**Como Pool plan on way to City Hall**

by Anne Holzman

A task force appointed by the city of St. Paul was close to an agreement in April on a design for replacing and upgrading Como Pool. They are expected to submit their recommendations to Parks and Recreation staff in May.

The pool will be on a list of capital improvement budget (CIB) proposals to be considered at a public hearing of the city’s CIB committee on May 26. Information and updates about the hearing will be posted at www.stpaul.gov/cib.

Demolition of the old pool is already under way. Parks spokesman Brad Meyer said his department hopes to secure CIB funding as part of the 2010 budget and open the new facility in 2011.

Sketches for the pool design as of mid-April showed a traditional pool with lap swim lanes and diving well, a children’s pool with zero-depth entry on one side and small slides on the other, and a “lazy river” feature that would involve running water and floaters to ride on. The new changing area would include family locker rooms.

The plan assumes a rerouting of Jessamine Avenue, making room for parking near the pool on the south side. A concession stand on that side would also serve the recently upgraded soccer and

**Intersecting visions for Lexington-Larpenteur**

by Dave Healy

What should the Lexington-Larpenteur intersection look like?

Formal discussion of that question, which has been under way for over a year, continued with two recent public meetings at Como Park’s Historic Streetcar Museum. But whether an answer is any closer remains uncertain.

Neighborhood concern about the intersection surfaced in 2007 when MGM Wine & Spirits, which occupies the southwest corner, removed a fence separating its retail store and corporate headquarters from the adjacent alley that runs behind California Avenue. The city sought an injunction requiring MGM to reinstall the fence. A Ramsey County district judge ruled against the city, which appealed the decision. A judgment by the Minnesota Court of Appeals is expected this summer.

In early 2008, Ward 5 St. Paul City Council Member Lee Heigen asked the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Design Center (SPMDC) to coordinate a planning process for guiding redevelopment of the St. Paul side of the Lexington-Larpenteur intersection.

“I wanted to make sure there was a process that involved the neighborhood,” said Heigen. “The District 10 land use plan, which was approved in 2006, addressed the Lexington-Larpenteur area. The plan prompted some discussions but without any specific definition.”

In March of 2008, SPMDC convened meetings with community members, business owners and city staff. Their goal, according to Director Tim Griffin, was to create a “redevelopment vision” for the area.

SPMDC is part of the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation, a private nonprofit that partners with the
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**Como Park**

The District 10 community-wide garage sale will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 16. Registered sales will be included on a map. The District 10 Community Council will have its own garage sale/open house at the Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway, on the same date and will appreciate donations from those who will not have their own sales. Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Community Council.

For information about how to list your own garage sale or donate items to the council, call 644-3889 or e-mail district10@comopark.org.

Several seasonal attractions at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory open in May:

- May 1: Japanese Garden, Cafejills Carousel
- May 2: Summer Flower Show, Como Town
- May 9 & 10: Bonsai Show
- May 24: Sparky the Sea Lion Show

**Falcon Heights**

Falcon Heights is seeking city residents to serve on the following commissions: Planning, Parks and Recreation, Human Rights, and Neighborhood. Information and applications are available by calling City Hall, 792-7600, or by visiting www.falconheights.org.

The city will try allowing dogs in city parks between May 25 and Sept. 7. Dogs must be under control at all times and on a leash not exceeding six feet in length. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up fecal material from their pets and disposing of it properly.

Leashed dogs are permitted in parks but not inside designated playground areas or park shelters. Signs will be posted at each park to notify the public of this temporary change. Guidelines will be posted at www.falconheights.org.

The Parks and Recreation Department is taking registrations for summer programs. View and register for programs at www.falconheights.org, or call 792-7636 and request an activity guide.

The University of Minnesota Horticulture Club will hold its spring plant sale May 7-10 on Gortner Avenue between Larpenteur and Felwell avenues.

All plants are grown locally by the club. Hours will be Thursday and Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. More information: hortclub@umn.edu.

**Lauderdale**

The city-wide garage sale will be May 16, starting at 8 a.m. A list of garage sale locations will be available from City Hall the week before the event. Residents can call City Hall (631-0300) by May 11 to be included.

