



Urban Chickens

Here's everything you need to know about raising chickens, from our 12-year-old expert.

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New Principal

Meet Murray Junior High School's new principal, Tim Williams.

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Step Right Up, Folks!

The smell of hot grease is in the air; it must be the Minnesota State Fair.

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Park Bugle

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September 2010

Back to School

Area schools weather tight budgets

By Judy Woodward

Depending on whom you ask, Minnesota schools are either teetering on the brink of financial disaster and educational ruin, or, like a fat man pushing back from the dinner table, they're finally beginning to exert needed self-restraint. Threats of four-day school weeks, on the one hand, are balanced by ugly rumors of outsized pay raises for teachers on the other.

Depending on how you look at it, Minnesota either balanced its current budget and delivered on its promises to fund education without raising taxes, or it resorted to shameless accounting tricks to deliver too little, too late on its pledge to the state's schools.

The *Bugle* visited schools in our circulation area to find out what the financial picture is at the schools and what funding-based changes parents and students can expect to encounter when schools re-open in a few days.

A revolving door

Dan Mesick, Como Park Senior High principal for the last five years, acknowledges that, district-wide, some programs have been cut in St. Paul Public Schools and class size at Como Park may inch up by a student or two this year.

Nevertheless, he hopes that "nothing will be noticed" by returning students, because "the high school was able to mitigate some budget cuts." An increase in the total number of students enrolled at Como Park has led to a "smidge more money," he says.

That doesn't mean there haven't been layoffs. Although the total number of teachers at Como will remain the same, "we lost some young, bright, energetic teachers who were bumped out of their positions" at Como by teachers with more seniority, he says.

"It's hard to build continuity from year to year," says Mesick. "There's a revolving-door aspect to some programs." Mesick fears that budgetary problems for his school will only increase in the coming year. Without continued support from Washington, "the federal stimulus funding will go away at the end of the coming year. At the same time we're in a double bind, because we're facing a district-wide enrollment decline," he says.

Meanwhile, he is looking forward to several innovations at Como Park this fall. "There's a renewed emphasis on getting real-

time test data that we need to help students succeed," he says. He's also excited about a program called Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID), "which focuses on kids in the middle and pushes them to take higher level classes." To help foster academic success in AVID and other programs, Mesick is counting on the expansion of adult volunteer programs. He looks forward to the new year. "I still get excited to go back to school. It's still worth fighting the fight."

Community resources help

Christine Vang, principal of Como Park Elementary, also recognizes the importance of volunteers to make

Tight school budgets to 6



Street Scenes

A mural-size photo taken at the pan-African evangelical Universal Christian Ministries on Raymond Avenue was installed last month on the Chittenden Eastman building, 2402 University Ave. The mural is part of photographer Wing Young Huie's University Avenue Project, a photographic exhibit commissioned and produced by Public Art Saint Paul. This piece is the largest of seven photos installed on the sides of buildings and windows along University.

Como Avenue clinic closes

By Kristal Leebrick

Throughout the month of August, the walls of the St. Anthony Park Clinic were filled with cards full of well wishes and lamenting the closing of the practice at 2315 Como Ave. and the imminent



Dr. David Gilbertson

retirement of Dr. David Gilbertson.

The clinic will shut its doors Sept. 1, and after 39 years of practicing medicine there, Gilbertson isn't exactly sure what he's going to do. He does know he won't open another practice. A summer of saying goodbye to his longtime patients took its toll.

The 70-year-old family practitioner hadn't planned to stop practicing now, but when HealthEast announced in June that it was closing his office, his professional plans changed.

Gilbertson sold his practice to HealthEast in February 2009. The need to move to electronic patient records and have the staff to manage those records is why he merged his practice with a larger operation. In mid-June, the company announced it would end the lease and close the office. Gilbertson's partner of 12 years, Omar Tweten, retired in June.

All of Gilbertson's staff members have found jobs within the HealthEast system. It's the patients he's worried about.

"It has created some problems," he says. About half of Gilbertson's patients are senior citizens. Many have used his clinic because they don't need to drive far to get there, and they like the personal service that Gilbertson and Tweten provided.

"They were here because they knew they'd see me or Tweten," he says. Though he's referred his patients to the larger clinics nearby, "it's not the same."

"Some were thinking I'd open another practice down the street," he said. "I don't have the money to do that. I don't really want to do it. It's too hard going through this closure. It's pretty dramatic."

