Park Bugle St. Anthony Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale & Northwest Como Park St. Anthony Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale & Northwest Como Park Volume 30, Number 14 / August 2004

In Falcon Heights the cry goes up: There's art in them there corncribs

by Judy Woodward

"I'm very interested in agricultural implements," says Randy Walker.

True enough, but Walker expresses his fascination with farming tools in ways that might not make a lot of practical sense to anyone who's ever milked a cow or plowed a field.

Walker, 33, is a fiber artist who creates elaborate geometric forms out of found objects and artfully interwoven nylon ropes.

It's work that requires a powerful imagination, as well as a willingness to spend a fair amount of time in the farmyards of his adopted state of Minnesota.

From scythes to saw blades, the foundations of his colorful sculptures are the kind of things more often found abandoned at the far end of the pasture than on display in an art gallery.

Walker describes his work as an "attempt to blur the visual boundaries between empty and full." Right now, he's filling—after a fashion—the largest container of his career.

Since early summer Walker has been at working to transform an empty, abandoned corncrib into the stuff of art, with the aid of about 500 pounds of nylon rope.

Visitors to the Gibbs

Museum in Falcon Heights have
been able to watch Walker's vision
take shape as he slowly fills an
18-foot corncrib with an
elaborate mesh of interwoven
cords that resemble nothing so
much as 24,000-foot version of
the old string game of cats' cradle.

"I don't see a corncrib," he declares. "I see a steel cylinder that's made for weaving."

Whatever you call it, it's shaping up to be an impressive sight, although one that might have given pause to the original inhabitants of Gibbs Farm.

"They probably would have thought I was crazy," says Walker cheerfully. "Transforming a corncrib takes a lot of time, and now you can't even put corn in it anymore."

Modern farmers are often equally bemused when they encounter Walker. "I met a lot of farmers while searching for the right corncrib," he says. "They were like 'what?' It was hard for them to grasp the concept."

Walker finally located the perfect base for his project on a farm in Pelican Rapids.

Transporting it to the Gibbs site was only the beginning of the technical problems he encountered. The corncrib had to be completely disassembled for the journey, and even though the pieces had been carefully marked, putting it back together again was a challenge.

In order to raise the crib once more, Walker and a friend named Keith Cramlet had to locate a special kind of antique steel winch. "They were harder to find than the corncrib," says Walker.

Walker says his sculpture in progress is "about space and perception. About somebody being able to experience the corncrib three-dimensionally. The fiber is supposed to be the memory of the corn. Yet, the crib is not full, not empty."

At first, Walker planned to use only yellow rope, in honor of the original contents of the crib. Lately, though, he's introduced

Corncrib art to page 16



Fiber artist Randy Walker strings colored nylon cord inside a corncrib at the Gibbs Museum, near Cleveland and Larpenteur in Falcon Heights. Walker moved the corncrib from a farm near Pelican Rapids.

Wood carver lets chips fall where they may

by Natalie Zett

Walter Grittner was packing his bags when a visitor arrived for an interview. Four shopping bags were brimming with various chip carving samples he was taking to an art exhibit at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center, being held in conjunction with 12th annual Great

American Think-Off.

"You know what they're talking about this year?
Same-sex marriage. Now that ought to be interesting," said the

Lauderdale resident.
Grittner removed
a wooden plate from
one of the bags,
revealing divine
geometry—or something
close—in its interlaced

80-something-year-old

circles, squares and swirls.

This level of perfection,
with its clean, exacting cuts, seems
humanly impossible. However, Grittner
says, "It's just me and my X-Acto knife. That's all I
use, along with a compass and ruler when I create
the designs."

Grittner calls his introduction to chip carving some 60 years ago a "happy coincidence."

"I was in my last few months of high school at Humboldt," he said. "I didn't take art classes, but my homeroom teacher was the art teacher, and she had a book by someone who had written about various Northern European countries and their woodcarvings."

Grittner was captivated by the photos of otherwise dark and drab furniture being transformed by the addition of carved triangles, lines and circles in various patterns.

"I was good at math and when I looked at the

patterns, I saw the geometry and decided this was something that I wanted to learn," he said.

Chip carving is a specialized type of woodcarving that produces intricate geometric patterns on wood facades. It's difficult to

almost every society throughout history has a form of it.

"Some might think of it as whittling," said Grittner, "but it's more precise, especially when you're carving geometric patterns. There are no

pinpoint chip carving's origins since

Wood carver to page 10



Chip carver Walter Grittner needs only an X-Acto knife and a steady hand to turn out the intricate designs that have given him a national reputation.

Neighbors debate proposed wine shop in Milton Square

by Dave Healy

A proposal to create a boutique wine shop in St. Anthony Park's Milton Square is currently moving through the approval process.

The Little Wine Shoppe would be located at 2236 Carter Avenue. The 350-square-foot store would sell wine, microbrewed and imported beer, and a limited selection of high-end liquor and liqueurs.

The wine shop is the brainchild of Jeffrey and Christina Huff, who live in St. Anthony Park. They have applied for an off-sale liquor license for the Carter Avenue site.

City regulations prohibit offsale liquor licenses for any location within 300 feet of residential property, parks or licensed child care centers. Because the proposed wine shop would be close to a residential neighborhood, a waiver must be granted by the St. Paul City Council.

According to Chapter 409 of the St. Paul Legislative Code, two conditions are required in order for the council to waive restrictions relating to location.

First, the council must determine that a license request "is not inconsistent with the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the adjoining neighbors." That judgment considers such things as noise, traffic, litter, lighting, etc.

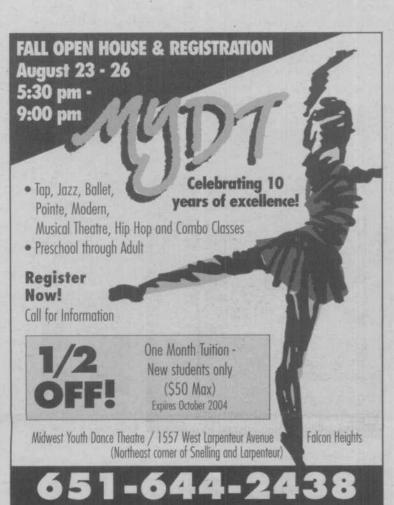
Second, the council must receive a petition from 75 percent of the owners and tenants of all residences within 300 feet of the proposed off-sale location stating that they have no objection to a liquor license being granted.

In May, Huff circulated a petition to affected residents.