The Fairlains will play at Lauderdale Community Park for the annual Music Under the Trees event, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Monday, June 15. The park is located at Rosalawn Avenue and Pleasant Street. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. All are welcome to attend this free event.

Puppet Wagon Shows will be provided by Roseville Parks and Recreation on Wednesdays at Lauderdale Community Park starting June 24.

**St. Anthony Park**

The St. Anthony Park Community Council elections resulted in the following roster of board members:

- North St. Anthony Park: Gary Carlson, Greg Hageman, Brian Langley, Roger Purdy, John Seppanen

- South St. Anthony Park: Ranae Hanson, Matt Hatz, Jim Hunt, Joanne Hufnagel, Paul Mix, Arnold Ramler, Gregg Richardson

- Business delegation: Ray Bryan, Linda Hodges, Paul Hanson, Jackie Lunde, Ferdinand Peters

There are two vacancies in the north St. Anthony Park delegation and two in the business delegation. Remaining vacancies can be filled by eligible participants selected by the members of their delegation and presented to the board of directors for approval. For more information about the St. Anthony Park Community Council, visit www.sapcc.org.
I run down the embankment from Cleveland Avenue, just south of Larpenteur, and head for a thin strip of woods at the edge of the soccer field. Seventy years ago this place was not so different — or was it?

It seems as if the University protects everything around it, like a friendly giant slumped over a book, rustling with its industry and good purpose, its shoulders establishing these heights above the Mississippi valley.

But this silent path in the trees wasn’t so quiet back then. This is where, in 1940 and 1941, my father, Curtis Larson, rode the intercampus trolley, a streetcar line that edged what is now the north perimeter of University Grove. It couriered students between the two campuses with Skipper Spencer as conductor.

“‘It was an institution,’” says my father, then an engineering student, and Spencer diligently memorized students’ names each fall. Dad lived near Dinkytown with a friend, both small town boys for whom Spencer made the city feel more familiar. The wooded route was “a pleasant variation from city streets and traffic,” wrote my father in his memoir.

He couldn’t have guessed that he would eye this same terrain — once called Gibbs Mountain — for most of his life. Neither did he suspect that he would teach at the St. Paul campus or live just a field away.

Though my father left Minnesota a few years later — out to sea to fight a war — this stretch of streetcar track would be the first leg of a journey that would loop back to Falcon Heights, a good place for a farm boy, where you can see a storm move in from the west over open fields.

Paths to 10

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EDITORIAL

T heres nothing like a swimming pool.

Oh, one could argue that outdoor pools are impractical in M inne-

sota, where the swimming season is shorter than a French-cut bikini. But those Asians who live here know that it's precisely because our swim-

ming days are so few that we have to make the most of our oppor-

tunities. And one of the best opportunities for city slickers is a pool.

A public pool is the perfect place for people watching. For one

thing, you get to see more of a person there than in most other settings. Plus, there's usually a little bit of everything and everyone, teens,

wearing little kids, moms and dads, even a geezer or two.

The pool is also a venue for rites of passage: first time putting

the head under, first time jumping in from the edge, first time off the slide or diving board, first stolen underwater kiss.

People go to a pool for many reasons: to exercise, to cool off, to

see and be seen. A public pool is an intensely social place, and some people go there for the same reason they picnic in a park or camp in a

campground: to be around others.

The social nature of pools has made them an interesting barometer of

relations between the sexes and races. "In Contested Waters: A Social

History of Swimming Pools in America," historian Jeff Wiltse notes

that between the Civil War and W W I, pools were looked upon more as

public baths than as places for recreation. Those pools were used by blacks, immigrants and native-born whites. Although public pools were racial melting pots, they were strictly segregated by sex. Men and women used them on separate days. Following a pool construction boom in the 1920s, along with

the rise of the suburbs, many families moved out of the city to backyards or at suburban club pools, while mostly African and Latino Americans swam in inner-city municipal pools.

Besides being a focal point for racial tensions, swimming pools have dramatized class differences. In the early 20th century, a proposal to put a pool in New York City's Central Park prompted vigorous opposition from the city's elites. Commissioner Charles Stover worried that "it would attract all sorts of undesirable people." Municipal swimming pools are past their prime. Their heyday was in the 1920s; 30s and 40s, when thousands of city-built pools were a

1933 survey found that as many as Americans swam regularly as went to the movies regularly.

