On Sept. 12, about 50 Como Park residents spent the day painting “Mighty Oak” in the middle of Albany Ave., just north of Pascal St. The project was sponsored by Paint the Pavement, a statewide organization that draws citizens into study groups to investigate problems of public policy, report their findings and propose solutions.

Como resident Janna Caywood launched the Como Lake study group after a year on a water policy panel convened by the Citizens League, a statewide organization that draws citizens into study groups to investigate problems of public policy, report their findings and propose solutions. Caywood said charter schools and the Met Council are among the results of Citizen League studies.

Caywood joined the Citizens League two years ago and was especially attracted to environmental issues. She joined the League’s statewide water policy study group in July 2008. “At that time I knew zip about water management,” Caywood said. A year later, still active with the study group, she’s extending her learning by drawing neighbors into an inquiry about what they can do to help improve the health of Como Lake. She said the group is so informal it hasn’t even adopted a name, but she’s been referring to it as the Como Lake Neighbor Network.

Recently they invited public officials concerned with Como Lake water quality to explain the fine points of what has been done and what needs doing. “We’re trying to build our own capacity to become better water stewards,” Caywood said, summarizing the group’s mission. “And we hope to lead by example.”

The Como Lake Neighbor Network, made up of concerned residents, has been studying what they can do to improve the health of Como Lake, which has suffered from excessive weeds and algae.

St. Anthony Park residents deal with stadium noise by Dave Healy

If it’s not one thing it’s another. A week after the Sept. 12 debut of TCF Bank Stadium, the University of Minnesota’s new football facility, generated complaints from St. Anthony Park residents about noise during the game, some of those same people were awakened early Saturday morning, Sept. 19, by what sounded like the marching band practicing. Cathy O’Dell said she woke around 5:30 a.m. to the sound of drumming and guessed it was coming from the stadium. She went back to sleep until 7:30, when she was awakened again, this time by the Star Spangled Banner.

Brian Swanson, U of M St. Anthony Park residents deal with stadium noise by Dave Healy

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Stadium to 6

Falcon Heights girl will benefit from Halloween Spooktacular

Proceeds will help purchase trained seizure dog by Michelle Christianson

If your children are like most, they’re more than ready to put on their Halloween costumes and get into the day’s festivities. This year, that holiday falls on a Saturday, which makes it even harder to endure the long wait for evening. Now there is an event you can bring them to (in full costume) that not only is fun but raises money for a good cause.

The event is the “Halloween Spooktacular for Kylie,” and it takes place on Halloween at 801 Lakeview Ave. in the Como Park neighborhood. Kylie to 8

November 2009
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Seasonal Flu Shot Clinic

Also available:

Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul (see website for map)
St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Sunnyside Ave.
This concert takes place at our regular venue:
in St. Paul.
The Oct. 11 concert will be held at Sundin Music Hall.
*IMPORTANT NOTE
directions: www.musicintheparkseries.org.
TICKETS/INFO 651-645-5699
Call to reserve a time slot and reduce your waiting time
Sun., Oct. 31, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
.configure the with a potable, low-cost solution to harmful substances.
On Oct. 30, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Feather Blue Studios will host a children’s Halloween costume contest and canned food drive at Java Train, 3141 N. Pascal St. The event will include crafts, treats and a photo shoot. It’s free with the contribution of a nonperishable food item. For more information, visit featherbluestudios.com or call 489-8281.
Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights Fire Department will host its annual open house on Oct. 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Children will be invited to sit in fire trucks, a snow plow, and other city and county vehicles. Volunteer fire fighters will demonstrate car burns and extrications. Children will receive goody bags. The event is free, popcorn and juice will be served for $1.
Young children can create spooky Halloween characters in “Bats and Boos,” a craft class for children ages 2-5 and accompanying adults. 6:45-7:45 p.m. Oct. 13, at City Hall. Fee is $12 for residents, $15 for non-residents. Register at www.falconheights.org or call Parks and Recreation, 792-7616.
The Midwifery Project will host two free information seminars on the emerald ash borer at its headquarters, 1755 Prior Ave. The sessions will be Oct. 22 and 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Reservations are required: 643-3601.
Lauderdale
Municipal elections will be held Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St. A mayor will be elected to a three-year term and two council members for five-year terms.
Lauderdale will hold this year’s Haloween Party on Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m., at City Hall. The event features a maze, cartoon movies and treats. Costumes are traditional for adults and children. Donations of candy and money make this party possible and will be gladly accepted during business hours at City Hall.
Peace Lutheran Church will hold “Christmas in October” Oct. 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is designed to help area residents winterize their homes. Call 644-5440 for details.
St. Anthony Park
The St. Anthony Park Community Council is taking a census to determine how many artists and creative enterprises are in the neighborhood. If you engage in visual arts, performing arts, traditional arts or other creative enterprises and you work in the area bordered by 94 on the south, Cleveland on both the west, Hoyt on the north and Emerald on the west, go to www.sapcc.org/arts to be counted.
The Green Institute will present a free workshop on Oct. 19 to help homeowners make lasting energy improvements. Participants will qualify for a home visit and installation of energy-saving products from the Home Energy Connections Home Energy Squad; free, personalized energy use tracking and follow-up; and information on how to take advantage of new energy stimulus grants, utility rebates, tax incentives and low-cost financing. To reserve a seat at the workshop, contact SAPCC at green@sapcc.org or 649-5992.
“A Walk to Beautiful,” a documentary about five Ethiopian women ostracized because of childbirth injuries, will show at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at St. Anthony Park Library. Following the film, Cheryl Thomas, director of the Women’s Human Rights Program at The Advocate, will lead a discussion.
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The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has announced that two new members have joined the board of directors. Josh Beckera runs a Web-based business specializing in start-ups and social networking. Bruce Weber is employed by Cenex Harvest State, where he works as a senior wheat trader for United Harvest. Board members for 2009-2010 will be Greta Gautheir, chair; Paul Dubins, 1st vice chair; Erica Schumacher, 2nd vice chair; Catherine Hoftzlaw, treasurer; and Clare Caffrey, secretary.
The annual Fall Festival will be held Oct. 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Milton Square, Como and Carter avenues. The event will include readings at M. Crawler’s, children’s activities, strollin’ minstrels, a wine-tasting fundraiser and food from local merchants.
Traffic conditions in and around St. Anthony Park have been changing almost daily. To keep abreast of the latest developments, go to www.parkbugle.org.

