Forum addresses retail climate in St. Anthony Park

by Dave Healy

What is the future of retail in St. Anthony Park? That question engaged about 75 people who attended a September 26 public meeting sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

The meeting included a panel of four people with interest and experience in business development: Terri Fleming, senior vice president for lending at Park Midway Bank; Mike Temal, founder and executive director of the Neighborhood Development Center in St. Paul; Steve Wellington, president of Wellington Management, Inc., a property development and management company based in St. Paul; and Hans Weyandt, co-owner of Micawber's Books tore.

Fleming began five years ago, the museum cometh—but not just yet.

The museum's director, the new building won't start going up until at least 2008. That's when the project will officially appear on the U of M's new construction projects list, and when the university will make a bonding request to the state.

Meantime, though, many plans have been made, and the September 21 meeting featured comments by representatives of the architectural and design team regarding the new site on the southwest corner of Cleveland and Larpenteur Avenues.

When serious discussions about relocating the Bell Museum began five years ago, the university considered four possible sites. Those were narrowed to two locations on the St. Paul campus, and eventually the Cleveland-Larpenteur site was selected. It encompasses 12 acres, 5.3 of which would accommodate the museum building and parking lot. The remaining land would constitute an outdoor exhibit/classroom featuring Minnesota's four major biospheres.

Lanyon said the new building will be much more flexible than the current one. “The old style of museum building was to come up with exhibits first, then create a building around those exhibits. That's what we have now.”

The problem with that approach, Lanyon continued, is that a museum is stuck with its original exhibits indefinitely. This time around, he said, the building will come first, and it will be designed to accommodate changing exhibits.

Lanyon stressed the importance of the larger site in the museum's vision. “We see visitors spending 60 percent of their time inside and 40 percent outside,” he said.

Some of the additional acreage is currently occupied by recreational soccer fields, and it's not yet clear whether that land will be immediately available to the Bell once they're ready to break ground. However, planning continues to be based on using the entire site, Lanyon said.

He predicted that the new location, which is directly across Larpenteur from the Gibbs Museum, will be especially convenient for school groups, which may choose to combine visits to the two museums in one field trip.

The discussion was moderated by Patricia Lopez, a St. Anthony Park resident and reporter for the Star Tribune.

In opening statements, Weyandt praised the loyalty of the local customer base. He said that the biggest challenge for local business owners is figuring out how to increase foot traffic.

Fleming acknowledged potential conflicts between the interests of businesses and residents. She pointed to the stability of businesses in St. Anthony Park as an advantage.

Wellington said that new condominium and townhouse buyers in the area consistently put in.

Ask please for whom the Bell tolls

by Dave Healy

The museum cometh—but not just yet. Plans continue apace for the relocation of the Bell Museum from the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus to the St. Paul campus—or the Falcon Heights campus, as Sue Gehrz, Falcon Heights mayor, puts it.

Gehrz presided over a September 21 public meeting at Falcon Heights City Hall, where about 70 people gathered to hear an update on the Bell's move.

According to Scott Lanyon, the museum's director, the new building won't start going up until at least 2008. That's when the project will officially appear on the U of M's new construction projects list, and when the university will make a bonding request to the state.

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Nordic walkers ignore stares of the curious

by Michelle Christiansson

What do over 750,000 Finns know that we don't? The obvious answer is the Finnish language, but the not-so-obvious answer is that they know the benefits of Nordic walking because that's how many do it at least once a week.

Nordic walking is regular walking using cross country ski-like poles. Walking with the poles helps with balance, gives a better over-all workout, stretches out neck and shoulder muscles, increases heart rate 5-17 beats per minute over that of walking, burns more calories (up to 40 percent), reduces stress on joints and the back. . . . The list goes on and on.

Two women in St. Anthony Park have discovered the benefits of Nordic walking, almost by accident. Joan Henke, a Bloomington principal, and Irene Opsahl, a lawyer for the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, have been friends for over 15 years but have only been walking together for three years. They walk for an hour four to five times a week, rain or shine. These mothers of a combined six children see their time together as mental therapy as well as physical training.

A year ago Henke was
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51 million to study transportation needs for the area.

Maczko compared the planned Pierce Butler extension to the new Phalen Boulevard, which includes four driving lanes, turn lanes and bike lanes.

He said the city has been working on this plan since April. He assured the council that the city would continue to involve the neighborhood in discussions.

The current version of St. Anthony Park’s revised district plan opposes an extension of Pierce Butler through the neighborhood.

The council passed a resolution in support of Catholic Charities’ request for a conditional use permit and parking variance (with a sunset provision for the variance) to operate two facilities in south St. Anthony Park at Hersey and at Wycliff.

The council will push for a “good neighbor agreement” with Catholic Charities.

The council decided to pursue a transportation study of the area bounded by I-94, Hwy. 36, 35E and 35W to examine the impact of development plans.

—Susan Conner
St. Matthew’s Episcopal welcomes new rector

by Judy Woodward

Blair Pogue enjoys showing visitors to her office a framed photo. It's a picture of an Episcopal priest in full vestments smiling down on a baby at the baptismal font. Hardly an uncommon decoration for the rector's office at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of St. Anthony Park, one might say, except the priest in the photo is Pogue herself and the child she is about to baptize is her infant son.

Pogue, the newly installed rector of St. Matthew's, is the first woman to hold the post. It's a fact that she regards as hardly worth noting.

Thirty years after women were first ordained as Episcopal priests, Pogue says that the concept of women in the ministry is a "nonissue."

Pogue, who just turned 40, thinks that an earlier generation of women in the ministry, as in other professions, "were the ones who broke through and had to be tougher."

Over time, though, opposition has melted away. The original objections, she believes, were "not so much theological as experiential."

As younger women like herself enter the ministry, said Pogue, congregations are beginning to appreciate new models of religious life. "My previous parish was able to share in my pregnancy and the birth of my son," she notes with satisfaction.

Pogue is also calm in the face of another controversy currently stirring the depths of the national Episcopal Church.

"In this congregation," she says, "we have openly gay couples. The Bishop of Minnesota has made ordination a nonissue. He's said that if you're gay and you are called to the priesthood, we concentrate on the calling."

More urgent, in Pogue's eyes, is the challenge offered by the burgeoning fundamentalist mega-churches, whose suburban edifices are often deliberately fashioned to resemble, in both appearance and services, the mega-churches, whose suburban edifices are often deliberately fashioned to resemble, in both appearance and services, the Protestant churches, the creation of the "typical" Anglican is now a young, African woman.

Pogue describes St. Matthew's congregation as "very diverse, very international, very artistically oriented with a welcoming, family feeling." She also has confidence in the appeal of the traditional liturgy of her church. "People eventually want a church with history," is how she puts it.

History is a subject on which Pogue has plenty of reason to speak with authority. After a post-college stint in Washington as a Washington legislative staffer, she earned a Ph.D. in American history from the College of William and Mary. She says that she'd always felt a call to the ministry, but as a history graduate student she assumed that her role was to become "a professor who was very involved with her church."

She learned otherwise when she was offered a tenure-track appointment at a liberal arts college in Ohio. It was the ideal first step in an academic career, "but—much to her parents' consternation—she turned the job down. "My parents thought I'd lost my mind," Pogue says, "but I realized that I'd enjoyed my studies, but this wasn't what I'm supposed to do in life."

A short while later, she entered Yale Divinity School and met her husband, Dwight Zurcher, a fellow divinity student, who is currently completing an advanced degree at Luther Seminary.

Ordained five years ago, Pogue previously served a congregation in the hunt country of northern Virginia. It didn't feel much like the San Diego suburbs where she grew up, but that could be in part because, unlike a good fraction of her Virginia flock, Pogue admits, "I couldn't care less if I ever got on a horse."

 Happily, the recreational opportunities of Minnesota may prove a bit more congenial. Her former congregation has already fixed her up with season tickets to the Guthrie, and she's looking forward to spending a good part of her days off with two-year-old Luke, visiting the Como Zoo and the Children's Museum.

Even as she confidently performs the obligatory juggling act of any professional woman with a young child, ushering a visitor out of her office as she simultaneously negotiates a daycare pickup by cell phone, Pogue is focused on the challenges ahead.

"St. Matthew's wants a spiritual leader and they want to be challenged," she says. "I take those words very seriously. I plan to engage the issues of the day on hunger, world debt and poverty. We should be acting on our faith."

Following the mega-church model, Pogue intends to invite her congregation to take part in small groups for scriptural study and prayer. She hopes their Biblical study will raise questions—"What does this mean for me? For us?"—that will encourage discussions of ways to "incorporate classical Christian doctrines of simplicity, silence and disciplship."

She also intends to explore innovations in spiritual life. "I want to do more with contemplative prayer," she says. For example, she plans to introduce Taizé services, a worship form that incorporates "a lot of mystery, silence, readings, but no sermon. It will be interesting."