Few of us use public pools today. But on a hot summer day, the

scent of chlorine can still be pure perfume, and one of the most

irresistible invitations has just four words: "Let's take a dip."

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LETTERS

Buggle mysteries explained

As editor of the Park Buggle, I'm stepping out from behind the

curtain this month to write a letter to the editor.

My main purpose is to thank all of you who have contributed to

our annual fund drive. It's very gratifying to know that the

communities the Buggle serves are supportive of our efforts.

The Buggle is published by Park Press Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization that is guided by a board of directors. You can

read their names in the lower-left corner of this page.

The non-profit status of Park Press Inc. was recently reviewed and confirmed by the IRS, which means that contributions to the

Buggle will continue to be tax-deductible. The IRS reaffirmed the Buggle's original educational mission, which has informed the

paper's efforts for 35 years.

Most of the Buggle's revenue comes from the sale of adver-

tising. In addition to paid ads, an important part of our annual budget is gift income. Accordingly, we mount a fund drive each fall. Everyone who has contributed to the Buggle in the past receives a letter and card, which can be returned with a check.

This year 477 individuals, couples and businesses responded to our invitation, contributing $21,581. That represents about 2 percent of our budget for this fiscal year.

These are tough times for many businesses, including some newspapers. Nevertheless, we are confident about the Buggle's future and grateful for the opportunity to continue providing what we believe is an important and valuable service to Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park.

As a Buggle reader, you can do two things to support the

paper. First, make it a point to support our advertisers. And when you do, mention that you saw their ad in the Park Buggle. Second, contribute to our drive. Many of you have already done that recently, for which we were grateful.

We'll launch another drive next fall, but before we close the

books on this fiscal year at the end of June, we welcome any additional donations to help us stay in the black.

Thanks again for your support.

Dave H. Holsly
Editor, Park Buggle

City Flies from 2

Artwork by neighborhood children will be on display May 7-14 at the Undercroft Community Art Gallery at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Gallery hours are Monday, Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Work on the railroad bridge over Raymond Avenue was delayed again in April, this time because flooding in Fargo, N. D.,

caused extensive electrical repairs.

In mid-April, Burlington Northern Santa Fe supervisor Jim Laniier said they planned to start pile-driving April 27 and finish that work by May 22. Raymond will be closed May 27-28, open

most of June and closed all of July (including weekends) and until Aug. 20, when the project will be done.

The St. Paul Urban Tennis Program, which was being considered as a possible partner with the city's D apartment of Parks and Recreation for the South St. Anthony Recreation Center, is no longer interested in the arrangement, according to Marc M. Miller, Urban Tennis's executive director. M. Miller said problems stiting a bubble over the tennis courts was an obstacle to the partnership.

Kathy Konum, manager of recreation services with Parks and Recreation, said several other organizations have expressed interest in the site but no decisions have been made.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council will have a table at the H ampden Park C-op grand opening and plant

sale on May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. N. Neighbors are invited to find out what's going on in the neighborhood this summer.

Join the legion of "Black H eads" and bring a black flower this May 14 to accomplish a range of things, from creating a shared e-mail list, to a coordinated plan for a single garbage hauler, to a block potluck. Learn more from Renee at renee@apcc.org or 649-5992.

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St. Paul

The Living Green Expo will take place at the State Fairgrounds May 2-3. The event features a variety of music performances and a bike/walk fashion show, as well as exhibits and workshops. For schedules and other information, visit www.livinggreen.org.

The Parks & Recreation Department has begun offering fee assistance for children whose families may have trouble affording the programs. Applications are due May 1. For more information, contact Andy Rodriguez at andy.rodriguez@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 266-6434.
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What else?
Emily is anxious to get back out in her garden. David enjoys Irish music and spending time with his wife in northern Minnesota.

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St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace
Monthly planning meeting (all are welcome):
Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Karen Lilleby's home, 2079 Dudley Avenue, 644-3927

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St. Anthony Park Elementary School
CARNIVAL!!!

Friday, May 1st
5:30-8:00 p.m.
All staff, students, former staff, alumni, families, and neighbors are welcome!
Lexington-Larpenteur from 1 city to guide development in St. Paul. The Design Center, which has operated since 1997, has been involved with over 100 projects, many in the downtown area.

