Winston Tucker
After nine years as principal at Murray Junior High, Winston Tucker is being transferred to Highland Park Senior High, where he will be the principal. Students and staff reflect on his time at Murray.

The Birdman of Lauderdale
A male house wren will sometimes build more than one nest, and the female then chooses the one she likes best. Most nests include an abundance of twigs.

Living in the lion house
Tim Dickinson and Terri Tacheny own the Como Park house built by Tom Frankson
by Roger Bergerson
Thomas Frankson was a businessman who developed several northwest Como neighborhoods and donated the first buffalo to the Como Zoo. He also invested in Kansas oil and Missouri timber, and was a two-term lieutenant governor of Minnesota and an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate who lost out in an era of political turmoil.

The following is an excerpt from a profile of Frankson that will appear in the summer issue of Ramsey County History, the magazine of Ramsey County Historical Society.

To generations of visitors to Como Park and the State Fairgrounds, the Johnson Brothers Liquor Company.

The six-story Lyric apartments
Music by University Ave.,
Lyric by Johnson Bros.
by Natalie Zett
"Beautiful apartments suffered a stigma shared by beautiful blondes," said writer Joseph Giovannini. "No one quite believes they can be smart or practical."

The Lyric at Carleton Place, on University and Hamline avenues, shatters that myth by being both beautiful and brainy.

The six-story Lyric apartments mark the second phase of the Carleton Artist Lofts, which are located next door.

Brad Johnson, chief manager of University Carleton D Development, helped develop both the Carleton and the Lyric. He is also part of the family who owns the Johnson Brothers Liquor Company.

The Johnson Brothers operated out of the University Avenue location for 50 years and own the buildings and property.

We felt an attachment to the buildings and tried renting them for several years to warehouse and office users," said Johnson. "Johnson Brothers eventually developed the 169-unit Carleton Artist Lofts, which are reserved for people engaged in the arts whose incomes are below a certain threshold. The Carleton lofts were snapped up quickly, but some potential residents did not meet the income restrictions. That led to plan another building that would house on what had been 120 acres of farmland. C.L. French designed the mansion and, given the scale of the structure, it seems ironic that he was associated with a builder called the Bungalow Construction Company.

The highly recognizable lion statues out front have been there since the beginning, and the basic footprint of the structure remains the same as well. The living room is

Frankson house to 10

An invitation from Park Press
The annual meeting of the members of Park Press, Inc., publisher of the Park Bugle, will be held at 8 a.m. July 12, 2010, at 2265 Como Ave. The agenda will include election of directors, amendment of the bylaws and other matters that may be raised by members. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Readers are also invited to participate in the Bugle’s reader survey. Responses will be accepted by mail or online through July 5. So far, more than 500 readers have responded to the survey, which was designed to help the Bugle improve its coverage and strengthen its mission to encourage community participation.

Paper surveys (distributed in the May issue) can be mailed to: Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Readers can also complete the survey online by going to parkbugle.org and clicking on the link in the survey article.
**Wood Floor Sanding & Refinishing**

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**City Files**

**Como**

The first Como Neighborhood Stargazing is planned for the weekend of July 23–25, hosted by District 10 Como Community Council. Northwest Como Recreation Center, Chelsea Heights PTO and CoffeeGrounds: Events include an outdoor movie, art crawl, music festival, garden tour, bike ride and food. For more information, visit district10como.org.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation invites public participation in an open house about the departments transportation plan for Como Regional Park on Aug. 12, 6–8 p.m., in the Como Park Visitor Center. The city, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Associates will convene stakeholders and propose solutions to visitors and residents’ concerns about traffic, pollution, parking and other transportation issues. Possibilities include reconfiguration of parking lots and streets, improved signage, incentives to use shuttle and public transportation, connecting bike/walking trails and enhancing pedestrian safety.

For more information and to participate via e-mail, visit district10como.org or send comments to the District 10 Como Community Council office, 12244 Livings Park N.

Volunteers are needed to water newly planted trees on boulevards and other public areas. You can water the tree by running a hose to it, using a bucket to water the tree or using a tree bag. The Como Community Council has a limited number of tree bags for care of trees in public areas. For more information, or to sign up to water a tree, please contact district 10 Como Council at 651-644-4091 or district10como.org or call 644-3889.

**District 10 and Blais Yoga Studio invite neighbors to yoga sessions** to be held 8–8:45 a.m. most Saturdays throughout the summer near the US Seaworthy M emorial (“the Torpedo”) southwest of the Lakeside Pavilion. Each session will include simple yoga poses, breathing practices and meditation. Bring a towel or mat and water, and dress comfortably. In case of rain, class is canceled. Classes are free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. For a schedule, visit district10como.org.

**Falicon Heights**

The annual Ice Cream Social will be July 29, 6–8 p.m., at Community Park, Roselawn and Cleveland avenues. Activities include a moon walk, fishing pond, face painting, crafts and tug-of-war contests. Admission is free, with fees for food and for some activities. For more information, see faliconheights.org or call 792-7600.

**The Falcon Heights L’auderdale Family 5K Fun Run** will start at 8 a.m. on Aug. 21 at Falcon Heights Community Park, Roselawn and Cleveland avenues. Race day registration and check-in will begin at 7 a.m. Those who have pre-registered by Aug. 6 will receive an event t-shirt. Fee is $15 for an individual, $40 for a group or family up to four people. Registration can be done online at faliconheightsof parks and Recreation at 792-7616.

**Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation** still has openings for some week-long camps in August. LifeExplorers and Adventure camps include learning about insects and animals. Tennis Camp focuses on learning the fundamentals, tailored to each child’s ability and age. Taekwon-Do camp teaches the basics of self-defense and other martial arts.

For more information and to register, go to faliconheights.org or call 792-7616.

**Lauderdale**

The Roseville Area Community Band will perform July 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Lauderdale Community Park, Roselawn Avenue and Pleasant Street. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. In the event of severe weather, the event is canceled. All are welcome to attend this free event.

**St. Anthony Park**

**The annual Fourth in the Park celebration will be held Sunday, July 4, on Como Avenue and in Longfellow Park.**

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. with distance races that leave and end at Longfellow Park. A parade down Como Avenue, between Luther Place and K napp Place, starts at 11 a.m.

Events at Longfellow Park during the afternoon include pony rides, music, children’s races and contests, drawings and tournaments. The event concludes with dance music by Rockin’ Rich and The Resistors from 7 to 9 p.m.

**National Night Out** will be Aug. 3. If you would like to block off your street, or request a visit by the police, fire or K-9 unit, it’s best to get applications in early. Find the forms at saps.com/community/ino. Two sessions in July will examine how some towns are facing the end of cheap, readily available oil with practical steps and a positive tone. The film “In Transition 1.0” will be viewed and discussed. Attend either at 7 p.m., July 12, at South St. Anthony Recreation Center, or July 27, at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church.

**Two Backyard Talks** are sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council in July. The north St. Anthony Park Eco Garden Walking Tour meets at 6:30 p.m., July 13, at 2111 Commonwealth. Participants will visit three rain gardens, a green roof and a boulevard vegetable garden, all within a few blocks.

The south St. Anthony Park Rain Garden Walking Tour begins at 6:30 p.m., July 20, at 971 M anvel and visits four sites. For either or both, RSVP to 649-5992 or green@apcc.org.

A rain barrel workshop will be held July 10, at 10 a.m., at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2126 Carter Ave. Mike, your own rain barrel and learn about proper use and the environmental benefits of harvesting rain water.

St. Anthony Park Community Council supplies the food-grade barrels and parts as you are guided through constructing your own. The fee is $10 per barrel. Pre-registration is required at green@apcc.org or 649-5992.

**University of Minnesota**

Master gardeners will maintain beds near the Plant Growth Facilities Building on the St. Paul campus this summer. They will harvest vegetables weekly, weigh and measure the produce and post to the Veggie by The Yard blog. Gardeners are invited to plant their own versions of the garden designs at home and join in blogging at arboratum.umn.edu/ forum9-veggies-by-the-yard.aspx. For more information, contact Julie Weisner, Master Gardener Program state director, weisner019@umn.edu.

The University’s shuttle bus connecting the West Bank, East Bank and St. Paul campuses is free and available to the public and operates throughout the year. Please note there is no Saturday and Sunday service between sessions. See the route and schedule at umn.edu/bus/training/room.

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Anne Hatzman

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Murray Junior High bids farewell to principal Winston Tucker

by Lisa Steinmann

J une was graduation time for M urray seventh- and eighth-grade students, as well as for their principal, Dr. Winston Tucker, when it was announced that he would be transferred to a new position as principal at Highland Park Senior High in the fall.

After nine years, Tucker reluctantly admitted, “I wasn’t looking for a change, but it’s time — for new blood, for growth.”

Many staff, students and families expressed surprise and sorrow at Tucker’s departure, but it’s not unusual for principals to be transferred every five years or so.

“Years ago,” said Tucker, “when principals functioned more as managers, one- or two-year stints at a school were common. These days, principals are instructional leaders and agents of change, and to do that you have to have time to develop trust, know the staff, the culture, climate and politics of a school.”

St. Paul Schools Superintendent Valerie Silva said, “Each year we look at the leadership needs across the district based on such things as principal retirements and attrition. We then place principals where we believe there will be the best fit. In this case we needed a strong leader to take the place at H ighland Senior High School, and we believe that Dr. Tucker is ready for that opportunity.”

Among his many duties as a principal, Tucker has made it part of his job to know the students who pass through M urray.

“Junior high kids are a funny, awkward, goofy age,” he said. “They’re half adult, half child, but they’re fun.”

Katrina Nickles, a M urray eighth-grader, describes her principal as “not too nice.” He is strict. He knows how to run a school.”

Eighth-grader Ishmael Bowie said he appreciated that Dr. Tucker was good at “keeping the gangs out of the school. He would discipline kids who threw out gang signs and stuff.”

The admiration is mutual when it comes to Tucker’s involvement with the neighborhood. “It will be hard to leave M urray and this community,” he said. “It’s a very supportive community that really rallies around education.”

Jon Schumacher, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and a former M urray parent, said, “During Dr. Tucker’s tenure, M urray became the most popular junior high in St. Paul.”

Schumacher credits the spirit of cooperation Tucker promoted for enabling successful partnerships with parents, businesses and other local institutions.

Parent Elizabeth Lee, whose son Zach received M urray’s Student of the Year award this spring, said, “M urray is a great place for our children to learn and thrive. It is clear when you walk through M urray Junior High’s doors that it is a well-run place with a positive learning environment.”

Perhaps those who will most miss Tucker are staff members.

