Crime challenges area's serenity

National Night Out offers opportunity for healing and solutions

by David Anger

National Night Out usually comes and goes around here without much fanfare. Sure, people participate plenty — flying balloon bouquets on the front lawn and mixing up the ubiquitous bowl of potato salad. Even so, crime for many neighbors seems like an abstract concern, something that happens elsewhere.

Until now.

Some residents that recently swept through St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale and Como Park is making people uneasy. “I’m more nervous about crime than before,” admitted a St. Anthony Park woman outside of Speedy Market, which was the site of an armed robbery on May 23.

Before that, in March, a Lauderdale man was stabbed in his apartment by an intruder. And last from 6-10 a.m., narrowly escaped abduction in Como Park.

Then, there were three murders in St. Anthony Park within six weeks. The common thread between these tragedies is that all victims held intimate relationships with the alleged murderers.

Robert Stuck, a prominent and aging knitter, was killed on June 26 and the police arrested his son, who suffers from mental illness. Then, on July 15, a 44-year-old man was shot to death in his home and police charged a 30-year-old boader in connection with the slaying. Earlier, a resident of the Catholic Charities halfway house in South St. Anthony Park was allegedly

Overall St. Anthony Park is a very safe place to live...

— MELISSA WORTHINGTON

strangled to death by his roommate.

This tragic statistic exceeds the number of murders in the entire city of Minneapolis, once sarcastically dubbed Minneapocalypse by the popular press, during the same time frame.

Consequently, this high profile crime chimp is prompting greater awareness of violence and, subsequently, the appearance of a bigger National Night Out on August 5.

“I’ve heard a few calls about the murders that took place, particularly neighbors of the victims,” said Heather Worthington, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Council. “I sense a tremendous amount of concern.”

Still, Worthington cautioned, “These murders were not random acts and overall St. Anthony Park is a very safe place to live, where people walk freely during the evening.” She added, “We should be concerned for the families that are affected, and we should be concerned as neighbors about each other.”

In Worthington’s view, National Night Out offers an opportunity to challenge crime, particularly property crimes.

While National Night Out tends to focus on crimes committed by strangers, such as property crimes, it’s less attendant to issues of domestic violence.

“Communities need to talk about domestic violence, which is especially difficult in our country where privacy is paramount,” said Carol Arthur, executive director of the Domestic Abuse Project.

There are red flags to watch for — people who are absolutely obsessed with a person and ignore orders to stay away from that person, as well as people who have either threatened suicide or homicide. They have nothing to lose.

Ultimately, the universal message of National Night Out is about neighbors helping neighbors.

So, the most important thing people can do is when they hear or see arging and fighting report it,” said Arthur. “Silence is accession. By intervening you are helping prevent violence and building safer communities.”

National Night Out activities on Aug. 5

by John Marino

“A few minutes before I finished getting mad, I organized a block...” said Collette Miller, a mother of three and the crime watch organizer in Lauderdale.

What got Miller angry was an attempted burglary of her home back in 1993, in broad daylight.

While she was at home, she recalled, “and if the dog hadn’t gotten loose, we would have been a victim. I was scared and angry for a long time.”

Then she took action. That same year she organized the first crime-watch block in her town and she’s just kept going.

For the second year in a row, Miller has been the main organizer of Lauderdale’s big National Night Out party, which will be held at the City Park on August 5, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Nationally, community organizers will raise awareness of crime issues by simply getting neighbors to meet and greet one another. Como Park, Falcon Heights, and St. Anthony Park are holding related events.

“We’ll have music and free refreshments,” said Miller. “The fire department will make a grand entrance with sirens and lights at about 6:25 p.m.”

“We had a very good turnout last year,” Miller added, “and we hope more people come out this year. And if there’s bad weather, we’ll be in City Hall. We’re getting a lot of support from the St. Anthony Police Department and our area businesses.”

To help with the celebration, call 641-1452.

FALCON HEIGHTS

“St. Anthony provides police protection for Lauderdale and Falcon Heights,” said Carla Asleson, administrative assistant for the city of Falcon Heights.

Rather than throw a big party at a central location, Falcon Heights vigorously encourages residents to organize block parties. This is a great way to meet and get reacquainted with neighbors.

“We provide the barricades to block streets,” said Asleson, “and we publicize it.”

Apparently very well, too. “Last year, there were so many individual block parties that we ran out of barricades. We pretty much had to ask them to use saw horses,” whatever works.

Where calling up the fire department and asking if it would drop by on your very own block.

