

Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale & Northwest Como Park

Volume 29, Number 9 / March 2003



The South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Avenue, which had been threatened with closing, has won a reprieve from the city. For now, the center will remain open, though its future is still uncertain. The building also houses the District 12 Community Council office.

St. Anthony Park organizations plan neighborhood profile

Researcher Lanegran to spearhead study

by Judy Woodward

What do St. Anthony Park, Boston's back bay district and the Berkeley hills have in common? According to David Lanegran, Macalester College geography professor, all three have a greater "sense of place" than almost anywhere else in America.

Lanegran should know. Fifteen years ago, he literally wrote the book on St. Anthony Park. His 1987 work, "St. Anthony Park: Portrait of a Community," is widely considered the most definitive account ever written of the history and culture of the St. Paul neighborhood.

This spring, Lanegran and his students will update that study for a new generation. The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the District 12 Community Council have commissioned Lanegran to take another look at the neighborhood and prepare a profile that identifies current demographic and land use trends.

The first step in that undertaking is a community satisfaction survey of people who live or work in the St. Anthony Park area, including University Grove.

The survey is available at the St. Anthony Park Library or on the Foundation's Web site: www.sapfoundation.org. Completed surveys will be accepted through Sunday, March 16. Survey results will be presented at a community forum

on May 6.

Lanegran is not anticipating many surprises in revisiting a neighborhood he calls a model for self-confident urban life.

As he explains, "There's a cliché in urban planning: 'The key to a successful city is people's confidence in their neighborhoods.' St. Anthony Park is the epitome of the cliché. As soon as people from the Park open their mouths, they'll tell you what a great place it is."

"There's a sense of responsibility for each other that distinguishes St. Anthony Park."

—David Lanegran

Nor does Lanegran believe that the neighborhood's confidence springs from empty boosterism.

Although he disclaims any special knowledge of the "secret" of the area's success, Lanegran is not hesitant to make some educated guesses about what it is that keeps that "sense of place" alive.

"There are long-term families living there, some for four generations. They bring a sense of old-fashioned human relations and conservative social values, not based on judging people by their money. There's a sense of responsibility for each other that distinguishes St. Anthony Park."

As a geographer, Lanegran has trained himself to be an interpreter of what he calls the "proclaimed landscape." That's the collection of signs and clues, both conscious and unconscious,

Neighborhood profile to page 12

South St. Anthony Rec Center closing averted

Reprieve may be short-lived as city deals with budget cuts

by Dave Healy

After threatening to close nine part-time recreation centers in St. Paul, Mayor Randy Kelly announced that he will not include that recommendation as part of his immediate budget-balancing plan. However, continuing city funding of rec centers is still in doubt.

The South St. Anthony center was one of the nine facilities slated to close. While it will remain open for now, the city will probably revisit the issue—if not this year, then almost certainly for 2004.

Anticipating that the South St. Anthony center may not be off the chopping block, the District 12 Community Council has scheduled a public meeting at the center on Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss options for keeping the facility open in case city funds are withdrawn sometime in the future.

The proposed rec center closings were part of a city budget-cutting response to projected state revenue shortfalls and would have been one of several measures implemented in St. Paul as a result of anticipated

"We'll probably have to keep looking at ways to keep the South St. Anthony Rec Center open. I don't think we're out of the woods yet."

—Sherm Eagles, co-chair
District 12 Community Council

According to Matt Smith, director of financial services for the city, St. Paul's 2003 budget and tax levy were determined in anticipation of an LGA payment of \$76 million. Any reductions in that amount would have to be

made up by cuts in the city's budget since there is no practical way to increase revenue for this fiscal year.

City officials have been

preparing for a cut of at least \$13 million in LGA this year.

That figure represents a 17 percent reduction from the budgeted payment of \$76 million. St. Paul's LGA payment accounts for 43 percent of the city's total annual budget.

At a February 11 town meeting hosted by Ward 4 City Council Member Jay Benanav, several people voiced opposition to the planned rec center closings.

Closing averted to page 15

Biotechnology incubator one of several ideas for former H.B. Fuller site on Energy Park Dr.

by Susan Conner

Vacant for almost two years now, the former site of H.B. Fuller, located on Energy Park Drive just east of Highway 280, is still waiting for a new use.

In the fall of 2000, the property's new owner, developer CSM, met with the District 12 Community Council. CSM was seeking neighborhood input to guide their search for a new tenant.

CSM's Dave Carland said that whatever his company does there, "it will certainly be compatible with the neighborhood. I know that there have been all kinds of rumors, but it's not going to be a McDonalds and it's not going to be a stadium."

Asked what it may be, Carland said "I don't know yet."

Rose Gregoire, of the District 12 Physical Planning Committee, remembers the meeting with CSM and that they seemed interested in maintaining good community relations. The Community Council expressed their priorities and concerns in a

November 9, 2000 letter to Donna Drummond of St. Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED).

The letter listed 16 priorities for the H.B. Fuller site. These were grouped into four areas of concern:

1. Having a developer collaborate with the neighborhood.
 2. Maintaining sensitivity to environmental issues, including protecting watersheds and natural buffers.
 3. Making any development of the site compatible with the south St. Anthony Park 40-acre study, which seeks to further connect the residential areas of north and south St. Anthony Park.
 4. Assuring that any development be a long-term economic and social investment.
- A copy of the letter is

available for inspection at the District 12 office, 890 Cromwell Avenue.

Currently at least one idea for the site is being explored by the city of St. Paul and the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota. According to PED's

Howard Orenstein, the city and the University have talked about the possibility of a biotechnology

incubator on the site.

This facility would work with fledgling biotech companies that have begun at the University but have grown enough to leave the campus and prepare for going off on their own.

"The facility would lease laboratory space to them and help them with business planning and whatever they might need to spin out and grow," said Orenstein. He added that the H.B. Fuller site is only one of several possible they are considering and that much planning and negotiating remain to be done.

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The Langford Park Booster Club serves to organize, promote and sponsor recreational, athletic, social and civic activities for the benefit, enjoyment and advancement, especially for the young people of the St. Anthony Park community.

Como Park

The long-awaited renovation of Midway Parkway is being planned for 2005. District 10 will be working with St. Paul's Department of Public Works to complete plans. The project will involve a complete renovation of the parkway and its service roads. This will include new streets, curbs and gutters, storm sewers, trees and enhanced lighting. The project will be paid for through a combination of municipal state aid funds and St. Paul's Residential Streets Vitality Program.

Falcon Heights

The city is considering whether to permit a farmers market to operate on an interim basis at 2025 W. Larpenteur. Residents are encouraged to stop in at City Hall or contact Heather Worthington, city administrator, if they have questions about the Southeast Corner redevelopment or farmers market projects.

St. Anthony Park

About 40 people attended the Community Council meeting on February 13 to present a resolution against a war with Iraq. The resolution was put forward by representatives of St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council voted to amend the original resolution to bring it into line with one that Ward 4 City Council Member Jay Benanav had drafted to bring to the St. Paul City Council.

The resolution that the Community Council passed on a voice vote reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, the city of Saint Paul has used its authority

to take positions on international issues when such issues have a profound local dimension, such as this Council's resolution in 1987 suspending city investments in South Africa under Apartheid; and

"WHEREAS, resolutions opposing military action against Iraq have been adopted by numerous City Councils including the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Albuquerque, New Haven, Seattle, and 64 other cities and counties as well as the states of Maine and Hawaii; and

"WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops have also passed resolutions opposing military action against Iraq; and

"WHEREAS, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has expressed its support for continued diplomatic efforts and opposes unilateral military action; and

"WHEREAS, U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum has been contacted by more than 2,500 constituents who overwhelmingly are opposed to unilateral military action; and

"WHEREAS, it is estimated that a unilateral war on Iraq will cost at least \$100 billion, at a time when the American economy is struggling and at a time when the federal government is operating with a deficit; and

"WHEREAS, it is estimated that the State of Minnesota will be expected to bear \$1.4 billion of the cost of a war on Iraq; and

"WHEREAS, events in the world affect our neighborhood; and

"WHEREAS, the St. Anthony Park Community Council cannot speak for all

residents but has been asked by concerned residents to speak out on this grave issue facing our nation; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, that the St. Anthony Park Community Council urges all city, state, and national elected officials to continue seeking a peaceful resolution of issues with Iraq in concert with international institutions and law; and be it further

"RESOLVED, that the St. Anthony Park Community Council specifically opposes preemptive war against Iraq."

St. Paul

Eureka Recycling, St. Paul's nonprofit recycling partner, has received a STAR loan to develop a recycling processing facility, also known as a material recovery facility (MRF), for the city's recyclable materials.

At an MRF, recyclable materials are sorted, prepared and then shipped to various markets. Since the closing of Ramsey County's Rice Street facility in 2001, Eureka Recycling has contracted with Waste Management to process the materials that are picked up at the curb in St. Paul.

Eureka Recycling has also partnered with Vasko Rubbish and Recycling to provide residents and businesses with a free drop-off recycling site.

At the Vasko drop-off site at 309 Como Avenue, recyclable materials are collected in large roll-off containers and later hauled away for processing at a different facility. Residents and businesses can drop off paper, cardboard, cans, glass and plastic bottles at Vasko for no charge.

—compiled by Susan Conner

Great News...

Spring is coming!

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Lutherans Launch Little Light Music in March

Metropolitan Symphony performs Mahler on March 16

by Michelle Christianson

Have you been yearning to hear the lush, full sound of a symphony orchestra, but haven't wanted to face the crowds and parking at Orchestra Hall? Perhaps you love the encompassing harmonies and roaring dissonances in Gustav Mahler's works, but a recording just doesn't do it justice. Or maybe you're only looking for an afternoon of free entertainment.

Then you need to come to St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on March 16 at 4 p.m. to hear the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra play Mahler's Sixth Symphony, along with two other short works.

The church's wonderful acoustics and open stage make it a natural performance space. Although the sanctuary will hold 325 people, you may want to come early to get a good seat, or to bid on items in the silent auction.

All MSO concerts are free, and the auction is their only fund-raising event for the year. Money to cover operating expenses (music, equipment, rentals) comes from this auction and from individual donations. This covers a budget of \$52,000.

The 70-80 musicians come from all over the metropolitan area and donate their considerable skills because they "can't imagine life without music," according to Katherine Eklund, the orchestra's general manager. Most members have professional day jobs, yet they manage to attend five or six rehearsals for each of the six concerts they are playing this year.

"The challenge of the repertoire draws people in and makes them want to stay," said Eklund.

The mission of the MSO is twofold: "to provide an opportunity for skilled volunteer musicians to perform symphonic music of all periods and styles at the highest artistic level, and to give the public unique access to symphonic music by performing throughout the metropolitan area at no charge."

The orchestra reaches a larger audience

through broadcasts on Minnesota Public Radio. It has been described as one of Minnesota's most highly regarded civic orchestral ensembles.

The MSO is celebrating its 20th anniversary. It was founded by a group of St. Olaf College graduates who missed playing together. They were then known as the Central Chamber Orchestra and practiced at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis under the direction of Steven Amundson (who has been the St. Olaf orchestra director for the last 22 years). William Intriligator and Manny Laureano succeeded Amundson, and the current director is William Schrickel, who also directs the St. Cloud Symphony.

Schrickel, a double bass player, has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra and is currently a member of the Hill House Chamber Players. He became assistant conductor of the MSO in 1997 and has been the conductor for three years. He is excited about this concert for many reasons.

