Flying high from an easel
by Natalie Zett

Stephen Nesser is an artist whose dreams take flight. A Como Park resident, Nesser’s passion for aviation began when he was a baby and his father was stationed at an Army base outside Tacoma, Washington. “I saw planes taking off all the time,” he said. “My first word, in fact, was air-gware.” When he was older, Nesser climbed to the top of his parents’ garage to test his latest flying invention but learned that gravity is a force to be reckoned with. When he was nine, he watched “The Boy Who Flew with Condors,” a film that chronicled the true story of a teenager who went from observing California condors to soaring with them after he had to fly a glider. “I thought, ‘Someday, I’m going to do that too,’” Nesser said. But his dreams of an aviation career were quickly grounded. “My eyesight was less than 20/20, and back then it was 20/20 or nothing. So I pursued another passion — art — but I always dreamed of flying.”

After graduating from Ohio State University in 1975, Nesser worked as a commercial artist for several years and then returned to OSU to complete his MFA. He then studied sumi-e painting in Japan and, after returning to the States, enrolled in school a third time.

Como Park artist Stephen Nesser painted “Jim Hard: Diamond in the Rough” to honor his flight instructor. The painting has been accepted to hang in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

MGM out, Walgreens in?
by Roger Bergerson

There’s a long way to go before a new Walgreens store becomes a reality on the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Lexington avenues, but early indications are that nearby residents may be warming to the idea.

At least that’s what informal polling seemed to show at an Apr. 12 meeting of the District 10 Como Community Council’s Land Use Committee. The committee met to review a proposal by M GM Wine and Spirits to demolish its corporate headquarters and retail store on the property and construct a new 13,000+ square-foot building for Walgreens.

The site design and architectural drawings for the new facility have been prepared by John Kohler of Semper Development, an architect who has represented Walgreens development interests in many communities around the area. At the Land Use Committee meeting, Kohler and Paul Setter, vice president of sales and marketing for M GM, reviewed a design that already had been tweaked to respond to neighborhood concerns expressed at an earlier session.

Those changes principally related to five houses that MGM owns, south across the alley, on the north side of California Avenue. MGM has said it plans to improve and sell the homes. Nearby property owners felt some of the proposed changes would negatively affect the marketability of those residences, as well as their own property values.

The revised plan continues to include demolition of one home and construction of garages with shared-access driveways between the remaining houses. But the proposal no longer calls for the house on the northwest corner of California and Lexington to be rotated 90 degrees, and the barrier being suggested between the commercial and residential properties has been moved northward to allow for slightly more backyard space for the houses.

New concerns were voiced at the meeting, including residents’ desire that the alley from Dunlap Street terminate at the proposed Walgreens parking lot rather than connecting with it. After the meeting, Chris Harkness, Land Use Committee chair, said given the time and effort that will be required of all parties involved, she would like to give the meeting a chance to complete its work and then move forward.

Walgreens to 6

Included as an insert in this issue of the Bugle is a reader survey. It was created by the Park Press Board of Directors Editorial Committee and is designed to solicit feedback from Bugle readers on a variety of topics. Survey results will help the Bugle improve its coverage and strengthen its mission to encourage community participation.

Readers can either complete the paper survey inserted in this issue and mail it back in the enclosed envelope, or take the survey online by going to the Bugle Website: parkbugle.org.

Participants who furnish contact information will be entered in a drawing to win a $50 gift certificate at Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market.
**CITY FILES**

**Como Park**

This year’s Neighborhood garage sale will be May 15. For information on how to register, or to download a map, go to district10comopark.org or call 644-3889.

A free workshop to learn about residential energy efficiency will be held May 4, 7-8:30 p.m., at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1465 Victoria St. N. For a $20 copay, residents can sign up for a visit by the Home Energy Squad, who will install energy-saving materials worth up to $400. For more information, contact Nick nick.smith@district10comopark.org, 644-3889.

Kids meeting kids, parents meeting parents. If you are interested in getting more information about activities designed to make this happen, contact Emily Haugenstein at emilyhaugenstein@yahoo.com

Como Pool Lutheran Church will host a plant sale May 21-23 in the church parking lot at the corner of Heline and Hอย avenues. Proceeds will support a Guatemala mission trip this summer.

Hours are noon-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 644-1277.

The District 10 Council has formed an ad hoc committee in connection with the city’s Como Road Park Transportation Implementation Plan. The city’s purpose is to determine the best alternatives for managing parking, integrating transit systems and implementing programs to improve transportation and parking needs within and around Como Park. The committee welcomes comments by e-mail: comotransport@district10comopark.org.

**Falcon Heights**

The Falcon Heights farmers market has moved and will reopen May 4 at the Roseville Farmers Market at 2131 Fairview Ave. N.

The city of Falcon Heights has adopted a social host ordinance, which will hold people criminally responsible if they host or allow events or gatherings where people under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol, regardless of whether the host supplied the alcohol. Exceptions are made for religious ceremonies or conduct solely between an underage person and his or her parents. The ordinance became effective upon the council’s adption on May 24.

The Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for summer programs. View the summer program lineup at falconheights.org or call to request an activity guide. Registrations can be done online (phone: 792-7616) or in person at City Hall (277 W. Larpentant). Register early; enrollment is limited in some classes.

So far, summer programs include a variety of instructional sports for children: t-ball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, peer wreew and ultimate Frisbee.

Families with children newborn to age 5 are invited to participate in Playtime with Parents. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, June 16-Aug. 18, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1376 Holton. A five-week session costs $16; drop-in is $5 per session. To register or for more information, call 792-7616 or visit falconheights.org.