Wine shop to page 4

CITY FILES





Falcon Heights

The Falcon Heights City Council held a special meeting on June 21 to respond to a request from the Ramsey County Board for input regarding how many dispatch/communication centers should be included in the county's new 800 MHz system. The council voted to recommend a single dispatch/communication site and that a cost allocation model be based on call volume—with funding and governance addressed through a shared powers agreement.

St. Anthony Park

The St. Anthony Park Garage Sale, a fundraiser for the Community Council, will be held September 18. Volunteers are needed. Call Melissa, 649-5992, to offer your help.

The native plantings around Kasota Pond have been completed. Thanks to all who participated. Terry Gockman will build observation blinds for the area.

The St. Anthony Park
Community Council has raised strong objections to the city's
District Council Committee process and recommendations with regard to funding and other issues. The council voted unanimously to send their concerns to the mayor and the City Council.

The Community Council contends that the process was

flawed, that it needed a nonpartisan facilitator as well as sound historical and participant research. They see the recommendations of the committee as reflecting a narrow view and not encouraging creative solutions. The council has requested a new process with a neutral facilitator, citizen participation, consideration of alternative models, and funding for optimal organizing and outreach.

St. Paul

A voter's guide for this fall's elections has been published by the Minnesota secretary of state's office. It lists offices that will appear on the ballot this fall, voter qualifications, polling places, registration information and how to file an absentee ballot. The guide also provides information on Minnesota's four major political parties.

Copies of the guide may be ordered from the secretary of state's office (215-1440; secretary.state@state.mn.us) or downloaded from www.sos.state.mn.us/election/VoterGuide-2004.pdf.

-Susan Conner

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event is made possible because of your volunteer time and financial contributions. We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and businesses that contributed at least \$50 to our community celebration:

Patriot (\$1,000 or more) St. Anthony Park State Bank

Starburst (\$200 or more)

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Carter Avenue Frame Shop - Tim Smith
Edina Realty - Gary, Peggy and Peter Sparr
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We welcome additional donations. If you are interested in making a contribution, please mail it to the St. Anthony Park Association, PO Box 8062, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Thank you!

We attempt to include the names of all who contributed to support the Fourth in the Park celebration. If your name has not been included, please excuse the omission and let us know so that we may properly recognize your gift.

Can I refill that cup for you? Regular or decaf?

Business owners debate the pros and cons of fair trade coffee

by Caroline Daykin

For many people, having a morning cup of coffee is as routine as taking a shower or brushing their teeth.

But like many actions performed repeatedly, buying an espresso or latté is often done with little thought of how the purchase might affect people and the environment. These days, more coffee drinkers are seeking out "fair trade" coffee to reflect their environmental and economic values.

While large coffee producers purchase beans through intermediaries or from large plantations, fair trade coffee is bought through cooperatives of small farmers. Eliminating the middlemen helps farmers earn a livable wage.

Many fair trade coffees are organic, which means no chemical fertilizers or pesticides were used in their production, and shade grown, meaning the plants were grown among trees rather than in a field.

The latter method necessitates clearing a rainforest, while the former mimics the natural structure of the forest, maintaining a habitat for birds and fostering biodiversity, which reduces the need for chemicals and pesticides.

Businesses in and around St. Anthony Park reflect a variety of practices and attitudes regarding fair trade, shade grown, organic coffee.

Helen DuFault, manager of Hampden Park Co-op, thinks that over the past 15 years people have become more informed and interested in the food they eat.

She said consumers are willing to pay more for coffee brands that guarantee that the people who produced the coffee have been treated fairly.

According to Chris Eilers, CEO of Dunn Bros., some of their stores, including the one combined with Taste of Scandinavia in St. Anthony Park, have seen increased sales of fair trade coffee due to an educated clientele.

Tom Spreigl, co-owner of Tim and Tom's Speedy Market, said his business is able to sell fair trade coffee because of the number of environmentally concerned citizens in the area.

Mona Rozycki, co-owner of the Coffee Grounds in Falcon Heights, encountered many customer questions when she first took over the business and began carrying fair trade coffee about two years ago. Now, Rozycki said, people are more likely to know what fair trade coffee is.

According to T.J. Semanchin of Peace Coffee, a Twin-Cities based brand of fair trade coffee, lack of knowledge is what prevents more people from

purchasing fair trade coffee.

Once people become aware of the positive consequences that buying fair trade coffee has for farmer and the environment, said Semanchin, it's not hard to convince them to do so.

According to Semanchin, consumers don't pay more for fair trade coffee compared to other specialty coffee, since the middlemen, whose earnings cut sharply into the profits of the farmers, are eliminated. They would, however, notice a difference when converting from a mass-market brand such as Folgers.

Semanchin said the price for specialty coffee varies greatly, and Peace Coffee's prices are "middle of the road" for specialty coffee.

Retailers, however, offered a different perspective on the issue of price. According to Spreigl of Speedy Market, which carries Peace Coffee, compared with coffee that isn't fair trade, Peace Coffee is more expensive by a dollar a pound or more.

Eilers of Dunn Bros. also contended that fair trade coffee is more expensive than regular specialty coffee.

Another reason retailers gave for not carrying fair trade coffee exclusively is the lack of consistent quality.

Rozycki of the Coffee Grounds used the analogy of oranges. She said that since oranges reach their peak growing season at different times depending on the locale, purchasing produce from only one region would limit its quality. She argued that if oranges were purchased exclusively from

Florida, for part of the year they would taste bitter.

Eilers said that quality is a consideration in Dunn Bros.' decision not to carry fair trade coffee exclusively. He argued that it is not always possible to acquire fair trade coffee that would "meet our standards.'

But according to Semanchin, "Fair trade means promoting quality." Since farmers are paid more for their produce in the fair trade system, they are able to invest in their farms. Also, farmers are likelier to sell their best products to a company that treats them fairly.

Local business owners articulated a variety of mission statements for their enterprises, but all expressed a desire to provide a quality product at a reasonable price.

Spreigl suggested that consumer activism resulted in Speedy's decision to carry Peace Coffee. "A big part of our mission is to provide customers with what they want."

Semanchin described Peace Coffee's "triple bottom line" as resulting in profits for the company and coffee farmers as well as "ecological sensitivity."

DuFault said it is intrinsic to Hampden Park Co-op's mission to buy local wares rather than "something that's coming in from California.

The bottom line for consumers? It's possible to enjoy coffee and have a clear conscience. Local businesses provide ample options for promoting fair trade while sipping that cuppa joe.







