Why not ditch that clunker for an HOURCAR?

New hub at Park Midway Bank proves popular

by Sheena Miller

HOURCAR is a car-sharing service that aims to let drivers enjoy cutting-edge technology while saving the planet—and saving money. For some, car sharing is a way to soften the high prices of gasoline. For others, it’s a way of life.

St. Anthony Park resident Mary Solac realized recently that she didn’t need a full-time automobile. “I didn’t need a vehicle to sit around my house for those odd moments when I was going to use a car,” she said.

When Solac owned a car, vandals smashed the windows. “I have a real resistance to leaving a car by the side of the road,” she said. “Most of the time you’re okay, but then you get that one idiot and it can be devastating. It’s expensive to own a car.”

“I didn’t need a vehicle to sit around my house for those odd moments when I was going to use a car.”

—Mary Solac

The HOURCAR program is run by the nonprofit Neighborhood Energy Consortium.

Manager Kurt Fischer said the program is flourishing. “It has been amazingly successful,” he said. “We get lots of great feedback from our members, all of it constructive.”

Hourcars are stationed at 11 “hubs” throughout the Twin Cities. Members can reserve the cars for a set amount of time. Because members pay for

HOURCAR to 10

Poets take publishing into their own hands

Local resident Tom Ruud is member of Laurel Poety Collective

by Anne Holzman

A parliament of local poets assembled in a living room nearly four years ago to complain about the sorry state of publishing—and to come up with a solution.

More than a dozen books and nearly two dozen broadsides later, the Laurel Poetry Collective is in the home stretch of a four-year publishing marathon. Its latest publication is “Unable for the World to Sleep,” a slim volume of poems by St. Anthony Park resident Tom Ruud, who will read at Micawber’s Books at 7 p.m. on November 29.

Starting in 2002, the collective has churned out a book every two months or so, Ruud said, using mostly volunteer labor to produce and sell their publications. About two-thirds of the members now have poetry books published by Laurel, and the goal is to publish one book and one broadside by each member before the project ends.

There has also been a Laurel anthology each spring, and the last title on the list will be an anthology of brief essays from each member exploring his or her artistic process, scheduled for spring 2007.

Sylvia Ruud, Tom’s wife, is a frequent editor and the collective’s only paid member of the collective, editing text and laying out pages as each new manuscript arrives.

Local poets were not the only ones complaining about the consolidation of major publishing houses as the new millennium dawned. A six-pack of conglomerates had bought out many once-independent U.S. publishers, and poets found it ever harder to compete with cookbooks and do-it-yourself manuals.

The poets had gotten tired of sending out their work and never hearing back from the lone poetry editor buried under piles of manuscripts in a basement office somewhere in New York.

“There are an awful lot of poets that should be published but that are finding it harder and harder because of the slowdown in small houses,” Ruud said.

Ruud joined the group soon after graduating with a master of fine arts in writing from Hamline University. Deborah Krenan, a Hamline professor, gathered about 30 people to explore ways they might publish their work, and “it was just a frothy,” Ruud said of their first meeting.

A few dropped out, and in late 2002 the 23 survivors launched themselves as a collective, plunging into a complex world of ISBN codes, copyright registration, press releases and sales taxes.

Members kicked in start-up money, and it became clear that Ruud, until recently a logistics analyst for Target Corporation, had the best shot at keeping the accounts straight. He became treasurer. It also became clear, he said, that an in-house editor would be very helpful. He helped draft his wife into the project.

Consulting with Sylvia Ruud, the poets drew up a four-year plan. They wanted to get their work out to Twin Cities readers, quickly but also beautifully—and at reasonable prices. The editor said she could make time for a book every two
Como Park
The results of the District 10 Board elections are as follows:
Sarah MacRunnels – chair
Nathan Volz – vice chair
Nora McKinnon – treasurer
Tony Schaps – secretary
Luby Stelling – subdistrict 2
Mark Rindfleisch – subdistrict 3
Nancy Sabin – subdistrict 3
Bart Polask – at-large
Billy Dinkel – at-large

Falcon Heights
Election results: Incumbent Laura Kuettel was re-elected to the City Council. Write-in candidate Pam Harris was elected to fill the seat left by Bob Lamb.

Lauderdale
Election results: Jeffrey Dains, unopposed, was re-elected mayor. Incumbents Clay Christensen and Karen Doherty were re-elected to the City Council.

St. Anthony Park
The City Council has passed a resolution in response to a public hearing and a report by an administrative law judge regarding license violations and citizen complaints about the American Sport Cafe-Playground, also known as the “Warehouse,” located at 2554 Como Avenue in St. Paul.

The September 16 report found that the Warehouse has operated “in a manner that maintains and permits conditions that unreasonably annoy, injure or endanger the safety, health, morals or comfort of a considerable number of members of the public.”

The City Council resolution accepted the findings and recommendation of the administrative law judge and ordered the Warehouse to pay fines ($2000 to the city and $6000 as partial costs of the hearing) and to abide by certain conditions: there are to be no weapons permitted; the establishment is responsible for patron behavior in the club and parking lots and that no individual under 21 is sold, served or furnished alcohol; the establishment is to be cooperative with the police and inspectors and must monitor patrons even on nights that the “club” section is open.

Rick Beson, president of St. Anthony Park Community Bank, spoke to the council regarding bank plans to leave the building on Como and Carter when their lease is up in 2007. He described the bank’s vision for a new building on the current drive-in bank site at Como and Dowell. Beson said he wanted to hear responses from the community to the plans.

The district plan was given final approval at the November 10 council meeting. The plan will now be sent on to the city and will eventually be incorporated into St. Paul’s comprehensive plan. The plan may be viewed at www.sapcc.org.

The council has formed a transportation task force whose purpose is to help develop a comprehensive strategy for future transportation developments, with a primary focus on Pierce Butler and related connections, commuter rail, light rail and Hwy. 280.

The overarching goal of any transportation strategy is to minimize negative impacts and optimize social and economic benefits for all affected communities. The primary work should be completed by December 2006. Those interested in participating may contact the District 12 office at 649-5992.

–Susan Conner

The Street Where You Live
Unlike Minneapolis, St. Paul’s streets have an interesting history. A variety of people named our streets. This has led to much confusion, of course (especially on the part of Minneapolis who expect to find U.S. Commons at 23rd and Commonwealth, for example); it is interesting to look at the history of the names that were used. Over the next few months, we will work our way through our neighborhood’s streets. (Information obtained from The Street Where You Live by Donald Empson, Witsend Press, now out of print).

Bartlett Court – Named for John Bartlett, who had an interest in the St. Anthony Park Company, developer of our neighborhood.
Bayless Avenue – Vincent Bayless was president of the St. Anthony Park Company.
Blake Avenue – One of the principal owners of the St. Anthony Park Company.
Bourne Avenue – Named after Walter Bourne, a clerk for the sale of lots. He established this plat in 1885. (There must be more to the story than this.)
Bramston Street – An English village. Several of our streets are named after English villages. The reason seems to have been lost.
Brewster Street – Originally named Alden Street and Alden Place, the name was changed in 1940. William Brewster came to America on the Mayflower and was an elder of the Pilgrim Church.
Buford Avenue – Named after Abraham Buford, a Confederate general. This name was selected by the Virginia syndicate members who provided financial backing for the plat.

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2005 December Issue
Pension
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December 10th - 9:45 am Dedication of Quilts
December 18th - 9:45 am Children’s Christmas Eve
December 24 - 5:30 pm Lessons and Carols
December 24 - 9:45 am Worship Celebration.
December 25 - 9:45 am Worship Celebration.

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and ordered the Warehouse
to pay fines ($2000 to the
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CITY FILES

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On becoming a Colombian-American family

by Jean Larson

If you’re ever hanging out on Franklin Avenue at Maria’s Café on a Saturday, don’t be surprised to see a few faces from St. Anthony Park, because guanabana juice, arepas and beans mean a lot to Leo, Greta, Maria and Eric Wolff-Kloos.

There’s Leo: nearly three years old, with coffee-colored eyes knowing all your best-kept secrets, a head of gleaming to-die-for curls, a kid who doesn’t lose sight of his sister as he works on a plate of tortillas and beans.