Of all the traditional Protestant churches, the Episcopalians have always been associated in the minds of many with a distinctly un-Christ-like aura of money and social status. It's what Pogue refers to as "the blue-blood thing," even as she asserts that the stereotype of the church as the spiritual home of the economically privileged no longer really applies.

"The Episcopal Church is part of the global Anglican Communion," she says, "and the 'typical' Anglican is now a young, African woman."
A sense of place

“What is a place?” asked geographer Yi-Fu Tuan. “What gives a place its identity, its aura?”

To many Americans, a sense of place is inextricably bound up with a sense of history. Who lived here before we did? How did their lives shape this locale, this particular corner of the world?

It is perhaps not necessary to believe in ghosts to believe that a place can be imbued with some sense of its previous occupants, that nonmaterial traces of their former presence survive in layers of life in the readership communities. The Park Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of community news and promote the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle serves the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc. Copyright 2005, Park Press, Inc., a nonprofit organization guided by an antithetical role military and other federal agencies is shameful, and I deeply appreciated Barbara Scott Munro’s incisive and informative commentary on this issue in the October Bugle. The U.S. Senate has been equally troubled by this issue, as shown by their overwhelming approval of the “McCain amendment” to restrict interrogation methods by the military. I applaud their action but wish they had applied it to all federal agencies. Our president threatens to veto the entire Defense Authorization Bill if this amendment is included, claiming it would unduly limit our ability to obtain crucial information from detainees. How can President Bush in good conscience tell John McCain that torture is warranted and useful? Torture is an unpleasant subject, but at a neighborhood forum on October 30 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Michael Buelle St. Anthony Park

Thanks to Boy Scouts

There were many dedicated volunteers and staff at the Sept. 24 neighborhood cleanup. No group was more hardworking than the Boy Scouts from Troop 17. Again this year they provided a wonderful service to seniors and disabled persons in the community. They went to homes, loaded their trailers with mattresses, metal, electronics, etc., and unloaded the materials at the clean up site.

They were an enthusiastic, cheerful and efficient team assisted by their leader, Mark Hansen. Many thanks to the scouts and Northwest St. Paul HandyWorks Program for their kindness and generosity.

Carol Mulroy St. Anthony Park

Support Pam Harris

Falcon Heights residents will continue their efforts to fill two vacancies on the City Council on Nov. 8. An outstanding incumbent, Laura Kurtell, who is running for re-election, holds one of these seats. Three candidates are running for the second seat, one of whom we enthusiastically endorse.

Pam Harris is a write-in candidate who is extraordinarily qualified to serve the interests of our community as a council member. Pam Harris is an attorney specializing in employment law and is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Hamline University Law School. She has experience serving our city, having been on the Falcon Heights Planning Commission for four years and in its Human Rights Commission for two years.

She has 34 years of broad experience as an employment attorney representing numerous businesses, including the Metropolitan Council, and worked as an internal auditor for International Multifoods Corporation. She has also chaired and served on several community nonprofit boards of directors.

As a council member, Pam Harris will focus on four principal areas:

1. The city of Falcon Heights is a responsive, well-managed, fiscally conservative, small city government. She intends to maintain and safeguard this efficient and effective management style.

2. She strongly supports the positive relationships built between Falcon Heights, surrounding communities, the State Fair and the University of Minnesota. She is a lifetime member of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

3. As a former planning commissioner, she has a strategic understanding of the city’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, up for renewal in 2008.

4. She strongly supports residential participation in the city’s government and will consistently seek ways to enhance it.

Letters to 5

Bontrager family update

The March issue of the Bugle carried an article by Michelle Christianson about the Amish couple who was fortunate enough to be able to befriend in December.

They live near Homer, Michigan. They had been awaiting the arrival of a young mother from Canada, whose baby they were going to adopt after it was born in Michigan. But babies have a way of changing our plans. Nathan ended up being born in a very big way at Regions Hospital on Dec. 7. His parents-to-be had to rush here on a train the same day to see him and complete adoption arrangements.

Those arrangements resulted in endless red tape and much expense, so Henny and Lydia Bontrager and baby Nathan ended up staying at my home for 10 days.

I am often asked by Bugle readers how things turned out and if I am still in touch with the family. The adoption is now final, but the process has been extremely difficult and expensive.

The state of Michigan decided this August that the Bontragers had to fly the birth mother from northern Saskatchewan to Michigan to reunite.

Needless to say, this created considerable trauma: the birth mother had never flown (and didn’t like it at all); the flight was complicated and costly; she could have “pulled out of the deal” and taken the notion of her newborn, chubby, happy baby back with her.

I went to visit the Bontragers in mid-September and am happy to report that the Canadian mother’s visit was described by them as “wonderful.” She insisted that she would do anything for Nathan or for his new family. So now, presumably, the state will finally finish the paperwork we thought was complete last December.

The Bontrager’s home was a delight—quieter and darker in the evening than any of ours, but with a large yard for the more Pie and homemade bread at all times.

Henry still had to do his farm chores early in the morning of course, but he took the day off from work as a Carpenter in order to spend it with his family and with me.

We did several errands in the horse-drawn buggy, including getting ice cream cones for all in Homer and visiting the recently completed Amish school. Then, while Lydia and I prepared two large potato casseroles she was taking to the gathering that evening and their daughter MaryAnn played. Henry, Tony, Nathan, now strapped in a car seat, along to load hay bales some distance away. When he returned, Nathan was sound asleep, his chair strapped to the buggy seat.

That evening several Amish families gathered for fellowship, to meet me and to sing hymns. The evening was a blessing I will long remember.

Both Henry and Lydia stated over and over their gratitude for the help and interest of so many in St. Anthony Park. They dream of coming home here by train this coming December, to relive the memories, if finances, weather and work allow.

Mary Mengenal St. Anthony Park

Eliminate torture

The use of torture by the U.S. military and other federal agencies is shameful, and I deeply appreciated Barbara Scott Munro’s incisive and informative commentary on this issue in the October Bugle. The U.S. Senate has been equally troubled by this issue, as shown by their overwhelming approval of the “McCain amendment” to restrict interrogation methods by the military. I applaud their action but wish they had applied it to all federal agencies.

Our president threatens to veto the entire Defense Authorization Bill if this amendment is included, claiming it would unduly limit our ability to obtain crucial information from detainees. How can President Bush in good conscience tell John McCain that torture is warranted and useful? Torture is an unpleasant subject, but at a neighborhood forum on October 30 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Holly Ziemer, director of communications at the Center for Victims of Torture, will discuss what the CVT does to heal victims.

To learn how we can help eliminate torture, join your neighbors at 6:30 p.m. on October 30 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Michael Buelle St. Anthony Park


Letters from 4

Pam Harris is a sharp, intelligent and experienced leader. She is a team player who will interact positively with the mayor and the other City Council members. We are proud of Falcon Heights’ reputation as a model Minnesota city. We appreciate our well-kept parks, efficient police, fire, snow-removal services, strong disaster team preparations and a citizen-responsive city government for relatively low taxes.

We enthusiastically endorse the re-election of incumbent Laura Kuettel and write-in candidate Pam Harris, and ask you to cast your vote for them to the City Council. Voters for me have to take a step that most people never have before—they have to write my name in, because it will not be on the ballot. Thank you.

Pam Harris Falcon Heights

Write-in candidate

I am a candidate for Falcon Heights City Council because I want to expand the ways to help maintain our excellent quality of life and extensive resident participation. I have served on the Falcon Heights Planning Commission for the past four years, as chair in 2004 and on the Human Rights Commission for two years before that. I have lived in Falcon Heights since 1991 and raised my son here. I love Falcon Heights. It is my home.

I am a write-in candidate because I didn’t join the race until after Bob Lamb, an incumbent who had filed for re-election, dropped out the day after the filing deadline.

In addition to my city work, I will bring 34 years of business experience to the council, including 27 years as an attorney representing private businesses and cities, counties and the Metropolitan Council; 19 years as a leader of local nonprofit organizations; and three years before law school as an internal auditor for International Multifoods Corporation.

My experience has taught me the value of collaboration and collegiality over contentiousness, and I will bring that perspective to the council. Also, I have spent my whole career learning to negotiate and advocate effectively, skills that will come in handy as we face future challenges.

I ask that Falcon Heights residents consider my qualifications and help elect me to the City Council. Voters for me have to take a step that most people never have before—they have to write my name in, because it will not be on the ballot. Thank you.

Pam Harris
Falcon Heights

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Dr. Steven Miles, Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota, & long-time member of American Refugee Committee
Holly Ziemer, Minnesota Center for Victims of Torture
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Lauderdale will hold an election for City Council on Nov. 8. Two seats are open, and three candidates have filed: Clay Christensen (incumbent), Karen Doherty (incumbent) and Denise Hawkinson.

The Bugle invited them to respond to the following question: What is the most significant challenge facing Lauderdale, and how would you address that challenge?

Clay Christensen

Lauderdale has had a history of noncompliance. While that can be fine in some hands, I believe it led to reluctance to spend any money on infrastructure improvements for many years.