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Sun., Oct. 11, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Osmo Vänskä, clarinet;
Sarah Kwak & Gina DiBello, violins;
Thomas Turner, viola;
Anthony Ross, cello

*M IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to road construction, the Oct. 11 concert will be held at Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave., Hamline University, in St. Paul. See our website for map and directions: www.musicintheparkseries.org.
Limited availability
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This concert takes place at our regular venue: St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul (see website for map)
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— Anne Holzman
Falconn Heights harpsichordist awarded McKnight Fellowship

by Natalie Zett

Asako Hirabayashi fondly recalls when she first fell in love... with a harpsichord. “I was a college student, majoring in composition at Art University in Japan,” said the Falcon Heights resident. “I liked performing piano but I was getting bored with it.”

At the time, one of Hirabayashi’s former instructors, renowned harpsichordist Eiji Ashimoto, was teaching at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. Hirabayashi returned to Japan briefly to tour and gave a harpsichord concert that Hirabayashi attended. “This was 20 years ago,” she said. “At that time, Japan was slowly adopting the harpsichord and other early instruments. It was really impressive by my mom found that I was better in music than other kids. My mom didn’t play an instrument, but she started studying a music theory book to help me. She knew my gift and she encouraged me. That was great.”

Hirabayashi relocated to the Twin Cities in 2001, when her husband, Thomas Stoffregen, received an offer to teach at the University of M innesota. “I remember it always because it was a week before September 11,” she said. Since she has two young children (9 and 11), she decided to try promoting this quirky instrument.

“Some say the harpsichord has a small sound,” Hirabayashi said. “They say that it’s not very expressive, but it is. A famous conductor once said that the harpsichord sounds like two skeletons copulating on a tin roof. But it can make very romantic and rich sounds.” Hirabayashi was so enthralled with the harpsichord that she left Japan and moved to Cincinnati to study with Ashimoto at the Conservatory. From there, she went to Juilliard, where she received a doctor of musical arts degree in harpsichord performance in 1998.

Along with performing, Hirabayashi is a composer. “There is not much contemporary music for the harpsichord, so I write for my instrument,” she said. “I’ve also written pieces for the harpsichord with other instruments, such as the violin and fortepiano. I write in impressionist, romantic, avant-garde and pop styles.”

Hirabayashi made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1996, has won numerous awards for her compositions, and has lectured and performed around the world. She credits her family for encouraging her musical gifts when she was a child. “My family liked classical music, but they didn’t have musical training,” she said. “They took my sister and me to music classes when we were young, and my mom found that I was better in music than other kids. My mom didn’t play an instrument, but she started studying a music theory book to help me. She knew my gift and she encouraged me. That was great.”

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Harpsichordist to 10

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EDITORIAL

That's one thing he hated! The NOISE! NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Dr. Seuss

The Grinch was put out by the early-morning sounds of Christmas revelry that carried north from WGV to the cave where he lived. Only a grinch, we were given to understand, would gripe about noise on Christmas, and there was long an air of opportunism attached to anyone who complains about the sounds of other people's celebrations.

Merely by calling the sound from WGV "noise," the Grinch gave it a negative cast. The word is derived from the Latin "nausea," and the first definition in most dictionaries describes noise as a disagreeable sound. It usually takes an adjective to make noise pleasant, of the sort supplied in the King James Bible, which renders several verses in the Psalms as admonitions to make a joyful noise to God. Anyone who’s been emitted by celebrants doesn’t bring joy to everyone. Noise is in the ear of the listener, and one person’s music is another person’s noise.

Noise is also contextual. The baby’s cry in the delivery room is welcomed; most subsequent crying by the same infant is not.

For example, section 293.02 of St. Paul’s legislative code states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, permit or cause to be made, continued or permitted within the city, any loud, disturbing or excessive noise which would be likely to cause significant discomfort or annoyance to a reasonable person of ordinary sensitivities in the area.

The code goes on to list conditions that can be considered in determining what is loud, disturbing or excessive, including time of day or night, duration, proximity to a residential area and number of people affected.

Other cities are more precise. Mpls Park, California, prescribes maximum noise limits by decibel, with different levels for daytime and nighttime hours, and for residential and construction-related noise.

Unwelcome sound is sometimes referred to as noise pollution.

Classifying anything as a pollutant assumes that some things in the public domain should be kept as pure as possible. We all use water and air, so we pass laws protecting their purity. Sound is transmitted through the air; therefore, the thinking goes, public auspice defends protection from sound pollution.