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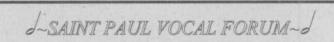


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Let's say you're in the market for a new automotive sound system. You're still limping along with the unit that came with the car, and it's embarrassing to give a friend a lift and reveal the sorry state of your audio. Fortunately, you live in a major metropolitan area where there are dozens of audio stores and departments within easy

And if you don't like the selection at those places, you can always go online, where the whole world is your oyster. You could spend days checking out the possibilities. With all those choices, there's no excuse for buying anything other than the perfect sound system.

Which of course is precisely the problem. The more options you have, the more pressure you feel to make exactly the right choiceand the more likely you are to second guess any decision you do

But selecting that sound system is only the beginning. Almost anything you buy these days is going to have a couple dozen presets for radio listening. It's going to take you a week or two to decide which stations you want to have a pushbutton away.

And once you've figured that out, you still have to choose at any given moment which button to push. What are you in the mood for right now? And even if the song that's playing now is pretty good, who's to say there isn't a better one just a little further down the frequency band?

But that's just radio. Obviously, your new system can also play CDs. So you'll have to go through your entire collection and decide which ones to keep in the car. And that's not all. Obviously, your new system has a disc changer, so at any given moment you can elect whether to listen to one CD straight through or a random selection of tracks from several albums.

But that's just radio and CDs. Obviously, your new system can

play MP3s. And so it goes.

So let's keep this simple. Say you want to grab a cup of coffee. Fortunately, you live in a major metropolitan area where there are dozens of places within easy driving distance to get a cuppa joe. So, what'll it be? Folgers or Dunn Bros.? Regular or decaf? Espresso or latté? Two percent or skim?

Okay, after holding up the line with your dithering, you finally make a decision: one short mocha skinny half-caf latté, no foam.

But aren't you forgetting something? For the careful coffee drinker, there's another set of questions to be addressed.

Where were the beans grown? Is your nicotine habit fueling the chain saws that are leveling the rain forest? Were the plants subjected to pesticides that are washing into a nearby river and fouling residents' drinking water? Was the farmer who grew those plants paid a fair price? Does your daily fix depend on exploiting child labor?

So now whenever you buy something, not only should you compare its price and quality to all the similar products on the market, you should also research where it came from and how it was made. After all, sweatshops wouldn't exist if there were no market for what they produce.

This consumer thing can be a full-time job. And actual products are only a piece of the pie. How do you know the school your kids attend is best equipped to meet their educational needs? How do you know the church you go to is the best one for your spiritual needs? What about your doctor, dentist, attorney, broker, insurance agent?

After all, we live in a major metropolitan area. There are hundreds of choices out there. You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to make the best decision. But it's going to take some research.

So what are you waiting for? Pick up the phone and get cracking.

Lament for stolen signs

I was disheartened recently to find that during the one week of the year that we as Americans celebrate independence and our freedoms, one of our fellow Americans and neighbors chose to challenge those rights.

During that week, nearly 25 John Kerry campaign signs were systematically removed from their stakes in the Falcon Heights neighborhood south of Larpenteur Avenue. The signs had all been placed at the same time by neighbors seeking to make a unified statement of the need for change and in support of our next president, John Kerry.

It was a further irony that not only did this take place around the Fourth of July, but also during the week of the release of "Fahrenheit 9/11," a scathing exposé of the truths behind our current presidency.

I encourage the sign snatcher to see a screening of the movie. I wouldn't be surprised if you may want to return the signs to their stakes. I'll leave mine out for you.

> Eric C. Brendtro Falcon Heights

Say no to wine shop

I am a neighbor who lives within 300 feet of the business proposed by Jeffrey and Christina Huff at 2236 Carter Avenue. I have owned and lived in my home for over 18 years.

I have several reasons for being opposed to the city granting a liquor license for this property. I am not opposed to alcohol sale or consumption. My issues are with this particular location with its unique circumstances.

The law prohibits off-sale liquor within 300 feet of parks. The St. Anthony Park Library falls within that boundary. Residents know that the library grounds serve as a park for the neighborhood. There are landscaped grounds with a brick patio area and benches in front and on the side.

Another concern is an increase in traffic. Establishments selling beverages seem to generate a large amount of truck traffic.

The intersection at Carter and Como is already a difficult one, with heavy pedestrian use, a poorly timed stop light for those pedestrians and heavy

neighborhood car traffic. Also, many children walk to and from school along this route.

Parking is another big issue in this area, as anyone living nearby can attest. Mr. Huff's application indicated that there are 30-40 spaces available for offsite parking. In fact, there are far fewer, and those same spaces are used by residents and patrons of Milton Square.

I believe that Sharrett's Liquors and other stores in the city are doing an adequate job of serving our need for fine wine and other alcohol, without introducing into a mixed residential/business neighborhood the problems associated with such businesses.

While the type of store that Mr. Huff proposes sounds tasteful, allowing it to open would make it easier for a cheap, high-volume liquor store to open some day in Milton Square.

We need to encourage new businesses at Carter and Como, but this would be a very poor fit for St. Anthony Park.

> James McCord St. Anthony Park

Wine shop from page 1

According to Christine Rozek, deputy director of St. Paul's Office of License, Inspections and Environmental Protection (LIEP), enough people signed the petition to meet the 75 percent requirement.

In addition to the petition, neighbors within a 350-foot radius of the proposed site received a letter from LIEP inviting comments.

According to Rozek, when written objections to a liquor license request are received, a hearing is held before a legislative hearing officer. Such a hearing was being scheduled when this issue went to press.

Burna Krugler, who lives at 2263 Commonwealth Avenue, was one of the property owners who declined to sign the petition for the Little Wine Shoppe. She said her reservations were not so

much based on the current proposal as on the long-term implications of granting a liquor license at that site.

"I'm concerned about what might happen down the road," she said. "What happens when this owner decides to sell? I wonder what that might mean for the community.

Terry Reineccius, of 2249 Carter, signed the petition.

She said, "My husband and I have been saying for years that Milton Square would be a perfect spot for a wine boutique. So we're excited about the plans.

Reineccius added that she was impressed with Jeff Huff's business plan.

"I think he had thought things through very carefully," she said. "He seems very concerned about doing something that will serve the neighborhood well.

Jeff and Chris Huff have lived in St. Anthony Park, at 2361 Bourne Avenue, for five years. They have a seven-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter.

"We live here," said Jeff Huff, "and we feel like we know the neighborhood. I've talked to a lot of people about our ideas, and the vast majority like them."

