Sherlock and the Gremlin Theatre

Let ’er Ripp
by Judy Woodward

At first glance, Larry Ripp doesn’t look much like Sherlock Holmes. Lounging over a cup of coffee at Jay’s Café, the 53-year-old actor/playwright from south St. Anthony Park looks more like an ordinary working guy on his day off. But that’s forgetting the transformational magic of the theater.

In a few days, the balding, grandfatherly Ripp will trade his faded orange Henley T-shirt for a deerstalker cap and augment his depleted locks with a full growth of theatrical hair. And then … suddenly it’s 1890, the London fog lurks outside, and within the cozy confines of 221B Baker Street, once again “The Game’s Afoot.”

Which just happens to be the name of the one-act play that will open at University Avenue’s Gremlin Theatre on Feb. 26 as half of a double bill called History and Mystery.

BNSF Railroad tweaks Raymond Avenue bridge repair schedule
by Anne Holzman

After offering an alternate schedule for reconstructing the railroad bridge over Raymond Avenue just north of Energy Park Drive, BNSF Railroad was told by the St. Anthony Park Community Council to complete their work by the St. Anthony Park Community Council to complete their work by the State Fair. In response to neighborhood concerns, BNSF reduced the length of road closure from four and a half months to two months.

At its Feb. 12 meeting, the council voted to recommended that BNSF schedule its work in one continuous segment rather than splitting the project into two periods to avoid overlapping with work on the Larpenteur Avenue bridge over Hwy. 280, which will reduce traffic on that road to one lane for much of the spring and summer.

Because the railroad bridge project will necessitate closing Raymond entirely for two months, some residents were concerned that overlapping the two projects would make it more difficult to use 280 as a Raymond Avenue detour.

T h ese concerns prompted State Rep. Alice Hausman to call a Dec. 12 meeting involving city, county, state and railroad officials.

It became clear then that the schedule for the Larpenteur/280 project, which will be coordinated by M n D O T, could not be changed without losing federal funding.

Hwy. 280 will likely be down to one lane each way during much of that project, according to M n D O T Manager Chris Roy. Traffic will also be routed off and then back on at the Larpenteur interchange, causing further slowdowns.

Although the official detour for Raymond during work on the railroad bridge will be along Snelling Avenue, some members of the St. Anthony Park Community Council predicted that local residents, as well as employees of businesses and others going in and out of the neighborhood, would prefer to use 280 and so requested that BNSF delay their project for one year.

Instead, the railroad devised the split schedule to ease the inconvenience without delaying the work. That scenario would have involved suspending bridge work for the last week of April, all of May, the first week of June and all of August.

Local author gets national attention
by Dave H a l y

Susan Marie Swanson’s first children’s book, published 12 years ago, is called “Getting Used to the Dark.” Today, Swanson finds herself getting used to the spotlight. Since Jan. 26, when the American Library Association announced its 2009 literary awards, Swanson has been basking in the attention that follows from having written the book that won this year’s Caldecott Medal.

This book is also associated with darkness. “The House in the Night,” published last spring, relates a nighttime journey that moves from a house to a bed to a book, then to the starlit heavens and back.

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Local author to 8

Let ’er Ripp to 6

Local author to 8

Vote in this month’s Bugle poll at www.parkbugle.org: What is your favorite children’s book?
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Nancy Meeden
(Faculty Response)

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Lady Elegant's Tea Room
In April, the St. Anthony Park Community Council will hold its annual election for seats on the board of directors. St. Anthony Park is one of 17 districts in St. Paul, each of which is represented by an elected board.

District or community councils are independent 501c-3 nonprofit corporations. They receive money from the city to fund a variety of community activities.

A community council is free to create its own structure. Councils spend most of their money on full- and/or part-time staff. The District 12 office is located in the South St. Anthony Recreation Center.

Two staff serve the district council: Amy Sparks, full-time executive director, and Renee Lepreau, part-time community organizer. Also operating out of the office is the St. Paul Senior Chore Program, which serves neighborhood residents.

Lepreau, part-time community coordinator, and Harriet Mednick is the part-time coordinator, and Harriet Mednick is the part-time coordinator. Carol L. Livingston is the part-time community organizer. Organizing also operating out of the office is the St. Paul Senior Chore Program, which serves St. Anthony Park and nine other neighborhoods. Carole L. Livingston is the part-time community organizer, and Harriet Mednick is the part-time community coordinator.

Individual councils are free to raise additional money beyond what they receive from the city. District 12, for example, carries out an annual fund drive to supplement what the city provides. This year’s fund-raising project was a directory of St. Anthony Park residents and businesses. In addition, the council funds special projects with grant money from a variety of sources.

District 12’s annual budget is about $80,000, which goes to maintain the office and fund crime prevention efforts and citizen participation. The Chore Service Program, which matches youth and adult workers with seniors and disabled residents to enable them to live independently in their homes, has a budget of $35,000.

