

Park Bugle

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

Volume 33, Number 8, February 2007

AESOP SINGING!

On January 12, third-grade students at St. Anthony Park Elementary School performed "An Aesop Adventure," which featured the music and dance talents of Lena Mayer's and Kathy Maguire's classes. Scenery production was overseen by art teacher Courtney Oleen. Here Katoria Callahan and Ian Tully perform a dance number.

Photo by Christy Myers



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.

Small businesses, in particular, have been crying for

"University Avenue feels different because it's becoming the centerpiece of the city again."

—Jon Commers

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, was to figure out "where are the areas of conflict between development goals along University Avenue and property taxes."

The city of St. Paul, which

touts a neighborhood-oriented planning philosophy, "has done a good job" of using zoning to

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 anthill with groups of skiers and snowboarders zigzagging down the hill.

Keeping the hills at Como Park padded with snow enables

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 sodas 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

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.

Dirk Borsden 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

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.

The Como Park golf clubhouse west of Lexington

Como skiers to 7



Students in a snowboarding class at Como Park take a break. The class is part of a program by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

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

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Questions:

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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 "Lauderdollar" 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 to a background investigation and sign a waiver. For more information or an application, contact Officer Tressa Sunde, 612-782-3371 or Tressa.Sunde@ci.Saint-Anthony.mn.us.

St. Anthony Park

Recent developments at Rock-Tenn 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 Axelsson (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

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The Shinparam Drum Group will help observe the Lunar New Year February 17 along Snelling Avenue.

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 "jishinbalgi" ("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.

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North St. Anthony Park Home Sales 2006 Real Estate Update

Number of Homes that Sold	2006	2005
Lowest Home Price	\$170,500	\$162,000
Highest Home Price	\$517,000	\$816,500
Average Home Price	\$342,283	\$376,109
Average Market Time	73 days	74 days

- The average sale price was 91.2% of the list price. Last year it was 92.7%.
- The average sale price decreased by 9% this year. Last year it increased by 10.6%.
- At the end of the year, there were 7 houses for sale that had been on the market an average of 84 days.
- 4 homes failed to sell.
- This information does not include duplexes, condominiums or townhouses.

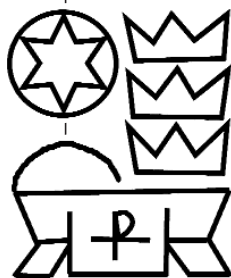
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(Based on information from the REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE OF MINNESOTA, INC. for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.)



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The Park Bugle is a community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Northwest Como Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

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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 stalwarts, 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 by some toothpaste or pencils or candy or gum, and there it was: a counter you could lean on if you were old and stools you could spin on if you were young.

Unlike the couches and easy chairs of today's coffee shops, the soda fountain's accommodations were fairly austere, not meant for lingering. It was expected that when you finished your malt or sundae

or float, you'd move on. You didn't bring a book to read.

The soda fountain also differed from its contemporary equivalent in that it offered a more predictably multigenerational experience. Though the stereotyped Hollywood image is of straw-sucking teenagers, a real fountain's habitués were just as likely to be stopping by on their way home from grade school or ducking in from the office.

In the middle of the 20th century, most towns and urban neighborhoods had at least one soda fountain. St. Anthony Park had two (Miller's and Guertin's), as did Como Park (Gray's and Blomberg's). None of those remain, and only one of the accompanying stores — Blomberg Drug — is still in business.

Blomberg's is just a stone's throw from Chelsea Heights Elementary. In the 1940s and 50s, Chelsea students, like many throughout St. Paul, walked home for lunch. Schools didn't serve lunch, nor did they provide a place for students to eat one brought from home.

But what if a well-meaning mother, cringing at the thought of her child trudging home for lunch in subzero weather, were to pack him a sandwich and an apple? And what if at noon he found his way over to Blomberg's, brown bag in hand? And what if the proprietor let him eat his peanut butter and jelly at the counter as long as he bought a soda to wash it down with?

What if?