Noise has consequences for physical health, and it doesn’t necessarily have to be loud. Some research suggests that sustained exposure to low-level noise can increase the release of stress hormones, which may exacerbate heart disease and other ailments.

But the most immediate effects of noise are usually social. Car alarms, stereo systems, leaf blowers, barking dogs, late-night parties — these are the noises that often threaten relationships among neighbors.

A sentiment sometimes attributed to Voltaire says, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Just keep your voice down, please.

LETTERS

Dioich yn fawr
Anwyl Y Golyddig (D.ear Editor):
Rodd ei nês i gweld lân da lawnn o Draig Goch yr och mai newydd. (It was nice to see a fine photo of the Red D Ragn [the Welsh flag] in your newspaper.)
Dioich yn fawr. (Thank you very much.)
Mary Morris Mergenthal St. Anthony Park

Vote yes for instant run-off
This November, St. Paul voters have a chance to decide if we will use instant run-off voting for future elections for mayor and City Council. I encourage you to vote "yes" and help usher in a new system of elections in St. Paul. I support instant run-off (sometimes known as ranked choice) voting for St. Paul City elections for two simple reasons.
First, I believe it will increase the number of voters who will participate in our elections. In our current system of primaries in September and then a run-off in November, a turnout of 5 percent (even in Ward 4 where voter participation is higher than in many parts of the city) is not uncommon for the primary. This means that only 1 in 20 eligible voters are participating in a process that narrows the final field to two candidates. With instant run-off voting we would eliminate the September primary and have an instant run-off election in November, where voter turnout is typically higher. This means that more people will participate in the key (and only) step in the process. The second reason I support instant run-off voting is that I believe it will encourage more good people to run for local office. The system allows voters to rank the candidates in the order in which they prefer them, allowing voters to "vote their conscience" without feeling like that vote will be "wasted" if their candidate of choice unlikely to win.
I think this will not only be more satisfying to voters but will also encourage more good people to run for office, because it will reduce the perception that only one or two candidates have a real chance of winning. With more good candidates to choose from, chances are even more voters will participate in local elections.

As a member of the DFL party, I have had members of my own party refer to me as "stupid" for supporting instant run-off voting, apparently because the current system worked for me and adds to the value of incumbency. I find their cynical, "bottom-line" approach to politics a big part of what turns people off to politics and politicians. I believe that a system that will increase voter participation and encourage more good people to run for local office is a good thing for St. Paul.

Some have expressed concerns that instant run-off voting will be too confusing or complicated for voters. I disagree, though we will need to educate voters about the new system and how it will work. I believe that ranking candidates on a well-designed ballot is a pretty straightforward process. Please vote yes for instant run-off voting in November.

Barbara Hartwick Falcon Heights (former resident of St. Anthony Park)

Meeting the changing climate
by Michael Russelle

Look around at the evidence: ice at both poles is melting, glaciers are retreating, weather patterns and ocean chemistry are changing. While ecosystems are involved, fellow humans are suffering, international relations are threatened. Global climate change is visible, measurable. The cause is invisible.

Like fish, we live in a sea — only ours is a sea of gas. We share our atmosphere in the pressure of wind, the visual delight of sunrise and sunset, the smell of blossoms and the sounds of children running in the park. We are affected by changing atmospheric temperature and pressure, and ocean chemistry are being warmed by the sun. These gases make life possible by moderating temperature swings on Earth.

But now, like a greenhouse in summer, we are overheating our planet.

Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) is the main source of CO2, which is being added to our atmosphere and changing our world. The sobering fact, and one that must propel us to action, is that these changes may have become self-reinforcing.

As permafrost in the northern tundra melts, huge stores of CO2 are emitted, forcing more warming and thawing. In other areas, drought caused by changing atmospheric circulation patterns tends to

COMMENTARY

To comment, visit parkbugle.org
In April, the Scouts collected 795 pounds of food in the annual Scouting for Food drive. This food was delivered to a local food shelf in the Frogtown neighborhood.

In July, about 20 of our Scouts marched in the 4th of July parade and helped lead the opening flag ceremonies at Langford Park.

Why birds?
Bird feeding has always been a hobby of mine. I previously worked as a builder and developer. When I retired from that business, I looked for something that would enable me to interact with customers. My research suggested that people are staying closer to home these days and are looking for activities they can enjoy in their yards. Bird feeding seemed to fit the bill. I sell all kinds of feeders and seeds. I can advise people on how to attract particular birds to their yard.

Why here?
I live in Little Canada, so this location is close to home. I was attracted to Rice Street because of the high exposure here. I also have long-standing connections to Como Park and St. Anthony Park. I grew up on Como Avenue between Snelling and Hamline, and went to Tilden Elementary and Murray Jr./Sr. Hlgh.

How long?

Who else?
Right now it's just me. I have friends who fill in for me when I need to be gone. I hope to get to the point where I can hire a part-time employee.

What else?
My wife and I have a cabin near Hayward, Wisconsin, where I enjoy fishing. We also spend a lot of time with our two daughters and their families.

Letters from 4

Thanks from Pack 22
Thank you to all the St. Anthony Park neighbors and businesses that have supported Cub Scout Pack 22. In the past year (our 60th) your support of our annual wreath sale enabled us to put on a great Scouting program.

In December, the boys collected and donated 35 new toys for the annual Toys-for-Tots drive.

