Making a front-yard statement
by Judy Woodward

Your front yard says something about you. Whether it’s your prize-worthy chrysanthemums or your hearty crop of crabgrass, you’re sending a message. Lawn ornaments, children’s toys, last year’s leaves — it all describes you to the world.

Some messages are more pointed than others, though, and it’s those intentional communiques that are especially interesting. Maybe you’ve got one of those signs that announces who’s repairing your gutters or replacing your roof. Maybe you’ve got a yard sign for this year’s mayoral campaign — or maybe you never took down your sign from last year’s presidential campaign. Maybe you even continue to display your fading green-and-white Wellstone sign or your somber black-and-white POW/WIA flag.

The Bugle is interested in getting by fellow readers thinking about ways to get by more frugally. Couple that with a growing interest in “living green,” and the ingredients are in place for some significant lifestyle changes.

Although they wouldn’t have used terms like reduce, reuse or recycle, members of previous generations knew a thing or two about living efficiently and making do with less. Whether it was saving the Great Depression or dealing with shortages during WWII, people who lived during that time learned a lot about being frugal.

Perhaps you are one of those people. Or maybe you have a parent, aunt, uncle, grandfather or great-grandparent who lived through those eras.

The Bugle is interested in hearing some of the lessons that previous generations learned about frugality. We want to make a list, and plan to publish some contributions each month in our print edition and to keep a cumulative list on our Web site.

What we have in mind are specific things you or someone you know did during the first half of the 20th century to economize or “get by.”

Your contribution can be as short as a sentence or long as a paragraph. The more specific you can be, the better. For example, “making and rewashing her own sandwich bags” will be more interesting to readers than “reusing things.”

Be sure to identify yourself and tell us where you live.

There are two ways you can contribute to this list:
1. E-mail your description to us at editor@parkbugle.org.
2. Mail your contribution to: Getting By, Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

We’ll publish some of your contributions in next month’s print edition, and we’ll keep a complete list on our Web site (www.parkbugle.org).

The First Amendment is alive and well, especially in the front yards of St. Anthony Park, but for some householders that’s not enough. Not of them the pre-formulated messages of official campaigns, mass political movements and commercial endorsements. There are those who prefer a more individualized statement, even if the meaning isn’t always evident at first glance.

Take the small hand-lettered sign that has graced the yard of a house on Como Avenue for the last three years. It’s text is brief and enigmatic: “May 28, 1968. Again?” The placard is the work of homeowner David Lee, who says the date represents the exact midpoint of the carnage in the Vietnam War.

“T here were as many U.S. fatalities after that date as before,” Lee says. “That is the date on the POW/MIA flag.”

“Even if we decide to get out of Iraq now,” Lee says, “it doesn’t end for the people involved.”

Lee, a 52-year-old physician, was eleven years old in 1968 — the front-yard statement by annotating political lawn signs.

An invitation: Tell us about getting by
by Dave Healy

T here’s nothing like a recession to get people thinking about ways to get by more frugally. Couple that with a growing interest in “living green,” and the ingredients are in place for some significant lifestyle changes.

Although they wouldn’t have used terms like reduce, reuse or recycle, members of previous generations knew a thing or two about living efficiently and making do with less. Whether it was surviving the Great Depression or dealing with shortages during WWII, people who lived during that time learned a lot about being frugal.

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St. Anthony Park burglaries thought to be work of metro-wide ring
by Anne Holzman

Burglaries of St. Anthony Park businesses earlier this summer have stirred questions about whether crime is worse in the area than in recent years.

“Maybe, no, say police. But there is one oddity about this year’s crime patterns. St. Anthony Park is one of many neighborhoods in the Twin Cities metro hit in recent months by multiple commercial property burglaries in which safe have been stolen.

Sgt. Paul Schnell, St. Paul police spokesman, said that law enforcement departments across the metro area have begun cross-jurisdictional comparisons of such burglaries in hopes of identifying patterns and confirming whether the burglaries are the work of a coordinated group.

Burglaries of St. Anthony Park eateries Muffuletta on July 21 and Finnish Station on July 22 are believed to be part of the pattern, Schnell said. In both cases, a safe was taken.

A forced entry at the Como Avenue BP gas station on June 23 is thought to fit the same pattern, Schnell said.

Station owner Ned Wiezenberg said the thieves stole safes, an ATM and even the video cameras that might have provided some clues to their identity.

“There are people who become sophisticated,” Schnell said. They

Burglaries to 12
Como Park
Como Zoo won the Niadalean Parents’ Pick Awards Best Tourist Spot in M Innilasoi/St. Paul, and Como Park was voted Best Playground or Park.

The District 10 Neighborhood Relations Committee will host a meeting to discuss parking and traffic at 7 p.m., Sept. 24, at the Historic Street Car Station, 1224 Larpenteur Pkwy N. For more information, go to www.district10comopark.org or call 644-3889.