LETTERS

Thanks to local businesses

The families of St. Anthony Park Co-op Preschool would like to thank the following businesses for their support of our Family Fun(d) Night fundraiser in November.

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Hampden Park Co-op
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Kids' Hair
Lands' End
Lauderdale Wellness Center
Lisa's Salsa Company
Lori's Coffee House and
Mim's Café
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Midwest Youth Dance Theatre
Muffuletta
Music in the Park
Nelson Cheese and Deli

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Park Service Station
Parkview Café
Papa Murphy's
Pho 79
Picture Frame Supply
Rainbow Foods
Red Balloon Bookshop
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SPCO Family Concerts
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State Farm
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The Bibelot Shops, Inc.
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University of Minnesota

Progressive Dinner

Time is running out to register for the 21st annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner. This year's event will be held on February 24, starting at 5:30 p.m. Diners meet at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church for appetizers, then fan out over the neighborhood for salad, main course and dessert.

To register or for more information, contact Karen Kistler (645-7706) or Fariba Sanikhatam (pruitt@mcg.net). The deadline to sign up is February 14.

Karen Kistler, Falcon Heights
Fariba Sanikhatam, St. Anthony Park

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 set a deadline — the end of this decade — without allowing further excuses or delays.

Let's work together in a cooperative, bipartisan manner to meet this challenge.

Political commitments have already been made. Governor Pawlenty 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 reform.

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 to 5

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. The board extends its heartfelt thanks to all who have given to this year's drive. Contributions, which are tax-deductible, are still being accepted. They can be mailed to:

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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 Minnesotan 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.

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Blomberg from 1

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.

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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 rope-tow tickets. There is also a food concession that serves hot drinks and snacks for hungry, rosy-cheeked 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 airborne 360.

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.

Instructor 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 was started some years back to celebrate the last Saturday lesson. Instructors, faces painted and dressed up in crazy outfits,

lead students through game stations on a hill decorated with balloons and streamers. The last lesson for students on a weeknight 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 teachers 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 Nakanishi 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.

Nakanishi 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 Francombe, Sam Wallace, Peter Schumann, Cami Czech, Brian Chasensky, Eoin Small and Lucy Steinmann.

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.

Nakanishi 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 skis or a snowboard.

To find out more about becoming a ski or snowboard instructor at Como, contact Paul Nakanishi (644-3947, ptnpbs@aol.com) by September. Training begins in October.



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No bones about it

by Kristi Curry Rogers

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.

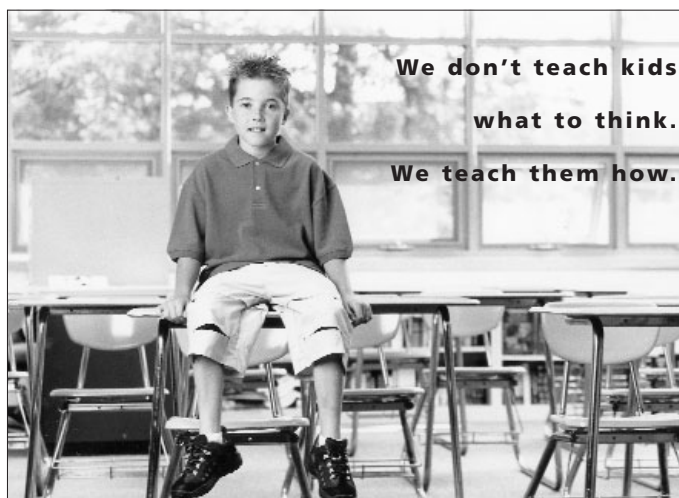
The show is about exceptional preservation. (Remember that report of soft tissue resembling blood vessels in a 70-million-year-old T. rex discovered by Mary Schweitzer in 2005?)

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 sheaths on the perching 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!



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The Birdman of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

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 fool. 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 hard-covered "life list diary" 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? What did he say?" 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 30 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 stenographer,

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?

Sinking into a mild depression, I pulled aside my birding buddy Bill and told him I didn't think I'd ever do this again.

Bill didn't really reply. Instead, he just kind of mumbled, and we went on to the next bird. Later, I wished that he or someone had challenged me because I really hadn't thought through my reasons for not wanting to do a trip like this again.