“I can’t say I was shocked at the news,” said Patrice Husak, a math teacher at M urray for the past five years. “Dr. Tucker is good and probably is needed at another school. Still, I was incredibly sad, disappointed and upset. He has become for me a professional mentor. He hears me and advises me. I am incredibly supported. It’s so golden to have that.”

Ann H ebble, an ELL teacher at M urray for 17 years, voiced appreciation for Tucker’s skills as an instructional leader.

“He is a principal who allows staff to experiment, push the envelope, try out ideas and innovations,” she said. “He is a leader who trusts his staff, entertains new ideas.”

Wendy Weinkauf, a special education teacher and the team leader for the Program for Social Development at M urray, said, “I am thankful for his work to support our kids. He fostered an environment where our kids are part of the building and not just ‘in a program.”

Tucker credits his staff with much of what he has learned.

“I’ve gained confidence since I started,” he said. “I’ve learned from staff about effective instruction. Being an educator is like being a doctor or dentist. You have to keep up with the latest and greatest techniques.”

One way Tucker has fostered more collegial and collaborative teaching at M urray is through professional learning communities that give teachers a chance to gather for discussion of standards and practices and to share data on students. He is part of a similar learning community for middle school principals who gather to learn from and support each other.

I think Highland will be a good fit,” said Tucker about the high school where he taught social studies 20 years ago. “I’m excited about moving to a senior high. It will be different dealing with the culminating years of a student’s school career.”
Ten years ago I introduced myself in this space as the Bugle's new editor. This month I'm saying farewell. Approaching the end of a long-term involvement is an opportunity to wax meditative. I hope you'll indulge me as I take that opportunity here.

When I took over as editor, the Bugle still had an office. While tidying up there one day, I noticed a dead plant. The foliage had withered to the point that it was impossible to tell what kind of growth it had been. I thought about tossing the whole thing, but the plant was in a hand-painted ceramic pot, so I left it. Leaving for the day, on impulse I poured a little water on the crusty soil.

I didn't get back to the office until the next week. I forgot about the dead plant, but when I noticed the pot, I saw that several green shoots had appeared. I gave them some more water, and over the next few weeks a spider plant emerged.

Spider plants are easy to propagate, and that parent's progeny graced my wife's office for many years. We still have that one, and I'm currently rooting one of the spiders and wondering where it should go.

I'm thinking about plants as an opportunity to wax metaphysical. I hope you'll indulge me as I take that opportunity here.

Plants have a visible manifestation — leaves, stems, flowers — and a hidden one. Roots. Newspapers are similar, and I'd like to reflect on both of these components of my Bugle tenure.

The heart of any paper is its writers, and the Bugle has benefitted from having some excellent ones. Four of the bylines in this issue — M. Chelle Christianson, Mary M. Engenthal, Lisa Steenmann and Natalie Zett — predate my tenure as editor. The continuity afforded by their ongoing presence in these pages has done much to maintain the Bugle's stability.

But newspapers, like other institutions, profit from new blood, and the writers who joined the Bugle since I started have helped reinvigorate it. Two of these writers are in particular — R. Bergeron and Clay Christianson — were lured out of semi-retirement to grace these pages.

I got to know another writer, Anne H. Alman, because she's my neighbor, and I was delighted to learn that she's a talented writer. I'm inspired by their attention to detail and their writing are among the visible contributors to a paper. Joining them in those ranks are writers, without whom no newspaper would exist.

New signs were a hit

I hope we can encourage the new signs we used for the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival. John Wolf, St. Anthony Park resident, designed and supervised construction of the signs for his Eagle Scout project. John and the Scouts put in many hours to make 20 signs that are two-sided — so they actually painted 40 signs. In addition to replacing our old, worn-out signs, the new displays are more visible, and all have the same design, which helps, in reminding folks about the festival. I received many positive comments from people all over the Bugle area that the signs were effective and welcome.

Johns vision and hard work will benefit the Arts Festival and his community for many years.

I thank you, John!

Renee Gaspire, coordinator St. Anthony Park Arts Festival

Save Langford Rec Center

St. Paul Parks and Rec is creating a strategic plan that will determine how they manage their facilities throughout the city. Because of reduced budgets, this means that despite the best intentions and creativity of those involved, services and facilities will be reduced. Parks and Rec has hired a consultant to guide them through this process, and they arranged five focus groups to gain insight into the desires and priorities of the public. I attended the last one on June 9, and it is clear that over the past few years, we are seeing smaller neighborhood rec centers in favor of fewer, “better” regional rec centers.

In a general sense, this is fundamentally a flawed idea. What makes St. Paul special is its neighborhoods, and the final point of a neighborhood is often its rec center. These centers are the meet and interact with our neighbors. If we need to speak out with one voice so as to maximize our impact on that narrative, and I would summarize the message we should send this way.

“A simple rec center with a gym, along with nearby ball fields, ice rink, basketball court, playground and tennis court, and amplified by a highly engaged volunteer base, can deliver many services to many neighborhood residents at a low cost while simultaneously knitting the community together.”

If we want to keep our neighborhood rec centers, we need to speak out with one voice as to maximize our impact on that narrative. We need to speak out with one voice so as to maximize our impact on that narrative, and I would summarize the message we should send this way.

A simple rec center with a gym, along with nearby ball fields, ice rink, basketball court, playground and tennis court, and amplified by a highly engaged volunteer base, can deliver many services to many neighborhood residents at a low cost while simultaneously knitting the community together.