The District 12 board consists of 15 delegates and 6 alternates — 5 delegates and 2 alternates each from three constituent groups: south St. Anthony Park, north St. Anthony Park and St. Anthony Park businesses. Any St. Anthony Park resident can run for membership, and voting is open to all neighborhood residents. North neighborhood delegates serve two-year terms; alternates and business delegates serve one-year terms. Alternates can attend all meetings but only vote when they are filling in for a delegate.

St. Anthony Park residential concerns are discussed first at the community council meeting in each district, where representatives from Solvent paint chips Mercury switches Oil & oil filters Paint & stains Pool chemicals Propane tanks Rodent poisons Weed killer

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Between Como Park and the State Fair grounds to the west
There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away.
No art nor science can by any point of prizing pour us.
—— Emily Dickinson

The new baby Madal, along with the Caldecott Madal, for the year’s most distinguished American picture book, date from 1922 and 1938, respectively. Since then, children’s literature has grown from a minor part of the publishing world to a major player.

In 1920, about 500 juvenile titles were published, a figure that almost doubled by 1930. By 2004, there were some 21,000 juvenile titles in print. Anyone who hasn’t written a children’s book might suffer from the misconception that the task is easy. To cite only one refutation of that assumption, consider that Dr. Seuss spent nine months working on “Green Eggs and Ham,” a story that ideas are lifesaving, one of life’s most significant marker events. Listening to a new reader’s first words is among the sweetest pleasures a parent or caregiver can know.

The continuous schedule, which the Community Council voted to approve, has the project ending by Aug. 19. The project schedule, which included breaks for the Larpenteur bridge work and the State Fair, would have ended by Oct. 30. At the Feb. 12 meeting, Executive Director Amy Sparks reminded council members that either scenario would result in closing Raymond for the same number of days. The difference has to do with whether the work is scheduled during or around the Larpenteur/280 project. The two scheduling options concern the second and third phases of the BNSF project. The first phase involves pile driving, an operation the railroad originally planned to start in January. When it was determined that pile driving would require a noise variance, as well as having noise levels seem dangerous. “My guess is it won’t be as loud as you think it is,” she said.

The railroad plans to build a pedestrian tunnel and keep it open most of the time Raymond is closed to traffic. The pedestrian tunnel would be accessible except for about 10 days, when pieces of bridge span are laid in place, railroad officials said. Renée Lepreau, District 12 council member, said vegetation along the tracks will be cleared, and the Community Council has asked BNSF about reseeding it with native species.

“Where the Wild Things Are” and “Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH” again and again.

Compo Pool’s future plans are to add a water theme as a replacement to the low-lying Compo Pool, bringing thousands more visitors to Compo Park, along with their cars.

The city appears intent on expanding and extending activities in the park, like allowing parties and events in the evening hours. A proposal for a two-block long “Lazy River” (not exactly a natural pool, but close enough to the tracks to be somewhere between annoying and disruptive for those who live and work near the bridge. The railroad’s noise variance, issued Feb. 4 by the St. Paul City Council, allows noise levels of 100 decibels within 100 feet of the track, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The variance also allows general construction equipment noise 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The variance extends through July 31.

The bugle reports 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 neighborhood communities and encourage community participation. The Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc., a nonprofit organization, guided by an elected board of directors.

Byron & Alis Olsen
Nancy & Dennis Olsen
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Businesses

Thanks, readers, for contributing to the Bugle fund drive.
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Why a spa?
When we bought this business, we wanted to expand our services. Marlys is a licensed massage therapist. We also offer manicures and pedicures, facials, waxing and enhancements, along with haircuts, styling and coloring. We specialize in personalized service.

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We'd been coming to St. Anthony Park before we bought this business. We enjoyed the atmosphere — a small town in a big city. We like being close to Luther Seminary, the University of Minnesota, and the bank. It’s great having our bank — and the University of Minnesota.

Here a long time. We have some ideas for remodeling our space and further expanding our services. We’d like to become more of a wellness center.

Who else?
Marlys does massage and Barry keeps the books. Shawnie Burkman is a certified nail technician. Vanessa Un does hair, manicures, pedicures and waxing. Susan Tiao-Johnson is our aesthetician. Aubrey Miller and Ambrosia Ayde do massage.

What else?
Barry is an engineer. He enjoys photography and motorcycling. He also designed our Web site (www.plspa.com). Marlys does embroidery and sewing. We love spoiling our four grandchildren.

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Our neighborhood is a community closely reflecting the quality of a neighborhood and, due in large measure to the work of the Foundation, we are committed to its sustainability and the long-term health of our neighborhood.

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, a group of neighbors working toward the long term sustainability of our precious neighborhood, has recently announced the launch of a permanent fund — the St. Anthony Park Forever Fund.

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Let ’er Rip from 1

Ripp handles the mystery side with “The Game’s Afoot,” which he describes as “a conversation with Holmes and Watson” and an opportunity to “get to know Sherlock Holmes as a three-dimensional character — to see the humanity behind the bloodhound.” Author A. Conan Doyle, says Ripp, meant Holmes to be “more than a thinking machine.”