The City Council began to set aside funds for such projects starting 10 or 15 years ago. Now we’ve completed a four-year project that brought our city’s streets up to today’s standards and replaced failing sewer, storm water and utility systems, the first upgrade in nearly 40 years.

Now we need to apply city oversight to another area we’ve ignored too long. We need to look at rental properties and landlord responsibilities. While many landlords do a fine job, we’ve had some incidents this past year of an absentee landlord not keeping an oversight of the condition of his property and the tenants’ behavior, resulting in police calls to the property.

We don’t want those kinds of problems to continue or become worse. We owe it to the tenants, the neighbors and the city itself to provide a process for oversight of rental properties including licensing, inspection and consequences for noncompliance.

Karen Doherty

Since I joined the council, there have been a few issues surrounding rental properties. The council needs to spend time creating a rental property ordinance that considers the needs and concerns of the community and neighbors while encouraging landlords to manage the property responsibly.

Our community has a number of families that have established roots in the city. I wish to see Lauderdale remain a community that families want to live in for generations. While our community has a strong base of homeowners, it is also an attractive place for the University population. I can see that our rental community can provide a hometown feel for University staff, professors, students and families.

We need to encourage landlords to manage their properties responsibly. This includes the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings or homes, choice of tenants and consideration of neighbors.

We need to create this ordinance to provide guidelines of what the city expects from landlords. We need to include penalties for the few landlords who are not making responsible choices, while being careful to respect the landlords who are already considering the needs of renter, the city and the community.

My wife, Jean, and I have lived in Lauderdale for 35 years, and raised three children here. I’ve been a City Council member for eight years and served 11 years on Lauderdale’s Planning and Zoning Commission. In my career, I’ve been a program manager, financial analyst and business systems analyst.

Denise Hawkinson

I believe a challenge facing Lauderdale will be reconstruction on Larpenteur and Highway 280. This is a very dangerous section of Highway 280 and is a main artery for Lauderdale.

I feel the configuration of this intersection has to be addressed and improvements made to provide safer entrance and exit ramps, while looking at ways to reduce accidents on this highway. It will be necessary for the Lauderdale Council and city staff to work together with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to make the best decisions for this interchange; convey concerns residents may have; keep the best interests of residents in mind; and communicate with residents about any developing plans.

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Falcon Heights City Council candidates speak out

Falcon Heights will hold an election for City Council on Nov. 8. Two seats are open, and three candidates have filed: Laura Kueettel (incumbent), Tom Logeson and Bryan Olson.

The Bugle invited them to respond to the following question: What is the most significant challenge facing Falcon Heights, and how would you address that challenge?

Laura Kueettel
One of the largest challenges Falcon Heights faces is becoming isolated from our neighbors. We have 11 contracts with other municipalities for shared services. We contract with neighboring cities or entities to provide IT services, building inspections, medical insurance, ambulance and police coverage, to name a few.

Our ability to negotiate with and work toward solutions that benefit our residents is necessary in these difficult budgetary times. Our productive and positive relationships with the University of Minnesota and the State Fair make it possible for all parties to consider each other while making respective changes in our policies and land use.

Our city is small, our staff is smaller. Working together with our neighbors produces the most efficient and experienced results, which saves money, time and energy. It is therefore necessary for our council to approach tasks in a positive and supportive manner. We must face challenges and relationships with a collaborative spirit. This willingness to work together will help us continue on the path of living in one of the finest cities in the state!

• 10 years on City Council.
• Special Education–ISD 623.
• University of St. Thomas.
• University of Minnesota Master Gardener Program.
• Horticultural Therapy at St. Paul Childrens and United Hospitals.

Tom Logeson
Our most significant challenge is balancing city revenues with expenses while providing the level of services that residents desire. Falcon Heights has the enviable position of having large reserves to cushion our budget increases without raising our tax levy. Furthermore, the city is doing the right thing by managing current budget gaps with reserves. The tricky part comes as we approach the desired level of reserves. Then we need to carefully prioritize our spending so we can balance the budget. Yearly goal-setting sessions are an excellent way for citizens to provide input into the budget priorities in a positive manner.

One service to increase is to change our fall leaf sweeping program from two to three sweepings to more effectively keep pollutants out of our water system. We can also be leaders and invest in our future by converting our city vehicles to environmentally clean alternative fuels.

In addition, we can save money and increase efficiency at City Hall by using open-source software. We can be at the forefront of using this high quality software to save significant amounts of money. Falcon Heights is a leader now, and I intend to keep it a leader in the future.

• Commissioner appointment, city of Falcon Heights.
• Past board member, Northwest Youth and Family Services.
• CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team).
• Married with three teen-aged children.
• Resident 18 years.

Bryan Olson
The most significant challenge to Falcon Heights is one that is not plainly visible. It’s the vision needed to maintain our city for the next 25 to 50 years. Maintenance is the key word. We have few immediate needs. Our job is to preserve what we have now so that it can be improved upon by future generations. Those are the people whom we cannot saddle with our debt obligations or poor land use planning. They will be the ones who will be reconstructing our housing stock, which will be at least a century old by then.

I have taken a special interest in what becomes of the controversial 1871 Larpenteur property, which may present an opportunity for the city to study the Larpenteur commercial corridor as a whole. I would do my best to insure that our commercial properties complement their neighborhoods.

City building codes will also need to be re-examined on an individual case basis as demolition and reconstruction of aging homes becomes inevitable.

I’ve been studying and participating in the political scene since I was a teenager. I have a background in radio, television and the graphic arts. I provide video production services, including producing, writing, editing and duplication. Many of my productions are in the documentary realm, in addition to meetings, events and subjects in the public interest.

• 5-year member (chair, 2003), Falcon Heights Planning Commission.
• Led and won fight against city effort to organize waste collection.
• Former chair, Student Services Fees Committee, University of Minnesota.
• Married, two children, dog owner.

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Taking quilting above and beyond the bed

by Susan Triemert

When the Country Peddler closed in 2001, St. Anthony Park was temporarily without a quilting merchant. In April of 2004, Susan Stein filled this void when she opened Colorful Quilts in the Park Crossing shopping strip on Energy Park Drive.

Quilting hasn’t always been a popular hobby. Triggered by nostalgia, quilting experienced its most recent surge around the time of the Bicentennial. Because this pastime wasn’t common as 1976 approached, the present-day “matrons of Minnesota quilting” gathered in an instructor’s home to learn how to quilt in order to teach others.

When the 1979 St. Paul Winter Carnival hosted a national quilting show, interest rose on a local level. According to Stein, appeal has somewhat leveled off since.

“Quilting is a business that prospers in slow economic times. People stay home more,” Stein said. Prior to the Bicentennial, the Great Depression was the last time quilting’s popularity soared.

As the time Stein learned to quilt, “you had to make a bed quilt, and you had to make it by hand,” she said. Her businesses, on the other hand, have always veered from the norm.

A former St. Anthony Park resident, Stein opened the first St. Paul site of Colorful Quilts in 1980. It offered modern classes, but there are also more specialized courses include “Fabulous Fabric Postcards,” embellishment beading, weaving and journaling—where quilters learn to chronicle their lives using photo transferring.

Not only does Colorful Quilts now offer a wider variety of classes, but there are also more projects possible. Quilters continue to make wall quilts, books, dolls, clothing and other decorative items. In order to create a more decorative effect, thread selection has become more varied, too. And it is no longer necessary to quilt by hand since machine work is much more common.

The fabric used in quilting comes from several sources, including local artists supported by Stein. Artists dye fabric through such methods as sun printing and silk screening, and Stein sells their products in her store. However, since only two yards of fabric can be dyed at one time, production is usually slow.

A much larger portion of fabric comes from abroad. “Quilting has become so international,” said Stein. In Indonesia the complex drying process is done outdoors. In order to increase production, American artists have traveled to this southeast Asian country to teach the Indonesian artists how to dye indoors as well.

Not only does Stein teach a weekly quilting class, she also takes quilting classes herself. After viewing her quilts and listening to her speak so knowledgeably about this art form, Stein’s students must wonder what else there could be for this woman to learn. Stein believes that quilters of every level can still learn something.

For more information about Colorful Quilts, visit www.colorfulquilts.com.
Finding shade beneath the Mighty Oak

by Dave Healy

"Your head is a bowling ball," said Nedira LeBlanc. She wasn’t being rude, just trying to make a point—namely, that the human head, which weighs as much as some bowling balls, is balanced atop the spinal column, where it rests on the atlas, the smallest and most mobile of the vertebrae.

The head’s precarious perch, added LeBlanc’s husband, Rodd Bruntjen, is the cause of many subluxations, which is what chiropractors call misalignments of the spine. Bruntjen treats subluxations with a distinctive form of chiropractic care called NUCCA, which is the acronym for the National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association.