In January, 38 scouts and their parents attended our annual Winter Camp at Kiwanis Scout Camp near M armie on St. Croix. There was sledding, capture the flag, badge activities, and a big campfire with skits and an appearance by a Pack 22 favorite, M in M Eg.

Over 30 boys built and raced cars in our annual Pinewood Derby race in M arm. The top six finishers received trophies and went on to the district level to compete against nearly 70 of the fastest Pinewood cars in St. Paul.

Commentary from 4

generate more drought.
Some scientists who have studied climate change use a single number to epitomize the challenge posed by rising CO₂ levels: 350 ppm. They think this is the maximum concentration of atmospheric CO₂ that will allow us to reduce global warming.

Current rates of CO₂ accumulation have an average lifespan of hundreds of years. The CO₂ we add to the atmosphere will affect us for seven generations.

If we can reverse this accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere, then we need to reverse the flow, more CO₂ needs to go into the ground than we take out. Here's what you can do:

1. Act individually.
   a. Reduce your use: drive less, eat local foods, turn off the lights, insulate and seal your attic.
   b. Switch your source sign up for wind power, install solar photovoltaic cells or solar thermal air and water heating, ride your bike, push a reel mower, hang dry the laundry.
   c. Share your footprint: rent out a room, carpool, buy for others when you shop, loan your tools.

2. Take group action.
   a. Multiply your individual efforts: abilities and resources by working as a religious group, school, business, book group or block club.
   c. Become involved in local efforts to transition St. Anthony Park toward a more resilient, sustainable future.
   d. Encourage international action.

We need big change. The world's governments are meeting in Copenhagen this December (en.cop15.dk). The United States should have the vision, courage and energy to reduce our CO₂ footprint as fast as possible. Write your representatives.

This is likely the largest challenge we face in our lifetime reducing our use of fossil fuels to temper global climate change and avoid conflict over increasingly expensive, limited resources. We generate the invisible causes of climate change. It is we who must change.

M. Richard L. is a professor in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate at the University of Minnesota. He lives in St. Anthony Park.

Jim Olson
Backyard Birder
2770 Rice St.
484-7871

Hamline Elementary and Murray Jr./Sr. Hlgh.

O C T O B E R  2 0 0 9    n    P A R K    B U G L E    5
stadium project coordinator, said the marching band has historically started game-day practice six hours before game time and that for the Sept. 19 game, practice started at 5 a.m. on the field in TCF Bank Stadium. He said he hadn’t heard any reports that people near the stadium were bothered by band practice noise.

Swanson said the university has been generally pleased with how things have gone at the first two home football games.

“Getting people in and out of the stadium — traffic and parking — have gone very smoothly,” he said.

Swanson said that noise problems after the first game were reported only by people living east of the stadium. He said the university received no complaints from other neighborhoods near the stadium — Dinkytown, Stadium Village or Prospect Park.

Swanson said the university continues to consult with sound engineers to determine the best way to direct sound in the stadium.

“We’re still trying to figure out what’s happened and why,” he said. “Getting everything right will be an iterative process.”

Swanson said that fans inside the stadium during the first game had mixed reactions to sound levels. “Some people at the game said it was too loud; others said they couldn’t hear,” he said.

He said that reports about the second game were still being assembled. Swanson noted that controlling sound is both an art and a science.

“Sound can be affected by so many things — weather, time of day, season of the year,” he said. Reaction to noise after the second game was more muted in St. Anthony Park than with the first game. Sally Brown, who lives on Ludow Avenue, said, “I could hear the PA. Some, both through the open windows of my house and in the back yard, but it was definitely not as loud as last week.”

Steinmann said it’s puzzling why stadium noise is louder two miles away from the stadium than in the immediate vicinity.

“I’m starting to wonder if the stadium is functioning as a large parabolic reflector, directing sound over a significant distance to the higher elevations of St. Anthony Park,” he said.

Swanson noted that complaints from other neighborhoods near the stadium are assembled.

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Kathy Bjerke with her daughter, Heather

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Miller also had orientation with the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation and the school district. Finally, she became a staff member at both M urray Junior High and St. Anthony Park Elementary. She maintains offices at both sites.

At St. Anthony Park Elementary, Miller, along with teacher Justin Terrones, will recruit and train volunteers to work with the Alternative Learning Center, which provides after-school academic support for students.

Miller emphasizes the importance of commitment from tutors. “These kids need consistency,” she says. “I try to form relationships with the tutors and really need the mentoring.”

At Murray, Miller is the volunteer tutor recruiter for a program coordinated by St. Anthony Park resident Cindy Thrasher, the M urray Pilot One-on-One tutoring program. It’s designed to support students who have not passed the MCA or are struggling with core classes. Miller knows that some people hold back from volunteering because they think they need a refresher course in algebra before sitting down to teach it. She says, “People should know that we provide training that includes how to tutor as well as subject matter materials.”

Miller had to overcome her own math anxiety and now puts in time herself as a volunteer tutor at M urray. She says she can see how much tutoring helps students.

“Working one-on-one cuts out distractions,” she says. “Students are excited to see me. I’m not a parent, I’m not a teacher — I automatically get ‘cool’ points.”

For more information about volunteering, contact Miller at 293-8740 (Murray Junior H igh), 293-8733 (St. Anthony Park Elementary) or abby.miller@spps.org.