National Night Out on page 16

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Story of an American Quilter

— Jean Humenansky

by Todd Ryan Boss

The photographer whom Better Homes & Gardens sent last year to capture the essence of Jean Humenansky's Country Peddler Quilt Shop was nonplussed by its picturesque setting and interior charm. "We sure can't do anything for you," he told her, and then he photographed it just as it is. Better Homes' most recent Quilt Sampler magazine featured Humenansky's shop among its 10 favorite quilt stores coast to coast and printed photo full-color in a lavish spread. So now quilters all over the country are shopping at the Country Peddler in our own Millen Square, calling to ask about things they see in the glossy pictures of the store's displays and wanting to know how they can come to take a real-life tour of the shop.

But the first page of the story begins 25 years ago, when Humenansky's mother, Jeanette Michel, opened the Country Peddler in the space that is now Michelle's children's book room. Quilt Sampler calls it "one of the country's pioneering quilt shops," as there were few stores devoted solely to quilting in 1972. Because of the result of scarcity of marketed materials available at that time, Michel designed her own patterns and sold custom-made quilts. Humenansky calls her the Peddler's "founding mother."

The Country Peddler had 12 bolts of fabric on inventory then. Eight years ago the Peddler boasted 2,000 bolts. Today there are over 5,000 choices, from flannels to calicos, baby fabrics to Christmas fabrics, arranged simply by color and style through the maze of 16 rooms she occupies the entire courtyard in Millen Square. People come from far and wide to get a piece of the very thing that differentiates the Country Peddler from large warehouse chains like Northwest Fabrics.

"My specialty and focus help me stay competitive," Humenansky explains. "I can make quicker decisions about new merchandise, trends, and the latest designs than they can with their bureaucratic centralized buying systems."

The big chains are also responsible for what she recalls as the shop's most difficult period. There was a Sunday in the early '80s when Northwest Fabrics opened in the Twin Cities and held a price war.

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P. O. BOX 8126, ST. PAUL, MN 55108
July storm damages Milton Square shops

by Pete Keith

The strong thunderstorms on July 1 took their toll on a St. Anthony Park institution—Milton Square. All of the lower level shops suffered extensive storm damage when storm water poured into the building, to a level of three to five feet. The powerful storm’s signatures are the high water marks on the walls, and the strong musty smell permeating the courtesy of the retail center. The shops affected include Taste of Scandinavia, Rosa Mund, Kinny’s Tailors, Debbie’s Custom Hair and Ark Products. Many are closed pending their clean-up.

The marks left by the water may be high, but the spirits of the shop owners seem even higher—not completely dampened by the storm damage. Taste of Scandinavia will re-open on August 8. And the owner of Rosa Mund, Charlotte Milstead and George Zilligen, have been working almost non-stop since the storm. They will also open for business on August 8. Milstead and Zilligen, their flower and giftware shop open since just February, were alarmed to discover the damage to their store. Shortly after the storm ended, Milstead said, “We arrived and saw about four feet of standing water in the store.” The water destroyed virtually all of the merchandise, as well as furnishings in the store. They did find their records, although they were all soaking wet. One of their difficult tasks is to peel apart records that are stuck together so they can determine their next tax payments.

One fortunate thing did happen for Rosa Mund’s owners. Because the water filled the stairwell entrance so quickly, it actually blasted open the door. A neighborhood resident, Kent Schnaibe, who came to survey the damage, went into the store and turned off a large appliance that was in the path of the rising water and beginning to spark and smoke. “If it weren’t for him, we could have had a fire here as well as the storm damage,” said Milstead. “He was an angel of mercy.” Schnaibe provided a sump pump to help hasten the water removal from the shop.

These and other good deeds by neighbors and neighboring businesses have helped Milstead and Zilligen cope with this huge setback to their business. “We want everyone in this community to know how much we appreciate their concerns and support,” she said.

The St. Anthony Park Business Association has been involved in seeking help through many sources, including the mayor and the city of St. Paul. “We are interested in helping these businesses recover and return to doing business as quickly as possible,” said T. D. Davern of the business association. “They are a critical part of the retail sector located in St. Anthony Park.”

Mary Ann Milton, president of Milton Investment Co., the building’s owner, is also helping the businesses get back in business. “In the 40 years we’ve owned the building, we’ve never seen anything like this,” Milton said. The business has provided the cleanup of the shop space. However, the losses that each shop suffered are the individual shop owners’ responsibilities.

One thing that is not clear at this time is whether any of the shops will receive coverage from their insurance.

Remodeling

Concepts

by Peter Hoogen, CR

ISLAND DREAMS AND REALITIES

While the notion of a new island in a renovated kitchen is an attractive one, not every kitchen can accommodate this dream. It is a common mistake for homeowners to think an island is too small a kitchen. To avoid this problem, the perimeter cabinets and countertops should be designed first. After that, adequate walkways should be marked out. The minimum walkway space between an island and any countertop should be at least 39 to 42 inches; the ideal is 48 inches. Once these areas are marked out, the remaining space can be designated for the island. An island should be at least 28 inches wide and 3 feet long. In the event that a homeowner has a very large kitchen with which to work, consideration should be given to building two islands instead of one long one.