And 10-month-old Greta, with well-kissed baby cheeks, delicately fingering each morsel, whose lips form an “o” that is both an expression of pleasure and an opening for a bean.

Maria’s wasn’t named after Leo and Greta’s mother, Maria Wolff, but she appreciates the connection, one of many she’s formed with Colombia. She and her husband, Eric Kloos, have learned a lot about that country since Leo and Greta came into their lives.

On a recent trip to the capital city, Bogotá, they trekked with Leo, Greta and the children’s grandmothers through the savannah, a rich plain perched at an altitude of 8,600 feet, bearing one of the largest cities on the continent as well as fields of carnations, roses and sunflowers.

Cars speed along highways that drop from the savannah to trace the angular shoulders of the Andes Mountains.

Cultures, colonial and 21st-century, bombard a first-time traveler: campesinos (country folk) at bus stops, dressed in wool ruanas—squares of richly woven wool designed to shed chilly cloudbursts, while tour buses hurry by to the Salt Cathedral, a hollowed-out mountain mine transformed for worship.

On this particular April day in 2005, the Wolff-Kloos family happily dined at a mountainside restaurant, witnessing the beauty of Colombia, taking it, along with their children, into their hearts to make it their own.

Lush mountains fell away under the veranda drenched in pink flowering bougainvillea vine. Banana trees, coffee bushes and bamboo groves cloaked mountain after mountain in an uninterrupted robe of green velvet. They could not help but love this place.

“We try not to walk into life’s clichés,” says Eric. Driving through rural Colombia, nothing resembled any preconceived image, and Maria’s and Eric’s openness gave them a new home away from home, adoption into a new family: the people of Colombia. Zealous, dignified, caring people became friends. The culture—with its haunting guitars, flutes, cumbia and salsa rhythms, its ancient history, its intelligence and love of life, its colors—became a value to nurture.

Maria and Eric went from being a couple to a family, from Euro-American to Colombian-American, from a man and a woman seeking parenthood to a family found. From longing to grateful.

Leo and Greta were born to Colombian birthmothers and delivered into Maria and Eric’s arms by Maria Clemencia Marquez Gutierrez, director of Ayúdame, a Colombian agency.
Mad Hot Poets

Does poetry matter?
That’s not a query likely to be posed to political candidates, nor one that talk radio hosts would have much interest in. It seems like a question for poets themselves, or those few people who make their living teaching and analyzing poetry.

Then the question is why? Why does a form of expression almost as old as humankind arouse so little contemporary interest?

Modern antipathy toward poetry, it would seem, springs from different sources than it used to. Some ancient (males) were nervous about poetry (which they typically feminized) because they saw it as a distraction from the life of reason. For Plato, “poetry feeds and waters the passions instead of drying them up; she lets them rule, although they ought to be controlled, if mankind are ever to increase in honor and virtue.”

Socrates railed on the same tune, arguing that poetry “is not to be regarded seriously as attaining to the truth, and he who listens to her, fearing for the safety of the city which is within him, should be on his guard against her seductions.”

It’s doubtful that poetry would be very high on the list of seductions to which modern parents worry about their children succumbing—unless the definition were expanded to include the lyrics of popular music. Surely poetry doesn’t make us nervous anymore.

Or does it? How else to explain Minnesota’s governor vetoing a bill that would have created a state poet laureate. Though the governor chose not to have Minnesota join its neighboring states—North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin—all of which have official poet laureates.

But for poetry lovers, all is not lost.

Recently, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation announced a new program called “Poetry Out Loud,” which encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance and competition. Locally, the Minnesota State Arts Board is encouraging schools to participate in local, state and national recitation contests.

The Bugle discusses events that have happened and tells you about those that will occur. There are monthly calendars, including one devoted specifically to the arts. The Bugle will be invited to the governor’s mansion.

Dear friends and neighbors,

Each month we know that we can count on certain things. Mostly they are the advertisements for sales. Other ideas, however, are welcome—like a gardening magazine or a park’s fund drive.

Each month, the Bugle endeavors to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in our community, and to bring in the news and ideas in these neighborhoods. St. Paul.

It is important that everyone in St. Paul get involved in the fight against crime, and this August the city certainly made it clear to criminals that we’re not going to sit back and watch as they attempt to harm our great city.

Great work!

Senator Ellen Anderson
Dist. 66 — St. Paul and Falcon Heights

Thanks, readers, for contributing to the Bugle fund drive

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In-Ode Contributions
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Proofreading
Sharon Richter, Eva Rogness, Mikon Shebarman, Tim Smith and Cindy Theisner.
Rev. Mark S. Hanson (left), presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and president of the Lutheran World Federation, applauds Rev. Dr. Richard H. Bliese, whom he has just installed as president of Luther Seminary on Sunday, October 23 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Bliese, who previously served as the seminary’s dean of academic affairs, assumed the office of the president on July 1. He succeeds Rev. Dr. David L. Tiede, who retired after 18 years as Luther’s president.

On Saturday, November 5, Source Comics and Games in Falcon Heights helped celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons. Here Mike celebrates a key development in a game of D&D, while his dad, Bill, and sister, Emily, look on. They did not want to give their last names.

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Forget about your cares, it's time to relax at the Junction

by Natalie Zett

How many high school students would opt out of their senior prom to take a test? Not many. For Deb Hall, though, taking her black belt test some 20 years ago in Silver Bay, Minnesota, trumped the prom—and she’s never looked back.

Since then, Hall has moved up the ranks, earning a fifth-degree black belt and the designation of “Master” in Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan, a traditional Korean martial art. Now the owner and chief instructor of Karate Junction at Como and Snelling, Hall remembers finding her life’s calling.

“I was 15 when I began training in martial arts. I loved it from the start and I trained a lot—seven days a week.” Hall’s rigorous dedication paid off when she took first place in both sparring and forms.

“It was unheard of to take first place in both,” said Hall who was soon instructing at the karate school where she was a student.

“Looking back, it now seems amazing. Here I was, a 17-year-old, teaching adults who were CEOs and professionals in the community. Well, my confidence just grew. They learned from me, and I learned from them.”

Her expertise and rank didn’t come without a price, though.

“I had my nose broken, then it was re-broken to fix it. The doctor warned me not to have it broken again or else” she laughed.

What is it like being a woman in the martial arts?

“The further up (in rank) you go, the fewer women there are,” said Hall. “And, yes, a few men were threatened, but then, part of the training entailed handling aggressive people. I was determined early on that nobody was going to put the brakes on me—I wouldn’t let anyone break me. I had to prove to myself that I could do it. Also, our founder said that discipline goes beyond your personal feelings. This has helped me keep everything in perspective.”

The confidence is now something Hall passes on to others through her school and through various seminars she holds in the community. She believes that martial arts has something for everyone and, while she has an admitted bias for her style, she stated, “All styles have something to teach you.”

“Soo Bahk Do should not be confused with Tae Kwon Do (another popular Korean martial art),” she said. “Soo Bahk Do is actually based on ancient fighting and dance styles, and its meaning is equivalent to ‘military fighting style.’”

Soo Bahk Do, she continued, is as much about philosophy as it is about fighting technique.

“It was founded by Grandmaster Hwang Kee in Seoul in 1945, and his son is now the Grandmaster,” said Hall. “Soo Bahk Do is not a sport; it’s not about win-lose. It’s about being adaptable, about strengthening yourself from the inside out and learning discipline and respect. There are five elements to our training: history, tradition, philosophy, discipline/respect, and technique. Our history is very important, just as important as learning technique. If people come here just to fight, they’ll be disappointed. This is an all-around training.”

The code of behavior plays out at Karate Junction, where Hall conducts an evening class.

Deb Hall, owner of Karate Junction, demonstrates a few moves.
Although some students tower over her, she clearly is in charge. Demonstrating a joint lock and a takedown on a large man, Hall is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

Students bow and address her as "ma'am" when she speaks or gives direction. "That's part of the tradition of etiquette and respect," she said.

Hall's students are varied. "It's about 50-50 men and women, and I teach everyone—kids and adults," she said. "My oldest student is 65. I have one adult student with Down syndrome, and I also have taught people at Courage Center, so I'm used to working with people of all types of abilities."