Ripp likely knows almost as much about Sherlock Holmes at this point as Conan Doyle did. He wrote, directed and produced “The Game’s Afoot” for his Vintage Players company. And he’s playing Holmes to Ross Johnson’s Dr. Watson in what he refers to as a piece of “gender-neutral” casting.

The history side of the evening’s entertainment is Philip Morton’s “Testimony: So Runs the World Away,” an account of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln from the perspective of Henry Rathbone, the man who happened to be standing next to Lincoln in the presidential box at Ford’s Theatre.

And here’s one of those serendipitous connections that delights Ripp. Henry Rathbone was a distant relative of Basil Rathbone, the great Olloway actor of the 1930s and 40s who played the “definitive” Sherlock Holmes, as far as Ripp is concerned.

“I base my interpretation on the Basil Rathbone incarnation — with a little Christopher Plummer,” he adds.

Another happy coincidence concerns the arrival of the Gremlin Theatre, an established Twin Cities dramatic company that relocated to its current site on the southern edge of St. Anthony Park about a year ago. When Gremlin isn’t using its space for its own productions, it rents the premises to groups like Ripp’s, which, among other benefits, allows him the uncustomed luxury of being able to walk to his theatrical work.

Ripp admits to being a great fan of Sherlock Holmes, but why another portrait of what must be one of the best-known characters in the English language? What’s left to say about Sherlock Holmes?

“Plenty. As it turns out,” he says. “This play is not a Sherlock Holmes mystery,” explains Ripp. “It’s an evening with Holmes and Watson, where they reflect on cases and how they met.”

Ripp believes the appeal of the Baker Street duo is enduring. “It’s the whole package,” he says, “the Victorian/Edwardian trappings. You feel safe in the knowledge that Holmes is always one step ahead. Normal people feel they miss a lot, but characters like Holmes don’t miss that’s why that’s what’s so appealing. You learn so much.”

And the audience will learn something, too, about the background of Holmes. Ripp says all the details of the evening come “from the canon. We didn’t add anything. That’s what makes it so appealing. You learn so much.”

However, he introduces some nuggets of Holmes lore that belong to the realm of the experts. There’s the matter of Holmes’ mysterious brother Sherringford, for instance, and the exact proportions of the Giant Rat of Sumatra.

Ripp says his greatest difficulty in portraying Holmes is “trapping my weight down” to achieve the appropriately lean Sherlockian silhouette. It probably doesn’t help that he lives just around the corner from Jay’s Café, where his stepson is the chef. Perhaps because of that connection, the café will pay a small role in Ripp’s upcoming production.

“There will be coupons in the theater programs for a free glass of wine at Jay’s,” says Ripp. “You get bargains with your entertainment.”

Entertainment has been high on the agenda for Larry Ripp. He started out as a radio announcer in his native Wisconsin, where he found himself writing a lot of the on-air advertisements.

“My forte was dialog commercials,” he says. “I they were little plays.”

The “little plays” began to grow — off-mike — and pretty soon they became the real thing, eventually leading to Ripp starting his own comedy group. Soon after, he became an actor, and in 1979, he moved to the Twin Cities to work in other people’s productions and develop his own comedic companies now, although the players overlapped.

“There’s a core group of about nine,” he says. “We’ve been together for six years.” The Vintage Players handle the “serious” pieces like “The Game’s Afoot.” For comedy, there’s M inder’s M inth Productions, which is currently working on a piece for this summer’s M innesota Fringe Festival.

When Ripp isn’t immersed in his theatrical life, he’s likely to be found working his “second-shift” job at the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Like the Gremlin Theatre, it’s also within walking distance of his St. Anthony Park home, where he’s lived since 1990.

Ripp enjoys playing with his new grandson, but his favorite part of life right now, he says, is when he makes “silly, recurrent bike rides on overnight 100-mile trips.”

“Aubrey that when he thinks up further adventures of Sherlock Holmes. “I hope my Sherlock Holmes is someone you’ll want to see more of,” he says, “because there may be more to come.”

History and Mystery

Two one-act plays by Larry Ripp and Philip Morton

Gremlin Theater
2400 University Ave.
Thursday–Saturday,
Feb. 26–28, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Mar. 1, 2:00 p.m.

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**Arts Events**

MUSIC in the Park Series will present the Chiarra String Quartet in concert at 4 p.m., Mar. 22, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. The quartet will play works by Bartok and Korngold, as well as “Istofeld Sonnets,” composed by Canadian Pierre Laliberté and based on poems by Canadian playwright Harvey. More information, contact Mary Hanan at hana034@mracn.to.cunl.edu or 644-2550.

**Gardening**

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club will host “The Latest Hosta Information and Cultivars,” presented by Tom Carlson, owner of HostaDirect, Inc. The session will be at 7:15 p.m., Mar. 3, at the St. Anthony Park Library.