"We have wanted to play in this area and at this particular church for a long time, and we hope this is the first of many concerts," says Schrickel. "Plus, the Mahler is an orchestral and psychological journey through many complex human emotions, dealing with fate and death. And this orchestra is certainly up to the task. People from other parts of the country are amazed that I can do this kind of program with a volunteer orchestra, but I never have any doubts about these wonderful players."

The two other pieces on the program are "Russian Funeral" by Benjamin Britten, a work for brass and percussion that was lost for 44 years after its premiere, and "Deaths of the Angels" by Osvaldo Golijov, a "sublimated tango" for strings written as an homage to Astor Piazzolla. Both works are evocative of Mahler's "dark, beautiful and sensual" style, according to Schrickel.

The concert is free and open to the public.

March 30 concert showcases congregation's composers

by Mary Mergenthal

Whether the weather is cold or balmy, lively music is sure to make it better. Since 1999, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church has offered musical balm for winter chills. Its Little Light Music Series has included a variety of vocal and instrumental offerings, nearly always by congregational members.

Lisa Habeck headed the series in 1999, and Mari Espeland took over in 2000 and 2002. (The 2001 series had to be cancelled due to renovation of the church's sanctuary.) This year Mary Mergenthal has joined Espeland in planning the series.

This year's series includes two concerts, one featuring the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m. (see article above) and the second showcasing work of composers who are members of the congregation. That special and unusual concert is set for Sunday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

Not many congregations can boast enough

composers to fill an entire concert. In fact, the planners had to be selective. If all published or prepared work of these composers were included, the concert would have lasted for hours.

The March 30 concert includes works by the following composers: Glenn Berg-Moberg, church pastor; Sara Birkeland, director of choral activities; Gerhard Cartford, retired professor and missionary; Barbara Burk, local nursery school teacher; David Ryan Moberg, an active composer as well as an airline pilot; Dadee Reilly, composer, author and retired teacher; and Hobby Weiss, 1997 graduate of Central High School, who will perform with a Central friend, David Douglas.

The performers will include about 100 people of all ages. The children's choirs (grades 1-6) will sing, as will the junior/senior high school choir. The adult chapel choir will sing alone and with the choir of Faith Chinese Lutheran Church, which worships in the same

Light Music to page 20



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A free celebration "In the Spirit of Martin" for all ages, with stories, poetry, and collage-making, in conjunction with the art exhibit about the inspiration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Saturday, March 15, noon to 4 p.m.

Summer Youth Programs

For kids ages 5 to 15, featuring week-long adventures in a whole world of exploration: animals, astronomy, computer science, math, sound recording, journalism, magic, self-defense, and all kinds of sports! Each day's session begins and ends on the St. Paul campus. For further information or to register, see www.recsports.umn.edu/youth or call 612-625-2242.

Classes Without Quizzes

A day of fun and education about food, the weather, insects, energy, and the environment, from the researchers at the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences. Saturday, April 5, on the St. Paul campus. Look for details at alumni.coafes.umn.edu/forum or call 612-624-3009.

Creature Features: A Day of Wildlife in Film and Video

At the Bell Museum of Natural History Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call 612-624-7083 or see www.bellmuseum.org.

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EDITORIAL

Deciding what's essential

Minnesota residents have had occasion of late to reflect on what just what are "essential services." In the face of looming budget deficits, the governor and other state officials have warned of significant cuts for many programs, and because counties and cities receive state funds, those cuts will affect every level of government. The word from on high is that Minnesotans should expect reductions in "non-essential services."

In St. Paul, Mayor Kelly has been anticipating at least a 13 percent cut in local government aid, money the city receives from the state. LGA accounts for a good chunk of St. Paul's total budget, so the reduction will be keenly felt. And since the city's 2003 budget was already set by the time the state deficit hit the fan, Kelly is in the awkward position of trying to re-balance the books mid-stream.

The mayor, sensitive to the fallout from taking back money that people were counting on, has tried to reassure city residents that there will be minimal cuts to essential services. But how does one decide what's essential?

Police and fire protection head many people's list, and Kelly has said that no St. Paul police officers or fire fighters will lose their job. But there may be certain "efficiencies" achieved by not purchasing new equipment or by closing some stations.

Presumably, roads will still get plowed for the rest of the winter—if, indeed, winter ever decides to quit harassing the rest of the country and get back to doing its business here in the upper Midwest. Actually, the city is still carrying a surplus in its plowing budget, owing to last year's mild winter, so our lack of snow will end up easing the cost-cutting pain in other areas, at least for this year.

For this year—aye, there's the rub. Because whatever distress St. Paul has to endure in 2003 is almost certainly just a prelude for an even bigger axe that will fall in 2004. So the tough decisions will continue for awhile, and some things that appear to have escaped the first round of cuts will doubtless be, in politico-speak, "on the table" again.

In St. Anthony Park, budget talk hit home with the threatened closing of the South St. Anthony recreation center. Though the center is located in south St. Anthony Park, its demise would affect north St. Anthony Park residents as well since the Langford and South St. Anthony centers cooperate on programming. Closing SSA would also affect the St. Anthony Park Community Council, which has its office in the building and uses the facility for committee, board and community meetings.

The SSA center appears to be off the table—for now, at least. But neighborhood residents, huddled anxiously under the table, are waiting for the other shoe to drop, and when it does it will probably be a basketball or soccer shoe.

So, is a recreation center a non-essential service? How about a community council? Or a library? The St. Anthony Park neighborhood has one of those, too. Are books and magazines non-essential?

One assumption behind closing part-time rec centers or branch libraries is that people can still avail themselves of those services by driving or busing to larger facilities. Which means that kids can't walk or bike to the rec center or library after school. Which means that we become even more dependent on the vehicles that depend on the oil that depends on geopolitical realities that some of our leaders are prepared to go to war over.

So we'll cut non-essential services. But who will tell us what those are?

Participatory democracy

On Thursday, February 13, I learned again why St. Anthony Park is such a great neighborhood. I attended the meeting of the District 12 Community Council and saw real participatory democracy at work.

The Community Council consists of the most local of elected officials. At their last meeting the room was crammed with 48 visitors, filling every chair and spilling out into the hall.

St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace, a local grassroots group now numbering over 150, presented a resolution opposing preemptive war against Iraq.

They also presented copies of a petition signed by 227 neighborhood residents opposing the war, and a list of over 90 cities and counties that have so far passed anti-war resolutions (including Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco).

The Council gave serious and respectful attention to the issue. They discussed whether their mission and by-laws allowed them to deal with a national issue.

They agreed this was not a partisan issue but one reflecting the values and concerns of a great many in the neighborhood.

They finally decided by overwhelming voice vote that as an elected community organization they should carry the voice of residents to other units of government.

The final form of the resolution that was adopted included seven points made in a resolution that Jay Benanav presented on February 19 to the St. Paul City Council. These expand the reasons why a local unit of government should speak

out on a national issue.

The bottom line: "The St. Anthony Park Community Council urges all city, state, and national elected officials to continue seeking a peaceful resolution of issues with Iraq in concert with international institutions and law, and . . . specifically opposes preemptive war against Iraq."

I came away from the meeting feeling St. Anthony Park can be truly proud of our Community Council members, who serve long hours and without pay to study the issues of concern to the neighborhood.

On the basis of their judgment and collective wisdom, they make recommendations to city, state, and in this case national officials. That is really democracy at work.

Sheila Richter
St. Anthony Park

Keep district councils

Dear Mayor Kelly and St. Paul City Councilmembers:

We are relieved to hear that the proposed closing of several recreation centers in the city is being reconsidered. Thank you!

Recreational sports help bring communities together and relieve tensions, and the centers provide recognized meeting places for many other activities.

Among these activities are meetings of district councils. We have heard rumors that you may be considering discontinuing the district council system in St. Paul. We hope this is not true and that you recognize how important our district and neighborhood councils are.

First, councils are an

excellent way for residents and business people to learn firsthand about democratic governance. The complexity of many problems soon becomes apparent as council members work to resolve them.

Furthermore, members develop broader vision as they learn how proposed decisions will affect others in the neighborhood and the wider community. District councils have helped heal disagreements and promote consensus.

Second, St. Paul has had the benefit of the knowledge and personal investment of hundreds of local volunteers for over 27 years. Although only a few volunteers serve as elected members of councils, many more neighbors have served as ad hoc members of council committees.

Lawyers, scientists, librarians, developers, small business owners, homemakers, engineers and others have brought their expertise and commitment to bear on numerous issues.

And third, what better way could there be for our mayor and city council to learn what neighborhoods and their businesses want and need, than to have issues discussed at the local level and to receive their recommendations?

The mayor and city council rarely have the time to thoroughly consider all the issues with which they are faced and must rely on others, like city administrators, to provide analyses and recommendations. Such technical and policy input is crucial, but insufficient.

In our experience, local perspective and support for these decisions is best achieved through

Letters to page 5

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Notice:

The Bugle continues to receive reports from some people who do not receive the paper. If you live in north or south St. Anthony Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale or Como Park west of Hamline, the Bugle should be delivered to your house each month.

If you are willing to serve as a delivery monitor in your neighborhood, please contact us at bugle@minn.net or 646-5369.

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Letters from page 5

district councils.

St. Paul's 19 district and neighborhood councils provide outstanding benefits for their modest cost. We urge your continued commitment and support for district councils in St. Paul.

Michael and Regula Ruselle
St. Anthony Park

Essential public places

The threatened closing of the South St. Anthony Recreation Center is just the latest crisis involving the "commons" in St. Anthony Park. It is to this community's great credit that it has repeatedly stepped forward with creative ways to partner with private and public organizations to retain and improve its common spaces.

St. Paul prides itself on being a city of neighborhoods, and St. Anthony Park prides itself on being a "village" in the city. The kind of connection, neighborliness if you will, required to maintain this feeling necessitates welcoming public spaces where people can gather. Recreation centers are one of those places—as are libraries, community gardens and tennis courts.

It is clear that it is not sufficient to demand that we be taken care of by government—at any level. It is our responsibility as citizens to be involved, to understand the consequences of our choices and to find ways to achieve our common goals.

It is also clear that we cannot do this alone, that it is imperative that our government join with us in finding solutions when the common good is at stake. We have been successful at doing this in the past, and I trust will continue to be successful in the future.

When 40 people turn out—on less than a day's notice—to help distribute flyers about the impending closing of the SSA recreation center, it is clear that this neighborhood continues to value its commons.

Even as many in our country and our state turn away from the idea that they are responsible for maintaining the common good, suggesting that they only need be concerned with what they themselves use, many in our neighborhood continue to strive for the ideal of community.

It is unclear what will happen with the SSA recreation center. But if the city administration includes our neighborhood in its deliberations, I am confident that a creative solution can be reached that will result in increasing the pride we feel living in St. Anthony Park and in St. Paul.

Mary Pipher, considered one of the great wise women of modern psychology, has said that civilization is built on a single word: welcome. For a neighborhood, hospitality is found in the creation of welcoming common spaces. It is this, perhaps more than anything else, that measures our civility.

Sherman Eagles
St. Anthony Park

Rethinking accountability

Of all the gulfs that separate one world from another, sometimes none is greater than the gap between the people who make policy and the people who are

subject to that policy. It's the difference between adults who exhort us to hold our educational system "accountable" and a nine-year-old who has come to hate school.

Paul Wellstone had this to say about accountability: "Making students accountable for test scores works well on a bumper sticker, and it allows many politicians to look good by saying that they will not tolerate failure. But it represents a hollow promise. Far from inspiring education, high-stakes testing marks a major retreat from fairness, from accuracy and from quality."