Actually, Bruntjen would quibble with the term “treat” to describe his practice, which opened recently at 2233 Energy Park Drive in St. Anthony Park. "Calling it a 'treatment' reinforces the image of the chiropractor's office as a fix-it shop," he said. Bruntjen prefers to emphasize chiropractic as a means of achieving and enhancing wellness, which he describes as much more than an absence of pain. “Everyone can benefit from what we have to offer," he said.

Bruntjen and LeBlanc run Mighty Oak Chiropractic, which opened for business on September 6 in Park Crossing, at the intersection of Raymond Avenue and Energy Park Drive. They took over space formally occupied by the YMCA. The husband and wife did most of the remodeling work themselves.

"We spent several months looking for a location in St. Paul," said LeBlanc, adding that she grew to love the city while a student at the College of St. Catherine. "We wanted a spot that's easily accessible, which we have here. And the charm of the neighborhood is a wonderful bonus.

Previously, Bruntjen practiced in Rosemount. The couple lives in Apple Valley, but would eventually like to move closer to their business. LeBlanc said the name Mighty Oak was inspired by the saying "mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow." She looks at the human body as being like an acorn in that both need certain things to grow—water, nutrients and "a lack of interference.

"That’s the goal of chiropractic," added her husband—“to remove interference to the body’s inherent capacity for self-healing." He said that NUCCA involves only light pressure on the head and neck. "It’s a very gentle adjustment," he emphasized. "We don’t do any wrenching of the neck.

NUCCA starts with three-dimensional x-rays of the upper spine, said Bruntjen, to determine the precise adjustments required to restore the spine to its proper alignment. He was first exposed to this particular method as a student at Palmer College in Davenport, Iowa.

Bruntjen and LeBlanc refer to people who use Mighty Oak’s services as “members” rather than patients. They said that’s in keeping with their commitment to a wellness model rather than a medical one.

"The terminology is deliberate," said Bruntjen. "It’s intended to be less hierarchical and to reinforce the idea that the people we see are active participants in their own health.

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NOVEMBER 2005 ■ PARK BUGLE 9
Look for a new store to open soon in the space recently vacated by Hearts and Vines at Como and Doswell in St. Anthony Park. The new business, Vine and Branches (the similarity in names is coincidental), is a gallery shop featuring handcrafts by Christian artists.

The shop is moving from the Arden Hills Plaza, where they have been for the past seven years. The space on Como Avenue has been remodeled, and owner Laurie Ashbach said they hope to move in by the end of October.

Vine and Branches will feature paintings, prints, liturgical fibers, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, cards and books, as well as cut flowers from Hermes Floral. “Our focus is on life events,” said Ashbach—“everything from birthdays and holidays to baptism, confirmation, ordinations, etc.”

She added that unlike other stores that offer similar gifts to mark religious occasions, Vine and Branches carries unique work by local, regional and national artisans. Several artists whose work Vine and Branches carries have pieces at Luther Seminary, such as the richly colored stoles of liturgical designer Janette Paulson and the mosaic-style watercolor paintings of Kirsten Malcolm Berry.

Customers will recognize several artists who sold work at Hearts and Vines, such as jeweler Deirdre Olson and calligrapher Marva Sheriff. The shop also carries the calligraphy art of Judy Dodd, wife of Dr. Jim Dodds, who practiced dentistry in St. Anthony Park for many years. “A lot of our artists will do commissioned pieces,” said Ashbach, “We are focused on listening to customers and matching them to an artist.”

The mainstay of the business is Ashbach’s popular line of jewelry. Her pieces use Christian symbolism and are available in 14-karat gold and sterling silver. They feature necklaces with her own cross in a heart design, breast cancer prayer bell necklaces, and mother and child rings.

“We’re excited about moving into the neighborhood,” said store manager Diane Wagar. “The St. Anthony Park neighborhood has our kind of feel—homely and neighborly.”

Vine and Branches will hold an open house November 11 and 12 to celebrate the new location of the shop. Author and illustrator Marianne Richmond will be on hand to show original artwork and autograph books. There will also be refreshments and a drawing for a free trip to Elbow Lake Lodge in northern Minnesota.

Store hours will be Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Making media arts accessible and engaging

by Natalie Zett

Would you like to build a Web site or unlock the mysteries of digital photography? Have you ever imagined what it would be like to write and produce your own film? If so, you’re one of the many who have had the help of one of St. Anthony Park’s newest community centers, the Independent Feature Project Center for Media Arts (IFP), which allows you to do all that—and more.

For Jane Minton, IFP’s executive director, their new home at 2446 University is a dream realized. “The goal was to get this all under one roof,” she said. “We moved into this space on March 15 and had our grand opening on May 7, 2005.”

Previously, classes and labs were housed at Raymond University at the old Film in the Cities building, while administrative offices were in Minneapolis. IFP is a national organization headquartered in New York City, but each chapter operates autonomously.

At 5 p.m., when most businesses are shutting down, the IFP offices are bustling. “We have nine people on staff to handle the administrative work,” said Reilly Tillman, IFP’s director of education. “I grew up in a small town—Belle Plain, Minnesota. Now, I wasn’t a bad kid, but I was kind of a troublemaker,” she laughed. “I had this 11th-grade English teacher who said, ‘You need something to do, so here’s a camera. Take pictures.’ Then the science teacher showed me how to develop the pictures. That opened the world.”

Upon graduation from the U of M in speech communication, Minton continued taking film classes. “I had always been interested in media making,” she said. In 1980, I was working on a documentary and, back then, portable equipment was incredibly heavy. I was standing on Chicago and 18th in 98-degree heat with this equipment and I thought, ‘This sucks! I hate this schlepping!’”

It was a eureka moment for Minton, who admitted, “I wanted to be more in arts administration rather than the actual filmmaking. Besides, my films were pretty laughable.”

“One day I got the idea of creating an organization when the board of IFP approached her about doing fundraising and providing infrastructure to the newly formed organization. She raised the money, and IFP asked her to be their executive director in 1989. She’s been there ever since. “The organization has never, ever been dull,” she said.

Since 9/11, the playing field has changed for many nonprofits, including IFP. “It’s been a challenge to keep the organization in the black and to continue to provide services,” Minton said.

“What’s different now is that we have the influx of new immigrants. We also have the media agility of young people. They are so agile with video gaming, cell phones and digital technology. We want to provide a place where they could be taking that energy and that knowledge. Last week, I had an older Somali gentleman come in. He had been a film producer in Somalia, and he had films that needed subtitling and we want to help him.”

Minton concluded, “The bottom line is that we believe in access to the media arts for everyone. Everyone has that right.”

For more information about IFP visit www.ifpmn.org.
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Ghosts of D

by Sabra

Whenever St. Anthony Park resident Flo McNerney gardens, she does archeology. “We’re always finding bits of burned wood,” she says. Those fragments, along with the fieldstone wall that runs the length of her house at 2286 Doswell and the two houses south of hers, are reminders of the block’s history. The Stryker Seminary, which used to stand there, was replaced long ago by a block of city houses. The “seminary” was a girls’ boarding and day school. In its founder, the Rev. Peter Stryker, wanted to give the place a high moral tone. Stryker established the original school, located in Minneapolis, in 1884. He stayed in New York, where he preached and taught, and sent his daughter Anna to Minnesota to act as the principal.

The Strykers, a well-known New Jersey family, had been ministers and teachers since the early 1800s. Peter Stryker was the third minister in his family in as many generations. All three studied at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey, the center for Reformed religious study, and they all ministered to the faithful in New Jersey and proselytized to the godless in New York.

Anna Stryker wasn’t the first woman in her family to run a school. Her great-aunts, Elizabeth Stryker Ricord, founded a women’s seminary in upstate New York at the height of the religious revivals of the early 1830s. Her graduates went on to become prominent in the social and moral reform movements of the 1840s and 1850s. Anna studied in Germany in the early 1880s unusual for her day, and was well-educated and capable enough to run the Stryker Seminar at the age of 23.

The school soon outgrew its original space on University Avenue S.E. in Minneapolis, and by 1889 needed its own home. Peter Stryker bought land in St. Anthony Park and hired Minneapolis architect Edward S. Stebbins to design the new school. Stebbins drew up plans for the school building, the grounds and the fieldstone wall.

According to the 1889-1890 school catalog, the new building was “attractive and commodious, three stories high, 70 by 40 feet in dimension, with a wing 40 by 40.”

The first floor included the parlor, where the young ladies received their visitors, and the dining room, where they took their meals, as well as the classrooms. The boarders lived on the upper floors, a relatively luxurious two to a room.

School life was temperate. The students dressed simply, rose early and went to bed early. They were kindly but closely supervised, and their studies were serious. The preparatory course was good enough to admit its graduates to the University of Minnesota. The curriculum, in addition to languages, history and science, included Bible and religion.

Fees were steep. Boarders paid $600 a year and day pupils $100, and even the kindergarten cost a dollar a day. The students came from well-to-do families. Nina Clough, who graduated in 1887, was likely the daughter of Minnesota Senator D. M. Clough, who supplied references for the school.