Gilbertson's practice has about 2,000 patients on record. He says he sees 80 to 90 patients a week.

He says he always thought he'd

hand the practice off to a younger doctor, but he's been told it's hard to get younger physicians to work in small clinics. "That's what they tell me anyway."

Gilbertson says the closing doesn't mean it wasn't a successful practice. "It just didn't have growth potential. HealthEast made an economic decision. That's what big business does. If they can't grow it, they close it."

Gilbertson began his practice in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood when Dr. Fred Army retired. He worked for a short time with Dr. Caroline Johnson, before she moved to a clinic on Rice Street. Tweten joined him 12 years ago.

"I'm the last man standing," he laughs.

He says he has a lot of fond memories here and has no regrets. "We're glad we could offer a personalized service," he said.

For now, Gilbertson will spend more time with his beekeeping hobby (he keeps a case of bottled honey in his office to give to his patients to help "sweeten their day"), and he and his wife, Katherine (a nurse practitioner at Bethesda Hospital), have a cabin that needs some care. He has some other business projects he wants to look into. His only worry: "I hope I don't have too much spare time on my hands."

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Como Park
District 10 Como Community Council needs a **volunteer newsletter editor**, and the **District 10 board of directors** has two vacancies. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact Rhonda at 651-644-3889 or rhonda@district10comopark.org.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation's **Tree Advisory Panel (TAP)** needs a Ward 5 representative. To apply, call Karl Mueller at 651-632-2429.

Volunteers are needed to **water new trees** planted on boulevards and other public areas. Contact Mike Macdonald at 651-644-3889 or mike.macdonald@district10-comopark.org.

Neighborhood Cleanup is Saturday, Sept. 25, from 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. at the State Fairgrounds Camel Lot. To volunteer, contact rhonda@district10comopark.org.

District 6 and 10 residents are invited to meet with Kimley-Horn Associates at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Visitor Center Auditorium, 1225 Estabrook Drive, to learn more about the transportation plan for the Como Park area. Kimley-Horn has released draft proposals to deal with the park's traffic and parking issues. You can see diagrams of the proposals at <http://tinyurl.com/comoparktip>.

Falcon Heights

The city of Falcon Heights is seeking residents of the city to serve on the **Neighborhood and Human Rights commissions**. The

Neighborhood Commission meets the fourth Monday of each month. The Human Rights Commission meets the first Monday of each month. Call City Hall, 651-792-7600, or visit the city website, www.falconheights.org, for an application.

Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle, Jam, a free children's music and story-time, will be held 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. For more information, call Michelle at 651-792-7617.

The **Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation Department** is taking fall registrations. View the fall program online at www.falconheights.org.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for residents of Falcon Heights and Lauderdale will be offered 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays starting Sept. 23 at Falcon Heights City Hall. Cost is \$25. Enrollment deadline is Sept. 17. Call City Hall, 651-792-7600, to enroll.

The Falcon Heights annual **city-wide garage sale** is set for residents only Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up at City Hall, 651-792-7600, or at the city website, www.falconheights.org. Please sign up by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14.

St. Anthony Park

The **St. Anthony Park Neighborhood Garage Sale** is Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To participate, download the form at www.sapcc.org/garagesale or call 651-649-5992. A \$15 fee covers the cost of ads, signs and maps. Call Rich Nelson at 651-641-1172 for more information.

Neighborhood cleanup is Sept. 25, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the fairgrounds. Volunteers can bring a full carload to the cleanup at no cost. For more information, call 651-649-5992 or email renee@sapcc.org.

The SAP Community Foundation gave a grant to support **Paint the Pavement**. Two blocks will be awarded up to \$300 each to buy paint and supplies. Check out www.paintthepavement.org for images of what other St Paul neighborhoods have done. Contact sapcc@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992 to participate.

— Kristal Leebrick

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Advance Tickets Available September 15: \$15 online at www.sapcc.org or at Bibelot, Micawbers, The Little Wine Shoppe, and Hampden Coop. Day of Tour Tickets: \$20 at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Avenue.

ST. ANTHONY PARK
More info: 651-649-5992 or email: amy@sapcc.org

The tour is this year's primary fundraiser for the District 12 St. Anthony Park Community Council, supporting their work in keeping our community vibrant.





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City chicks

Before turning your backyard into a barnyard, read these tips from our expert

If you need advice about raising chickens in St. Paul, 12-year-old Aaron Coggins is the go-to guy. He's been raising them in his backyard for two-and-a-half years. Aaron shared his knowledge at the recent Backyard Talk "Urban Chickens," sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council, in August.