We should not sacrifice children's learning on the altar of accountability. Of course, we can succeed in raising average test scores. We eliminate music and the arts, cut back on discussions, offer less time to read books for pleasure, and instead spend time teaching test-taking tricks. You know what? That means the results mean less.

As parents and citizens, we need to knock out these drills and too-frequent tests. To do that, though, we need a sustained critique of policy makers who are junking the Profile of Learning. Also, there is room for a range of local and state strategies, from letters like this one all the way to filing lawsuits against the tests.

I am gathering signatures on a petition against teaching to tests. Contact me at 2324 Hillside Avenue, St. Paul, 55108 or 646-0091.

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Members of Como High School's child development class work with children as part of the Castle Preschool program. The three-day-a-week, eight-week spring program runs from March 24 through May 21.

Como High's Castle Preschool seeks students

by Lisa Steinmann

Have a toddler at home who wants to go to school like a "big kid?" You could send that child to high school.

Como High's Castle Preschool will begin its spring program on March 24 at the high school, 740 Rose Avenue West. Three-day-a-week sessions run from 9:55-11:40 a.m. M-W and will continue for eight weeks through May 21. The school accepts children ages 3-5.

Castle Preschool is part of a child development class offered to Como Senior High students through the school's Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

The class, taught by Como's Mary Langlois, started at the end of January. Currently, Langlois' students are studying child development and honing their skills in lesson planning and storytelling, while looking forward to meeting their young charges on March 24.

Castle Preschool has a long history in the community. According to Langlois, it dates back to the mid-1960s, when

Medora "Ma" Brown taught home economics at what was then Murray High School. When Murray was converted to a junior high, Brown moved to Como Senior High and brought the preschool program with her.

Langlois, who had done her student teaching at Murray with Brown, took over Brown's position when she retired in 1992. Langlois also inherited the castle, the namesake of the preschool.

The wooden castle, designed and built by Como wood shop students, stands about 15 feet high. Its handsomely painted gray and black bricks and arched windows inspire a knights and dragon fantasy.

The castle's three play areas include a puppet show window on the ground floor and a fire fighter's pole on the second level. To reach the cozy reading nook on the third level, children climb a short ladder. A slide gives them a quick way to reach the floor again.

Langlois oversees the

program but makes it clear that the high school students are the teachers. "It is just fabulous," she says, "to see the students work with these young children. They put in extra, extra effort." She is proud to point out that many of her students go on to careers in early childhood or elementary education.

At Como, students work in teams of six or seven and take turns planning lessons, teaching and observing. Activities cover art, music, math and science. The classroom is equipped with a generous supply of books, paints, puzzles and games.

Castle Preschool's program is open to any child age 3-5. A fee of \$40 covers the cost of snacks and supplies. The spring session runs for eight weeks, from March 24-May 21.

Registrations—including an application form, health record and photo—are due by March 15. For registration information, contact Mary Langlois at 293-8800 ext. 1161, or www.mary.langlois@spps.org.

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Local schools learn to play numbers game

by Dave Healy

For parents and children, school choice is a two-sided coin. One side says "freedom"—to select from a smorgasbord of educational options, to match a student's unique needs with a school's distinctive offerings, to evaluate options according to one's own criteria. The other side of the school choice coin says "responsibility"—to systematically evaluate all the possibilities, to assess each child's strengths and weaknesses, to make an informed decision about something with life-long consequences.

Many parents, while they welcome the freedom that comes with school choice, end up feeling overwhelmed with the whole process. Kindergarten roundups, open houses, phone calls, Web sites, applications, waiting lists—the task of picking just the right school can be a daunting one.

But school choice doesn't just affect students and parents. It's also dramatically changed the way schools operate. In a world of educational alternatives, teachers and administrators increasingly have to think like marketers—sizing up the competition, positioning themselves in the marketplace, crafting an image.

In the words of Winston Tucker, principal of Murray Junior High School, "We've had to become more adept at getting out our message. We're busy just doing what we do, but that's not always enough. You have to show people what you do."

For Tucker and the staff at Murray, getting out their message means trying to reach the entire city. That's because Murray, like all secondary schools in St. Paul, is a magnet. Although magnet

schools have specific attendance areas and must accept any neighborhood student who wants to attend, they can and do draw from all over. Murray has students from every part of the city.

"We've had to become more adept at getting out our message. We're busy just doing what we do, but that's not always enough. You have to show people what you do."

—Winston Tucker, principal
Murray Junior High School

Magnet schools were originally designed as a desegregation tool, an alternative to forced busing. School boards used a district's overall minority population to determine guidelines for individual school enrollments. The idea behind magnets was to target schools that were out of compliance with minority enrollment guidelines and institute programs that would make those schools attractive to non-minority students.

St. Paul started with one magnet school, Central High School. Others were added until eventually all the city's secondary schools were designated as magnet or open enrollment schools. Today, the idea of magnets as a means of voluntary desegregation has given way to magnets as the embodiment of school choice: distinguishing different schools from each other so that parents and students have visible and viable options.

Murray is a math-science magnet. While it, like any junior high in St. Paul, offers a standard curriculum, Murray specializes in math and science offerings, and hopes to attract students who are especially interested in those subjects. That also means special emphasis on such things as the school science fair (the largest junior high fair in the state) and

math team, as well as participation in the University of Minnesota's Talented Youth Math Project.

But as Tucker points out, it's not enough just to offer those programs; Murray also has to publicize them. They do that by participating in the citywide Parent Information Fair, held February 1 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium, and by hosting their own showcase, which

was February 11 at the school. Murray also maintains a Web site (<http://murray.spps.org>), publishes a quarterly newsletter, and maintains several brochures and parent information guides.

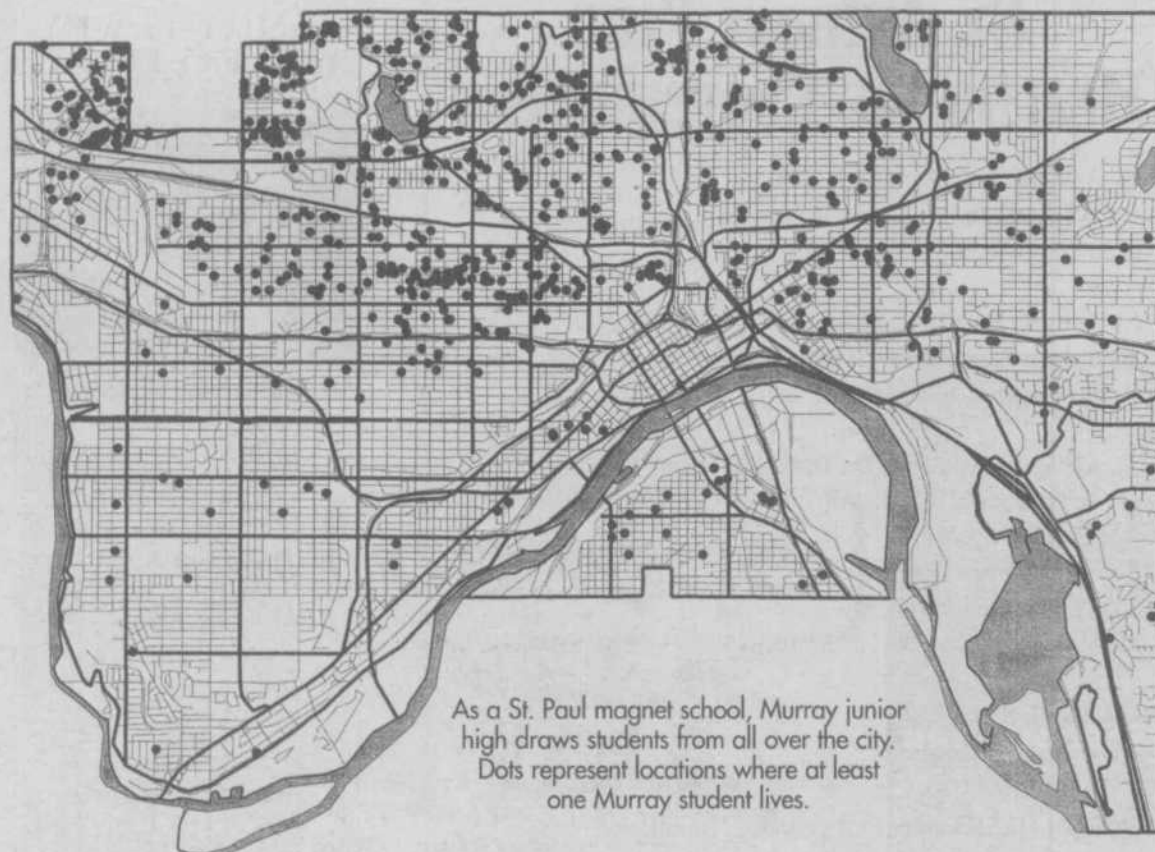
All this is part and parcel of being a secondary school in St. Paul in the 21st century. "The competition is only going to get greater," says Tucker. "Schools that aren't poised to capture a market are going to suffer."

Things are different at the elementary level. There, 20 of the city's 53 schools are traditional neighborhood schools, while the rest are magnet or citywide option schools. Students from outside the attendance area of a neighborhood school can attend there, but the school cannot recruit outside its area.

That puts neighborhood schools at a competitive disadvantage, according to Chuck Wollmering, principal at Chelsea Heights Elementary. "It's not a level playing field," he says. "We can't recruit students. Instead, what we emphasize is retention—keeping the students we have."

Retaining students becomes more difficult each year as educational options proliferate. Public schools have always competed with private schools.

Numbers game to page 14



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Minnesota Citizens for the Arts gets award

by Amy Causton

Another local arts organization is being recognized for its good work. Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, located at 2233 University Avenue, recently received the 2002 U.S. Bank Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Commitment.

The award is given in four categories each year (vision, initiative, commitment and education) by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and U.S. Bank for contributions to the arts community. Winners receive a crystal trophy and a \$2500 cash award.

Commitment is nothing new to MCA. For over 25 years, this grass-roots advocacy organization has been lobbying the state legislature and Congress on behalf of the arts.

According to Executive Director Sheila Smith, MCA works in five main areas: assuring state and federal funding of nonprofit arts organizations, pursuing legislation that promotes philanthropy and charitable giving, working to promote arts education as a basic requirement in schools, ensuring that NEA funding comes to Minnesota, and building cultural institutions through state bonding.

MCA has a staff of only three people, but it has a much larger voice, thanks to its grass-roots nature. Arts organizations all over the state are members of MCA and pay dues, which help to maintain a large database of artists and arts groups throughout the state. When an arts-related issue comes up in a specific area, MCA contacts supporters in that area and asks them to lobby their legislators.

Board member and St. Anthony Park resident Craig Dunn says MCA "represents all of the arts organizations around the state, not just the big ones, and makes sure the money gets distributed evenly. Because of that, it's a much stronger arts community."

"The arts are good for kids' brains and everybody knows it."

—Sheila Smith

MCA executive director

Dunn, who runs VSA Arts of Minnesota, an arts organization for people with disabilities that's based in Minneapolis, adds that MCA "doesn't follow any particular party line, which has been one of the organization's successes."

These are not the best of times for arts funding. The huge state deficit, coupled with the governor's promise not to raise taxes, makes it likely that there will be spending cuts across the board.

"I would expect that there will be cuts in arts funding," Smith says. "Our job is to minimize those cuts as much as we can."

Fortunately, Smith finds lots of support for the arts in the legislature. "Minnesota is unique in that the funding for the arts goes to every county," she points out, and that means that legislators from Aitkin to Zumbrota have a stake in arts funding.