Arthur Evenson, who eventually purchased the land where the school once stood, grew up in the small Minnesota town of St. Peter, where his family owned a general store. He met and married his wife, Ida Hibbard of Illinois, in St. Peter, and worked as a grain buyer for a local elevator. By 1900 their family included three daughters and Ida’s older unmarried sister.

Ten years later Evenson was living in St. Anthony Park, where he would remain for the rest of his life. In almost 40 years, he didn’t move far. He lived on Langford Avenue and Knapp Street before he built the house on Doswell Avenue; after that he moved to Como Avenue at Carter. In the mid-1920s, he joined the board of the St. Anthony Park Bank. He could look from the window of his house on Como Avenue and...
Evenson bought the former Stryker Seminary site in 1915 and built his house on the northernmost lot. The house was in the best Prairie School style, with a flat roof and a horizontal orientation. The front steps and the foundation of the house were set with fieldstone to echo the design of the remaining seminary wall.

Inside, the living room and dining room were paneled in reddish oak. All of the rooms had built-in bookcases or cupboards. Even the sewing room originally had a fold-out table hidden in a cupboard. Upstairs were two rooms with built-in closets, wardrobes and vanities. It’s likely that the Evensons’ four daughters, who ranged in age from 18 to 25, shared those rooms and put the mirrors to good use. The house also had a stylish three-season sleeping porch paneled in narrow strips of pine—a rustic touch in the middle of the city.

Even the basement was well-designed. Evenson could walk from an attached garage into a room with arched windows on opposite walls. He used this room as his office. Perhaps he needed his own place to retreat; eventually his mother-in-law joined the household.

The Evensons stayed in the house on Doswell for only four years. In 1919, they sold it to Frank and Edna Nelson. Frank Nelson was a railway mail clerk who traveled a great deal, an arrangement that was probably a relief to him and a burden to his wife, because the Nelsons had seven children.

A year later, Evenson sold the second lot of his property to Jacob and Laura Saltzman, who built a house that still stands. They didn’t stay long either. In 1923 they sold it to Albert and Elizabeth Willhoit. The Willhoits lived in the house for so long that the neighbors referred to it as “the Willhoit house,” according to Ann Kersey, who lives there now. One of the Willhoit sons, a Boy Scout in the 1930s, planted the great white pine that Kersey calls “the centerpiece of the yard.”

Arthur Evenson’s house never fell into disrepair, but by the late 1980s, when the current owner bought it, it was showing its age. Previous owners had taken down the moldings, painted the woodwork, installed new built-ins and remodeled the old ones. They had also neglected the upkeep of the house’s 70 windows.

Flo McNerney slowly began the process of restoring the house. She was pleased to discover that the previous owners had never thrown away any part of the house: All of it was stashed somewhere in the basement. McNerney removed much of the paint from the woodwork, restored the floors, weatherproofed as much as possible and is now planning to tackle some of the bigger jobs—like sandblasting the fireplace brick, weatherproofing the sleeping porch and taking care of those windows. She is also researching the house’s history. It has an architect’s design, but the name of the architect is still a mystery.

McNerney has been joined by her immediate neighbors, the Kerseys, in preserving the fieldstone wall. Ann Kersey recalls, “We had the wall between Flo and us rebuilt in 1985. It had fallen down in the night. When I went out in the morning, her side had collapsed, and we knew ours wasn’t far behind.”

The builder who restored McNerney’s side of the wall reused the original fieldstones, Kersey says. When she and her husband had their section of the wall repaired, the builder dumped the old ones and brought in new ones. The end result is seamless. There’s no difference between the old stones and the new ones.

You can walk down Doswell Avenue, you can even admire the fieldstone wall, without knowing what was here before. But knowing makes for a nice feeling of continuity.
Arts Events
Music in the Park Series presents the New Zealand String Quartet with Richard Nunns on Nov. 20, 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Guest artist Nunns plays traditional Maori instruments: nose flute, conch shell trumpet and various gourds. He and composer Janika Vandelivde will participate in a preconcert discussion at 3 p.m.

Tickets are $18 in advance, $20 at the door and $12 for students (when available). Call 645-5699 or visit the Web site at www.musicintheparkseries.org.

On Nov. 13 at 4 p.m., the Prevailing Winds Woodwind Quintet will present chamber music at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2325 Como Ave. The group will perform Sextet for Winds and Piano by Francis Poulenc, with guest pianist Darin Tysdal.

On November 19 and 20, a CD release concert will be held from 7-10 p.m. at Coffee Grounds, 1579 Hamline Ave. The album, “Shade Grown: Best of Coffee Grounds, Vol. 1,” is a compilation of October’s music shows. Proceeds will benefit the Nonviolent Peace Force.

An opening ceremony for a new art installation, “The Buckhorn Menace,” will be held Saturday, Nov. 5 from 2-3:30 p.m. on the Winchell Trail near the Mississippi River, at West River Parkway and East 24th St. The artwork is made from recycled buckhorn. Park along Seabury Avenue or East 24th or 25th St. Walk across West River Parkway at East 25th and head north to the staircase.

Garden Club
On Nov. 1 at 7 p.m., the St. Anthony Park Garden Club will host a presentation on Japanese gardening by Sue Bagge in the lower level of the St. Anthony Park Library. The Garden Club will sponsor the sixth annual invasive species roundup on Friday, Nov. 11. For further details, see their ad on p. 20.

Open Gym
Saturday morning open gym starts Nov. 5 and continues through Mar. 25 at Falcon Heights Elementary School, 1393 Garden Ave. The sessions are from 10 a.m. to noon, and the cost is $3 per person.

Community Playroom
The Falcon Heights Community Playroom is open November through March at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. Sponsored by the city of Falcon Heights, the playroom is a place where adults can bring infants and preschool children for recreational play and social interaction. It is not a drop-off day care center, but a place for children and their caregivers to play.

Playroom hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday mornings. The cost is $2 per child or $3 for two or more children.

Lecture
Professor David Valleskey will talk about the life of the Apostle Paul in a series of four sessions at Mr. Olive Lutheran Church’s Reformation Renewal Weekend, Nov. 4-6. Friday’s session begins at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Pascal and Almond Aves. For more information, call 645-2575.

Karate
Karate Junction Training Center, Inc. 1565 Como Ave., will hold an open house and Halloween fashion show for kids on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Model Railroads
The Twin City Model Railroad Museum will hold “A Salute to the Northern Pacific” on Sunday, Nov. 13 from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is $3; children under 5 are admitted free.

The museum is located in Bandana Square, 1021 Bandana Blvd. E, Suite 222. For more information, call 647-9628 or visit www.tcmrm.org.

Sales
The 28th annual Schulte is in Stitches Holiday Extravaganza features 150 artists and craftpersons, the event takes place Oct. 29-30, 2011, at the John Rose Oval, on Civic Center Drive just northwest of County Rd. C and Lexington Ave. in Roseville.

Admission and parking are free. Hours are Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4 and Monday-Friday 10-9. For more information, call 224-1733.

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota presents its 31st annual Fiber Fair the weekend of Nov. 18-20 at 3000 University Ave. SE in Minneapolis.

The sale features over 50 fiber artists, and includes demonstrations of weaving and spinning. Hours are 10-9 on Nov. 18, 10-5 on Nov. 19 and 12-4 on Nov. 20.

The MOMS Club of Summit Hill will hold its second annual Shop for a Cause bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 in the auditorium of IHM-St. Luke’s School at the corner of Summit and Lexington.

The bazaar highlights women-owned businesses and will benefit the YWCA Minneapolis Transitional Housing Program. For more information, call 659-0123.

People
The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation welcomed two new board members at its September 26 annual meeting. Kathy DiGionno is a lawyer for Medtronic. Don Stryker is a software engineer at Symantec.

Stryker will serve as treasurer, along with other newly elected officers: co-chairs Paul Fate and Charlie Nauen, first vice-chair Carol Lukas, second vice-chair Jeff Blodgett and secretary Jay Weinert.

South St. Anthony Park resident Stephen Macay will be featured in an upcoming episode of “Landscape Smart,” an HGTV home and garden show that airs at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29.

The show features Macay, a young couple and their Northeast Minneapolis back yard. In this episode they will demolish and re-create the couple’s back yard, in keeping with the show’s theme “extra back yard room.”

Business News
The Minnesota Chemical Co., whose headquarters are at 2285 Hampten Ave. in south St. Anthony Park, is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The company was founded in 1915 by native ikeuian R. P. Baker and has been owned and operated by the Baker family since its inception. They distribute laundry and dry cleaning equipment and supplies.

For the third straight year, the Carter Avenue Frame Shop has been named one of the top 100 art and frame retailers in the country by DECOR magazine.

The store, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, has also been recognized by FramerSelect as one of the best frame shops in the U.S.

Carter Avenue Frame Shop is located at 2186 Como Ave. and is owned by St. Anthony Park resident Tim Smith, who also owns Gilded Edge Framing in Arden Hills.