Aaron and his parents, Jay Coggins and Wendy Rahn, have six birds in their brood: Mary, Isabella, Isabelle, Elvis, Dixie and Miss Feather. Aaron says he initially thought of the chickens as livestock, but now they've become part of the family. He gathers about four to five eggs a day from the birds.

Here's Aaron's list of must-know items about raising chickens:

1. Do your research before you get chickens.
2. Once you get them, handle them a lot as chicks so they'll be nice to

you when they are grown.

3. Don't worry about how much work they are. They're not.
4. Don't raise chickens if you like to garden. You have to devote a good part of your yard to the chickens.
5. Put them in their coop every night to keep them safe.
6. Surprisingly, chickens become your pets just like cats and dogs.
7. Make sure they have a lot of green stuff to eat. You can hang a cabbage head from the ceiling of the chicken coop for them to jump at. This gives them exercise and something to peck at instead of each other.
8. Make sure your neighbors don't mind. If you want more than three chickens, you have to have your neighbors sign a petition. (Six chickens are the maximum amount a household can have in St. Paul.)
9. Have an area outside the coop for them to run around in.

10. It's definitely worth it. Plus you get the eggs.



Aaron Coggins and his chicken Isabella.

Chicken story photos by Lori Hamilton

Sacred Harp gathering brings 'punk hymn singing' to local church

By Michelle Christianson

The 21st Annual Minnesota State Sacred Harp Singing Convention will be held Sept. 25 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., and Sept. 26 at Murphy's Landing in Shakopee. Participants will be using *The Sacred Harp*.

What does that mean?

It means, literally, that a group of about 100 people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois (and probably some from Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania or Washington) will sit in a square formation (treble, alto, tenor and bass forming the four sides) and sing at each other from an old songbook dating from the 1700s.

Loudly.

For hours.

And they'll love every minute of it!

Shape-note singing originated in New England as a way to teach singing in church congregations and singing schools. The eight tones of the scale (in *The Sacred Harp* and some other books) are named fa, sol, la, fa, sol, la, mi, fa, with each name represented by a different shape. The shapes helped the singers find the relative pitches without relying on key signatures. It has been proven that children learn to sight-read better using this method than by other methods and are even more likely to pursue a career in music as a result.

The Sacred Harp is a compilation of hymns and songs dating back to the 1700s. (The term "sacred harp" refers to the human voice.) The notes are lined up on four staves by part, and the words are under the parts (verse one

under the soprano part, two under alto, etc.). The tenors always have the melody. If you are familiar with "Amazing Grace" or "Wondrous Love," you have heard songs from that book.

A "singing" is a meeting where singers come together and sing from *The Sacred Harp*. There is no accompaniment or director. (People take turns choosing the songs and leading them.) Everyone first sings their part with the shape names and then with the words, and they sing as many verses as the leader wants to sing.

Nancy Koester, a religion professor at Augsburg College, became a die-hard fan of shape-singing after a student invited her to visit the group that meets Tuesday evenings at University Baptist Church in Minneapolis. She calls it "punk hymn singing" for its raw, unpolished sound.

"It's exuberantly beautiful!" she says. "It feels like being at the top of a slope and then flying down. You just get caught up in the sound of the voices and let it rip."

Koester likes the feeling of "surround sound" that the square formation produces—especially when she is leading and standing in the middle of all that sound.

"The words and music are stark, reaching a place not reached by other songs. There's a raw quality," she says. The songs are often about death and the meaning of life when there is so much death, a reflection of its 18th century roots.

The convention runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. A potluck will follow on both days. Stop in—you may get hooked!

Michelle Christianson is a longtime contributor to the Bugle.

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The deadline for the
next issue is Sept. 15.

The *Park Bugle* is a nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park. The *Bugle* reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The *Bugle* strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

Opinions expressed in the *Bugle* by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc.

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The *Park Bugle* is published by Park Press, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization guided by an elected board of directors.

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EDITORIAL

No neighborhood is immune to crime

It took only a minute and a half.

That’s Park Midway Bank President Rick Beeson’s guess at the amount of time that elapsed after a gunman walked into the Como Avenue bank Aug. 4 demanding money, then grabbing a teller, pulling her over the counter and using her as a human shield as he fled the bank.