If this becomes the basis for determining which rec centers to close, Langford should emerge unschooled.

Here are a few ways we can communicate this message.

1. Fill this out survey ASAP: sunproveyor@newaccess.com

3. E-mail (nicely) the following people and let them know your thoughts:

M. Chelle Hahn, Parks & Rec director: michael.hahn@ci.stpaul.mn.us

We'll be starting our next fund drive in a few months, and I hope you'll make a generous contribution to the Bugle's future.

For 10 years, I've been saying “we” when referring to the Bugle. It’s going to be a tough habit to break.

Ten years ago, the Bugle has been fortunate to have long-standing advertising support. Some businesses that began advertising in the paper 35 years ago are still here. Their continued support has contributed to the stability of the communities the Bugle serves, and those communities have also benefited from the many new businesses that arrived in the intervening years.

You don't have to look very hard at a paper to see what makes the Bugle read well. We are a one-man operation in the Como Park neighborhood. That man is Steve Parker, and for most of my time as editor he’s been responsible for making the Bugle the best-looking community newspaper in the Twin Cities.

In the lower-left corner of this page are the names of the Bugle's board of directors. Actually, they’re board members of Park Press Inc., which is the 501(c)3 nonprofit that publishes the Park Bugle. They share their communities — St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale — by volunteering their time and talents to help maintain the Bugle as an important community service.

One of the groups of names on this page deserves mention. It’s a list of contributors, and its size fluctuates according to where the Bugle is in its annual fund drive cycle. The Bugle has only a few subscribers, mostly people who previously lived in the area and stay in touch with their former community by reading its paper. In place of subscription income, the Bugle depends on contributions from its readers, and without that support we would cease to be.

We'll be starting our next fund drive in a few months, and I hope you'll make a generous contribution to the Bugle's future.

For 10 years, I've been saying "we" when referring to the Bugle. It's going to be a tough habit to break.
Foundation honors Roxy Freese with Spirit of the Park award
by Michelle Christianson

In 2007 the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation instituted its Spirit of the Park Award to honor those who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the St. Anthony Park community, recognizing first Gerald McKay, Fred M. Rock and Gale Frost. Subsequent winners were Andrew Bos in 2008 and Fredric Steinhauser last year.

This year’s winner is Bibelot founder and community business icon Roxana (Roxy) Freese.

When asked about contributions St. Anthony Park, Freese modestly demurs. “I’ve served on various committees, mostly in a supportive role,” she says.

Jon Schumacher, executive director of the foundation, praises Freese for her commitment to the business community and the neighborhood; for her willingness to give feedback, assistance or money when asked; and for her leadership.

“The Bibelot was one of the first and remains one of the steady anchors of our business district,” says Schumacher. “Roxy is recognized metro-wide as a strong businesswoman and a role model for other women looking to become entrepreneurs.”

Freese will receive a plaque at the annual Park Fourth of July celebration, and $500 will be contributed in her name to the Fourth of July committee.

Freese has spent most of her 78 years in St. Anthony Park, either in her home just blocks from the Bibelot, or at the store. She moved here as a single mother and opened the store in 1966 as a way to support her family.

She has been a fine arts major in college, but when she visited museums, she found that she was especially attracted to what was sold in the museum store. So she decided to sell similar items in her new venture.

The Bibelot began in just one room, but Freese’s eye for interesting bibelots (“a small object whose value lies in its beauty or rarity”) and her unerring sense for what the next trend would be helped the business grow quickly, eventually encompassing four rooms on Como Avenue and shops in three other locations.

Over the years Freese has been involved with the St. Anthony Park Business Association, helping plan neighborhood activities such as the Art Fair, Fall Festival and, most recently, the Park B4 Dark promotion.

Freese has been a champion of environmental responsibility. The boxes and bags used at Bibelot are made from recycled or recyclable materials, as are some of the things sold there.

The latest venture, Rewear, recyclegently used clothing. Customers can bring in up to 12 items of clothing (in very good condition) Sunday–Wednesday. A staff member will evaluate the clothing and choose which items to sell. The customer receives 50 percent of the selling price in a gift certificate to the Bibelot stores. Details can be found at bibelotshops.com.

Freese supports local artisans by selling their items in her stores. She’s proud of the fact that the store stocks something for all ages. “Kids stop by on the way home from school,” she says. “People get wedding presents and condolence cards. We are part of their lives.”

Freese says the Bibelot wouldn’t exist if it didn’t start in St. Anthony Park. “The customers are incredibly loyal. I think they feel a sense of ownership in this store. I’ve tried to make many of my buying decisions based on what I thought they would like.”

Freese says the best part of her job is doing what she loves. “It’s wonderful working with customers who are so supportive and appreciative. I still like finding things and staying on top of current trends. And the holidays are so exciting. People are happy and enthusiastic and the store looks great!”

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Lyric apartments from 1
be open to anyone. The Lyric opened in March, and so far 100 of the 171 units have been leased, Johnson said.

Jennings was the second person to move into the Lyric. Jennings, who runs a burlesque troupe, moved from the Carleton.

"I had been at the Carleton since it opened, and I watched the Lyric from the time it was a hole in the ground," she said. "My Carleton loft was a working space with concrete floors, which I needed at the time. At the Lyric, I have a one-bedroom, with a den, fireplace and balcony."

A big draw for Jennings was the building’s performance lab, which is modeled on a black-box theatre.