Volunteers
Big Brothers and Big Sisters needs volunteers for school-based mentoring at Murray Junior High School. Mentors meet with students for an hour each week during the school year. Call 789-2582 for more information.

St Paul Parks and Recreation seeks volunteer swim instructors to work individually with physically disabled individuals. Lessons are Tuesdays from 7-7:45 p.m. at Como Elementary. Call 266-7375 for more information.
Beth Commers: Red Cross volunteer extraordinaire

by Lisa Steinmann

Disasters have a way of accentuating the importance of community. Whether your house burns down in the Como Park neighborhood, or a tornado has knocked a tree onto the roof of your house in Fridley, or a hurricane and flooding has chased you from your home in New Orleans, the first question is, Who will help you with food, clothing and shelter?

The American Red Cross, a familiar organization to most people, represents the efforts of communities, both local and nationwide, to provide disaster relief.

It should come as no surprise that St. Anthony Park resident Beth Commers, a volunteer for the Red Cross, has had a particularly busy season this fall.

She is part of a dedicated team of people who regularly drop everything when a phone call comes in to help people in need after a disaster.

After September 20, Commers spent a fair amount of time working out of a sprawling cement office building on Energy Park Drive in St. Paul.

That was the location of the State Assistance Center. In operation for several weeks, it served as a one-stop site where relief agencies could offer assistance to people displaced by the hurricane in Louisiana and Mississippi.

According to Leanne Mairs, the St. Paul American Red Cross office, “Within days we had clients. There hasn’t been a disaster like this—ever. Never had clients. There hasn’t been a disaster like this in our lifetime.”

Commers helped a young girl from Minnesota who had been living in a shelter in Baton Rouge with her mother and grandmother. The family decided to send the girl to Minnesota to live with her other grandmother while her mother went to Atlanta to find work.

Commers acted as an agent for the family, making arrangements for the girl to travel as an unaccompanied minor on the plane flight to Minnesota. She made sure that the grandmother in Minnesota had adequate resources for housing and clothing her granddaughter.

There are plenty of resources if needed, but there can also be a maze of bureaucracy to navigate. Commers’ role is to see that families, like this one, get through it successfully.

Often Commers found that she played an important role just listening to the stories of hardship and tragedy people had to tell. The grandmother of the little girl from Baton Rouge came in to the State Assistance Center the day after her granddaughter arrived and gave Commers a grateful hug.

Commers pointed out that the consequences of the hurricane are not over. “There are a lot of people in limbo. Resettling people now is a concern,” she said.

Although the state has closed the Assistance Center, the Red Cross continues to run a smaller version at offices on Robert and Plato in St. Paul. Commers estimates that, on a busy day, the centers have seen 50-75 families looking for assistance.

One example of the kind of help Commers offered as a Red Cross Volunteer last month was the reunion of a grandmother with her granddaughter.

Commers pointed out that it is typical to see people coming to Minnesota who already have friends or family here who are prepared to give them long-term support as they settle into a new community.

Commers helped bring a young girl to Minnesota who had been living in a shelter in Baton Rouge with her mother and grandmother. The family decided to send the girl to Minnesota to live with her other grandmother while her mother went to Atlanta to find work.

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As a volunteer for Red Cross disaster services, Commers might deal with families affected by fire, flood, tornado and its aftermath, hurricane, earthquake, blizzard, power failure or hazardous material spills.

Despite the demands of a busy family life, which includes her husband and two young children, Commers is on call for up to a week each month for the Red Cross.

“If the phone rings in the middle of the night,” she said, “I go to meet people at the scene of the fire or at a hospital. I do a damage assessment to determine what their immediate disaster-related needs are. Then I give them temporary housing, food, etc.”

Commers’ involvement with the Red Cross started over 10 years ago when she was an academic advisor to several women’s sport teams at the University of Arkansas. The coach of the women’s basketball team asked her to arrange some etiquette classes for the young women and some volunteer opportunities, too.

She decided to visit the offices of the Red Cross. She set up some work for the basketball players, and she found herself volunteering for the local chapter on a regular basis, and later became the youngest member of their board.

She has continued and deepened her involvement with the Red Cross since moving back to her native Minnesota, where she is a volunteer Red Cross HIV and AIDS educator. Currently, she goes to the Ramsey County Workhouse once a month to present information on HIV and AIDS to inmates there.

Commers said that her volunteer work is an important part of how she chooses to build her life and improve her community. “I had an epiphany at one point: the way to live your life is to give. What I can give right now is my time and my experience.”

---

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During the October meeting we had a Halloween party. For one of the activities we made ice cream. The ice cream took a long time to make, but it was worth the wait! We also made costumes out of newspaper, toilet paper, balloons, tape and streamers. We had a costume contest so some kids wore their Halloween costumes. It was lots of fun!

Our next meeting will be held Monday, November 14 at 6:45 p.m. at Lauderdale City Hall. Hope you can come!
I spent four days in late September and early October bobbing about on the Pacific Ocean with three of my birding buddies on what are called pelagic trips. A pelagic trip is a day trip looking for birds that spend most of their lives at sea, usually coming to shore only to breed.

Our first trip was out of Bodega Bay, north of San Francisco. The other three trips were out of Monterey Bay, to the south.

Each boat was a 40-foot sport fishing boat with a small cabin, an open afterdeck, narrow side decks and a small deck space at the bow. There were 35 to 40 birders on each trip.

After coming on board, we assembled on the afterdeck for an introductory lecture. Our guide, Debi Shearwater, strongly encouraged us to take out seasickness medication if we hadn’t already.

“If you feel sick, move to the back rail of the boat as quickly as you can,” she said. “If you need assistance, we will help you get to the back rail. If you don’t feel you need assistance, we will still help you to the back rail.”

Hurling your breakfast over the side rail would blow back into others’ faces—very unhappy faces. Not a pretty prospect. So, back rail it is, and if you’re standing back there looking at birds, make room for someone charging back with a green face.

We four snickered and joked that those hanging over the back rail would be chumming, feeding the fish and the gulls.

In fact, Debi has one of her introductory lectures: “Storm-petrel!” and leaves the tour guides can identify the birds, make room for someone charging back with a green face.

We saw a number of birds on our first trip. The most numerous were sooty shearwaters. A shearwater skims the water, looking like a boomerang with one wing and then the other almost touching the surface. We sometimes see a moving boat across 500 or more feet of waves and swells, the bird slips into wave troughs from time to time and you lose sight of it.

You have to guess whether you’ll see it over the next wave or if it will change course and be heading in the opposite direction, if it even appears again. Like most seabirds, each of the four shearwater species we saw is a study in black and white, with the whiteness of underwing and belly helping identify which bird you’re watching.

Besides shearwaters, we saw albatrosses, the most common being the black-footed albatross, a sooty brown bird with a white rump patch and a seven-foot wing span. A bird that also does the “shearwater skim” across the waves. It’s very impressive to see such a large bird skimming with a wingtip nearly in the water.

We saw a number of birds that harass gulls, trying to get them to regurgitate their food so they can steal it from them, a tough way to make a living and tough on the gulls, too, I’m sure. These “pizzetas” included South Polar skuas and pomarine, long-tailed and parasitic jaegers.

The hardest birds to see and identify were the storm-petrels, small birds six to nine inches long with wing spans of 15 to 22 inches. They’re very dark and fly and flutter like bats or hawks, usually just below or at the horizon, so you get very brief looks at a very great distance.

The tour guides can identify them by size and the way they fly, but a rookie like me just shouts, “Storm-petrel!” and leaves the identification to the experts.

I added 17 birds to my life list on that first trip. With three more pelagic trips to go, I expected a bonanza of life birds by week’s end.

During our four trips we did see a number of dolphins and hump-backed whales, but unfortunately we didn’t see many birds on the last three trips, adding just three new birds to my life list.

The day of the last trip was clear and bright, but the swells reached 12 feet with a strong cross wind that made standing upright rather challenging, let alone trying to look at a bird, and there weren’t many to look at. Sea water was washing across the afterdeck by the end of the trip.

My buddy, Bill, and I were sitting in a booth in the cabin on that last trip. The boat was pitching up and down and listing side to side on the swells. A woman sitting on a side bench, huddled against the window, was turning greener by the minute. “I give her less than half an hour,” whispered Bill.

Sure enough, she suddenly struggled to her feet, clapped her hand over her mouth and headed to the cabin doorway. Her husband, who had been looking in to check on her, took her arm and shouted, “Mary’s got to get through!”

And, by golly, Mary got through. The birders parted, she got to the back rail and leaned over just in time. Her husband stood at her left side, gently rubbing her back with his right hand and speaking words of comfort. Just then, one of the spotters yelled, “Skua, ten o’clock!”

Without missing a stroke, the husband switched his left hand to Mary’s back, spun to his right and got his binoculars up and on the approaching skua.

You can only do so much for somebody at the back rail, but you can still see birds!
Aging Gracefully
by Mary Jo Tarasar

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

These first few words of “A Tale of Two Cities” are profound because they are always true. No matter what time it is, it is always the best and worst time that ever was.