Within 90 seconds, the teller was able to break free from the man and run back to the bank. The suspect fired two shots into the air as the bank’s undercover off-duty police officer pursued him through the neighborhood.

We know the rest of the story: the suspect allegedly fled in a van, bought some new clothes and booze in Stillwater, crashed the van later in the night and was subsequently apprehended and hospitalized.

This isn’t the first time Beeson has witnessed a violent crime unfold in his bank. In 2001, when the bank’s Como Avenue branch was located just a block up the street, Beeson and some of the bank’s current employees were witness to another robbery where the suspect also brandished a gun and was very aggressive.

Beeson said he had a flashback as he stood in his office watching the Aug. 4 incident unfold. “You never really forget about it. You put it somewhere away where you don’t think about it. [Then] it floods in.”

The windows of Beeson’s office faces Doswell Avenue where he sees the daily comings and goings at the corner near Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market. “That intersection is filled with children on bikes, on skateboards, walking, people getting in and out of cars,” he said. “It’s amazing no one got killed.”

When the news hit about the bank robbery, the St. Anthony Park neighborhood online listserv buzzed with residents updating each other, listing squad car locations, giving vague descriptions of the suspect. As the stories spread across news websites, readers’ commented about the “tony” low-crime neighborhood. One resident was quoted saying, “Oh, my god, not in our neighborhood.”

Beeson says the bank robbery was shocking, but he hopes it will increase the awareness of crime in the area. The area is known as a “light crime” area that has a very light police presence, he says, and that’s makes it a target for crime.

Is St. Anthony Park a light crime area? Throughout the summer, community members have used the listserv to report crimes in St. Paul’s District 12: car thefts, garage break-ins, home burglaries and commercial crime. Some residents have wondered if there is an increase in these personal and property crimes. St. Paul police stats show that the number of

commercial property crimes increased substantially from 2008 to 2009, from 32 to 75. As of Aug. 20, the neighborhood has experienced 36 commercial burglaries and 24 residential burglaries. There were 31 residential burglaries in 2009 and 26 in 2008. Auto thefts have remained about the same in the last two years: 41 in 2008 and 46 in 2009. There have been 24 so far this year.

Yes, Virginia, there is crime in District 12.

The businesses along Como Avenue once had an association and a phone-tree to alert each other of crimes and break-ins, but both the association and phone tree have folded. Beeson would like to see businesses collaborate on purchasing security cameras or other crime-fighting technologies. He’d also like to see police conduct security assessments of businesses and homes in the area and send more routine patrols into the neighborhood.

In the meantime, the bank is assessing its own procedures. “Our primary concern is the safety of our employees,” Beeson said.

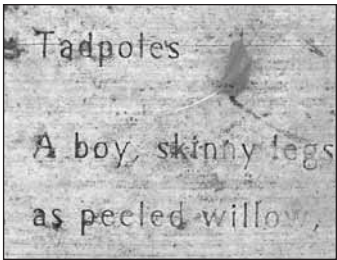
It may be time for residents to assess their own crime-fighting procedures. Communication is a good first step. Letting neighbors know a crime has happened through word of mouth and a neighborhood listserv is a start. Of course, locking your doors and windows and not leaving valuables in sight in your car helps too. No neighborhood is immune to crime.

Summer’s end

On a lighter note, a lovely end-of-summer treat was found on a walk along Hythe Street recently. A number of sidewalks in St. Anthony Park have been stamped with poems from the Public Art St. Paul Everyday Poems for City Sidewalks 2010 project. Here’s the Hythe Street poem, a nostalgic piece that makes you want this sweet time of year to last forever:

Tadpoles

A boy, skinny legs pale
as peeled willow, pedals
to his favorite pond, pole
in hand. Years until he dates,
he desires only slime, slop,
the fish and frogs of his secret spot.



LETTERS

More free parking wrong approach for Como Park

Free parking in an urban area is a myth. That’s what leading scholars say. In his book, *The High Cost of Free Parking*, UCLA Professor Donald Shoup writes how free parking increases emissions and congestion and is an inefficient use of land. Shoup has conducted cost-benefit analyses, indicating charging for parking cannot only help the environment, but also play a role in helping cash-strapped cities (such as St. Paul).

Locally, groups like Transit for Livable Communities (www.tlcmnnesota.org) also promote a sensible approach to trips. Take Como Park as an example. With 85 percent of travelers arriving to Como from outside of St. Paul each year, innovations like the new park-and-ride shuttle are a welcome alternative. Yet, the Como Shuttle has no permanent spot and, unlike its counterpart, the car, receives no government subsidy.