Placement and size of an island in a new kitchen is important. At THE TRANSFORMED TREE our design professional can help you customize the overall layout for you when you redo your kitchen.
High costs delay library construction
by Judy Woodward

Construction of the planned addition to the St. Anthony Park Branch Library will be put out for a second round of bidding because initial contractors' bids came in several hundred thousand dollars over the $810,000 which had been budgeted for the project. The decision to go to a second round of bidding was agreed on by the library design committee and project architect Philip Brousard at a recent meeting.

The group has made several modifications to project specifications. They hope the changes will ensure that the second round of bids will come closer to the targeted cost.

Chief among the changes was the call for what Brousard termed "alternative technologies" for exterior construction. The group specified that "molded panels" be used in place of architectural precast concrete, and that pre-manufactured panels substitute for conventional wood frame construction. Brousard emphasized that neither alternative would affect the integrity of the design nor the quality of the construction.

Brousard said the group also hoped to realize savings by postponing the completion date of the construction. He said that contractors are busiest in the summer, "but every contractor would like winter work." By pushing back the completion date for the project until as late as next summer, said Brousard, the group hoped to attract lower bids in the second round.

If second round bids also fail to fall within the budgeted costs for the project, the group has a fallback position — but it's one they're reluctant to use. Design plans call for a round children's reading room to be added to the existing structure. If the plans are changed to a more conventional design, construction costs would be considerably reduced. "Nobody wants to change from the round children's room," said Brousard, "but if we have to put it out to a third bid because the second round of bids also turn out to be unacceptably high, we can always change to a rectangular design."

The library design team, which consists of library staff and neighborhood members besides Brousard, has one other option that it is considering. If the second round of bids, which are due at the end of August, come back only slightly over the budgeted figure, they will try to raise money in the community in order to bridge the shortfall. "If the winning bid is $20,000 to $30,000 over the budget, we might be able to raise funds by donations," explained Brousard.

The library addition, which has been several years in the planning, will consist of the new children's room, relocated restrooms and circulation desk, and additional storage. Handicapped access will be added to the building, and the new children's area will be connected to the main structure by a light-filled reading corridor for adults. One of the major concerns in the planning process has been finding a design which preserves the architectural integrity of the original library structure, especially the facade. Listed on the historic register, the 80-year-old community landmark is one of the last remaining Carnegie libraries in the nation still in use.

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LETTERS

Cappuccino anyone?

Snackdoodle cookies, parmesan-cheese bread, red roses and cappuccino — these are the trills that make the world go round. Then, when you suddenly can’t get them, everything goes plop and there’s no icing on life’s often bitter-sweet cake. Don’t despair, readers. Taste of Scandinavia and Rosa Mundi — which were almost swished away in the Canada Day flood on July 1 — are set to reopen on August 8. Lesser souls might have walked away from their businesses, but the shopowners of Milton Square showed determination as well as commitment. So, once our good coffeehouse and flower shop are open, be certain to order in up cappuccino and a dozen roses and say a generous, “Thank You.”

 Streets are for people

Hate to nag, but the approaching Dowsett-Chelmsford street paving project offers a rare opportunity for civic improvement. Traffic-calming ideas run from adding stop signs and traffic police to building bumpouts and traffic circles, even narrower roads. Some think making the streets slimmer is nuts, saying it’s costly and unsafe. They’re correct about the pietaccic, but off-base about the rest. Narrower streets prompt drivers to slow down. Besides, there’s a historical precedent — the Niccolet Mall, a 30-year-old car-lined wonder called by its designer Lawrence Halprin an “urban dance.” Halprin made Niccolet for people, an idea advocated by writer Jane Jacobs, by returning to the liveliness of the medieval street. Instead of the customary 60 feet for traffic, the Niccolet Mall used only 24 feet and the rest was for pedestrians. If narrow streets seem more surfaced than build bumpouts. They create a room-like atmosphere on the block, enclosing people and, yes, cars in a safe haven. Let’s not do road construction as usual and force an even better neighborhood.

Next issue August 28

Deadline:
Display ads.............................August 14
News & classifieds.........................August 15

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PARK BUGLE • AUGUST 1997

EDITORIAL

Dogs in owners’ yards

As a home owner, where people walk their dogs several times daily and let their dogs and cats deposit in my yard and neighbors’ yards, I got a chuckle out of the writer in last month’s issue regarding signs needed to protect her dog. We need some protection. I do not mind if people like their dogs and cats, but for goodness sake, it is a good idea to keep them in your own yard. Yes — your concern for courtesy toward others is appreciated, so it might be well not to walk your dogs by people’s yards. Thank you.