Another challenge the arts face today is in the schools. Many school districts are struggling financially, and when cuts need to be made, arts

education is often one of the first things on the chopping block.

Currently, under the Profile of Learning, the arts are included as a core academic subject. However, Smith believes the Profile will be eliminated this year, and while she is neutral about the Profile itself, she wonders if the education standards that replace it will value the arts as well. She points out that studies have shown the vast majority of parents want their children exposed to the arts. "The arts are good for kids' brains and everybody knows it," she says.

Smith emphasizes that Minnesota has a vibrant and supportive arts community, particularly in the St. Anthony Park area, where MCA has been headquartered for the last year and a half. "This is a really, really good place to be," she says.

One event that MCA is working on is the annual Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on February 27. Hundreds of arts advocates from around the state will converge to show their support for the arts.

"It's one of the biggest turnouts each year" of events at the Capitol, says Dunn, who applauds MCA's "well-organized, grass-roots effort."

According to Smith, the issue facing MCA is a simple one. "The bottom line," she says, "is that state funding of the arts provides access for everyone to enjoy the arts, and that's to everyone's benefit."

Adds Dunn, "We have something to offer. If you're with us, great; if you're not with us, we'll try to persuade you."

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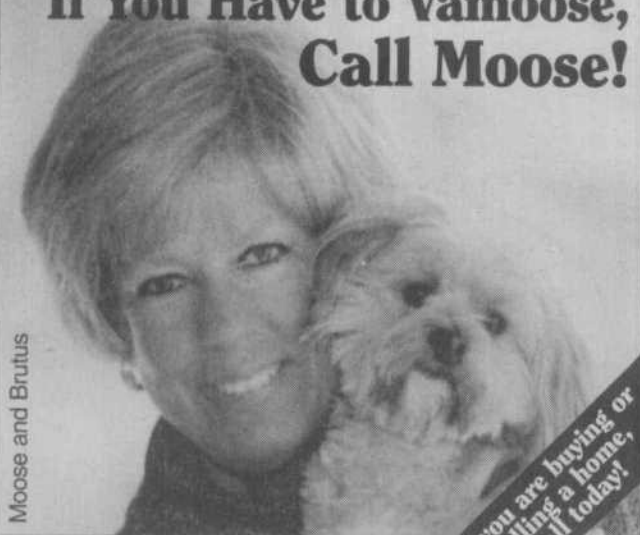
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Local labor leader Bob DeRoy retires but does not go gentle into that good night

by Judy Woodward

No one will ever accuse Bob DeRoy of being diplomatic. Pugnacious, maybe, aggressive in the manner of a guy who long ago figured out that bland civility is a mug's game—but diplomatic, no.

The long-time area labor leader will step down at the end of February, but somehow "retiring" is not a word that comes easily to mind when talking about the 63-year-old head of the District 77 Office of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, whose headquarters are in St. Anthony Park.

DeRoy is not the man to settle for spineless affability when grittier social opportunities present themselves. When people disagree with him, he is fond of making unfavorable comparisons between their intelligence and a box of rocks.

And that's only the mild stuff.

The real heavy artillery of DeRoy's disapproval is reserved for truly deserving targets—like the failure of education in recognizing the role of the union movement in American history, the media's shameless promotion of entertainment over information, and, above all, the manifest enormities of the Republican Party.

"Those Republicans have destroyed the State of Minnesota," he says.

Asked for his ideas about the upside for organized labor in these recession-prone times, DeRoy is succinct. "George W. Bush is the upside. Because everything he's doing is destroying the economy. He's brain dead."

According to DeRoy, even homeland security is part of a Republican plot. Take the recent call for Americans to stock up on duct tape and plastic sheeting as protection against biological attack. DeRoy thinks he knows the real reasons behind it.

"One of Bush's boys has a load of duct tape and he wants to dump it, along with a couple of boatloads of plastic film from the Pacific Rim," he says.

DeRoy has been a union man since 1960, when he started working as a truck mechanic. For the last 12 years he's been the director of the union's district office on Eustis Street in St. Anthony Park, where he was responsible for negotiating contracts, settling grievances and bettering the working conditions of the 4000 members in the metro area, southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. He calls

it the "most fun job I've ever had."

The union he heads was started by a group of railroad machinists in 1888. Today it's an umbrella organization for a wide range of trades, and DeRoy

"The labor movement has made the playing field somewhat more level. The only reason you're working a five-day work week, an eight-hour day is because of what we did over the years."

—Bob DeRoy

counts machinists, Northwest airline baggage handlers and ticket agents, and mechanics at most of the auto dealerships in St. Paul among the membership. (Through a fluke of labor history, auto mechanics in Minneapolis are members of the Teamsters Union.)

DeRoy leads the membership, but he also serves at their pleasure. "I had to be re-elected every year in order to stay in this job," he says.

He wants to make it clear that the average person doesn't grasp the technical demands of the machinist's trade.

"A machinist," he says, "not only makes the part, he has to have the knowledge to make it fit. People don't understand that. Too many times employers think they're smart and employees are dumb. And companies fail because of that."

DeRoy is adept at verbal jousting with unwary, non-unionized visitors, but he's less skilled at concealing the basic good nature that lurks beneath his bluster.

Many of his jabs seem designed for comic effect, with the unspoken implication that anyone who can't take a little ribbing probably shouldn't be sitting at the table with a union man in the first place.

There's one subject, however, on which he's dead serious.

"Most people have no understanding of what we've done. The labor movement has made the playing field somewhat more level," he says. "The only

reason you're working a five-day work week, an eight-hour day is because of what we did over the years. I'm not saying all employers are bad,

but you've got to have a balance, and the union creates that balance."

According to DeRoy, the unions are victims of their own success. "We've negotiated contracts for the workers that enable them to buy boats and lake homes, move to the suburbs. Pretty soon, they think they're Republicans."

Not DeRoy, though. "It's always nice when the Democrats are in office," he says. "Republicans think they have all the answers, so they don't need to listen to us."

Over the years, DeRoy has known a number of Minnesota DFLers. His favorite memory is of the time back in the early sixties when he and a couple of other union guys had breakfast with the late Hubert Humphrey.

"I asked him, 'What's the most important thing you've learned in campaigning?'"

Humphrey's answer was direct. "He told me, 'Don't ever pass up a chance to use the men's room, because you never know when you'll see another one.'"

Now that DeRoy is stepping down, does he have a parting shot?

You bet he does. "If you want to live like a Republican," he advises, "vote Democrat."

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MUFFULETTA



Fundraisers

Como Elementary School will hold a fashion show on Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m. "Grace and Glory: One Hundred Years of Women in Sports" is part of the school's "Funtastic Playground" fund drive to raise money for new playground equipment.

Cost for the fashion show is \$10, which includes refreshments. The event will take place at St. Andrew's Carroll Hall, 1050 Como Avenue.

The school is also soliciting auction items for another fundraiser: a May 15 carnival. For more information about either event, call Paul Keys at 293-8823.

An Afghan Evening will be held Saturday, March 15 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue. The event is a fundraiser for the Partnership for Education of the Children of Afghanistan, which plans to build a leadership school in Kabul.

The evening will include Middle Eastern food and music, as well as a talk by Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal, former Afghanistan Minister of Education and current executive director of the Multicultural Development Center.

Dinner will be served at 5 and 7:30 p.m., with the speaker at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and may be reserved at 645-3058 or office@stmatthewssap.org. Pre-registration is required.

e t c e t e r a

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club will sponsor a spring plant sale featuring plants for the Passover and Easter season. Order forms will be available at local businesses beginning March 15. The pickup date for plants will be Saturday, April 12.

All proceeds will benefit the butterfly garden project at the St. Anthony Park community garden. Watch for more details in the April issue of the Bugle.

Recreation Centers

Registration continues at Langford and South St. Anthony Recreation Centers for volleyball and indoor soccer for ages 5-16. Practices will begin in early March, and games start the week of March 10.

Congratulations to Langford's Winter Sports Days royalty for 2003: Prince Antonio, Jamie Fritts and Ian Babinéau; Princess Antonia, Rose Wright and Lucy Steinmann.

The winner of the medallion hunt was Alyce Eaton. Thanks to the Langford Booster Club for their support in organizing this event.

For more information on recreation activities, call Hal Holtkamp at 298-5765.

Hall of Fame

The Como High School Athletic Department is soliciting nominations for its Hall of Fame. Inductees will be former Como athletes who have made a significant contribution to society in their post-high school lives.

Nominees must have graduated from Como at least 10 years ago. Send nominations by March 15 to Bill Niemczyk, Como Park High School, 740 W. Rose Avenue, St. Paul 55108.

Gardening

Kathy Widlin will be the guest speaker at the St. Anthony Park

Garden Club's meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11 at the St. Anthony Park Library. She will talk about pests that afflict perennial and annual flowers.

Kindergarten Roundup

Como Park Elementary School invites prospective kindergartners and their families to attend an orientation from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. Interested parents should bring their child and enter at the school's lower-level at 780 W. Wheelock Parkway.

The evening will include an introduction and overview of the school's programs by principal Nancy Stachel. Parents and children will also meet teachers, receive registration and health forms, and have an opportunity to tour the school. Refreshments will be served.

Como Park Elementary offers both half-day and all-day kindergarten sessions. Before- and after-school child care is available through the S'more Fun program at the newly rebuilt North Dale recreation center.

Como also houses a community kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds. Parents of these preschool-aged children who want more information about this program should also attend the March 6 orientation.

Children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2003 to enter kindergarten. For more information, call Jennie Rosner at Como Elementary School, 293-8820.

Parish Dinner

The Church of St. Celia will host its annual parish dinner on Sunday, March 9 from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church basement.

In addition to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, the event will include a raffle and a silent auction of theme baskets.

Tickets for the dinner are \$7;

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Class Reunion

Central High School's class of 1953 will hold its 50th reunion on August 22 and 23. For more information, visit www.central.stpaul.k12.mn.us or call Truman Porter at 698-5308.

Volunteers

Children's Home Society of Minnesota is seeking volunteers for its **Befrienders program**, which introduces young mothers who have little support to older women.

Befrienders complete 17 hours of training and commit to a year-long mentoring relationship. Ongoing support is provided through group and individual consultation.

Training will take place Friday, March 28 from 12:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 29 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1605 Eustis Street. To register, or for more information, contact Volunteer Services at 255-2323 or befriender@chsm.com.

Model Railroading

The Twin City Model Railroad Museum in Bandana Square presents "A Salute to the Northern Pacific" on Sunday, March 9 from noon-5 p.m. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 647-9628 or visit www.tcmrm.org.

Seniors

The Lyngblomsten Community Center, 1415 Almond Avenue, will host **defensive driving** classes in March and April.

A four-hour refresher class will be held Monday, March 24

from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch. The cost is \$14.

An eight-hour class takes place April 21-22 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$16.

To register for either class, call the Minnesota Safety Council at 291-9150 and ask for the Lyngblomsten registration form. For further questions about the classes, call 632-5330.

Lyngblomsten is an AARP tax assistance site. The Community Center offers free tax help for seniors and low-income people Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. through mid-April. Call 632-5330 to schedule an appointment.

Arts Events

Music in the Park Series presents the Paris Piano Trio in concert on Sunday, March 2 at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Avenue.

Régis Pasquier, violin; Roland Pidoux, cello; and Jean-Claude Penner, piano will perform Beethoven's Trio in B flat major, Haydn's Trio in C major and Chausson's Trio in G minor.