SPM DC created what it called the Lexington-Larpenteur node plan, but the plan sat on a shelf for almost a year. Then, in early 2009, Paster Enterprises, which owns part of the southwest corner of the intersection, bought a house adjacent to their property and floated their own plan to redevelop the corner. That reinvigorated neighborhood apprehension and led to an Apr. 7 community meeting.

At that meeting, Griffin presented SPM DC’s recommendations. He said his interpretation of their charge was to come up with a design for the intersection that would solidify it as a gateway to the city and to the Como Park neighborhood in particular.

The plan calls for an expanded crosswalk, 25-foot building setbacks, reconfigured parking and redevelopment of the intersection’s southeast corner.

The part of the plan that drew the most comment at the Apr. 7 meeting was a large building, possibly 2-4 stories, that would be in the area currently occupied by Flowerama, Ted’s Bar and two single-family houses. Residents objected to the size of the proposed building and to the potential loss of residential housing on the site.

Griffin said the intersection is a challenging one to work with because Larpenteur constitutes the border between St. Paul and Roseville. He noted that the northwest side of Larpenteur is mostly fronted by parking lots and suggested that the St. Paul side should aspire to something more aesthetically pleasing. The node plan calls for widened sidewalks and increased plantings.

Griffin said that redeveloping the southeast corner of Lexington and Larpenteur would require rezoning. Most residents seemed leery of that prospect, in part because they have watched with alarm as M G M has purchased houses to its immediate south, which front California Avenue.

Residents said they fear that rezoning residential property on the southeast corner would create a precedent that could result in rezoning the property on California west of Lexington, which could enable M G M to expand its operation. Griffin stressed that discussions are still at the neighborhood input level.

At an Apr. 20 meeting of the District 10 Land Use Committee, Howard Paster, of Paster Enterprises, presented his company’s plan for the intersection. They own the Flowerama site and have purchased a residential property to the south. They have also begun preliminary discussions about additional property to the east.

Paster stressed that their plan is different from the node plan. It calls for 13,300 sq. ft. building that would be 20 ft. high. They anticipate having a single tenant, whom they would sign to a long-term lease.

Paster said they have a prospective tenant, whom they would not name, but speculation is that it would be Walgreens, which currently occupies a building that Paster also owns, just north on Lexington.

At the Apr. 20 meeting, discussion of Paster’s plan focused on its implications for traffic. People voiced concerns that a large building at the intersection would increase traffic in an area that is already congested.

Several residents also said they would prefer to have several smaller shops rather than a large, single-user building. Paster said that a multi-user building would be less economically viable.

“When the one who has to pay for this and make it work financially,” he said.

Donna Martinson, who said she often bikes in the area, asked whether the Paster plan would be bike-friendly. At its Apr. 21 meeting, the District 10 Community Council voted to create an ad hoc committee to study the node plan and Paster proposal further.
Roseville Library temporarily relocates

by D. Perry Kidder

The temporary Roseville branch of the Ramsey County Library will hold its grand opening Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m., at 207 Park Ave. S., a block west of Fairview Avenue and County Road C.

Children’s story times, door prizes every hour, games and all-day refreshments are planned. Eric the juggling magician will perform at 11 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., a groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the old building, located on Hamline Avenue at County Road B.

Friends of the Ramsey County Library will use the grand opening to kick off their capital campaign, and there will be a display of the remodeling project.

The old Roseville Library building closed at the end of March. Moving the collection to the Arthur Street site took about a month, said Bill Michel, library manager.

“We’ve brought over most of the books from the old library,” Michel said. “Eighty percent of the collection will be available to the public.

Hours at the temporary site will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

“We’re looking forward to serving our patrons out of this temporary location,” said Michel. “And we’re really looking forward to going back to our remodeled and enlarged building. I think everyone will be very happy with it. We anticipate reopening in June 2010.”

To achieve goals toward sustainable building design and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, the library has received $780,000 in grants.

“LEED certification is a good investment in energy conservation and management,” Michel said. LEED-certified buildings provide a standard for environmentally sustainable construction and indoor environmental quality by optimizing water, energy and material efficiency.