"I’ll be doing a show in August," she said, "so it’s great having this resource." Residents pay a fee for using the performance space, which includes a sound and light booth and movable staging. A small kitchen makes it easy to serve hors d’oeuvres.

Jennings said she enjoys being able to take a break from her work by sitting on the balcony and looking out over University Avenue.

"It says so much about this neighborhood — its faith in this area. I hope people will come to see what’s happening here: theatre, art galleries and restaurants are popping up," said — Brad Johnson

University Carleton Development

Said Johnson, "The units on the first floor all have separate entrances, so these are technically live-work units where people can bring in clients or operate cottage industries. Each unit has a display case that someone could use to show art, a book, pottery or whatever."

Outside, the Lyric has a courtyard and amphitheater, complete with picnic area. Johnson said several concerts are planned for the summer, and some Fringe Festival performances will take place there as well.

Chris and Mary Lower operate the Sterling Cross Group and handle the Lyric’s public relations and marketing.

Chris Lower said they’ve been using a variety of social media to publicize the Lyric: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. He said they plan to set up an ITunes channel for residents who want to present and sell their music.

"This is not any old apartment building," Lower enthused. "We think of it as a gemstone where there’s a different facet depending on which way you turn it. It’s a great place for artists. And it’s historically tied into the neighborhood. And it’s becoming a community of its own."

While floor plans are different, all apartments have a double-wall system to contain sound.

"I was keen on sound proofing because to me it’s not a luxury building if you can hear your neighbor," said Johnson.

Johnson said the Lyric came close to being LEED certified. "We backed out when the cost became too high to change our HVAC system to get just 5 percent more efficiency," he said.

But many green elements were incorporated into the construction, he said, including countertops that are 75 percent recycled materials. Johnson attributes the success of this endeavor to St. Anthony Park.

"It says so much about this neighborhood — its faith in this area," he said. "I hope people will come to see what’s happening here: theatre, art galleries and restaurants are popping up."

A neighborhood open house will be held August 6-8, when area businesses will have extended hours and special activities will take place.

"There are hundreds more people living in this area than there were a couple of years ago," said Johnson. "I think it’s just changing. It’s not just an industrial area but it’s a viable neighborhood too."

For more information about the Lyric, visit lyricliving.com, facebook.com/#!/lyricliving or flickr.com/photos/thelyriclifestyle.
Wrens, I wrote about house wrens a couple of years ago. In that column, I reported that the wrens of the neighborhood had spurned the very attractive birdhouse mounted on our garage. I think, filled it with sticks, but the lady wren decided to nest elsewhere, so our house wasn’t used that year.

Last year, a male again brought in sticks—lots of sticks. When I cleaned out the box in the fall, I counted 556 of them, mostly silver maple twigs, averaging about three inches long. They were carefully arranged, piling up toward the entrance hole and sloping down to a nest cup at the back of the box.

One theory is that the sticks in the front part of the box drown any rain water down and away from the nest itself. It would also help fledglings find their way out of the box when they’re ready.

I also found the spider egg sacks held within in that spring. It’s possible the spiders would help rid the nest box of mites and parasites that could afflict hatchlings.

But again, the box wasn’t used for nesting last year.

This year, however, it looks like a pair of wrens has taken up housekeeping in our wren house. He spends most of the day singing from nearby perches. She can be induced to poke her head out of the entrance hole if I walk by and make a squeaking sound with my lips.

I used to say that, but now I’ve learned to listen more carefully and have found that there are some variations in the singing. I’ve been trying to diagnose the song the male sings before he visits the house, peaking in the entrance, perhaps delivering food, perhaps just to see how the incubation is going. But I haven’t found any unique pattern yet.

Wrens also have a scolding call they use if you get too close to them. My pal Val calls it their crabby sound.

I did learn that when the female visits the male under a nearby shrub, they engage in some soft chatter together—and perhaps something else. After all, those eggs do need to be fertilized before they’re laid.

Wrens don’t just love sticks for nest material. The other day I was sitting on the deck listening to the male wren serenading his box-bound mate from the bush, when suddenly he flew out of the shrub and landed in a bundle of sticks in the driveway.

These tree branches and limbs I’d broken into six-foot lengths and tied into a bundle about two feet in diameter, waiting for yard waste collection the next morning. The wren hopped into the bundle, disappeared, popped out the other side, and was generally having a merry time exploring this temporary brush pile.

Wrens do like brush piles. When hiking through the woods, you’ll often hear one singing from a brush pile, but trying to see it presents a challenge. They usually sing from a perch, and while that perch is often out in the open, it can be down and in the shadows.

Wrens do like brush piles. When hiking through the woods, you’ll often hear one singing from a brush pile, but trying to see it presents a challenge. They usually sing from a perch, and while that perch is often out in the open, it can be down and in the shadows.

Speaking of shadows, house wrens do have a dark side. They aggressively defend their territory, not only from other wrens but seemingly from any bird that might compete for food.

Wrens often go after other nests in their territory, destroying them, piercing eggs and killing the young of competing nesters. They even get into bluebird houses and destroy the eggs.

It’s probably not fair to assign a moral value to either species, but killing bluebird eggs? That’s just plain wrong! But this is undoubtedly a trait that has evolved to make sure this pint-size bird can get as much food as possible from its territory.

Wrens eat insects exclusively, so that’s a positive trait. And, if you can learn to love the song, you’ll be serenaded all summer long.