The three artists, known as "Les Musiciens," met when they were students together at the National Conservatory of Music in Paris, where they are all now professors.

Tickets for the concert are \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door and \$12 for students. They are available at Biblot, Micawber's or by calling 645-5699.

Music in the Park's **Family Concerts** continue with March 14 performances by Ross Sutter and Friends. Concerts are at 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door and are available by calling 645-5699.

Classes

The University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences will host its second annual "**Classes without Quizzes**" day on Saturday, April 5 on the St. Paul campus.

University faculty and administrators will lead sessions on robots in food production, climate change, preventing bioterrorism, renewable energy, mosquitoes and other topics. The day concludes with a tour of the new Microbial and Plant Genomics building.

Registration is \$20 (including lunch) and is encouraged by March 17. For more information, visit alumni.coafes.umn.edu/forum/ or call 612-624-3009.

Luther Seminary offers a variety of classes, seminars and lectures during March.

On March 8, an all-day seminar will explore men's spirituality trends and effective men's ministry. The cost is \$7. For more information, e-mail dosotwk@luthersem.edu or call 641-3249.

On March 10, the topic will be sacred meals in Judaism and Christianity. Cost is \$30. E-mail kairos@luthersem.edu or call 641-3416.

On March 13, the Hein-Fry lecture series topic will be "Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Future of Multicultural America."



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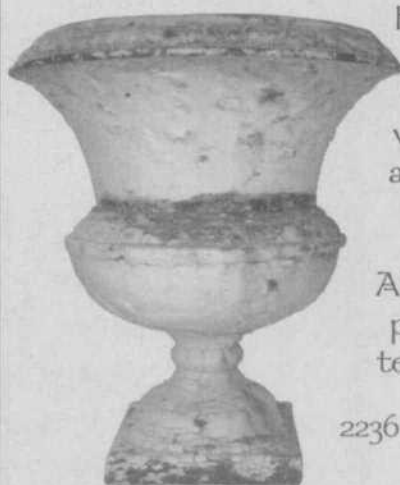


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St. Paul School District seeks input on school choice future

by Dave Healy

At a time when many parents are making their final school choice decisions for next fall, other parents, staff and community members will be discussing the future of St. Paul's entire school choice process.

Several community conversations on school choice are scheduled from February to April to gather ideas about possible ways to update the school choice process.

St. Paul is recognized nationally as a leader in school choice. Families can choose from many educational opportunities within the St. Paul School District, including charter schools, magnet/specialty schools and neighborhood schools.

Any changes resulting from the series of events on school choice will likely take effect during the school choice process for fall 2005.

"St. Paul was the first school district in the country to have a magnet school and the first to sponsor a charter school," said St. Paul Superintendent Patricia Harvey. "But we need to take a close look together at the complexity of today's school choice process and find ways to better meet the future needs of students and families."

The same topics will be discussed at all of the 90-minute meetings. Some will have a special focus, but all meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend.

Hmong, Spanish and Somali interpreters will be available at all citywide focus meetings. Child care will be provided.

For more information about the meetings, visit the school district Web site at www.spps.org or call 767-8141.

Thursday, Feb. 27
6:30-8 p.m.
El Rio Vista Community Center
179 E. Robie St.
Citywide focus

Tuesday, March 11
6-7:30 p.m.
Phalen Lake Elementary
1089 Cypress St.
Hmong language focus

Wednesday, March 12
6-7:30 p.m.
Central High School Library
275 N. Lexington Pkwy.
Citywide focus

Thursday, March 13
6-7:30 p.m.
Hazel Park Community Center
945 N. Hazel St.
Spanish language focus

Friday, March 14
6-7:30 p.m.
American Indian Magnet
1075 E. Third St.
American Indian community focus

Wednesday, March 26
6:30-8 p.m.
Highwood Hills Elementary
2188 London La.
Somali language focus

Thursday, April 3
6-7:30 p.m.
Hallie Q. Brown/
Martin Luther King Center
270 N. Kent St.
African-American community focus

Wednesday, April 30
7-8:30 p.m.
Merrick Community Center
1526 E. Sixth St.
Citywide focus

Neighborhood profile from page 1

that puts a face on a community. Old trees, nonstandardized housing, a somewhat laissez-faire attitude toward lawn maintenance and a library at the center of things all contribute to the proclaimed landscape of the neighborhood.

According to Lanegran, St. Anthony Park also reflects its proximity to the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota with its collection of "smart people who grew up in small towns."

He adds, "Eden Prairie has beautiful houses, but they're all variations of the same theme. Here the houses are all different, and the landscape proclaims that I can be my own person in St. Anthony Park."

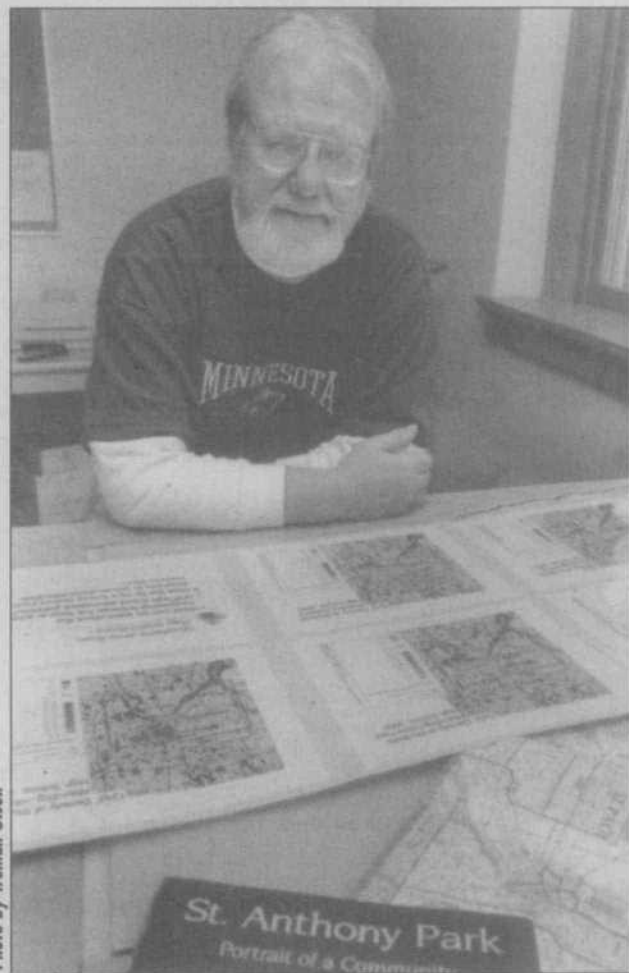
It's all a long way from where Lanegran himself grew up amid the stockyards of South St. Paul. The son of a hog salesman who was "the champion story teller of the stockyards," Lanegran, 61, developed an interest in the variety of human living spaces early on when his father took him on buying trips out to the farms and byways of greater Minnesota.

He went off to Macalester College in the early 1960s, intending to become an engineer. "But then I realized that I didn't want to," is how he explains the decision to switch majors to geography. "I'd always been interested in how people live. Everybody makes the decision about where to live. It's a survival skill."

Lanegran has been studying people's housing choices ever since—first at Macalester, then at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a Ph.D. in geography in 1970. When he was a grad student at the U in the

mid-sixties, he participated in Professor Fredric Steinhauser's groundbreaking study on St. Anthony Park.

"Community planning was just becoming fashionable then," Lanegran comments, "and St. Anthony Park and Steinhauser were always well ahead of the curve."



Urban geographer David Lanegran is updating his 1987 study of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in an effort jointly commissioned by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the District 12 Community Council.

This, however, was not Lanegran's earliest introduction to the neighborhood. As a teenager in the late 1950s, he caught his first glimpse of the area from atop a truck filled with DDT and Malathion.

In that more innocent era, as Lanegran puts it, just before the publication of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," local householders were enthusiastic clients of something called "custom mosquito spraying." Lanegran had a summer job as a sprayer, and in between bursts of insecticide, the young exterminator became fascinated

with the big urban houses he was hired to protect.

Lanegran's interest in St. Anthony Park is but one strand in his broader fascination with the metro area in general. In 1983, he and colleague Judith Martin published "Where We Live: The Residential Districts of Minneapolis and St. Paul," an

anatomy of the social and economic lives of the various neighborhoods in the Twin Cities.

Intended by its authors to be "the most significant piece of urban geography ever," the book is still cited with affection by transplants to Minnesota who based their house-hunting expeditions on the book's vivid descriptions of neighborhood character. Lanegran and Martin are now working on a similar study that will concentrate on Twin Cities' suburbs.

He may have turned his professional focus to the suburbs, but it's clear that Lanegran's personal preferences lie in an urban setting. He lives within walking distance of Macalester College in an area he describes

as "the perfect neighborhood for me. There are interesting people, and everything I want is within easy access."

He's unashamed in his preferences. "My neighborhood is better than St. Anthony Park because I have access to Grand Avenue, and the Park doesn't have anything as snazzy," he says.

Still, Lanegran concedes, "If there was another neighborhood for me to live in, it would be St. Anthony Park."

NEC gets energy audit contract

The Neighborhood Energy Consortium (NEC) has been awarded a Conservation Improvement Program contract renewal for 2003 and 2004 from Xcel Energy for residential energy audits.

In 2002, the NEC completed 2,860 residential energy audits.

During an energy audit, NEC auditors spend up to two hours inspecting homes from attic to basement and talking with residents about their energy use. Auditors use blower-door tests to check for air infiltration, conduct performance evaluations of furnaces and water heaters, analyze utility bills to identify energy use trends, and answer energy and conservation questions. Infrared scans may

also be completed to further diagnose a home's energy efficiency.

At the end of the audit, homeowners are left with written recommendations describing which measures to take to save money, ensure safety and increase comfort.

The NEC and Xcel Energy also offer the Residential Insulation Incentive Project, which provides participants a rebate of 20 percent of the cost of insulation and installation, up to a maximum rebate of \$300.

Xcel Energy customers may contact Xcel at 800/895-4999 to request a residential energy audit. Homeowners interested in the Insulation Incentive Project should contact the NEC at 221-4462, ext. 123.

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Lauderdale artist lends talents to annual spring flower show

By Dave Healy

Dan Mackerman doesn't look like the kind of guy who'd be into flower fairies.

When you shake hands with him, the impression is of someone who'd be at home wrestling huge pieces of iron into place for some kind of massive public art installation.

Instead, a visit to his studio at 2402 University Avenue finds him constructing transparent plastic fairies' wings on a home-made gizmo that would make Rube Goldberg proud.

The flower fairies Mackerman and his partner Kevin Noteboom are working on will be part of the 39th annual Marshall Field's/Bachman's spring flower show. The event opens Saturday, March 15 and runs through Sunday, March 30 in the eighth-floor auditorium of Marshall Field's downtown Minneapolis store.

Mackerman's studio is part work place, part museum. In addition to a variety of current projects, the space houses a motley cast of characters from previous Marshall Field's (nee Dayton's) shows. Disembodied heads line several shelves—gnomes and elves and who-knows-whats.

Mackerman, who lives in Lauderdale, is part of a team of artists who combine their talents on the animated figures that will complement London florist Paula Pryke's flower arrangements for the March show.

The figures start with Mackerman, who sculpts them from a non-drying oil-based clay.

Then they go to another studio, where a silicone mold is fashioned from the clay figures.

Next, figures are cast from the molds using urethane foam with a polyester resin "skin."

Animated figures are fitted onto a welded metal armature, and the results come back to Mackerman for painting and decorating.