**Businesses**

Carter’s True Frame Shop, 2385 Como Ave., has been awarded the 2008 Angies List Super Service Award, the third consecutive year the shop has received the honor. The Super Service Award is given to companies that have achieved and maintained a superior service rating on Angies List throughout the year. Fewer than 5 percent of the companies on Angies List meet the requirements to be considered for the award.

TIES, located at Snelling and Larpentacrt, recently received a Telkene award in the Technology Services–Small and Growing Company category. Their Web-based FeedPay system enables parent of students to pay for school-related items.

Perfect Little Spa and Salon, 2201 Como Ave., will join with Blis Yoga and Suka-Rama to present a special introduction to yoga on Mar. 8. Sessions will be held at 2 and 2:45 p.m. For more information, call 645-7655.

**Volunteers**

The Gibbs Museum is seeking volunteers in the following areas: seamstress, host/interpreter, animal care, gardening, special events support, summer schoolhouse teachers. For more information, contact Terry at 646-8621 or Terry@rchs.com.

**Churches**

The Church of St. Cecilia will host its annual roast turkey dinner on Sunday, Mar. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church basement. There will be a coffee silent auction. Tickets are $8 for the dinner; children 8 and under eat free. For more information, contact Paula Almer at 644-4502.

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ will play works for young people ages 14–20 to participate in Venture Crew, a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women. Crews focus on special interests and high adventure. Meetings are bi-monthly.

**Fundraiser**

The running club at St. Anthony Park Elementary School will participate in the launch of a new citywide race, Memals Run, on Mar. 2.

The club, which last year involved 160 students, is an after-school program that began in 1986. Students train for three weeks to participate in a citywide race. Memals Run, the successor to the M/ipomene SK Walk/Run, is seeking sponsors. Contact Judy Lutter at judylutter@yahoo.com.

**Food Drive**

Embodyed Health, LLC, a south St. Anthony Park wellness business, will hold its third annual food drive Mar. 1–31. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted at 2500 University Ave. W, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. M–F and 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Sat. They can be left in the designated box outside studio F5. Food donations will benefit the Midway Community Food Shelf, a division of Keystone Community Services, which provides food to residents of Midway, St. Anthony Park, Mervian Park and other local communities.

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**FRI., MARCH 20, 2009**

Have fun with Mole! Experience a lively re-telling of the favorite story by David McPhail. Follow the story as the Chiaras make the musical contrasts of Mozart and the excitement of Korngold come for life for all ages.
The Caldecott is awarded to the year’s most distinguished American picture book for children. “The House in the Night” was illustrated by Beth Krommes, a New Hampshire resident.

Swanson, who lives in St. Anthony Park, met Krommes only recently, even though they were both graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the 1980s.

“It’s not unusual if the author and illustrator of a children’s picture book never meet,” says Swanson. “The match is made by an editor or publisher, and most of the communication goes through the editor.”

For “A House in the Dark,” Swanson adapted a literary form that might be called “cumulative.” She was inspired by a nursery rhyme that begins, “This is the key of the kingdom: / In that kingdom is a city, / In that city is a town, / In that town is a street.”

Swanson was a poet before she was a children’s book writer, and she said she brings “a poet’s approach to the picture book.”

As a Caldecott winner, “The House in the Night” becomes part of a distinguished literary lineage that includes “Make Way for Ducklings,” “Where the Wild Things Are” and “The Polar Express.”

“So many of the Caldecott books have meant a great deal to many people,” said Swanson. “To be part of that is very meaningful and humbling.”

Hans Weyandt, co-owner of Micawber’s Bookstore in St. Anthony Park, said that as a Caldecott winner, Krommes and Swanson’s book will “get into just about every bookstore there is.” He added, “There are so many awards out there now, but the Caldecott and the Newbery are still the gold standard for children’s literature.”

Rose Ann Foreman, director of the St. Anthony Park Library, said she has used “A House in the Dark” for her weekly story time at the library.

“The children really paid attention,” she said. “People will be asking for this book for many years.”

Alice Neve is an area librarian for the St. Paul Public Library and a St. Anthony Park resident. She served on the committee that decided the 1999 Caldecott Medal.

“We looked at about 1,000 books that year,” she said. Neve said that the Caldecott dramatically changes the lives of the author and illustrator.

Susan Marie Swanson would agree. “This is the same book now as it was last spring when it was published,” she said. “But now everything is different.”
I was looking for golden eagles with two women and a dog one Saturday in January along the Mississippi River in Minnesota. The women were my binding buddy, Val, and our mutual friend, Kim. The dog was Finn, or Finn for short. Finn came with Kim.

Finn turned out to be a very good wild turkey alarm. The first flock we found was crossing the road ahead of us, some dropping out of the trees. There must have been 30 of them. Finn really wanted to chase them and barked like crazy to let them know that he would be hot on their trail if he could just get out of the car.

