Nothing is certain about taxes on University Avenue — except that they’re going up

Task force studies development along Central Corridor

by Anne Holzman

It may seem obvious to many: With all the talk about light rail along University Avenue, of course taxes are going up and the city should do something about it.

But neither the reason nor the solution is that simple, according to a property tax task force organized last fall by the Midway nonprofit University United.

“The task force is one of several studying development along the avenue and its nearby neighborhoods, collectively known as Central Corridor. Brian McMahon, director of University United, said the idea for the task force started with a study about three years ago by the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development.

“They went door to door along University Avenue, interviewing business owners,” he said. Parking and property taxes emerged as the two top concerns.

Public finance expert Jon Commers, who lives in St. Anthony Park and serves on St. Paul’s planning commission, drafted the task force’s report in January and said he hopes to distribute it during February to the various government entities that might be able to do something about taxes along the corridor.

“University Avenue feels different because it’s becoming the centerpiece of the city again.”

—Jon Commers

“Small businesses, in particular, have been crying for help in recent months. Many of them rent, Commers said, and they can get a nasty surprise when taxes suddenly go up.

And small businesses generally contribute to a feature of urban planning that University United promotes: high-density land use surrounding transit hubs and offering retail and services within walking distance of homes.

So the task force’s goal, Commers said, is to figure out “where are the areas of conflict between development goals along University Avenue and property taxes.”

“Taxes on University to 10

Thanks to snow, Como skiers are good to go

by Lisa Steinmann

For winter sports lovers it was a long wait for the snow this year. However, even during the warm days of December it was possible to glimpse a winter landscape by visiting Como Park.

Visitors could listen to the howls of the timber wolves, watch a polar bear float on its back in an icy pool of water or stand in a snow flurry on the hillsides of Como Golf Course. Thanks to machine-generated snow, as well as a few inches from Mother Nature, skiers and snowboarders are finally gliding down the hills at Como Park. On a recent Saturday, the slope was as busy as an anvil with groups of skiers and snowboarders zigzagging down the hill.

Keeping the hills at Como Park padded with snow enables the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation to offer their annual skiing and snowboarding lessons. For over 40 years the program has offered downhill skiing instruction to children and adults.

Blomberg Pharmacy gets a makeover

by Clay Christensen

As Bonnie Blomberg recalls the days when she and her husband, Bob, owned Blomberg Pharmacy, she remembers the long soda fountain they had facing the big front window.

“It had 20 stools,” she said. “And those were the days before air conditioning. So on a hot summer night, people would come in for soda and Cokes. We sold bricks of ice cream. There weren’t many freezers in homes back then. People would just buy what they could take home and eat.”

Construction of the building at the corner of Iowa and Hamline Avenues began the day after Thanksgiving in 1939. The pharmacy opened on March 1, 1940. Bob was a pharmacist and ran the pharmacy in the northern half of the building. His brother, Leslie, ran a grocery store in the other half.

“When they first started, Bonnie said, there wasn’t enough money to hire another pharmacist, so Bob was there seven days a week.

“We couldn’t leave the store at all,” she said. “We had a two-burner plate in the basement. I’d go down there and cook supper for the two of us.”

Bonnie is 96 years old and has seen many changes in the building over the years. The grocery changed hands and was run by the Meyer family. It closed in the mid-1980s. Since then it has been a book and gift store, an antique store, a consignment shop and, for the last two years, Peterson Dental offices.

The basement has had many tenants and businesses as well, doctor, dentist, beauty shop, fish market and now Coffee Grounds, a coffee shop that opened in 1993.

Derek Burden bought the building from the Blombergs in the 1990s. He recalls clearing the fish market out of the basement.

“The smell was overpowering,” he said.

The previous owners had

Blomberg to 6

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

Volume 33, Number 8, February 2007

Vote in this month’s Bugle poll at www.parkbugle.org: Are property taxes too high?
CITY FILES

Falcon Heights

An online survey at www.ci.falcon-heights.mn.us invites residents to weigh in on parks and recreation as the city updates its comprehensive plan. Estimated time to complete the survey is 5–10 minutes. Surveys will be accepted until March 2.

Nominations are open for the sixth annual Neal Kwong Award for youth ages 12–19 who display outstanding leadership, volunteerism or citizenship in Falcon Heights. Two recipients, one each in age categories 12–15 and 16–19, will be recognized at a City Council meeting and their names engraved on a permanent plaque in the lobby of City Hall. Nominees must either live or volunteer in Falcon Heights. A nomination form is available on the city’s Web site.

Neal Kwong was a resident who died of carbon monoxide poisoning at the age of 15. He was a volunteer in the parks and recreation’s Junior Leaders program and an Eagle Scout. The city established this award in his memory.

Lauderdale

The Snow Commotion festival will be from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 10. For those who prefer indoor warmth, there will be activities and food at City Hall. Those who brave the cold will find winter activities in the park and a horse-drawn carriage to ride between the sites. A used book sale will benefit park improvements and community events. Donations of gently used books for adults and children are being accepted at City Hall during office hours. Donors receive a “Laundershilla” to spend at the book sale for every 10 books donated. Call 792-7650 for more information.

The 2007 city budget provides for an increase in law enforcement patrol from 16 hours to 24 hours. St. Anthony is recruiting two new officers to handle the increased hours. Full 24-hour patrols and services are expected to be in place by June 2007, until then, overtime will enable increased patrol time.

To pay for the change, the City Council increased the tax rate 13 percent over last year, or a $39 annual increase for the average home in Lauderdale. The ice rink at Roselawn Avenue and Fulham Street has a warming house open at 4 p.m. weekdays, noon on weekends and school holidays. It closes at 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and at 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and school holidays.

The St. Anthony Police Department will host a Citizen Police Academy from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, April 11 through May 23. The course is free. Participants must be at least 21 years old and either work or reside in St. Anthony, Falcon Heights or Lauderdale.

The program educates community members about the inner workings of a police department. Topics include patrol procedures, property and personal crimes, criminal procedures, defensive tactics, firearms and crime prevention.

Applicants must submit a background investigation and sign a waiver. For more information or an application, contact Officer Tresia Sunde, 612-782-3371 or Tresia.Sunde@ci.Saint-Anthony.mn.us.

St. Anthony Park

Recent developments at Rock-Tern have prompted formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee focused on the company’s power source. Residents of the area who might be interested in serving on the committee can contact Nina Axelson (nina@sapcc.org, 649-5992) by mid-February.

The mayor’s office hosts a Central Corridor Open House from 8 to 10 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, at the old Lexington Library, 1080 University Ave. For more information, call Donna Drummond at 266-6556.

District 12 Council elections will be held in April, with filing statements due in March.

—Anne Holtzman
Drums to usher in Lunar New Year

by Anne Holzman

Korean businesses along Snelling Avenue in the Midway area will soon get a chance to have their establishments refreshed the traditional way, as the Shinparam Drum Group observes the Lunar New Year on the afternoon of February 17 by parading from door to door and offering to bash away the old year and bang in the new.

Neighbors hoping to see bad spirits run the other way, or just curious about the custom, are welcome to come and join the fun, said Martha Vickery, a member of the group, who is also an editor at Korean Quarterly magazine.

Vickery said that while there are religious roots to the ceremony, Shinparam stresses the camaraderie and value of folk musical traditions rather than conducting solemn observances.