Holy Childhood Church will hold its annual Taste of Como Oktoberfest on Friday, Sept. 25, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the church, 1435 Midway Pkwy. The event will feature a sampling of neighborhood restaurant specialties, German beers and wines, and live music. Cost is $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Call Larry M. On for tickets: 489-2248. The event is for ages 21 and up.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights Human Rights Commission is sponsoring a poster contest for school-age children in Falcon Heights. For theme and submission information, visit the city’s Web site (www.falconheights.org) or call City Hall (792-7600). The deadline is 4:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

1435 Midway Pkwy. The event will include skill development activities and a screening. Awesome Autumn Leaves, a craft class for ages 2–5 with accompanying adult, will meet 4:45–7:45 p.m. Sept. 15, at City Hall. Cost is $12 for residents, $15 for nonresidents.

T tree types of yoga will be offered this fall: Slow Flow, Restorative and Basic. Slow Flow, 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Falcon Heights City Hall, involves slow, continuous movement while focusing on the breath. Cost is $54 for nonresidents.

Restorative Yoga, 6-7 p.m. Thursdays will be held at City Hall, focuses on chakras, posture, breath work and relaxation. Cost is $48 for residents, $54 for nonresidents.

Basic Yoga, 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Lauderdale City Hall, addresses alignment, range of motion, breathing and learning poses so they can be done at home. Cost is $45 for residents, $50 for nonresidents.

Youth soccer for ages 5–10 will be Saturday mornings, Sept. 19–Oct. 24. Each session will include skill development activities and a scrimmage. The deadline is 4:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

Inners will be announced at the Oct. 14 City Council meeting. Winning entries will be displayed at City Hall and may be entered in M Innilasoi statewide human rights poster contest.

The Midwest Native State Horticultural Society will hold a seminar on the emerald ash borer on Sept. 22, 6:30–8 p.m. at 1755 Prior Ave. N. The seminar, led by Dr. John Mueller of the Midwest N.D.R. is free, but registration (643-9001) is required.

Falcon Heights and Recreation will offer the following classes for fall. For details

including times for soccer age groups and fees and to register, see www.falconheights.org or call 792-7614.

forms. The deadline for registering is Sept. 9.

The first Night of Emergence is Sunday, Sept. 20, 7–10 p.m. Registration is $25 for nonresidents.

The Park Board recognizes that this is a difficult time, according to officials of Saint Paul School Board Council.

The 19th Annual St. Anthony Park Neighborhood Garage Sale, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Residents interested in running for a city council seat or the office of mayor may file through the office of mayor may file through the City of St. Anthony Park households that did not receive a July mailing about the cleanup should contact their neighborhood association.

A Back to School Dance for ages 12–14 will be held at Langford Rec Center on Sept. 11, 6–8:30 p.m. Admission is $5.
Music in the Park Series:
A view from the audience
by Natalie Zett

“In America everything is big, including orchestras,” wrote Hugh Wolff, former music director of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. “Sadly, there never has been a tradition of chamber orchestras in America. Can (chamber music) find traction in America?”

Despite this dire outlook, gaining traction hasn’t been an issue for Music in the Park Series, now in its 31st season. Although the series is renowned for its top-rate talent and performances, its devoted subscribers, some of whom have also been performers, play a major role in its enduring success.

Pianist Thelma Hunter has performed in a variety of musical settings throughout the years, including music in the Park Series. “I knew Julie Himmelstrup (Music in the Park Series founder and artistic director), so I was there from the beginning in 1979. From the first concert, it was such splendid playing. It was so good that I just had to participate.”

Hunter received her master’s degree from Eastman School of Music and relocated to the Twin Cities in 1947 to teach at the University of Minnesota. Besides performing at Music in the Park, she has also served on its board and subscribed to the series annually.

“I think the quality of the music is always incredible,” she said, “as is the ambiance at the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. You often see the same people each year, so it becomes like a family.”

But you don’t have to be a professional musician to enjoy the series. St. Anthony Park resident Arla Savage said, “I appeared with my dad, a professional musician.”

“What a treat that was! She has also performed with the series many times. “It’s fantastic,” she said. “It’s a real treasure that we have music in the Park Series and Julie Himmelstrup.”

One of Sewell’s first performances with the series was a family affair. “I appeared with my dad, a violinist, and Thelma Hunter, pianist, and her son,” Sewell said. “There was a piece commissioned for us by Skrowaczewski (a former

Music in the Park to 10
Rethink Como Pool plan

Planned features for a new Como Pool aquatic facility include rock-like formations, (up to nine feet high), a lazy river, a climbing wall and a zip line. However, consider these three reasons for a different vision of the future Como Pool.

1. Two pollutants already have something for everyone.
2. Many of us who live near the Como area enjoy it for what it is. We go to the lake because we want to escape the city and be near nature. The lake is a natural escape from the pressures of daily life.
3. The Como Lake Council, which means an abundance of aquatic plants is to be expected. It has been observed that plankton and fish that provides a balanced ecosystem.