0n some tests, 100 percent is the only passing score. When the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) results were released by the state Department of Education in July, they were presented by the St. Paul school district along the usual lines of, “first the good news, then the bad news.”

Even at schools such as St. Anthony Park Elementary, where more than 80 percent of the students were proficient in both reading and math, and M urray Junior H igh, one of the top three junior highs in the district for its scores, it’s possible to fall into the category of schools failing to make adequate yearly progress.

The current benchmark these schools are stretching to meet, established by federal N o Child Left Behind laws, is 100 percent. Every student in the school is expected to pass the proficiency tests by 2014.

Both St. Anthony Park Elementary and M urray Junior H igh, are expanding their volunteer programs in an effort to reach every student. T hanks to a grant from the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), there will be a tutoring coordinator helping both schools strengthen their efforts for the next three years.

Abby Miller, a recent graduate of Augsburg College, has taken the position for its inaugural year. As a participant in AmeriCorps VISTA, she has agreed to devote her life to national service for one year.

This includes accepting a poverty-level salary of $10,900, signing up for Minnesota Food Support and living simply.

Miller says it’s important that VISTA volunteers understand the lives of the people they will work with by being “right with the people we’re serving.”

Miller is one of 10 VISTA tutoring coordinators in the St. Paul district this year, thanks to the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation. T he foundation, launched in 1995, raises money to provide grants to educators and supports tutoring programs through a citywide tutoring partnership initiative. This year’s tutoring program in St. Paul was also boosted by stimulus money from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Miller’s training began in August. As a VISTA volunteer, she learned about working with children whose academic performance may be influenced by low income and special education needs. She describes it as training in “cultural proficiency.”
Kylie from 1 neighborhood, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. D designed to be non-threatening for young children, the event will include a haunted house, pirate ship, giant spider's web, carnival games, blow-up characters, fog machine, Dracula's Castle and a witches' brew. The cost is $5 per person or $20 per family.

Kylie Gibbons, who lives with her family in Falcon Heights, is the granddaughter of Karen and Tom Ueland, who are running the Spooktacular and whose home is the setting. She is a beautiful five-year-old who was diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) after beginning to have seizures at 4 months of age. The money will go toward purchasing, training and transporting a seizure dog for Kylie.

TSC is a genetic disease that causes benign tumors to grow in the brain, kidneys, liver, heart, eyes, lungs or skin of those affected. The brain tumors can cause seizures, developmental delays, behavior problems and autism.

Although the disease is more prevalent than either cystic fibrosis or ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), with more than a million people worldwide known to have it, many have such mild symptoms that they are not diagnosed until they have a child with the disease. TSC is produced by a dominant gene, so children of carriers have a 50-50 chance of getting the illness.

About a third of all TSC cases are inherited, with two-thirds believed to be the result of spontaneous mutation. Of ne in 6,000 newborns is estimated to have the disease. The prognosis for those with TSC depends on the severity of symptoms. Those with mild symptoms can live long, productive lives, while those with more severe symptoms may have serious disabilities or even face an early death.

Kylie Gibbons falls in the mid-range with her symptoms. O nly her brain is affected, but she has 26 lesions in it and a tumor in the right ventricle of the brain. Until recently her seizures were not under control (over 100 seizures a day), and she is developmentally delayed. Now, with a newly approved medication, Vigabatrin, she only has one to five seizures a day. Kylie has slept in her parent's bedroom for all of her five years. They are fearful that she will have a potentially deadly seizure in the night and can't take the chance that it would happen when they couldn't hear her and wouldn't wake up.

Ueland and Neil Gibbons, Kylie's parents, researched the possibility of getting a seizure dog and found a place in Indiana. MidWest Assistance D ogs, Inc., that trains dogs to work with people who have seizure conditions. Following training, these dogs can perform a variety of tasks including summoning others for help, remaining near the person during the seizure or, in the case of older individuals, retrieving a phone prior to the seizure. Once they have bonded with their owners, some seizure alert dogs develop the ability to predict an oncoming seizure. The dog can then warn its owner in advance of the seizure, giving the person time to sit or lie down and thus avoid injuries from falls.

"This would allow us to move Kylie out of our room and make for a more normal family life," said Maria Gibbons. As a day care provider as well as a cardiac nurse at United Hospital, Gibbons could use the extra sleep. The Gibbons also have two other children: Ava (3) and Shenae (5 months).

"This is hard on the other children," said Maria. "We have less time for them and Kylie is always the focus of attention. We spent our first wedding anniversary in the delivery room when she was born and many other holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving at the hospital trying to get seizures under control. We can't get baby sitters because they don't want the responsibility." Ava has almost taken on the role of the older sister.

A seizure dog would spread the responsibility for Kylie's safety to one more being. But seizure dogs are expensive, $6,000 for the initial training and more for transportation and adaptation to Kylie's special needs.

The Gibbons have been tireless fundraisers for TSC Alliance, a group committed to finding a cure for TSC while improving the lives of those affected, but none of the money they raised goes directly to their family. The money from the Spooktacular is for them.

TSC Alliance was formed in 1974 by four mothers of children who had TSC because they had no other support but each other. It has grown to an organization serving more than 20,000 constituents, sponsoring more than 30 community alliances nationwide and supporting a Web site that receives an average of 1.2 million hits a month. TSC Alliance develops programs, support services and resource information; stimulates and sponsors research; and creates and implements public and professional education programs designed to heighten awareness of the disease.