Last year was the first such celebration for Shinparam, and the chilly, wet weather proved a bit of a dampener. But they also performed for Korean elders at the Korean Service Center in Minneapolis and had a great time, Vickery said.

Whereas a few curious onlookers along Snelling weren’t quite sure how to join in, the elders were “all getting up and dancing and clapping their hands” to the familiar rhythms, she said.

The drumming group, formed several years ago by adult Korean adoptees and parents of Korean adoptees, hopes to gain visibility as their skills improve.

Vickery said similar groups in Philadelphia and Chicago have served as models, but it’s hard to find teachers and leaders in Korean folk traditions in the Twin Cities.

The group really got going when several Korean students from the University of Minnesota added their firsthand cultural experience to the mix.

Inspired by a “jishinbalpgi” (“stepping on the spirit of the earth”) ceremony in Chicago, the Shinparam drummers worked up an hour-long routine last year and expect to do a similar observance this year, hopefully in drier weather.

They’ll gather in the parking lot of Kum Gang San restaurant at 694 N. Snelling (formerly the site of Shilla restaurant) at 2:30 p.m. on February 17, and spend about an hour walking among the Korean businesses along Snelling, then gather back at Kum Gang San.

Vickery said neighbors are welcome to join the procession at any time and help wish the business owners a happy new year.
EDITORIAL

One privilege of age is the license to marvel at everything today's youth are ignorant of: typewriters, rotary phones, slide rules, record players. Some members of the Greatest and Second Greatest Generations lament the loss of such artifacts, finding their modern counterparts a dubious example of "progress."

But the serious nostalgist could, by dint of a little patience and persistence, manage to resurrect many an abandoned example of yesterday's technology. Although it might be difficult to find wax cylinders for a Dictaphone, if you're willing to enlist modern methods (read eBay), you can probably unearth some.

Other bygone things, however, are destined to remain bygone. Soda fountains, for example. While you could try to recreate one in your basement, it obviously wouldn't be the same, for the soda fountain was much more a social and cultural phenomenon than a mechanical one. The classic soda fountain was not a stand-alone affair. Typically, it was part of a drug store, which sold much more than drugs. So you went to pick up a prescription, or to buy some toothpaste or pencil or candy or gum, and there it was: a fountain complete with a mysterious counter that could turn out a chocolate shake or a vanilla malt. If you were older, you could probably even order a malt that included a banana.

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Commentary

by Sen. John Marty

For years, politicians have been talking about affordable health care, while more families than ever are underinsured or cannot find any coverage at all. It is not acceptable to say we will provide health care for these families "eventually."

When your health is at stake, eventually isn't good enough. Now is the time to deliver quality, affordable health care for all Minnesotans. We need to start a dialogue - the real dialogue that the whole country needs before we even begin to address this issue.

We need to work together in a cooperative, bipartisan manner to meet this challenge.

Political commitments have already been made to Governor Pawlenty. He has said that we "can chart a path toward universal coverage. We should have as a goal, as a nation, as states, as communities, that everyone have insurance or coverage or be part of a health care plan." Likewise, many legislators campaigned for office promising to work for affordable health care for all.

Although there may be significant disagreements about specific policies, that does not excuse us from working aggressively for them.

The first step, before we work out the details of how health care will be made accessible to all, should be to spell out the goals we want to accomplish.

To develop a health care system that serves Minnesotans best, the system must:

1. Ensure that all Minnesotans receive high-quality health care, regardless of their income.
2. Allow patients to choose their own providers.
3. Hold down costs, not by restricting or denying coverage or reducing the quality of care, but through disease prevention, efficiency and eliminating bureaucracy.
4. Provide comprehensive benefits, including complete mental health services, chemical dependency treatment, prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, dental care, long-term care and home-care services.
5. Be funded through premiums and other payments based on the person's ability to pay, so as not to deny access.
6. Focus on preventive care and early intervention.
7. Provide an adequate number of qualified health care professionals and facilities to guarantee timely access to quality care throughout the state.

8. Continue promoting Minnesota's leadership in medical education, training, research and technology.

The requirement for comprehensive benefits is crucial. When the governor and Legislature talk about "covering all kids," we must recognize that this means all children, not just those with physical health problems but also those children with dental problems and those with mental health needs.

Health care that excludes coverage of the medical needs of some people is not truly coverage for those people.

During the course of the recent campaign, many legislators heard stories of families who face tremendous hardship due to inadequate coverage. As the governor and Legislature work...
Commentary from 4

together this session, we cannot forget the troubles these families face and the urgency of addressing this issue.

We will have a busy session in the Senate Health and Housing Committee, but I propose that we set a binding timeline for delivering reform that meets the eight criteria spelled out above. This is what the people of Minnesota are asking for. They expect it and deserve it.

When European nations, Canada and Japan are able to deliver comprehensive health care to all of their people, with better health outcomes — for roughly half the cost per person we’re already spending — this is not an insurmountable challenge.

I am introducing legislation that would set up a process to develop health care reform that meets all these factors by the end of the decade. It would establish a constitutional right to health care beginning in January 2010. Prison inmates already have a constitutional right to health care. Don’t all of us deserve as much?

We can, and must, stand up to those powerful interests that stand in the way. Let’s start by passing the “cover all kids” legislation this year and ensure that every Minnesota has full access to health care by the end of this decade.

Sen. John Marty (DFL, Roseville) is the incoming chair of the Minnesota Senate Health, Housing, and Family Security Committee.

BUGLE FUND DRIVE UPDATE

The Park Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc., a nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors. The Bugle has no subscription income. The paper is delivered free to homes, businesses and organizations. To supplement the revenue derived from advertising, the board of directors conducts an annual fund drive, which the paper depends on for about 10 percent of its operating income. The 2006-2007 Bugle fund drive goal was $20,600. To date, $18,800 has been raised from 411 contributors. This is not half the cost per person we’re already spending — this is not an insurmountable challenge.

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apparently left fish in the live tanks and they'd gone bad. The walls around the stage area in the coffee shop are from one of the original coolers.

The pharmacy business was purchased in November 2006 by Robert Koziol and Richard Zunker, pharmacists who own Erickson Drug in Lakeville. Zunker said they're planning to keep the Blomberg name and maintain the store as an independent pharmacy. Staffing will stay the same.

They're in the process of remodeling and adding more room for durable medical equipment: walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs and the like. They hope to be done with the remodeling by the end of February. The most controversial aspect of their remodeling so far has been removing the post office. Zunker said he's had a lot of reactions from customers, but the convenience was costing the store money. The contract with the U.S. Postal Service didn't cover the cost of the staff that was needed, he said.

Zunker said that insured patrons will have the same co-pay on a prescription at Blomberg Pharmacy as at any other store. And if they're not insured and have to pay cash, he said he'll beat any big box store on price.

Bonnie Blomberg remembers when the Pako photo service company used to bring a small cart drawn by a pony and give kids rides on a Saturday afternoon.

"I don't know where they went. Probably just around the block," she mused.
Como skiers from 1
Parkway becomes the ski chalet from mid-December through February. A shop inside the chalet rents downhill and cross-country skis and snowboards, and sells rip-tow tickets. There is also a food concession that serves hot drinks and snacks for hungry, race-checked skiers. The slopes are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school through the evening, and during the day Saturdays and Sundays. One-hour weekly lessons begin the second week in January and run through mid-February.