The problem for many of us during the holiday season is that it is only supposed to be the “best of times.” So what do we do with our “worst of times” feelings?

For those of us who have outlived many of our contemporaries, the holidays can be difficult because there is nothing like this season to conjure up memories of those we can no longer share our joys and sorrows with.

Others of us may have memories of activities we can no longer enjoy, foods that no longer agree with us or comforting traditions that have died out. The bottom line is that the holiday season can exacerbate grief we may feel for many kinds of losses during our lives. At this time of year, we may feel sadness and not even be sure why. So many things have changed.

What can we do when, instead of feeling like counting our blessings, we find ourselves feeling lonely and isolated during the holidays?

The best defense is a good offense. At this time of year, we can try to find something to do to help someone else. Simply phoning someone we know is alone, to volunteering at a food shelf or nursing home, when we focus our concern on someone else, we’re bound to end up feeling better.

Letting someone know how we feel is another good way to dissipate those very feelings. We often find that, when we risk letting someone know we’re feeling low, they can relate to our situation and together we can feel better.

Creating a record of the things we miss and don’t want forgotten is another activity that can help sweep the blues away. From an oral history spoken into a tape recorder, to a scrapbook of aging photos, to a family quilt, creating something tangible to help preserve our memories—these are a way to honor the good times of our lives.

Another factor that can contribute to low feelings as winter deepens is lack of exercise. Exercise has been shown to release endorphins in the brain, which makes us feel good. If you can’t walk outside in the snow and ice, HarMar Mall has an indoor walking program, and there are a number of exercise classes for older adults available, including the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program’s free chair exercise class at Seal High Rise every Tuesday and Thursday.

Most of us can think positive and find ways to jolt ourselves out of our doldrums. But for some the feeling can drag on for months or worsen.

Depression has been proven to be a physical imbalance in the brain, so that good feelings are prevented from occurring. If this describes you, please take your feelings seriously. Consider making an appointment to see a mental health professional. The chemical imbalance of depression can be rectified with appropriate medications.

Self-care, caring for others and honoring our memories—simple ways to make our lives better on a daily basis. So this holiday season, remember: it is the best and worst of time for all of us—all of the time.

The St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program offers services to older adults and those who care for them. Aging Gracefully is one way we communicate with our community. We welcome ideas and feedback for this column at 642-9052 or sapbnp@bitstream.net.
**American Life in Poetry**

By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

Although this poem by North Carolina native Ron Rash may seem to be just about trout fishing, it is the first of several poems Rash has written about his cousin who died years ago. Indirectly, the poet gives us clues about this loss. By the end, we see that in passing from life to death, the fish’s colors dull; so, too, may fade the memories of a cherished life long lost.

**Speckled Trout**

Water-flesh gleamed like mica:
orange fins, red flankspots, a char shy as ginseng, found only
in spring-flow gaps, the thin clear
of faraway creeks no map
could name. My cousin showed me
those hidden places. I loved
how we found them, the way we
followed no trail, just stream-sound
tangled in rhododendron,
to where slow water opened
a hole to slip a line in
and lift as from a well bright
shadows of another world,
held in my hand, their color
already starting to fade.

First published in “Weber Studies,” 1996, and reprinted from “Raising the Dead,” Iris Press, 2002, by permission of the author. Copyright 1996 by Ron Rash, a writer and professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, whose newest novel is “Saints at the River,” Picador Press, 2005. This weekly column is supported by the Poetry Foundation, the Library of Congress, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.
ST. ANTHONY PARK INVASIVE SPECIES ROUNDPUP 
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005

Thanks to the St. Anthony Park Garden Club and the St. Anthony Park Foundation, once again you have the opportunity to have invasive shrubs and trees picked up from your boulevard AND have this pickup partially subsidized. The garden club is dedicated to protecting our native trees and shrubs and what better way to do that than by helping control invasive species that destroy native habitats, parklands and our landscape? This is the sixth year the garden club has provided funding for this effort. To participate, you must live in the St. Anthony Park or The Grove neighborhoods. Just fill out the form below, attach your check or postmark no later than November 9th. If your form has been received, a detailed information sheet will be delivered to your home explaining how to stack the brush for the pickup. Information on how to remove the brush and/or stump treat will also be provided. Where needed, “No Parking” signs will be delivered to you for posting on your boulevard in order that the area is accessible for the truck pickup.

Numerous plants are now considered invaders by the DNR. When our program began in 2000, the focus was on buckthorn. Now, the following woody materials are eligible for pickup with this program: Amur Maple, Japanese Honeysuckle, Black Locust, Common Buckthorn, Glossy Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Norway Maple, Russian Olive, Siberian Peashrub and Siberian Elm. Not sure if you have these invasive plants in your landscape? Check out our web site at www.justaddwater.ws/woody.htm and you will find detailed art work of these woody invaders and other non-invasive look alike. Questions? Call 651-644-7388, press 3 after the message. Your call will be returned in the evening or on the weekend. Please make a copy of this form before mailing to: St. Anthony Park Garden Club, 1537 W Larpenteur Ave, Falcon Heights, MN 55113.

Yes, I want to participate in the 2005 Invasive Species Roundup. Enclosed is my check for $______ made payable to SAPGC. I understand I am responsible for cutting or digging and stacking the brush according to directions. I understand that I will receive information on how to prepare for the Nov 11th Roundup.

Name ____________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
Phone (day) ___________________ (evening) __________

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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 3 shrubs or 1 small tree</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 to 10 shrubs or 2 small trees</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 ft. hedge or more than 10 shrubs or 5 small trees</td>
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<td>I have a large quantity and request a yard visit to determine the fee</td>
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ST. ANTHONY PARK Linked to Lutherian Church
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Parroting Birds Woodland Quarters November 13, 4 pm

PERFORMING ARTS
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“Les Miserables”
November 10, 7:30 pm
November 11 & 12, 7-10 pm
November 13, 2 pm
Drown Thursday
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November Calendar

1 Tuesday
• Tea Tour (for 5-year-olds and younger), Loyola Park Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-12 noon. Every Tuesday.
• Toastmasters (649-5162), Every Thursday.
Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon.
• Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and 3 Thursday
Wednesday.
• St. Anthony Park recycling. Every
11-11:45 a.m.
1st and 3rd Wednesdays,
Anthony Park Block Nurse Program,
blood pressure clinic by the St.
Monday. Every Wednesday. Free
1 p.m. Lunch reservations by
United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-
(603-8946), St. Anthony Park
• Leisure Center for Seniors
Building #1, 8 a.m. Every
• Caribbean Cruise - Seal High
8:30 - 2:15 p.m.
• Chair Exercise Classes - Seal High
Rise, 825 Seal Street, every Tuesday
and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. These
classes are free to all area seniors, but
pre-registration is necessary. Call
642-9052 to pre-register.
• St. Anthony Park Garden Club,
St. Anthony Rec Center, 890
6:30 p.m.
• Park Press, Inc., Park Bugle Board
6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. at the
Council Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.
• Lauderdale City Council, City Hall,
7 p.m.

2 Wednesday
• Women's Connection, a women's
networking, workshops (603-
9-10 a.m., ages 3-5, $35.
• Creative Movement classes at the
Lakeville United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-
1 p.m. Lunch reservations by
Monday. Every Wednesday. Free
blood pressure clinic by the St.
Park Block Nurse Program, 9-10 a.m.
• Falcon Heights recycling,
Lecture by Paul David, Luke's
Church library, 7 p.m.
• Falcon Heights City Council, City
2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.

3 Thursday
• Tea Tour (for 5-year-olds and
younger), South St. Anthony Rec
Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-12 noon.
Every Thursday.
• Toastmasters (649-5162),
U.S. Forces Service, 1992 Fitness

4 Friday
• Senior Center for Seniors (c.m.,
exercise, socializing, South St.
Anthony Rec Center, 890
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,
Lecture by Pruiz, Luke's School,
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church,
6:30 p.m.

5 Saturday
• National Bowling (612-675-
5246), 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at
the Coop Sports, St. Paul
• First time, blood pressure clinic by
the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse
Program, 9-10 a.m.
Open gym, 10 a.m. to 11
Falcon Heights Elementary School
Schoolhouse through March.

6 Sunday
• “A Salute to the Northern Pacific,”
Twin City Model Railroad Museum,
Bandana Square, noon to 5 p.m.

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

11 Friday
• Creative Movement classes at the
Lakeville United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-
1 p.m. Lunch reservations by
Monday. Every Wednesday. Free
blood pressure clinic by the St.
Park Block Nurse Program, 9-10 a.m.
• Falcon Heights recycling,
Lecture by Pruiz, Luke's School,
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church,
6:30 p.m.

15 Tuesday
• Free blood pressure clinic and
health resources by the St. Anthony
Park Block Nurse Program, Seal
High School (825 Seal St.), 11:30 a.m.
to 2:15 p.m.
• District 10 board meeting. Call
644-3889 for details.