Neil and Maria Gibbons were named the TSC Alliance volunteers of the year last year for their fundraising efforts. Maria has been the chairperson for the area Step Forward to Cure TSC walks for the last few years, and ran the fifth annual golf tournament, Kylie's Hope Charity Golf Tournament, raising $23,000 for TSC Alliance.

Karen Ueland, who helps her daughter out by staying with Kylie in the hospital or watching the children, has always enjoyed making a fuss about Halloween, dressing up and giving out bags of candy. So when the last of her four children (Maria is the oldest) outgrew their backyard playhouse, she started using it as a Hallowe'en house. Each year the production grew as she added decorations and new themes. Last year the Uelands had 250 to 300 trick-or-treaters, and the idea of having a benefit for Kylie was born. Karen thinks this should be the best year ever.
On Sept. 12, about 50 Como Park residents spent the day painting “Mighty Oak” in the middle of Albany Avenue just north of Pascal Street. The project was sponsored by Paint the Pavement (PTP), a St. Paul-based program that promotes community building and “placemaking” through neighborhood art.

PTP helps groups of neighbors create their own public murals on low-traffic residential streets. The program’s goal is to strengthen relationships among neighbors, calm traffic and create a neighborhood identity. Information is available at paintthepavement.org.

Top: Jeanne Baumann and Marj Moody keep the painters well-supplied.
Middle: Maddie, Aidan and Steve Flynn work on a supplemental design.
Bottom: Painting was followed by a potluck picnic.

Photos by Mike Zaccardi.
to work as a freelance musician, and she enjoys the variety and flexibility.

“Each day is completely different,” she said. Hirabayashi has performed with other freelancers, as well as musicians from the M I nnesota O rchestra. She recently recorded her first C D with Gina Di Bello, principal second violin with the M I nnesota O rchestra, and pianist Gai l I o fowski, who is on the faculty of the MacPhail Center for the Arts. They hope to release it in about four months.

H irabayashi has performed in the Schubert Club’s Room with a View Series at Landmark Center, with the Bach Society of M I nnesota and recently on NPR’s A Prairie Home Companion. “I t was a lot of fun,” she said. “I loved the improvisation.” Hirabayashi will perform a solo recital in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University in the spring of 2010.

Last M ay, H irabayashi received a prestigious MCK night Fellowship for Performing Musicians, which includes a prize of $5,000. “I t was my third time applying,” she said. “First time, I was a finalist. Second time, it didn’t go that far, and this time, I won. I’m really happy! T his will help promote me and support my work. To win the MCK night is also a very good advertisement.”

W ith the MCK night in tow, Hirabayashi hopes to make the oft-neglected harpsichord even more mainstream and reach a wider audience.

“I want to do a number of things, including performances,” she said, “and also offer master classes for adults and kids. T he harpsichord is never considered a solo instrument, but I want to show that this can be done and encourage other people to learn it.”

For more information and to hear samples of Hirabayashi’s work, see www.tundradogmusic.com/Asako.htm.

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Chelsea Heights Elementary
1557 Huron St. 293-8790
http://chelsea.spps.org

Chelseas annual fundraiser kicked off Sept. 22 and runs through Oct. 6. Once again the fundraiser is being coordinated through the Geckler Companies, with proceeds benefiting the school.

Last year, $10,000 was raised through the efforts of students and their families. As a result, Chelsea was able to buy interactive white boards, several laptop computers, instructional materials, and fund field trip admission to the Odyssey. If interested in supporting Chelsea Heights, please call 293-8790.

Chelseas Reading Program needs people willing to read one-on-one with three children in the primary grades. The school asks for a weekly commitment (same day each week) from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. If interested please contact John Giese (293-8790, John.Giese@spps.org). The goal is to have at least 50 volunteers to help 150 children.

The school also needs people to help in the library and with book fairs. If interested, please contact John Giese.

St. Anthony Park Elementary
2180 Knapp St., 293-8735
www.stanthony.spps.org

School began on Sept. 8. After the final bell rang at 9:10, parents and other accompanying family members gathered on the playground for coffee and donuts provided by the St. Anthony Park School Association (SAPSA).

Principal Ann Johnson reports there are 472 students enrolled for the 2009-10 school year. New staff members also joined the school community this year: M athew Crosby, kindergarten teacher; Juliana James, fifth-grade teacher; Susan Fredrickson, sixth-grade teacher; Colleen Gutzman, occupational therapist; Barb Heman, nurse; Kim Carter, speech pathologist; Ku Yang, ELL program assistant; and Amy Frederick, literacy coach. Leo Bjorlie is returning to teach strings and band. Abby Miller will work at the school as a VISTA volunteer coordinator.

On last spring’s MCA tests, 85 percent of St. Anthony Park Elementary students were proficient in math and 87 percent were proficient in reading. The school had some of the highest scores among St. Paul public schools, including science scores in the top three.

The school building underwent a makeover this summer with a technology upgrade that included installation of new wiring and cables that bring the school building up to date for digital technology. Flat-screen TVs were installed in all classrooms. Several classrooms now have SMART boards — white boards that operate like a computer screen — and ceiling-mounted projectors.

The school is looking for support for its instrumental music classes. The Instrumental Music Fund was created last spring in response to district budget cutbacks. To donate, make out a check to St. Anthony Park Elementary School with “Instrumental Music” on the memo line, and send it to: St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp St., St. Paul, MN 55108.