Huff noted that while they hope to attract business from all over, "our core customers will be people from the neighborhood. We want to be responsive to their

Huff emphasized that the Little Wine Shoppe would have an off-sale license, so there would be no consumption of alcohol on the premises.

He acknowledged there has been some resistance to his plans.

"I feel bad that there are people who object. They're concerned about change. But we've put a lot of thought into this, and we're convinced it will be a good thing for the community."

Park Bugle

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Budding tennis players have fun while they learn

by Lucy Steinmann

Local tennis players had fun while honing their skills this summer at Langford Park and Como Park High School as part of the St. Paul Urban Tennis Program, a six-week, daily tennis camp for ages 7-18. These were two of 25 locations throughout the metro area.

The program is flexible to fit individual needs. It's not mandatory to come every day, and players can register any time during the program. Participants are grouped by age and ability.

Classes take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., with younger players scheduled earlier in the day. About 130 kids took part in the Langford program this year.

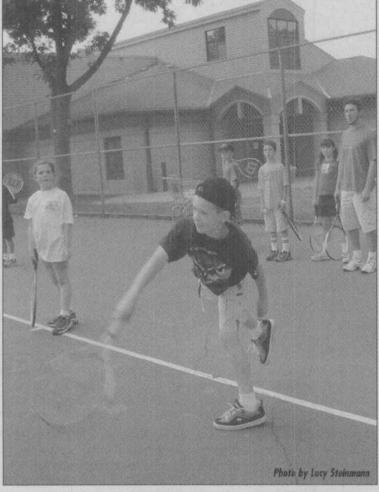
Kristen Olson spoke highly of the program. "My son has been doing it for four years. He continues to play throughout the year because of the skills he has learned. The teachers are so good, it's obvious that they want to be there and they want the kids to learn about tennis."

Another mother, Kim Rosenwinkel, said that watching her child participate inspired her. "It's real fun, and it's made me interested in learning tennis, too."

Eight-year-old Meg Stover attended the 9 a.m. class this summer. She said, "I like that we get to play games." When asked about her tennis skills, she noted, "I'm better at hitting it."

At the 10 a.m. class, 10-year-old Kevin Muelbauer said, "I like the games most because they're fun, and most of the people are my friends." He added, "I think I'm improving most on my serve because it's actually going in the service box now sometimes."

Rose Wright, 14, said, "My favorite part is that you get to



Aaron Wallace, age 8, of St. Anthony Park practices his serve at Langford Park. Aaron was one of about 130 participants in this summer's Urban Tennis program at Langford.

learn how to play tennis and you have fun with your friends."

Nick delMas, 16, added, "It has a good atmosphere and it's a great way for kids to have fun and to exercise."

I have been involved with the Urban Tennis program the last few years and have thoroughly enjoyed it. The teachers are great and give personal attention to each kid. More experienced participants have a chance to play in occasional tournaments, so they get practice in an actual game situations. I have a very busy schedule and the flexibility of this program is reassuring. There is no pressure to be there; it's a come-whenyou-can experience. It is also a great opportunity to spend time with old friends and meet new ones.

St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace

Planning meeting (all are welcome): Wednesday, August 4, 7 p.m. Murdock's, 1489 Hythe, 651-647-9341

For information check out our amazing web site

www.ParkPeace.org

& see our resource materials at the reference desk of the St. Anthony Park Library

Housing Trends

Whether you are thinking of buying or remodeling, here are some current trends to consider-

- Light & Bright Today, most people are very light conscious. They
 want more light in their homes. Ways to bring in more light are by
 altering the type of window coverings you have, or by adding
 sky lights, solar tubes and larger windows.
- His/Her Space People are preferring their own space as opposed to sharing space. Thus, two smaller closets are preferable to one large closet.
- Detached Garages Surprise! The main reason for this is the flexibility it gives the exterior of the main house, plus more space for windows.
- Accessibility As baby boomers age, so do their parents. Ways to make homes more accessible to elderly people, such as hand railings on steps and more light need to be implemented.
- The Real Thing Synthetic materials are out natural materials are in.

We tend to get comfortable with our old things, but when it comes time to sell a home, those that have been updated will always sell faster. Why not enjoy some of these updates before it's time to sell? Feel free to call us for advice!



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Ticket to Brasil will perform at Como pavilion

On Friday, August 27 from 7-9:30 p.m., local musical group Ticket to Brasil will perform at the Como Lakeside Pavilion in an evening of bossa nova, samba and Brazilian jazz.

The group is led by guitarist and Lauderdale resident Pavel Jany. Ticket to Brasil has performed at local and international events including the Winnipeg Jazz Festival, the Twin Cities Hot Summer Jazz Festival, the Minnesota Orchestra MusicFest and the Minnesota Winter Jazz Festival.

They have been featured on

local FM radio stations KBEM and KFAI as well as KTCA public television.

Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for a party of three or more) in advance and \$12 at the door. Visit www.tickettobrasil.com or call 308-7246 for tickets or more information.

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The choices you make when you landscape your property can improve your chances of seeing birds and other wildlife up close and personal all year long.

My wife and I have a Juneberry tree in our front yard, just beyond the kitchen window. It's also known as a serviceberry, a tree that does well in partial shade and will get up to 20 feet tall at maturity. It's covered with white blossoms early in the spring, even before most of the leaves appear. Then in June, appropriate to its name, the berries appear. They start white, then pink, red and finally a deep purple as they

And the birds love them. I can testify that they're quite delicious. The ripest berries are at the tips of the smallest branches, so there are some acrobatics involved as birds try to get the best berries.

The most successful avian approach is to find a stout branch below some overhanging purple berries. But those are usually the first to go. Some birds actually dive off their perch and try to snatch a tasty one on the wing.

We've had baby robins trying out their branch-grabbing skills, fluttering to keep their balance. Adult robins and house finches are common visitors.

The other evening we had five or six cedar waxwings eating berries. They take the berry in their bill, and it looks like they've bitten off more than they can swallow. The berry fills the bill from gape to tip. But they tilt their head back and somehow open their beak a little bit further, and down it goes. You can see the bulge in its crop where the berry awaits further "processing." We saw one take three berries like that in quick succession, resulting in a radically altered profile with three Juneberries in its crop.

The next morning we had a couple young orioles chattering at each other and eating berries as fast as they could. They looked like this year's fledglings, still muted in color and not too sure of their flight equipment. They persuaded me to hang up the hummingbird/oriole-feeder again so that they'd have sugar water there if they wanted it.