St. Paul’s Como Lake looks especially sad this year, with much of its surface covered by bright green algae blooms and a patchwork of tangled weedy mats the size of small islands. Many of us who live near the lake go there to walk, jog, bike or paddle. We may go alone or with friends and neighbors. We go to the lake because we are cheered by it and feel connected to nature when we are near it. We need the lake to thrive.

When Como Lake is choked by algae like it is today, what we see is an ugly, swampy, smelly mess. Instead of feeling cheered we feel confused: “That’s going on in the lake?” Or we feel depressed, helpless even, trying not to look at it too closely because we don’t know what to do. Sometimes, we ask ourselves “Who should do something about that?” We think to ourselves, not knowing that “somebody” is us.

Como is a shallow lake, which means an abundance of aquatic plants is to be expected. It has been observed that plankton and fish that provides a balanced ecosystem has been choked off by the overgrowth of harmful algae and aggressive, weedy plants that block sunlight and take up much of the lake's dissolved oxygen.

In 2003 a major shoreline quality improvement project was undertaken by the Metropolitan Council, which does not mention a water park or aquatic facility—simply an upgraded pool. Como neighbors and the Park M aster Plan desire a “less is more” pool design, with more quality, not more quantity. The final Replacement Task Force vote (7 ayes, 2 nay, 3 not present) and weak February input processes are not sufficient grounds to proclaim community approval of the plans. The Como neighbors and the Park M aster Plan, developed to meet state requirements for funding through the Metropolitan Council, does not mention a water park or aquatic facility—simply an upgraded pool.

Como is a shallow lake, which means an abundance of aquatic plants is to be expected. It has been observed that plankton and fish that provides a balanced ecosystem has been choked off by the overgrowth of harmful algae and aggressive, weedy plants that block sunlight and take up much of the lake’s dissolved oxygen. Sediment can cover plants trying to grow from the lake bottom and can also block sunlight when chummed and suspended in the water column. This year, lack of rain has reduced the water level, further exacerbating an already out-of-balance ecosystem.

Como Lake has been stressed for many years. In 1998, the District 10 Community Council's Environmental Committee undertook an effort to establish the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), which studied the lake's condition and determined that polluted stormwater was the primary culprit in its decline. Two pollutants in particular, excess phosphorous and sediment, have encouraged the overgrowth of harmful aquatic vegetation.

In 2003 a major shoreline restoration project was undertaken for Como Lake, a joint effort of the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation District, CRWD and St. Paul Parks and Recreation, with considerable participation organized by the District 10 Community Council. CRWD installed large rain gardens and has undertaken other water quality improvement projects in recent years to limit the impact of polluted runoff. Because of this, Como Lake is much improved compared to a decade ago. But it remains impaired.

Como is a shallow lake, which means an abundance of aquatic plants is to be expected. It has been observed that plankton and fish that provides a balanced ecosystem has been choked off by the overgrowth of harmful algae and aggressive, weedy plants that block sunlight and take up much of the lake’s dissolved oxygen. Sediment can cover plants trying to grow from the lake bottom and can also block sunlight when chummed and suspended in the water column. This year, lack of rain has reduced the water level, further exacerbating an already out-of-balance ecosystem.

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These are the people in your neighborhood

St. Anthony Park and Mike in Como Park. But we do work all around the Twin Cities.

How long?
Proteam Painting has been around for 15 years. We've been partners for 5 years. We meet through Park Angels D'Arcy, which Duane's wife runs. Mike's older son went there after the family moved here from California.

Who else?
We have 8 other employees right now. We'd like to grow to 15-20 employees. Duane's son Tom does some painting for us, as does Mike's wife, Rima.

What else?
Mike enjoys most of his free time trying to keep up with his two boys, Domantas (8) and Tautvydas (3). Duane's daughter Aliasha (15) is a student at Como Park High School, and he enjoys watching her play softball.

Commentary from 4
and carries them directly to the lake via the storm sewer system. Several storm sewer outlets discharge into the lake. Also, direct runoff from parkland, streets and residential properties immediately surrounding the lake contributes polluted stormwater.

When one household in our watershed has polluted stormwater coming off their property and going into the storm sewer and then the lake, we all suffer the consequences. Como Lakes water cannot be partitioned up for each of us to take care of our own little cubic foot. The consequences are shared. Therefore, the problem solving should also be shared.

To that end, several of us who care about Como Lake have started a water stewardship neighbor network. We think our neighbors would be more open to trying some ideas for stormwater management if there were a supportive group of neighbors ready to help them walk through the process.

The condition of Como Lake is about more than the lake itself. It is about us and about our community. Our ability to take care of Como Lake is reflective of our ability to take care of each other and the quality of life in our community. By working together on projects — water stewardship dialogue groups, leaf-sweeping brigades, rain garden installation parties, grant writing — we can build relationships, collaborate, gain leadership skills and be better able to take on other challenging public issues that come our way.

