City Council creates interim billboard moratorium

by Jane McClure

The much-debated interim moratorium and billboard regulation underway, after months of debate at City Hall. Now the pro and anti billboard factions will battle it out on an advisory committee, tentatively appointed in February by the City Council.

One of the advisory committee members is St. Anthony Park Community Council Executive Director Heather Washington. The neighborhood is one of the most active in the city on billboard and sign pollution issues.

The St. Paul City Council voted 7-0 on February 18 to adopt an interim ordinance regulating billboards and to call for a study of the city's existing billboard ordinance. The committee was appointed later that month. Council members chickened before the ordinance was adopted, recalling the number of changes it has gone through. "I have no amendments," said Ward 4 Council Member Jay Benavant, the ordinance's author. "I know that's what we said, but I really had vowed to get something passed "before my term expires." (Benavant took office January 1.) Passage of the oft-amended measure means a City Council-appointed task force will study the city's existing billboard regulations, look at the effectiveness of special sign districts, make an inventory of all advertising signs in St. Paul, study permit fees and clarify the city's existing policy of granting sign credits to billboard companies that take down signs. The credits are used to put up new signs.

The task force membership was approved February 25. It includes representatives from the billboard industry, unions, neighborhood groups, business associations, a city licensing staff member, a Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff member and a member of the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The task force will submit a report with recommendations to the City Council by August 1. The report then goes to the Planning Commission for further study. Planning Commission recommendations would go to the City Council by November 1 for final approval.

The billboard study and limited moratorium, originally

Billboard moratorium to page 2

Where the black bears roam

David and Pamela Borden-Glass bring espresso drinking, community fellowship, and American Indian values to Como Park coffee house

by Lora Pritchett

When I first visited Black Bear Crossings Coffee House and Community Circle, a new café on Como Avenue, owner David Glass was throwing wood into a crackling fireplace, greeting familiar patrons, and reaching out to shake the hand of a new customer, all in the same swoop of action. Amid the laughter and clatter of friends and the aroma of freshly baked muffins, he was a flurry of movement, busy making his new shop exactly what he intends it to be — a place for the community.

There are all kinds of unique aspects to this rather eclectic establishment — customers get a free refill on the coffee of the day each time a train passes (by which occurs about 45 times per day!), birthstones grace the entrance to each parking spot, the enormous deck outside hosts water bowls for patrons with dogs. But perhaps the most unique of all — what makes this no ordinary coffee shop — are the community rooms.

These three comfortable and spacious rooms are equipped with white boards and markers, conference tables and chairs, splendid art work and a great ambiance. Not only are they free and open to anyone who wants to use them, customers are not even asked to buy anything from the café.

The only stipulation, in fact, is that guests sign a journal that is left in each room. Flipping through, visitors can see who has come before them, from groups celebrating birthdays, baptisms, and family reunions to the Strategic Planning Committee of District 10, the Ward 5 DFL, something called "The Artist's Way Gang," a garden club, a book club, a soccer club. The list goes on and on. Every group has left a little note about what they accomplished there, or their experience they shared.

"The journals give a living history to each room," Glass noted. "And the journals provide positive energy to those who follow." The rooms are surprisingly busy, considering how new this place is (Black Bear Crossings opened just last summer). Glass estimates that each room is used about three times a day, five days per week. In fact, he originally planned on having only one community room, but demand

Discussion at local Republican caucuses, Albrecht reported, focused mainly on what to do with the state budget surplus. Other resolutions concerned partial-birth abortions and whether judges should receive party endorsements.

Fewer than 50 Republicans ventured out to party caucuses in Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. Unlike other party activists

Caucus night in the neighborhood

by Judy Woodward

When Gore can remember a time when close to 200 people would show up for DFL caucus night in his North St. Anthony Park precinct, but that was a long time ago.

The retired university professor and longtime Park resident was convenor of his party's caucus on March 3 for Ward 4, Precinct 3. His group backed a statewide trend by endorsing Mike Freeman over Skip Humphrey in the straw poll for the governor's race. But the real story lay in some other numbers.

There were 28 attendees at Gore's caucus. Although in some neighborhoods that figure might represent a substantial turnout, in this well-educated, highly political area, the numbers were a disappointment to party loyalists like Gore. He said, "DFLers are not turning out the way they used to. Ten or 15 years ago, there might have been 150 to 180 attendees. There's been a general disenchantment with the caucus system."

Turnout was similar in the DFL's Ward 4, Precinct 2 caucus, which, like Gore's group, met at the St. Anthony Park Elementary School. John Marty led the poll for governor, according to longtime party activist, Mel Boynton.

On the Republican side, there was not even a gubernatorial straw poll to attract the party faithful. District 66B Republican Co-Chair Joy Albrecht, a lifelong resident of the Park, reported total attendance of 116 people spread over the 15 precincts in the area. "I don't think caucuses are being as well attended as the past," she commented. "We now have a standing state platform to which he re-enthusiastically passed the resolution process."

ON THE INSIDE

City park clean up set for April

Meet three St. Anthony Park Community Council members

Looking forward to Como Park's new resource center

Leisure Center angel Nancy Wenskel

After school specialist: Ms. Glowka's woodworkng class at St. Anthony Elementary School

Photo Credit: Dave Fenske
ST. ANTHONY PARK HOME

April 19th-25th is National Volunteer Week. St. Anthony Park Home residents and staff are fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers providing a variety of services.

We would like to thank these people and recognize them at a special dinner on April 21. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions please call us.

2237 Commonwealth 646-7486

Billboard moratorium . . . from page 1

introduced by then-Ward 4 Council Member Bobbi Megard last fall, are a response to neighborhood complaints that billboards are becoming larger and more intrusive in the neighborhoods. Last year the Merrian Park Community Council joined the St. Anthony Park Community Council and the University UNITED coalition to successfully oppose a large billboard erected along Interstate 94. Last fall the St. Anthony Park Community Council questioned the demolition of the old Crosstown bar and the placement of a large, two-sided billboard at that site at University Avenue and Highway 280. Megard’s original proposal for a study and citywide moratorium on new billboards was vetoed by Mayor Norm Coleman in late 1997. Coleman said the moratorium was “anti-business.”

With four new city council members, it was questionable whether Bemman could muster the five votes needed to override the veto. Instead, a compromise was worked out with the neighborhood groups, Coleman’s administration and the billboard industry. Deputy Mayor Tom Fehd has issued a statement that Coleman can support the measure passed February 18.

Under Bennehan’s ordinance, any moratorium on new billboards would be limited to neighborhoods that apply to be designated as special sign districts. After a neighborhood applies for the sign district designation, a temporary moratorium on any new signs would be in effect until the sign district designation is approved by the City Council. If a neighborhood is designated as a special sign district, that neighborhood can ban new billboards or place other restrictions on billboards. District council would review and make recommendations on special sign district requests.

Special sign districts as defined by the existing City Code also allow a neighborhood to put a number of other regulations on sign letter height, lighting and size. Grand Avenue and Highland Village are two of the city’s special sign districts. Historic districts also have stringent regulations governing new signs.

Caucus night . . . from page 1

District 54A Republican Party Chair Skip Wolverton does not see the vote as part of a downward trend. While acknowledging that the abortion issue has been divisive among the party faithful, he said that, “Some old-timers have been turned off by the caucus process, but new people come.”

Meanwhile, at the Reform Party, led by gubernatorial candidate Jesse (the Body) Ventura, grass roots activity in the Buggle’s area was muted. Party spokesperson Diane Goldman reported fewer than a dozen attendees at combined caucuses for Districts 64, 65 and 66. Opened Goldman, maybe some people didn’t want to go to the Rondo Educational Center in the Selby-Dale area after dark. Explanations for the decline in caucus attendance vary. Jack Christensen is a retired history teacher who has participated in DFL politics for more than 30 years. A former precinct chair in North St. Anthony Park, he speaks nostalgically of the epic Keith-Rolvag gubernatorial nomination battle of 1966 “when we must have had 400 people in the hall.” The numbers have been falling ever since, and Christensen thinks he knows the reason. “People are so well-off they turn out for the caucus when they feel pressed. But they just don’t think it’s necessary when times are good.”