**Lauderdale**

At a public hearing on Apr. 13, Lauderdale residents learned about possible revisions to the city’s zoning code. Over the next few months, the City Council will consider changes that bring the code into line with changes in state law and will refine some aspects of the city’s long-range plan. A second public hearing will be scheduled before the council finalizes revisions to the zoning ordinance.

**St. Anthony Park**

On Apr. 6, the following representatives were elected to the St. Anthony Park Community Council board:

- South delegation: M. At H. Asim, Jim Hun, Joe Kelly, N. alan O’Neil
- North delegation: Brian Longley, Roger Purdy, Jon Seppmann

Business delegation: Ray Bryan, Raymond Computing; Amy E. Buescher, Children’s Home Society & Family Services; Linda Hodge, BJL Software; Paul Harman, Erdal Consulting; Stephen Mabrey, Stephen Mabrey Landscape Architecture; Paul M Ix, Keista Leasing; Fred Peters; Ferdinand Peters Law Offices.

Members elected last year who remain on the board: Gary Carlson, Greg H. alcy, Ranea H. Anton, JoAnne M. Alkta, Greg Richardson.

A public forum will be held at 7 p.m., May 12, at South St. Anthony Park Recreation Center, 850 S. Cleveland to provide feedback on the latest master plan for Hampden Park.

The draft plan is based on the comments gathered at previous meetings and is available at sapcc.org. Contact Renee at 649-5992 or renee@sapcc.org with comments.

The Neighborhood Energy Squad will present its next workshop May 25, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Central High School auditorium. St. Anthony Park residents may participate. The free workshop is required as the first step toward a home audit and installation of energy-saving devices such as a programmable thermostat, water heater blanket and compact fluorescent light bulbs. A $30 copay covers the home visit and inspection.

Registration is limited. To sign up, contact Renee Lepreau at renee@sapcc.org or 649-5992.

Ramsey County’s Midway compost site off Pierce Butler Road will accept trees and shrubs, grass clippings and other soft-bodied plant materials (corn stalks, pumpkin vines, sunflower stalks, weeds), most brush and tree waste. Stumps, roots and root balls are not accepted.

Bring proof of residency, such as a driver’s license, state-issued identification card or a utility bill with Ramsey County address. Residents may also take compost for their gardens. The site is open daily except Tuesday and Thursday. For a complete schedule go to ramsey.umn.edu/ph/rt/midway.htm.

The St. Paul Saints have announced that their three fireworks shows this summer will happen at 9 p.m. the evening of July 4 and Aug. 25.

A children’s art show runs April 25-June 11 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., featuring work by neighborhood children.
New club is up and running in Lauderdale

by Dave Healy

Caldwell said, and will increase by a mile each time. “Well go out and back, rather than a loop,” he added. “That way people can easily extend or decrease the distance if they want.”

Caldwell has been at the Lauderdale Wellness Center since 2008. He’s run several marathons, a triathlon and an ironman competition. “Running gets in your blood,” he said, “and doing it with a group is a great way to keep motivated. The key to success with any wellness program is setting realistic goals and maintaining consistency.”

Lauderdale Running Club, which opened in 2005, offers chiropractic services, massage therapy, acupuncture, relaxation training and life coaching. Besides the running club, other free services they provide for businesses are health talks, ergonomic evaluations and stress relief breaks. For more information about the Lauderdale Running Club, visit lauderdalewellnesscenter.com and click on Community Services, call 917-9800 or e-mail drmatt@lauderwellnesscenter.com.

The title of a 1962 film directed by Tony Richardson captured one dimension of the runner’s life: “The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner.” Running can be a solitary pursuit, but it doesn’t have to be. Those who want to experience the benefits of running with other people have a new option: the Lauderdale Running Club.

Sponsored by the Lauderdale Wellness Center, the club, which is free to join, meets Saturday mornings at 7 a.m. at the center, 2443 Larpenteur Ave., just east of Hwy. 280. It’s the brainchild of Matt Caldwell, a chiropractor at the center and avid runner.

Caldwell said the club is open to runners of all abilities. For those interested in training for a race, the club will offer a program to prepare for either a marathon or half marathon. “But you don’t have to be pointing to a race to be in the club,” Caldwell said. “It’s for anyone who wants to improve their fitness.”

Routes will change weekly, Caldwell said, and will increase by a mile each time.

“The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner” is a great way to keep motivated. The key to success with any wellness program is setting realistic goals and maintaining consistency.”

For more information about the Lauderdale Running Club, visit lauderdalewellnesscenter.com and click on Community Services, call 917-9800 or e-mail drmatt@lauderwellnesscenter.com.

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Flying high from 1

"Because the glider is silent, we don't scare the birds," he said. "I once joined a flock of pelicans in flight. I just dropped behind them and was last in line. I stayed with conservationists, use them more efficiently and develop viable alternatives to our current behavior.

For our family, it has been remarkably easy to reduce our use of electricity. Our year-round use is only half what it was five years ago. We have tried to change our habits. Each small step accumulates the savings: turning the fluorescent light bulbs and switching them off when we leave a room, unplugging electronic equipment, hanging the laundry.

Our interest has been the experience, connections, inspiration. It is exciting that our community will develop collective solutions to these pressing problems.

Surely our neighborhood has the experience, connections, inspiration to make this happen.

For Nesser, having his painting in a prestigious museum is a way to sustain his creative work. 

"It's a great honor to have it put into the permanent collection of a museum," he said.

"I am very excited to have it in a museum," he said. 

The museum's art gallery and noticed that all the paintings were donated. After returning home, Nesser contacted the gallery about donating his painting.

"The curator, Tom Crouch, hesitated, saying that they were full, but agreed to put my painting through the selection process," Nesser said.