Most people want to do the right thing. They just don't always know how or have the right kind of support to get it done. Perhaps together we can change our ways and in the process change Como Lake back to the neighborhood jewel it was meant to be.

A group of neighbors interested in improving Como Lake meets the second Tuesday of each month. Their next meeting is Sept. 8. For information, contact Janna Caywood: 487-8648, jcaywood@goldengate.net.

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Gardeners share love of plants with neighborhood

by Alyssa Neeb

Passers-by at the rain garden at the intersection of McKinley and Frankson streets in the Como Park neighborhood may have noticed a pair of women removing weeds on a sunny afternoon, or tending to small plants peeking out from melting snow in early spring. One might assume they work for the city of St. Paul or the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), but they are local residents who share a love of gardening. Sharon Shinomiya and Valerie Cunningham both have particular interests that continue to draw them to the rain garden.

Shinomiya, a 14-year Como resident, said she’s always been interested in gardening. In addition to volunteering at the rain garden across the street from her home, she also tends the M idway Parkway gardens near the entrance to Como Park.

Shinomiya said she became interested in gardening about 15 years ago, when the popular interest in annuals began to shift to perennials. An avid birder and a member of Audubon Society, she’s been busy this year conducting bird tours and surveys, some of which call for her to rise very early.

She said she enjoys the early morning sun as it appears over the native prairie in natural areas where many bird species are found. She added that the rain gardens in her neighborhood provide additional habitat and food for birds, animals and butterflies.

In her own yard, Cunningham tries to plant species that provide both food and habitat. She said her interest in birding and seeing other neighbors enjoying the garden drew her to work in the rain garden.

Both women cited the rain garden’s dual purpose — a way of reducing stormwater runoff and also adding to the neighborhood’s aesthetic appeal. Describing one prominent element of the McKinley-Frankson garden, Cunningham said, “The bluestem (a Minnesota native grass) is a knockout.” She added that passers-by often ask about grasses that retain their beauty through fall and winter. She said she hopes neighbors will decide to incorporate some native plants into their own urban landscapes.

The rain garden at McKinley and Frankson is a joint project between the city of St. Paul and the Capitol Region Watershed District and is one of eight such gardens in the Como Park neighborhood.

CRWD was formed in 1998 by the Board of Soil and Water Resources to manage and protect part of the Mississippi River Basin, along with the wetlands, creeks and lakes that comprise the watershed and drain to the river.

CRWD covers 40 square miles and includes portions of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville and St. Paul. The organization has a staff of eight and is governed by a five-member board of managers. For more information about CRWD, see www.capitolregionwd.org.

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I've participated in a lot of bird surveys this summer — hiking the same route once a week for two months, bushwhacking across prairies, counts that started at dawn, owl counts after dark.

And now a more relaxing survey: M Innosota first Chimney Swift Sit. Find a likely chimney, pull up a lawn chair and watch for swifts ducking down the chimney at dusk to roost for the night.

Chimney swifts look like flying cigars: black with swept-back wings. Their chittering call is ecological marvel, but none took a dive into the chimney. Tuesday night I went alone to the Twin Cities Chinese Christian Church in Lauderdale. They've got a relatively short chimney, but it looks to have a large opening. I saw several swifts pass overhead, but none went down the chimney.

We saw a few swifts fly over at 25 minutes before sunset. The largest group was 6 or 8 heading farther south down Eustis. Then at nine minutes after sunset, one swift dropped down the chimney. Fast pump!

In the next 18 minutes five more swifts dropped in, two flew out, and so we had a net roosting population of four. It was ecstatic, since this site was a bit of a scientific guess on my part.

It's important to do some scouting of potential sites before the actual count period. If the site is on private property, let the owners know what you're up to. You may want to print a copy of the brochure explaining the Chimney Swift Conservation Project to hand to interested people. It's available at http://tinyurl.com/othguf.

And, while this survey is called a Chimney Swift Sit, I didn't bring a chair or box to sit on, which wasn't so swift on my part. It was wearying to stand around in one place for an hour.

If you'd like to participate in the Sept. 11-13 survey period, do some scouting in your neighborhood for likely chimneys. Plan to begin about a half hour before sunset. Start a bit earlier if an overcast sky will cause it to get dark earlier.

Some lucky observers have reported seeing hundreds of swifts during the August survey period. We only saw single-digit numbers, but an important goal of the Chimney Swift Conservation Project this year is to identify potential roosting sites.

There's a reporting form available at http://mn.audubon.org/events/714 to send your numbers, but an important goal is to identify potential roosting sites.

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1690 N. Hamline St. Paul

Bob Valencour, Owner
old enough to remember that President Lyndon Johnson had already announced a de-escalation of the hostilities in Vietnam during a memorable speech on March 31 of that year. “Once you embark on a course, it may not be easily reversed,” he says. “Even if you change your mind, it may take a while to accomplish it.”