Christensen remains a strong defender of the caucus system, which, he explained, was introduced into American politics at the time of Andrew Jackson. “The caucus doors are wide open to anyone who wants to participate directly in the political system,” he said.

He has more reservations about the system. He worries that special-interest “opportunities” are overwhelming the “civil spirit” that brought out the general voters in the past. He describes the DFL as “a steady old auto, still running although the tires are flat.” He lays the blame for low turnout on “no charismatic candidates, no real issues, and no real contrast with the Republicans.”

If Gore is worried about the political process, maybe he should spend some time with Sarah Robin. Although long-time party regulars may worry about declining numbers and voter apathy, the word doesn’t seem to have gotten through to 16-year-old Robin. She attends minus the caucus on March 3. While she was disappointed when she found out she was too young to vote, she was undeterred from her main goal. She introduced a resolution to revise the DFL’s Amendment. Her fellow DFLers in Gore’s precinct approved it, although they voted down her companion proposal to ban hand guns.

Robin, a sophomore at Toito-Grace High School, is a veteran of the Wellsstone for Senate campaign. Her reaction to her first caucus was enough to boost the spirits of any weary party loyalist. She said, “I’ll definitely go again. I thought it was really very interesting. It made me feel important — like I could actually DO something. Some people say politics is a dirty business, but I believe you can use politics to do good things and make the world a better place.”

St. Anthony Park Community Council

NEWS

Elections for Delegates to the St. Anthony Park Community Council Upcoming

Call the SAPCC office for an application at 292-7884.

We are seeking three delegates from North St. Anthony Park, one delegate from South St. Anthony Park, and three alternates from both North and South St. Anthony Park. The time commitment is roughly 4 hours a month.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in the neighborhood, and help guide the development of St. Anthony Park. Elections will be held at the Hampden Park Co-op from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14.

Greg Nygaard
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2301 Como Ave. 645-7655
City parks planning April clean up

Job Corps crew prepares for April clean up.

by Laura Pritchett

Our children slid down their slopes, our dogs run through their open spaces, our country skis, footsteps, and bicycle tires helped us get our marks. Now it’s our turn to thank our parks. April 18th has been set aside as the day we can repay our favorite park or recreation center by cleaning it up.

April 18th and Riverfront Clean-up/Glad Bag-A-Thon is celebrating its tenth year this April. In the nine years since the event began, volunteers have removed 139 tons of litter and recyclables from parks and recreation centers.

One big improvement this year is a more thorough recycling effort implemented by the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium. Koth, the recycling program assistant at the Consortium, said that recycling bins will be available at all the major St. Paul parks for glass and all types of metal.

“We’re hoping people will pick up in teams, and each can carry a bag, one for metal, one for glass, and one for the trash,” she said. Unfortunately, most paper cannot be recycled as it is too soiled after sitting out all winter. In the past, tires, car batteries, and other large items have been recycled, but this is the first year that there has been an organized effort to recycle the smaller items.

Not every park will have the special recycling bins available on this day, but Koth hopes that people cleaning in the smaller parks will make an effort to recycle on their own.

Students at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center have also added to the day by building an enormous “superbasket,” a nine-foot-tall trash can. The students in the building and apartment maintenance class built the monstrous trash can, which is meant to be a visual symbol to remind all to prevent litter. Roger Stewart, their instructor, noted that about a dozen students spent many hours constructing the trash can out of plywood and wire mesh. Because of the winter weather, students had to build the parts of the “superbasket” indoors and could not see the final product until they recently assembled it outside. It will be on display at various parks during the clean up period.

A thank you party to all the volunteers will be held in Como Park at the Lakeside Pavilion from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 18. Free refreshments will be provided. Patricia Freeman, the parks cleanup coordinator, noted that there will be gifts for the volunteers and many informational booths as well. The designated clean up period is from April 11 to the 25 with the big event taking place on the 18. On this day, trash bags will be provided at clean up sites and recycling drop-off points will be available. To register to clean a park, call 266-6458.

New bike racks at Milton Square make cycling alternative easier

by Michelle Christianson

Anne Kapucinski cares passionately about “sustainability.” That is the ability of an environment to persist with the least amount of external input; e.g. when an environment is healthy and self-sustaining. She is a professor of fisheries and conservation biology at the University of Minnesota and the head of the Institute for Social, Economic, and Ecological Sustainability. This concern for the environment lead her to donate part of the cost of bike racks for the Como-Carver business area in St. Anthony Park.

After Kapucinski and her husband gave up their second car in 1989, she began walking and biking to her job on the St. Paul campus of the University and became aware of just how much community and as well as for the environment, as peoples would be more likely to do business close to home if they bike to their destinations. The social benefits of walking and biking are also great. People interact more with their neighbors and can also keep an eye on each other’s property so that there is less crime.

One way that all of us can interact with each other is to take part in the Spring Forward Family Bike Ride on April 4. Participants will meet at the corner of Hamline and Como avenues at 9 a.m. and ride together to Como and Carter. There will be a dedication of the bike racks at the end of the ride with a chance to thank Anne Kapucinski. This event is sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Business Association, which will also provide coffee and treats for all riders. There is no cost or registration required to take part in this ride.
Sprin cleaning is cathartic. It's a time to purge our homes of all the accumulated debris of winter and allow fresh spring breezes clear out trapped air. It's a time to reassess our lives and make time to enjoy the summer ahead. It is a time to purify our homes, our schedules, our lives. This year, it's also a time when we can look beyond our own space and do something for the public good, a time when we can broaden our scope to include our parks.

This is one of those events which depends upon you just showing up. No one is going to ask you, and you won't necessarily be the only one who shows up. But your presence is still essential. So, mark your calendars for April 18, the day set aside for the St. Paul Parks and Riverfront Cleanup. On that day arrives, grab a few trash bags, family members and friends, and head out to your favorite park.

While Como Park, our grandest neighborhood green space, is highlighted in this issue, all our parks are precious and deserving of our attention. Whether your favorite hangout is Langford or College Park, or the lawns of a local school or community center, now is the chance for you to help with some spring cleaning. Spending a morning picking up the trash is a small gift to the parks we use so much.

To register to clean a park, call 266-6458. But registration is not required; it's really just a matter of showing up and pitching in. This event is driven by volunteer and community support, so just get out there and dedicate a morning to some cathartic cleaning.

Bacon's lasting legacy

The small obituary for Emily Mae Bacon in the February issue of the Park Bugle should not go unnoticed by readers. Miss Bacon was for decades St. Anthony Park's resident piano teacher. If you wanted to take piano lessons, you went to Miss Bacon, who lived one block west of St. Cecilia's Church on Cromwell Avenue. She was so well known and respected that her students came not only from the Park but also from Minneapolis. Miss Bacon imparted a love for classical music to an innumerable group of students, giving them a life-long appreciation for Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin. Some of Miss Bacon's students included concert pianists Laura Olson, emeritus surgeon Marsha Halverson, my sister Carol, and me. Emily Mae Bacon influenced a great many young people for the better.

Rev. Darwin Dean Mcgilp

SAP crime prevention needs improvement

I'm writing as St. Anthony Park's newest ex-Crime Prevention Coordinator. There have been many, and there will be more. The thrust of this job is recruiting block leaders to run blockclubs in SAP where crime rates are still low. Persuading people to meet every two weeks to prevent the rare property crime is fruitless. A nagging feeling among the dozens of people I've annoyed while "recruiting" is that block clubs don't work. According to most surveys, they don't. It feels good to share chili and prevention plans, but meetings can't protect a garage at 3 a.m.

Why then the push for block leader numbers? To me, it's simply because such a number is a concrete figure that agencies can measure, report, collate, and file. It is part of a process called accountability, which begins with establishing easily observable quantifiable goals. However, accountability evolved for its ease of measurement, not for the validity of its goals. Probably my most laughable contact with accountability occurred here in SAP when I was required to tape paper to the wall. The chart described recent crimes on trees and buildings. If a crime was likely to recur in an area, then this practice was a good one. However, labeling for one-shot crimes like car theft is a waste of time. When I brought up this dilemma to some SAP Council members, their response was stunning: "Do it anyway. It shows we've been doing our job." That, in essence, reveals the core of accountability — at its worst. The process of defending but not revitalizing agency practices amounts to simply protecting positions and agencies. In this way, no one needs to answer if they are doing their job. They need only discuss whether they are meeting their goals. Big difference.