We didn’t see any golden eagles that day, but it wasn’t for lack of trying. We were participating in the annual golden eagle survey sponsored by the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota. More than 100 observers were out surveying specific territories in southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. We found out later that volunteers spotted 70 golden eagles.

Being the national symbol, bald eagles get all the attention, but golden eagles are just as impressive. They’re about the same size, but whereas a bald eagle’s head and neck extend more than half the length of its tail when seen in flight, the golden eagle’s head and neck extend less than half the tail’s length.

Golden eagles have a uniformly dark brown body and wings. Young birds may have white patches on the underside of the wings, near the ends, and may have a white band at the base of the tail. Both mature and juveniles have a golden sheen to the head and nape of the neck.

Golden eagles breed from the Rockies west and north to northern Alaska and in the far north of eastern Canada. They’re short of mid-rage fall migrants. M ost of the eastern birds come south along the Rockies. Some roam as far as the mid-Dakotas.

The eastern golden eagles winter locally, but Minnesota and Wisconsin haven’t been high on the list of known wintering sites, hence, one of the reasons for the survey.

Our territory was Pierce County, Wisconsin, right across the Mississippi River from Red Wing, Minnesota. This was an area that hadn’t been surveyed before, so we used topographic maps to try to find likely golden eagle winter habitat.

We cruised over 100 miles of back roads and valleys. Many of the streams in the county that feed into the Mississippi have formed coulees, steep-sided valleys with loose rocks at the base of the slopes.

Golden eagles don’t fish like bald eagles do; they prefer terrestrial prey. They hunt on the south- and west-facing slopes of coulees, on what are called “goat prairies.” These areas have thin soil over the bedrock, supporting grasses and small shrubs but very few trees.

And it’s the prey drawn to these goat prairies that attract wintering golden eagles.

At a training session at the Eagle Center a week before the survey, Scott M. duh, education program specialist, quizzed us on the main food sources for the golden eagle.

We readily, and correctly, guessed rabbits and squirrels. But we were stumped on the next most frequent prey species, until someone meekly offered wild turkeys.

“Why?” asked Scott in surprise. “You think a golden eagle weighing 8-10 pounds could take down a turkey that might weigh as much as 15 pounds? Are you kidding me? Well, you happen to be absolutely right!”

Scott said that when he sees a flock of turkeys, he can tell if a golden eagle is in the area by how the turkeys act. If they’re hanging close to the woods or running for cover, look up for a golden eagle. If they’re just foraging in the middle of a clearing, you can be pretty sure there’s no golden eagle around.

And turkeys seem to know the difference between a golden and a bald eagle. The latter won’t bother them and they ignore it if one flies over.

Golden eagles often perch in the trees on the northern or eastern side of a bluffs. They allow them to use the terrain as a screen to conceal their approach as they swing up out of the current and land on the northern or sunny sides of the hill. It’s a sneak attack.

You can learn more about eagles and see several bald eagles and a golden eagle named Donald at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. In March, they’ll celebrate their Soar with the Eagles Festival for the entire month. Weekends will feature special exhibitors, including 21 species of raptors on the weekend of March 21. It’s a very family-friendly place. Complete details are at www.nationaleaglecenter.org.

And when you find yourself in southeastern Minnesota in winter, look for turkeys on the side of a bluff, on a goat prairie. If you see them begin to run for the trees, there may be a golden eagle overhead. Or maybe Finn has finally gotten loose from Kim.

The area the golden eagles in Pierce County are known to winter in is much of the eastern Midwest, from western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota west to western Nebraska and south to eastern Utah. It’s a vast area, and it’s too early in the year to tell what’s going on in Pierce County, but it’s nice to know that they’re out there.
SAPark, an e-mail discussion group. Connections were made with then-Council Member Benenav, resulting in a pedestrian island to make the crosswalk safer.

The crosswalk reconstruction was the first phase of a larger traffic-calming project on Raymond Avenue, for which the Community Council helped secure city and federal funding.

Other recent council efforts include a series of “backyard talks” on environmental issues and a Green on the Screen film series, an “adopt a tree” program in College Park, and Good Neighbor Agreements with local businesses Rock-Tenn and Globe Tool.

Ongoing work includes supporting block clubs, distributing recycling bins, organizing an annual neighborhood cleanup and Kasota Pond cleanup, and educating the community about crime prevention strategies.

### GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

for non-environmental organizations and schools to conduct community-based waste reduction, toxicity reduction and recycling projects!

Community POWER (Partners on Waste Education and Reduction) is a project of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board that supports innovative, community-based approaches to waste reduction by partnering with non-environmental organizations and schools. $228,000 is available to support projects up to $12,000 each.

Letters of Interest are due by March 16, 2009. For more information, go to RethinkRecycling.com/grants or call 612-345-7973.
Murray Junior High
2200 Buford Ave, 293-8740
http://murray.spps.org

Murray will perform the musical “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Mar. 13–15 in the school auditorium. The Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 p.m., and the Sunday performance is at 2 p.m. About 40 Murray students are in the production.