Lee says that his sign “was meant to be a conversation starter. When we’re out of Iraq, I’ll take it down.” Lei’s homemade sign is succinct. A few blocks away, at the corner of H endon and Branson, there’s another front-yard communicator who’s anything but. Oliver Steinberg worked until recently as a printer, a vocation that gave him the skills to create a galaxy of homegrown political signs that ornament his lawn in seasonal rotation. Just now, pride of position is given to a Coleman for Mayor sign that’s been augmented with hand-lettered quotations ranging from the late M ayo r Richard Daley on Chicago’s Finest (“The police are not here to create disorder. The police are here to preserve disorder”) to George Orwell’s famous pronouncement “If you’re not sure, you may be at a loss for an opinion,” says Beasley, 52. “To me it says that no matter how complicated things seem, there’s always something unchanging, underlying truth.”

Beasley had Japanese verse. “I like the feeling I have when I see the flag waving in the breeze,” he says. “It beats all those posters that were tradition ally the only outlet for public dissent in Communist China. You never know what will come of the ripples,” he says.

“I’m never at a loss for an opinion,” says Steinberg, who has been posting his signs ever since he moved in around 1980. “I’m very partisan and the neighbors are very tolerant.”

Politics makes for great signs, but not all front yard writing is political. Take the 16th- century Japanese verse that Doug Beasley had painted on his cement retaining wall a few years ago. Written in yellow letters on a terracotta-colored wall on H endon Avenue, it reads, “Though the current be swift, it cannot sweep away the moon.”

Above: Melvyn Jones hopes the Welsh flag he and his wife display will prompt a passer-by to stop and exchange a few remarks in Welsh.

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Top:
Doug Beasley's retaining wall features a 16th-century Japanese verse.

Branston, there’s another front- yard statement from 1

Front-yard statement from 1

Top:

HAMPDEN PARK CO-OP
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DETOUR
To Hampden Park Co-op!
Railroad Bridge Construction on Raymond Avenue
September & October are:
Find New Ways to the Co-op months!
St. Anthony Park Library manager’s stint is her third

by Michelle Christianson

Ever had that feeling of déjà vu? “I’ve been here before?” Peg Doheny, the new branch manager at the St. Anthony Park Library, can certainly relate. This is her third stint at this library.

Doheny, who grew up in St. Paul and earned a degree in library science from the University of Minnesota, got her start shelving books in high school at the Arlington Library, where she was “bitten by the librarian bug.” She decided to become a librarian because she enjoys the intellectual challenges of library work and likes helping people with many needs.

After graduating from college in 1979, her first job was as a librarian at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library beginning in 1981, though that position was only for a year. She left on maternity leave with her first child.

She began as branch supervisor at the Rice Street library in 1982 and returned to St. Anthony Park in 1984 as branch supervisor, where she remained for two years, once again departing on maternity leave.

In her 37 years of service, 28 of which have been in supervisory positions, Doheny has held nearly every library position and has served at several branches in the St. Paul Public Library system.

Her longest term, eight years, was at the Central Library, where she was an assistant supervisor of youth services, which included collaborating with other early education institutions, programming, and building and maintaining the collection. While there, she started the Passport to Play program in collaboration with the Children’s Museum. This evolved into the popular M usuem Pas program, whereby library patrons can check out a pass for free admission to one of many area museums.

When Rose Ann Foreman moved to the Merriam Park Library, Doheny left her position at Dayton’s Bluff Library to come to St. Anthony Park.

“I am looking forward to working in a library with great community support and good neighborhood collaborations,” she said. These include the St. Anthony Park Association, the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, the St. Anthony Park Passport to Play Program, the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, and the St. Anthony Park Association.

Peg Doheny is the new branch manager at the St. Anthony Park Library. She has worked in St. Paul public libraries for 37 years.

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St. Anthony Park Park Bugle      9
Music in the Park from 3

M innesota O rchestra conductor) and we premiered it as part of the series. Julie's really great about new music and often has world premieres like this.”

Sewell served on the M usic in the Park board in the 1990s and continues to subscribe. “I just mailed in my season ticket order,” she said.

Sewell said M usic in the Park Series provides a great introduction to chamber music.

“It’s not as big as a symphony orchestra,” she said, “but if you’re looking for fantastic repertoire in an intimate setting, then chamber music would be your thing. That’s what’s so great about the series. It’s in a small space, you’re close to the performers and you can really hear each line of the music because it’s one person per part. It’s like people having a conversation with each other.”

Sewell admitted that chamber music once might have been perceived as stuffy, but “that’s not so today. The performers talk to the audience and make them feel welcome. They’re often very young performers, so there’s something hip about these groups.”

This year’s series kicks off Oct. 11, when M innesota O rchestra conductor Osmo Vänskä will perform on clarinet with four principal string players from the orchestra.

Unlike the remaining concerts in the series, the opening perfor- mance will be held at Sundin M usic Hall, 1337 H witt Ave., on the campus of H amline University.

For tickets and more information about M usic in the Park Series, call 645-5699 or visit www.musictimetheparkseries.org.