"It took months, but I got a letter from the Smithsonian that they'd accepted my painting. The next step is shipping it.

"For Nesser, having his painting in a prestigious museum is a way to sustain his creativity and to share his passion for flying and painting.

For more information, visit Wings of Gold (stephennesser.com) and the M Innova Soaring Club (msoaringclub.com)."
These are the people in your neighborhood

Christy Myers Photography
2145 Knapp St.
647-0776
cmyersphoto.com

Why photography?
This is my second career. I was a municipal financial consultant for 30 years, and when I retired from that, I decided I wanted to do something completely different. My husband and I travel a lot, and I’ve always enjoyed taking pictures on our trips. I wasn’t sure, though, whether travel photography could be a business, so after I retired from my first career I took some classes at Hennepin Technological College. I especially enjoyed classes in portraiture. There’s something timeless about a portrait in the way it captures a person at a particular moment in time.

In addition to portraits, I do wedding photography. I’ve always liked weddings — the ceremonial aspects of the event and the way weddings bring families and friends together. I do portraits both in my home and on location. Most of my work is shot digitally.

Why here?
It’s wonderful to be able to work out of my home. I’m in the middle of a wonderful neighborhood for a photographer, with many families. Besides St. Anthony Park, my clients come from Prospect Park, where my husband and I go to church, as well as surrounding neighborhoods. The Bugle is the only place I advertise.

How long?
We’ve lived in our present house since 1983. I’ve had my business, Christy Myers Photography, for six years.

Who else?
It’s just me. Occasionally, I get help for weddings.

What else?
Besides travel, I enjoy hiking, camping and gardening. My husband, Gordon, is a musician, so I listen to a lot of live music. I’m very much looking forward to being a grandparent. Our daughter is due to have twins this summer.

Why here?
It’s wonderful to be able to work out of my home. I’m in the middle of a wonderful neighborhood for a photographer, with many families.
Walgreens from 1

Why move when you can improve!
Bathrooms, Kitchens, Additions, Closets, Garage Cabinetry...
We will help you to stay in your neighborhood and fall in love with your house all over again!

Please join us May 19th at 7 p.m.
Brady Udall will read from his amazing new novel “The Lonely Polygamist.” Publishers Weekly said, “Udall’s polished storytelling and sterling cast of perfectly realized and flawed characters make this a serious contender for Great American Novel status.”

Save this Bugle
and enter our Birthday Party Hat Contest
Help us celebrate 35 years as a nonprofit community newspaper by creating a newspaper hat and entering our Birthday Party Hat contest at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival June 5.
Newspaper hats can be made in all shapes and sizes. You can find directions for making paper hats on the Internet or in books at your local library.
Here’s what you need to know:
1. Hats must be made from a recycled Bugle.
2. Embellishments are encouraged! Be resourceful!
3. Bring your finished hat to the Park Bugle booth at the Arts Festival across from Park Service on Como Avenue between 9:30 and 3 p.m. Saturday, June 5.
4. Label your hat on the inside with name, age, or school grade, and phone number.
5. Hats will be judged at 5 p.m., the day of the Arts Festival by a local artist.
Age categories and prizes:
Kindergarten through 5th grade: $25 • Grades 6 to 8: $25 • High school: $25 • Adult: $25
Winners and their hats will be featured in the July issue of the Park Bugle.
Even if you don’t enter, stop by the booth and see what your neighbors made!

Roger’s Tree Service
Certified Arborist
Roger Gatz
651-699-7022
612-414-9241
www.rogertree.com

Lady Elegant’s Tea Room
Open Wednesday - Saturday for lunch & tea
In Milton Square / 2230 Carter Avenue / Saint Anthony Park
651-645-6676 / www.LadyElegantsTea.com

Micawber’s
the eternally optimistic book people
651-646-5506 / www.micawbers.com / www.micawbers.blogspot.com
2238 Carter Ave., St. Paul – In Milton Square on Carter at Como
Hours: M-F 10 am - 8 pm / Sat 10 am - 6 pm / Sun 11 am - 5 pm

A Place To Call Home
2324 Valentine Avenue
$374,500
4 Bedrooms 2 Baths
Hardwood Floors
Main Floor Office
3 Car Garage-Oversized Lot

2294 Priscilla Street
$234,900
3 Bedrooms - 1.5 Baths
Hardwood Floors
Main Floor Bath & Laundry
Large Room Sizes

1427 Breda Avenue
$289,900
4 Bedrooms 3 Baths
Stunning Woodwork Double Garage
Como Park

3 Car Garage-Oversized Lot
Main Floor Office
Hardwood Floors
4 Bedrooms-2 Baths
$374,500
2324 Valentine Avenue

Como Park
Stunning Woodwork Double Garage
4 Bedrooms-3 Baths
$289,900
1427 Breda Avenue