We have other plantings that attract birds, including a honeysuckle climbing over an arbor. Hummingbirds like these flowers. A Virginia creeper has taken over half of our garage wall. For several years in a row, we had a Connecticut warbler that would stop by in late September or early October on its fall migration to sample the creeper's berries. What a fine, unexpected "yard bird."

This spring I replaced a couple of cranberry bushes out front. They had never flowered or had any fruit. But the ones I put in this spring flowered soon after planting and already have green berries on them. The birds should enjoy them when they ripen this

The butterflies like the purple coneflowers in the back garden. And sedum "Autumn Joy" is described as a "butterfly landing pad.

You'll see more birds if you landscape for them. I recommend Carrol Henderson's "Landscaping for Wildlife," available at bookstores and through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He has suggestions for plantings, flowers, shrubs, trees and houses-and water attractions for birds, mammals and butterflies.

So, as you're planning your fall landscaping projects or thinking ahead to next spring, think about landscaping for wildlife.



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New product provides



"Im so confident in the product that we offer you a nine-month money-back quarantee and 20-year no-clog guarante

A new product for keeping the gutters clean is the basis for a new business owned by Daniel Corley at 764 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. Called GutterFilter, the product was invented in Grand Rapids, ML, about six years ago by a man John Othfolf, Corley said.

in January he opened DC Guiter Filter Inc. "It's so advanced, it's simple," he said. "When you look at it, you think it's foam, but it's a filter and more like a sponge.

GutterFilter is made from exterior-grade urethane that fits stugly into the gatters and cannot be seen from the ground. The urethane serves as a filter for moistaire while filling the uzethane remain on top and blow away.

While sunshine will harden the surface of GutterFilter over time, the porous, filtering quality of the product remains unchanged. It is capable of handling up to 24 inches of rain

Another advantage to GutterFilter is that it can stay up year-round. It never needs to be cleaned, containing a special product, BioCide, which retards the growth of mildew and

When Frozen, GutterFilter still allows water to go through it. It may help with ice dams if the dam is caused by frozen downspouts. "The GutterFilter will keep the gutter clean, and any melting that happens will be absorbed immediately," Corley said. The product comes in four-loot sections, retailing for \$8 to \$10 per loot, Corley said.

Coriey installed GutterFilter into his first home on April 1st. Since then he has installed over 60 homes. The response has been overwhelming to the product and referrals are

Corley offers a nine-month money-back guarantee on GutterFilter, and it also comes

Two subcontractors do all of the installations. Corley said they come out, clean the gutter and do small repairs to gutter, if needed, before installing GutterFilter. "You will never have to clean your gutters again," Corley said.

For more information, go to the company's web site at: www.GutterFilter.net

www.gutterfilter.net No-clogs guaranteed Call Dan at 651-291-1985 for a FREE Estimate. 1-866-532-3292



Arts Initiative Presents: An Art Sale and Wine Gala

Featuring local and regional artists, plus a sampling of food and wine.

> Sunday, Sept 19, 2004 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Caffe Biaggio Located on University at Raymond

> > \$50 per person

Proceeds from the event and art sale go directly to the

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the art education experience remains strong at SAP Elementary School.

Tickets are limited.

Contact Mary Boyle at 651-488-7437 for more information.



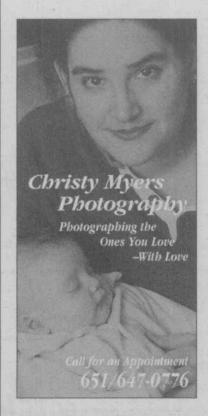
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National Night Out

National Night Out, an annual community-building and crimeprevention event, will be held Tuesday, August 3.

The event began 21 years ago as a way for communities to visibly affirm their commitment to watch out for each other. Many people use the occasion to meet with neighbors and share food and activities.

In Como Park, the Northwest Como and North Dale Recreation Centers will hold a joint ice cream social and team awards ceremony on August 3 from 6-8 p.m. The event will be at the Northwest Como Center, Hamline and Hovt.

In south St. Anthony Park, some neighbors will gather at 867 Raymond Avenue at 6 p.m. for food and fellowship.

Enjoy the pleasures of good health!

MOMS Club

MOMS Club is an international nonprofit organization that offers daytime activities and support for mothers who have made the choice to be home during the day, either full-time or part-time, with their children.

Local chapters offer a variety of daytime activities for mothers and their children, community service opportunities benefitting children and a monthly Mom's Night Out.

The St. Anthony Park Como West Chapter is looking for moms interested in joining our group. For more information contact Traci at 659-0038.

Group Study Exchange

Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program allows business and professional people to study for four weeks in another country. They stay in homes and follow an itinerary of educational and cultural points of interest.

One Rotary District 5960 group will visit Taiwan from mid-March to mid-April, 2005. Another group will visit Brazil from mid-May to mid-June. District 5960 includes St. Paul.

Capdidates must live or work within the district, be age 25-40, U.S. citizens, and have permission of their employer to participate.

Applications must be received by August 20 for Taiwan and September 17 for Brazil. For an application form or more information, contact Jingle Mahan (jingle@rotary5960.org or 636-9054) or visit www.rotary.org.

School Open House

Jennings Experiential High School, a charter school located at 1745 University Avenue, will hold an open house for new students on August 11 from 4-8 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station.





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Jennings Experiential High School emphasizes studentcentered, community-centered, project-based learning. Students research interesting and important topics, then travel to places related to those topics.

For more information about the school or the open house, contact Joshua Larson (612-423-5000; josh@jehs.org) or visit www.jehs.org.

Gibbs Museum

Special events during August at the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer & Dakotah Life:

Aug. 1 - Fiber Arts. View the museum's quilt collection and try your hand at basic quilting.

Aug. 8 - Archeology Day. Find artifacts in a mock archeology

Aug. 15 - Dakotah Day. Learn how the Dakotah lived, try out their tools, eat samples of native foods and play traditional games.

Aug. 22 - Medicine Garden.

New Business

On August 19 from 3:30-6 p.m. Perfect Little Spa and Salon will hold a grand opening celebration at the shop, 2301 Como Avenue, Suite 102. The event features complimentary services, drawings, food and beverages. The new business took over the space formerly occupied by Anthony's Park Salon.



Lara MacClean and her son Jackson with Iceland's President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.