Finally, the figures are sent out for costuming.

Figures for this year's show were inspired by a book called "Flower Fairies' Secret World" by early 20th-century English watercolorist Cicely Mary Barker.

Mackerman's creations will



take their place among thousands of plants, including 75 varieties of flowering trees, shrubs and vines, as well as 50 kinds of roses, bulbs and other perennials.

In addition, the 4,500 square foot show will include cobblestone paths, a rustic children's playhouse and many live animals—ponies, doves and bunnies.

Mackerman has been working on Dayton's/Marshall Field's shows since 1987. He started out as a backdrop painter and then moved into doing figures.

Mackerman does sculpting for two shows a year: the flower show in the spring, and the annual Christmas show. The latter is a more involved undertaking, often involving upwards of 100 figures. For this year's flower show, by contrast, he will create 16 flower fairies.

When he's not working on the Marshall Field's shows, Mackerman does oil painting and print making. His pastel prints are created from his own oil paintings by way of a large color printer that he recently purchased.

And some of his paintings are based on photographs he's taken with a digital camera and then enhanced on his computer.

His work, then, involves some very old-fashioned tools—



Photos by Truman Olson

Top: Artist Dan Mackerman takes a break from sculpting to work on an oil painting.

Bottom: Kevin Noteboom paints the eyes of a flower fairy.

oil paints and hog hair brushes—as well as the most modern electronic gadgets.

"I was a sculptor and a painter before I became a photographer," he says, "but now I look at my digital camera, computer and printer as natural extensions of my hand. I'm very interested in the artistic possibilities of these electronic

tools."

In addition to working on his own art, Mackerman teaches a class once a week at his studio. And on Saturday mornings, he can usually be found across the street from his studio at the Prairie Star coffeehouse, playing his banjo in the weekly bluegrass jam that he started several years ago.



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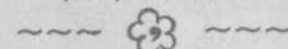
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Jeff Dains, a man who listens

Lauderdale mayor is in his 11th year

by Clay Christensen

Jeff Dains sits listening to a man complain to the Lauderdale City Council. Dains, 49, has been Lauderdale's part-time mayor for 11 years.

He keeps two pairs of glasses handy, the result of eye problems that began 15 years ago. Sometimes he removes the glasses and brings his face down close to the paper he's trying to read.

The man at the lectern is addressing the council for the third or fourth time this year. Tonight it's about branches falling off a neighbor's tree into his yard.

Dains listens intently. After the man finishes, Dains says that he understands the man's position. If the city tree inspector deems the tree a hazard, the city will ask the property owner to take care of it—if necessary sending a letter requiring him to abate the nuisance. If he fails to do so, the city will have the tree trimmed and bill the property owner for the expense.

"Will that work for you?" Dains asks.

"Sounds good, your Honor. Thanks for your help."

No matter how riled up people may get, Dains usually is able to get them calmed down and listening to reason. He's cool under fire, calm and measured in his responses, seldom displaying anger. Life's lessons have taught Dains determination, resolve and persistence.

"It comes with the territory," says Dains. "I've learned that you don't want to over-react. Try to calm people down. I've been in politics a long time. I get the same kinds of situations in my job, too."

Dains works for AFSCME, the Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees, where he negotiates contracts for county professional employees, gets involved in grievances and meets with labor/management committees.

"You have to be forceful at times, but assertive, not aggressive," Dains says.

Of his role with Lauderdale's City Council, he says, "It's important to remember that we're public servants. We're not up on the dais dictating to people. We're elected. We've got to hear them out. Yet we don't have to do everything they say. Some people try to provoke a reaction by throwing a tantrum."

As a boy, Dains crushed his

left ankle jumping his bike off a ramp—an event that led to a life-changing inspiration. Early in his recovery from three surgeries on his leg, his aunt gave him a book about Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dains was inspired.

"Roosevelt overcame adversity and still ran for office. His mother and his relatives tried to get him to end his career when he developed polio, but he

got leg braces. When he had to appear in public to give a speech, FDR would calculate the distance from the chair to the lectern. Then he would lock the knee joints of his braces, have his son take his arm, and actually go from leg to leg, giving the

appearance of walking, wobbling his way to the podium. And Roosevelt was skillful as a politician. His programs have lasted 50, 60 years. He accomplished a lot. He was a great president. He stuck to it."

In 1987, Dains began to see floating objects in his visual field and had emergency surgery for retinal detachment. Shortly thereafter, he discovered that his sister, Cindy, had been diagnosed with pseudoxanthoma elasticum, an inherited disorder in which elastic fibers in the retina, skin and cardiovascular system become slowly calcified.

A test confirmed that Dains had calcified fibers as well. Doctors believe the degeneration of his retinas has stopped, but Dains carries two pairs of glasses with different corrective lenses.

Dains learned another important lesson once while sitting around a table at City Hall.

He was chatting with the staff about an issue involving his former landlord. The city clerk started to chuckle. It turned out one of the other people at the table was the stepson of Dains' landlord, but with a different last name.

The second man joined the laughter, and Dains resolved to be more careful, to remember that anyone could be, and probably is, related to someone else in Lauderdale.

In his role as mayor, Dains hasn't pleased everyone. Keith Dyrud, a retired history professor and Lauderdale resident for 37 years, thinks that Dains tries too hard to satisfy conflicts. "He has



Photo by Clay Christensen

Numbers game from page 7

Now there are magnet schools and charter schools as well. Combine this with flat or falling student numbers in some neighborhoods, plus the fiscal reality that a school's budget depends on how many students it has, and the result is an environment that grows increasingly competitive.

Chelsea Heights positions itself in that environment by emphasizing its basic curriculum, according to Wollmering. "We feel we have an excellent program in reading, writing and math," he says. "No gimmicks—just solid teaching using the district's balanced literacy and integrated curriculum."

Chelsea also offers band, orchestra and vocal music, as well as French, Spanish and art classes after school. And Wollmering relies on a strong staff with little turnover.

At St. Anthony Park Elementary, principal Andrea Dahms heads what she calls "an old-fashioned neighborhood school." About 60 percent of the school's students come from the immediate area, and many parents walk with their young children to and from school.

"It's like a bygone era," says Dahms. "After bringing their children to school, many parents stay around outside the building and chat. On the first day of school last fall, they had coffee and donuts out on the blacktop."

Dahms depends on satisfied parents to serve as ambassadors for the school—and to do a lot of

the work in facilitating special programs, such as helping with a residency by Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater or raising money for the annual sixth-grade trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. The official name for the parent group is the St. Anthony Park School Association, but Dahms calls them her "magic parent hands."

Dahms treasures the good will that her school receives from the surrounding neighborhood, but, like other principals, she's involved in a numbers game. The school district takes head counts in October and December, and if a school's enrollment has dropped, it has to return the money for those students.

With fewer school-age children living in the attendance area, St. Anthony Park Elementary depends on overflow from other neighborhoods. The school serves as a "reassignment area" for St. Paul's Midway area. Students unable to get into a school there can be bused to St. Anthony Park.

Schools like St. Anthony Park and Chelsea Heights receive less compensatory funding than some other schools in the district because they have fewer students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. "That makes us more dependent on our own fundraising and on community generosity," says Dahms.

Neighborhood schools also suffer from misunderstanding on the part of parents who are used to the magnet school application

procedure, with its March 14 deadline, first and second choices, and waiting lists. "We don't have a sign-up date or a waiting list," says Dahms. "We'll have our kindergarten roundup on April 23, and I do building tours twice a week."

Dahms also must explain to parents from outside the attendance area that if they want to send their child to St. Anthony Park, they must be willing to drive, since the school district provides busing to neighborhood schools only for those students who have been reassigned from another school.

But despite the challenges of being a neighborhood school in a magnet age, Dahms is grateful to be where she is.

"A year ago last fall, we didn't receive enough money to fund all the playground supervision we needed," she notes. "Enough parents of first-grade children volunteered to supervise so that we didn't have to reduce playground time at all. This community is such a treasure."

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NEWS

Council-sponsored meetings are listed each month in the Bugle's Community Calendar. Everyone is welcome!

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649-5992

Neighborhood elections are Tuesday, April 8th from 4 - 8 pm for representatives on the Community Council. If you are interested in serving your neighborhood, please contact the Nominating Committee at 649-5992. Business and resident representatives are needed!

890 Cromwell, St. Paul, MN 55114 • phone: 649-5992 • fax: 649-5993 • e-mail: district12@ci.stpaul.mn.us
NW St. Paul HandyWorks Program: 649-5984

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LIVES LIVED

Ralph Harvey Hopp

Ralph Harvey Hopp died on February 7, 2003, at age 87.

Born on his family's farm near Cook, Nebraska, in 1915, Mr. Hopp taught in a one-room rural school before attending college at the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1943 with a degree in chemical engineering.

After college he worked for Glenn Martin Aviation, the Mellon Institute for Industrial Research and the Batelle Memorial Institute before beginning graduate school.

He received an M.A. (1950) and Ph.D. (1956) in library science from the University of Illinois.

From 1953-1982 Mr. Hopp served at the University of Minnesota—as Director of Libraries, Director of Library Development and Director of the Institute of Technology Libraries.

He helped plan the new Wilson Library and coordinate the relocation of library holdings and staff to the West Bank. His most lasting contribution was in selecting a dedicated library staff to carry on his goals.

In 1962 Mr. Hopp was a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Ankara in Turkey.

In addition to many professional groups, Ralph Hopp was active in local organizations in his St. Anthony Park neighborhood, including the

St. Anthony Park Association, the local Boy Scout troop and the neighborhood Fourth of July celebration. He was also part of the U of M faculty group that planned the retirement complex at 1666 Coffman.

Mr. Hopp wrote two books: "Enjoying the Active Life after 50" and a personal memoir, "I Remember."

Preceded in death by a daughter, Caroline, he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a son, Thomas (Lorraine) of Steamboat Springs, CO; a daughter, Susan (Karl) Schweikart of Minneapolis; and two grandsons, Brian Hopp and Colin Schweikart.

Closing averted from page 1

Citizens asked why the decision was made to close nine part-time centers before a study being conducted by the Division of Parks and Recreation had been completed.

The study sought neighborhood input on what parks and recreation services residents would like to see, and it included several public meetings.

South St. Anthony resident Bruce Weber questioned how much money would actually be saved by closing the rec center there. He said that it costs about \$25,000 a year to keep the center open.

Weber also noted that it doesn't make sense to reduce recreational facilities in a neighborhood where additional housing has been recommended.

A proposed development along University Avenue just south of Raymond Avenue could add another 400 units of rental

housing to the immediate neighborhood.

Weber said the mayor's decision is a reprieve, but that "we may be on the chopping block again in the future."

He noted the community's response to the threatened closing means that "people are paying attention and showing that they care."

Sherm Eagles, co-chair of the District 12 Community Council, expressed satisfaction with the mayor's decision but warned that the rec center issue may come up again.

"The neighborhood's first objective was to slow things down so that no decision was made without exploring alternatives," Eagles said. "We'll probably have to keep looking at ways to reduce the costs of keeping the South St. Anthony center open. I don't think we're out of the woods yet."



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Wednesday, April 9 - Friday, April 11

Lyngblomsten Community Center

1298 North Pascal Street - Saint Paul
(Community Center entrance)

April 9 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

April 10 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

April 11 9:00 AM - Noon "Bag Day"

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Jeff Dains from page 14

encouraged complaints by encouraging people to call him," says Dyrud. "They shouldn't be calling him. They should be calling City Hall."