Fast forward to December, when we got word that another trip to Ecuador is being planned for August 2007, with most of the same fun gang of scoundrels that went on the previous trip. This time, however, I really wasn't sure I wanted to go.

So I called Craig Thompson, the fellow who has been putting these trips together, and had a heart-to-heart chat with him about feeling like a phony. I told him I couldn't identify most of those birds if they perched on the open page

of my guide book. I felt like a scribe just writing down what people told me.

Craig said he understood how I felt and then asked, "What would it take to change that feeling?"

"Well," I replied, "if I didn't have to keep that list. What's the point?"

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.

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

encourage 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 still 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 being "the gem," 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 you get it (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 troubleshoot the 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 train 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."



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Call of the wild: The artist as scavenger

by Dave Healy

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 way. 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.

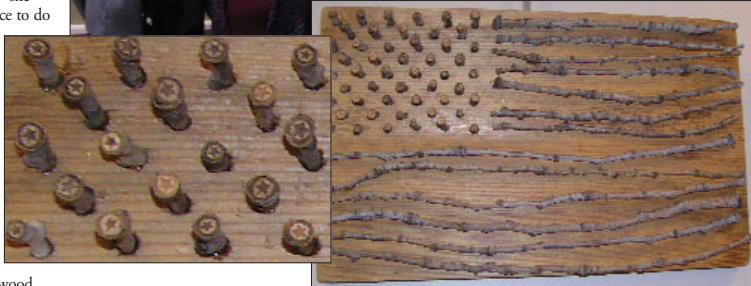
One of Olsen's pieces in the exhibit is "Wing," which uses a piece of partially burned wood she found in Colorado, where she and her husband have recently purchased land.

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."



"Art from Nature," an exhibit by Alis Olsen, Karen Searle and Jeanne Wiger, opened January 14 at the Undercroft Gallery and continues through February 23. The gallery is located in St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Gallery hours are T-F, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m.-noon.



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.

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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, Janáček and Ravel.

The concert will take place at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. For tickets, call 645-5699 or visit www.musicintheparkseries.org.

On Sunday, February 25, at 7 p.m., Minnesota Idol 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.

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St., will host the Doane College Choir in concert Saturday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The 45-voice choir from Crete, Nebraska, is conducted by Dr. Kurt Runestad, who led the choral program at Roseville Area High School from 1996 to 2000.

Horticulture Classes

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

To register or for more information, call 643-3601 or 800-676-6747, ext. 211.

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Seed Starting Basics
February 22, 6:30-8 p.m.
\$20 members, \$25 nonmembers

Hillside Gardens
February 27, 6:30-8 p.m.
\$15 members, \$20 nonmembers

Garden Club

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club presents "Gardening with Irises," by **William C. Doughty**, owner of Summer Chase Gardens and past president of the Iris Society of Minnesota. The business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:15 p.m. It will take place at the St. Anthony Park Library. All are welcome.

Chinese Classes

The Hospitality Center for Chinese, 1407 Cleveland Ave., will offer two classes beginning in February.

Introductory Mandarin Chinese will be taught Monday and Wednesday evenings, 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 Tuesday mornings, from 10 a.m. to noon, for six weeks beginning February 13. The fee is \$7 per session, which includes instruction and lunch.

Register by February 6: amy@chinesehc.org or 659-9740.

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 McNeely Conservatory** will present several events in February.

The Sunken Garden Winter Flower Show will run from February 2 to March 18, featuring azaleas, cyclamen, veltheimia 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:

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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?

February 22: Raptor feet.

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 612-624-9753. Cost is \$5 per child; no charge for adults. One adult per five children required.

School News

by **Antonie Young**

Chelsea Heights Elementary is one of nine St. Paul public schools to receive a \$5,000 Arts 25 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 Anita 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: turkey corn dogs, broccoli in cheese sauce, pears and fruit juice.

