granny Sunshine at Micawber's from 11 a.m.-noon. Bring a hat for "Hats off to Summer."

12 MONDAY
- Como Park recycling day.
- Falcons seniors, Falcon Heights/Como Park recycling day.
- St. Anthony Park recycling day.
- St. Anthony Park City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.

14 WEDNESDAY
- St. Anthony Park recycling day.

16 FRIDAY
- Falcon Heights/Lauderdale recycling day.

19 MONDAY
- Como Park recycling day.

20 TUESDAY
- District 10 Como Community Council. Call 644-3889 for location.

21 WEDNESDAY
- Bookmobile at Hamline & Hoyt, 12:30–5:30 p.m.
- State Fair opens.

23 FRIDAY
- Bookmobile at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St., 11 a.m.–noon.

26 MONDAY
- Falcons seniors, Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur, 1-3:30 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Black Nurse Program, Board of Directors, St. Anthony Park Library, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

27 TUESDAY
- Lauderdale City Council, Gray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

28 WEDNESDAY
- District 12 recycling day.
- St. Anthony Park recycling day.
- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.

2 MONDAY
- Labor Day.

Items for the September Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Fri., Aug. 16.

The Community Calendar is sponsored monthly by

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Isben Bakke
Isben O. Bakke, who lived on Malvern Street in Lauderdale for over 50 years, died on July 1, at the age of 97.
Bakke was born in Eden Township, Minn. After working at IBM for 37 years, he and his wife, Agnes, moved to downtown St. Paul.
Preceded in death by brothers, Elmer and Leo; he is survived by his wife, Agnes, daughter, June Joseph; son, Dennis; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, R. Bryan; and sisters, Mabel Swanson, Hazel Baglien, and Grace Hagen.

David Barte
David L. Barte, a teacher at Como Park High, Murray Junior and Como Elementary, died on July 12, at the age of 58.
Barte was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Southeast Minneapolis. He and his wife ran a resort on the North Shore of Lake Superior.
In addition to his wife, Jeorken, he is survived by daughters, Karla, Heidi and Megan; sons, Peter and Anton; sister, Mary Mitchell; and brothers, William, James and Robert.

Quentin Elliott
Quentin Elliott, a 40-year resident of St. Anthony Park, died at 76 years on June 28.
After graduating with chemical engineering degrees from Caltech, Elliott worked on the pioneer development of solid rocket propellants and at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station. For 26 years he worked at 3M.
Besides his activities at Hamline United Methodist Church, he served on the Hmong Ministries Council and the St. Anthony Park Community Council.
He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; and son, Quentin.

Gerald Giving
The Rev. Gerald Renas Giving died at the age of 75 on June 23. A long-time resident of St. Anthony Park, Giving worked as an editor at Augsburg Publishing for 25 years. He also served 28 interim pastorates from 1968 to 1978. In 1969 he retired in 1978. He was a member and former pastor at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.
He is survived by daughter, Kirsten, Gertz, and Ingrid; one granddaughter; and brother, Bob.

Howard Rod
Howard L. Rod, a 30-year resident of Lauderdale, died of cancer on July 10, at the age of 60.
Following graduation from DeLaSalle High School, Rod studied at the University of Minnesota. Then he became one of the first to work with gangs in St. Paul. He also worked for Children's Service and served as director of the BMF House for delinquent boys.
In 1980, he founded Alternative Homes, which provided a family-like environment for emotionally troubled youth. Two years ago, he started Providence Care Inc., in Chicago County.
A member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church and many social service agencies, Rod's pastimes included the outdoors, history, drawing, painting and gardening as well as his 18 grandchildren.
He is survived by his wife, Colleen; daughters, Cathy Mike, Susan Mike, and Erin Bergin; sons, Mike, Chris, Bill, Brian, Eric, and Kevin; and 18 grandchildren.
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First quarter of Lay School of Theology begins. Classes in "Discovering Islam and Meeting Muslims," "Dietrich Bonhoeffer," "History of Worship Practices," and "The Five Scrivia (Song of Songs, Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations)." Cost is $40 per class or $100 for one class each lay school session. For more information call 641-3456.

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