She continued, "This level—fifth-degree black belt—is equivalent to an academic master's degree. The test was nine days of extreme mental and physical conviction and, by the last day, everything had to be perfect and you had to demonstrate what you knew. Now I am charged with perpetuating the art and contributing to my community. Our style teaches you to be responsible—to give away what you have—and I'm responsible for sharing this information. If I can help one person gain awareness, that's a good thing."

Hall is especially passionate about teaching children. "The kids that train here are encouraged to get good grades and apply what they learn—the discipline—to the entirety of their lives," she said. "I tell them that they are not here to fight, but to be peaceful. Yet, it teaches you to stand up for yourself and not be bullied."

Karate Junction offers a diversified curriculum. Besides Soo Bahk Do, there are classes and seminars in judo, Wing Chun, Samurai sword, kickboxing, Pilates and Russian kettlebells. Hall is also a personal trainer and works with individual clients.

Besides being the main instructor at Karate Junction, Hall created the Art of Leadership Foundation, a nonprofit organization that does fundraising. She just gave her first check to Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter through the foundation. Hall invites anyone to visit Karate Junction. "This is a great thing for people who aren't or never were active in sports," she said. "At least half of my students are not athletic, but they do well. If you are hesitant, you needn't be. Besides experiencing an all-around discipline, students are safe here since control is first and foremost."

Karate Junction Training Center, Inc.
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Remembering a faithful volunteer: Manuel Lavin

by Lisa Steinmann

The Como High School tennis teams suffered a loss this fall when one of their most devoted supporters and volunteer coach, Manuel Lavin, passed away. Lavin, age 62, was at the height of his usual activity with tennis, as a player and a coach, when he was diagnosed last summer with cancer. He died October 11.

Friends and students from Como High School joined in a celebration of his life on October 22 in Minneapolis.

Tennis coaches Kathy and Dick Dumas recruited Lavin to help with Como High School’s tennis program three years ago. Dick Dumas and Lavin had been colleagues at Unisys. When Lavin retired, he devoted much of his time to tennis, a sport he took up in his forties. He was a member of several tennis clubs and played recreationally.

Dumas noted that what seemed to motivate Lavin’s volunteer work with Como’s tennis program initially was his love of tennis, “but after a time, it became a love of kids.” Lavin’s volunteer efforts brought him into contact with children of all ages. In addition to his work with teens at the high school, Lavin was a volunteer with InnerCity Tennis, a program in Minneapolis for young children.

“He put in a tremendous amount of time,” remarked Dumas in describing Lavin’s work with the tennis teams at Como High School. “He was there every day” for the duration of the girl’s tennis season in the fall and boy’s season in the spring.

Lavin was also involved during the summer with the Night Moves program at Como High School. During June and July, tennis was among the activities offered to youth every Tuesday and Thursday, from 5 p.m. until dark. Lavin would be there to help out, often offering rides so kids could participate.

Dumas admired the patience Lavin showed as a coach. He was especially effective with the girl’s team. Perhaps it was because he was the father of two daughters, but Dumas observed that Lavin “had the ability to push the girls a bit, to do the right things, without turning them off.”

Samantha Erickson and Rachel Avenido, former Como students and tennis players, now freshmen at the College of St. Benedict, remember Lavin fondly. “He was awesome,” said Avenido. Erickson added, “He was really encouraging, really patient, always in a good mood.”

Lavin’s devotion to the tennis program won’t be forgotten, thanks in part to a new fund that has been established by his wife, Rita Lavin. It was his wish to continue helping youth involved with tennis at Como, so the fund, called the Como Park High School Tennis Fund, will be used to fund post-high school scholarships.

Lavin wasn’t a highly rated tennis player, but he loved the game, said Dumas. “He understood tennis and he understood kids. That combination worked.”

For more information about the Como Park High School Tennis Fund or about the tennis teams at Como, contact Dick Dumas at 426-3250.

Tennis coaches Kathy and Dick Dumas recruited Lavin to help with Como High School’s tennis program three years ago. Dick Dumas and Lavin had been colleagues at Unisys. When Lavin retired, he devoted much of his time to tennis, a sport he took up in his forties. He was a member of several tennis clubs and played recreationally. Lavin’s volunteer efforts brought him into contact with children of all ages. In addition to his work with teens at the high school, Lavin was a volunteer with InnerCity Tennis, a program in Minneapolis for young children. “He put in a tremendous amount of time,” remarked Dumas in describing Lavin’s work with the tennis teams at Como High School. “He was there every day” for the duration of the girl’s tennis season in the fall and boy’s season in the spring. Lavin was also involved during the summer with the Night Moves program at Como High School. During June and July, tennis was among the activities offered to youth every Tuesday and Thursday, from 5 p.m. until dark. Lavin would be there to help out, often offering rides so kids could participate. Dumas admired the patience Lavin showed as a coach. He was especially effective with the girl’s team. Perhaps it was because he was the father of two daughters, but Dumas observed that Lavin “had the ability to push the girls a bit, to do the right things, without turning them off.” Samantha Erickson and Rachel Avenido, former Como students and tennis players, now freshmen at the College of St. Benedict, remember Lavin fondly. “He was awesome,” said Avenido. Erickson added, “He was really encouraging, really patient, always in a good mood.” Lavin’s devotion to the tennis program won’t be forgotten, thanks in part to a new fund that has been established by his wife, Rita Lavin. It was his wish to continue helping youth involved with tennis at Como, so the fund, called the Como Park High School Tennis Fund, will be used to fund post-high school scholarships. Lavin wasn’t a highly rated tennis player, but he loved the game, said Dumas. “He understood tennis and he understood kids. That combination worked.” For more information about the Como Park High School Tennis Fund or about the tennis teams at Como, contact Dick Dumas at 426-3250.
A blueprint for a new sense of neighborhood

by Michelle Christianson

Eons ago boundaries were narrowly defined—my family, my tribe, my ethnic group. But with the options we have now for travel and because of our access to information about other peoples and places, the idea of exclusive perimeters is dying. We have (or will) become citizens of ever-larger neighborhoods.

Selling “neighborhood” is the goal of Urban Blueprint, now sharing space with Mia’s Roasting Stones on the southwest corner of Raymond and University Avenues.

They hope that the development of a vibrant, diverse community along University Avenue, with a wide variety of housing options and commercial enterprises, will make even those who don’t live in that immediate neighborhood feel like they are part of a larger community. And part of their plan is to be more visible in a neighborhood setting: thus, the collaboration with Roasting Stones coffee shop.

Urban Blueprint is a resource for those looking to buy lofts, apartments or condominiums halfway between downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul and near the University of Minnesota campuses. The team consists of Wellington Management, BOR-SON construction, ESG Architects, Collage Design Studio and Coldwell Banker Burnett. The space they share with Roasting Stones contains a sales office, plans for new developments, material samples and a video presentation space.

This is definitely different from the old Roasting Stones look. The coffee shop, which first opened on October 5, 1999, was somewhat retro in style with old, overstuffed furniture and an eclectic gift shop attached.

The new look is very modern—fresh paint, new countertops, completely renovated bathroom and kitchen spaces. But the coffee, sandwiches and treats are still the same, and owner Mia Perron is still the warm, friendly person she always has been. The addition of new furniture, Internet access and brighter lighting only updates the outward image.

Perron, who bought the business from her parents in September 2004, became aware of the plans to develop University Avenue. Wellington needed more visibility for the company’s ventures, and it became evident that the two businesses would work well together.

Wellington rents the Raymond-University space from Bill Miller, who owns the building, and Perron sublets her part of the room. Remodeling began last June, and everything opened on October 5—six years to the day from the original Roasting Stones opening.

The transition is hard, but the end result is great,” said Perron.

Tanya Bell, director of acquisitions and development at Wellington Management, is excited about the possibilities.

“This area has and will have so much to offer,” she said. “There is a good mix of residential and commercial properties and also of new and older construction. We are trying hard to maintain the sense of the community and to keep the look and feel eclectic—like the Lyn-Lake or St. Anthony Main developments.”

The timetable for completing all the projects is relatively short. The final building of Emerald Gardens (with 212 units) will open in the beginning of December. Metro Lofts (67 units) will open next June, and 2700 The Avenue, at Emerald and University, will contain 90 condos and probably a grocery store and will open in September 2007.