The little public moneys involved could best be spent by having more prevention workers, yet the majority of the money is earmarked for the Community Organizer (C.O.). He/she is the council's direct contact even though the prevention worker stays more in touch with the field. Thus the council, a well-meaning group, has the potential to be out of touch with the field altogether. The council should strongly consider cutting the C.O. to a half time position or making it into a number of volunteer positions like the council itself.

Personally, I have never worked in any position with more supervisory personnel than this one. There are no shortages of boates. The endless required meetings basically amount to doughnuts, handouts, and gossip. Like most agencies I have seen, there is too much mid-level waste. Cut this fat. But remember this: If you find a flyer on your door saying your car was stolen, I didn't put it there. I wouldn't.

Paul Pauls

Welcome new owner at Mariano's

It is with mixed feelings that I write this message. After having had the opportunity to be in business in St. Anthony Park for over 13 years, I have sold my salon — M. Mariano for Hair — to Mr. Tony Johnson, a talented and enthusiastic young man. Please help in welcoming Tony to the neighborhood.

Thank you to all my friends and former clients here in the Park for all your support and encouragement over the years. It has been a pleasure to serve you!

Maeveen Mariano

From the Bugle archives:

25 Years Ago . . . Disabled housing committee forms in South St. Anthony Park . . . Miller Pharmacy celebrates its 50th anniversary . . .

20 Years Ago . . . Neighbors plant 115 trees to battle Dutch Elm Disease . . . Area residents debate repeal of gay right's ordinance in St. Paul . . .

15 Years Ago . . . Luther Seminary plans chapel and student union construction . . . St. Anthony Park residents oppose hazardous waste site . . .

10 Years Ago . . . St. Anthony Park residents protest outside the Paust porn theater in the Midway . . . University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus teens 100 . . . Seal Hu-Rise residents fight for traffic light at Raymond and Territorial intersection . . .

5 Years Ago . . . Contamination clean-up continues near Highway 280 . . . Falcon Heights buys new fire truck . . .
Walking
by Dave Healy

I
an 13-year public school career, I never rode a bus to school. Chelsea Heights Elementary was six blocks from our house, because we came home for lunch, I made the to-and-fro trek twice daily. Murray Junior/Senior High was a two-mile bike, and though everyone else from our neighborhood rode the bus, John Helberg and I walked there every day. Even at the time, then, walking to school, at least by junior high days, was fairly anachronistic. Today, of course, it is even more so. My younger son, who will start high school in the fall, has never walked to school, nor has most of his peers.

Actually, it would probably not be too much of a stretch to say that walking in general has become anachronistic, at least the kind of walking that is intended to get one from point A to point B. Nowadays one walks, if at all, for exercise. Walking has become a low-impact aerobic activity. Some shopping malls open their doors early, before the stores open, to accommodate walkers. One can even buy a special shoe called a Mall Walker®. To get places, we walk. We go to work.

I got some exercise by walking to and from school for 13 years, but that’s not why I did it, any more than kids ride bikes or play baseball around the house for exercise. In grade school I walked because everyone did; there was no alternative. In junior and senior high I walked because it seemed obviously superior to fighting traffic on a crowded bus. It still does.

In grade school, the walk to and from school could be either leisurely or regimented depending on whether a walking signal flag at the time. Only one street, Hamline Avenue, on which the school sat, required that flag to cross, but some pupils took it upon themselves to monitor our walking elsewhere on the route. Ellen Nace declared a certain stretch of sidewalk by Como Lutheran Church off limits and dedicated in catching trespassers, whom she promptly reported to the principal. Getting “reported” was the worst punishment one could sustain on the walk to or from school, but that problem was sufficiently foreboding to keep most of us on line.

By junior and senior high, there were no more school patrols. Our morning walk was constrained by the tangle of bel, and I am fairly sure good time. The trip home, though, presented no deadline other than supper, and some days the two miles would consume an hour or more.

To get to and from Murray, John and I walked through the State Fairgrounds and the University of Minnesota’s “farms” campus. In the morning, we left our settled neighborhood, crossed Snelling Avenue, and entered a strange kind of border land.

The fairgrounds were designed for teeming multitudes yet sat empty most of the year. Our route took us through a tractor-less Machinery Hill and by the vacant John Deere building, then through a gate and past the fields and animal pens on the agricultural exhibits. Then we moved from one residential area to another—Como to St. Anthony Park—our walk provided a daily reminder of another world: rural and agricultural. We walked past stiles. We saw (and smelled) sheep and hogs and cattle. We might have been our grandparents, from South Dakota and John’s from Iowa, walking through farmland and cornfields.

That part of our route was on unplowed roads and through areas unsprayed by windbreaks. Wind-hig was a way of life, and the drifts were bad, especially in the winter, when snow reduced the unpaved tractor path by the animal pens to a half-mile stretch of mud. Overcoming these obstacles made us feel manly and strong, far superior to our city-bred, house-bound peers. We entered Murray the way my Uncle Roland entered the mud room of his South Dakota farm house—stomping the mud or snow off our boots and blowing on our hands. We’d been out in the weather and had earned whatever respite was provided by brick and mortar. We were tough; we didn’t really need indoor swimming.

Preparing our trees for the Doswell/Chelmsford street project
by Mary Maguire Lerman

S
A t Anthony Park won’t be the same this summer. As a horticulturist and member of the Doswell/Chelmsford Neighborhood Street Committee, I am concerned about the health of our boulevard trees and have been writing letters to tree roots in other street projects, I want to relay the following.

It is important that our Boulevard trees be as healthy as possible going into the growing and construction season. An application of fertilizer to the Boulevard and front yard just as the buds are swelling in late April will give the trees a boost before May when root injury may occur due to construction. However, do not apply high-nitrogen fertilizers beneath your Boulevard trees this spring as you do not want to stimulate top growth on the tree where root system is going to be impacted.

However, a spring application of potassium (sulfate of potash or wood ash), magnesium (epos salts) and minor elements would be a great assist for the Boulevard trees. Potassium is the element that assists plants in stress and disease tolerance and is often found in low levels in our urban soil lands. Magnesium is not always found in any fertilizer mixtures but is an important macro nutrient. You may be surprised to know that most greenhouses apply magnesium in the form of epsom salts once a month to all their container grown plants. I have a magnesium fertilizer applied at the rose gardens at Lake Harriet for the entire summer and I know of other rosarians who do the same. Magnesium is frequently used on our rose garden, yard, garden and Boulevard with epsom salts just as growth begins. You can pick up a “milk” carton or two of epsom salts at drug stores. (It’s too bad Miller’s isn’t still around. I really miss not seeing Kate’s smiling face and she always made sure to get epsom salts in stock for me in the spring.)

Incidentally, the reason for adding a minor element fertilizer is because when roots are injured by construction or they can not grow out into other soil areas because of a drought, they may grow into areas where the minor elements have not been tapped. Since I can assure you there will be some root injury to your trees, the addition of minor elements in the early spring can supply some of the nutrients that those roots otherwise will not be able to obtain this season.

When I fertilize my yard, I use the small hand-held Whirlybird spreader (Dave carries them at Park Hardware) because it is all you need for a city yard. It is easy to scoop fertilizer into, is light weight and stores a whole lot easier than big fertilizer spreaders. The small Whirlybird also provides the perfect spreader width application for my Boulevard without deposing fertilizer on the sidewalk or street. You want to be very careful anytime you fertilize that you don’t get any of the powder on the gardens or lawns. Don’t get it on the sidewalk or street as it will wash down the storm sewer to our watershed — the rain water then goes to the lakes. If you do dress fertilizer on hard surfaces, immediately get out your broom and sweep it onto your lawn or garden. Just after fertilizing, water the area lightly to help dissolve the granules.