The recycled cafeteria food waste was shipped and fed to pigs at Barthold 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 put into action as the whole school contributed to a food drive for the Merriam Park Food Shelf. Third graders organized the winter food drive that culminated on January 12, the day they performed the musical "An Aesop Adventure."

Everyone was able to see the wagons loaded 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 2180 Knapp Street. For more information, call the school at 293-8735 or visit their Web site: 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 trainee 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 Carstarphen 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,

Como's band will perform its Winter Concert at 1 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Parents of preschoolers and about-to-be kindergartners should know that Como Park Elementary is one of only three St. Paul public schools to be recognized by the superintendent for seven consecutive years of outstanding academic achievement. Join them for a tour to experience the caring and dedicated staff, small classes, diverse population, high expectations, focus on achievement and an environment of respect.

Call the Como Park Elementary office (293-8820) to participate in one of the kindergarten tours, scheduled for January 29 and February 8, 12, 21 and 27. There is also an Open House for prospective students on March 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. Como Elementary offers half- or full-day kindergarten and a half-day program for four-year-olds.

Falcon Heights Elementary's PTSA meeting will be February 5 at 6:30 p.m. February 9 is the PTSA Carnival.

Holy Childhood School is hosting an open house on January 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teachers and administrators will conduct tours and answer questions about registration for school next year. Holy Childhood has offered small class sizes and quality education since 1946. The school is located at 1435 Midway Parkway in St. Paul.

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We're happy to partner with both the St. Anthony Park and Merriam Park Neighbors for Peace as *Elizabeth de la Vega* discusses her new book, **United States v. George W. Bush et al.**

Join us at 7 p.m. Friday, February 2nd, 2007 at the Weyerhaeuser Chapel, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave. in St. Paul.

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Back/Forward to the Basics:
Evangelism and Creating Christian Community
Speaker: Dr. Pat KeFurt
Luther Seminary + Chapel of the Incarnation
www.luthersemin.edu/lectures

Hein-Fry Lecture
March 14
The State of the Bible in North America
Speaker: Dr. Donald A. Hagner
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Aging Gracefully by Mary Jo Tarasac

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@biistream.net.



**At this time of Renewal, the
St Anthony Park Block Nurse Program
says "THANK YOU" to all of our amazing
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Readings

Friday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
Weyerhaeuser Chapel, Macalaster
College. **Elizabeth de la Vega**
(United States v. Bush et al.).
Co-sponsored by St. Anthony
Park Neighbors for Peace and
Merriam Park Neighbors 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.
**St. Anthony Park Writers
Group.** All welcome.

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Micawber's. **Probers' Book
Group.** "The End of Poverty,"
by Jeffrey Sachs. All welcome.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
**St. Anthony Park Library Book
Club** will discuss "The Summer
of Ordinary Ways," by Nicole
Lea Helget. New members
welcome. For more information,
call Carla at the library: 642-
0411.

Storytelling

Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Grounds. **Bill Eisenmann**
will tell stories, assisted by
puppets. 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.

John Cranney, local director
and actor, will lead the
discussion, which will take place
at the St. Anthony Park Library,
2245 Como Ave.

"Democracy" captures the
glory years of Willy Brandt's rise
to power as chancellor of West
Germany. The event is free and
open to the public.

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

How many of us, when passing through some small town, have
felt that 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.
Past 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,
enroute for years.

Reprinted from "Red River Blues," published by College of the
Mainland, Texas City, TX, 1977, by permission of the author.
Copyright (c) 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
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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 Stage
First and third Wednesdays,
6pm sign-up

Music in the Park Series
St. Anthony Park UCC
2129 Commonwealth Ave.
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www.musicintheparkseries.org

Tai Murray, violin, with
Gilles Vonsattel, piano
February 4, 4pm

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

Virgin Ground a capella group
"Songs in Mid-Winter"
February 4, 4pm

Pianist Reed Tetzloff
February 25, 5pm

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Through March 31

**St. Anthony Park Lutheran
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Kolle Mbairamadi
February 21-April 8
Meet the artist, February 21, 6pm
Soup supper, 5:30pm

St. Paul Student Center
University of Minnesota
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"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
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"Art from Nature"
Mixed media by Alis Olsen,
Karen Searle and Jeanne Wiger
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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1 Thursday

- PARENT CONFERENCES, 5:30-8:30 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.