— Tiny Johansen St. Anthony Park

SAP Association is great

Before memories of the recent Fourth of July celebration fade, our community must take an opportunity to formally thank the St. Anthony Park Association and those in it who gave leadership to what had to be one of the best celebrations on the 4th in our association’s 50 year history.

Under the leadership of coordinator Sandra Kelsey, past president, and her "right hand," Cindy Vik Thresher, literally dozens of members of the association worked on committees which planned and conducted a full day of exciting activities from the 8:30 a.m. pancake breakfast to the 8:30 p.m. drawing of grand prizes. Celebrating our nation’s birthday, the program included a 30-unit parade, athletic events for all ages, music, patriotic essays by sixth graders, pony rides, a revered treasure hunt, and a chicken barbecue which brought together scores of family units for reunions. Other features included recognition of local and other public officials and of past St. Anthony Park Association presidents.

With the help of beautiful weather, a large crowd enjoyed the day. A Star-Tribune story said “Thousands turned out”— a good share of St. Anthony Park’s 6,000 plus residents. This celebration is only a part of the SAP Association’s annual contribution to the community.

So, when you receive a letter from the Association’s membership chair next spring, please keep this background in perspective. St. Anthony Park has been, and is, a delightful place to live and raise a family, in part, because of things the association has done here. Say “Thank You” through our continued support.

— Gerald R. McKay
Association president 1949-50

Didn’t know the Bugle was a poetic instrument, deja?

Well, November’s issue should prove it to you beyond a doubt. Because that’s when we'll publish our neighborhood’s best lines in a special section, and blow horns for some of our very own poets. If you live in the area or put up camp on your favorite poems, and send them in to:

Ted Box, poetry editor
Park Bugle
PO Box 8126
St. Paul, MN 55108

You don’t need a Pulitzer to enter, anyone in the Bugle’s readership area is eligible. We’re not calling this a competition, and all ages and abilities are encouraged. Send as many poems as you like, of any length, one poem per page, and be sure your name, address, and phone number are printed on every page submitted. Poems cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. To be considered, poems must be received by September 22, 1997.

From the Bugle archives:

23 YEARS AGO . . . Bugle publishes second issue . . .
Microwave’s safe features two hardcover books for 99 cents . . .
Dutch Elm Disease sweeps through the area . . .

18 YEARS AGO . . . Murray becomes a magnet school . . .
Los Glaeser writes a letter to the editor on "Cleanliness Comes Lasting," assuming that the waitresses at Bridgeham’s “spend more time talking to local boys than waiting on customers.” . . .
Muffalleta wins wine and beer license . . .

12 YEARS AGO . . . Lido Cafe on Larpenure closes after 28 years of cooking . . .
Paul Kirkegaard takes over Lewis Pierce’s Como Avenue dental practice . . .

7 YEARS AGO . . . University Grove residents narrowly vote to keep the enclave open to University of Minnesota faculty and staff only . . .

Q & A

What is your favorite thing to do at the State Fair?

Mel

Going to the memorabilia

Arlene (left)

I love to go to the Creative Arts

Lily (right)

I like to eat at the Sling Shot.

Mark

I like to watch the people at the Sling Shot, and I like to eat.

Marli

Going to the building with all the displays, quilts, and crafts. The Creative Arts Building, I think.

Photographs and interviews by Jonathan Swedblad

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COMMENTARY

The hometown birthday party
by Barbara Clauesson

Several years ago the Star Tribune reported that my hometown was a “Dying Minnesota Community.” I remember looking at the front page of the newspaper and starting at the head of Main Street. Recognizing Main Street. My parents owned a department store there for over 30 years right next to the theater. I spent a lot of time at that theater when I was growing up. In a small town it was one of the places to hang out, along with the pool hall and the bowling alley. When you were old enough to borrow the family car you could “cruise Main Street.”

On June 1 I drove back to my hometown, a farming community near the Iowa border. A sign outside town read “Population 670.” I hadn’t been back for 13 years, since my parents retired and moved to another small town in northern Arkansas.

Despite the hot, muggy day the community celebrated its 156th birthday with class. A 150-unit parade dotted with American flags transformed Main Street. An all-school reunion attracted alumni from all over the country. A dinner for 1,200 in the middle school gym was followed by a commemorative program. An ecumenical church service with an all-community choir contrasted with two lively street dances.

I wandered through my old elementary school building now mostly unused and empty. Sunlight glinted off wide expanses of buttered wooden floors. The blackboards had been stripped off the walls, leaving unpainted spaces where learning used to occur. I was surprised that I could remember the name of each teacher and where my desk was at each grade level. I half expected to find the teachers in their rooms, still maintaining a watchful eye.

I later reminisced with the retired high school principal over the only time I was called into his office — for failing to clean out the popcorn machine after a basketball game. I could still recall the names of the two other student council members who were my fellow offenders.