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In conjunction with the June 5 St. Anthony Parks Arts Festival, the Bugle sponsored a hat contest. Cash prizes were awarded to four contestants (left to right): Jonathan Wilson-Thieroff, Annelia Anderson, Alisa Mee and Anthony Wilson-Thieroff. The contest was judged by artist Dan Mackerman, of Lauderdale.

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Plein-air puppetry

coming to a driveway near you

by Kristal Leebrick

Bring a puppet theater into someone’s back yard and they will come.

And they did. About 80 neighbors and friends crowded into Beth Breidel and Marty Neus’ St. Anthony Park yard on June 15 to see Open Eye Figure Theatre’s show “A Surprise for Little Grandpa.”

The performance was one of 45 shows Open Eye will present on its 2010 Driveway Tour this summer. They’ve been staging puppet shows in backyards, driveways and parking lots in neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities for eight years.

This was the second year that Breidel and Neus’ hosted a show. Breidel said she found out about the tour when she attended a show at Open Eye in South Minneapolis two years ago. She signed up to be a host for a summer performance that day.

When she received the schedule for this year’s performances, she didn’t hesitate to sign up again. “It’s a great way to bring the neighborhood together in the midst of our busy lives,” she said.

The shows are all about community building, said Jenna Wyse, Open Eye tour manager. She often sees neighbors meeting each other for the first time at the performances.

“We have the schedule for this year’s performances, she didn’t hesitate to sign up again. “It’s a great way to bring the neighborhood together in the midst of our busy lives,” she said.

The performances are open to the public, and locations and times are listed on the theater’s Web site.

Susan Haas, who founded the theater with her husband, Michael Sommers, said the shows are about intimacy.

Haas and Sommers experienced the kind of intimacy they seek with their Driveway Tour nine years ago while touring Mexico and performing in small villages on the Yucatan peninsula. There were impromptu performances, she said, where 75-100 people would show up. They returned to the United States right after 9-11 and found their audiences in a post-trauma funk. No one was going out. Haas said.

So they decided to bring their work to people’s homes and communities.

Since then, they’ve performed at libraries and homeless shelters, in parks and at festivals, and in backyards in the metro area. They’ve performed more than 300 shows for more than 26,000 people.

Haas and Sommers create shows that are fun and touch on situations in people’s daily lives. “We want people to feel good,” she said, so the shows avoid political messages.

The tour has become so popular that this year’s calendar was filled by Apr. 15.

Haas said the success of the Driveway Tour means she and Sommers can concentrate on other work at the theater while their performers run the shows. The “Little Grandpa” performers are recent college graduates who have studied theater or improvisation.

After days of rain, Breidel was granted an almost cloudless sky the night the tour came to her house. Children from 1 to 16 and their parents sat on blankets and lawn chairs watching Little Grandpa, the protagonist of this 45-minute play, go through all the mixed emotions of anticipating how his friends and neighbors will help him mark his milestone 100th birthday.

This was 12-year-old Ethan Levin’s third time watching a Driveway Tour performance. So far, he said, they’ve all been “funny and really cool.”

The theater says it’s committed to economic accessibility to the arts and keeping ticket prices affordable. There’s no charge to see a show on the driveway tour, but the performers do pass a hat at the end of each performance. Breidel said the group hopes to raise about $150 at each show, “and I’m sure they did that.”

To find out more about Open Eye Figure Theatre or to see the schedule for upcoming shows, visit openeyetheatre.org.
Celebrating friends & family

Happy Birthday, Audrey

Thanks for chairing the Bugle's governing board, Park Press, this last year.

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Frankson house from 1

mostly unchanged, as is the library immediately behind it, both with fireplace.

It was the latter space that Frankson used as an office.

Dickinson estimates the house has 120 windows, most with the original leaded and beveled glass with a distinctive diamond design. Most of the downstairs light fixtures, including chandeliers, are original.

But in 95 years there have been many changes to room configurations and other interior features. The butler’s pantry is gone, freeing up space for a larger kitchen.

Dickinson says there’s evidence that a fire damaged what originally was a conservatory on the front of the house. There’s still a dome over that space, which now is incorporated into the dining room.

In the beginning, the second floor contained bedrooms for the Franksons and their three children, but that layout has been modified over time. There’s a sun porch/palor on the east side of the house on both floors. A bedroom on the third floor housed the Frankson’s housekeeper for many years and later was rented to college students.

A two-bedroom apartment has been added to the basement, along with a separate entry on 2nd Avenue. On the outside, there’s a most-like feature in front of the former conservatory and a cast-iron sculpture of two deer standing in a pool, in the same area where a deer statue originally stood.

The large detached garage, built in the same handsome detail as the house, complete with tile exterior and roof, no longer accommodates cars, as it once did. A large portion is dedicated to Dickinson’s well-equipped workshop, which he says he needs in order to keep up with maintenance of the house. He points causally to several bullet holes in the leaded glass windows, attributed to a former owner’s dislike of pigeons.

In 1926, Frankson sold the house to Nathan Goffstein, of Goffstein Realty Co., whose family lived there until 1945. It then became the home of the Mlewest. Hbrew Mission, a Baptist-affiliated organization. In the 1970s, a subsequent owner ran a dance studio in the building. From 1982 to 1993, it was owned by attorney Bill Jones, who is credited with starting the process of bringing the property back from a period of severe decline.