People

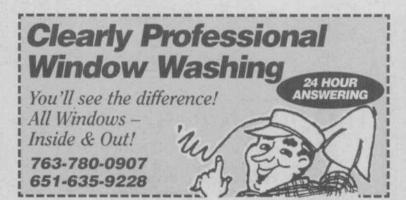
Lauderdale resident Lara MacClean spent June 11-18 in Iceland leading an exchange program between the MacPhail Suzuki Academy and a similar school in Iceland, MacClean teaches violin at MacPhail and at Gustavus Adolphus College.

MacClean, who brought along her three-month-old son, Jackson, oversaw a group of 38 musicians, many of whom were accompanied by their parents on a "shadow tour."

The string orchestra performed for the president of Iceland, and the musicians were entertained at his home.

St. Anthony Park resident F. Garvin Davenport has been named vice president for academic affairs at Hamline University. He will oversee academic programs and student life for all five of Hamline's schools.

Formerly Davenport was dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and he will continue to retain that position in addition to his new responsibilities. He started his career at Hamline 38 years ago as an assistant professor of English. He helped establish the Hamline Writing Center and the school's first-year-seminar program.





Take a Vacation with a Minnesota Author

Four Souls by Louise Erdrich Rich in Ojibwe culture and wonderful prose, Erdrich's new novel is yet another chapter in her ongoing Native American saga and it follows the life of Fleur Pillager, an engimatic character who first appeared in Tracks (1988).



Homegrown Democrat by Garrison Keillor In his inimitable style, Keillor draws on a lifetime of experience amongst the people of the Midwest and pays homage to the common code of civic necessities that arose from the left. This love letter to the yellow-dog Democrat city of St. Paul is sure to amuse and inspire





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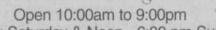
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Wood carver from page 1

mistakes allowed." Grittner uses a razor-sharp blade in his knife to shape his intricate designs.

While still in high school, Grittner began teaching himself chip carving and planned to go on to studying it formally, but "my Uncle Sam called me."

During World War II, Grittner served in the Air Corp, maintaining turrets used for combat. The war ended just before he was to go overseas.

"The Japanese quit when they heard I was coming," he

After the service, Grittner married, began a family and started working at St. Paul Book and Stationery, from where he eventually retired.

"By the time I was done," he noted, "I'd worked in every area of the business from the mailroom to sales." He also returned to chip carving "just as

"I was just making these things," he said, pointing to decorative picture frames gracing family portraits. "I gave them as gifts. It might sound kind of crass, but it was a way to make a nice gift on a budget."

Grittner's original designs on wooden plates, boxes and picture frames were a smash hit. Family and friends prodded him to enter competitions, but he wasn't sold on the idea.

"I mean, I had nothing to compare them to," he said. "I didn't know of anyone doing this type of chip carving, so I didn't know if mine was any good though I thought it might be."

In 1982, he finally conceded, entering his work in the Minnesota State Fair. Much to his amazement, he walked away with a blue ribbon.

"Then, the floodgates opened," he said.

The Minnesota Historical Society contacted him shortly afterward, asking Grittner to do a chip carving demonstration at the Alexander Ramsey Historical Society, where they were focusing on the art of early Minnesota immigrants.

'My goodness! Then the invitations started coming out of nowhere. This was all unplanned,"

In addition to accepting invitations for other historical and ethnic organizations, Grittner began entering woodcarving shows and started traveling around the Midwest, demonstrating and lecturing about chip carving and selling his works, some of which can be found at Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Gift shop on Lake

Chip carving also served another purpose for Grittner when he became a widower 18 years ago. "My wife was just months away from retiring as a medical secretary when she got sick and died. Chip carving, well, it kept me active."

Through his travels to promote chip carving, Grittner said, "I have met a lot of people and have a lot of friends. I am really glad that I love studying geography because if someone tells me where they're from, where they live, I can usually tell them something that I know about the place.'

Grittner has had many adventures along the chip carving circuit. Once, he and other artists were raffling off pieces of work in order to help fund the following year's art exhibit at Lake Bronson,

"For me, well, they had to do a second printing of raffle tickets," he laughed.

In addition to lecturing on chip carving and selling his work, Grittner has taught the art to a number of people, but he said that few go on to perfect the craft. "It's definitely not easy because of the precision involved.

Even if you can't tell an isosceles from an equilateral triangle, you don't need to be a mathematician to appreciate the beauty, detail and precision of Grittner's chip carving. Samples of his work can be viewed at: http://mnfolkarts.org/walter/ walter.html.



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by Kristi Curry Rogers

As promised last month, August brings you the terrifying, terrific and toothy Tyrannosaurus rex! T. rex has long been called the king of the big meat-eating dinosaurs. Its name even translates to "tyrant lizard king." What a reputation!-

The Science Museum of Minnesota has several really cool specimens of Tyrannosaurus rex-on the floor in the Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery, and behind the scenes, deep in the collections vault.

When you visit the Science Museum, you might encounter the enormous skull of a T. rex, jaws fully bared and ready to snap called the "puncture and pull" at the pull of a lever.

This specimen is a cast (an exact copy of original bone) that the Science Museum acquired from another museum in 1966, and was designed to give visitors an up-close and personal look at how T. rex might have used its massive jaw muscles to open and shut its mouth.

By pulling on the lever, you get to simulate how those mighty jaw muscles could have operated. When you pull the lever, you realize that it takes a lot more muscle strength to close those terrible jaws than to open them.

Over a century has passed since the first discoveries of T. rex, and the debate continues to rage on how that mouthful of sharp, steak-knife-like teeth may have inflicted damage upon prey-like poor, unsuspecting Triceratops, next month's featured dino.

Some scientists doubt the strength of T. rex teeth and jaws, and have hypothesized that if a Tyrannosaurus sunk its teeth into a tasty Triceratops, it would risk breaking its teeth.

More recent analyses indicate that T. rex teeth are perfectly suited to withstand boneshattering impacts during feeding, and the discovery of Triceratops bones riddled with T. rex toothmarks provided some estimate of the mechanism of a T. rex bite.

T. rex employed what is strategy, biting deeply at first and then raking its teeth through the penetrated flesh. T. rex also used its front teeth to delicately nibble the flesh from tight areas of prey skeletons (like along the backbone or ribs).

Just think about a T. rex snacking on a duckbilled dinosaur's backbone like we might eat an ear of corn!