Garden Club and the University of M innesota’s E nglish conversation group, all of which have some affiliation with the library.

“This is a well-supported library,” she said. “I want to continue to build on the strong partnerships already in place, and intend to use the available resources well so that we can keep meeting most needs in this time of economic belt-tightening.”

A self-described “people person,” Doheny looks forward to reconnecting with the neighborhood and is happy to be working with youth and youth programs.

One of the most challenging parts of a modern librarian’s job is keeping up with technology, and this is a challenge for Doheny, too. Formats keep changing — books to microfiche to online resources, for example — and the librarian’s role is to be an “information broker,” to help people figure out the best source of information and how to access it.

The computer has made a huge change in how people use a library, said Doheny. “There is not as much of an emphasis on printed matter as in the past,” she said. “For example, people can now download audio books from an online site. The direction is going toward more computer use in the future.”

But no matter how information is shared in the years to come, people like Peg Doheny and her staff will be there to help smooth the way.

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Rick Beeson with Peter and Sue Wyckoff

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Future of South St. Anthony Rec Center coming into focus

Soccer group emerges as favorite to partner with city in managing center

by Dave Healy

Crunch time is approaching for a decision on the future of South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSAPRC). The center is one of five that St. Paul’s Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has proposed for partnering with other organizations.

At an Aug. 20 public meeting to discuss the center’s fate, DPR’s Kathy Korum said the division is anticipating an $11.6 million reduction in local government aid (LGA) from the state for 2010. That, together with an $5.7 million cut in 2008 and $5.0 million in 2009, means DPR will have lost 12 percent of its funding in three years.

Korum said that DPR centers account for about $8 million of DPR’s budget and that they will need to cut $1.5 million to make up for LGA reductions. Three centers will be closed altogether. Partnering is an alternative to closing whereby a compatible organization takes over operation of a center.

In a partnership, the city maintains ownership of the building and responsibility for outdoor maintenance: cutting grass, plowing parking lots and so forth. The partner pays utilities and maintains the building. In return, the partner can schedule its own programs and activities at the site. When the partner organization is not using the facilities, they are available for DPR programs and community use.

Korum said DPR has received three viable proposals from possible partners for SSAPRC. The Saint Paul Futbol Club does soccer skill development and training for youth. They would use the fields in the fall and spring, the gym during winter and the tennis courts in the fall.

The YMCA has a wide variety of programs for children, youth and adults. They would primarily use the building but might also run some camps that would use the fields during spring, summer or fall. Urban Tennis teaches tennis to kids ages 5-18 at over 30 locations. Their long-term interest in SSAPRC is contingent on being able to add one tennis court to the existing two and build a bubble over the courts so they could be used year-round.

Korum said the city has a 10-year history with partnering. She said that usually building hours increase when a partner takes it over.

Korum said that all three partnering proposals would enable the District 12 Community Council to continue renting office space in the building. Existing group meetings, including those of the council and the Langford SSAPRC Booster Club, could also continue, she said.

Korum said the city has enough money to run SSAPRC through the end of the year. She said agreements with partners can be from one to five years.

At the Aug. 20 meeting, Korum asked for a show of hands to indicate which of the three proposals people favored. The majority of hands were raised for the soccer proposal.

In a later interview, Korum said her office would forward a recommendation to the St. Paul City Council and the mayor’s office that the city partner with the Saint Paul Futbol Club. She said that if the club ends up managing the rec center, it would still be possible for another group, such as the YMCA, to make some use of the facilities. Amy Sparks, District 12 executive director, said she is pleased that the council will be able to continue leasing space in the rec center building.

“I’m glad the community has had a chance to offer input on the decision,” she said.
Burglaries from 1

appear to specialize in burglaries with safes but may also be responsible for some recent automated-teller machine break-ins, he said. They work in an area for a short time, then shift operations to another area, which makes it harder for law enforcement to catch up with them. “This is an established, sophisticated ring,” he said.

A series of burglaries from trucking companies in south St. Anthony Park, also in July, appears to be solved, with a suspect in custody, Schnell said. Schnell noted that while “crimes of opportunity,” such as break-ins to steal cash from a car, could be tied to an economic downturn, it seems unlikely that a specialized burglary ring has anything to do with that. And opportunity crimes are, if anything, down slightly from previous years, he said.

Schnell said the best defense against commercial burglary is for property owners to consider “a bunch of environmental design issues,” such as locks and lighting, as well as protecting the property with alarms and surveillance cameras. But he said such precautions don’t always slow thieves down.

Schnell said the one area of police activity that has seen an increase is domestic incident calls. He said citywide, domestic calls are “up about 15 percent” in the first half of 2009 compared with 2008.

St. Anthony Chief of Police John O’Hill also said crime is generally trending downward, although he said he has not yet done a detailed analysis of this summer’s statistics. St. Anthony police serve the cities of Falcon Heights and Lauderdale.

“Since 2006 we have seen a steady decrease in crime in Lauderdale,” he said, adding that the same holds true for Falcon Heights.