An effort is under way to redesign Como Park to be more user-friendly, safe and eco-friendly. Concepts include possibly creating more surface or below-ground parking, in addition to improved

utilization of nearly a dozen existing surface lots.

St. Paul sees itself as a livable community, at the same time looking to other cities like its twin for a viable parks business model. However, unlike Minneapolis, there is no dedicated taxing authority, causing St. Paul to consolidate parks and recreation centers while seeking revenue from outside sources.

In contrast, roughly 50 percent of public parks in Minneapolis have some form of paid parking. Perhaps most notable: no major urban zoo in the United States offers both free admission and free parking. Creating incentives to fund and use the shuttle by charging for existing or new parking is a smart solution.

Aside from the immediate, there are long-term impacts from over reliance on nonrenewable fossil fuels. We can take steps today that are cost-effective now and in the future. Como Park hosted 3.4 million visitors in 2009. These citizens, including frequent and nearby users of the park, have an opportunity to make a positive impact.

City staff will begin making decisions to meet a growing parking demand on Como Park soon. Contact your elected city representative or district council member to see or comment on

parking concepts under consideration, or send an email to comotip@gmail.com.

Marsha Milgrom, M.P.A.
Como Park

Editor’s note: the letter writer sent a chart listed admission and parking prices at a number of U.S. zoos. Some examples are Bronx Zoo, N.Y., \$16 admission, \$13 parking; Cincinnati Zoo, \$12 admission, no on-site parking; Denver Zoo, \$13 admission, free parking; Memphis Zoo, \$15 admission, \$5 parking; and Oregon Zoo (Portland), \$10.50 admission, \$2 parking.

SAP clinic offered quality care with personal compassion

Four generations of our family have been treated at the St. Anthony Park Clinic [on Como Avenue]. Dr. David Gilbertson has been the family physician not only to us, but also to Arla’s mother, to our daughter, Anne, and to Anne’s children. Individual family members received quality healthcare that was augmented by personal compassion. For as long as anyone can remember, there has been a doctor’s office on the corner of Doswell and Como.

Visits to the doctor’s office that

are comfortable, caring and successful will be missed when the St. Anthony Park Clinic closes. Nothing will ever replace it for us.

Paul and Arla Savage
St. Paul

Save the date!

The *Park Bugle* is going Back to the ’70s, and we want you to join us.

We’re celebrating the days when you could read the news without flipping a switch, a time when community newspapers flourished throughout the Twin Cities. We’re celebrating the *Park Bugle*’s 35 years as a nonprofit newspaper.

Mark Saturday, Oct. 9, on your calendar and plan to attend our party at the Lyric on University Avenue.

Look for more details in the next issue of the *Bugle* as well as on our website and Facebook page.

Bugle survey results

'You like us, you really like us,' but there's room for improvement

By Nancy Olsen

The *Park Bugle* recently asked readers what they think about the newspaper, and a whopping 600 volunteered to complete our survey. They offered a wealth of ideas on everything from news topics to the design of the paper—suggestions that will help guide us in improving and enhancing our coverage in the coming months.

If one may generalize from the responses, *Bugle* readers are a strikingly well-educated group, passionate about their community and the people in it. They skew middle-aged, and they prefer to read news in print.

The survey responses affirmed that readers overwhelmingly believe having news of their neighborhood or community is "very important" (71% of those who responded) or "important" (28%). They told us they like the paper, with 50% saying they are "very satisfied" and 46% "satisfied."

Interestingly, the survey highlighted that the nonprofit, monthly paper has a highly educated readership. Fully 30% of those who responded said they live in a household where the highest level of education attained by a household member is a Ph.D. or professional degree, while another 31% are in a household with the highest level of education a master's degree. About a fourth (26%) live in a household where the highest level of education is a bachelor's degree. Thus, 87% of those who responded live in a household where a resident has earned a bachelor's degree or higher.

The geographic breakdown is as follows: St. Anthony Park (both North and South), 51% of those who responded; Como Park, 17%; Falcon Heights, 15%; and Lauderdale, 9%. The rest listed Roseville; other parts of St. Paul; various parts of Minneapolis, particularly southeast and Prospect Park; other northeastern suburbs, including New Brighton and Maplewood; and three states other than Minnesota—including Hawaii.