I graduated in 1968 with 47 other students. The school has since consolidated twice with other schools in the county. The community weathered many changes common to rural areas after I left for college in a fall day so full of promise.

On this bright summer day the citizens of this town proudly honored the graduates of their school, who have made contributions in so many fields of endeavor. Some of their names are easily recognized and some aren’t. I lingered after the catered dinner and talked to Tim Penny, a former member of Congress. He graduated with my sister. Dearl Garvick died in Vietnam. He was in my class.

The normally quiet street next to the Legion Hall swelled to a crowd of hundreds for the street dance, a drama played out against a backdrop of towering grain bins. The band’s noon signal flashed as nostalgic songs resonated across the deepening dusk. Tiny knots of people mingled in the twilight, glad that this celebration reunited them with family members and old friends.

A new grocery store and shopping mall graced Main Street. The theater was refurbished. Despite the struggles of the last two decades, vitality characterized this party.

Once labeled “dying,” this small town looks forward to many more birthday banquets. I want to be there to watch her turn 100.

THE SHADOW OF A HOUSE

You don’t really think about the shadow of a house until the angular eclipse of chimney stone and roof has made a puddle of evening that’s seeped across the lawns at you and soaked your body into it and the whole crooked farm in a softness in a sea of dimness that deepens as it falls and cools and feels closer than home.

— Todd Ryan Ross

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Dog days of August — read while walking pooch
by Judy Woodward
Some people might think of Mark Johnson as a guy who likes to read so much that he even takes a book along when he walks the dog. Johnson himself might respond that he’s figured out a way to give the dog some exercise while he (Johnson) catches up on his reading. On one end of the leash is Maggie, the black and white terrier; on the other end is Johnson, eyes bent to the open page, walking — and reading. And Johnson isn’t alone.

Sharp-eyed passersby in St. Anthony Park might notice that more and more of their neighbors seem to have adopted a unique, you might say novel, approach to giving the family pet its daily exercise. Michael Rogness has been spotted deep in an issue of the magazine Britannia while returning from walking his dog. His fifteen-year-old neighbor, Thomas, favors Robert Jordan’s multi-volume fiction series, The Wheel of Time, during daily excursions with Abby, the family’s black Lab. Fortunately for Abby, Jordan’s books are very long.

Johnson, on the other hand, is made of sterner stuff. A recent graduate of Luther Seminary, he favors, for the most part, suitably scholarly volumes, which reflect the tastes of an aspiring Lutheran pastor. In recent months he and Maggie have plodded, side-by-side (except when Maggie slips her leash), through Alexis de Tocqueville. They’ve trudged as one through the works of German World War II theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In lighter moments they’ve ambled through W.H. Auden’s Letters from Iceland. Then there was their totally uncharacteristic detour into a book about the late Ernie Kovacs. Maggie, an animal of unusual dignity, has no comment on that one.

High summer has brought changes. Maybe it’s the Dog Days of this time of year, maybe it’s because short-legged Maggie can’t keep up with the book intellectual pace set by Johnson, but in recent weeks Johnson has actually been sighted carrying a novel that he describes as a “love story.”

No matter. Like summer itself, Johnson’s and Maggie’s days of reading and walking through the Park are coming to an inevitable end. For one thing, Johnson hopes he will soon get the call to his first congregation. For another, says Johnson, “I can only read down to about 40 degrees. I have to give it up for winter.”

Johnson and Maggie. Dogged reader and bookish dog. Coming soon down a sidewalk near you.
Inventive traffic-calming measures

by David Anger

A sign outside the hardware store on Como Avenue warns pedestrians—CAUTION CARS COMING. Ever wonder if there was a sign on the opposite side saying—CAUTION PEDESTRIANS COMING? Nope and that’s regrettable. More importantly this small slice of sidewalk life illustrates how cars rule our communities. Drivers zoom down streets like rockets en route to Mars, fuming when they— heaven forbid—have to slow down for an approaching walker or biker. In this catch-me-if-you-can world, about the only recourse non-drivers have against the big bad automobile is the All-American lawnmower.

There are, however, non-litigious ways of making our roads for people too. A group of residents in North St. Anthony Park are using the impending Dworshak-Chelmsford residential street paving project as an opportunity to reimagine their streets. And they’ve organized under the Traffic Calming Committee banner.

The motivation behind their good work is largely safety, but aesthetic and environmental issues also play a role. At their July gathering several neighborhood traffic issues and solutions were discussed.

Good ideas for stemming the number of cars and their speed run the gamut from bumpouts and traffic circles to narrower streets and better signage. Others demand more police patroli to ticket speeders, but this seems, in the long run, an expensive route and an ultimately poor use of precious police-force time.

The better approach involves placing architectural barriers to inhibit traffic violations and to engender greater courtesy toward pedestrians, bikers and playground children.