While you are fertilizing your Boulevard, check it out for anything you want to move before to early May. If you have planted any perennials or shrubs on the Boulevard, April is the time to arrange or transport those materials to another location in your yard. There will be grading occurring on the boulevards, so these plants will likely be damaged in that operation. Also, the city will be replacing or newly installing a small sidewalk from the curb to the public sidewalk. So if you have stones that you used as your boulevard walk, or if you have any plants that are recent, plants, be sure to move them before construction begins if you want to retain them. On some streets the existing “curbs” are actually large stones. If you want to save them for your own lawn or garden, remove them from the street before May 15, the date we have been told that construction will begin.

One very critical item to prepare for in May is the protection of our Boulevard trees. No matter how careful the work crews are, when the old curbs (if any) are removed and the initial street grading begins, the tree roots will be damaged. When we break our body’s protective skin layer, we clean it and trim back to healthy tissue and then apply a protective covering. The same should be done with our trees.

The first day you see any tree roots exposed, it is time to begin the healing process. Large roots may be shattered and shortened during the project. Take a sharp lopping shears or bow saw and cut the root back undamaged root area. Small fibrous roots that are exposed will quickly die — and those are the real critical roots for the tree. They take up most of the moisture and soil nutrients that the tree requires. So, once you have trimmed back any broken roots, take your wheelbarrow to the compost pile or garden and bring some rich soil/compost to the Boulevard. Carefully cover all exposed roots with at least two inches of soil. Never expose the roots of your tree to the soil. Then slowly moisten the soil down over the roots so that you do not cause the soil to be washed away. This will eliminate air pockets around the roots. Follow up by mulching with leaves (many conveniently stayed on your trees late last fall) or straw over the soil. This will help reduce soil erosion and keep the soil cooler for the roots. The same holds true if you have any exposed soil moist throughout the entire construction project. When your curb and street is complete, grading and sodding of the boulevard will be the final step of the project.

Tree care to page 7
St. Anthony Park Community — A personal look

by Pete Keith

Out of us probably realize that the St. Anthony Park Community Council is the official elected body which represents our neighborhood in matters of city government. But what’s it to be part of the community council? What kind of people serve on the council? What do they do? Why did they decide to get involved? Here, council members (who are not up for election) speak out on their experiences being part of St. Anthony Park’s Community Council.

Jim Snoxell
A resident of North St. Anthony Park, attorney Jim Snoxell represents what many may assume to be the typical profile of a community council member. Not only has he lived in the neighborhood his entire life, but Jim has served in the same house his entire life. Jim, who has been on the council for five years, was introduced to the council during his involvement with the residents group working on the sound wall project. Once the group got the council involved with the project, things really began to happen. According to Jim, “as a result, we now have noise abatement.” Once Jim saw the impact the community council had on that project, he wanted to become a member. Jim sees the council’s role as that of a liaison and communicator between the city and the neighborhood citizens. But according to Jim, the council also needs to “be a strong advocate for our neighborhood, because nobody else is. We are a small community with relatively high property values, relatively low crime, and we are helping foot the bill for more than we get for our tax dollars.”

Sue Olson
Even though she is a relative newcomer to the community council, Sue Olson is beginning to feel comfortable with her role on the council, but is quick to add that “I am still learning.” A six-year resident of St. Anthony Park, Sue became interested in the community council about three years ago. She feels that “the high rise doesn’t know enough about what’s going on around us, and I wanted to get the high rise more involved in the community.” With help and encouragement from former community organizer Abby Struck, Sue decided to run for the council last year. Sue has been impressed with the impact that the community council has had, on issues ranging from the bad smell that used to permeate the neighborhood to quieting the noise from trucks at night. Sue believes that although the council may not have much official power, they do have tremendous impact on issues important to the neighborhood. “If we work hard enough and have enough voices behind us, we do have influence.”

Bob Arndorfer
Bob Arndorfer, a 14-year resident of South St. Anthony Park, has been on the Community Council for five years. Bob was prompted to get involved with the council primarily to help foster a sense of community in the neighborhood. “I’ve always tried to be involved in the community, to be more than just an owner of real estate. I really enjoy this neighborhood, and being on the council is a good chance to keep your neighborhood strong and healthy.” He states that his involvement in the council “has awakened in me how important community is.”

Bob sees the primary role of the community council as “an organization that promotes the community.” But he also sees it as a two-way communication conduit between the neighborhood and city hall. And it is an organization that tackles specific issues that the community brings forth.

One of the significant issues that Bob is involved in is the potential conversion of land, now occupied by the community gardens, to other industrial use such as intermodal container storage. “In 1992 the community council developed a neighbor- hood plan for the future — an industrial parking lot is not in the plan.” The community gardens have been in place for over 20 years. As part of his council responsibilities, Bob is also on the oversight committee of the SEED redevelopment project in south east Minneapolis. That committee’s role is to “help assure that development there is not detrimental to the Park,” according to Bob.

While Bob sees the community council as an effective organization to help maintain and improve the quality of live in the neighborhood, he believes that more people need to get involved with the efforts of the council. “What we need is more people involved in the committees, task forces, or as volunteers on projects.” Bob strongly believes the council “is the vehicle to bring the neighborhood together.”

Remember to vote on April 14 for community council representatives

MUSIC in the PARK SERIES

19th Season

APR. 26 THE LARK STRING QUARTET
7 PM
Diána Pascal and Jennifer Orchard, violins; Anna Kruger, viola; Astrid Schwien, cello

MAY 10 MARK O’CONNOR
7 PM
violin, mandolin, guitar

ALL CONCERTS ON SUNDAYS AT ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2129 Commonwealth Ave. at Chalmers St., St. Paul
Single Tickets: $12 advance purchase, $16 at the door, $6 student rush
Mark O’Connor Concert: $20 single tickets ($12 student rush)

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BIBELOT SHOP (646-5651) & MICAWBER’S BOOKSTORE (646-5506) in St. Anthony Park
Tickets / Information: 646-5296 or 644-4234
Music in the Park Series, 1333 Chalmers St., St. Paul, MN 55108

MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES

FAMILY CONCERTS 1998

“Strings & Stories”

Friday, April 17
MINNEAPOLIS GUITAR QUARTET
in “Guitar Talk”
6:15 and 7:10 pm: performances
St. Anthony Park Branch Library
2245 Como Avenue at Carter, St. Paul
Tickets in Advance: Adults $5; Children $4
Tickets at Door: Adults $6; Children $5
Tickets available at the Bibelot Shop (646-5651) and Micawber’s Bookstore (646-5506) in St. Anthony Park
Tickets/information: 646-5266

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Black Bear Crossing... from page 1

was so great that he created two more out of space he intended to rent out. “The rooms have become a space where people can come together to address issues. Not all the issues are serious, but they all are adding to the community,” he said.

Not only is the mission of Black Bear Crossings to provide a venue for sharing and developing community, it is also a place to celebrate positive American Indian identity. Glass, a member of the White Earth band of Ojibwe, says he learned about giving to the community from his family. “Up on the reservation, conversation always took place over a pot of coffee and rolls. I wanted to have a place here to meet, to connect. I wanted to be in a business that impacted the larger community in a positive way.”

Glass and his wife, Pamela Borden-Glass, wanted a place where they could “live their values.” They’ve also managed to pay tribute to those who have given them their own. Each room, nook, and cranny of the establishment has been named after those who have been influential in their lives. The “Michael Donald Glass Memorial Meeting Room,” named for Glass’ father, is the largest of the community rooms and “Jane’s Lounge,” the main room, is named for her mother, who was known for making all feel welcome. One corner, closest to the railroad tracks, is named “Russell’s Corner,” after Borden-Glass’ father, who worked for the railroad for 45 years. He is responsible for decorating it, and changes the display regularly. “Marion’s Gardens” is named after her mother, who is an avid gardener. The bar has also played its part in all this — “Mankwa’s Den,” (Mankwa means “bear” in Ojibwe) is a quiet room reminiscent of a library with flute music piped in. And the entrance reads “Manka de Mankwa Acha Wiskaan,” which is Ojibwe for “where black bears roam.”

David Glass put a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology on hold to start this business, and Pam Borden-Glass, who has a master’s degree in environmental and public health, has resorted to cutting her hours at her 3M job to help get the business going. Though she says that “this was all David’s idea and dream,” she’s been helping by providing the incredible bakery items that can’t help but catch your eye when you enter the shop. The couple have been residents of the Como neighborhood for three years.