Despite the amount of maintenance and upkeep associated with the house, Dickinson enjoys living in a building to which so many people feel a connection.

Tacheny adds, “If you value privacy this is probably not the house for you. But I’ve grown to enjoy having people stop when I’m working in the yard or ring the doorbell to say that I’d used to live on the third floor or I took dance lessons in the basement.” It’s fun to hear their stories.

“I feel very lucky to live in this wonderful house. On a sunny day, the light shines through the leaded glass and it’s filled with rainbows.”
Summer is a time when many people try to get away for a week or two. But what if you want to do something special without leaving town? One option is a staycation. People can create their own staycations, but several Como Park organizations have made that task easier by organizing a neighborhood staycation for the weekend of July 23-25.

The art crawl will go from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Artists interested in participating should submit an application by July 15. For an application form, or to see a map of artists’ locations, visit district10comopark.org/2010_Como_Park_Art_Crawl.html.

The garden tour will take place from 10 a.m. to noon. For a map of locations, visit district10comopark.org.

On Sunday, July 25, Chelsea Heights Elementary (1557 Huron St.) will host bingo, a bike ride and a drawing for M inesota Twins and St. Paul Saints tickets. Things get under way at 1 p.m., with the bike ride starting at 2 p.m.

For more information about the Como Staycation, visit district10comopark.org or contact the District 10 office: 644-3889 or district10@district10comopark.org.

Cómo neighborhood to host Staycation
by Dave Healy

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Neighbors

A team of six fifth-graders from St. Anthony Park Elementary won a bronze medal in the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals held May 27–29 in Knoxville, Tenn. They competed against 75 teams in their division, representing championship teams from 34 states and seven other countries.

The team, Flippers ‘N Fins, had to create a theatrical presentation of an original story about a character who experiences a "flip" in point of view. The presentation also included puppetry and a sculpture.

Children's Home Society & Family Services announced that it has hired Maureen Warren to serve as interim president and CEO. She replaces Madonna King, who announced her retirement in April.

Warren was director of supportive housing and employment services for the Wilder Foundation, and previously served as chief administrative officer for William Mitchell College of Law and as vice president of housing and community development at Fannie Mae.

Two local artists have been named 2010 Artist Fellows by the Bush Foundation. Each will receive $50,000 in unrestricted funds and professional development support.

John Whitehead, a St. Anthony Park resident, is an independent filmmaker who has produced documentaries for PBS and Twin Cities Public Television, where he was previously a senior producer. He has a studio in the C & E Building at 2402 University Ave.

Dean Lucker lives in Como Park and also works out of the C & E Building. A graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design, he specializes in "living contraptions" that integrate woodworking and mechanical features. Lucker has permanent installations at Como Park Conservatory, Children's Hospital and O Pan Book.
**July 2010**

**Events**

1 **Thursday**
- Summer Reading Program: Magician Norm Barnhart, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.

4 **Sunday**
- Fourth in the Park celebration, Como Ave. and Langford Park.

7 **Wednesday**
- Library Book Club, 6:30 p.m. SAPBL.

8 **Thursday**
- Summer Reading Program: Como Zoo, Splashes Fishy Frogs, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.
- Ice Cream Social, 2-7 p.m. Lyngblomsten Courtyard.

10 **Saturday**
- Rain barrel workshop, 10 a.m., SAPBL.

12 **Monday**
- Roseville Area Community Band, 7:30 p.m. Lauderdale Community Park, Roselawn Avenue and Pleasant Street.
- Film "In Transition 1.0," 7 p.m. SSARC.

13 **Tuesday**
- Eco Garden Walking Tour, 6:30 p.m. 2111 Commonwealth Ave.
- Summer Reading Program: Music with Ross Sutter, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.

17 **Saturday**
- Country Festival, noon-4 p.m. GM.

18 **Sunday**
- Country Festival, noon-4 p.m. GM.
- "Creation, Creativity and You," Free program of arts and discovery for preschool through fifth grade, 6:30-8 p.m. FHUCC.

19 **Monday**
- "Creation, Creativity and You," 5:30-8 p.m. FHUCC.

**20 Tuesday**
- "Creation, Creativity and You," 5:30-8 p.m. FHUCC.
- Rain Garden Walking Tour, 6:30 p.m. 971 Manvel, 649-5992.

21 **Wednesday**
- "Creation, Creativity and You," 5:30-8 p.m. FHUCC.

22 **Thursday**
- "Creation, Creativity and You," 5:30-8 p.m. FHUCC.
- Film "In Transition 1.0," 7 p.m. SAPUMC.
- Summer Reading Program: Magic Mia, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.

23 **Friday**
- Como Park neighborhood Staycation, 5:30 p.m. NWCR.
- Music Festival, 7:30 p.m. CG.

24 **Saturday**
- Music Festival, 2-11 p.m. CG.
- Art Crawl, Como Park neighborhood, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. CPC.
- Garden Tour, Como Park neighborhood. CPC.

25 **Sunday**
- Sunday Afternoon Book Group: "Blue Orchard," by Jackson Taylor, 2:30 p.m. MB.
- Music Festival, 2-9 p.m. CG.

26 **Monday**
- Magic Mia, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.
- Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.
- Summer Reading Program: Wendy’s Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. SAPBL.