- TOASTMASTERS (649-5162), U.S. Forest Service, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul Campus, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Every Thursday.

- CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St. Every Monday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. These classes are free to all area seniors, but pre-registration is necessary. Call 642-9052 to preregister.

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

2 Friday

- SENIOR CITIZEN FUN GROUP (gym, bowling and darts), South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Every Friday.
- Falcon Heights recycling.

3 Saturday

- NOCTURNAL BOWLING (612-625-5246), 10:30 p.m.-5 a.m. at the Copher Spot, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul Campus. Every Saturday.

5 Monday

- AA, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (644-0809), 8 p.m. Every Monday.

- BOY SCOUTS, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.

- CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St. Every Monday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. These classes are free to all area seniors, but

pre-registration is necessary. Call 642-9052 to preregister.

- Como Park recycling. Every Monday.
- Lauderdale recycling.

6 Tuesday

- SHOWCASE for prospective parents at Murray Jr. High, 6:30-8 p.m.

- Weekly Meditation Circle, 7 p.m. All experience levels welcome. Spirit United Church (3204 Como Ave. SE, 612-378-3602). Every Tuesday.

- TOT TIME (for 5-year-olds and younger), Langford Park Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Tuesday.

- TOASTMASTERS (645-6675), training in effective speaking, Hewlett Packard, Broadway & 280, 7:35-8:35 a.m. Every Tuesday.

7 Wednesday

- HMONG PTA MEETING at Murray Jr. High, 6 p.m.

- NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE planning meeting, 7 p.m. (all are welcome). Michael and Regula Russell's home (shared with a friendly dog and two cats), 1480 Chelmsford, 646-3620.

- FREE IN-STORE WINE SAMPLING at The Little Wine Shoppe (2236 Carter Ave.) Stop by any time between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. All featured wines are 10 percent off during the tasting.

- LEISURE CENTER for SENIORS (603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch reservations by Monday. Every Wednesday. Free blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon.

- St. Anthony Park recycling. Every Wednesday.

8 Thursday

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

9 Friday

- Falcon Heights Elementary School Carnival, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

- MOVIE: "Genghis Blues," 7 p.m. at Spirit United Church (3204 Como Ave. SE, 612-378-3602).

- STORY TIME for preschoolers ages 3-5, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration requested, 642-0411. Every Friday.

12 Monday

- SCOTT CLELAND at Falcon Heights Elementary. Scott uses drama to explain letters, words and the art that can be created with them. Performances at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

- OPEN HOUSE at St. Anthony Park Elementary School for families with children entering grades K-6 in 2007-08. 9:30-11:45 a.m.

- Park Press, Inc., Park Bugle board meeting, St. Anthony Park Bank community room, 7 a.m.

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

- Join the Falconers for 500 and cribbage at 1 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall.

13 Tuesday

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

14 Wednesday

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpentier Ave., 7 p.m.

16 Friday

- Falcon Heights recycling.

19 Monday

- No school, President's Day.
- Lauderdale recycling.

20 Tuesday

- St. Anthony Park School Association (SAPSA) meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- District 10 board meeting, Call 644-3889 for details.

21 Wednesday

- FREE IN-STORE WINE SAMPLING at The Little Wine Shoppe (2236 Carter Ave.) Stop by any time between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. All featured wines are 10 percent off during the tasting.

- Langford Booster Club, Langford Park, 7 p.m.

23 Friday

- St. Anthony Park Co-op Preschool Open House, 9-11 a.m., 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

26 Monday

- Join the Falconers for 500 and cribbage at 1 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall.

27 Tuesday

- History Day Fair at Murray Jr. High, 6 p.m.
- Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 7:30 p.m.

28 Wednesday

- Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 2077 Larpentier Ave., 7 p.m.

- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, So. St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 7 p.m.

Items for the March Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Friday, February 16.