Murray Junior High
2200 Buford Ave., 293-8740
http://murray.spps.org

Murray started the year with 810 students and a new class schedule. Period 1 opens the day at 7:55 and Advisory and Pilot Time is now at 10:48 a.m.

The intramural sports program with other St. Paul junior high schools began the last week of September and continues in October. The schedule for all junior high and senior high athletes is available at: www.dpsastatics.org.

Murray’s first Parent Association Forum will be Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. The topic is guidelines for the Science Fair. Parent-teacher first trimester conferences will be Oct. 20 and 22. There is no school for students Oct. 15-16 and Oct. 23 due to teacher meetings.

Murray is busy gathering volunteers for the many opportunities available at the school. Conference scheduling and tutoring are at the forefront of present needs. Anyone in the community who would like to volunteer for any school tasks should contact Gen Nakanishi (gen.nakanishi@spps.org, 293-8740 ext. 1012).

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

The Como Park Senior High School will have a makeover this summer with a technology upgrade that included installation of new wiring and cables that bring the school building up to date for digital technology. Flat-screen TVs were installed in all classrooms. Several classrooms now have SMART boards — white boards that operate like a computer screen — and ceiling-mounted projectors.

The school is looking for support for its instrumental music classes. The Instrumental Music Fund was created last spring in response to district budget cutbacks. To donate, make out a check to St. Anthony Park Elementary School with “Instrumental Music” on the memo line, and send it to: St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp St., St. Paul, MN 55108.


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http://murray.spps.org

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The intramural sports program
Stormwater management from 1

The lake is on the states list of “impaired” bodies of water, they learned, and the Capital Region Watershed District (CRWD) has developed and is implementing a lake management plan for Como Lake. The plan is focused on reducing runoff pollution to improve water quality in the lake.

The city, working with the watershed district, has already carried out a lakeshore restoration project. Starting in 2002, the city replanted grass and weeds with native plants to discourage geese and improve the filtration of water entering the lake and the absorption of water into the ground.

Watershed districts mystify many citizens, Caywood said, and serve as an example of how challenging it is to learn about water policy in M Innesota. Originally set up by the state legislature in the 1950’s to manage federal grants for flood control, watershed districts follow hydrological lines and the geography of where water goes after it hits the ground. To their flood-control duties, they’ve added water quality management. Their authority includes tax levies, rule-making and condemnation.

An early result of the Citizens League’s statewide water policy study, in which Caywood participated, was to note how difficult it is even to study the subject.

“It’s not terribly transparent,” she said. “That was the first thing we discovered.” A districts board of managers is appointed by county supervisors, CRWD’s list entirely within Ramsey County, but only one has to look across the northern border to find a watershed district, Rice Creek, with three counties appointing its board. M Of Lauterdale is in the Rice Creek district, while Falcon Heights and St. Paul lie mainly within CRWD. M Innesota also has soil and water conservation districts, whose supervisors are elected by voters in general elections. These districts have separate duties from the watershed districts and do not levy taxes.

Capital Region administrator Mark Doneux said some watershed districts take in many counties, and quite a few a area of the state aren’t covered by watershed districts at all but instead have surface water managed by counties or by joint-power agreements between counties and municipalities. A tiny area of St. Anthony Park, for example, lies outside the Capital Region, in the joint-power Central M Innesota Water Management Organization. That jurisdiction lies in Kafton Pond.

The main reason some citizens might wonder what district they’re in so they can apply for grants. Among its other programs, CRWD offers grants of up to $2,000 per property to help homeowners carry out stormwater improvement projects such as rain gardens, rain barrels and green roofs.

Doneux said his district also works with developers and with other government jurisdictions to solve water-quality problems associated with construction. For example, he said, the street work done this summer on Carter Avenue included gravel drains to absorb runoff. The city did the design and engineering; the watershed district served as a resource to make sure the plan met best practices for water quality.

District staff also monitor existing projects for effectiveness, assessing whether the volume and pollution levels of stormwater runoff really are dropping as a result of various projects.

“We used a lot of taxpayer money to build those, and we ought to be able to assess their effectiveness,” Doneux said.

CRWD set its 2010 annual budget in September. The levy, which is not itemized on a property owner’s annual statement from the county but is included in “special districts” along with mosquito control and other odds and ends of jurisdictions, will amount to $1.7 million in 2010, an increase of 4.8 percent over 2009. The owner of a $200,000 house will pay $15.74.

“We think fifteen dollars a year is a very good investment in water quality,” Doneux said.

Doneux said the board decided to draw on reserves in order to keep the increase to a minimum. “The board was concerned about raising the levy too much in these economic times,” he said.

Caywood’s group is going beyond the established programs and seek out other ways to serve as good neighbors to their local lake. She said a support group can approach problems together, such as how to reroute a downspout that’s cemented into a retaining wall and drains onto a driveway, carrying roof runoff into the lake instead of into the ground, where it would be filtered.

Many of any neighborhood’s houses are quite old, she noted, built in an era when the goal was “to get the water off your property.” Priorities have changed, she said, and neighbors can help each other manage their runoff.

The group might also organize a leaf-sweeping brigade to keep leaves out of the sewers. Leaves and other yard waste change the chemistry and nutrient balance of the stormwater running into the lake by using oxygen as it decays and by filling in the waterways, said Doneux.

Como Lake is said almost entirely by stormwater, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Environmental Coordinator Adam Robbins said. So the lake dries up in a drought, overflows in a heavy storm and reflects whatever is going into the storm sewer, including lawn chemicals and other things introduced by the humans and their vehicles living and driving nearby.