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**Rocco Crea**
Rocco T. Crea, 88, of St. Paul, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on May 24, 2010. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nellie; brother, Joe (Marilyn) Crea, and brother-in-law, Paul Walb. He was survived by his wife of 63 years, Lorraine; children, Larry, Paula, Elizabeth, M ark (Rosanne) and Greg (Jeanne); 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and sisters, Josephine (Carl) Pedro, Mary (Rosanne) and Greg (Jeanne); sons, Dan (Dennis) and Terri (Jeff); sons, Dan (Dennis) and Terri (Jeff); and brother, Dick (Alice). A funeral mass was celebrated June 10, 2010, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Sunset Memorial Park. Rocco was a graduate of St. Thomas and William Mitchell College of Law. A practicing lawyer, he had served as Sunday School teacher at the United Church of Christ, where he was a member of the two longest-tenured members of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, and he was recently honored as one of the Distinguished Teachers. Fluent in Spanish and Swedish, he taught at 1435 Midway Parkway, Handicap Accessible.

**Bill Hinkley**
Twins Cities folk musician Bill Hinkley was born Sept. 28, 1942, and died May 25, 2010. He was a frequent early performer on the Prairie Home Companion radio show. Host Garrison Keillor wrote, "Bill was a father of the acoustic music community in M innesota and everybody knew him and Judy (Larson). He was an inspiration to so many people and a source of frustration to so many of us who wanted him to have a bigger career. But Bill, like Thornton or some other musician with a dash of the unknown, was at rest, until he found something he could be, and was comforted by the presence of friends and playing music." Bill was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in New Ulm, M innesota, in 1999. His wife and musical partner, Judy Larson, grew up in St. Anthony Park, where her brother, Jim Larson, still lives.

**Donald Lantz**
Donald M. Lantz, 95, died May 27, 2010. He was a U.S. Army WWII veteran.

**Roger Miller**
Roger Pierce Miller, 59, of Falcon Heights, died in Ann Arbor, M ich., on May 30, 2010, from complications following an accident on M ay 18 during his fourth annual long-distance motorcycle trip.

**Marnee Monahan**
Marnee M olanah died peacefully on M ay 27, 2010, at the age of 96, surrounded by family and loved ones. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Robert H. M olanah, Jr. She is survived by sons Robert H., III and David; daughter-in-law, Patricia; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her love of life and her ever-grateful appreciation for her family and friends.

**Clayton Mullin**
Clayton D avis’ M ullin, 111, died M ay 24, 2010. Born N ov. 1, 1908, Clayton grew up on his family’s farm in H utchinson, M innesota, the youngest of six brothers and one sister.

**LIFE IN THE CHURCH:**

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Lives Lived to 16
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4th of July in the Park
Refreshments at Langford Park Recreation Center

Hot Dogs, Brats, Cold Drinks
Chips, Popcorn
Ice Cream, Candy

Provided by St. Anthony Park Booster Club from 11:30 to 5

Middle Eastern Cuisine
Provided by Mim’s Café from 11:30 to 7

Join Friends of Langford Park on Facebook

Langford Park Recreation Center
3510 Langford Park
St. Paul, MN 55108

Sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Booster Club, which supports recreational, social and civic activities for the young people of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood.
Constance Odanovich  
Constance “Connie” Catherine (Hughes) Odanovich, 94, of Shoreview, died peacefully at home on May 28, 2010. She was born July 31, 1915, in Lake Crystal, Minn., and married Joseph Odanovich on June 19, 1942, at Virginia Beach, Virginia. Connie enjoyed a long teaching career, beginning with a time in a one-room school, service in the Crosby-Ironton District and concluding with several St. Paul schools. She trained many student teachers throughout her career, wrote curriculum and units for the St. Paul School District and participated in many city-wide and individual school committees. She received her master’s degree in Colorado in 1968.

She and her husband were world travelers. She belonged to the St. David’s Society of Minnesota and was a member of the Serbian Sisters organization — the first to stay in touch her Welsh origins, the latter because of her husband’s ethnic background.

She is survived by her brother, William S. Hughes IV, sisters-in-law, Donna and Jane Odanovich, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of over 60 years, Joe, and two sisters, Jean Wood and Lillian Hendricks.

Her funeral service was held at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ on June 2, 2010, with interment at Lake Crystal Cemetery.

Marjorie White  
Marjorie G. White died Sept. 17, 2009. She was a lifelong resident of St. Paul until moving to Nixa, Mo., in the fall of 2007 to live with her daughter Diane and her husband. Marjorie was born on Jan. 4, 1917, and lived the greater part of her life in the Como Park area attending elementary schools there and graduating from the former Washington High School. She had many friends in the Twin Cities area and was involved in neighborhood activities and, along with her husband, Bill, was a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church.

She and Bill loved to travel, visiting Europe, Canada and Mexico as well as many U.S. destinations, including Hawaii and Alaska. Most of all, Marjorie and Bill loved their granddaughters and often combined their love of travel with the loves of their lives by taking the girls along on many of these trips.

Marjorie is survived by her daughter, Diane Leseman (Robert); two granddaughters; two great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law Dolores Paulson. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Paulson; her first husband, Rudy Kuettner; and her husband, William White.

A memorial service and celebration of Marjorie’s life was held at Roselawn Chapel, Roselawn Cemetery, in Roseville on June 11, 2010.

There is no charge for Bugle obituaries. Please alert the Bugle about the death of current or former residents of the area. Send more complete information if you have it.

Obituaries are compiled by Mary Mergenthal: 644-1650, mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.