The renovated library building will feature several environmental design elements, including use of renewable resources; water-efficient landscaping and low-flow plumbing fixtures; storm water management through building rain gardens; clerestory windows and reduced-wattage lighting; improved efficiency of mechanical systems, roofing material and windows; reduction and recycling of construction waste; and recycled flooring and finish materials.

“The public will be invited to participate in the flooring project. This summer the library will collect colored glass bottles from patrons to be made into terrazzo floors. “It’s one of several demonstration projects that will help educate our public on energy issues,” Michel said.

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William H. Harison, D.D.S.
Controversy over the pool design has focused on how it can serve neighbors, attract enough fees to remain financially viable and avoid increasing congestion in Como Park. Construction on the polar bear exhibit, on track to open next year and expected to attract large crowds and private events, has intensified neighbors’ worries about traffic and noise.

A shuttle is scheduled to begin running Memorial Day weekend. For updates, see wwwComoConservationorg. City officials and neighbors hope the buses, circulating among remote parking areas and Como Park hotspots, will cut down the number of visitors hunting for parking spots on residential streets.

Reports in 2007 that the city’s chosen pool designer, Utah-based AquaVista, was putting together a gaudy water park rang the first alarm among Como neighbors. According to Claudia Day, who works at the pool site from her bedroom window, backyard conversations led to formation of the Como Alliance, a group of neighborhood concerned about the pool and other recent development projects in Como Park.

A field study conducted permanently at the end of last summer, city officials acknowledged neighbors’ objections and assured them that the neighborhood council would be included in the planning process. A task force was appointed to gather opinions from pool users, neighbors and other interested parties; consider financial feasibility; and submit a pool design that all could agree on.

Some observers, including Sen. Ellen Anderson, became excited about the possibility of a “natural pool,” using an environmentally friendly filtration system. City staff noted that in January, saying that the city has very few pools, needs this site quickly and doesn’t have time to figure out the new regulations that would have to be put in place for a whole new approach. Another meeting minutes note that perhaps landscaping could make the site more “green” without necessitating a more radical approach.

In an April interview, Anderson expressed her disappointment over the redesign of the natural pool, which would have been a unique attraction and even a national breakthrough. “We had an opportunity to be a leader,” she said.

Anderson had proposed tapping the new arts-and-conservation sales tax fund, and she’s chairman of the legislative committee that oversees those funds and could have helped make it happen. She said the new regulations could have been worked out, but “the city viewed it as an insurmountable problem.”

Anderson said she’s fought for state investment in Como Park improvements but thought the original water park proposal was inappropriate. “It’s unfortunate in the case that this is a regional attraction but that our park is being loved to death and we need regional support. It needs to be a regional park, but not at the expense of the neighborhood,” she said.

At Council Member Lee Helgen as the representative for Ward 5. She said the material presented to the council convinced her that some upgrade of Como Park was needed, that nothing has yet been decided on the Parks Department budget.

Sen. Susan Janda co-chaired the Como Alliance Park committee with Day and was appointed last fall to the city’s task force by Council Member Lee Helgen as the representative for Ward 5. She said the material presented to the council convinced her that some upgrade of the pool was needed in order to make it less of a drain on the Parks Department budget. For example, Janda said, one neighborhood priority for the pool was to have opportunities for lap swimming, but there weren’t enough swimmers showing up and paying the entrance fee to justify staffing the pool with lifeguards.

“If you get better attendance, you get better support” for those less-popular but important amenities, she said. Added that she expects fees will be “comparable to the other aquatics facilities (Oxford and Highland pools).”

Janda said parks staff were also concerned that teenagers are an underserved population. The hope is that they’ll be attracted to the lazy river and want to pay the fees to use it.

Parks spokesman Moyer added that the lazy river might have therapeutic value, especially for seniors who could walk “upstream” for low-impact exercise.

Janda said that while she had come to support the pool design, including the lazy river, she remains uneasy about the project as a whole. She said the task force process satisfied her, as far as it went, but that its narrow scope left some important questions unanswered. Task force members were repeatedly told that their job was to design a pool, not solve problems for the park as a whole, she said.

If it’s to attract more visitors, Janda said, the pool will require more parking. But, who’s to say that parking spaces near the pool will be available, on a busy summer day, for folks hoping to go swimming? And how many more acres of Como Park would have to be paved over in order to accommodate visitors to the new polar bear exhibit, plus an upgraded pool, plus other future amenities?