The boys’ basketball season is underway. Murray’s team was 2–0 by mid-February. The girls’ basketball team (1–2) placed second this year.

The M Murray Site Council meets Mar. 2 at 4 p.m. Spring break begins Mar. 30 and school resumes Apr. 6.

The following students placed in the top three in their respective categories at M Murray’s January school Science Fair. They will compete in the regional Science Fair.

Animal Science: Madison Kolias, Mi eli Me Ri eon, and Kro l Kobbet; Behavioral and Social Science: Kara Forde, Evan Wall, and Charlie Nelson; Cellular and Molecular Biology: Evan Berger; Chemistry: An Conroy, Tom Stinar, and Kristina Abbe; Computer and Math Science: Gabriela M oore and N oah Ellis; Earth Science: Alyssa Kolb, Travis Johnson, and Desmond Stewart; Energy and Transportation: Elena Anderson, Katja Lange, and Jack Aughey; Engineering: Madison O’Meara, Zachary Lee, and Ernest M antell; Environmental Science: Ian Olesak, Harry Broderick, and Elizabeth Farley; Medicine and Health: Ann Hofer, Principal Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher and Rosemary Murphy; Multi-Sensory Learning: Aaron Conroy; Music: Mary Stara; Teacher Resources: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy; Theatrical Arts: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy; and Vocational Skills: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy.

The question that everyone on the edge of their seat this month is, “Will the students beat last year’s reading achievement?”

The question that everyone on the edge of their seat this month is, “Will the students beat last year’s reading achievement of 311,545 minutes in two weeks during the annual Read-a-Thon fundraiser?”

Principal Ann Johnson is sitting on the edge of the dunk tank seat waiting to find out if she will take the plunge for student success. The goal of the fun fundraiser is to promote the pleasure of reading while raising money for school enrichment programs.

Also this month, the school will be filled with young scientists roaming the halls in white lab coats as they participate in the annual Science Fair on Mar. 23 from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Volunteer educators give students individual feedback on their presentations.

Fifth graders are preparing for a visit to Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin, Mar. 25–27. The purposes for the trip are to build community, become aware of humans’ impact on the environment, and experience the natural setting of the St. Croix River.

During February, the school conducted tours and open houses for prospective families. A reminder that the deadline for applications to attend St. Anthony Park Elementary or another St. Paul public elementary school is Mar. 6, and kindergarten registration will be Mar. 14. Contact the school office with any questions.

Destination Imagination is a competitive problem-solving activity that meets after school. Eleven teams have been practicing since last fall and will compete in the regional tournament on Mar. 7.

There will be no school on Mon., Mar. 9, as teachers prepare for conferences that will take place on Thurs., Mar. 19 in the evening and Fri., Mar. 20 during the day and evening. Mar. 20 is also a day off for students.

Como Park Senior High
740 Rose Ave, 293-8800
http://como.spps.org

For the first time, Como sent two skiers to the state meet at Giants Ridge in Biwabik, Minn. Senior Emma Lee placed fifth in the girls’ section meet, and senior Luke Rustad placed tenth in the boys’ section meet.

During the regular season, the boys’ ski team placed second of 12 teams and the girls’ team placed third.

On Feb. 9, AViD students and their teachers hosted a dinner at school for their families. Teachers Robin Aster and Rosemary Hofer, Principal Dan M eck, and AViD District Coordinator Dr. Darlene Frye congratulated the students on their hard work during the year and provided awards.

Some of Ms. Kahn’s AP Biology students took the challenging Brain Bee qualifying round last week. Five students are in the top 30 in the state for the second year in a row and will go on to the semifinal rounds at the University of Minnesota. Congratulations to Jane Schumacher, Rachel Lee, Lucas Dauer, Kyle Erickson, and Qiadon Jin Stone. Como’s top scorer, was eighth in the state.

The Environmental Club organized their second annual National Teach-In using in-house expertise. Several students gave short presentations with audience discussion following. Sarah Davy talked about her trip to Churchill with Polar Bears International. Luke Dauer shared perspectives about ecopolitics. Leif V antertold about conservation, drawing on his love of the wilderness. Roz Anderson discussed alternative energy.

A panel of teachers — Brian McCarthy, Peter Grabbe and Josh Leonard — discussed genetic engineering. Dan Worku and Haminha Nauen introduced the topics and moderated the panel discussion.

That same evening, several club members attended an Eco Prom at the Bell Museum, where they listened to the national Focus-the-Nation presentation “Solutions in the First 100 days.” The event was initiated and planned by the Environmental Club.

February is I Love to Read Month. This year Chelsea PTO sponsored several events to help students find new and fun ways to appreciate reading. Guest readers, such as TC, the M innesota Twins Mascot; “Breakfast with a Book” at the St. Paul Bagelry and Dills; and “Bingo for Books,” where students completed activities on a bingo card to raise funds for the PTO and earned a chance to win prizes.