Another aspect of their mission is to provide a venue for multicultural sharing, and the “Multicultural Art Wall” has been a wonderful example of just that. Thus far, it has featured a Jewish weaver, a German-Irish painter, a Swedish photographer, and a Hmong exhibit is planned for the future. There’s also an abundance of mesmerizing American Indian artwork. Various entertainment is provided most Friday and Saturday evenings, and the cafe also sponsors classes in conjunction with the Como Zoo.

Though David and Pamela have been working hard (though so far, they haven’t been able to pay themselves), they insist that it’s not David and Pamela’s place, it’s the community’s place. Customers have been known to lend a helping hand with various repairs, others have brought in board games for the den, and another customer dropped off a bag of dog treats for the many dog walkers who stop by. Parents have also brought in toys for the children’s corner (called “Cubs’ Corner,” which is conveniently located so parents can sip a cup of coffee while keeping an eye on their youngsters).

“People make connections here. That’s the beauty of it,” Glass noted. Located on the south end of Como Lake at 831 Como, Black Bear Crossings is a must see; not only for the free refill as the train chugs by, but for a unique look at the power of community.

Tree care... from page 5

One special “To Do” for April:

Do plan to replace the lead water pipe connection from your home to the street. This is a special opportunity time to have this necessary health work done and to have the cost spread out over many years on your taxes. Just ask Chris and Julia Causay on Doswell what this costs when your old lead water service line breaks and you need a plumber on an emergency basis to replace it. You will realize just what a bargain opportunity has been offered with the construction project. Check with your neighbors as you can group together with a single plumbing contractor to further reduce the installation costs.

If you’ve been having repeated problems with your sewer connection (i.e. tree roots), talk to the plumbers about replacing your sewer line at the same time. Unfortunately the sewer line replacement cannot be put on an assessment. However, you should seriously consider it if you make frequent calls to Rooter-Rooter.

Take a close look at the mailing the St. Paul Water Utility mailed to you recently. There is a deadline date on the blue postcard. That postcard must be mailed in soon if you want to have the cost of the lead water line replacement assessed on your taxes over the next 10 years. Call Mary Hiber (917-4781) at the St. Paul Water Utility if you have any questions about this.

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Spring forward
family bike ride

You are invited to the "Spring Forward" family bike ride sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Business Association Saturday April 4. The ride begins at 9:00am at Como and Hamline and ends in the retail area of Como and Carter. We will dedicate the bike racks in front of the Library, acknowledge the donation made by resident Anne Kapuscinski and serve treats.

St. Anthony Park Business Association
Call 645-2366 for information

St. Anthony Park Association
President: Mary Ann Bernard 646-2929

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS
Money for Projects
Application deadline: April 17

This year, the St. Anthony Park Association will again fund selected neighborhood projects with its small grants program.

Organizations needing money for projects which benefit the community should apply.

St. Anthony Park Association

Applications
Available at the Library
Must be postmarked by 4/17

Applicants
Past recipients must submit audit form
Ad hoc organizations welcome

Criteria
Funding criteria are available with application
Staying after school
by Lisa Steinmann

E ven after the bell rings and students are dismissed at St. Anthony Park Elementary School children are still playing, turning cartwheels in the gym, learning a new language in the library and creating art in the classrooms. After school programs such as Discovery Club, Community Education, After School Enrichment, Tutoring, Running Club, and Gymnastics serve well over 500 children and keep the school building buzzing until 10 p.m. on most nights.

Pat Linden, SAP Discovery Club manager, believes that St. Anthony Park Elementary school is a good example of “the neighborhood of the ‘90s” for local children. I recently met up with Jessica Ashwin-Miller, Emma Olesen and Hannah Longley, amicable residents of this neighborhood. They showed off the friendship bracelets and anklets that they had braided together from bits of colorful yarn in the after school care program.

According to Linden, “83 percent of Minnesota parents of elementary school aged children work.” Facts and figures come readily to mind as she has just returned from National Public Policy Meetings in Washington D.C. as the representative for the Minnesota School Age Care Alliance. She believes that Discovery Club is the ideal program to bridge the gap between the time a child’s school day ends and a parent’s work day ends. Indeed this program, one of ten such child care sites in the St. Paul Schools, offers care from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is available on days that school is not in session and runs through the summer. Children who attend engage in a relaxed but busy atmosphere overseen by caring staff. They have time to play, rest, snack, and do homework. They also may choose to participate in some of the other activities available in the building after school.

Recently students could be found snapping and folding beautiful Japanese papers in a creative book binding class after school. Other students were elbow deep in clay, or tapping the keyboards during open computer lab. These classes and more are offered by Community Education, the branch of the St. Paul Public Schools that is committed to providing learning experiences for people of every age. “We try to offer whatever doesn’t fit into the regular curriculum,” said Tony Smith, who coordinates for Neighborhood Community Education classes from her office located in St. Anthony Park School.

The importance of learning things outside the regular curriculum is the driving force behind the school-wide enrichment program at SAP. The effort to offer many opportunities to children has resulted in scheduling some enrichment classes for St. Anthony Park students after school. “Parent volunteers make this program go,” according to Courtney Olesen, who along with Teresa Anderson coordinates the program.

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Earth Day celebration
The Northwest Midway Family Center celebrates Earth Day at Newell Park on Saturday, April 18, when youngsters and elders participate in the city's annual park clean up. Scout troops, church groups and other interested parties are welcome to pitch in.

Clean up begins at 9:30 a.m. and supplies are provided. A post-clean up celebration includes refreshments plus a demonstration by the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center.

Newell Park is located at Fairview Avenue and Pierce Butler Boulevard. For information please contact 603-6643.

Egg hunt/Spring break party
The Egg Hunt/Spring Break Party is set for Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m., at Langford Park Rec Center. All boys and girls are welcome to attend free of charge. Games and prizes for all who attend, ages 10 and under. Call 298-5765 or 298-5770 for information.

Summer sports registration
The Langford/St. Anthony Rec Centers announce upcoming registration dates for summer sports: Baseball and softball continue through April 3 and T-ball and nearball sign up runs from April 13 to May 1. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 may participate in these sports. Practices will start at the end of May. To register or to find out more information, call the Langford Park Rec Center at 298-5765.

Candlelight Concert
"Swing Into Spring"
April 17th 7:00pm
Dinner and a live concert featuring the Big Band sound of the University of Minnesota Jazz Repertory Ensemble

North Star Ballroom
St. Paul Student Center
2017 Buford Avenue

Tickets: 624-2345
$20 U of M students, $28 public

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Como Park CREA
FOR LIFE-

One sure sign of spring is the steady stream of yellow school buses en route to Como Park. For countless Minnesota and Wisconsin school children, a trip to the Zoo and Conservatory provides a unique and fun learning experience.

Getting the most out of those learning experiences is part of the impetus behind the proposed Como Park Resource Center. Envisioned as a physical link between the main zoo building and the conservatory, the $27 million center would include classrooms, an auditorium, interpretive exhibits, visitor information area, restrooms, administrative offices and space for volunteers.

"To me, the resource center should be the heart of the entire park," said Lynn Wolf of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Wolf has worked on the resource center plans for the past several years, with support from consultants from the St. Paul Foundation. She is also part of the group lobbying the 1998 Minnesota Legislature for resource center funding.

Wolf said the resource center would not only give Park and Recreation the means to provide school children with a curriculum centered on the conservatory and zoo, it would also provide badly needed office and work space for staff and volunteers.

The conservatory alone has 530 volunteers.

"This is a real need," said Wolf. "We really have no education space whatsoever.

The original request to the 1998 Minnesota Legislature was for $14 million, with the idea of raising an additional $13 million in private donations. As of deadline, the Minnesota House of Representatives had recommended $3.5 million for the center. The Minnesota Senate's recommendation is for just $500,000. Those two proposal now go to a House-Senate conference committee. The full House and Senate will then have to approve a final amount, which will then be sent to Governor Arne Carlson for approval. It is expected that the bonding bill, which will include the resource center request, will be approved in early April.

Representatives Alice Hausman and Tom Osthoff and Senator Allen Anderson have led the St. Paul legislative delegation's quest for dollars.