Lauderdale's current city administrator, Rick Getschow, disagrees. "I haven't seen any council member or the mayor caving in to public opinion. You have to listen to citizen input."

Getschow says Dains "allows everyone to speak. He looks for consensus before a vote is taken. He doesn't start by putting forward a motion or his own position and then letting folks fight over it."

Karen Gill-Gerbig, a Lauderdale City Council

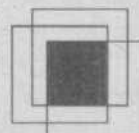
member since 1995, thinks Dains listens well.

"He gives people time to talk and to vent. He doesn't take it personally. And he'll cut it off if they go too far. He runs a proper, formal, comfortable meeting. He doesn't intimidate people, yet he can stand his own. He insists on civility. He has a good sense of humor and can laugh at his own expense."

And when people's lives, property or careers are involved, Gill-Gerbig says, "Jeff measures the situation. He approaches it with a certain gravity. He weighs the human element in the issue. Jeff takes a moral stand and he sticks with it."

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MARCH 2, 4:00 PM - PARIS PIANO TRIO

THE PROGRAM

Trio in C Major, Hob. XV:27	Haydn
Trio in g minor, Op. 3	Chausson
Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 97, "Archduke"	Beethoven

MARCH 30 REBEL: Ensemble for Baroque Music
 7 PM with Curtis Streetman, bass

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 7 PM COMPOSERS & MUSICIANS

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FAMILY CONCERTS 2003

for children of all ages and their families

Friday, March 14 at 6:15 & 7:30 PM

ROSS SUTTER, instrumentalist and singer
 with MARYA HART, piano; TOM SCHAEFER, fiddle;
 and RUSS PETERSON, instrumentalist

St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

Tickets: \$5.00 advance, \$6.00 at door

Call (651) 645-5699

or visit our website: www.musicintheparkseries.org

click on the "family concerts" link

MARCH ARTS

Music

Coffee Grounds
 1579 Hamline Ave., 644-9959

- Jens Hegg
March 2, 10AM
- Michael Young
March 6, 7pm
- Brad Turner
March 7, 8pm
- Ivory Bridge Bluegrass Trio
March 8, 8pm
- Open Mic Night
March 9, 7-9pm
- Paul Jones
March 13, 8pm
- Tyler Jakes
March 14, 8pm
- Singleton Street Bluegrass Music
March 15, 8pm
- Acoustic Sunday
March 16, 10AM
- Bill Cagley
March 20, 7pm
- The Two Guys
March 21, 8pm
- Matt Patrick
March 22, 8pm
- Acoustic Sunday
March 23, 10AM
- Jeff Ray
March 27, 7pm
- Spruce Top Review
March 28, 8pm
- Joe Meyer Band
March 29, 8pm
- Open Mic
March 30, 7-9pm

Ginkgo Coffeehouse
 721 Snelling Ave. N., 645-2647

- Bluegrass and Oldtime Jam Session
Second and fourth Wednesdays, 7pm

- Open Stage
First and third Wednesdays,
6pm sign-up

New Folk Collective
 293-9021

- Chuck Suchy
March 1, 7:30pm
St. Paul Student Center Theater

Prairie Star
 2399 University Ave. W., 646-7827

- Saturday Jams
Every Saturday, 10AM-1pm

Little Light Music Series

**St. Anthony Park
Lutheran Church**
 2323 Como Ave., 645-0371

- Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra
March 16, 4pm
- Church Composers in the Spotlight
March 30, 7pm

Music in the Park Series

**St. Anthony Park
United Church of Christ**
 2129 Commonwealth Ave.,
 645-5699

- Paris Piano Trio
March 2, 4pm
- Rebel: Ensemble for Baroque Music
March 30, 7pm

Family Concert Series

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
 2136 Carter Ave., 645-5699

- Ross Sutter & Friends
March 14, 6:15 and 7:30pm

Visual Arts

Anodyne Artist Company
 825 Carleton St., 642-1684

- Visual & Performing Arts:
What is It?
March 20, 7pm

Goldstein Gallery
 1985 Buford Ave., 612-624-7434

- Here by Design II
February 26-April 13
- Panel: "From Ideal to Idea and Back:
Design Marketing"
March 12, 6:30pm

St. Paul Student Center
 2017 Buford Ave., 646-7827

- Roxy Films: "The Virgin Suicides"
March 6 & 7
7pm; 7pm & 9pm
- "From Above and Below the
Horizon" by Ali Raza
March 6-April 4

Larson Gallery

- Gallery Reception: "From Above and
Below the Horizon"
March 6, 6-8pm

• Artist's Talk: Ali Raza
March 6, 6-7pm
MN Commons

- Roxy & Bijou Films: "Raging Bull"
March 13 7pm

Undercroft Gallery
 2136 Carter Ave., 645-3058

- Fifth Annual Community Art Show
St. Anthony Park Artists
(juried show, multimedia)
February 23-April 4

- Opening reception March 2, 6pm

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6:00 p.m. Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal, speaker

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Ticket Information: call 651/645-3058
 e-mail: office@stmatthewssap.org
 Info: www.stmatthewsmn.org

MARCH CALENDAR

3 Monday

- AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (651-644-0809), 8 p.m. Every Monday.
- Boy Scouts, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.
- Como Park & Lauderdale recycling.

4 Tuesday

- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), Langford Park Rec Center (651-298-5765), 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Every Tuesday.
- Toastmasters (651-645-6675), training in effective speaking, Hewlett Packard, Broadway & 280, 7:35-8:35 a.m. Every Tuesday.
- Chair Exercise Classes - Seal High Rise, 825 Seal Street every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 PM. These classes are free to all area seniors, but pre-registration is necessary. Chair exercise classes are appropriate for all fitness and ability levels, and offer cardiovascular workout. All major muscle groups are exercised. Call 651-642-9052 to pre-register.
- Free blood pressure clinic and health resources by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, Seal High Rise (825 Seal St.), 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday.

5 Wednesday

- Women's Connection, a women's networking organization (651-603-0954), Hubert Humphrey Job Corps Center, 1480 Snelling, Building #1, 8 a.m. Every Wednesday.
- Leisure Center for Seniors (651-603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch reservations by Monday. Every Wednesday.
- St. Anthony Park recycling.

6 Thursday

- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), South St. Anthony Rec Center (651-298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Thursday.
- Toastmasters (651-649-5162), U.S. Forest Service, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul Campus, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Every Thursday.

- St. Anthony Park Community Council Physical Planning Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 6 p.m.

- Kindergarten Roundup, Como Park Elementary School (651-293-8820), 780 W. Wheelock Pkwy., 6-7:30 p.m.

7 Friday

- Senior Citizen Fun Group (gym, bowling and darts), South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Every Friday. (First Friday, blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, 9-10 a.m.)
- Storytime for preschoolers ages 3-5, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. Every Friday.
- Falcon Heights recycling.

9 Sunday

- Parish dinner, Church of St. Celia, 2357 Bayless Pl. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

10 Monday

- Park Press Inc., Park Bugle Board Meeting, St. Anthony Park Bank Community Room, 7 a.m.

11 Tuesday

- Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 7:30 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Garden Club, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30 p.m.

12 Wednesday

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpenue Ave., 7 p.m.
- Leisure Center for Seniors (651-603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch reservations by Monday. Free blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program.

13 Thursday

- Free blood pressure clinic and health resources by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, St. Anthony Park Library, 10-11 a.m.

- Full Council Meeting, St. Anthony Park Community Council, South St. Anthony Park Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 7 p.m.

17 Monday

- Como Park & Lauderdale recycling.

19 Wednesday

- Langford Booster Club, Langford Park, 7 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park recycling.

20 Thursday

- Holly House director Dr. Patricia Lawler presents information on NAET, a revolutionary solution for allergy sufferers. Free, 6 p.m. RSVP at 651-645-6951.

21 Friday

- Falcon Heights recycling.

24 Monday

- St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program board of directors meeting, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church library, 7 p.m.
- Book Talk, Warren Core discusses Thomas L. Friedman's book "Longitudes and Attitudes" at the St. Anthony Park Library, 7 p.m.

25 Tuesday

- Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 7:30 p.m.

26 Wednesday

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpenue Ave., 7 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Housing and Human Services Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 5:30 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 7 p.m.

- Leisure Center for Seniors (651-603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch reservations by Monday. Free blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program.

Items for the April Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Friday, March 14.

A Foundation of Neighbors Determining our Future...

By Jon Schumacher
Executive Director,
St. Anthony Park
Community Foundation

Please set aside Tuesday May 6 to participate in determining the future of St. Anthony Park. That's when the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the District 12 Community Council will unveil the results of our ongoing district-wide survey and report.

Let's put this in context. State budget woes are forcing many Minnesotans to re-examine priorities and needs. The city of St. Paul is thinking of closing down several recreation centers, including South St. Anthony Park's.

The funding for district councils may also be in doubt. Some city officials would rather not deal with this extra layer of participatory democracy. We're fortunate our city council member, Jay Benav, is a strong advocate, but we should not take our council's viability for granted.

The list goes on. Our state auditor recently deemed parks and libraries as "nonessential services"...the U.S. Postal Service is constantly considering the closings of smaller stations...our elementary school is fighting to keep its student population...local businesses struggle to compete against mega-stores. In a time when all signs point toward the value of "smaller is better" for a sustainable future, small

communities like St. Anthony Park face the prospect of losing institutions that are our lifeblood.

What can we do? Identify those assets that are essential to our quality of life and fight for them. That's why the Foundation and



Jon Schumacher

Community Council are conducting a survey to help accomplish the first step. You can weigh in by picking up and filling out a survey at the St. Anthony Park library or by visiting our web site - sapfoundation.org. The results will be part of a comprehensive neighborhood report presented at a public forum on May 6 at 7 p.m. The site will be announced soon.

Be there on May 6 to be a part of the development of a neighborhood plan asserting our vision for a future based on the values that make us proud to call St. Anthony Park home.



ST. ANTHONY
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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
651/641-1455
sapfoundation.org

If you want to know more about the Foundation call Jon Schumacher at 651/641-1455 or email him at Jon@sapfoundation.org.

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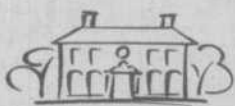
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Aging Gracefully by Mary Jo Tarasac

One of the best (and probably most often broken) New Year's resolutions people make is to get healthier. Most of us gain weight as adults, so as we age we need to examine our diet and exercise patterns. Maintaining the same body weight means balancing the calories we consume with the number of calories our bodies actually use.

Physical activity is an important way to use food energy. Most of us spend much of the day in activities that require little energy.

To burn calories, we need to devote less time to sedentary activities such as sitting. We can choose instead to spend more time in such activities as walking to the store or around the block. We can climb the stairs rather than take the elevator. Less sedentary activity and more vigorous activity help reduce body fat and disease risk. To stay healthy, one should try to engage in 30 minutes or more of moderate physical activity on most days of the week.

The kind and amount of food we eat affects our ability to maintain weight. High-fat foods contain more calories per serving

than other foods, and may increase the likelihood of weight gain. However, even a low-fat diet can result in weight gain if one eats too much of foods high in starch, sugars or protein.

We eat best when we eat a variety of foods: whole-grain pasta, rice, bread and other whole-grain foods, as well as fruits and vegetables. These foods are filling but lower in calories than foods rich in fats or oils.

Eating patterns are also important. Snacks provide a large percentage of daily calories for many of us. Unless nutritious snacks are part of the daily meal plan, snacking may lead to weight gain. A pattern of frequent binge eating, with or without alternating periods of food restriction, may also contribute to weight problems.