Park Bugle newspapers!
Several years ago, I was talking withophil Janni, executive-director of the
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville, about how he feels when an
animal doesn't make it and he has to euthanize it.
Phil said if the creature is
rehabilitated, it's released back into
the wild. If it can't be rehabilitated, it's put out of its misery. "Either
way, it's a release," he said.
I had examples of each type of release
recently.
One afternoon in mid-
February, Gregg Richardson got a
call from his south St. Anthony Park neighbor telling him he had an
eagle in his backyard.
Gregg called another neighbor, M argaret Solberg, who called her
friend, Linda Haffield, a volunteer at the Raptor Center. Linda told
Margaret to walk toward the eagle, waving her hands and talking
loudly, to determine if the eagle could fly.
While Linda stayed on the line, Margaret tried it and learned that
the bird could not fly; it was
dragging one wing. A rescue was in
order.
Linda arrived shortly and
handled M argaret a towel to cover
the eagle's head. Then Linda slowly
approached the bird, talking softly,
while M argaret covered the head.
This prevents the eagle from
using its beak to attack the
rescuers face.
Then, while Linda had
the bird on its back, cradled like a big
log in her arms, M argaret drove it to the Raptor Center. It was
after hours but Linda has access to the building. They put the bird into a
carrier cage and sat it in a dark
hallway. A dark, quiet corner would help it calm down.
Linda left a note and a voice
mail message for Lori Arndt, the
clinic manager.
First thing next morning, Lori
brought the bird out for examina-
tion by a veterinarian. T hey
determined that the bird, an adult
male, had made contact with a
power line and had burns on its
right wing and right foot, probably
from a monofilament harness to the eagle.
"It's really heart-breaking this
eagle didn't make it," she said.
"It was just one example of a
release.
About a month later, I was
invited to attend the release of
a rehabilitated golden eagle, a more
favorable rehabilitation outcome.
The bird had been found in early
March along the highway near
Fairchild, Wisconsin, just southeast of Eau Claire. After a short stay at
the White Pine/Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center near Fall
Creek, Wisconsin, the adult female
was taken to the Raptor Center.
After several weeks of therapy
and flight practice, it was ready to
be released. M ost often, when
rehabilitated birds are released, it's
never known how they fare in the
wild. However, this eagle was
outfitted with a GPS tracking
device that was attached with a
monofilament harness to the eagle.
The unit records the bird's
location on a regular basis, then
uploads the data to a satellite every
three days. Its battery is solar
powered so it recharges itself when
the bird is sitting or flying in the
sun. A golden eagle similarly
equipped last year was tracked to
north of the Arctic Circle last
summer and then back down to
Wisconsin in the fall.
You can follow the progress of
both golden eagles at
mm.audubon.org.
Fifty of us gathered in a
clearing amid stacks of old
pulpwood near Fairchild. M ark
M artell, of Audubon M innesota, held the bird, named Fairchild, and
let folks take pictures. Then, with
the crowd falling silent, on his high
point of three was that he tossed the
into the air. The bird first glided,
then got its wings flapping and
headed into the pines. As it
disappeared, a little girl in the
crowd whispered, "Eye, bird.
That second kind of release is
the kind we'd all favor.
I'll be leading field trips as part of the
Urban Birding Festival, May 13-16.
The festival is sponsored by metro
Audubon chapters and features free
bird walks and special events at
Fridley's Springbrook Nature Center.
For the full schedule, visit
urbanbirdingfair.org.
Community gardens overflow with enthusiasm

by Anne Holzman

The first crop of spring is already in at area community gardens: a bumper crop of applications, with waiting lists that are prompting local governments to get more space under cultivation.

Applicants to the St. Anthony Park Community Garden received an e-mail in March asking if they'd be willing to share their plots. Renee Lepreau, Community Council organizer, said there were only 11 plots left for newcomers after returning gardeners had priority and can request to keep the same plot, but St. Anthony Park tills the entire seasonal area at the beginning or end of the growing season.

Both gardens charge a rental fee of $25 or $30 per plot to cover water and other services associated with garden maintenance. St. Anthony Park requires gardeners to participate in a spring planting meeting and take on volunteer roles such as maintaining shared equipment or carting away brush and rocks.

Falcon Hights, which grew last year from 20 to 29 plots due to heavy demand, handles the challenges more informally.

The gardeners organize themselves, but do have a set of regulations that they agree to. "We have a kickoff organizational meeting, and then an opening workday where general maintenance items are addressed," Richard O. Ison, who lives across Robbins Street from the St. Anthony Park garden, says he's been gardening there for close to 20 years and pitches in where he can. For the first five years or so, he said, he was an active organizer, taking home leaky hooses and other equipment to repair and return. Then they had two children and had to reprioritize, but they continue to enjoy their extended-season plot and sometimes bring lawn chairs over.

Ison said he noticed the increased demand. "Back in the day, plots were big," he said.

Falcon Hights gardener Patty H. Olm said the community garden’s location is advantageous for families with children. It’s located along Cleveland Avenue in Community Park, with the playground and basketball court a short distance away.

Daughter Robyn, 13, likes to plant; son Kevin, 11, is more interested in the heavy digging. Holmes said. And their mother has found new friends.

City slikers + agriculture = CSA

by Lisa Steinmann

When it comes to feeding a family, what could be easier than sliding a perfectly round disc of frozen dough, topped with red sauce, cheese and pepperoni, out of its cardboard box and into the oven for 15 minutes? Convenient? Yes. N utritious? Maybe not.

For nutrition, it’s hard to beat fresh vegetables. But vegetables can be convenient too, especially if they come to you.

T hat’s the premise of community supported agriculture (CSA), an arrangement where farmers deliver fresh produce to city folks. Those folks are not simply customers, though, but stakeholders who have agreed to share in the season’s risks and bounty.

CSA members pay for their share early in the season. That investment pays off all summer and into fall in the form of weekly boxes of off-freshly picked produce delivered to various drop sites.

Last year, there was a tomato blight so we didn’t get any tomatoes,” explains Shelley Berven. She may sound like a farmer describing her crop, but she’s actually a St. Anthony Park resident and a member of the Earth Dance Farm CSA. Despite last summer’s tomato blight, the farm provided her and other shareholders with dozens of vegetables, herbs, berries, apples and plums.

CSA membership means sharing the ups and downs of farming, from blights to bumper crops. If it’s a good year for kohlrabi, you might get more than you bargained for. Earth Dance farmers Norm Gross and Laurie Nelson help out by including recipes in their weekly newsletters.