We learned that almost all of those who responded (95%) read the paper in print. Only 1% read it online only; many did not know that the *Bugle* has a website (www.parkbugle.org). Meanwhile, about 70% say they get most of their other news in print, as well, while 21% get half of their news online and half in print. About 9% of respondents get their news online only. About half (48%) said they would like more community news if the paper's website were updated more frequently.

Nearly all of those who responded (96%) get news of their neighborhood or community from the *Bugle*. In addition, nearly two-thirds (64%) also get community

news from the Twin Cities' two daily newspapers, the *Pioneer Press* or *Star Tribune*, while another nearly two-thirds (65%) get it by word of mouth. The other most common sources of community news were TV or radio (40%), public kiosks and bulletin boards (39%), school or church (30%), city or district council communications (25%), Facebook or other social media (23%) and the SAP Yahoo listserv or other e-mail lists (17%).

When asked where they would get neighborhood news if the *Bugle* ceased to exist, many cited a source from the preceding list or said, simply, "I don't know how I would get the news if there wasn't a *Bugle*."

The most popular sections of the paper are clearly the news articles (read by 92% of those who responded), feature articles (86%), the events calendar (67%), the city news column City Files (65%) and Lives Lived, the obituaries (61%).

What would our readers like to

see more of in the paper? Local business news; people profiles; the arts; crime; issues affecting the neighborhood, such as light rail, traffic and development; gardening and local food; history; youth news, sports and 4-H; more events; and more photos.

What could the *Bugle* do to improve overall? Readers weighed in with thoughtful ideas for news, features and columns; they requested email alerts and gave website tips; they mentioned delivery concerns; and they asked for coupons, puzzles and—last but not least—humor.

The *Bugle* has implemented some changes consistent with the survey results, such as adding a business column and re-defining the layout of the Events section.

Prize winner: Brenda Hansen of St. Paul won the random drawing for a Speedy Market gift certificate.

Nancy Olsen is chair of the Park Press Editorial Committee.

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Meet Murray's new principal

Who: Timothy Williams

Stats: Married; three children, ages 7, 11 and 14; lives in South St. Paul

Education: Cretin High School, University of Minnesota-Duluth, St. Mary's University

Favorite pastimes: Hunting, fishing, being outdoors and spending time with family

Favorite book: *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt (He says he loves Shakespeare and Dickens, too.)

What he's reading right now: *Pursuit of Honor* by Vince Flynn

Murray Junior High School's new principal, Timothy Williams, describes himself as a laid-back guy with a good sense of humor. The former English literature teacher replaced Winston Tucker, who after nine years at

Murray is now principal at Highland Park High School.

Williams began his career in 1997 at Bethlehem Academy in Faribault, a private Christian school, where he taught English, coached football and softball, and taught religion and physical education.

After four years, he moved on to Hazel Park Middle School in the St. Paul school district and then was hired at Arlington High School. (Williams and Tucker worked together at Hazel Park. Tucker was assistant principal when Williams was teaching there.) Williams spent four years at Arlington and earned his graduate degree during that time. He was hired as an assistant principal at Humboldt Junior High School and then became principal.

He helped the junior high close as part of a restructuring that merged Humboldt Junior High with Humboldt Senior High School in 2009. He spent last year at Roosevelt Elementary School as it went through the process of closing.

He laughs and says he has the nickname of "The Closer." In fact, that's how Tucker introduced him at a staff meeting last spring. Williams says he did not come to Murray to close it down. "Murray's a great school," he says, and he plans "to keep it moving in the direction it's already going."

Williams doesn't see any big changes at the school for now. "I want to get my feet wet before I make any decisions," he says.

—Kristal Leebrick



Murray's new principal, Tim Williams, says he's a voracious reader who likes Shakespeare and Dickens, as well as Vince Flynn.

Tight school budgets from 1

up for budgetary shortfalls. "We work with multiple resources from the community," she says, but she is especially pleased about the six Minnesota Reading Corps volunteers who will join her staff this fall to work as literacy tutors in pre-school through third-grade classrooms. Reading Corps volunteers make a one-year full-time commitment to a school in return for a modest stipend. Vang says Como Park may have been shielded somewhat from the brunt of system-wide cutbacks, because

the building also houses programs for special education and for English Language Learner training for newcomers to the United States.

"Budget cuts are always difficult," says Vang, "but we are working very hard to make sure that the critical components are intact."

Ann Johnson, principal of St. Anthony Park Elementary School, says the biggest change her kids will notice this fall involves the band program. Band class will no longer be part of the school day, but

lessons will be available in an after-school program. Johnson says that community parents are currently applying for grants to help with funding. "It's a priority to do it right," says Johnson.