Old Fashioned
Chicken Dinner!
Sunday, February 4, 2007 ♦ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Oven baked chicken / Potatoes & Gravy / Salad / Beverages / Dessert Buffet
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St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church
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February 10th, 6:00 p.m.

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LIVES LIVED

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 elementary teacher for 29 years, primarily with the North St. Paul/Maplewood School District.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Denis; daughters, Denise Heuer (friend Kurt Seestrom); Sue (Joe) Sperber; 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.

Elizabeth Branstad Burtress

Elizabeth H. (Betty) Branstad Burtress, age 95, of Como Park, died peacefully on January 11, 2007, at Lyngblomsten Care Center. She was born Feb. 17, 1911, in Irene, S.D., to Ida Bjerke Lokken and K.O. Lokken.

Betty and Oscar Branstad were married August 9, 1947. Oscar died in 1982. On October 3, 1989, Betty and Ernest Burtress were married.

A graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, Betty did graduate work at the University of Minnesota and the University of Colorado. She was a high school teacher in Mt. Vernon, Freeman, Lake Mills and Forest City, Iowa.

Her calling to teach included serving as a counselor of student nurses at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, and on the faculty of Waldorf College in Iowa. Betty showed her faith and wisdom as a Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, tutor, writer and speaker.

She is remembered by many as a vibrant, grace-filled woman of faith, a devoted friend and respected leader. Her many gifts were affirmed when she served as national president of the Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation (1946-48) and the Women's Missionary Federation (1954-58).

Betty was preceded in death by her four siblings, who included longtime St. Anthony Park resident Myrtle Hanson; a niece; and two nephews.

She is survived by nieces and nephew, Phyllis (Warren) Day of Sioux Falls, S.D.; Joanne (Rev. Allan) Negstad of Minneapolis; Mary (Chris) Trodahl of Bethel, Conn.; Karolyn (Jim) Foreman of Centerville, M.D.; and Rev. Mark

(Ione) Hanson of Chicago, Ill.; 17 great-nieces and nephews; the Branstad and Burtress families; and a host of friends and former students.

Her funeral service was held January 16, 2007, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where she was an active member. Interment was in Forest City, Iowa.

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 Miles; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Janet Lunder Hanafin; niece, Erin Hanafin Berg of Como Park and nephew, Peter Hanafin; former husband, 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 Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church.

Mike Kropelnicki

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

He was preceded in death by first wife, Betty; step-son, James Haechel; grandson, Eric; a sister and four brothers. He is survived by his wife, Florence; children, Jeanne (Joe) Goblirsch, Jim, Tom (Jane), Mick (Sherry), Barbara Caron (Mike), John (Misty); step-children, Jean (Del) Haakenson, Sandra (Greg) Haechel, Cheryl (Kevin) Peterson, Timothy (Robyn) Haechel; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; four sisters and nine brothers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 21, 2006, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Robert Loughrey

Robert J. Loughrey, born January 24, 1918, died December 11, 2006. He lived in Roseville and Scandia and was a member at

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.

Bob was active in Norske Torske Klubben, Masonry and the Shriners. He served in World War II (Forest 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 18, 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 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 their 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 in Decorah, Iowa. He stayed there for two years.

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

In 1966 the University of Minnesota opened a Technical Institute in Crookston, Minn., and Dave joined the faculty as the chairman of the General Education division.

In 1972 the family moved back to the Twin Cities to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. Dave took a job with the Occupational Training Center (now MDI), 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. He

Lives Lived to 20

C L A S S I F I E D S

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

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■ Count the words. A word is numbers or letters with a space on each side. A phone number with area code is one word.

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or deliver to the Park Bugle drop box at the side entrance to 2190 Como Ave. (on the Knapp Place side of building) by 6 p.m. on the deadline day. We cannot bill you for your ad.

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

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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 Control Data. 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, Sandra (Christopher) Payne, Keri Phillips (Glenn Huber), Martin (Laura) Stoppel; 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 Park will be held at a later date.

Curtis Thormodsgaard

Curtis L. Thormodsgaard died January 19, 2007, after suffering several years from progressive supranuclear palsy. He was born in Alcester, 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 Glennys Knudsen.