The final project, on the site of the present US Bank building at Raymond and University, will have 85 condominiums and a bank, and will open in December 2008.

Wellington is also looking for commercial partners to complete the mix on University—a high-end restaurant, another coffee shop (Dunn Brothers will probably be in the Metro Lofts building), a fitness center, a burger place and maybe an upscale bar with premium beers.

Bell said they are being careful with establishments that sell liquor so that they are sensitive to residents’ concerns about hours and traffic. Parking is another hot issue that has to be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction—existing businesses need to be served as well as those projected for the future.

Wellington is also being careful with pricing and diversity, said Bell. They want to have affordable residences as well as high-end ones to keep the mixed nature of the neighborhood. For example, the Metro Lofts start at $169,000, while the top price at Shadow Falls (one-level condominiums to be built on Marshall and Onis) is $1.3 million.

Bell stressed that people need to expand their horizons, to see all of the Twin Cities as “our neighborhood.” If light rail goes through on University, she added, that will make such a vision even easier.

For more information about Urban Blueprint and plans for University Avenue, visit www.urban-blueprint.com.

Mia Perron, owner of Mia’s Roasting Stones, chats with Steve Wellington, president of Wellington Management, at the grand opening of Urban Blueprint. The two businesses share space at Raymond and University.
HOURCAR from 1

HOURCAR on a per-trip basis, the program encourages users to plan their trips.

All of the HOURCARS are 2005 Toyota Priuses, gas-electric hybrids that regularly get about 55 miles to the gallon while producing relatively few emissions.

“It works on many levels,” said Solac, who became an HOURCAR member in July.

“It’s transportation for me, and it helps the environment. There are some places buses just don’t get to. It gets really tiresome to ask friends and families for rides. This way I can offer someone a ride.”

Plus, she added, the high-tech cars are fun to drive.

Fischer said the program is run like a small business.

“Some people are surprised because there’s a presumption that since it’s a nonprofit, it’s going to be a bunch of do-gooders who don’t really know how to run a business, and that’s not the case here. All the staff involved are focused on effective management. HOURCAR is run like a business—efficiently, with customer service in mind.”

The HOURCAR program has several rate plans in two broad categories. Members may pay as they go, for miles and hours driven, or they can purchase a package plan at a fixed rate.

Fischer said the fixed rate is like a cell phone plan, with increments of three hours (after the first five) and small monthly fees.

“Our goal is to give people options because everybody has a different need.”

Though Fischer touts the advantages of car sharing, he acknowledges that there are trade-offs.

“There’s nothing more convenient than having that car in your driveway. With the HOURCAR you might need to get to it.”

HOURCAR is best for people who don’t need a car full-time or can’t afford to own a car but may want to use one once in a while.

Solac acknowledged, “If you are going to use a car for weeks on end, you’ll be better off leasing a car.”

“If you’re driving 10,000 or fewer miles per year, you can likely save money by getting rid of your vehicle,” Fischer said.

“HOURCAR may not totally take the place of that car, but you can better control how much it costs you to drive.”

HOURCAR took its first reservation June 20 and now has over 120 members and applicants. Fischer said when HOURCAR hits 500 members, they will break even. “The whole thing is planned to be self-supporting.”

HOURCAR started with five cars at four locations; now there are 11 hubs. All stations have one car, except the Loring/Hyatt hub, with two. Fischer said, “We try to locate hubs with transit and bike lanes in mind.”

Fischer said there was a lot of interest in St. Anthony Park for the HOURCAR program, and the Park Midway Bank has been a good central location.

“The neighborhood is more environmentally progressive than average, and Park Midway Bank has a reputation for supporting neighborhoods and being socially responsible,” he noted.

HOURCAR members access any of the Priuses with an electronic key fob. The cars have onboard computers that record trip information when members fob in, and members are billed monthly.

The most convenient way to sign up for HOURCAR is online; however, people may also call and ask to have an application mailed to them. Members may reserve cars online or by telephone.

After sign-up and approval, members go through orientation. They learn how to make a reservation, what rules there are for returning a car late. In addition to procedural information, members are walked through how to make a reservation, what rules there are for returning a car late. In addition to procedural information, members are walked through operation of the Prius.

Every new member gets $25 of free driving. HOURCAR also pays for auto leases, gasoline, insurance, maintenance, licensing and registration. Applicants must meet certain qualifications, including having had a driver’s license for at least five years.

More information on HOURCAR can be found at www.hourcar.org or by calling 221-4462.

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Local teacher nurtures young scientists

by Kristal Leobrück

Don’t get caught saying the “W” word in Jim Schrankler’s science class at St. Anthony Park Elementary School. It might cost you a few push-ups.

One recent afternoon, Schrankler himself said it in front of a class of fifth-graders. The minute the words, “Careful, I spilled some water on the carpet over here” came out of his mouth, the group of six- and seven-year-olds started chanting, “Pushups! Pushups!”

Somehow Schrankler escaped the usual punishment for using the lay word for the chemical formula, H2O. He sat down on the stool in front of his students, lowered his voice and asked if anyone had a “check-in.” One boy raised his hand and said his gecko was sheds.

“Why do geckos shed?” Schrankler asked his class. That was enough to get the crowd of junior scientists interrogating their scientific opinions about geckos and other worldly matters and forget that their teacher said the word water.

At a time when the United States is under fire for its declining leadership in science and math education, students on Knapp Street are finding science an exciting, interesting part of their school day.

Making science interesting and fun is exactly what Schrankler means to do. “It’s important for children to experience science both directly and indirectly at a young age,” he says. “I feel if you can hook them and indirectly at a young age,” he says. “I feel if you can hook them and make a guess,” he says, “we make a hypothesis.”

Schrankler has been teaching in the St. Paul school district for 18 years. He took three years off from teaching to help his father run the Mad Science franchise in Minnesota. Mad Science is an after-school science program that, according to Schrankler, helps spark kids’ interest in science but doesn’t replace what’s going on during the school day.

There was a certain amount of entertainment value in the program,” he says. “It was a great opportunity to work with other adults in the science education world and to see various teaching styles.”

But he missed teaching and came back to the district, teaching science at Como Elementary School until coming to St. Anthony Park in the fall of 2003. His father, Bill Schrankler, was principal at St. Anthony Park Elementary about 25 years ago.

Schrankler says he’s always enjoyed teaching and loved science as a kid. “I was in school soon after the Sputnik craze, so it was an exciting time in science education,” he says. “It was always the favorite part of my day, the opportunity to do some hands-on stuff.”

The school’s curriculum and emphasis on real-life experiences includes visits to nature centers and environmental learning centers beginning in third grade.

In the third and fourth grade, students spend a day at Belwin Nature Center in Afton. Fifth-graders spend three days at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin. The program culminates in sixth grade, when students spend a week at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

“It’s important for kids to be well-informed citizens,” says Schrankler. “They need to understand the environment around them and its workings. This will have an impact on their everyday choices, from the products they use to the officials they elect.”

Part of the school’s science program includes family science nights in the fall for first, second and third graders. Parents and siblings can join their budding scientists at the school for a night of hands-on experiments.

In the spring, intermediate-grade students don lab coats (borrowed from a friend of Schrankler’s who works at Regions Hospital) and display the results of their scientific inquiries.

In October, the National Academy of Sciences urged the U.S. government to launch a broad program supporting science education. The United States is lagging behind countries such as China and India in graduating engineers and students in other math and science fields.

Schrankler says the numbers are alarming. “I truly believe that children need to experience science in the early years,” he says. “National Science Foundation programs have been cut. It may be a reflection of society pursuing other career paths that many feel may be more lucrative.”

But, he adds, “science knowledge is essential even to those who don’t choose a field in a science area. It is also important to stay competitive in the global market.”
Arts Events
The St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church Music and Fine Arts Series continues with two events on Sunday, December 11. A reception with artist Versea Bourdaghs takes place at 5 p.m. Her watercolors will be on display through January 8 in the church narthex.

At 7 p.m. the Chapel Choir and Exultate Singers will lead Advent Vespers, a service of scripture, song and prayer. The church is located at 2323 Como Avenue.