“I’d rather have people parking in front of my house than at the pool” if it can save some green space in the park, Janda said.

“We don’t see those things being properly linked up,” she said of the congestion problems in Como Park. “That’s what we were trying to do in the task force process, and we were told, that’s not what we here to do.”

The M N Park Alliance routes state funding to regional parks but will not weigh in on designs for the pool and surrounding areas.

Council Member Helgen expressed concern in the pool design process and said he looks forward to using the upgraded facility.

“Our goal is to get something that would be an asset to the neighborhood,” he said.

Noting that he has two children, ages 4 and 6, he added, “If I can bring my kids and they can enjoy it and they want to go there, that’s an asset.”
We looked out across the river and saw what looked like huge clusters of shrubs on the sandbars, as far as the eye could see. After a glance through the binoculars, however, it was clear these weren’t shrubs. They were roosting cranes, each with its head tucked under its wing. My son Drew and I were in a blind on the banks of the Platte River near Kearney, Neb., in late March to witness the gathering of lesser sandhill cranes.

More than a half million cranes migrate north each year from the Gulf Coast and Mexico. They stop over on the Platte to refuel and strengthen pair bonds before heading farther north to their nesting sites in northern Canada, Alaska and even Siberia. The lesser sandhill crane is 41 inches tall, gray with dark wingtips visible in flight. It has a red crown of skin, not feathers, and its rear feathers puff out like a rooster’s tail. We see the greater sandhill cranes here in Minnesota, five inches taller and with a longer bill.

Last year’s offspring or colt migrates with its parents. Family groups arrive in Nebraska at The Birdman of Lauderdale by Clay Christensen

March to witness the gathering of lesser sandhill cranes.

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My dad recently moved from 1666 Coffman, the stately and curious white abbey-like structure adjacent to Grove Park and the rim of where the intercampus trolley once rumbled. Coffman’s residents, retired U of M employees, plant their gardens in back, fertilized by the crumbling rail ties that disintegrate a little more with each snow melt. My father’s balcony faced south toward the bramble woods where the intercampus trolley once passed by, and where now I tramp along with dog-walkers. In the spring and fall I often meet students on the path, touring with professors, studying the flora or perhaps the erosion — the topic Dad would have chosen as an agricultural engineer. This place is precious to many, I’d guess. I’ve made big decisions on this sanctuary-like path, admiring the bare-branch ceiling, startling a deer once, picking my way over exposed ties and the muddy gulley at its lower reaches where it enters the Lauderdale Reserve woods.

Dad describes how the trolley line passed through a tunnel under Cleveland Avenue, made a sharp turn at Eustis, curving downhill and picking up riders at Como, just like buses do these days, then veered west again along Como. He writes, “Physically, it was a regular Twin Cities streetcar, running on rails and propelled by an electric motor receiving power from an overhead cable.”

I hope the new Bell Museum will honor this nearby artifact, the footprint of the intercampus trolley tracing its southern boundary, once ferrying farm kids and Skipper Spencer.

Soon another rail line, the Central Corridor, will trace a parallel track along St. Anthony Park’s opposite edge, not so different from 70 years ago.
Chelsea Heights Elementary
1557 Huron St., 293-8790
http://chelsea.spps.org

Chelsea Heights invites the community to its "Friends-Raiser" end-of-the-year celebration on Friday, May 8, 5–8 p.m. The event features music, food, kid-friendly activities and a raffle. It raises money for the school's parent-teacher organization, which funds classroom and building-wide needs.

In addition to being a fund-raiser, this gathering is a "friends-raiser." Neighborhood families are welcome to join in the fun and get to know the children, families and faculty who make up Chelsea Heights, a community-oriented K-6 school that has been ranked one of the best public schools in St. Paul.

For additional details about this special party, check the school's Web site in May.

Congratulations to third-grade student Alexis Barnes-Merta, who is this year's Arbor Day poster contest winner. Members of the newly created St. Paul Tree Advisory Panel made the final decision, judging posters on

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At the Regional 4A Choir Contest on May 19, Como's Donna di Cante (Italian for "women of song") received three "excellent" ratings, and the Choir Concert chose three "superior" ratings, scoring higher than any ensemble in Como's history. The choirs are directed by Carole Whitney.