For Berven and others, though, CSA membership is about more than vegetables. As she puts it, “If I can’t grow my own food, I want to be able to buy it from someone I know and from a place I can visit and be connected to.”

For the Bervens, participating in visiting days and family camp weekends nourishes the connection. At least once a summer, Berven, her husband and their 12-year-old twins, Eliot and Olivia, camp out at the farm. Sometimes they work in the fields, but that’s not required. In the fall, they enjoy attending the fall harvest party to pick pumpkins, take a hayride, sit around a bonfire and share a potluck.

M argaret Olson, another St. Anthony Park resident, likes CSAs because of their farming practices. Through her work as an entomologist, she has seen first-hand that how farmers manage their land affects water quality. Olson sees small farmers competing against agribusiness, which often use genetically modified crops, hormones and insecticides. CSAs do things differently. Many are organic operations, and most use farming methods that sustain rather than deplete resources.

T hat’s important, says Olson. “We left this world for our grandchildren.”

For Olson, CSAs offer more than good food. She values her connection to a farm family.

“Sustainable farming is hard work,” she says. “I feel appreciation and admiration for people who work so hard.”

M argaret likes to think of CSAs as food with a face. She has been a friend of Dan Guenther and Margaret Pennington and a member of their CSA Common Harvest Farm near Osceola, Wisconsin, for more than 18 years.

M argaret has branched out to broccoli, peppers and beets and added preservation to her list of skills. Last year she made beet pickles and tomato jam. “If you give someone a blind taste test, they might not know it’s tomatoes,” she says, noting its cinnamon-splashed sweetness.

Among the choices organizers face are whether to allow gardeners to keep the same plot year to year, and whether to till the entire garden between growing seasons.

Falcon Hights started off assuming a fresh start every spring, each in a 10-by-12-foot plot, but gardeners say some are planting strawberries and asparagus and maintaining them from year to year.

St. Anthony Park has a row of extended-season plots at the back, closest to the railroad tracks, accounting for about a third of the space. The rest is divided into 15-by-20-foot seasonal plots, with a total of close to 100 plots. As in Falcon Hights, returning gardeners have priority and can request to keep the same plot, but St. Anthony Park tills the entire seasonal area at the beginning or end of the growing season.

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Taking it to the boulevards

by Lisa Steinmann

Leave the spray paint at home and take your rebellious urge for coloring the urban landscape to the boulevards. Grab a handful of seeds and bomb some neglected, orphaned land, especially that strip of soil between the sidewalk and the street. We've come a long way since the green, grasy conformity of days gone by. Where some of us are content to drag out the lawn mower and do battle with the crabgrass on a regular basis, others are tagging the boulevard with salad greens, orange carrots and red tomatoes.

"It's not really rebellious as it all sounds." In St. Paul, that tract of 14 feet or so from the curb to the sidewalk belongs to the property owner. The city is a partner in boulevard management, taking responsibility for tree planting and maintaining a right to dig the area up when necessary to get at the sewer pipes and cables underground. Residents are also responsible for following city ordinances pertaining to boulevard planting.

Among the undeterred, and one of the hardest working guerrilla gardeners in St. Anthony Park, is Lois Braun. She lives in an apartment building notable for the bright clusters of yellow daffodils and pink tulips that dot the front lawn. Behind the building's urban façade is a corridor of buckthorn-choked terrain that abuts the BNSF railroad tracks. It's here that Braun has hacked and dug and composted nearly a dozen food-producing beds.

W hy? Braun credits her upbringing as a missionary kid in West Africa. "Food security is a big deal to me," she says.

Despite the fact that she's not a homeowner, between her community garden space and the plots near the tracks, she managed to bring in a crop last year that fed her household, the occasional neighbor and then some 250 pounds of produce that she donated to a food shelf.

Out of soil that was packed hard as rock, neglected and depleted, she managed to grow beans, sorghum, squash, potatoes and lettuces. She also has a raspberry patch, a couple of apple trees and hazelnut bushes.

For others, the boulevard in front of the house is the only alternative to backyards overshadowed by houses, garages and mature trees. Along Chelmsford Avenue in St. Anthony Park, Nick Jordan has turned the length of the boulevard, including an agreeable neighbor's portion, into a rich bed of greens and hardy root vegetables. Sunny as it is, the plot still only gets about five out of the ideal six hours of sun daily.

"I'm a huge advocate of greens," he says. He claims that greens, in all their verdant shades and various textures, are suited to less sunny conditions and are "a complete convenience food, delicious fried up in the skillet with olive oil — and immensely good for you."

"If not for the drainage and the soils present, we'd probably have even more greens in our garden," he says.

"Urban food production is an interesting and beautiful thing," Jordan believes. "But people are starting to think about how they can grow food in their yard in creative ways."

Making gardening a family affair is part of the fun for St Anthony Park resident Anika Ledlow (17) and her grandfather, Michael Russelle. Together, they've created boulevard gardens on two sides of their corner property.

Their first crop, when they started a few years ago, was garlic. Ledlow prepared the soil with advice from her grandfather, a soil scientist at the University of Minnesota. She added manure and compost, plus some sand to keep the soil friable. Plants in November, shoots of bright green garlic are one of the first signs of garden life in April. Ledlow also tends a strawberry patch and this year is planning to have beans intermingling with the morning glory that climbs the arched pole her grandfather erected.
Community gardens from 8

“Once, with children, you tend to be connected with people whose children are the same age,” Holmes noted. “It’s a way to network with others.”

Holmes also said that as a novice gardener, she’s learned skills she never had learned working in her own backyard. She has long been committed to serving organic food to her family, she said, but didn’t know how to garden that way.