The June 11 murder of Todd Barnard in Lauderdale shocked that community. William D. Barnett was arrested as a suspect in late July.

O’Hill said that case provides a good example of why he’s careful about statistics in the three small cities served by his staff of 23. Lauderdale’s homicide rate won’t look good this year.

“If there’s one sexual assault in 2008 and two in 2009, you’ve got a 100 percent increase,” he noted.

The same can hold true of less serious offenses, he said, even in larger numbers. “If one person comes through town and breaks into 30 automobiles, it could significantly skew your statistics,” he said.

O’Hill expressed pride in his department’s record of tracking down perpetrators. “We work every single case,” he said, citing a 2008 clearance rate in Lauderdale of 71 percent, or better than seven out of 10 cases solved.

“We believe that when we chase down those small crimes, it keeps the bigger ones from happening,” he said, adding that Falcon Heights’ 2008 clearance rate was 55 percent.

And, O’Hill said, good police work isn’t just about the crimes that do occur or the rate at which they get cleared. Prevention matters too, but it’s harder to track.

“It’s impossible to show a crime that didn’t happen,” O’Hill said.
**SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Events**

1 **TUESDAY**  
- World's by Tom Riggles, through Sept. 17, LAG.  
- Interaction: Where Art Meets Fashion, through Nov. 1, GMD.

3 **THURSDAY**  
- PJ Storytelling, 6 p.m. CG.

4 **FRIDAY**  
- The Glasson Brothers, 8 p.m. CG.

5 **SATURDAY**  
- Cajun jam session and lessons, 10 a.m. CG.

6 **SUNDAY**  
- Open mic, 6 p.m. CG.

8 **TUESDAY**  
- St. Anthony Park Garden Club hosts Betty Ann Addison, owner of Gardens of Rice Creek, 7:15 p.m. SAPBL.

11 **FRIDAY**  
- Rummage and plant sale, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. FHUCC.
- Back to School Dance, ages 12-5 p.m. LRC.
- Steve Harris Marks, 2:30 p.m. MB.

12 **SATURDAY**  
- Rummage and plant sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. FHUCC.
- Dessert contest and social, 6 p.m. FHUCC.
- February Sky, 8 p.m. CG.
- Walk for Children and Family Fun Day, sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Midway Stadium.

13 **SUNDAY**  
- Ice Cream Sundays Sundays featuring banana splits, GM.

14 **MONDAY**  
- Aspen book club, 6 p.m. CG.
- Teen Club, 6:30 p.m. LAC.

15 **TUESDAY**  
- Book discussion: "The Life of Pi," by Yann Martel, 7 p.m. FHUCC.

18 **FRIDAY**  
- Lonnie Knight, 8 p.m. CG.

19 **SATURDAY**  
- St. Anthony Park Neighborhood Garage Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

20 **SUNDAY**  
- Garden party, Pigg's Eye Jazz Band, 12:45-2 p.m. FHUCC.
- Minnesota Guitar Society's open stage, 2 p.m. CG.

21 **MONDAY**  
- 2009 Homecoming Exhibition: Through the Years, through Oct. 11, LAG.

22 **TUESDAY**  
- Emerald Ash Borer seminar, 6:30-8 p.m. MN Horticultural Society, 1755 Prior Ave. N., Falcon Heights. Registration: 643-3601.

24 **THURSDAY**  
- Neighborhood meeting on parking and traffic, 7 p.m. CPCC.

25 **FRIDAY**  
- Anne Deming, 8 p.m. CG.
- Oktoberfest, 5-9 p.m. HCC.

26 **SATURDAY**  
- American Girls' tea party, 11 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. LETR.
- St. Anthony Park Neighborhood Garage Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Neighborhood Cleanup, State Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. LETR.

27 **SUNDAY**  
- Sunday Afternoon Book Group: "The Elegance of the Hedgehog," by Muriel Babery, 2:30 p.m. MB.

30 **WEDNESDAY**  
- Solar thermal hot water Backyard Talk, 6:30 p.m. Registration: 649-5992, gm@ SAPCC.org.

Submit items for September Events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Aug. 17.