An exhibition of works by Marjorie and Harold Alexander continues through January 6 at the Undercroft Gallery, located at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue. Marjorie, a papermaker, and Harold, a designer, have served as consultants for papermaking centers throughout the world.

Advent
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church will host an Advent silent retreat from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 3. Participants will listen to three stories from the Godly Play series used in the church’s children’s program. All are welcome. Reservations are requested at 645-3058.

St. Cecilia Catholic Church will hold an Advent evening prayer service on Sunday, December 4 at 7 p.m. The adult choir will sing “Tableprayer: The Winter Name of God” by Fr. Michael Joncas. Refreshments will follow the service. The church is located at 2357 Bayless Place.

Holiday Sales
Ginkgo Coffeehouse will hold an art/craft sale that features mosaics, handbags, jewelry, handmade soaps, children’s cloaks and more. The sale takes place Friday, December 2 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Ginkgo in the Park, 2300 Como Avenue (lower level), and on Saturday, December 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Avenue.

Lyngblomsten will hold its annual Scandinavian Cookie Fair on Friday, December 2 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the chapel at 1416 Almond Avenue. The event benefits Lyngblomsten’s community outreach programs.

Benefit Concert
Two local groups, the Mamas and Three Men & A Banjo, will perform on Friday, December 9 from 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted to benefit St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace.

Garden Club
On December 6 at 7 p.m. the St. Anthony Park Garden Club will host a presentation on fruit trees by Jennifer Porwit, a Ramsey County master gardener. The meeting takes place in the lower level of the St. Anthony Park Library.

Holiday Tea
The Visitor Center at Como Park’s Marjorie McNeely Conservatory will be the venue for Afternoon Tea on Friday, December 2 and 9. Seatings are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. The event is organized by a...
etcetera

group of volunteers, the Tea Ladies, and includes six courses. Guests receive a seasonal handmade favor and the opportunity for a behind-thescene tour of the conservatory.

The cost is $40 per person. For reservations, 487-8235.

Model Trains
The Twin City Model Railroad Museum will host a special show, “Night Trains,” on Saturday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. November 26 through February 25 (closed December 24 and 31).

Admission is $4 or $10 per family, with children under 5 admitted free. The museum is located in Bandana Square.

For more information, visit www.tcmrm.org or call 647-5722.

Tree Donation
Friends of the Parks and Trails sponsors a tree donation program that enables donors to give a tree in honor of someone special. For $50, donors can have a tree planted in the Ramsey County park of their choice. Recipients receive an announcement of the gift and a map showing the tree's location.

Send a check for $50 to:
Friends of the Parks
1621 Beechwood Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55116.

Include the name and address of the person you wish to receive the card and map, along with the name of the park where you prefer the tree be planted. For more information, visit www.friendsoftheparks.org or call 698-4543.

People
Maree Davies, who lived in St. Anthony Park for over 45 years, will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 30. Maree and her late husband, Wayne, and family lived on Chelmford Street.

Friends are invited to join Maree and family for a birthday celebration on Saturday, December 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Presbyterian Home of Eden Hills, 3220 Lake Johanna Blvd.

Megan DeLong, from Como Park, is the recipient of the Carrie Wickstrom Scholarship from the University of Minnesota-Morris. Based on academic merit, the scholarship is awarded to students pursuing education licensure who intend to teach at the elementary level.

DeLong, the daughter of Page and David DeLong, is a senior elementary education major and is a member of the UMM cheer team and Big Friend Little Friend.

Left to right: Donna Carlson, Carrie Wickstrom’s niece; Nicole Anderson, scholar; Ashley Tomoson, scholar; Megan DeLong, scholar; Jill Skwira, scholar; Laura Smith, scholar

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Blodgett from 1

Ruud says that she had never planned to seek public office, "but I felt I had to run because I'd seen the human cost of bad policy. As a nurse practitioner, it was a big leap for me, but the fear of doing nothing was worse than the fear of running." She cites the memory of Paul Wellstone as a political inspiration. "The life you live shouldn't be separate from the words you speak."

Blodgett never lets camp participants forget that Wellstone, in addition to being an idealist, was also someone who knew how to mobilize a movement from the ground up. "Paul Wellstone," he notes, "was winning elections while the conservative movement was on the rise."

Achieving ballot-box success ranks high as a goal for the graduates of Camp Wellstone. "Paul Wellstone was a progressive who won elections. We have to win to be in a position to make a difference," emphasizes Blodgett. For Blodgett, who describes himself as "the kind of old-fashioned guy who doesn't own a Palm Pilot," winning strategy involves a return to some distinctly low-tech campaign methods. "Throughout the 90s," he says, "campaigns got away from (personal) voter contact and relied on TV and direct mail. The thinking was, if you raise the money, you make your case. But that leads to a disconnect with voters."

"The key to successful campaigning, he believes, grows out of traditional activist techniques for political organizing. "There's an art and a science in building organizations," he says. "Wellstone was a big believer in involving large numbers of people."

Training at Camp Wellstone emphasizes old-fashioned techniques of one-to-one communication, backed up by modern fund-raising efforts and targeted voter outreach. "In a well-run campaign, volunteers are sent to knock on the right doors for undecided voters," he says. In-depth conversation with prospective voters is great, but only when it leads to what Blodgett calls "the make an ask" moment at the end of the conversation when the volunteer says, "Can we count on your vote?"

"You need quality conversations, but a lot of them," is how he puts it.

Peggy Flanagan agrees. Hanagan, 25, attended Camp Wellstone in the summer of 2003. Months later, she became the youngest and first Native American member of the Minneapolis School Board. She says, "I learned how important it is to build relationships with the community. You need to get in there right away." She stresses how crucial it was to visit all parts of the city, "not just the high voter turnout area." Flanagan adds, "Wellstone Action has the potential to grow more. The organization leaders, I'm so glad to be a part of it."

At 44, Blodgett is almost a full generation older than Camp Wellstone grads like Flanagan. He's a man who keeps his emotions well in check, but there are ghosts that live behind his eyes. They emerge fleetingly, as when he remembers with a trace of a smile the effervescent personality of the man who used to be his boss. For him, Wellstone Action is more than a cause. It's a way to restore his spirit. Blodgett tells a story to explain it.

A minister told me, 'I don't believe the meaning was in the crash and the loss. The meaning comes from what we make of it and how we respond to those tragedies.' He paused. 'I felt it was my calling to pick up where Paul left off. It would be a further tragedy if that went away, too. The organization has been part of the healing.'

Poets from 1

Ruish's long association with classic literature, especially ancient Greece, slips here and there into a poem, as in a named Lphigenia gives birth to kittens and a robin listens for Persephone in May. In his 20s and 30s, Ruud studied classics as an undergraduate at Augsburg College and later at the University of Minnesota, where he worked with scholars on a Ph.D. in the field but never completed it, having decided an academic career wasn't for him. He says he doesn't consider himself a classicist now, although "I do occasionally dip into ancient works."

He doesn't name any particular career, in fact. "I couldn't tell you everywhere I've worked," he said, but job descriptions range from carpenter to courier. "I've done a lot of physical labor," he said.

Eventually he landed a "numbers cruncher" position at Target, and "during that 10 years, I discovered a need to write," he said. "I didn't know at first that it would be poetry."

He sought out the MFA program in order to find mentors, and chose Hamline because of professors Jim Moore and Deborah Keenan, whose work he knew and appreciated. It didn't hurt that the campus was close by.

The MFA program led him to Laurel, which numbers several other Hamline MFA. Collectors members all live in or near the Twin Cities, many in St. Paul. In addition to Tom and Sylvia Raud, St. Anthony Park resident Regula Russelle is a member of the collective and one of the broadside artists.

There’s talk in the collective now of what to do when the project has run its course, but they’re not making any public statements yet. Meanwhile, if anyone is thinking of trying a similar approach, Ruud said he highly recommends it and would be glad to offer his expertise to new collectors.

"It can be done more easily than you think," he said. "You have to be able to trust your members, to learn things as you go and to be available for volunteer work."

Now one should expect to make a profit from publishing poetry, he said, but there are other rewards. "It’s a lot of fun. Self-determination is always more fun."