Funny thing about these beautiful curvilinear roads is that they were designed with the automobile in mind.

This was back when St. Anthony Park was a garden suburb and affluent St. Paulians took refuge here from the crowded and polluted city core.

As noted in the romantic age of automobile, when motoring was a pastime and a novelty. Here, before the time of power steering and brakes, the roving streets were actually easier to navigate than the traditional grid affair. There were fewer stop signs for drivers to obey. Still, the pace was slower. 35 miles per hour would have been considered zippy fast.

The architecture of the neighborhood’s roads can change...

It’s been done in other city enclaves, particularly the Wedge and Lowry Hill districts in Minneapolis. Like St. Anthony Park these neighborhoods are traffic stressed because of institutions, businesses and apartment buildings.

After a recent street upheaval, the Wedge — a sliver of a community northeast of Lyndale and Hennepin—Franklin and Lake — now features an ornamental series of bumpouts and speed humps.

Streets to page 13

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1997 Fourth in the Park Would Not Have Happened Without You! Thank you to those people listed, to those who volunteered without recognition and to all who celebrated our 50th year of festivals at Langford Park.

Chair: Sandee Kelsey
Coordinators: Anita Kangas (Environmental Education Center Chicken Barbecue Dinner), Mary Ann Bernard (Insurance and Permits), Alice Duggan (Marching Band), Joe Germin (Games and Park Setups), Bob Hahnen (Patriotic Essees), Mark Hansen (Recycling), Tom Lister and Gary (Parade Posters), Sandra Kelsey (Door Prizes), Rita LaDoux (Treasurer Hunt), John Magnuson (Dance and power volleyball), Langford Park Booster Club (Concessions), Sandy McClure (Raffle), Kathy Young (Parade), Sue Peterson (Financial), Judy Probst (Parade), St. Anthony Park Elementary School Environmental Studies Program (students and family—publicity material-checking), Thomas Ritzel (barbecue), Blairin Thrasher (Park Decoration), and Cindy Vik Thrasher (Publicity and Afternoon Music Programs). Special Thanks to the Environmental Education Center (formerly ECO) for doing theirannual 4th of July publicity mailing and for their annual Chicken Barbecue Dinner! Past St. Anthony Park Association Presidents parade participants: Gerald R. McKay, Benjamin S. Pommerenke, Alvin P. Vavrek, Paul P. Savage, Wayne D. Hanson, Edward H. Hanson, John Kauther, Jack Lassen, Ann Copeland, Joan Dow Syve, Tom Frost, Mary Ann Bernard, Mel Boynton, Christine Brown, Mahlon Nelson, Sue Kelsey, Jan Meyer, Thomas Ritzel, and Steve Wellingston. Special thanks, but no volunteer members of the St. Anthony Park Independence Day Marching Band! Thanks to the Adam Bank Band for a second year of first-rate entertainment. Afternoon Dance on the Bandstand: St. Anthony Park Community Band; Barnes Krugen, Bill Hammond, Michael Keyen, Jim, and Nick Jordan; Trena, Joel and Nicaragua Anderson; Dave Douglas, Thomas Ritzel, and Hobby Welse; and Igor Rassakazov and his Ompa Band. Park Decoration: Bill Brannon, Mietek Glos, Katherine Magnuson, Colleen McAlister, Paul Swedeborg, Baille Thrasher, and Dave Vik.


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The Minnesota State Fair is an anything but subtle reminder that what passes for summer in this state is nearly over. For those of us who live near the fair its approaching arrival awakens a flood tide of memories, some that we cherish and others, like the unrelenting traffic snarl, we would just as soon forget.

What I’d like you to do is journey back with me to a time outside the boundaries of your own personal associations, and examine and reflect upon what the fair was like at the beginning of this century. We are afforded a unique insight into that long ago epoch thanks to the discerning eye of the picture postcard.

Next to the Fair

It’s the last week in August. The summer is gone. And people are trying to park on my lawn. 
Arriving each morning, an eager and bright, they return looking wasted and spent every night.

In between they have been through the wringer, you becha. Proving just where those rides on the midway will getcha. Yes, I know all the symptoms, ‘cause I’ve done that, been there. It’s the same thing each year, living next to the Fair.

Mother Nature has given us too few defenses. Against this late-summer assault on the senses. The smell of the grease, frying chocolate and donuts. And the diesel from all of those rides makes me go nuts! But there’s one smell that just makes me feel like expiring. The aroma of ten thousand people perspiring. These odd odors and fragrances fouls the air, I have no common scents, living next to the Fair.

Yet the smells I can handle, though they might make you sick. But what I just can’t take is that dang country music! Willie and Randy and Reba and Dwight. It is twang after twang, and it’s night after night. And they all play so loud, it just shakes every rafter. But it’s nothing compared to the fireworks after. From the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, I’m surprised I’m not deaf living next to the Fair.