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 Glennys 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 filmed this story, "The Book That Would Not Burn," which was the first full-length film 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, Glennys; children, David (Lana) Thormodsgaard, Julie (Bert) Thormodsgaard, Joyce Thormodsgaard and Dan (Debbie) Thormodsgaard; and 13 grandchildren, Zechariah, Micah, Ezra, Mindy, Jacob, Hannah Marie and Evelyn Glennys Thormodsgaard; Patryk and Mark Laurent; Hans, Heidi and AnnaLise Lellelid; and 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 Tripp, 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 longtime 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 travelled the world with her husband.

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

Herman Welters

Herman A. Welters, age 90, of Como Park died December 27, 2006. He had been a carpenter, first in construction and then at the College of St. Thomas (now the University of St. Thomas). In retirement, Herman raised bees, 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 Welters, Cyndy (Thomas) Holloway, Mary (Greg) Tschida 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 alert 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, 644-1650, mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.

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LIFE IN THE CHURCH: Come and Share**❖ BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Skillman at Cleveland S., Roseville. 651-631-0211
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for nursery - adults
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship, Dr. Bruce Petersen
1:00 p.m. Korean Sunday Worship, Pastor Jiyong Park
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Club and Youth Groups

❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

1376 Hoyt Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55108-2300
651-646-7127

Handicapped Accessible
office@comoparklutheran.org
CPLContact ministry 651-644-1897
www.comoparklutheran.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m. Worship (nursery care provided from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.)
10:00 a.m. Adult Education and Sunday School
Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays
Rides available for 11:00 a.m. worship - call the church office before noon on Friday for a ride.

Sunday, February 11: New Member Class from Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Como Park Lutheran Church invites you to attend a one day class for new members. Lunch will be provided. Would you or someone you know, like to join the church? Please contact Pastor Marty or Pastor Mary Kaye at 651-646-7127.

Pastors: Martin Ericson and Mary Kaye Ashley
Visitation Pastor: Leonard Jacobsen
Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ NORTH COMO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

965 Larpentur Avenue W., Roseville
651-488-5581, ncpcmain@northcomochurch.org
www.northcomochurch.org

Sunday Services: Worship 9:45 a.m., Education 11:00 a.m.
We welcome all to attend.
Handicapped accessible.

❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

1744 Walnut (at Ione) Lauderdale. 651-644-5440
www.peaceclauderdale.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Education: 9:00 a.m.

Pastor: David Greenlund
All are welcome - Come as you are

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place. 651-644-4502
Website: www.stceciliaspn.org

Handicap accessible
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m. at the church
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the church
(nursery provided during the 10:00 a.m. Mass)

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth at Chelmsford. 651-646-7173

Website: www.sapucc.org
Handicapped Accessible and an Open and Affirming Congregation.
Rev. Howard Tobak, Transition Minister -
Becky Stewart, Child & Youth Coordinator
Adult Education 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Fellowship: 11:00 a.m.
Nursery Care & Sunday School provided.
February 4, Worship/Holy Communion: 10:00 a.m.

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

All are welcome!
2200 Hillside Ave (at Como) 651-646-4859
Pastor Donna Martinson
Go to www.sapumc.org for more about our church.

Sundays:
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
10:20 a.m. Sunday School for 3 years old to 5th grade
11:00 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
February 21, Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Worship
More to choose (call us for details):
Faithfull Fit Forever - Mondays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Faith 411 (youth) - Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Choir - Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are a community of believers called to joyfully serve God, one another, and the world.
www.saplcl.org
2323 Como Ave. W., 651-645-0371
Staffed nursery available. Handicap-accessible.
Pastors Glenn Berg-Moberg and Amy Thoren. Email: info@saplcl.org
Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Education Hour for all: 9:45 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Service: February 21, 7:00 p.m.
Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church 1:30 p.m.
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❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair Pogue, Rector
2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 651-645-3058
Website: www.stmatthewsmn.org
Sunday Services:
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Classes for all ages between the services at 9:15 a.m.
Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
Ash Wednesday Services: 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.