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Hey out there, No Bones readers! My husband, Ray, and I just returned from our annual professional meeting—the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (www.vertepal.org). Each fall, we join up with over 1000 other vertebrate paleontologists (scientists who study extinct, backboned animals) from around the world. We listen to talks, view poster presentations, go to committee meetings and—best of all—get to see lots of our paleontology colleagues, many of whom are also our best friends.

At this year’s meeting, I gave a talk about the skeleton of a dinosaur called Rapetosaurus krausei, which we discovered in Madagascar. Ray presented a poster on his research with Macalester students on how fossilization occurs. I was really excited about this year’s meeting for another reason as well. Last year, I became the chair of the Media Liaison Committee. My job includes running a press conference that highlights the top five “exciting” talks that are given at the meeting.

I thought that you No Bones readers might enjoy reading a little about these presentations, especially since you may be hearing about them in the news.

My committee works hard to choose a diverse array of talks. We try to feature students and young scientists, as well as seasoned professionals. We also try to provide a cross-section of society by featuring talks on topics as diverse as early backboned animals, to more recent, ice-age extinctions.

The first featured talk was by a postdoctoral researcher named François Therrien from the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta. He studied the brains of meat-eating dinosaurs and interpreted how well they could smell.

He found out that T. rex really did have a specialized sniffer, but so did other dinosaurs, including the Paragonian Giganotosaurus.

The second press conference presenter was a South African scientist named Anusuya Chinsamy. She is among my closest colleagues—we study some of the same things.

This year, she discussed the origin of the fast growth rates in mammals. She studied this by looking at very thin slices of 65-million-year-old mammal bones.

Under the microscope, she was able to trace the patterns of bone minerals, spaces for blood vessels and cells, and compare them to living animals with similar patterns.

Alan Shabel, a grad student at Berkeley, identified the food sources of some early, robust hominids (like Australopithecus). Alan thinks they used their heavy, giraffe-like feet to chomp on hard-shelled invertebrates (like clams and shrimp).

The last two presentations focused on the Pleistocene—among the more recent geological periods, when wooly mammoths and giant beavers wandered in Minnesota. Ross MacPhee, a curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, questioned the cause of the extinction of these big land animals. Ross determined that humans were probably not the single cause of these extinction events, and invoked other factors as more influential.

I hope you can come!
Becoming a family from 3

for birthmothers, babies and adoptive families.

They discovered that adoption connects you not only to a new child but to a new place as well. They say that now they feel a stronger, more immediate connection to the Colombian culture than they do to further removed ancestral ethnicities in Norway and Germany.

In April, they sat at Maria Clemencia's desk and signed papers. They gave her the "presentation outfit"—a special sweater knit by a friend—and off she went with little Leo as Maria and Eric waited.

Leo helped Maria Clemencia dress his new sister, while other tearful staff looked on, remembering doing the same when Leo was three months old. Then they went down two flights of stairs together, to Mama and Dadda, placing Greta in their arms.

Far away from poinsettia trees and cascades of yellow orchids, Greta and Leo are happy campers taking leaves in St. Anthony Park. Greta trails Lucky, the dog, and says "down!" "Hi, Greta" says Leo, throwing a tennis ball into the leaves for Lucky to chase. Greta, crawling, lifts a hand to wave back at Leo, grinning. They are home.

If Mama and Dadda have their way, they will be familiar with both St. Paul and Bogotá. Leo will learn to play the charango, perhaps, alongside Dadda on the guitar.

One thing’s for sure: Maria’s on Franklin will continue to watch this family happily devouring Colombian cuisine on Saturday mornings.

Adoption Resources

The Wolff-Kloos family adopted their children through Children’s Home Society and Family Services. They note that “the advocate in Colombia that led our process has worked with CHSFS for over 17 years. For a process that can have many unpredictable parts, we liked the idea that these relationships would be as predictable as possible.”

Here is a list of adoption resources:

- Children’s Home Society
  www.childrenshomeadopt.org
  Olga Tasso: 255-2204 or Colombia@chsfs.org

- Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
  www.lssmn.org/adoption

- Joint Council on International Children’s Services
  An association of international child placement agencies, promoting ethical practices and effective services for children.
  www.jcics.org

- Adoptive Families Magazine
  They publish an annual guide to adoption and U.S. agencies.
  www.adoptivefamilies.com

- U.S. State Department
  http://travel3.his.com/family/adoption/country/country_366.html

- For Latin America:
  Resource Center of the Americas
  3019 Minnehaha Ave.
  Minneapolis, MN 55406-1931
  (612) 276-0788
  www.americas.org/PLAC

- Adoption Resources
  A nonprofit organization supporting families adopting children from Latin America.
  www.lasemana.org/3.htm

How to Guide

1. Explore agencies and attend their information sessions.
2. Talk to parents who have adopted.
3. Choose an agency and register.
4. Complete your pre-adoption education by attending classes at your agency or by completing a take-home course.
5. Complete an adoption study—an official document required by Minnesota and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This important document, prepared by an adoption professional, describes your background and the education and preparation you have undergone to complete an adoption.
6. Choose your program and begin your program-specific paperwork. Your agency will guide you through the dossier preparation—the collection of documents and personal information required by the child’s home country to complete a legal adoption.
7. File with USCIS if adopting internationally.
8. Travel to your child’s country (some countries allow children to be escorted to the U.S. by someone other than parents.)
9. After your child is home, post-placement procedures are required for all international adoptions.
There are always some anxieties when planning a bird watching field trip. The date is set months in advance, so you worry if the weather will be decent that day. And will the birds show up?

On a Saturday morning in mid-October, I led a group of 20 bird watchers along the trails of the Joseph E. Wargo Nature Center. It’s part of the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve, located north of the Twin Cities in Lino Lakes.

And among the anxieties I’ve had in the past, the sight that greeted us at Wargo was a first: The parking lot was filled with police cars. We had to park along the entry road.

Law enforcement people were being trained to search for an abducted child. Now I had another thing to worry about: Would the park be filled with police officers combing the woods? We’d be in each other’s way and any birds would probably be spooked.

Staff at the Nature Center told us that field exercises wouldn’t start until noon. We’d be out of the woods by then.

We headed down the trail, a six-foot-wide swath of closely mowed grass. Easy walking, but surprisingly spongy. It appeared that groundhogs and moles had burrowed under a good portion of the trail.

There was yellow crime scene tape marking designated search areas—a little eerie. But there were birds.

Dark-eyed juncoos were everywhere. They’re the dark grey birds with the white tummies and outer tail feathers that flash when they start to cover. Some folks call them snow birds.

Bird watchers appreciate the opportunity to compare birds that are similar. We had a couple of chances to see similar birds near each other, which is a good study for beginners and a refresher for all of us.

The first comparative study we had was seeing both a ruby-crowned kinglet and a golden-crowned kinglet in the same tree. Kinglets are tiny, three- to four-inch birds that flit around constantly, feeding on small insects and spiders. Seeing both together during their fall migration was a real treat.

The ruby-crowned kinglet has a white eye-ring, which gives it a “big-eyed” look. Its relative, the golden-crowned, has a dark line extending through its eye and a whitish eyebrow stripe above it. So it’s really helpful if you can get a good look at the head. This was a very good chance for our group to study the differences.

Our next comparative study session involved three birds: a white-breasted and a red-breasted nuthatch, and a brown creeper. These birds crawl on tree trunks and larger branches, searching for insects and larvae.

The white-breasted nuthatch seems far more common and is larger, plump with a dark cap, blue-gray back and white belly. It’s a frequent visitor to feeders and has a nasal “yank” call.

By contrast, the red-breasted nuthatch favors conifers and is smaller, with a dark eye stripe, a prominent white eyebrow and a rusty reddish belly. The call is more nasal than the white-breasted nuthatch.

Although nuthatches can maneuver up or down a tree trunk, the sparrow-sized, sparrow-colored brown creeper can only climb up. The creeper has stiff tail feathers that help it along in its climb. It’s a very shy bird with a faint, high pitched “see” call. You’ll notice the brown creeper most often as it flies to the base of a tree to begin its upward climb.