Learning disability teachers Susan Homburger and M arie Hjelm have completed training for their new job, which includes Sunday readings of their favorite parts of the Bible. It starts Mar. 15–19 in the evening and Fri., Mar. 20, during the day and evening. The performance is Mar. 26 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are $9 at the door.

The following students placed in the top three in their respective categories at M Murray’s January school Science Fair. They will compete in the regional Science Fair.

Animal Science: Madaline Kolias, Mi e M Rk eon, and Kro l Kobbet; Behavioral and Social Science: Kar a F orde, Ev an Wal l, and Ch arlie N elson; Cellular and M olecular Biology: Ev an B erner; Ch emistry: An Conroy, T om St inar, and K ristina Abbe; Computer and Math Science: Gab r iela M oore and No ah Ellis; Earth Science: Alyssa Kolb, Travis Johnson, and Desmond Stewart; Energy and Transportation: E lena An derson, K at ja Lan ge, and Jack Aughey; En gineering: M adis on O’M era, Zachary Lee, and Ernest M antell; Environmental Science: I an Olesak, H arry Broderick, and Eliza beth Farley; Medicine and Health: Ann Hofer, Principal Dan Mesic k, R obyn Asher and R osemary Murphy; Mu sic: Mary Stara; Teacher Resources: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy; Theatrical Arts: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy; and Vocational Skills: Dan Mesick, Robyn Asher, and Rosemary Murphy.

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During February, the school conducted tours and open houses for prospective families. A reminder that the deadline for applications to attend St. Anthony Park Elementary or another St. Paul public school has one husband-wife responsibility. Currently the Volunteers can share the responsibility. Currently the Volunteers can share the responsibility. Currently the Volunteers can share the responsibility. Currently the Volunteers can share the responsibility. Currently the Volunteers can share the responsibility.
March

1 SUNDAY
- Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dress and Folk Costume. Through June 14, 4:30
- M Innopera Guitar Society event, 2 p.m. CG.
- Open mic, 6 p.m. CG.
- GentleForceful, works by Lyz Frees Wendland and Matthew Olson. Through April 2, LAG.
- Roast turkey dinner, raffle and silent auction, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Church of St. Cecilia.

2 MONDAY
- AA, 8 p.m. SAPL. Every Monday.
- Boy Scouts, 7 p.m. SAPUCC. Every Monday.
- Como Park recycling. Every Monday.
- Lauderdale recycling.
- Chair Exercise Class, 12:30-1:30 p.m. SH. Every Monday and Thursday. Free to seniors.

3 TUESDAY
- Free Internet, word processing and Excel instruction, 7-8:30 p.m. SAPL. Every Tuesday.
- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), 10 a.m.-noon. LRC. Every Tuesday.
- Chair Exercise Class, 3:15-4:15 p.m. SAPL. Every Tuesday and Friday. Free to seniors.
- Saint Anthony Park Garden Club, 7:15 p.m. SAPL.

4 WEDNESDAY
- English conversation classes, 4-5:30 p.m. SAPL. Every Wednesday.
- Leisure Center for Seniors, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. SAPUCC. Every Wednesday.
- Lunch reservations by Monday, call 646-4859. Free blood pressure clinic by St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 11 a.m.
- Chair Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30 a.m. SAPL. Every Wednesday. Free to seniors.
- St. Anthony Park recycling. Every Wednesday.
- Open Stage, 7 p.m. G.
- Connie Knights’ “When Worlds Collide” podcast, 7 p.m. CG.

5 THURSDAY
- Tot Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), 10 a.m.-noon. LRC. Every Thursday.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Land Use Committee, 7 p.m. SAPL.
- PJ Storytelling, 6 p.m. CG.

6 FRIDAY
- Senior Citizen Fun Group (gym, bowling and dart), 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. SSAPRC. Every Friday.
- Preschool story time with puppet show, 10:30 a.m. SAPL. Every Friday.
- Falcon Heights recycling.
- Sarah Pray and Sticky, 8 p.m. CG.
- Nancy O’Brien of Evergreen Health Advocates discusses senior care. 10 a.m. PMUCC.

7 SATURDAY
- 23rd Annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner. The “New Romantics,” guitar/piano duo, 8 p.m. CG.
- Polar Bear Photo Exhibit, 10:30 a.m. and noon. Como Park Zoo.

8 SUNDAY
- Grade school art show, 12 p.m. Through April 19. CG.
- Irish Family Jam Session, 3 p.m. CG.

9 MONDAY
- Park Press, Inc., Park Bugle Board Meeting, 7 a.m. SAPL. 646-5369.
- St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program Board Meeting, 7 p.m. SAPUCC.
- Cribbage and 500, the Falconers, 1 p.m. FCH.
- Informational meeting for Venture Crew, 7:30 p.m. SAPUCC.

10 TUESDAY
- Lauderdale City Council, 7:30 p.m. LCH.
- Murray school play “Little Shop of Horrors” fundraiser, St. Paul Bagley (1702 Lexington Ave.).