“What I really like about our garden is that from the beginning, the organizers decided we would use organic methods,” she said. The University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus also hosts some community gardens. There is a student cooperative, Comercoopia, at the southeast corner of Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues. Gardeners from both Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Park said they have bought plants from Comercoopia and traded tips with the students at farmers’ markets. Comercoopia has received certification as an organic garden, an arduous process completed in 2008.

Community gardens have long been popular in St. Paul, said Heather Worthington, who worked as director of the St. Anthony Park Community Council in 1998, when the council purchased land for the garden area that had previously been leased from Burlington Northern Railroad. But St. Anthony Park is unique in that the District Council owns the land. Usually, said city gardens coordinator Granlund, the city makes an agreement with a nonprofit to manage the land but the city retains ownership.

Worthington said the land purchase was expensive and complicated and depended on some major gifts from individuals and businesses.

“I think we ended up raising over $100,000 for it,” she said. “We had some people in the community who felt it was important.”

The St. Anthony Park garden has depended on good leadership, from the negotiating skills of attorney Fred Peters, who helped seal the deal with Burlington Northern, to the vigilant organizing of Sue Conners and Sherron Eagles, all of them supported by District Council staff.

Leni Braun, who now co-coordinates the garden with Conners, said she wasn’t sure this was where she wanted to live when her partner invited her here more than 10 years ago. A call to Conners helped make up her mind.

Braun said there are many members of the St. Anthony Park garden who live outside the neighborhood, and she hopes St. Paul and other cities will quickly establish more gardens to relieve some of the demand.

Some have advocated for preference for residents, she said.

“If we’re talking about sustainability, we don’t want people expending gasoline to get to their community garden,” she said. Braun said many of those commuters have moved away from the neighborhood after having made a substantial investment in the garden, and they shouldn’t just be pushed out. Nor does she want to see a lottery that might deprive established gardeners of their continuing involvement.

“I like the continuity,” she said. “People invest time and energy, for example, in weed control.” She said they’d be less likely to do that if they couldn’t be sure of future participation.

For those stuck on waiting lists, Braun said, if they have shady yards they can grow a surprising amount of food.

“You can grow leafy things,” she said. “Greens are immensely good for you, and they don’t need a lot of sun.”

And those with no ground at all, or with garden space they don’t know what to do with, would do well to connect with Yards to Gardens (yzsg.org), she said, where they can register their need and get hooked up with a partner.

Despite the headaches, garden leaders find plenty to do on the lighter side. Both Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Park participate in garden tours, and they both celebrate toward the end of a season with potlucks featuring diverse preparations of popular vegetables. Falcon Heights gardener Barbara O’ Leary said the garden keeps her healthy with more than vegetables.

“I’m almost 70,” she said. “It’s good for me to get out of the house.”

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School News

Chelsea Heights Elementary

Chelsea Heights hosted a family reunion. If you are able to donate prizes, please contact the school. The festival will go toward construction of a new playground. The committee is looking for more volunteers to help with this community project.

The Chelsea Heights Running Club 5K is off to a blazing start. The challenge was to read a book per week for six weeks, and more than 80 students have signed up to run with the group at least once a week.

The entire community is invited to the Chelsea Heights Elementary Spring Celebration, a community-building event and fundraiser for a new playground at Chelsea Heights Southwest Como Rec Center. The event will feature a barbecue dinner, activities for kids, raffle and more.

The event will be held rain or shine on Friday, May 21, 5-8 p.m. If you are able to donate prizes, products or services, please contact the school.


The highest scores in each grade were presented with awards:

T third grade: Grace Tietel, Lailani Anderson, Quinn Altman, Alya Akiyama, M arquie Hemson, Top 2. Lucy Phillips, Chervenak. Fourth grade 1st place tie, Isabel Anderson and Anthony Phillips, 2nd place, Vance Ponte, 3rd place tie, Abigail M ereman and Andrei Konieczny. 4th place, Margaret Leih. 5th place, Cole N. aprale. Fifth grade 1st place, Kathryn M Carinick, 2nd place, Ethan Brudnick. 3rd place, Evan Dousline, 4th place, Lillian Langevin and M arie Wulf. 5th place tie, Betty Woods, Madison M oxy and Joseph M cCune-Ziend. Sixth grade 1st place, William D. 2nd place, Jason Park. 3rd place, Nicholas Lentz. 4th place tie, Ciera Erwin, Angie M artin and Ryan Rogers. 5th place tie, Ellie Smith and D esiree H ill.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

St. Anthony Park Elementary is throwing open the doors on Friday, May 7, 5:30–8 p.m., for the annual Spring Carnival. All are welcome to attend this event, which features games and homemade food. A plant sale will be held the same weekend: 12–7 p.m. Friday, May 7, and 12–5 p.m. Saturday, May 8. Also look for hanging baskets and pots at Speedy M arket. Proceeds support environmental programs at the school.

Students raised $9,000 for the school during the annual read-a-thon. The challenge was to read a school total of 250,000 minutes during a two-week period. Students went above and beyond, reading a total of 377,000 minutes.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students will get taken out to the ball game on Friday, May 7, when they attend the St. Paul Saints Baseball Education Day.

The final Site Council and SAPSA meetings of the year will take place Monday, May 10, at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Agendas include planning for next year and election of new officers.

A spring barbecue sponsored by StPPS Nutrition Services will take place on the school playground (weather permitting) on May 14. Families are invited to join their children at lunch for grilled hot dogs and beans served up by lunchroom staff and volunteers. BYOB (bring your own blanket).

Another day for a picnic will be Tuesday, May 15, at 10 a.m. Sixth-grade students will enjoy a picnic in Como Park after they march in the annual parade.

The annual talent show, featuring dancers, comedians, musicians, magicians, jugglers and actors, will take place Friday, May 14, at 7 p.m. in the M unny Junior High School auditorium.