As our group hiked, we noticed a lot of dead trees left standing. That’s great habitat for woodpeckers, although the only species everyone in the group saw was the downy woodpecker.

Its larger relative, the hairy woodpecker, was seen by just a few folks. So we didn’t get a good side-by-side comparative study of these two.

If you do happen to see these two birds together, the larger size of the hairy is readily apparent. But their color patterns are so similar that upon seeing only one of them, you may not be sure whether you’re looking at a downy or a hairy woodpecker.

I explained to folks that you can tell a downy from a hairy woodpecker by the ratio of the bill length to the distance from the base of the bill to the eye. The downy’s bill is just as long as that eye-to-bill distance, while the hairy’s bill is much longer.

As I scanned the woods for signs of motion that would reveal the presence of birds, I saw a black and white crow-sized bird swoop through the trees.

“Plated woodpecker!” I shouted. I don’t think I called out in time for anyone else to see it. Could it have been a vagrant ivory-billed woodpecker blown north by one of the Gulf hurricanes? In my dreams.

A few feet farther along the trail we walked into the premier viewing event of the morning. I noticed a robin-sized bird hopping through some brush just off the trail. We watched as it dodged in and out of the thicket. Suddenly it hopped onto our perch at about eye level with a tree trunk behind it, about 15 feet from the trail.

There the hermit thrush posed for all to view. Brown overall, with heavy spotting on the breast, it raised its rufous (rumpy) tail and then slowly lowered it. That tail lift and lowering is one of the identifying traits of the hermit thrush.

After we had watched it for a couple of minutes, studying its face, someone in the group spoke quietly to the bird and asked, “Now can we see the left side?”

And the bird obliged by turning its head to the right so we could get the left profile. Amazing.

As a few folks, we saw another hermit thrush joining it, so there had been two of them.

“Must not have been a real hermit,” I remarked.

We had a beautiful day, good companionship and some good opportunities for comparative study of similar birds, capped by a private seminar conducted by a cooperative and handsome migrating hermit thrush.

The police training exercise was successful, but their evidence had been planted.

Bird watchers, on the other hand, have no guarantees, no one “planting” birds. We depend on the birds themselves to show up, and indeed they did.

The officers found what they were looking for, and so did we. A very successful day all around.
How many of us know someone who's bitter and unhappy about the hand that life has dealt them? Ever notice how those emotions seem to age the face and body? Conversely, how many people who count their blessings do you know? Ever notice how focusing on those blessings seems to bring a youthful glow to their appearance and personality? Now, this column is not about tummy tucks, face-lifts or other means of distorting the body for a youthful appearance. This column is about, “you’re only as young as you feel,” and when you’re grateful for what you have in life, you feel younger!

This holiday season, take some time to count your blessings. If they seem meager to you, you may be forgetting some things that you’ve enjoyed for so long that you’re now taking them for granted.

This morning I counted: the sun rose (beautifully), my children woke up healthy and happy, they’re doing reasonably well in school, and the weather has not seen fit to snow yet, which is a blessing to me because I have not yet gotten around to winterizing my car. I have not yet gotten around to winterizing my car, which is a blessing to me because I have not yet gotten around to winterizing my car. I have not yet gotten around to winterizing my car, which is a blessing to me because I have not yet gotten around to winterizing my car. When I get a little shaky in the gratitude department, the best way I know to refocus on my own good fortune is to turn my attention to someone whose struggles are greater than my own.

Last month I was obsessing over a huge mailing I had to get out to thousands of people, and while I was inwardly ranting and raving about the impossibility of getting this done, someone who was severely depressed caught my attention. She needed some activity to help her get over a bad spot.

“Want to stuff some envelopes?” I said. A few hours later, both of us were feeling much better.

The secret of being grateful is not just the positive feelings you have when you consciously thank the universe or God (or Whoever it is you thank) for the good things in your life. It is also looking at something in a different way, which can release mental energy to help you think of ways to overcome challenges.

Best of all, when we help others overcome some of the challenges they face, we invariably find that we come up with some answers to our own dilemmas.

If you really want to enjoy this holiday season, try counting your blessings each day. Find someone—or perhaps two or three someones—that you can shovel snow for, or bring a surprise gift to or ask to join you for a meal.

If you meet the challenge of focusing on your blessings and looking for ways to give of yourself to someone whose blessings may be fewer than yours, I can guarantee you'll have a happier holiday season!

P. S. Thanks for all of the inquiries about my health. As many of you know, I have had to start chemotherapy again, and my progress has not been ideal. But thanks to all of your prayers and good wishes, I'm still here!

The St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program offers advice to those who are ill or in need of help. We welcome ideas and feedback for this column at 642-9052 or sapbug@bitstream.net.

| ROAST COFFEE BEANS, NOT CHESTNUTS |

Dunn Bros. Coffee fresh roasted beans make a perfect gift. And here’s our present to you: Bring in this ad and get a 1/2 lb. of beans FREE with a 1 lb. purchase.

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Help support our local St. Anthony Park businesses maintain a strong mix of shopping and service alternatives. You can make a difference. Shop your neighborhood merchants.
American Life in Poetry

By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

Naomi Shihab Nye lives in San Antonio, Texas. Here she perfectly captures a moment in childhood that nearly all of us may remember: being too small for the games the big kids were playing, and fastening tightly upon some little thing of our own.

Boy and Egg

Every few minutes, he wants to march the trail of flattened rye grass back to the house of muttering hens. He too could make a bed in hay. Yesterday the egg so fresh it felt hot in his hand and he pressed it to his ear while the other children laughed and ran with a ball, leaving him, so little yet, so forgetful in games, ready to cry if the ball brushed him, riveted to the secret of birds caught up inside his fist, not ready to give it over to the refrigerator or the rest of the day.


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.
December Arts

Music

Coffee Grounds, 1579 Hamline, 644-9959
December 2, 8 pm - Open mic with Bill Hammond
December 4, 6 pm - Real Book Jazz
December 5, 8 pm - Cagley’s Roots Music Showcase
December 8, 7 pm - Rachel Nelson
December 9, 8 pm - Real Book Jazz
December 12, 8 pm - Brandy Evol
December 16, 8 pm - Skyline Citizen
December 17, 8 pm - Real Book Jazz
December 19, 8 pm - Cagley’s Roots Music Showcase
December 22, 7 pm - Real Book Jazz
December 26, 8 pm - Drew Smith
December 27, 7 pm - Ginkgo Coffeehouse
721 N. Snelling Ave. 659-9734

Visual Arts

Anodyne Artist Company
825 Columbus St., 642-1684
Art...what is it?
Each third Thursday
Doors open at 7pm
Performance starts 7:30pm

Goldstein Museum of Design
241 McNeal Hall
612-624-7144
Mind Over Matter, Body Under Design
Through January 8

Midway Contemporary Art
333 University Ave. Suite 400
Mnneapolis, 612-607-4504
The Dismemberment of Scrooby Meadowcost - Everything Has A Name, Matthew Buckingham
Through December 17

St. Paul Student Center/University of Minnesota
Jazz Band at Orchestra Hall, playing before B.B. King concert
December 10, 7pm

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
December 9, 7pm - The Mamas, Three Men & A Banjo
December 10, 7pm - Exultate Vocal and Symphonic Ensemble
Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah and more
December 19, 7:30pm

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New Pricing
Coming Soon!

Art, Corinne, Jane and Marcus Bustad - continuing a great real estate tradition!
## December Calendar

### Thursday
- **1**
  - Boy Scouts, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.
  - Como Park recycling, Every Monday.
  - Falcon Heights recycling, 11-11:45 a.m. Every Thursday.

### Friday
- **2**
  - Senior Center Food Group (3 p.m., bending, oval dinner), South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Every Friday.
  - Leisure Center (825 Seal St.), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Friday.
  - Creative Movement classes at the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, 9-10 a.m., South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Every Thursday.

### Saturday
- **3**
  - Noon Day Dinner, (612)-625-5246, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Gopher Spot, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Como Ave., St. Paul Campus. Every Saturday.

### Monday
- **5**
  - Murray School Association, 7 p.m. prostate forum, "Choosing a High School." Murray Junior High School board room.
  - AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (644-8066), 8 p.m. Every Monday.