Business and community partnerships are key to coping with revenue challenges, according to Jill Gebeke, principal of Chelsea Heights Elementary School. Gebeke, who fears the next fiscal year may be much tougher than this one, cites Park Midway Bank as a model for the kind of partnership-building she envisions. Over the course of the coming school year, the bank will sponsor drives for school supplies, hats and mittens, and books to benefit her school. She also notes the help offered by reading volunteers from nearby Como Lutheran Church.

"I believe the worst is yet to come [fiscally]," says Gebeke, "and we'll need to be more creative with business partnerships."

Tutoring program restored

At Murray Junior High, the biggest change students will notice is the arrival of a new principal, Timothy Williams [see story above].

Assistant Principal Dan Sagar

notes that there will be other new faces at Murray this fall, but, overall, only one half-time teaching position in social studies was cut. A last-minute restoration was the Murray Pilot One-on-One tutoring program, which pairs adult tutors with struggling students who have not yet passed the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests. It was slated to end, but got a last-minute reprieve when additional temporary funds became available.

'All schools are struggling'

While Principal Paul Charest of the Falcon Heights Elementary School in the Roseville District has a slightly different perspective that comes from working in a suburban school system, he notes, "All schools are struggling." At Falcon Heights, class size will increase by "half a student per class" and the school's media specialist will move from full-time to half-time status.

Charest is more dismayed by what he sees as fraying compromises in school funding than by the actual cuts that his school has absorbed. "State payments [under the funding formula] were delayed by the governor ... so the school districts

must borrow money [in the meantime] and pay interest on it. ... [It] helps the state, but school districts must figure out what they're going to do."

Charest attributes the funding problems to "the constant pressure to balance budgets without raising taxes."

If Charest's students don't notice too many changes this fall it's partly because Barb Anderson is doing her job well. Anderson, assistant director for finance and budget for the Roseville Area School District, says, "We tried to keep cuts away from the classroom." Anderson notes that "incremental reductions" are felt behind the scenes in areas like reduced prep time for teachers' assistants and a reduction in the number of literacy coaches that were hired. As for cutbacks in buildings and grounds, Anderson says, "We're already thin on maintenance. We cut that fat long ago."

Anderson explains that about two-thirds of the district's funding comes from sources other than local property taxes. The impact of the delays and shortfalls in expected state money has been softened over the last two years by the infusion of about \$6 million in federal stimulus money. But this period may be coming to an end. "There's no carryover from this stimulus package," says Anderson, and she adds that it's too early to determine what the effect will be of the new stimulus package signed into law by President Obama in mid-August. "We don't know how much money there will be and how it will be distributed," she adds.

When asked to forecast the future, Anderson is somber: "I've been in my position for 20 years now, and I don't recall that there's ever been this great a projected deficit. And nobody knows what to do with it."

When Judy Woodward isn't writing articles, she is a reference librarian at the Roseville Library.

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SAP garden club to sponsor invasive-plant removal in October

By Mary Maguire Lerman

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club is sponsoring an invasive-species removal and cleanup of College Park Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The last park cleanup was nearly 10 years ago. Residents are encouraged to help with the

removal of buckthorn, mulberry, Amur maple, peashrubs, honeysuckle, burdock and garlic mustard. Garden club members will be on hand for an education program at the beginning of the event and will assist in the plant removal.

Youth groups, fraternities, sororities and families are encouraged to participate. Lunch and refreshments will be available. The event will move to Oct. 9 if weather is worse than light rain.

participate in the roundup, which includes cutting and stacking the woody materials and paying a small fee for pickup by a licensed tree service.

Watch for more details in the October issue of the *Bugle*. Contact Mary at magui011@umn.edu or 651-644-7388 for information.

Rent-a-weed-wrench

Weed wrenches are available for free three-day rentals. Contact Mary Maguire Lerman as listed above.

University Grove cleanup

University Grove in Falcon Heights will hold an invasive plants cleanup at the park just south of 1666 Coffman on Sept. 26, 4-6:30 p.m. Contact Helen Foster at 651-649-1063 or helen.foster@comcast.net for more information.