The 2009 theme is "Hollywood Nights — Lighted Camera Action!" Prom will be held May 2, 7:30–10:30 p.m. at Aesthetician, John E., Jessie E., Conner E., Charlie E., Kevin E., Anna E., Abigail E., Michael E., William E., Andy E., Peter E., Sam E., Sven E., Ely E., Megan E., Tabitha E., Alex E., Michael E., Thomas E., Ely E., Kyla E., Hannah E., Kaelin E., Julia E., Anna E., Madeline E., Jordan E., Kay E., Elyse E., Rosie E., Eliza E., Selina E., Jordan E., Lila E., John E., Julie E., Alex E., and Amy E.

The teams are:

Destination-Expo, Candace E., Josie E., Sam E., and Emily E.

The time trial portion consists of 10-mile cycling, followed by running 5000 meters. Students also run a 10-mile running relay.

For more information, contact Tom Stinar, Director of Athletics, 651-731-2211, or stanleys@como.k12.mn.us.

The school's s

of派 Ridgedale, and National Arbor Day, 3:30 p.m. on May 19. The Spring concert will be held at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

On May 22 there will be a Memorial Day program in the morning, with a flag presentation, songs, readings and recognition of the winner of the patriotic essay contest.

The parade features pets from all the city's schools. It starts at 7 a.m. and travels through downtown St. Paul, starting at Sibley and Fourth and ending at Washington and Fifth Streets. Patrol members are then shuttled to Como Park to enjoy a picnic with prizes.

Students have been training twice a week since April to prepare for the Mudoon Run, a city-wide race that will take place on May 12.

The parade features pets from all the city's schools. It starts at 7 a.m. and travels through downtown St. Paul, starting at Sibley and Fourth and ending at Washington and Fifth Streets. Patrol members are then shuttled to Como Park to enjoy a picnic with prizes.

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Sara P.

R I O T S 5 0 0 0

10-Hour Drive.

 Truly inspirational. But it’s also a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I decided I wasn’t getting any younger, and my son was eager to go, so we made the trip.

It was both a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see 30,000 cranes altogether in an ancient ritual.

Truly inspirational. But it’s also a 10-hour drive.

And so it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, because now that I’ve done it, I don’t think I need to do it again.

The Urban Bird Fest, May 13-16, provides free bird walks at a dozen sites around Ramsey County, displays and hikes at Harriet Alexander Nature Center, and a dinner on Saturday, May 16, at Roseville Lutheran Church, featuring Clay Christensen, “The Birdman of Louisiana,” speaking on “Yard Birds Attracting and Identifying Them.”

For more information about the bird walks and dinner reservations, go to www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/urbanbirdfestival.htm.
M A Y 2 0 0 9  ■  P A R K  B U G L E 1 3

1 FRIDAY
• Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dresses & Folk Costumes, through June 14, GM.
• Jenny Uler art show, through June 7, CG.
• Excess,” works by Becca Shewmake and Mari Richards, through May 17, JAG.
• M & Mache, 8 p.m. CG.
• History: Textiles of India exhibition by Elsa Sternvass, through June 6, Opening reception 6-8 p.m. "India: Traditional Textiles in Transition" presentation, 7 p.m. TCM.
• First Fridays: Celebrating the legacy of Elmer L. Anderson, noon-9 p.m., Andersen Library, U of M West Bank.

2 SATURDAY
• Gregory Douglas CD release show with Mary Catullei, 7:30 p.m. GC.
• Cajun jam session and lessons, 10 a.m. CG.
• M & Ihal Beaks and Mark Miller, music and comedy, 8 p.m. CG.

3 SUNDAY
• Open mic, 6 p.m. CG.
• Creative Kids Community Art Show, through July 24, SN/NC.

4 MONDAY
• Stewardship Leader Seminar with Terry Parsons, 4-9 p.m. OCC.

5 TUESDAY
• Early Spring Blooms at Kne, Kensington & Kenwood Gardens.” Photo show presented by Mary Maguire Lerman, retired horticulturist for the Minneapolis Park System, 7-15 p.m. SAPBL.