Hausman indicated that she believes that will be funds for the resource center in 1998. She said that a strong argument can be made for funding at least part of the project in 1998. Hausman also pointed out that the request should be able to get additional funding in subsequent years.

Resource center backers agree. Even if the project does not get the $14 million it sought in 1998, Janet Dietrich sees any 1998 allocation as giving the Como Park Resource Center "a foot in the door" at subsequent legislative sessions.

Dietrich works as volunteer coordinator at the conservatory.

Resource center supporters have not only lobbied state lawmakers for funds, they also hold an open house at the zoo and conservatory to show how dire their needs are. "We had a number of people in to see the conditions here," said Dietrich. "Some of them were pretty surprised."

One impetus to seek resource center funding in 1998 is the state's project budget surplus. But many capital observers note that the surplus has also brought out a surplus of projects. St. Paul alone has requests totaling more than $80 million, including the $65 million new hockey arena. Given all of the controversy over area funding, it's not surprising that the resource center request has not received as much attention.

But those in the know — volunteers, zoo and conservatory staff and most regular visitors — agree that some type of new facility is sorely needed. The zoo and conservatory currently have no meeting areas for visiting classes, tour groups, volunteers and staff. Some classes and workshops are held in a nearby garage, but everyone agrees that this is not a suitable location.

Anyone with claustrophobia would probably not do well working here. Most staff work out of a cramped, brightly painted mobile home that sits in an area between the zoo and conservatory. A boiler house is also workers and their desks.

Como Park, the zoo and the conservatory have been the focus of extensive renovations past 20 years. At one point in the 1970s debate over whether to renovate the zoo or shut it down completely. Led Representative Ann Wynia, zoo suppers successfully lobbied for funds to keep the park open.

The zoo itself has had more than its share of improvement in since 1980. The cost a $13 million facility that was completed in 1989.

Now "We basic," as volunteers where volunteer office tasks. With Park rank that high on facility Dietrich said, "We meet the needs."

"The conservatory is where the plants are.

The conservatory is where the plants are.

The conservatory is where the plants are.

The conservatory is where the plants are.

The conservatory is where the plants are.

Cafesjian

Como Park is the place where the Carousel ponies will call home. Our first Cornerstone Board of Directors is chosen. The park on the site of the former Como Park and the site of the former Como Park is to be used for events in the main building. That will be there.

The quest for resource center funding is one of many recent developments in Como Park. The park is a place where volunteers on a proposed pavilion 68-hour attraction. The planned carousel pavilion is to be located at a site between the Como Conservatory and the large park. The park has a history of bringing the carousel to life. The Como Park Carousel is the region's most-popular with 23.6 million visitors in 1997.

Locations in Como Park, the State Fairgrounds and the Minne- Apple Valley made the Cut. They initially rejected the idea of using the Como Center on Kellogg Boulevard.
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POETRY

Here poets Gregory Cullen Wagner and Brian Engel at the Prairie Star Coffeehouse reading series on April 9, 7:30 p.m., at 2399 University Avenue.

Patricia Kirkpatrick leads a five-week discussion series called Poetry and the Sacred from April 2 to 30 at the St. Anthony Park Library. The series explores religious themes in the works of four modern American poets. Programs are free, although space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 222-3242.

MUSIC

Music in the Park Series dedicates its April 26 concert to the memory of Winston Close, distinguished architect and musician, who along with his wife, Elizabeth, was a long-time champion of chamber music and the St. Anthony Park-based music event. The String Quartet takes center stage at this concert, which is set for 7 p.m. on April 26 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth and Chelmsford. Well known to Twin Cities chamber music enthusiasts, the Larks — Diane Pascal and Jennifer Orchard, violinists; Anna Kruger, viola; and Astrid Schween, cello — return to Music in the Park Series for a concert that features the work of Haydn, Schumann and the Minnesota premiere of a new piece by former St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Composer-in-Residence Aaron Jay Kernis.

The cosmopolitan Lark String Quartet has performed on stages in Europe, Asia, and Australia. The award-winning ensemble won the Gold Medal in the 1991 Shostakovich International String Quartet Competition and the 1990 Naumburg Chamber Music Award plus top prizes in competitions held in Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Italy.

Tickets are on sale at Micawber’s Bookstore and the Como Avenue Bibelot, or you can call 646-5266 for tickets or more information.

Family fun rules at Music in the Park Series’ Family Concert featuring The Minneapolis Guitar Quartet in “Guitar Talk” on Friday, April 17, 6:15 and

7:30 p.m., at the St. Anthony Park Public Library.

The friendly, off-beat quartet members will perform music by Bach and Telemann plus new works. With “Guitar Talk” the ensemble takes audience members on a musical exploration by playing “Where’s Waldo?” and call-and-response games to illustrate how music, like words, can express ideas and emotions.

Single tickets cost $5 adults, $4 children or at the door, $6 adults, $5 children. Tickets are on sale at Micawber’s Bookstore and the Como Avenue Bibelot, or you can call 646-5266 for tickets or more information.

ARTS FESTIVAL

The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival invites artists and craftperson to apply for space at the upcoming June 6 event. More than 50 people have already won approval, leaving 50 spaces available. Applications are available at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library or by calling Arlene West at 649-0481 before May 1.

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Corner of Raymond and University
Prudence Johnson sings the Conservatory series' finale

Tulips and daffodils will be the backdrop for a fine evening of jazz as the Como Park Conservatory changes their flower display just in time for their last Evenings Under Glass concert. This series concludes with a fiery set with jazz vocalist Prudence Johnson, who will appear at the conservatory on Thursday, April 2 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Known for several years in the Midwest as the smooth and sultry-voiced chanteuse of the vocal jazz ensemble, Rio Nido, Prudence got her first national exposure with occasional appearances on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion." After recording three landmark vocal jazz albums with Rio Nido, Prudence stepped out on her own with the release of her first solo album, "Voices," on the Red House record label. Prudence fans also celebrated the release of "Little Dreamer: Lullabies for the young and old," a collection of familiar and not-so-familiar lullabies from around the world. "Little Dreamer" was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1992.

Prudence has also appeared on both stage and screen; her credits include Steven Dietz's play "Ten November," and Robert Redford's feature film, "A River Runs Through It," where she can be seen portraying a 1920s jazz singer. Johnson attends Hamline University and is pursuing a course in International Studies. She continues to play the local jazz circuit and is planning a new record scheduled for release in the fall of 1998.

For the Evenings Under Glass Series, the conservatory's no eating rule is temporarily suspended for the performance. Ginko Coffeehouse will provide food and beverages for a nominal charge. And during this show, jazz lovers will enjoy the tropical splendor of the conservatory's spring flower show. Admission at the door is $5 for ages 3 and up and parking is free. For more information about the concert, call the Como Infotline at 487-8200.

Bead Dreams Future Vision

new exhibit at The Goldstein Gallery, located on the St. Paul campus, features a juried exhibition showcasing a variety of bead work. The exhibit focuses on original and technical excellence in contemporary bead work executed in seed beads. Beaded objects address themes ranging from the banality of housework to the wonder of nature throughout the seasons. From carefully designed and crafted works by leaders in the field, to quirky, uniquely visioned pieces by newcomers, this exhibition has something for everyone. The exhibition features 96 entries from 71 artists. Several events and classes will be held in conjunction with this display. On April 18, participants can attend presentations by five bead artists on the inspiration, creation, and challenge of their own work. This symposium will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in McNell Hall. On May 16 and 17, a bead bazaar will be held at the same location, and visitors can browse and purchase beads. Several classes will also be offered. An "Introduction to Beadwork" class will be held on April 4, and classes entitled "An Amazing Day: Creating the Beaded Maze" will take place on April 19. For more information about these events, contact The Goldstein at 624-7434. Located on 1985 Buford Avenue, room 244, McNell Hall, Bead Dreams Future Vision runs until June 14.

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NEIGHBORS

Como Zoo celebrates Earth Day
Como Zoo is honoring Earth Day with a 5K run/walk around Como Zoo’s grounds and Como Park on April 18. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the race time is 9:30 a.m. The event will include a special 1 K run/walk for kids 8 years and younger. An awards ceremony and Earth Fair follows the race. For more information or a registration form, call the Como Zoological Society at 487-8229.