Robbins praised Caywood’s group, noting that it’s doing more than blaming government for poor water quality, they’re trying to support government’s efforts to correct the problem.

“It’s a breath of fresh air,” he said.

He also commended the legion of volunteers who have pitched in to improve Como Lake. He said the Minnesota Conservation Corps sends teams of young adults to maintain the lakeshore and a nearby rain garden.

“They’re a nonprofit that’s just been incredible to work with,” Robbins said.

He cited the Youth Job Corps program, which employs teams throughout the park, assigned six adult leaders and 30 teen-age workers to Como this summer, he said, adding, “They did a ton of work.”

And he praised the watershed district, not just for its on-the-ground projects but for its leadership, which has “really brought about a shift in the design and engineering world.”

And all is not stormy in the waters of Como Lake, Robbins said. While problems remain with water quality, he said, “I see a sense of a abundance of wildlife out there.”

Robbins coordinates the Parks and Recreation Department’s Environmental Services program, which includes EcoStewards, who help with weeding, collecting and other tasks, and Park Stewards, “our eyes in the parks” reporting graffiti, broken equipment and other problems. He said interested citizens can get in touch with him at environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Robbins said Caywood’s group, with its emphasis on study as well as service, represents a new direction not only for Como Lake but for the watershed district as a whole.

“They have a strong potential to be part of the suite of those that will help the watershed district understand what’s happening,” he said.

If the watershed district can document changes based on Caywood and her neighbors’ efforts, it’s possible they could do some groundbreaking work,” Robbins said.
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Leon Green
Leen W. Green, 83, of Minneapolis, died peacefully at home Aug. 17, 2009. He lived in St. Anthony Park for many years.

A native of New Jersey, he was educated at the Coast Guard Academy and served on active duty in the mid-1940s. He completed his undergraduate education at Harvard and received his doctorate in mathematics from Yale. A professor of mathematics at the University of Minnesota for four decades prior to his retirement in 1998, he was deeply grateful for the friendships he enjoyed in that community.

He was fond of the outdoors and foreign travel. He was gratified by the achievements of the students he mentored. He was committed to social justice and environmental protection.

Prof. Green was preceded in death by his first wife, Marjorie Benson Green. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Jill Smith; his children, Sarah (Floyd Henderson) and Eric (Erica); two grandchildren; and a sister, Rosalie Friedman.

The family thanks the staff of Hospice of the Lakes for their support. A memorial buffet is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2009, 6-9 p.m., at the Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield.

Dean Larson
Dean E. “Dizz” Larson, age 80, longtime resident of Como Park, died on Sept. 13, 2009. He is survived by his partner, Mary Ann Johnson, and sister, Jasmine Picha. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ardelle. His funeral was Sept. 17, 2009, at olocomb-Henry-Room Funeral Home in Shoreview, with internment at Roseawn Cemetery.

Fred Lukemann Jr.
Fred Emil Lukemann Jr., 87, of Falcon Heights, died peacefully at home Sept. 1, 2009. He had suffered several strokes in recent months.

A Minneapolis native, Fred graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1940 and entered the University of Minnesota the following fall. After U.S. Army service, he returned to the university, earning his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in geography. He joined the U of M’s geography faculty in the early 1950s.

Fred assumed several leadership and administrative roles at the U of M — chair of the Department of Geography, associate dean for social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), assistant vice president for academic affairs and dean of CLA. Working with CLA Dean E.W. Ziebarth and university Vice President Jerry Shepherd, Fred was instrumental in establishing the departments of African American & African Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano Studies, the Urban Studies Program, the School of Public Affairs (later renamed the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs) and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, and son, Bruno. He is survived by daughters, Carla Lukemann, Reedford, N.Y., and Kathryn (Warren) Prilasinc; Falcon Heights; two grandsons; and sister, Lois Berquist, of Roseville.

The family thanks the staff at Hospice of the Lakes for their care. A memorial service will be held at the University of M’s Memorial Union building.

Mary Mantis
Mary Mantis, age 93, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died at home on Aug. 2, 2009, surrounded by her family, following a challenging struggle with atypical Parkinsons.

Mary was born in Reading, Penn., and her mother died when she was one. She was sent to Greece to live with relatives.

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Verna Budde White

Verna Mary Budde White died Sept. 1, 2009. She was born Aug. 8, 1926, to Bernie and Nellie (Bankley) Budde in St. Paul. She graduated from M urray High School in 1946 and the College of St. Catherine in 1950 (Phi Beta Kappa, chemistry), a scientist ahead of her time. In 1995 she was named an Oustanding Alumna of St. Kate's.

She married Harry W hite on Sept. 16, 1950, and they went on to raise family of seven children. Verna was an accomplished piano player, and she sang with the choir at the Church of St. John Vianney as well as with the D RAGS choir, which made many charitable performances.

Verna suffered from polio during 1955, and later in life she was severely handicapped by post-polio syndrome and other illnesses. In spite of this, she was a great hostess, entertaining family and many friends over the years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry; daughter, Peggy, and brothers, H arold and Bob. She is survived by her children, Mary (Jerry) McKoskey, Eileen (Patrick) White de Barrios, Liz (Greg) Koszalinski and John (LuAnn); 10 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were held at Walker Place Chapel in Minneapolis on Aug. 5, 2009.