Kinderski is a popular class for the youngest students. Four-to-six-year-olds spend their first lesson inside the Ski Center getting used to walking and climbing steps in their stiff plastic boots. Once skis are attached the kids resemble multicolored penguins moving about in their puffy winter clothing.

Out on the ski hill, the children learn to sidestep about 15 feet up the slope and make their first short runs down the hill. Parents often brave the cold to stand nearby and watch as their children ski, fall over and pick themselves right up and try again.

Some students at Como are mastering the basics of skiing and snowboarding, while others are polishing their slalom racing skills or working on an airborn. A class called Never Evers is for older children and adults who have never skied before. It’s not unusual to see an 11-year-old and a 60-year-old practicing hockey stops together in a class. The ratio of one instructor to four or fewer students is a fun and friendly arrangement. Instructors Tom Fontana, a retired school teacher, has been with the ski program for about 40 years, seeing it through times of change and continuing traditions. Carnival Day is a tradition that started some years back to celebrate the last Saturday lesson. Instructors, faces painted to celebrate the last Saturday that was started some years back, lead students through game stations on a hill decorated with balloons and streamers. The last lesson for students on a weekend is celebrated with a torchlight parade. The snow-making machine was added about 25 years ago; snowboarding classes have been around for 10 years. One thing that hasn’t changed is Mount Como itself. Fontana said Como’s terrain forces instructors to be creative, to tell a good story to keep people interested.

The relaxed feel of the program may account for the friendships and occasional romances that bloom on the ski hill. Fontana met his wife, Barb, on the slopes. The three Fontana children learned to ski at Como Park and became instructors there. One daughter married a fellow Como ski instructor. Fontana is just one of 40 staff members, who range in age from 15 to 70. The youngest are high school and college students, and the oldest are retired professionals.

Current director Paul Nakashima enjoys organizing the staff. “This job,” he says, “falls into the hobby category for me.” He promotes camaraderie through such traditions as a staff potluck every Saturday. Nakashima takes particular pride in the youth he hires for the program. “The high school kids are almost all college-bound,” he says. “They’re tomorrow’s leaders.”

A case in point is St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, who once worked as a ski instructor at the Como Park Ski Center. A group of young instructors, interviewed on a recent Saturday over plates of Moroccan chicken and pasta salad in the chalet at lunchtime, included Mike Franchine, Sam Wallace, Peter Schumann, Cami Czech, Brian Chasensky, Eoin Small and Lucy Schumann, Cami Czech, Brian Francombe, Sam Wallace, Peter Schumann, Cami Czech, Brian Chasensky, Eoin Small and Lucy Schumann. They agreed that working at the Como Ski Center is a fun job, and that fellowship and opportunity to ski and snowboard make up for the long, cold days they spend teaching.

Nakashima oversees a training program that begins in October. The senior instructors, many of whom are certified by the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors, train new instructors in program content and teaching methods.

The city of St. Paul provides free training for instructors to be certified in CPR and first aid. Instructors are taught to emphasize safety first, followed by fun and learning. When the season is over, the staff extends the fun by taking an annual trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for several days of skiing.

The instructional season is coming to an end, but Como Park provides winter fun every year: polar bears and penguins at the zoo and the promise of at least one snowy hill for those who come with ski or a snowboard.

To find out more about becoming a ski or snowboard instructor at Como, contact Paul Nakashima (654-3947, paul@310.com) by September. Training begins in October.

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Hey out there, No Bones fans. I have some really exciting news to share with you this month. It brings the paleontology research that my husband, Ray, and I conduct to audiences all over the United States. But No Bones readers will hear about it first.

It's not every day that local scientists write articles for Scientific American, the popular monthly science magazine. It's even more unusual for such an article to appear as one of the cover stories, and even rarer for local scientists to get filmed for the science television program Nova.

But this month Ray and/or I are doing all three. And all because of the research that we've done in Madagascar on dinosaurs and their preservation.

Sometimes, being a scientist—and being married to a scientist— is especially exciting. I don't think either of us ever imagined that our work would be so interesting to non-paleontologists.

Let me start with an article in the February 2007 Scientific American written by Ray and our colleague Dave Krause, from Stony Brook University in New York. The article takes a "crime scene investigator" approach to tracking the killer and burier of dinosaurs and their contemporaries in Madagascar. From tiny scratches and borings in dinosaur bones, to perfectly articulated bird skeletons, to huge sauropod fossils, they use data from the rocks surrounding the bones to explain the dinosaur graveyards we've discovered in Madagascar from the late Cretaceous period. The article includes brand-new illustrations of the Malagasy dinosaurs—including Majungasaurus, the cannibalistic meat-eater, and Rapetosaurus, the huge, armored herbivore. It's a great window into the kinds of research we do in the field. You can view a preview of the article ("Tracking an Ancient Killer") at Scientific American's Web site: www.sciamdigital.com.

The other exciting news, also related to Madagascar fossils, is that Ray and I will be filmed at the Science Museum and at Macalester College for a Nova episode that will air on PBS later this year as part of the Nova Science Now series. The show is about exceptional preservation. (Remember that report of soft tissue resembling blood vessels in a 70-million-year-old T. rex discovered by Mary Schweitzer in 2005?)

Ray and I were asked to participate in this documentary because of the glorious preservation in fossils we've found in Madagascar. Our team has uncovered preserved shafts on the pecking claw of a 65-million-year-old bird, as well as cartilage preserved in a fossilized mammal.

What kinds of environments allow for this amazing preservation? Is there a chance to test Mary's ideas about soft tissue preservation in a standardized way? These are the kinds of questions Ray and I will discuss in the Nova episode. We are excited and looking forward to honing our public relations skills. All in a crazy day's work in the world of dinosaurs.

Now, get out there and find the February Scientific American. Happy reading!
When I first began birdwatching, about 20 years ago, I used a pocket-sized spiral notebook to keep track of the birds I saw. I’d list everything: robins, house sparrows, crows — just a listing. Then I began to discriminate a bit and list only species I hadn’t seen before. After I had a hundred or so birds listed in my notebook, I found a “birding buddy” and had a heart-to-heart chat where I could track all the birds I saw in North America. That has now become my “official” record of all the bird species I’ve ever seen.

Although I still carry the spiral notebook on domestic trips, I’ve had some serious second thoughts about using it when I’m on a tropical bird trip. Let me explain why.

A dozen of us are hiking single file down an Ecuadorian rain forest trail. The guide points out a slim, green bird with a long tail. “Long-tailed sylph,” he says. It’s one of the hummingbirds. We all spin and point our binoculars at the bird, hoping to get a look before it flits off.

Then I write “long-tailed sylph” on my spiral pad and we move on. More often than not, I ask, “What was that?” and wait for the answer before I write it down.

And the birds often come fast and furious, with ten or more new birds while you’re standing in one spot. Sometimes they’re just a silhouette against the skyline.

Before a trip like this, I don’t take the time to study all the birds we might see. I should, but I don’t.

For example, on our Ecuador trip last September, the field guide had six pages of hummingbirds with 50 birds per page. Trying to study them and memorize distinguishing field marks would overwhelm me.

About halfway through the Ecuador trip, I began to feel stupid just writing down bird names. Was I really birdwatching? Or was I merely a scribe, writing down what another person had spotted and identified?

Was this what birdwatching should be about? How could I boast about spotting 216 new birds in Ecuador, when I couldn’t have identified more than a handful without some serious help?