Sand sweeping
Volunteers are asked to sweep the sand left on the boardwalks and the roads so that it can be swept up and removed. The county road sweepers. Hand raking and sweeping is the only way to remove the boardwalk sand. Volunteers are encouraged to begin sweeping as soon as the snow is off the boardwalks, and Ramsey County begins sweeping the roads on April 6. For more information, call 484-9104.

Carnival
Brinshall Elementary School PTA will be hosting a spring carnival and raffle on Saturday, April 18 from 3 to 6 p.m. at Brinshall Elementary School on 1744 W. Co. Road B in the community gym. This fun family event will include food and many fun games and activities. For more information, please call 626-1958.

Reunion
Murray High School class of 1973 will host its 25 year reunion on July 11 at the Como Park Lakeside Pavilion. Announcements have been mailed; please pass the information on to any '73 graduates. Call 489-6980 for more information.

Conservatory volunteers needed
Volunteers are needed to assist in the Como Conservatory gift shop during daytime hours, any day of the week. Volunteers should have an interest in nature, retail gift stock and in helping people. Start in March or April and work until August, with time off for vacations. Call 487-8247 for more information.

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Open forum: Choices for the 21st century

Mark your calendars for four evenings in May, when residents of St. Anthony Park gather to discuss the far-reaching topic of “Choices for the 21st century.” Warren Gore will moderate the sessions, which are set for Thursday evenings on May 7, 14, 21, and 28, at the St. Anthony Park Library meeting room. Interested people can call 292-6635 or 644-6693.

Vet Hospital open house

The college of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota is holding an open house on Sunday, April 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all activities including petting zoo, animal care seminars, animal demonstrations, tours of animal treatment centers, and food and beverages. Call 624-4747 for more information.

Family bike ride

A family bike ride is planned for Saturday April 4 at 9 a.m. to celebrate the installation of the bike racks in the retail area of St. Anthony Park and to acknowledge the $1,000 donation made by resident Anne Kupuscinski towards this project. The ride begins at Como and Hamline and ends in the retail area at Como and Carter.

Save community gardens

The St. Anthony Park Community Council has received a letter from Catellus Management, a subsidiary of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, notifying us that they have a potential buyer for the site currently leased for use as a Community Garden.

We will plant the Garden this spring, however, our lease can be broken with 30 days notice at any time. This garden provides important green space, as well as a buffer between the railroad and the residential neighborhood to the south of the rail corridor.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council, along with Sherman Eagles and Susan Connor who organize the gardens each year, have sent letters to local, state and federal legislators and representatives asking for their help. We urge you to speak out on this important land use issue.

The Community Gardens are used by approximately 200 people in St. Anthony Park each season. They have existed since 1981, and replaced an unsightly dumpsite that gathered criticism from residents for many years.

This is an important natural resource for our neighborhood, and we must fight to save it. The Council can be reached at 292-7884. Your support is appreciated and needed.

— Heather Worthington, executive director, St. Anthony Park Community Council

Monroe Mariano helps to blow the dryer and scissors to Tony Johnson, the new owner of M. Mariano Salons. Johnson lives in St. Anthony Park with his wife, Becky, and has been cutting hair for over 12 years. While the name of the salons may change, the styling crew will remain the same.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH
AT 7 PM

Bart Schneider will be reading from his debut novel Blue Bossa, just out from Viking. This much acclaimed novel set against the backdrop of the kidnapping tells the story of Ronnie Rebuoulet, a jazz trumpeter loosely based on Chet Baker. Schneider is currently the editor of the Hungry Mind Review.

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APRIL

Outside and no jacket, in sunlight, open air;
feeling foreign, all winter skin and vision
walking the wet wreckage of last year’s yard,
first always to my oak, my watched volunteer, up
spire high after twelve years by the fence.

No sign yet of wanting another spring.
At its feet, infant grass is struggling up
under hollow stalks of topped goldenrod;
but the gawky tree, new to its scaly age,
copies the reserve of its elders, tints
in the yard, who can wait forever to come back.

Not that I want you early,
like the crocus bells already fading
amid the black salad of last year’s fins;
it’s only to see what you made of your sleep,
how you came through the smothering dark,
the lock of ice, to another sun; and what it is
to push new leaves our horned, purplish buds.

— Tom Ruud

Nancy Wenkel: Decades of volunteering at the Leisure Center

by Kristin D. Anderson

My mother was willing to baby-sit, and I
would get a free lunch. So it was a go,”
said Nancy Wenkel, and the “go” is
still going, 23 years later. Wenkel’s
response to a church bulletin’s request for help years ago
has become an on-going commitment. Her son Dan is now
a biology teacher instead of a three-year-old, but
Wednesday mornings remain the same. Wenkel makes her way
to the Leisure Center to volunteer her time directing
sewing and crafts for area retired person, counting on
dependable helpers to keep her from burn-out.

Located in the St. Anthony Park United Methodist
Church, the Leisure Center is sponsored by five area
churches: St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ,
St. Matthew’s Episcopal, Corpus Christi Catholic,
St. Anthony Park Lutheran, and the host congregation.
“Each interdenominational aspect always draws me to this
organization; it’s a new reason to come together,” said Wenkel,
oberving that neighbors don’t often know each
other across church lines.

At the Leisure Center, Wenkel works with
a group of people, including her mom, who
“have wonderful stories,” and who “are keeping
their bodies active and minds busy. These
people have rich lives; they’re talented. We
always have something to learn from one
another,” she said.

Enjoyment is a big part of the Wednesday
fellowship, but so is service. When Wenkel
began helping, the group of 12 sewers was
making baby clothes for St. Paul Ramsey
Hospital, even hand hemming some of the
diapers. Now a smaller group of active sewers
focuses on school clothes, which are distributed
at Arlington Luthernans by Ramsey County
Social Services. Baby blankets for a popular
project, as are lap robes and walker bags for
St. Anthony Park Home. Those in charge
of crafts keep busy with holiday table decorations,
which are sold after use at the center or made
for the fall bazaar.

Wenkel does her best to match a sewer’s
current skill level with an appropriate task, but
perfection is not a major concern. If aging eyes
or arthritic hands fail a bit, it isn’t going to matter, but “I’m
particularly about whether it’s going to fall apart,” she added.

Wenkel’s sewing interest, and the possibility of going
into home economics, began early. She learned early that
she worked well with her hands, and grew up watching
both her mother and grandmother sewing. Her grandmother
even taught her to sew quilt blocks on her treadle machine.
Wenkel went on to the university to earn a degree in
interior design.

But, she added, “I’ve always had this senior calling.”

She even went back to the university and completed a
two-year program in aging studies, doing her internship at
St. Anthony Park Home.

Wenkel’s volunteering experience began when she was
still in high school. Thinking she might want to go into
nursing, she became a certified nurse’s aide as soon as she
was old enough, just 15.

Nancy Wenkel to page 20

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

28 SATURDAY
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Physical Planning Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 5 p.m.
- Falcon Heights and Lauderdale recycling.

3 FRIDAY
- Passover
- Good Friday

4 SATURDAY
- Spring Forward Family Bike Ride from Hamline and Como avenues to Milton Square, 9 a.m.

5 SUNDAY
- Palm Sunday
- Daylight Savings Begins

6 MONDAY
- Como Park recycling.

7 TUESDAY
- Toastmasters, Hewlett Packard, 2025 Larpenteur Avenue, 7:30 a.m. Call 665-6675. Every Tuesday.
- St. Anthony Park Community Band rehearsal. Como Senior High band room, 7:30 p.m. Call 642-1599. Every Tuesday.

8 WEDNESDAY
- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur, 7 p.m.

9 THURSDAY
- St. Anthony Park Community Council, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 7 p.m.
- Falcon Heights and Lauderdale recycling.

23 SATURDAY
- St. Paul schools. Evening conferences, Junior High.

24 FRIDAY
- Arbor Day

25 SATURDAY
- FARE For All distribution and registration at Holy Childhood Church, 1495 Midway Parkway, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Call 644-7495; or St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2223 Como Ave., 8:30-10:30. Call 644-8833.