When you think about just how much of a T. rex's body is taken up by its head and how little the arms were (even an adult T. rex couldn't bring its tiny arms up to its mouth), it's easy to see why scientists are convinced that T. rex used its mouth to catch its

Behind the scenes at the Science Museum of Minnesota, the collection contains lots of

other T. rex bones, especially teeth (some of them are over 6 inches long from tip to root) and an enormous toe bone (known to scientists as a metatarsal).

This fossil is my favorite of all the T. rex bones at the museum because it always fools people.

I often pull the T. rex metatarsal out of its cabinet to show people touring the collection, and most say it must be a leg bone. It's just so big-2.5 feet long to be exact.

When I tell them that it's actually just one of three toe bones, their jaws drop as they realize just how big an animal must have been with a single toe longer than a toddler is tall!

Be sure and take a trip to the Science Museum this summer, and visit the Tyrannosaurus rex on display in the Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery.

Don't forget to send your questions (krogers@smm.org). Stay tuned for next month's featured dinosaur: Triceratops!





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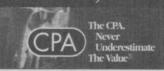
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A Foundation of Neighbors

Jon Schumacher

Building for the Future

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

Summer has finally arrived. The humidity and heat, kept out of this region thanks to cold air provided by our neighbor to the

north, have made their presence felt in a reassuring fashion, just in time for this traditional month of vacations, rest, and relaxation.

The summer months here at the foundation are usually a time to reflect and recharge our batteries. Normally, we'd still be getting acquainted with the

new faces we added in April. But this year things are a little different. After producing an ambitious five-year strategic plan based on the needs and opportunities presented in our neighborhood report, we are hard at work determining how best to turn those words into actions

While we consider a variety of options to help accomplish our goals, one thing is clear: if we want to make a lasting difference in this neighborhood, we need to be able to provide the annual financial support necessary to fill the increasing budget shortfalls in our critical local nonprofit community.

To illustrate the need, our grant requests for this year exceeded

\$50,000 and we were able to award less than half of that total. Our board was impressed by the quality of all of these organizations who are fighting to provide quality education, health, and arts opportunities in our community. We need them and they need our support;

through your kind words and contributions to this foundation, we know you strongly agree.

As we engage in the process of building the foundation so it can provide the financial and organizational capacity necessary to strengthen this community for the future, we are mind-

ful of the challenges presented by our evolving society. Those realities, combined with your support, reconfirm our commitment to preserving the shared values that have made, and will continue to make St. Anthony Park a special place.



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- · ODEN STAGE August 7, 9pm
- Children's storytelling with Ms. Joanie: "The Jungle" August 9, 2:30pm

- Roady Tate August 13, 8pm
- Morrison and Metzger folk duo August 14, 8pm
- Open Mic with Bill Hammond August 15, 6pm
- Music and Movement for Children August 17, 7pm
- Vicky Emerson, keyboardist August 20, 8pm
- Bridgeling August 21, 8pm
- · Bill Cagley's Old-Time Music SHOWCASE WITH TIM FOSS August 26, 7pm

- · Sally HUER August 27, 8pm
- · Storytelling with Northstar League August 28, 10:30am
- Bill Hammond and Barbara Piper August 28, 8pm

Ginkgo Coffeehouse

- 721 Snelling Ave., 645-2677
- Bluegrass and Oldrime Jam Session Fourth Wednesday, 7pm
- · Children's' ART AND STORY HOUR Thursdays, 10am
- Open Stage First and third Wednesdays, 6pm sign-up

Visual ARTS

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AUGUSTAR

2 Monday

- AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (651-644-0809), 8 p.m. Every Monday.
- · Como Park & Lauderdale recycling.

3 Tuesday

- · National Night Out.
- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), Langford Park Rec Center (651-298-5765), 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Every Tuesday.
- Toasimasiers (651-645-6675), training in effective speaking, Hewlett Packard, Broadway & 280, 7:35-8:35 a.m. Every Tuesday.
- 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 ruesday.
- Chair Exercise Classes Seal High Rise,
 825 Seal Street every Tuesday and
 Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Free to all area
 seniors, but pre-registration is necessary.
 Appropriate for all fitness and ability levels,
 offering cardiovascular workout. All major
 muscle groups are exercised. Call 651 642-9052 to pre-register.

4 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.

5 Thursday

- Tor Time (for 5-year-olds and younger)
 South St. Anthony Rec Center (651-298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every
 Thursday.
- TOASIMASIERS (651-649-5162), U.S. FOREST SERVICE, 1992 FORWELL AVE., ST. PAUL CAMPUS, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 p.m. EVERY THURSDAY.

- Chair Exercise Classes Seal High Rise, 825 Seal Street every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Call 651-642-9052 to preregister.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Land Use Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Crowwell, 6 p.m.

6 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.).
- Falcon Heights recycling.

10 Tuesday

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

11 WEDNESDAY

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur 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.

12 Thursday

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

16 Monday

Como Park & Lauderdale recycling.

17 Tuesday

• District 10 board meeting, call 651-644-3889 for details.

18 WEDNESDAY

- Langlord Booster Club, Langlord Park,
 D.M.
- St. Anthony Park recycling.

20 Friday

Falcon Heights recycling.

23 Monday

 St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program board of directors meeting, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church library, 7 p.m.

24 Tuesday

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

25 WEDNESDAY

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, So. 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.

30 Monday

Como Park & Lauderdale recycling

Items for the September Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Aug. 20.



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Sunday, August 29

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10 a.m.-2 p.m. Play "Know Your U" and test your knowledge of U trivia at the U stage.

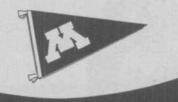
2 p.m. Cheer on the U's 300-piece marching band at the parade.

3 p.m. Listen to the Legendary Bar-B-Que Blues Band on the U stage.

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Aging Gracefully by Mary Jo Tarasar

During the torrid summer months, we often get hot and thirsty, and what an array of beverages there is to quench our thirst. But the original beverage, good old H2O, is still the best for good health. Why?

Water is necessary for the essential chemistry of life, the process of hydrolysis. That's when the water molecule splits into hydrogen and hydroxyl, which in turn interact with the amino acids, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals that keep us alive.

Drinking appropriate quantities of water helps your body eliminate toxins and excess sodium. It can help suppress an overactive appetite. It reduces fat deposits by assisting in fat metabolization. It prevents the formation of kidney stones.