Just enjoy the trip, the group, the birdwatching. No list, no guilt.

And the birds often come on a tropical bird trip. Let me explain how.

The birding group compiles a checklist at the end of each day. That’s all Craig uses when he wants to look back to determine what he’s seen and where.

If I don’t keep a list? That smacks of heresy! How could I consider such a thing? But I had to admit what he’s seen and where.

Craig suggested not keeping a list. He said he’s found that it detracts from the time he can spend actually watching the bird, getting to admire its features and habits. He quit listing the birds he sees in the tropics. Now he just enjoys them and the ambiance of the habitat. “Absorbing the gestalt experience,” as he calls it.

Instead, he just kind of offers up, “Well,” I replied, “if I didn’t think I’d ever do this again.”

The birding group compiles a checklist at the end of each day. That’s all Craig uses when he wants to look back to determine what he’s seen and where.

Not keep a list? That smacks of heresy! How could I consider such a thing? But I had to admit that his suggestion and the possibility of a major birding trip without keeping a bird-by-bird list sounded very liberating. And so, Lord willing and the creek don’t rise, I’m hoping to go to Ecuador this coming summer and try out this new approach to birdwatching. No list, no guilt.

Just enjoy the trip, the group, the scenery and, of course, the birds.
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Taxes on University from 1 encouraged development, Commers said.

But as density increases, property taxes rise, and soon taxes become a penalty and possibly a deterrent for higher density land use. Commers said various studies have shown this to be happening along University Avenue. The question is precisely why, and what might be done to remove the tax penalty that could sabotage development.

Despite "using their powers pretty effectively" to promote density of development, the city could still improve matters. Commers said, by focusing on "floor-area ratio," a planning yardstick used in Minneapolis and many other cities but not taking hold in St. Paul.

Floor-area ratio refers to the amount of finished, usable indoor space available on a given chunk of land. Multiple-storied and closely spaced buildings increase it; parking lots are a drain on it.

The city is taking steps in the right direction, Commers said, but "we still think there might be room for reducing the amount of parking that's required for certain kinds of development."

This won't be much help to existing small businesses with unpleasant tax burdens, however, unless the county and the state get on board to solve the problem.

Ramsey County determines the values on which property taxes are based and has also raised its tax rates in recent years. (The school district and the city are the other major recipients of property tax money, all of it collected and distributed by the county.)

The Minnesota Legislature has two powers that could help businesses and homeowners along the corridor: aid to local governments, which has dropped precipitously in recent years, and the relationships among classes of property for tax purposes, which are consistent statewide and would be very difficult to change in the short term, Commers said.

In the long term, though, he said he hopes the state will recognize that St. Paul is unique in the amount of tax-free property it supports — the Capitol and state office buildings "the gems," he said — and shift class definitions to compensate for the capital city's unusual burden.

He said the state could also create a property class for businesses operating on land they own, which would encourage property ownership by users and mitigate sudden rent increases.

Meanwhile, the county does have some discretion within those state-defined property classes, Commers said, and he’d like to see the county back off its "science-based" approach and recognize that elements of its role amount to “a social policy decision.”

For example, he said, in addition to setting a value for the property as a whole, the county determines what proportion of a property's tax is based on the land itself, balanced against the proportion based on buildings sitting on it.

Shifting more of the burden to the "land" side discourages speculation on empty lots and encourages higher-density development.

And how much of that speculation, in the case of University Avenue, can be chalked up to plans for a light rail line? Commers said the test for that is to compare property tax and development dynamics there with other similar areas, such as Grand Avenue.

Then again, he said, "University feels different because it's becoming the centerpiece of the city again." Light rail has influenced the task force's work, he said, but plenty of other factors should be considered.

Task force participant Lori Fritts, executive director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce, downplayed the light rail factor. "Property values along University are going to continue to increase whether or not (light rail) or not,” she said.

And while renters do get hit hard by unpredictable bills, she said, encouraging business owners to become property owners may not be very helpful.

Just like homeowners, business owners who have acquired property find they have to fix the plumbing and troublesome wiring, and that can be enough of a drag to compromise the business itself.

"Some people just need to focus on their business," Fritts said.

And though changes along University may be part of the solution to keep small businesses in the neighborhood, she said, it's also worth considering locations where they might flourish for many years without those policy changes — perhaps on tributary streets such as Rice and Dale, which would put them a little farther from the main tracks but closer to the homes of potential walk-in customers.

Commers said the task force report will document the increase in property taxes along the avenue, analyze the reasons for it and list policy changes that might mitigate those increases.

The report will not make recommendations, and some items on the list may even appear to conflict with each other, due in part to the diversity of opinions in the group.

Commers' hope is that the report will be welcomed by policy-makers in the spirit of finding solutions.

"The group did not come out of a 'who's at fault' sentiment," he said. Rather, business owners are saying they can't stay on University Avenue.

"I love University," Commers said. "I care about the place. Let's continue the diversity of businesses."
The earliest artists used what today we would call natural materials because that’s all there was. Today, the use of natural materials reflects artistic choice, a choice that may in turn reflect a philosophy, a view of the world.

For St. Anthony Park sculptor Alis Olsen, the use of natural materials grew out of a desire to reconnect people with the earth.

“As a culture we idealize nature,” she says, “but that doesn’t stop us from exploiting it and using up its resources.”

Olsen sees art as a way of exposing humans’ exploitation of nature but also of healing the rift between people and the natural environment. Currently, she is part of a show at the Undercroft Gallery called “Art from Nature.”

Olsen started doing landscape photography 30 years ago, some of it inspired by rural property she and her husband owned near Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

“I found I wasn’t satisfied just photographing the landscape,” she says. “I always wanted more to be out there.”

That desire first led to photographs in which she altered the landscape in some ways. Eventually, she began using found materials to construct her own creations.

“I started doing art outdoors,” she recalls. “Then I figured out I could bring natural materials indoors.”

For the last 11 years, Olsen’s primary indoor workshop has been a studio in the Chittenden Building near University and Raymond. The studio functions both as a work area and display space for some of her art.

Besides being an artist, Olsen has been involved in the local arts scene in several capacities: teacher, speaker, curator, arts organization board member.

She was a founding member of WAVE, a women’s collective art space in St. Paul, and WOODSWORK, an environmental art project. She is a former board president of WARM, the Women’s Art Registry of Minnesota.

“The Twin Cities has such great networks for artists,” she said. “It’s a wonderful place to do art — if not always a good place to sell art.”

In the Undercroft show, Olsen shares the exhibition space with two other artists, Karen Searle and Jeanne Wiger. All three incorporate natural materials into their art.

One of Olsen’s pieces in the exhibit is “Wing,” which uses a piece of partially burned wood she found in Colorado, where she and her husband have recently purchased land.

Another piece, “Cottonwood Flag,” is made of twigs gathered near her St. Anthony Park home. Careful viewers will notice that the inside of a cottonwood twig contains a star shape.

“I didn’t know that about cottonwood until a friend told me,” said Olsen. “Nature is full of surprises.”

The exhibition “Art from Nature” at the Undercroft Gallery features works by three artists, pictured above left to right: Alis Olsen, Karen Searle and Jeanne Wiger.

One of Olsen’s sculptures, “Cottonwood Flag,” is made of twigs gathered near her St. Anthony Park home.