### Tuesday
- **13**
  - Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Wabasha St., 7:30 p.m.
  - Lauderdale recycling.

### Wednesday
- **14**
  - Creative Movement class at the St. Anthony Park Rec Center starts today, with 7 sessions. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., First Friday, blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, 9-10 a.m., Falcon Heights recycling.

### Thursday
- **15**
  - Holiday band concert at 1:45 and 7 p.m. at Chelsea Heights Elementary to celebrate holidays from around the world.
  - Winter Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Murray Junior High Auditorium.

### Friday
- **16**
  - Falcon Heights recycling,

### Saturday
- **20**
  - Leisure Center for Seniors (825 Seal St.), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Every Thursday.

### Monday
- **26**
  - Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Wabasha St., 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday
- **27**
  - Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Wabasha St., 7:30 p.m.
Eleanor Busse

Eleanor V. Busse, age 97, died peacefully on Nov. 7, 2005, at Lyngblomsten Care Center. She was born on July 18, 1908, to Esther and John Johnsdahl. Eleanor spent her whole life in St. Paul, graduating from Mechanic Arts High and dancing at the Como Park Pavilion. Eleanor had many interests and friends. She received 65 cards on her 90th birthday. Her friends were a priority, as was her family, but her passion was Midway Hospital. She started working there in 1922, in the front office, and later in the Medical Records Department. She ended her long career there in 1972 after 40 years, only to return after retirement to volunteer for a few more years. She would never accept the fact that the hospital had closed.

She always wanted to do the "right thing." No rule or custom should be broken to matter how inconsequential or whether usually observed. Her family had to persuade her that she didn’t need to tip the flight attendant on her first plane ride at age 80.

Busse was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence, and sister, Virginia C. Borg. She is survived by special cousin-in-law, John T. Busse and his wife, Maxine, organized and hosted several tour groups to the South Pacific, Europe and Canada. Many of these tours included arrangements for travelers to stay with host families, particularly in New Zealand.

Leonard Harkness

Leonard Llewellyn Harkness, of Shoreview (formerly of Falcon Heights), an outstanding leader in the 4-H movement in Minnesota and the nation, died on Oct. 27, 2005, at 88. He was professor emeritus at the U of M and director of the University's Extension Service 4-H Youth Development program for 31 years until his retirement in 1980.

"Leonard valued, supported and recognized volunteer leaders. He challenged all 4-H youth to lives of service," said Dale Blythe, director of the Center for Youth Development with Extension.

Harkness served on the board of trustees of the National 4-H Foundation and was a delegate to three White House Conferences on Children and Youth. He was involved extensively in church, state and community affairs. He was a member of Centennial United Methodist Church of Roseville and past president of the Minnesota Council of Churches. Harkness was also a long-time member, past president and Paul Harris Fellow of the St. Paul Rotary Club and a past president of the Gavel Club of St. Paul; and a member of Golden K (Kawaisi) Roseville.


Leonard was the second oldest of eight children, born on a farm near Randolph, Minn., in 1916. He and his brothers earned spending money by hunting gophers and selling the tails at three cents each to Ed Thye, then the township clerk, who later became Minnesota governor and U.S. senator. He graduated with honors from Northfield High School in 1935, and received his B.S. in agronomy and plant genetics from the U of M in 1941 and a masters in public administration from Harvard in 1956. After retirement, he and wife, Maxine, organized and hosted several tour groups to the South Pacific, Europe and Canada. Many of these tours included arrangements for travelers to stay with host families, particularly in New Zealand.

He was a naval aviator and squadron commander in World War II, serving two tours of duty. He piloted a patrol patrol PBY, Navy flyers who served on patrol duty in the South Pacific for 18 months. Later he flew medical evacuation flights, including an evacuation of wounded Marines from two Jima through a typhoon.

Leonard respected the tenets of the 4-H Club program and encouraged staff to provide a smorgasbord of quality learning opportunities for all youth regardless of ethnic origin and economic status," Blythe said. "A key component of his 4-H legacy was person-to-person international experiences. Leonard and his family also hosted international visitors from 20 countries in their home." Leonard will be deeply missed by his wife of 63 years, Maxine; children, Peggy (Roger) Huss, Mary (Tim) Poggi, Dorothy (Steve) Holman, Tom (Pegi) Harkness, Dodie (David) Woodis, Sara Jane (Ed) Strecker; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; sister, Barbara Bartels; brothers, Robert (Margal) and Lloyd; devoted nieces, Belinda Poggi and many other relatives and good friends.

A service of remembrance was held Nov. 5 at Centennial United Methodist. Memorials are preferred to the church, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation Harkness Fund or donor’s choice.

Dolores Hennessy

Dolores E. Hennessy, age 86, died unexpectedly on Oct. 12, 2005.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward J., and sister, Virginia Piercy. She is survived by nieces, Susan (Tom) McCarthy of St. Paul and Nancy Murray of Maryland, great nieces and nephews, cousins and many friends.

A memorial service was held Oct. 18 at Como Park Lutheran Church, where she was a lifelong member. Memorials are preferred to the church.

Dorothy Swanson

Dorothy Evangeline Swanson died Oct. 9, 2005, in the presence of her family. She was 85.

When she experienced a sudden heart attack, she was at home preparing to entertain her church circle friends. She had long been active in a variety of church activities.

Dorothy assumed maternal responsibilities for her father and eight siblings at age 11, when her mother died. She continued as the common bond for the following four siblings, seven in-laws, 28 first cousins and some of their children.

She faced loss of the family farm and most possessions to a Depression-era auction. She spent more than four years waiting on tables, cleaning houses and minding the children of others while attending the U of M, graduating in 1945 with a degree in home economics.

She contributed to the WW II effort as a USDA fruit inspector for the Lend Lease Program and U.S. troops overseas, while helping her boyfriend, Gordon, would serve duty in the South Pacific with the First Marine Division. Following Gordon’s return and their marriage, she rejected multiple opportunities for her immediate and extended families, and finished addressing most of the hundreds of Christmas card envelopes she sent around the world shortly before her death.

She was a teacher of values, dedication and constancy—but also of subtraction, gin rummy and making gravy or peanut brittle. Her family remembers her as a blessing to all her life touched. Her children pray to become worthy of God’s many gifts to them through her.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband and lifelong partner, Gordon, and brothers Earle, Lester, Lloyd and Melvin. She is survived by her children, Dale of Forest Lake; Dean (Pattica) and granddaughter Katharine of Silver Spring, Md.; Jan Mackenhaut (Merlin) and grandson Scott of Brownston, Minn., and granddaughter of Chanhassen; and Charles (Melissa) and grandchildren Thomas, Henri, Evangeline and Charles of Lino Lakes. She is also survived by brothers Carleton, Donald and Kenneth, sister Helen and many extended family members and friends.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 21 at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, where she was a longtime member. Interment was at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to Loues ‘n Fishes (g/o SAPUCC), St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program or the SAPUCC Music Program.

John Turner

John E. Turner, a longtime resident of University Grove in Falcon Heights, died Oct. 5, 2005, at the age of 88. He was a Regents professor emeritus of political science, and active in university and neighborhood affairs and in the DFL party. He was active on the University Faculty Senate and taught political science to many who are now in the legislature (on both sides of the aisle) and in other positions of influence in the state.

Turner was born in Ambler, Northumberland, Great Britain. He emigrated at the age of 9 to South Dakota, receiving his B.A. from Yankton College and his Ph.D. from the U of M, where Lives Lived to 24
Child Care

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all my past, present, and future families from Park Angels Child Care!

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he spent his entire career.

He was the author of books on the governments of China, Great Britain, Korea and Russia, and many academic journal publications. The Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award given by his colleagues was but one of many teaching awards.

Turner traveled extensively for work and pleasure and enjoyed photography, poetry and debate.

At one point, when University Grove was badly polarized, he was the vice president of the Grove Association. He was one of the strategists when the Grove joined with activists from 1666

Coffman to persuade the

strategists when the Grove joined the

Association. He was one of the

president of the Grove

University Grove was badly

given by his colleagues was but

publications. The Outstanding

and many academic journal

Great Britain, Korea and Russia,

he spent his entire career.

Lives Lived from 22

---Mary Mergenthal