16 Wednesday
• Leisure Center for Seniors (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, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

18 Friday
• Falcon Heights recycling,

19 Saturday
• MOPS Club annual, 8 M-St.
Luke's School, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

22 Tuesday
• Lauderdale City Council, City Hall,
1891 Webster St., 7:30 p.m.

23 Wednesday
• Falcon Heights City Council, City
Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.
• St. Anthony Park Community
Council Environment Committee, a
St. Anthony Rec Center, 890
6:30 p.m.

28 Monday
• Lauderdale recycling

Cherry: The Foundation was the first to say, “This is an important program; we’ll work with you to make it happen.”
—Andrew Dicken, Principal, St. Anthony Park Elementary School
Kindergarten Plus Scholarship Program

Community Calendar is sponsored by Wellington Management, Inc.
Scholarships
Open Doors

Did you know? That the U of M designated October as Scholarship Month to raise awareness about the need for student support.

Did you know? That two years ago the U of M launched a scholarship campaign, Promise of Tomorrow.

Did you know? That as of August 2005, $14 million has been raised, more than half of the Promise of Tomorrow campaign goal of $250 million. Now 1,043 more students receive privately funded scholarships and fellowships.

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LIVES LIVED

Anthony Andersen
Anthony L. (Tony) Andersen, who grew up in St. Anthony Park, succumbed to lung cancer on Sept. 20, 2005, at the age of 69. He died peacefully at his St. Paul home with family present.

Tony, as he preferred to be known, was born in Minneapolis on Dec. 10, 1935, to Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen, then of Southeast Minneapolis.

While spending his childhood years in St. Anthony Park and attending Murray High School (class of 1953), he enjoyed and nurtured the many friendships that he formed while participating in high school choir, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, swimming, and ski racing and jumping.

This tight group of childhood friends, known collectively as “the Greeters,” continue to celebrate their lifelong bond on biennial canoe trips in northern Minnesota.

As a teenager, Tony had his first experience as an employee of the H. B. Fuller Company when he filled and labeled jars of school paste at the Eagle Street plant.

After earning his B.S. degree at Macalester College, he began a new chapter with the company as a full-time salesman in Omaha, Neb., in 1957. He became president of the company in 1971 and served as CEO from 1974-1995, and as chairman of the board of directors from 1992-1999. In 1988, Corporate Report Minnesota named Tony “Executive of the Year.”

In addition to his work at Fuller, Tony served as a trustee on numerous corporate boards including ECM Publishers, Minnesota Thunder, Apogee Enterprises, Cowles Media, Company and Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance.

His board service extended to the nonprofit sector as well, including the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, the Center for Ethical Business Cultures, the James J. Hill Reference Library, the Minnesota Council on Foundations, Casa de Esperanza (advisory board), the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Macalaster College, Voyager Outreach Bound School, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, the Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation and the Trillium Family Foundation (founder).

Tony loved being on the water any way he could manage it, from sailing to motoring, fishing to skiing. This passion, combined with his flair for sales and marketing, led him to purchase Edey & Dufl, Ltd., a small sailboat manufacturing company in Matapoisett, Mass.

After retiring from the Fuller Company, Andersen had more time to devote to Edey & Dufl. Tony’s many other lifelong interests included photography; skiing, vintage car racing and collecting, scuba diving, canoe-camping and keeping up with two busy grandchildren.

Though based in St. Paul after retirement, Tony enjoyed fly fishing in Colorado, tarpon fishing in Florida, vintage sports car racing in various locations across the United States and touring the United Kingdom in his London taxi.

Tony was preceded in death by his father, former Minnesota Gov. Elmer L. Andersen. He is survived by his mother, Eleanor J. Andersen; brother, Julian (Jamey) Andersen and sister, Emily Andersen; daughter, Amy (Tim Wilson) Andersen; grandchildren, Shelby Katherine and Caleb Jerod Wilson; and nephews, Nathan Lee and Benjamin Lee Andersen; also by extended family in the United States, Norway and Sweden; and by many cherished friends and colleagues.

A public memorial service was held at the Weyerhauser Chapel on the campus of Macalaster College on Oct. 16. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery.

Beatrice Garubanda
Beatrice N. Garubanda, born Christmas Eve, 1955, died on Sept. 19, 2005, at the age of 49. She came to the U.S. from Uganda, Africa, in 1987, accompanying her husband, who was a student at the University of Minnesota.

Beatrice received her primary education in Buyanja, attended Gayaza High School and received her diploma in teacher education at Makerere Kyambogo. She then taught in Uganda and Kenya secondary schools. She received an M.A. in theology at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and an M.A. in education at the University of Minnesota.

Beatrice had been a member of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park since 1979. In 1998, she was formally recognized as the minister for refugees, international students and immigrants at the church, an unpaid volunteer position.

Her funeral service was held at St. Matthew’s, Burial was in Uganda, Africa.

Beatrice was preceded in death by her father and two brothers. She is survived by her husband, James P. Garubanda; children, Esther, Joshua, Lydia and Ampa; mother, Merabu; and 13 siblings.

Beatrice started an orphanage, Blue House, in Uganda in 2003. Uganda was one of the first countries to recognize and respond to the AIDS epidemic.

Contributions to help these children can be made to Hope Multipurpose, Inc., at HML, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Robert Granovsky
Robert Alexander Granovsky, age 73, of St. Anthony Park, died peacefully on Sept. 21, 2005. He was born Aug. 16, 1932, and had been a resident of St. Anthony Park.

He attended Gustern Elementary School and graduated from Murray High School. After military service he attended the University of Minnesota, where he met Marlene Mueller. They were married in 1957.

Bob served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-56 at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was honored with a National Defense Service Medal and a Good Conduct Medal.

Bob was employed by SM for 27 years, working in community relations. Bomar Antiques (a business named by combining his first name and that of his wife, Marlene) occupied much of his attention. Bomar owned a shop in Nieuwa, Miton, where it and other dealers sold antiques. In addition, Bob traveled south each winter to display at antique shows.

He was active in Kiwanis for many years. His club, the Kiwanis Club of East St. Paul, consisted of businessmen from that area. He met weekly for lunch with Kiwanis friends, long after any of them had been active in the organization.

Bob was a U.S. Swimming official, and officiated, refereed and served as a starter at many meets in the late 1970s and mid-80s. The International Institute of Minnesota benefited, too, from Bob’s attention. He was president of the Institute from 1973-74.

His father had been active in the Institute when it was first formed, shortly after his arrival following WWII. Bob Hoyle, former executive director of the Institute, said, “Bob recognized that immigrants brought important energy to our community. And he didn’t forget how to do Ukrainian egg painting.”

He is survived by children Tanis Huig of Roseville, Mark of California and Paul (Jenny) of St. Anthony Park; and grandchildren Daniel Hueg, and Nicholas, Alexandra and Emma Granovsky.

His funeral service was held Sept. 27 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where he had been a member for many years. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Park.
Lives Lived from 22

Kenneth Hanson

Kenneth Paul Hanson, of Shoreview and McGregor (Big Sandy Lake), formerly of Falcon Heights, died on Sept. 17, 2005, at home after a short battle with cancer. He was born on Sept. 15, 1917, in Minneapolis.

Ken was a Navy veteran of WWII. He owned Falcon Bakery and the Lamplighter Inn of St. Anthony Park, and worked for Super Valu and Byerly’s opening bakeries. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, golfer, vegetable gardener and a voracious reader.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Joyce; daughter, Kathy Daniels (Dave) and Sue Behrens (Dave Gaertn); grandchildren, Troy Daniels (Lisa), Kristine Holm (Craig) and Kelly Behrens (David Nelson); and great-grandchildren, Kelsey and Kyle Holm. His memorial service was held Oct. 8 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.

Hilliard H. Smith

Hilliard H. Smith died at the age of 100 on June 27, 2005. He spent the last two years of his life in the St. Anthony Park Home. He was a 60-year resident of St. Anthony Park.

Smith served in the Minnesota National Guard for five years. He played piano and banjo and had a band during the 1920s that played at various clubs around the state. He was playing at one of these functions in the spring of 1927 when the band quieted and it was announced that Charles Lindbergh had successfully flown from New York to Paris.

Smith became a union organizer in the 1930s and ran for alderman. He was active in politics all his life. He was a member of the Mont Parnasse Art Society and, as a prolific painter, had private showings and traveled the world. He wrote poetry, short stories and his epic story of the creation, “Magnum Opus.”

He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Evelyn Erickson Smith, and is survived by his son, Hilliard E. Smith, and daughter, Catherine Hobson (both from St. Anthony Park); two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, Molly Joan Noron, Megan Michelle Mulfold and Maverick Dean Mulfold.

Her memorial service was held on Sept. 18 at Lyngbylom debate Center Chapel.

Compiled by Mary Mengenthal

There is no charge for obituary notices in the Bugle. If you know of a local resident (Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale or St. Anthony Park), please contact Mary Mengenthal at 644-1650 or mary.mergenthal@usmcnet.net.