26 SUNDAY
- The Lark Quartet performs at the Music in the Park Series’ concert, 7 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. Concert is dedicated to the memory of Winston Chase, architect and chamber music enthusiast.

The Community Calendar is sponsored monthly by Wellington MANAGEMENT, INC.
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Obituaries

Esther Bunde
Lyngblomsten Care Center resident Esther T. Bunde, age 90, died on February 25. Bunde was a member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. Preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence, and son, Lawrence Jr., she is survived by her daughters, Lucile Jaeger and Jane Zaring, three nieces, and several great-nieces and nephews and their families.

Eugene Giefer
Como Park resident Eugene N. "Gene" Giefer died at age 80 on March 7. Giefer was a parishioner at Holy Childhood Church. He is survived by his parents, Gene and Mary, brothers, Ron and Chris, nieces, Jessica and Erin, and many other relatives.

Marjorie Knutsen
Marjorie E. Kjeldstad Knutsen, age 86, died on March 5. She was a longtime Como Park resident and lived recently at the Lyngblomsten Care Center. Knutsen was a graduate of University of Minnesota, a former employee of the St. Paul School district, a volunteer at Lyngblomsten, and a member at Como Park Lutheran Church. Preceded in death by her daughter, Jeanne Richter, she is survived by her husband of 60 years, Walter, sons, David, James, and Wally, son-in-law, Merlin Richter; grandchildren, Gwen Richter Lamott, Todd Richter, Kristin Knutsen, Matt Richter, Katerin Knutsen, Eric Richter, Ryan Knutsen, and Kevin Knutsen.

Donna Adell Olheim
Donna Adell Olheim died at age 82 on February 26 from a heart attack suffered while dancing in Mission, Texas, her winter home for the past 20 years. She was a resident of Miami Park on Langford Park Place. Olheim was a member of the St. Anthony Park Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Nels, on January 2, 1997. She is survived by her daughter, Gayle Nelson; son, Dana Olheim; grandchildren, Jennifer and Justin; and many nieces and nephews.

Kurt Ryberg
Falcon Heights neighbor Kurt J. Ryberg died on February 25 at the age of 88. Ryberg was a member of Como Park Lutheran Church. Preceded in death by his wife, Rose, he is survived by son, Bruce, and grandchildren, Brast and Eric.

Rudy Theis
Rudy J. Theis died on February 27 at the age of 70. He was a resident of Como Park, where he grew up on Haron Avenue. He graduated from Murray in 1947. He is survived by his children, Michael, Cathy, and John, their mother, Jane, and other family members, Mike, Jim, Theresa, Marjorie, and Bethel.

Lloyd Ulyot
St. Anthony Park neighbor Lloyd L. Ulyot, age 93, died at his Roseville home on March 10. Ulyot was a former president of the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives which helped create cooperative banking systems throughout the developing world. He retired in 1969, two years after seeing completion of the Farm Credit Banks Building at Sixth and Jackson streets. He became even more involved in cooperative development work in his "retirement."

From 1971 to 1980, he served on teams that helped build cooperative banking systems in India, Honduras, Liberia, Ecuador, Kenya, and Botswana, and served in advisory positions for projects supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, and the Cooperative League of the USA. He also served for 15 years as an advisory member of the board of Land O'Lakes and as a 15-year director for St. Anthony Park Bank.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Agnes; sons, James and Daniel; grandchildren, Ted, Jon, Elizabeth, Lindsay, Jim, and Katie; and brother, Glen.

Compiled by Ann Bulger

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INSTRUCTION

BETHEL BOOK CLUB: Join us for our new study group "Alcoholics Anonymous: What the Rest of Us Can Learn from AA." This three week Book Club will begin on Monday evening, May 4th from 7:00 to 8:15 pm. Call Bethel Lutheran Church for further details on registration information at (488-6881).

LEARNING TO PRAY: Everyday Spirituality for the Common Person. A five week study group starting Thursday, May 7th. Call Bethel Lutheran Church at 488-6881 for more details or registration information.

ST. ANTHONY PARK
NURSERY SCHOOL is now accepting applications for the Fall of 1998. The Nursery School is a parent owned cooperative. School is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at the UCC Church for children ages 3.5. For more information call Sheila Richter 644-9677.

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INSTRUCTION

BETHEL BOOK CLUB: Join us for our new study group "Alcoholics Anonymous: What the Rest of Us Can Learn from AA." This three week Book Club will begin on Monday evening, May 4th from 7:00 to 8:15 pm. Call Bethel Lutheran Church for further details on registration information at (488-6881).

LEARNING TO PRAY: Everyday Spirituality for the Common Person. A five week study group starting Thursday, May 7th. Call Bethel Lutheran Church at 488-6881 for more details or registration information.

ST. ANTHONY PARK NURSERY SCHOOL is now accepting applications for the Fall of 1998. The Nursery School is a parent owned cooperative. School is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at the UCC Church for children ages 3.5. For more information call Sheila Richter 644-9677.

HATHA YOGA. JOIN HOLLY HOUSE FOR a manageable introduction to this ancient practice. Learn to experience its many physical, mental and spiritual benefits. Experienced teacher, private space, central location. New 6 class sessions meets Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm. Call (612) 645-0951 to reserve your space.

PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATES UNLIMITED MUSIC STUDIO: Voice/Piano Lessons for Children/Adults, designed to meet individual student needs, interests, ability level. Ms.Ed., M.A. Degrees, UMN, 487-0362.

FREEBIES


SWISS GARDENS: An old-world approach to the art of distinctive landscape design and installation. Call Philippe at 642-9985.

TAX PREPARATION by appointment, 489-2833, $50 minimum.

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR. MacPul certified. Call Dorothy Toutegard, 218-682-2079.

CHILD CARE

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY CHILD CARE CENTER

Rossville. Serving ages 16 months through 5 years. Open 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. For information, please call 636-4495.

WANTED

TOWN CASHPaid: Old Furniture (All Types)-Also Rugs-Pictures-Frames-Clocks-Toys-Lamps-Glassware-Wooden File Cabinets-Trunks-Linen-Pottery-Indian Items-Old Sports Equipment-Old Bikes-Pedal Cars-"ANYTHING OLD". Call 227-2469 Anytime!!!

WANTED: OLD TOYS-cast iron, die cast, tin. 644-1866.

SALES

ANNUAL Rummage & Bake Sale Prospect Park Cooperative Nursery School, Sat. April 18, 9-3 p.m. 22 Oriole Ave. SE, Mpls. Items for the whole family. Kids' stuff galore!

GARAGE SALE: Rosellel ECFE Stuff Sale. Used children's clothing, toys, equipment. April 4th, 9:00 - 1:30. For safety reasons, no strollers allowed. 1910 West County Road B.

HOME SERVICES


CARPET CLEANING 2Rm's $34.95. Additional Rm's $10.00. Call Larry 780-9097


ALL YOUR INTERIOR & EXTERIOR painting, staining, patching, enamel painting, reasonable & professional. LeValle Painting. 483-9634.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified deadline: April 17, 6 p.m.

Type your ad. Our style is to put the first few words in capital letters.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PASSPORT PHOTOS $10.00 + tax, International Institute, 1694 Como Ave. Hours Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 noon; 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
That credential enabled her to spend the following summer as an intern for the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

Volunteering has since become a way of life. For 11 years, she and her husband, Dick, were leaders of the church youth group. Every year they and Dick go to Brooklyn Park Historic Farm where she loves to demonstrate sewing on a treadle machine, work on quilting, and do handwork. She also co-chairs the Corinth Christi rummage sale, this being the sixth year in a row for her.

Winkel also does work that is not volunteer. She’s active with her own business, “Nancy Winkel, Seamstress. Specializing in children’s aprons, bonnets, and cowboy vests.” “What could be more fun,” she explained, “than picking up the phone and hearing someone wants a bonnet like the one they saw at Gibbs Farm?” She also works part-time on the St. Paul campus at the East Browne Conference Center. She is the office coordinator of the computer lab, as well as speaker to groups considering holding a conference at the university.

“Always, though,” she said, “I’ve kept Wednesday open for the Leisure Center.” It is a place where she enjoys “sharing my gifts and doing for others.” There seems to be something more than a full lunch involved.