A select group of students will attend the 20th annual Young Audience Literature Festival at Bethel University on May 27. This year, the youth writers will explore the theme "stories of hope." Award-winning children's author M ary Acoraw will keynote the conference.

On May 28 a M emorial Day program will be held at the school in the morning. It will include a flag presentation, songs, readings and recognition of the patriotic essay contest winners. There will be no school on M emorial Day, M ay 28.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

The Como Park Elementary Funtastic Carnival is set Thursday, May 27, 5:30–7 p.m. The event will include games, face painting, crazy hair booth, inflatable obstacle course for older children and inflatable catapillar for younger children. Two inexpensive meals will be offered. Please join us for a night of good fun with your family.

Murray Junior High

The Como Park Elementary Funtastic Carnival is set Thursday, May 27, 5:30–7 p.m. The event will include games, face painting, crazy hair booth, inflatable obstacle course for older children and inflatable catapillar for younger children. Two inexpensive meals will be offered. Please join us for a night of good fun with your family.

竞争力在四月。所有学生被授予荣誉奖在活动结束。

Violette Olsson: 8th Grade Top Paper Award, Gold Grand Award, Foundation Award, Seagger Rising Star Award.

M aria Klein: Bronze Grand Award, Acoustical Society Award. M argaret Stoever: Bronze Grand Award, University Award. D ella Kuzer-Zlotnick: Silver Grand Award, Foundation Award. Brooke Rogers: 8th Grade Paper Award, Bronze Grand Award.

Bronze Grand Awards: M adeline N icol, Dan O'dellie- Olson, M argon Liddie Kiimm.

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M ay Calendar

May 4: Trimester 3 conferences, 3:30–6:30 p.m.
May 6: Trimester 3 conferences, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
May 27: Band and orchestra concert, 7 p.m.

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Neighbors

Luke Mielke and Gabrielle Favazza are the recipients of this year’s Neal Kwong Youth Citizenship Award, given each year to one or more Falcon Heights teenagers.

Mielke, 16, is an Eagle Scout and coordinated the construction and installation of bat houses at Falcon Heights Community Park. He has been a junior leader in the Falcon Heights Park and Recreation program.

Gabrielle Favazza, 14, has also been a junior leader. She volunteers at the Gibbs Museum and recently completed a Girl Scouts service project that involved knitting hats for patients at the Children’s Hospital for Cancer. She teaches at her church’s Vacation Bible School and volunteers at several nursing homes.

Serendipity Flowers, located in Milton Square, was selected as a 2010 winner in the Knot of Best Weddings, a special section in The Knot Minnesota magazine. This is the third year Serendipity Flowers has received the award. The store is owned by Sarah Nylander Deming. More information is available at serendipity-flowers.com and theknot.com.

Former St. Anthony Park resident Tone Stockenström will exhibit a collection of photographs — “Where is Home?” — at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. The exhibit is a visual exploration of what “home” means to Stockenström, who was born in Sweden but immigrated to the United States at the age of six. The project is the product of a journey back to Sweden to interview and photograph relatives. The exhibit is on display in the American Swedish Institute’s Lower Level Gallery from May 7 to Aug. 29.

St. Anthony Park resident Grant Abbott has announced his retirement as executive director of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, a post he has held for six years. Rev. Abbott is an Episcopal priest who served for 23 years at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park before coming to the council.

Gabrielle Favazza (l.) and Luke Mielke (r.) received the annual Neal Kwong Youth Citizenship Award from the city of Falcon Heights. Presenting the award is Gary Kwong.

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In March, we raised $1,177.29 for the Murray Junior High Tutoring Program. May donations will benefit the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

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1 Saturday
- How Secretaries Changed the 20th Century Office: Design, Image, and Culture, through May 30. GMD.
- Children's art show, through June 11. SMEC.
- Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden opens. CPZC.
- Celiaijian's Carousel opens. CPZC.
- Como Town Opens. CPZC.
- Fine Arts Center, 523-2905.
- Dance Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Drew
- One Fast Move, 8 p.m. CG.
- Plant sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. SAPES.
- School Carnival, 5:30-8 p.m. St. Anthony Park Elementary.
- Sparkle the Sea Lion Show open. CPZC.
- Items for June Events should be submitted by May 19 to calendar@parkbugle.org.

2 Sunday
- Living Green, InVocation concert, 4 p.m. SAPUMC.

4 Tuesday
- Energy Efficiency Workshop, 7-8:30 p.m. St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1465 Victoria St. N., 644-2791.
- Como Park High School Graduation Party garage and bake sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Stansly Food Mart, 1053 Western Ave. N., 644-7760.
- Spruce Up Review, 7-8 p.m. Central High School auditorium.

15 Saturday
- Michael Basque with comedian Mark Miller, 7:30 p.m. CG.
- District 10 Neighborhood Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Stansly Food Mart, 1053 Western Ave. N., 644-7760.

18 Tuesday

20 Thursday
- Fanstastic Carnival, 5-7:30 p.m. Como Park Elementary.

21 Friday
- Trio Tito, 8 p.m. CG.
- Chetahah Spring Celebration, 5-6 p.m. CHES.

22 Saturday
- Kar Burke/B.L., 8 p.m. CG.

25 Tuesday
- Neighborhood Energy Squad workshop, 7-8:30 p.m. Central High School auditorium.

26 Wednesday
- Lonnie Knight's When Worlds Collide, with Atomic Flea, Molly Bean, noon. CG.
- Irish Mohr, 7:30 p.m. CG.

28 Friday
- Sparkle the Sea Lion Show open. CPZC.

31 Monday
- Funtastic Carnival, 5:30-8 p.m. CHES.


MAY 2010

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- One Fast Move, 8 p.m. CG.
- Plant sale, noon-6 p.m. SAPES.
- School Carnival, 5:30-8 p.m. SAPES.
- Plant sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. SAPES.
- "Velbcky," Hamline University Dance Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Drew Fine Arts Center, 523-2905.
- National Train Day celebration, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Education Building, State Fairgrounds.
- Jim DeFeo Trio, 8 p.m. CG.