Music in the Park Series 2006-07

Tati Murray, violin
with Gilles Vonsattel, piano
Pre-concert discussion at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday March 5 - 8 p.m.

Tickets at 852-645-1669

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Family Concerts begin Feb. 9th!

Friday, February 9, 9:30 & 2:30 p.m.
Nuns as Cartoonists, Animated Pop-Up Puppet Play

Friday, March 2, 9:30 & 2:30 p.m.
Puppets & String Quarters

Friday, April 27, 9:30 & 2:30 p.m.
Jullia Da Costa, guitar, Fado in Concert

Limited availability for 4-5 years old!

Tickets at 852-645-1669

www.musicintheparks.org
**Arts Events**

Music in the Park Series will present violinist Tai Murray in concert on February 4 at 4 p.m. She will be accompanied by pianist Gilles Vonsattel in a program of works by Telemann, Schubert, Janácek and Ravel. The concert will take place at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Commonwealth Ave. For tickets, call 645-5699 or visit www.musicintheparkseries.org.

On Sunday, February 25, at 7 p.m., Minnesota Idols finalist Reed Tetzloff will present a solo piano concert at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Tetzloff will perform works by Beethoven, Chopin, Bartok and Ravel. The concert is a benefit for the Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota. Tetzloff, who performed with the Minnesota Orchestra last summer, has several life-threatening food allergies.

For more information, call 952-944-8580 or 644-5937.

**Chinese Classes**

The Hospitality Center for Chinese, 1407 Cleveland Ave., will offer two classes beginning in February. Introductory Mandarin Chinese will be taught Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., for 10 weeks beginning February 19. A $270 fee includes books and CDs. Chinese Cooking will be taught Sunday mornings, from 10 a.m. to noon, for six weeks beginning February 17. The fee is $7 per session, which includes instruction and lunch. Register by February 6. For reservations, call 487-8250.

**Horticulture Classes**

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will sponsor several classes in February at the Center for Northern Gardening, 1755 Prior Ave. in Falcon Heights.

To register or for more information, call 643-3601 or 888-676-6747, ext. 211.

**Recreation**

Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation will offer three self-defense classes that start in February.

Tae Kwon Do for ages 3–5 will be taught Wednesdays, February 21–March 28, 4:30–5:15 p.m. Cost is $35 for residents, $40 for nonresidents.

Tae Kwon Do for ages 6 to adult will be taught Wednesdays, February 21–March 28, 5:30–6:25 p.m. Cost is $45 for residents, $50 for nonresidents.

Women’s self-defense for ages 15 and over will be taught Wednesdays, February 21–March 28, 6:30–7:15 p.m. Cost is $45 for residents, $50 for nonresidents.

All classes take place at the Falcon Heights Community Park shelter, Roselawn and Cleveland. Call 792-7616 or register online at www.falconheights.org.

**Conservatory Events**

Como Park’s Marjorie McNeeley Conservatory will present several events in February.

The Sunken Garden Winter Flower Show will run from February 2 to March 18, featuring azaleas, clematis, vibernum and amaryllis in vibrant pinks, yellows and purples.

A Valentine’s Day Soiree will take place Sunday, February 11, from 5 to 10 p.m. The conservatory’s candle-lit gardens will include animal encounters, education stations and a cake walk. Admission is $3.

An Enchanted Evening, a Valentine’s Day dining experience, will feature a gourmet dinner among the candle-lit gardens of the conservatory. The event will take place February 14 at 7:30 p.m. For reservations, call 487-8250.

**Valentine Tree**

For $75, Friends of the Parks and Trails will plant a tree in honor of your special valentine in the Ramsey or Dakota County park of your choice. A valentine will be sent to the person being honored, and next spring that person will receive a map showing the tree’s location.

Send a check, along with the name and address of the person you wish to receive the card, to: Friends of the Parks and Trails, 1621 Beechwood Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116.

Specify where you want the tree planted and how you wish the card to be signed.

For more information, visit www.friendsoftheparks.org or call 698-4543.

**Raptor Center**

Raptor Tails Story Time continues with two sessions in February.

February 8: Can you hear what I hear? 4 p.m. Raptor feed.

The sessions take place from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at 1920 Fitch Ave. on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. Registration is required. Call 612-644-9753. Cost is $5 per child; no charge for adults. One adult per five children required.
Chelsea Heights Elementary is one of nine St. Paul public schools to receive a $5,000 Arts Award from the school district. In partnership with Young Audiences of Minnesota, an arts education organization, Chelsea is using the money to sponsor a series of workshops and performances that explore African and African-American art forms.

On January 16, music director Anna Ruth and singer T. Mychael Rambo performed “Tracks of New Thinking” in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 26, Ruth and Rambo presented a staff workshop on incorporating songwriting into history and social studies curricula. May will feature several music, dance and storytelling performances.

Do pigs smile, rub their tummies and say “yummy?” Maybe not, but they should at least say “thank you” to the students at St. Anthony Park Elementary. On January 8, they shared their lunch leftovers with the pigs at Bartelholt Farms, two hours north of St. Paul. St. Anthony Park Elementary now joins the district-wide effort to reduce the tons of food waste thrown out with the garbage every year.

The measure will save the district money because, while garbage is subject to state and county taxes, recycled materials are not. It also reduces the number of trash collections required each week, as well as the mess of having wet waste sitting in the dumpster next to the school building.

The importance of food and caring for the community was part of an action at the whole-school conference to fundraise for the Merriam Park Food Shelf. Third graders organized the winter food drive that culminated on January 12, that day they performed the musical “An Aesop Adventure.”

Everyone was able to see the way food tied with food that were incorporated into the performance of the fable “The Ant and the Grasshopper,” which drew rave reviews.

Each class in the school has been reading and discussing another story related to the theme of service to others as part of the St. Anthony Park Reads program. “The Three Questions,” written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth, is based on a story by Leo Tolstoy. In Muth’s book, a boy named Nikolai feels uncertain about the right way to act. He embarks on a quest to find the answers to three questions so he can learn how to be a good person.

There will be an Open House on February 12, from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. St. Anthony Park Elementary welcomes families with children entering grades K-6 in 2007-08 from throughout the Twin Cities. Please call the school for more information.

Families are always welcome to visit. Please call the office to join a tour. They are usually given Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten registration materials are now available. Visit the school Web site to download an application, or call the school office.

St. Anthony Park Elementary School is located at 2380 Knox Street. For more information, call the school at 293-8755 or visit their website: stanthony.spps.org.

A Como Park Senior High School parent, St. Paul resident Sue Roegge, is one of three in Minnesota to be chosen for a rigorous training program led by former Vice President Al Gore to spread the message about the threat of and solutions to global warming.

Because of her selection, Como will be involved in lectures and discussions about global warming.

Roegge recently completed her training with Gore, who stated, “Sue Roegge is an outstanding example of the millions of Americans who have been energized by the call to action on the climate crisis. We are so pleased that she has made a serious commitment to this challenge by coming to Nashville to become part of this unprecedented grassroots effort.”

Roegge was part of a select group of individuals chosen to receive this important training, which took place December 1-3. Each trainer took part in an intensive tutorial about global warming, led by Gore and a team of renowned scientists and environmental educators. In addition, each received technical training to become experienced presenters of a version of Gore’s slide show, which became the basis of his best-selling book and documentary film, “An Inconvenient Truth.”