The reason for these annual flings is so folks from the country can show off their things. Their quilts and their jellies and lace-fronted blouses. Their sheep, pigs and cows, big as cars; trucks and houses. I can’t help but wondering why in the devil you’d want to see bally’s private parts at eye level. But how could I possibly know why they’re there? I’m a dumb city slicker living next to the Fair.

— Warren Hanson

Roasted garlic bulb.
P I E C E

In the years from 1904 to the now humble postcard, in the 1890s it really stood. As the Louisiana Purchase almost overnight the telephones were still in their infancy and everyone wanted to be on the list. In 1910 the State Fair was featured in the era and the era persisted. The fairgrounds had opened and there were plenty of parking lots and public facilities. The fair became a major event in the area and everyone used public transportation to attend.

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The turn-of-the-century State Fair had a very full and varied menu of food. This was the era of the bicyclist and competition between cyclists had been a regularly contested event at the fair since the 1890s. 1907 marked the inaugural debut of auto racing at the fair, and while it was taking the country by storm, in 1909 harness racing was still the State Fair’s most prestigious and anticipated competition.

Above and beyond everything else, the single most obvious distinction between the fair in these old postcard scenes and the fair as we know it today is that back in that bygone era virtually everyone came dressed up to the fair. At the beginning of this century one simply didn’t go out in public unless they were respectfully attired. It was a convention that everyone, no matter what their age, strictly adhered to. Contrast that with our own era where you could roam the grounds for an eternity looking for anyone with the boldness or audacity to wear anything approaching formal attire.

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LAUDERDALE

City election approaching
The city’s election is set for November 4, when voters will select a mayor and two council members. The council seats, currently held by Denise Hawkinson and Clay Christensen, are four-year terms. The mayoral seat, now held by Jeff Dami, is a two-year term. Candidates can file for office between August 26 and September 9 at City Hall. The filing fee is $5. Candidates must be eligible voters, age 21 or older, hold U.S. citizenship and maintain a Lauderdale residence for 30 days before the election.

Garden club organizing
Lauderdale is known for its beautiful gardens. So, it’s not surprising that neighbors are organizing a garden club. To become involved please call City Hall at 631-0300.

FALCON HEIGHTS

Ramsey County Historical Society sponsors logo design contest
The Ramsey County Historical Society is sponsoring a logo design competition to commemorate the 150th anniversaries of Ramsey County and the Gibbs Farm. Ramsey County was created when Minnesota became a territory in 1849 with St. Paul as its capital. During the same year, Jane and Herman Gibbs built a dugout sod house on the site that is now a living museum.

The logo design must visually depict Ramsey County and Gibbs Farms, incorporating the dates 1849 - 1999 to mark the anniversary. The logo will appear on brochures, letterhead and other printed materials. The deadline for submission is October 10 at 5 p.m. For details call Julie Reimnitz at 222-0710.

ST. ANTHONY PARK

Foreman is new head librarian
Rose Ann Foreman is the new head librarian at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library. She replaces Marita Lybeck, who recently resigned to pursue other interests. Before coming to the Park, Foreman was the head librarian at the City Library in St. Paul and was a librarian at the Ramsey County Historical Society.

Health Partners celebrates 40 years on Como Avenue
Clay Abraham, clinic director of the Health Partners Como facility, celebrates 40 years of business in the neighborhood. Photo by Dylan Boon

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Foreman worked at the Merriam Park Library. She has a master’s in library science from the University of Minnesota.

"I’m excited about the opportunity to work with the St. Anthony Park community at this beautiful library," said Foreman. "For that matter, it may take library visitors quite a while to discover there’s been a change in librarians, since, like Marti, I have red hair and glasses."

Picnic and band concert
Mark the calender for August 19, when the St. Anthony Park Community Band hosts the third annual picnic and band concert at the Como Park Pavilion. The fun begins at 6:30, when old-time picnic food from brats to potato salad is served. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the band treats the crowd to a roster of American music under the direction of Paul Husby. The meal costs $5. For information call 646-4158.

Befrienders volunteer
Women seeking a unique opportunity to support young single mothers will be trained to act as Befrienders through a collaboration created by Children’s Home Society of Minnesota and Health Start. Interested volunteers can call Judie Russell, 646-4414 ext. 271.

---

**St. Anthony Park Home**

Summer is flying by but not before we have our "ANNUAL COUNTY Fair and Talent Show." The show is Thursday, August 20th at 19:30. We are looking for individuals who can sing, dance, pipe or are willing to entertain our residents. There is no entry fee and all participants will receive a small gift. The winning talent will receive a $50.00 savings bond. All interested youths should sign up before Friday, August 22.