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**CHES Chelsea Heights Elementary School, 1557 Huron St., 293-8790**
**CG Coffee Grounds, 1579 Haveline Ave., 644-8599, 373-2600**
**CPCC St. Anthony Park Community Council, 1224 W. Larpenteur, 644-3669**
**CPLC Falcon Heights Community Center, 1707 Larpenteur Ave., 644-5050**
**FHUCC Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St., 642-3881**
**GCL Gongi Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., 642-2647**
**GM Gibbs Museum, Larpenteer and Cleveland, 646-8629**
**GMD Godde's Museum of Design, 2700 McKnight Hall, 1885 Buford Ave., St. Paul Campbell 612-624-7434**
**GT Gemini Theatre, 2400 University Ave., 228-7008**
**HC Holy Childhood School/Church, 1435 Midway Pkwy., 644-2791**
**LCH Larson Art Gallery, 612-625-0214**
**L(l)R Lila Eagles Tea Room, 2230 Carter Ave., 645-6676**
**LRCC Langford Rec Center, 30 Langford Park, 298-5765**
**MB McWade's Bookstore, 2238 Carter Ave., 646-5506**
**MHS Murray Junior High School, 2200 Buford Ave., 293-8740**
**MPS Music in the Series, St. Anthony Park UCC, 654-5699**
**OCC Olsen Campus Center, Luther Seminary, Fulham & Hendon**
**PLC Peace Lutheran Church, 1744 Walnut St., 642-5440**
**RAAG Raymond Avenue Art Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., 6449200**
**SAPILS Anthony Park Library Branch, 2145 Como Ave., 642-9411**
**SAPCC St. Anthony Park Community Council, 890 Cromwell Ave., 643-3992**
**SAPES St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp St., 293-8735**
**SAPLC St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 643-0371**
**SAPUC St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2229 Commonwealth Ave., 644-7173**
**SAPUMC St. Anthony Park United Methesd Church, 2200 Hildale Ave., 642-9846**
**SHR Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seaf St.**
**SVEC St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 645-3058**
**SAPARC South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., 298-5770**
**TCM Testicle of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. SE, 612-436-0464**

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Dr. Stefanie Dojka

Dr. Stefanie A. Dojka, age 65, of Falcon Heights, died July 27, 2009. She was a professor of English at Century College. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Michael J. Loupe. She is survived by her daughters, Julia Loupe and Jennifer Loupe; sons-in-law, Damon Anderson and Mike Eastman; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Aug. 1, 2009, at St. Clement’s Episcopal Church in St. Paul.

Josephine Mascia

Josephine A. M. Mascia, age 93, of Como Park, died Aug. 14, 2009, surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Patrick V. Mascia and William Eagan, and her brother, Leonard Michienzi. She is survived by her sons, Eugene (Patricia), Patrick (Karin); daughter, Joan (Glenn) Baskfield; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held Aug. 17, 2009, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with internment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Martin McGowan, Jr.

Martin J. McGowan Jr., age 88, of Como Park, died Aug. 13, 2009. He was a longtime Minnnesota newspaper publisher and former legislator. He was born Oct. 28, 1920, in Appleton, Minn., the son of Martin J. and Olga (Vieg) McGowan.

He graduated from Appleton High School in 1938, and the University of Notre Dame and the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1942.

Following college graduation, he joined his father on the staff of the Appleton Press, and upon his father’s retirement became editor and publisher of the Press until the paper was sold in 1965, at which time the Press had been owned and operated by the McGowan family for over 51 years.

McGowan was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1958 and represented Swift County in the Legislature until 1967, serving as secretary of the Liberal (DFL) caucus for his last four years. After the sale of the Appleton Press, Mr. McGowan moved his family to St. Paul, where he joined KTCA-TV as a coordinator of special projects, which involved lobbying at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C. He also did grant writing and on-air moderating of a senior citizens’ program, “Seminars for Seniors.”

He later owned and published newspapers in Blue Earth, Winnebago and Elmore, Minn., and New Richmond, Wis. He also served as the public relations director at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, and as an account representative for Volkmut Printers in St. Cloud.

Mr. McGowan was married to the former Elizabeth J. Nolan Volkmuth, and was preceded in death by his brother, John McGowan, and former legislator. He was survived by his sons, Eugene McGowan (Therese), Patrick V. McGowan and former legislator. He was survived by his wife, Dr. Stefanie Dojka (Patrick), and former legislator. He was survived by his sons, Eugene Dojka (Patricia), Patrick Dojka (Karin); daughter, Joan (Glenn) Baskfield; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The Methodist Church at Como and Hillside

A memorial service was held Aug. 17, 2009, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with internment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Fall Speaker Series:

Memory Loss

St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program

October 3, 10, 17, 2009
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Light lunch to follow

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+ Pharmacology Options
+ Legal Concerns

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major portion of their years at a home on Pelican Lake north of Brainerd, where he continued to indulge his passion for news writing by being a member of the Crow Wing County Board meetings for the Lake Region Echo in Pequot Lakes.

In 2001 the McGowans moved to the Lyngblomsten Senior complex in Como Park, where he lived at the time of his death. Survivors included his wife, Elizabeth (Betty); eight of their nine children, M artin III (Mick), of Cranford, N. J., D an. of St. Paul, M argaret of Honolulu, H awaii, V ince, of Las Vegas, N ev. of Eden Prairie, B rennan, of St. Paul, M auren S inkler, of C harlestown, and M i chael, of E agan; 17 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Eleanor Simonc, of Westborough, M as.

He was preceded in death by a son, S ean, of L as Vegas, N ev., in 2007. Funeral services were held Aug. 19, 2009, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Como Park, with interment at the Appleton City 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 M ary M ergenthal at 644-1550, marylmergenthal@comcast.net.