Como Park Elementary ended 2006 on a high note when staff and students were recognized by Superintendent Castañeda and members of the St. Paul School Board for outstanding academic achievement at the December 19 School Board meeting.

The school began 2007 by continuing its focus on academic achievement with Family Math Night on January 25. Family Literacy Night will be held February 22. On February 1,
This is the last Aging Gracefully column I will write, since I am moving on from my position as program director of the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program.

During the last quarter of 2006, SAPBNP staff administered 65 geriatric depression tests to adults over 60. This test is a short series of questions designed to determine if a person is likely to be suffering from depression. One day as I was administering the test to a client, I realized that if I answered honestly, my score would be that of a person with depression.

At first this made no sense to me. Then I went online and looked up some facts about depression. My only previous experience with depression was after the breakup of my first marriage, and then after the death of my son. Both times I was pretty much unable to function, other than sleep.

But I did not realize that feeling overwhelmed, unable to cope, helpless to change these feelings — and frightened of them — was also a form of depression. I had been continuing to function, but the stress of trying to overcome by myself the depression I felt was causing me to feel burned out.

Many people who suffer from depression have been proven to have a genetic predisposition to it. But unresolved losses can compound this physical tendency and cause the depression to become active.

In my case, within the past decade I lost two children to death and one adult child to a drug-addicted lifestyle, my father died, I had my own bouts with cancer, and this fall one of my children was severely injured when she was the victim of a hit-and-run driver while riding her bike to school.

Older adults are more likely to suffer from depression because as we age, we suffer more and more loss, and sometimes these losses are unresolved. As one survives the deaths of more and more friends and relatives, and frustration mounts because of physical deterioration that prevents one from participating in activities that were formerly enjoyed, it is not uncommon for depression to take hold.

If the depression is not completely disabling, the individual suffering from it may not realize what is happening. I certainly did not.

But if you are feeling less like being active, more like doing nothing and more aimless or hopeless than you have in the past, you may be suffering from depression. It’s worth making a medical appointment to find out. Or call Mary Hayes at 642-9052 to schedule a geriatric depression screening.

And if you notice that a friend, neighbor or co-worker seems listless, uninterested in activities, isolating rather than socializing, ask them how they’re doing. Let them know you are concerned.

This could be the biggest favor you could do for that person. However, don’t be surprised if the object of your concern is less than forthcoming about his or her feelings. There is a stigma surrounding mental illness in our culture.

Most people do not understand that the majority of mental illnesses are caused by chemical imbalances in the brain and can be controlled through medication and therapy. If you inform people that you have depression (or any other form of mental illness), the reaction is often fear and misunderstanding.

When I was bald from my chemotherapy cancer treatments, some people backed away from me as if I were contagious, and there is often a similar reaction when you let someone know you have a mental illness.

But if you do not get help when you begin to feel overwhelmed by daily life, you will be setting yourself up for further problems in the future. I am glad that I found help for my depression. I am hopeful that the stigma surrounding mental illness will be eradicated from our culture. And I hope that you, my faithful readers over the past few years, will be some of the first to help eradicate this prejudice.

The St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program offers services to older adults and those who care for them. Contact them at 642-9052 or sapbnp@bitstream.net.
Readings
Friday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.
Wayzata, Macalester College, Elizabeth de LeVega (United States v. Bush et al.).
Co-sponsored by St. Anthony Park Neighborhoods for Peace and Merriam Park Neighborhoods for Peace.
Friday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
Fitzgerald Theatre, Chuck Klosterman (“Fargo Rock City” and other books).

Groups
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Library, Lea Helget. New members welcome. For more information, call Carla at the library: 642-2245 Como Ave.

Storytelling
Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Grounds. Bill Eisenmann will tell stories, assisted by puppet. Families can make story sticks to take home. For more information, call Pam Schweitzer at 644-9959.

Library Event
The Friends of the Saint Paul Library and Park Square Theatre will co-sponsor a discussion of “Democracy,” a play by Michael Frayn, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.

American Life in Poetry

How many of us, when passing through some small town, have felt it seemed familiar though we’ve never been there before. And of course it seems familiar because much of the course of life is pretty much the same wherever we go, right down to the up-and-down fortunes of the football team and the unanswered love letters. Here’s a poem by Mark Vinz.

Driving Through
This could be the town you’re from, marked only by what it’s near.
The gas station man speaks of weather and the high school football team just as you knew he would—
kind to strangers, happy to live here.

Tell yourself it doesn’t matter now, you’re only driving through.

Put the sagging, empty porches locked up tight to travelers’ stares, toward the great dark of the fields, your headlights startle a flock of old love letters—still undelivered, endure for years.

Reprinted from “Red River Blues,” published by College of the Mainland, Texas City, TX, 1977, by permission of the author. Copyright © 1977 by Mark Vinz, whose most recent book is “Long Distance,” Midwestern Writers Publishing House, 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.

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February Arts

Music

Coffee Grounds
1379 Hamline Ave.
644-9559, 373-2600
Real Book Jazz
Every Monday, 7:30pm
Honeysuckle Rose
February 2, 8pm
Heritage
February 3, 7pm
Open Mic
February 4, 6pm
Roots Music Showcase
February 8, 7pm
Peter and Thomas
February 9, 8pm
Bronwen Williams and
David Hanners
February 10, 8pm
Beam Reach
February 16, 8pm
Roger Anderson Trio with Eliza Blue
February 17, 8pm
Open Mic
February 18, 6pm
Roots Music Showcase
February 22, 7pm
Andrea Sorum
February 23, 8pm
Joe Paulik
February 24, 8pm
Como Park High School
740 W. Rose Ave., 293-8800
Sound Reinforcement
Vocal Jazz Pasta Concert
February 22, 6:30pm
Falcon Heights United
Church of Christ
1795 Holton St., 646-2681
Doane College Choir
February 17, 7:30pm
Ginkgo Coffeehouse
721 N. Snelling Ave., 645-2677
Bluegrass and Oldtime Jam Session
February 21, 7pm
Open Mic:
First and third Wednesdays,
6pm sign-up
Music in the Park Series
St. Anthony Park UCC
2129 Commonwealth Ave.
645-5699
www.musicintheparkseries.org
Tai Murray, violin, with
Gilles Vonsattel, piano
February 4, 4pm
St. Anthony Park Lutheran
Church
2323 Como Ave., 645-0371
www.saplc.org
Virgin Ground a capella group
"Songs in Mid-Winter"
February 4, 4pm
Pioneer Bird Tetzloff
February 25, 7pm

Visual Arts

Assyrian Artists Company
827 Cadmus St., 642-1684
Art...what is it?
Exhibition and
discussions
Dances at 7pm
February 19
Grandino Museum of Design
240 McNiel Hall
1985 Highland Ave.
612-624-7434
Design Ideas, Essays, & Paintings
February 3
St. Anthony Park Lutheran
Church
2323 Como Ave., 645-0371
Kofi Mawuse
February 21, April 8
Meet the artist, February 21, 6pm
Soup supper, 5:30pm
St. Paul Student Center
University of Minnesota
612-625-0214
"A Stitch in Time"
Stitched textile works by
Lisa Loudon and Bonnie Peterson
Through February 22
Paul Whitney Larson Art Gallery
Textile Center
Joan Mondale Gallery
3000 University Ave.
"A Common Thread," Annual
Members Exhibition
Two-part gallery show
First half through February 3
Second half through March 10
Opening reception February 9,
6-8pm
Undercroft Gallery
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
2136 Carter Ave., 645-3058
"Art from Nature"
Mixed media by Alis Olsen,
Karen Searle and Jeanne Wiger
Through February 23

FREE CONCERT!
with Minnesota Idol Finalist
Reed Tetzloff
Featuring solo piano pieces by
Beethoven, Chopin, & Bartók, and a novel concerto

Sunday, February 25th 5 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Avenue; St. Paul, Minnesota

Admission is free; donations accepted.
Donations will go to education programs of AFMAA
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(ABPAA) www.africanpoolallergy.org
For more information call (952) 744-4580

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February 3

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February Calendar

1 Thursday
- Parent Conferences, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Murray Jr. High cafeteria.
- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), South St. Anthony Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Thursday.
- Leisure Center for Seniors (651-464-1857), 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Fifth Wednesday.