11 WEDNESDAY
- Falcon Heights City Council, 7 p.m. FCH.
- Bluegrass and O’Utine Jam Session, 7 p.m. GC.

12 THURSDAY
- Full Council Meeting, St. Anthony Park Community Council, 7 p.m. SAPCC.
- The Reinvention of Scandinavian Folk Dance in the Nineteenth Century, by Laurann Gilbertson. 6 p.m., reception following. GMD (274 N. Cleveland).
- Como High Concert Choir concert: “O Once Upon a Mattress,” 7 p.m. CPHS.

13 FRIDAY
- Murray school play: “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m. MHS.
- Goldenstein Quartet, 8 p.m. CG.
- Como High Concert Choir concert: “O Once Upon a Mattress,” 7 p.m. CPHS.
- Hadla Gabler opens, 8 p.m. GT.
Calendar

14 SATURDAY
- Murray school play: “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m. MJHS.
- Irish Mohr, 7 p.m. CG.
- Grand Ol’ Irish Tea, 11 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. LERT.

15 SUNDAY
- Murray school play: “Little Shop of Horrors,” 2 p.m. MJHS.

16 MONDAY
- Lauderdale recycling.

17 TUESDAY
- District 10 board meeting, 7 p.m. CPCC.

18 WEDNESDAY
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Community Connections Committee, 7 p.m. SAPCC.
- St. Anthony Park Booster Club, 7 p.m. LAC.
- Open Stage, 7 p.m. GC.
- Como Pool Design Workshop and Public Open House, 5-7 p.m. Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor’s Center.

19 THURSDAY
- Como Pool Design Workshop and Public Open House, 5-7 p.m. Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Visitor’s Center.

20 FRIDAY
- Falcon Heights Public Open House, 5-7 p.m. Como.
- Kevin Davis Snowmender, 8 p.m. CG.
- Family Concert, Chiara String Quartet, 6:35, 7:30 p.m. SMEC.

21 SATURDAY
- Patti Ryan with Pokeweed Pigmaw, 8 p.m. CG.
- Sunday Afternoon Book Group, 2:30 p.m. MB.
- Chiara String Quartet, 4 p.m. MPS.

22 SUNDAY
- Cribbage and 500, the Falcons, 1 p.m. FCH.

24 TUESDAY
- Lauderdale City Council, 7:30 p.m. LCHR.

25 WEDNESDAY
- Falcon Heights City Council, 7 p.m. FCH.
- Bluegrass and Oldtime Jam Session, 7 p.m. GC.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, 7 p.m. SAPCC.

26 THURSDAY
- Roots music showcase, 7 p.m. CG.

27 FRIDAY
- Sarah Morris, 8 p.m. CG.

28 SATURDAY
- Folkdance event, 8 a.m. CG.
- BTT, 8 p.m. CG.

29 SUNDAY
- “Redhead, Redhead, Redhead” opens SMEC.
- Items for the April Community Calendar should be submitted to calendar@parkbugle.org by Mar. 16.

Weekly Events

- COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY VISITOR’S PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE, 5-7 p.m. Como.
- OPEN STAGE, 7 p.m. GC.
- 7 p.m. LRC.
- St. Anthony Park Booster Club, Committee, 7 p.m. SAPCC.
- Council Community Connections St. Anthony Park Community Council, 890 Cromwell Ave., 642-0411.
- Falcon Heights City Council, 7 p.m. FCH.
- Bluegrass and Oldtime Jam Session, 7 p.m. GC.
- St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, 7 p.m. SAPCC.

Events

- Book discussion: “The Soloist,” by ROGER’S KURTIS SCALETTA will read from his new young adult novel “Mudville.”
- Join us as our Second Saturdays series takes on Mudville. Saturday March 14th, 1-2 p.m.
- Saturday March 14th, 1-2 p.m. join us as our Second Saturdays series takes on Mudville. Kurtis Scalletta will read from his new young adult novel “Mudville.”
- Also, one week later, March 21st at 2 p.m. we have another great kids event as the Okee Dokee Brothers will be with us to play some music, sing some songs and tell some stories.
- Check them out at www.okeedokee.org.
Jonathan Bentley
Jonathan E. Bentley, age 63, of St. Anthony Park, died peacefully, surrounded by family, on Jan. 11, 2009. He was an active member of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club.
He is survived by his wife, Ruth (nee Kelly); sons, Richard and Anthony (Kristin); daughter, Shari M.A. (Michael) Peterson; four grandchildren; his mother, Edith; and brother, David.

Barbara Dyball
Barbara Ann D’ball, age 85, of St. Anthony Park, died suddenly on Feb. 6, 2009. Barb was devoted to her family, church and beloved dog, Betsy. She had enormous compassion for people and animals. She was preceded in death by her husband, George. She is survived by her children, Rebecca Dyball (Hugh Brown), of San Jose, Calif.; Brian (Cathy) Dyball, of Stacy, Minn.; and Barbara (Fritz) Steinmann, of Roseville, Minn.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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