Boy, if a newly developed drug could make all these claims, the infomercials would be hawking it mercilessly. So why don't most of us drink enough

Well, for one thing, we may not know how much is enough. You've probably heard that it's a good thing to drink eight glasses of water a day. But did you know that amount is based on an "average person" weighing 128 pounds? I don't know about you, but it's been a long time since I weighed 128 pounds! So for me, eight glasses of water daily is not

Someone weighing 160 pounds needs 10 eight-ounce glasses of water daily, and someone weighing 190 pounds needs 12 glasses. So even if we're chug-a-lugging 64 ounces of water daily, and we're not a svelte 128 pounds, we're not getting enough water.

The average person loses about two quarts of water daily through exhalation, sweating and elimination. A person who exercises heavily will lose more. Hot weather can increase the amount of water lost, but so can the dry air and even drier heating systems we live with during the

A surprising number of health problems can be attributed to insufficient intake of water. These include constipation, dry and itchy skin, nosebleeds, dry and unproductive coughs, sinus pressure and headaches. How can all these things be caused by lack of water?

Every cell in our bodies needs water to function properly. When the body isn't getting enough, it tries to limit the amount of water it loses through breathing, mucus production, perspiration and elimination. It conserves water by limiting the amount of water available to the major systems of the body, causing these systems to function poorly, leading to the problems described above.

Okay, so why should we drink plain water? Why not other beverages, which are, after all, mostly water?

Well, coffee, most teas and colas all contain caffeine, which is a known diuretic, so drinking these beverages will actually

increase the amount of fluid lost daily. Fruit juices are more concentrated in sugar than our body fluids, so the digestive tract tries to dilute them, causing a reduction in fluids available to the body's other systems.

So water is the beverage to drink for healthy living. But what kind of water? In this age of myriad designer waters displayed colorfully on grocery store shelves, what kind of water should we be drinking?

We don't need to spend money on bottled waters to get good drinking water. An activated charcoal filter attached to a faucet will remove any carcinogens and bacteria found in the drinking water supply. Such filters are widely available and reasonably priced.

So let's drink to our mutual health. A toast to H2O, the elixir

P.S. In June, I wrote about my own struggle with cancer. I want to thank all of you who called or wrote to me to express your concern. Although chemotherapy is tough, I am doing well in my battle with this disease, thanks to the support and prayers of people like you!

The St Anthony Park Block Nurse Program offers services to support caregivers. We hope that Aging Gracefully is helpful to older adults and those who care about and for them. We welcome ideas and feedback for this column at 642-9052 or sapbnp@bitstream.net.

Lois C. Glaeser

Lois C. Glaeser (nee Thorsell) died July 1, 2004 in Fairfax, Minnesota at the age of 72. She was a former vice president of St. Anthony Park Bank and a longtime resident of St. Anthony

Mrs. Glaeser was preceded in death by brother John Thorsell. She is survived by former

husband, Ronald Glaeser; daughters Holly Glaeser and Nancy Glaeser; sons Paul Glaeser (Suzy Wurtz) and John (Trina) Glaeser; sisters Ann (Bob) Maland of St. Peter, MN, Jean (Wendell) Husebo of FL, June (Don) McGrath of Willmar, MN and Myrna Wolf of Orono MN & AZ; brothers Mark (Kathy) Thorsell of Golden Valley, MN

and Wally (Arles) Thorsell of Gresham, OR; granddaughters Ruth, Julia and Ella; and many nieces, nephews and their children.

Funeral services were held July 7 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church with interment at Union Cemetery.



& catering

CLASSIFI

Classified deadline: August 20th, 6 p.m. Next issue: August 30th

- Type or write down your ad, and which section your ad should appear in. Usually we 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 with area code is one word.
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- Mail your ad & check to: **Bugle Classifieds** P.O. Box 8126 St. Paul, MN 55108 or deliver to the Park Bugle drop box at the side entrance to 2190 Como Ave. (on the Knapp Place side of building) by 6 p.m. on the deadline day. We cannot bill you for your ad.
- Classifieds cannot be e-mailed, faxed, or taken over the phone.
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John Mac Lean, Owner, Four Seasons Title

Corncrib art from page 1

other colors as well. "I use color," he explains, "to help the form. It's difficult to make a mistake with color."

He first conceived of a corncrib installation a couple of years ago, but the project didn't get started until he approached the Ramsey County Historical Society with his plan for the Gibbs Museum site.

When he received a grant from a St. Paul-based arts organization, Forecast Public Artworks, Walker at last had the necessary support for the task of gathering his nylon-cord harvest.

Priscilla Farnham, director of the Ramsey County Historical Society, is enthusiastic.

"It's a wonderful project," she says. "The concept of bringing a once-familiar farm building onto the site for interpretation as an art object is an exceptional one. It reminds us as a community of our agrarian heritage. The Twin Cities has become so urbanized that we're losing sight of our agricultural background."

If Walker now finds himself credited as a preserver of rural values, it's not exactly a role he aspired to. He grew up in suburban Washington State, nowhere near corn-growing country.

While earning an architecture degree from the University of Oregon, he continued to explore the possibilities of fiber art. Four years ago, when his wife entered a graduate program at the University of Minnesota, the couple decided to relocate.

"The art scene is more lively here than in Tacoma," says Walker. From his studio in Minneapolis, he now juggles his art while running a home-design business ("I can't refer to myself

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an architect," he explains, "until I pass the licensing exam.") and caring for his 11-month-old son.

Woven Corncrib 2004, as it's officially known, is Walker's first large-scale outdoor project, but he's no novice on the local art scene.

He's part of a show entitled "A Fine Line," which will run through August 27 at the Bloomington Art Center. One of his pieces will soon travel to the Museum of Contemporary Art & Design in New York, as part of a traveling exhibition organized by Fiberart International.

As for the corncrib, it will slowly take form over the course of the summer. Passers-by on Cleveland Avenue can see Walker at work on it several times a week.

"People look out their car windows," he says, "and sometimes they stop to see what I'm doing."

To satisfy the curious, Walker hung an "Art in Progress" sign on the structure, where it's easily visible from the road.

The Woven Corncrib will remain in place by the main gate at the Gibbs Museum at least through the end of the museum's

season in October. After that, its destination is not clear.

"I'd like to see it in the Walker Sculpture Garden," Walker says, "but I don't think it's going to happen. It could be great in the right interior space, but maybe it will end up in my backyard."

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Congregational Picnic at 10:00 a.m. at the Como Park East Picnic Shelter (Horton Ave. and Midway Pkwy.). We will feature the "Barbary Coast Dixieland Jazz Band." Picnic will follow the service.

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4:00 pm Prospect Hill Friends Meeting

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