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"A Family Tradition Since 1965"
Humenansky ••• from page 1

with Minnesota Fabrics. Humenansky still knows it as Black Sunday. She thought the shop would go down in the heat of that battle. "We had to regroup," she recalls. "Scale back, economize, and try to outlast them. We knew our customers would return to us, but could we last until they did?" Employee hours were cut, and she and her mother worked more hours. And sure enough, four or five tight months later, their niche was intact and customers returned. The Country Peddler also beats the big stores by being a more personal, and more intimate shopping experience. Some of Humenansky's customers have been loyal for years. "It validates your work, because you know there are people who like your work and value it," she says. "Some of them have even become good friends. Quilters like to shop, and they tend to buy things everywhere they go, but I have many customers who tell me they saw something in another shop, but they want to order it from me." Humenansky gives a lot of the credit for her success to the employees, such as manager Donna Wisnast. She estimates that her employees stay with her for an average of five years—a healthy average for a retail shop. Some teach classes in the shop's upstairs workrooms, while the rest are experts on some aspect of quilting, and all enjoy helping customers.

Joan Humenansky's face is itself like a fabric, the kind that looks best with other warm colors, heavily printed with freckles, and pleated at the corners of her eyes. She lives in the woods of Lino Lakes with John, her husband of 15 years, her mother of two sons, and grandnephew to four-year-old triplets. She's one of those rare people whose work is the same as her hobby, and so finds herself sometimes continuously involved in it. Humenansky works overtime on the shop most days — ordering the latest fabrics, putting together new project kits, arranging for the next creative sale — and when she returns home, there are "usually six or seven" customers waiting on the Internet with questions inspired by the shop's homepage, countrypeddler.com. Humenansky's training is in marketing, and that is one of her most important keys to success. Unique sales ideas, maintenance of a newsletter, mailing list of over 6,000 customers, and events like her Camp Wannawas quiltig retreats that draw from a particular knack for creativity and fun, all combine to bring people to her shop in enthusiastic spirits.

The shop is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an "early riser" sale. Arrive at the shop during the first week in August, between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., and receive 30 percent off your purchases. The discounts decrease as the morning draws on. Come in your pajamas and get an extra 5 percent off.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 FRIDAY</td>
<td>Wild Strawberries shown at Roxy Big Screen International Film Series, St. Paul Student Center, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 MONDAY</td>
<td>St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 8 p.m. Call 770-2646. Every Monday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 TUESDAY</td>
<td>National Night Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Leisure Center, St. Anthony Park Community Band rehearsal, Como High School band room, 7:30 p.m. Every Tuesday until Labor Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 THURSDAY</td>
<td>The Blooming Thistle Band performs at Melodious Lunches, Terrace Cafe at St. Paul Student Center, noon. Parent-child play group, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Avenue, 10 a.m.–noon. Every Thursday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 FRIDAY</td>
<td>The Seventh Samurai shown at Roxy Big Screen International Film Series, St. Paul Student Center, 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 MONDAY</td>
<td>Falcon Heights Book Club discusses Who Will Tell the People, City Hall, 2077 Westarpenteur, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 TUESDAY</td>
<td>Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>St. Anthony Park Community Council Housing &amp; Human Services Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 5:30–7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 THURSDAY</td>
<td>Ben Woolman performs at Melodious Lunches, Terrace Cafe at St. Paul Student Center, noon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 FRIDAY</td>
<td>The Spirit of the Beehive shown at Roxy Big Screen International Film Series, St. Paul Student Center, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 MONDAY</td>
<td>Full Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 TUESDAY</td>
<td>St. Anthony Park Picnic and Band Concert featuring music and outdoor cooking fare at the Como Park Pavilion. Food served at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 THURSDAY</td>
<td>District 10 Como Community Council, Call 644-3899 for location. St. Anthony Park Association stalwarts Mary Ann Bernard (l) and Sandra Kelsey (r) celebrate the organization’s 50th birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 TUESDAY</td>
<td>Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>St. Anthony Park Picnic dayulance Junior High School orientation, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 FRIDAY</td>
<td>Falcon Heights and Lauderdale recycling day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 MONDAY</td>
<td>Falcon Heights Senior Club Falcon Heights City Hall, 1-3:30 p.m. Call 488-3361 or 644-0055.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items for the September Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Friday, August 15.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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6:30 pm Wednesday Worship
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August 4, 9 am - noon "Vacation Bible Sleep"
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Wednesday Jr. Bl Group & Awana 6:45 pm (Sept. - May)
Wednesday hrl. Women's American Culture Class 12:30 pm
(Sept. - May)

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Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm. Leisure Center with noon lunch

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The Rev. Lynn Lawyer, Deacon

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1040 Como Ave. at Oxford. 489-6054
Sunday Worship: 10:15 am (nursery provided)
Sunday School: 9 am
Dr. Robert Bailey, Minister