6 FRIDAY
• Greg Turiz, 8 p.m. CG.
• Phil Heywood, 8 p.m. GC.

9 SATURDAY
• Scandinavian jam, 10 a.m. CG.
• Dan Rumsey, 8 p.m. CG.
• Greg Turiz, 7 p.m. GC.
• Nic Garcia, 9 p.m. GC.

10 SUNDAY
• Ice Cream Sundae celebrating Mother’s Day, noon-4 p.m. GM.

13 WEDNESDAY
• YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord Spring Garage Sale, through May 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Wed.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon, Sat. Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart.

14 THURSDAY
• Rummage sale, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Holy Childhood Church.
• Northstar Watercolor Society: Art on a Line exhibition and sale, noon-9 p.m. Opening reception 5-8 p.m. Minnesota State Fairgrounds Fine Arts Building.
• Roots Music Showcase, 7 p.m. CG.
• Cono Intermediate and Jazz Bands concert, 7 p.m. CPSHS.

15 FRIDAY
• Rummage sale, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. HC.
• Northstar Watercolor Society: Art on a Line exhibition and sale, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Minnesota State Fairgrounds Fine Arts Building.
• David Olson, 8 p.m. CG.

16 SATURDAY
• Northstar Watercolor Society: Art on a Line exhibition and sale, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Minnesota State Fairgrounds Fine Arts Building.
• St. Andrew’s Family Festival Fundraiser, 2-10 p.m. St. Andrew’s Catholic Church (Como Lake).
• Reed and Paul, 8 p.m. CG.
• Sprucetop Review, 7 p.m. GC.

19 TUESDAY
• Book discussion, “Those Who Save Us,” by Janna Bum, 7 p.m. FH UCC.
• ArtStart Art Gallery Poetry Reading with Elizabeth Weber, 7:15-9 p.m. ArtStart (1455 St. Clair Ave.).

21 THURSDAY
• Friends of the Goldstein Garden Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m. GMD.
• RSVP deadline May 15.

23 SATURDAY
• Atomic Fizz, 8 p.m. CG.

29 FRIDAY
• Richard Griffith CD release, 8 p.m. CG.

30 SATURDAY
• Inish Mohr, 8 p.m. CG.
• Used book sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. SMEC.

31 SUNDAY
• Stringwinds Quintet “Music with a Vision,” benefit for Luther Seminary Global Missions Institute, 4 p.m. PLC.
• Used book sale, SMEC.
• For more events information, go to parkbugle.org.

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favorite was a 1987 trip to her husband’s classes while she taught at Luther Seminary. She was a longtime member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. She moved to Lyngbotten Care Center in 2008 and died at United Hospital in St. Paul.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Warren Granbeck, in 1979. She is survived by one brother, Borghild Kruwe, of Willmar, Minn., and one brother, Oliver Dahl, of M Innopolis. She will be dearly missed by all.

Her funeral service was Mar. 24, 2009, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Crystal Lake Cemetery.

Anna Smits

Anna Smits died Mar. 19, 2009, at the age of 89. She was born in Cesvaine, Latvia, and immigrated after WWII to St. Paul with her husband, George, and sons, Valdis, in 1949. In 1956, daughter Anita was born. Anna lived in St. Anthony Park for many years.

With her degree in home economics from Latvia, Anna taught over 3,000 students at the University of Minnesota over 37 years. She was a founding member of the Weavers Guild of M Innopolis and participated in many roles for the Guild. She was an active and loved member of the Latvian Lutheran Church, and in the 52 years Anna and George were married, they supported and participated in many cultural events in the Latvian community. Her hobbies included a passion for flowers, gardening and handicrafts.

H ower, her greatest joy was love for family and friends. Anna was a person who friends easily through her charm and grace. She believed in the value and importance of friendships and was blessed with many in return.

Anna was preceded in death by her husband, George, and sister, Livija Cerbucks. She is survived by her son, Valdis (Brigida), and daughter, Anita (Scott Lichty); two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

H er funeral was held Mar. 24, 2009, at the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in M Innopolis. A private family interment will be held later.

For obituaries of Elaine M agnuson, Dennis Murphy, M ary M ergenthal, and Charles Workman, visit www.parkbugle.org.

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 M ary M ergenthal: 644-1650, mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.