2 Friday
- Senior Citizen Fun Group (gym, bowling, and dinner), South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Every Friday.
- Falcon Heights recycling.

3 Saturday
- Noontime Reading (612-625-5265), 10:30 p.m.-9:30 a.m. at the Copley Plaza, St. Paul Student Union Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul Campus, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.
- Chair exercise classes at Seal High, 825 Seal St. Every Monday.

4 Tuesday
- Toastmasters (645-6675), 7:30 p.m. at Michael and Regula Russelle’s home (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Tuesday.
- Leisure Center for Seniors (651-464-1857), 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Fifth Wednesday.

5 Monday
- AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (663-0800), 8 p.m. Every Monday.
- Boy Scout, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.
- Chair exercise classes at Seal High, 825 Seal St. Every Monday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. These classes are free to all seniors, but pre-registration is necessary. Call 642-9052 to preregister.

6 Tuesday
- Showcase for perspective parents at Murray Jr. High, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Borealis Meditation Circle, 7 p.m. All experience levels are welcome. Spirit United Church (2237 Como Ave. SE, 612-578-3402). Every Tuesday.
- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), Longfellow Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Tuesday.

7 Wednesday
- History PTA meeting at Murray Jr. High, 6 p.m.
- Neighbors for Peace planning meeting, 7 p.m. (at the Russell) at the Russell (612-644-1845). 2301 Minnesota St. SE, 612-326-3620.
- Free in-store wine sampling at The Little Wine Shoppe (2236 Como Ave.), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Thursday.

8 Thursday
- Park Press, Inc., Park Bugle board meeting, St. Anthony Park Bank (890 Cromwell), 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.

9 Friday
- Falcon Heights Elementary School Council, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Movie, "Genghis Blues," 7 p.m. at Spirit United Church (2237 Como Ave. SE, 612-578-3402).
- Senior Citizen Fun Group (gym, bowling and darts), South High, 6 p.m.

10 Saturday
- Spirit United Church (3204 Como Ave.), 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Free in-store wine sampling at The Little Wine Shoppe (2236 Como Ave.) Stop by any time between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. All featured wines are 15% off during the tasting.

11 Sunday
- February Calendar

12 Monday
- Park Press, Inc., Park Bugle board meeting, St. Anthony Park Bank (890 Cromwell), 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environmental Committee, St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 7 p.m.

13 Tuesday
- Lauderdale recycling.

14 Wednesday
- Falcon Heights Co-op Open House, 9-11 a.m., 2129 Como Avenue SE.

15 Thursday
- History Day Fair at Murray Jr. High, 6:30-8 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. All featured wines are 15% off during the tasting.

16 Friday
- Falcon Heights recycling.

19 Monday
- No school, President’s Day.

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

21 Wednesday
- Free in-store wine sampling at The Little Wine Shoppe (2236 Como Ave.) Stop by any time between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. All featured wines are 15% off during the tasting.

22 Thursday
- Council Land Use Committee, South High, 6 p.m.

23 Friday
- St. Anthony Park Co-op Open House, 9-11 a.m., 2129 Como Avenue SE.

24 Saturday
- No school, President’s Day.

25 Sunday
- Lauderdale recycling.

26 Monday
- Total recycling.

27 Tuesday
- History Day Fair at Murray Jr. High, 6 p.m.

28 Wednesday
- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2017 Larpenteur Ave., 7 p.m.

Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner!
Sunday, February 4, 2007 @ 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Oven baked chicken / Potatoes & Gravy / Salad / Beverages / Dessert Buffet
Adults $9  Children 10 & under $5
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Phyllis Bakke
Phyllis M. Bakke, age 75, of Lake Elmo, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on December 12, 2006. She was a graduate of Lauderdale Grade School, Murray High School, St. Cloud State Teacher’s College and the University of Minnesota’s College of Education.

She taught third grade for seven years at Lake Johanna Elementary School and was a substitute teacher for 29 years, primarily with the North St. Paul/Maplewood School District.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Dennis; daughters, Denise Heuer (friend Kurt Serstrom); Sue (Joe) Speher; five grandchildren; and sister, Irene Johnson.

Her funeral was held December 17, 2006, at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in North St. Paul, where she had been a member for 45 years. There was private family interment.

Mary Lou Gladhill
Mary Lou Gladhill died of cancer on Christmas Day, 2006, surrounded by those who loved her. She was born September 1, 1938.

She grew up in Como Park and on Carter Avenue in St. Anthony Park, across from College Park. She attended Murray High School and later served as program director at Children’s Home Society for many years. She will be remembered for her warmth and spirit and for how courageously she fought since her diagnosis in 2004.

She is survived by her daughter, Bethany Gladhill; son-in-law, Patrick Rhone; his sons, Maxim and Milet; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Janet Landauf Hanafin; niece, Erna Hanafin Berg of Como Park and nephew, Peter Hanafin; former husbands, Dennis Gladhill, and scores of other family and friends. Mary Lou traveled the world, loved to entertain and played a phenomenal game of bridge.

Her memorial service was held January 25, 2007, at Fairmont Avenue United Methodist Church.

Mike Kropelnicki
Mike C. Kropelnicki, age 83, of Como Park, died unexpectedly but peacefully on December 16, 2006. He was born on September 14, 1923, and was a World War II veteran.

He met his wife, Sally Ensley, on a blind date arranged by fellow students. They dated for a year and then Dave left for Aberdeen Proving Grounds to serve his tour of duty with the Army. Their courtship continued by mail for a year. They were married two years to the day after his first date.

During the first year of marriage they lived in Kansas — in Herington, where Sally taught for part of the year, and Manhattan, located conveniently near Fort Riley. After his discharge Dave got a job teaching physics and chemistry indecor, Iowa. He stayed there for two years.

Then Dave and Sally returned to Minnesota, where Dave attended graduate school and taught chemistry in the General College.

In 1966 the University of Minnesota opened the Occupational Therapy Center (now MDTI), started by one of his former students.

In 1972 the family moved back to the Twin Cities to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. Dave took a job with the Occupational Therapy Center (now MDTI), started by one of his former students.

In the following years he had many interesting, but temporary, jobs. He worked with Howard Mielke and several others establishing “Lead-Free Kids.” This group tested children in the Phillips neighborhood for lead and worked to educate families on the dangers of lead.

Lives Lived
Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.
Bob was active in Nonke-tonke Kluben, Masonry and the Shriners. He served in World War II (Foremost Lake American Legion, Post 225).