Maintaining weight is equally important for some older people who begin to lose weight as they age. Some of the weight that is lost is muscle. Maintaining muscle mass through regular activity helps keep one feeling well and helps reduce the risk of falls.

Not everyone needs to gain or lose weight. People who have not gained or lost more than 10

pounds since reaching adult height, and who are otherwise healthy, need not diet.

But many of us are overweight and have excess abdominal fat, a weight-related medical problem or a family history of such problems. Any one of these conditions signals a need to lose weight. Healthy diet and exercise can help one maintain a healthy weight, and may also help one lose weight.

It is important to recognize that being overweight is a chronic condition that can only be controlled with long-term changes. To reduce caloric intake, eat less fat and control portion sizes. Spend less time in sedentary activities such as watching television, and be more active throughout the day.

As one begins to lose weight, the body becomes more efficient at using energy, and the rate of weight loss may decrease. Increased physical activity at this point will help one continue losing weight and avoid gaining it back.

Some people are not sure how much weight to lose. Weight loss of only 5-10 percent of body weight may improve many of the problems associated with being overweight, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Even a smaller weight loss can make a difference.

Anyone who wants to lose weight but is concerned about other health conditions should consult a medical professional to help in developing a healthy and effective fitness plan—both diet and exercise.

So, have you decided what your fitness plan is for this year?

The St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program hopes that "Aging Gracefully" is helpful to older adults and those who care about them. We welcome ideas and feedback at 642-9052 or sapbnp@bitstream.net.

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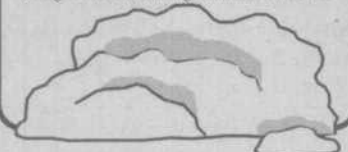
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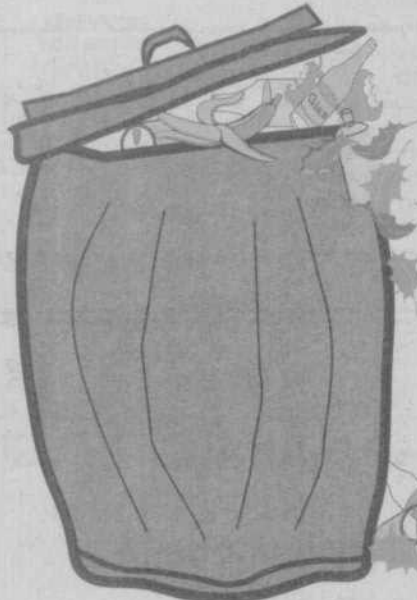
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651-645-9775

There's a change on your trash bill starting in April

What used to appear on your property tax statement as the Waste Management Service Charge is now on your trash bill as the County Environmental Charge (CEC).

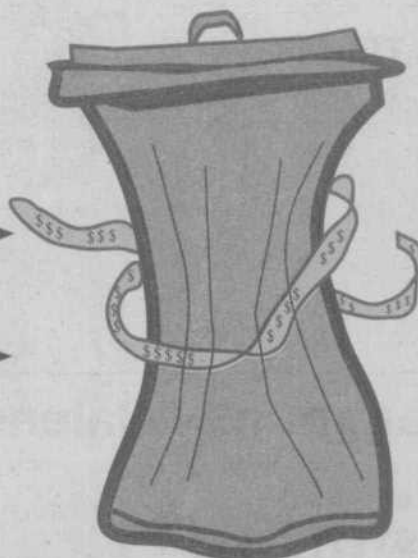
Your CEC is based on the amount of trash you throw away.
Throw away less and talk with your hauler about getting a smaller container
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of what you toss in
the trash; and

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¥ Ramsey County businesses, 651-773-4489
¥ Ramsey County residents, 651-633-EASY (3279)
¥ Washington County businesses and residents, 651-275-7303

More information is on the web at: www.co.ramsey.mn.us or www.co.washington.mn.us

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified deadline:

March 14, 6 p.m.

Next issue: March 26th

- Type your ad. Our style is to put the first few words in capital letters.
- Count the words. A word is numbers or letters with a space on each side. A phone number is one word.
- Figure your cost: 85¢ x number of words (\$8.50 minimum).
- Send your ad & check to Bugle Classifieds P.O. Box 8126 St. Paul, MN 55108 or deliver to the drop box at the side entrance to the Bugle office at 2190 Como Ave. on the Knapp Place side of the building by 6 p.m. on deadline day.
- Classified ads are not taken over the phone.
- Call Raymond Yates at 651-646-5369 with questions.

Instruction

HOLLY HOUSE director Dr. Patricia Lawler presents information on NAET, a revolutionary solution for allergy sufferers. Free, 3/20 6:00 PM, RSVP 651-645-6951.

Professional Services

GRAPHIC DESIGN—Want fast, quality graphic design services for a fraction of the cost? Let's talk about your next project! Call Raymond at 612-339-4679.

EDITING, book design & composition, proofreading, illustration. Sylvia Ruud - 651-645-8405. ruudx004@umn.edu

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Light Music from page 3

building. Michelle Christianson, also a member, will play a piano selection by Reilly, and Three Men and a Banjo will sing one of Pastor Berg-Moberg's compositions entitled "David and Bathsheba."

The music will include vocal numbers in conventional liturgical style, as well as folk and contemporary music and the piano composition. Those who attend will hear harp, Orff instruments, a Chinese erh hu, guitars, banjos and various acoustic instruments.

It will be a multicultural afternoon as well. The children's anthem by Reilly has a Native American feel and several Lakota words; the anthem "Pengyou, Ting" by Moberg includes Chinese, English and Norwegian words.

That composition was commissioned for the church's centennial last year. Moberg chose to celebrate the Norwegian beginnings of the congregation, as well the presence of the new Chinese congregation.

Both concerts are free, but an offering will be received to defray expenses. A nursery will be provided for each concert and a reception will follow each.

The church, located at 2323 Como Avenue, is handicapped-accessible. Free parking is available on the street or in the Luther Seminary lot across the street.



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LIFE IN THE CHURCH: COME AND SHARE

❖ BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Skillman at Cleveland S., Roseville. 651-631-0211
Bethany Baptist Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Pastor Bruce Petersen
Filipino-American Worship 3:30 pm
Pastor Sanny Olojan

❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

1376 Hoyt Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55108-2300
651-646-7127
Handicapped accessible
CPL Contact Ministry 651-644-1897
www.ComoParkLutheran.org
Sunday Schedule:
8:00, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Adult Education & Sunday School
(Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays, nursery provided)
Rides available for 11:00 a.m. worship;
call the church office before noon on Friday for ride.
Ash Wednesday Worship, March 5, 7:00 pm
Wednesday Lenten Services, March 12, 19 & 26, 7:00 pm
Pastors: Martin Ericson and David Greenlund
Visitation Pastor: Leonard Jacobsen
Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Amy Dorumsgaard
Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

An Ecumenical Old Catholic Community
2200 Hillside Ave • 612-872-4619 or 651-776-3172
Saturday Mass: 5 pm in Upper Chapel
Deo Gratias Wedding Ministry

❖ MOUNT OLIVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

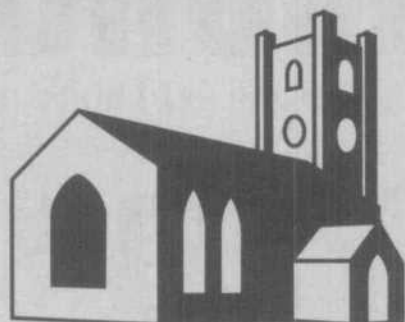
(A WELS Congregation)
"THE CHURCH WITH A SMILE"
Handicap-accessible. Wheelchair available.
1460 Almond at Pascal. 651-645-2575
Sunday Worship: 9 am.
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class: 10:30 am.
Lenten Luncheon each Wednesday in March at 5:30 pm
Lenten Worship each Wednesday in March at 6:30 pm

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Cromwell and Bayless Place. 651-644-4502
Saturday Mass: 5 pm at the church
Sunday Mass: 10 am at church (nursery provided) and
8:15 am at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St. (handicapped accessibility)

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth at Chelmsford. 651-646-7173
Website: www.sapucc.org
Handicapped accessible and an Open and Affirming Congregation.
Rev. Dane Packard, Pastor.
Adult Ed. Faith & Life Breakfast Forum - 8:30 am every Sunday.
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10:00 am, Fellowship: 11:00 am.
Nursery Care provided - 10:15 am.
Sunday, March 2, 10:00 am - Communion
Wednesday, March 5, 6:45 pm - Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, March 16, 7:00 pm - Healing of the Nations Service



❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

United in Love and Service
2200 Hillside Ave (at Como) 651-646-4859
Pastor Donna Martinson
Sundays:
10:00 am Worship Celebration
10:20 am Sunday School (3 years to 6th grade)
11 am Fellowship
11:05 am Youth Class
5:00 - 8:00 pm Alpha and Bible Study
Wednesdays: 9 am-1 pm Leisure Center (Senior fellowship, activities, and noon meal).

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are a community of believers called to joyfully serve God, one another, and the world. www.saplc.com
2323 Como Ave. W. Handicap-accessible. 651-645-0371
Pastor Glenn Berg-Moberg, Email: sapluth@mtn.org
Sunday Worship services 8:45 & 11:00 am, (nursery provided)
Sunday School 9:50 am.
Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church at 1:30 pm

信義教會 星期日下午

March 5, 7 pm, Ash Wednesday service, with Holy Communion
Each Wednesday in Lent: Worship at 7 pm, preceded by soup supper at 5:30 pm
Sunday, March 16, 4 pm, Little Light Music Series,
Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra
Sun, March 30, 7 pm, Little Light Music Series,
Spotlight on Composers from the Congregation

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 651-645-3058
Sunday, March 2, Community Art Show Opening - Reception 6 pm
Tuesday, March 4, Pancake Supper - 5-7 pm, Tickets \$5/ \$15 entire family
Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday Services 7am, 10 am, 12:15 pm and 6 pm.
Imposition of ashes and Holy Communion
Friday, March 14, Music in the Park Family Concerts - 6:15 & 7:30 pm
Ross Sutter, folksinger - tickets in advance \$5 / at the door \$6
Saturday, March 15, An Afghan Evening - Dinner & Lecture
Seatings at 5:00 & 7:30 pm, Lecture at 6:30 pm by Dr. Lakanwal / Tickets \$16
Monday, March 31, Mideast Study Group - 7:00 pm
PBS Documentary "The Historical Development of
Crisis in the Mideast" & Group Discussion
Sunday Services:
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rt. I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rt. II
4:00 pm Prospect Hill Friends' Meetings
Wednesdays: 10:00 am. Communion, Chapel
6:30 pm. Evening Prayer, Chapel
(All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion with us and no person seeking a deeper relationship with God in Christ will be turned away from our Lord's table.)
Ministers of the Church: All the baptized members
Clergy Who Support the Ministers: The Rev. Grant Abbott, Rector, and the Rev. Lyn Lawyer, Deacon

❖ ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

1660 West County Road B, Roseville. 651-631-1510
one block west of Snelling
Sunday Worship: 8:45 am and 11:00 am.
Education for ages 2 thru adult: 10:00 am - 10:50 am.
Nursery provided. Handicap accessible.
Pastors: Roland Hayes and Sarah Breckenridge Schwietz
For more information, check www.stmichaelselca.com

❖ WARRENDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1040 Como Ave. at Oxford. 651-489-6054
One block east of Lexington Parkway
Rev. Timothy Held, Minister
Sunday School: 9:30 am, Worship: 10:45 am