9 Sunday
- Bonzai Show, CPZC.
- Ice Cream Sunday, noon-4 p.m. GM.

12 Wednesday
- Lonnie Knight’s When Worlds Collide, with Eddie Jeff Cahill & Roger Johnson, noon. CG.
- Public forum on Hambden Park master plan, 7 p.m. SAPCC.

13 Thursday
- "Salamanders and the Fate of the World's Biodiversity Hot Spots," St. Paul Audubon Society, 6:45 p.m. FCC.

14 Friday
- Ivory Bridge, 8 p.m. CG.
- Como Park High School Graduation Party garage and bake sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Stansly Food Mart, 1053 Western Ave. N., 644-7760.

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Clarence Allen
Clarence A. “Butch” Allen, formerly of St. Anthony Park, born July 25, 1913, and died April 9, 2010, at the age of 96. At the time of his death, he lived in Brooklyn Park, Minn. He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Olicia A. (Schreiffel) Allen. He is survived by his sister, Pearl Schreiffel; children Yvonne (Terry) Royd, Ronald (Beverly) Allen, Robert (Elane) Allen and Sandra (Russell) Anderson; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Apr. 14, 2010, at the Church of St. Alphonsus in Brooklyn Center, with interment at Roseland Cemetery.

Reynold Dahl
Reynold Dahl, 86, of Falcon Heights, died March 27, 2010, of respiratory failure. Dahl was a native of Willmar, Minn. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. After the war, he earned his doctorate in agricultural economics at the University of Minnesota and became a member of the faculty there in 1953. His specialties included grain marketing, commodity futures markets and cooperative business development. At time of his death, he was professor emeritus of applied economics. He retired in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Alyse; son (John (M. ana); West Palm Beach, Fla; daughter (Ann (Tom) Schlinder, Lino Lakes; Minn.; two grandchildren; sisters Lois Heugland and Marilyn Winder; and brother Charles “Corky” Dahl. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Mar. 31, 2010, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Roseville, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Alvina Douglas
Alvina ‘Nina” L. Douglas, 90, died Mar. 31, 2010. She was an employee of St. Anthony Park State Bank for 26 years, retiring in 1978. She was a past member of Central Park United Methodist Church and volunteered at the Emma Norton Residency and the Raptor Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Olin; and brother, M arlin Schulte. She is survived by her daughter, Nancy (Bill) Freeberg; three grandchildren; a great-grandchild; one sister, Phyllis Langlois; and special friend Tom Starba.

Her funeral service was held at M ain-Berner Funeral Home in Roseville on Apr. 5, 2010, with interment at Roseland Cemetery.

Mary Jo Minton
Mary Jo Minton (née Bussard), 80, of Shoreview, Minn., died Apr. 5, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Bob, and step-son Paul (Sharon) Bussard of Altoona, Wisc., John (Paula) Bussard and Margot (Frank) Kroll.

A M inton, a graduate of St. Catherine’s University, was retired from the St. Paul School District. She taught at Randolph H ighschool, St. Anthony Park for and Jackson Elementary schools, and prior to that taught in M inneapolis. She will be remembered for her Christian spirit and her devotion to friends.

M as of Christian Burial was celebrated Apr. 10, 2010, in the Church of St. Oliva in Shoreview.

James Mortensen
James L. Mortensen, 79, of Falcon Heights, died Mar. 30, 2010. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota in wood technology. He worked in the hardwood lumber business all of his career, retiring in 2000. He and his wife, Marilyn, enjoyed many happy times at their cabin on the North Shore.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marilyn; children M atia (Don Tien ter) Tice, James (Rita), Patricia (David) Wang and Susan (Don) Peron; 19 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two brothers Robert B. (Mary) M ortensen, and brother-in-law T omas (Judie) Russell.

Lives Lived to 16
Classified ads are $5/line. Enhancements are $10. For more information about placing a classified, visit parkbugle.org or call 646-5369. N ext classifieds deadline: May 21. N ext issue: M ay 31.

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Richard Wilholt

Richard O. “Dick” Wilholt died Apr. 8, 2010, in Fort Myers, Fla., after a short illness. He was 96. He was raised in St. Anthony Park, graduated from Shattuck School, Faribault, Minn., and attended the University of Minnesota. His wife of 72 years, Peg, survives him. They lived in the same home in Edina for 64 years, where they raised their family. He is also survived by children Richard (Lucy), Anne (Morris Baskett) Welsh, John, Katherine (Thomas) McGrane and Christine (Dennis) Taylor; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter-in-law Terry, grandson Eric Wilholt and brother and sister-in-law Bob and Helen Wilholt. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Apr. 17, 2010, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hopkins.

Zachary Novitt

Zachary J. Novitt, 33, of Como Park, died April 9, 2010. Zak will always be remembered as a loving son, brother and friend. He enjoyed a profession of engineering and automation, along with being gifted in the art of custom airbrush painting. Most important, he was a friend to all. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Rita Novitt. He is survived by his father, John Novitt; brother, Jonathan Novitt; and special friend, Sherrie. A celebration of Zak’s life was held Apr. 14, 2010, at Como Park Lutheran Church.

Lives Lived from 14

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Apr. 5, 2010, at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Como Park, with interment at Sunset Cemetery.

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