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Margaret. He is survived by sons, Jim (Kaye), Richard (Janet), Jack (Julie) and Tom; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, as well as his brother, Leland (Charlotte). A memorial service was held December 16, 2006, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. A Masonic service was held December 16 at the Forest Lake Lodge.

David Stoppel
David Arthur Stoppel was born February 16, 1931, and died December 29, 2006. He grew up in South Minneapolis, where he attended Nathan Hale Grade School, Ramsey Junior High and Washburn High School. He went on to the University of Minnesota, majoring in science education.

He met his wife, Sally Endley, on a blind date arranged by fellow students. They dated for a year and then Dave left for Aberdeen Proving Grounds to serve his tour of duty with the Army. Their courtship continued by mail for a year. They were married two years to the day after his first date.

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Lives Lived 20
C A L S I F I E D S

Classified deadline: February 16, 6 p.m.
Next issue: February 28

Type or write down your ad, and which section your ad should appear in. Usually we put the size for words in capital letters.

Count the words. A word is numbers of letters with a space available. A phone number with area code is one word.

Figure your cost: $1.00 x number of words ($10.00 minimum).

Mail your ad & check to: Bugle Classifieds P.O. Box 8126 St. Paul, MN 55108 or deliver to the Park Bugle drop box at the side entrance to 2190 Como Ave. (at the Knapp Place side of building) by 6 p.m. on the deadline day. We cannot bill you for your ad.

Classifieds cannot be e-mailed, faxed, or taken over the phone.

Call us at 651-646-5369, voice mailbox #3, with questions.

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FIBERGLASS TOPPER. Dark green, Raven-Glasstite, excellent condition! Includes: front & side sliding windows, interior light (flamey), double locks, and mounting clamps (6). Dimensions: Height: 23”, Width: 77”, Length: 81”. Bought new in 2003 for $1,380 for my Ford F-150 6 1/2 foot full-size pickup truck. $600.00 or best offer. Call Wayne at 651-295-5223 (work) or 651-489-6258 (home). Topper can also be seen at 1145 Ryan Ave W in Roseville.

Softball Equipment - New, used. Contact: 612-770-3057 or 612-706-9319.

Home Services


CALL FOR A TREE HEALTH and SAFETY INSPECTION

棵本公司 Ron Gatz, Certified Arborist

Certified Arborist

27 years exp. Curt, 651-698-4743.

Fireplace repairs, carpentry repairs, taping, painting, storage areas, concrete slab work, plaster and TUCKPOINTING BASEMENTS Burton Johnson, 651-699-8900. Licensed, insured #20126373. 651-699-8900.

PROFESSIONAL Window and Door parts and installations.

Inexpensive rates, free consultation, other pets. All animals considered! Smaller animal and get along with yard for them to play. Must be a for pets, and a beautiful fenced-in for while you're away? Don't put your JENNIFER'S PET SITTING - 644-6527.

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Softball Equipment - New, used. Contact: 612-770-3057 or 612-706-9319.
Lives Lived from 18

worked for the Job Corps in its early years. He worked as an academic advisor tutoring U of M athletes, and as a consultant at Comal-Ora. His last job, for over 15 years, was with the U.S. Census as a field representative, which he continued well past the usual retirement age.

He is survived by Sally, his wife of 51 years; children, Candice, John, Kathryn, Christopher, Kay, and Susan; six grandchildren; and a sister, Susan (Dayton) Walker.

His memorial service was held January 8, 2007, at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church. Private interment at Sunset Memorial Church. Private service was January 24, 2007, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where he was a longtime member, with interment in South Dakota on January 26.

Curtis Thormodsgaard

Curtis L. Thormodsgaard died January 19, 2007, after suffering several years from progressive supranuclear palsy. He was born in Albert, S.D., on March 4, 1929, to Eric H. Thormodsgaard and Ina Broline Thormodsgaard.

Curt graduated in 1947 from Augustana Academy in Canton, S.D., where he met and later married Glenys Kruulsen. He attended Lutheran Bible Institute and Dunwoody Technical Institute, where he studied graphic arts. He was hired by Hart Press to establish its lithographic division. While there he served on the board of directors.

In 1966 Curt and Glenys accepted a call from the American Lutheran Church Division of World Missions to serve at the Malagasy Lutheran Church’s printing plant in Tananarive. His work there was completed in 1973.

Curt was also a professional photographer and in the mid-1950s was the official photographer for the state of South Dakota. While in Madagascar, the American Cultural Center honored him with a one-man show of his photographs of the Malagasy people and landscape.

Through his love of the Malagasy people and study of the culture of Madagascar, he learned of the National Epic, a story of the Christian martyrs. With others, he developed a script and produced completely in the Malagasy language. It has been translated into many languages and distributed worldwide.

Curt became an expert in color management, producing and presenting seminars and lectures internationally. After returning to the United States in 1973, he formed his own consulting company, Graphic Communications International. He was involved in producing films in Korea, Brazil, South Vietnam and Japan, and did a film for NASA in Madagascar. He was a consultant to several multinational companies.

He is survived by his wife, Glenys; children, David (Lana) Thormodsgaard, Julie (Bert) Thormodsgaard Laurent, Joyce (Debbie) Thormodsgaard, and Dan (Dede) Thormodsgaard; and 13 grandchildren, Zachariah, Micah, Abigail, Dilan, Jacob, Hannah Marie and Evelyn Glomony Thormodsgaard, Paryn, and Mark Laurent, Hans, Heidi, and Amelia Thormodsgaard, Danny Laurent; and brother, Clarion Thormodsgaard. He was preceded in death by one daughter and one grandson.

Curt’s funeral service was held January 24, 2007, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where he was a longtime member, with interment in South Dakota on January 26.

Elsie Turner

Elsie L. Turner died at the age of 88 on December 23, 2006. Mrs. Turner was born September 26, 1918, in Inola, Okla., and grew up in Tipp, S.D. She married John Turner in 1944 and lived for many years in University Grove in Falcon Heights.

When she lived in the Grove, Elsie was a long-time member of St Anthony Park United Church of Christ. She loved the arts, music and travel. According to her friend Sheila Richter, Elsie was once an actress, was involved in a reading club in St. Anthony Park (where members read aloud to each other rather than discussing books) and traveled the world with her husband.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John, and is survived by twin children, Debra Stoney and Sean Turner, and four grandchildren. Her memorial service was December 28, 2006, at Incarnational Lutheran Church in Shoreview.

Herman Wolters

Herman A. Wolters, age 90, of Como Park died December 27, 2006. He had been a carpenter, first in construction and December 23, 2006. Mrs. Turner was born September 26, 1918, in Inola, Okla., and grew up in Tipp, S.D. She married John Turner in 1944 and lived for many years in University Grove in Falcon Heights.

Herman was a carpenter, first in construction and then at the College of St. Thomas (now the University of St. Thomas). In retirement, Herman ran a small business selling honey and honey products at St. Paul Farmers’ Markets, and did woodworking.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie, infant son, Michael, and brother, Larry. He is survived by his children, Linda Wolters, Cyndy (Thomas) Wolters, and Larry (Mary) (T декабря and Jim (Joan); three grandchildren; two brothers and four sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 30, 2006, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

There is no charge for Bugle obituaries. Please ask the Bugle about the death of current or former residents of the area. Send more complete information if you have it. Obituaries are compiled by Mary Mergenthal, 644-1630, mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.