Neighborhood roundup planned

A neighborhood roundup of woody invasive plants is planned for late October in St. Anthony Park and University Grove. In early October, door hangers will be left at properties where these plants have been spotted explaining how to

Proposed asphalt plant a concern

Bituminous Roadways Inc.'s (BRI) proposal to build a new asphalt plant in Roseville has raised concerns among some area residents. The facility being proposed for 2280 Walnut St., near Highways 280 and 36, could store more than 1 million gallons of hazardous materials, specifically asphalt cement. The location is close to biking and walking trails and residential neighborhoods in Lauderdale, St. Anthony Village and the Southeast Como neighborhood of Minneapolis. It's not far from St. Anthony Park and Falcon Heights.

After reviewing an environmental assessment and air-emission risk analysis of the proposed project, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health concluded the potential health risks for the facility are in compliance with and below established state and federal guidelines.

At a public information meeting last month held by the MPCA, Roseville residents expressed concerns about the safety of odors, dust from the crushing process, airborne contaminants and the potential for spills and fires, noise and truck traffic.

Before the project can move ahead, BRI must obtain an air-emissions facility permit from the MPCA and a conditional-use permit for outdoor storage from the city of Roseville. At press time, the issue was being reviewed by the District 12 Environment Committee.

—Ruth Weleczki






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It's baaack...

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

What's new?

Deep-fried bologna and pig ears, a brand-new roller coaster and more

By Ruth Weleccki

Two dozen food items, a half-dozen thrill rides, and more than three dozen exhibits and attractions lead the “What’s New at the Minnesota State Fair” list. Too many to list here, we’ve singled out a select few additions that show promise of becoming a Fair Favorite or Fair Legend.

Food stuffs

Once bacon took the dip, there was no turning back. As expected—though not as entertaining as the 2008 pork-and-chocolate experiment—the State Fair food this year makes a valiant effort to shock and awe its devotees. How to tell whether you’re ingesting a genuine, Minnesota State Fair food commodity? If it’s deep-fried, smothered in chocolate (or caramel or cheese) or served on a stick (or some variation on the theme), it’s the Real McCoy.

Sure to please all those plagued with a salty-sweet tooth, the **Chocolate Tornado** leads its victims into the depths of

chocolate-dipping goodness. More chip than spud, the spiral-cut potato is deep-fried to potato-chip crispness before being plunged into a milk-chocolate bath. Run, don’t walk, to Sonny’s Spiral Spud in the Food Building.

It was neither apple pie nor baseball that made this country great but the bologna sandwich. Netterfield’s gives homage to this childhood favorite by further processing the beloved man-made commodity in a vat of hot oil and serving it on a stick or bun. One bite of this **deep-fried bologna**, and you’ll be singing, “Mmm-mmm, my bologna has a first name ...”

Few can compete with the carne-chocolate sideshow of ’08 that intrigued many but proved, in the end, to be too much muchness. But perhaps Famous Dave’s **fried pig ear** will out-sell its carne cousin. Thinly sliced and dusted in seasoned flour before being fried to a tasty crisp, the snack holds promise. “It tastes like French fries and calamari,” says Brienna Schuette, marketing and communications manager for the State Fair. “It’s a combination of both.”

Chewy French fries? Tempting ... Perhaps you *can* make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear after all.

Attractions and exhibits

The Mighty Midway boasts six additions to its thrills-and-spills attractions, including the Avalanche, Hard Rock, Magic

Maze Glass House, Magnum, Rock-It, and the heart-racing Windstorm, an East Coast coaster hand-picked by the official State Fair ride committee and on loan from the Fun Forest Amusement Park in Seattle. To accommodate the 1,400-foot-track ride, which required a convoy of 10 semi-trucks to transport its metal skeleton cross-country, the Midway was expanded 75 feet and a six-person crew was hired to tackle the two-and-a-half week setup.

If you haven’t made the trek across the river to check out **I Like You**, you have another week (and no excuses) to complete your mission. Quirky and clever and easy to like, the Northeast Minneapolis-based store sells one-of-a-kind handcrafted wares by local artisans—reason enough to get off the retail-chain train and ride the green wave. Whether you walk away with a T-shirt, trivet or towel, you’ll leave the Lower Grandstand booth howling, “I like them! I really like them!”

Word (or, rather, words). That’s the goal of the vocabulary-building installation, *Find Your Fabulous Fair Alphabet* game. Inspired by Debra Frasier’s latest book, *A Fabulous Fair Alphabet*, which features a collage of letters in fonts, colors and sizes captured (mostly) from Minnesota’s State Fair. From the flashing Midway neon to the straightforward lettering on the Pronto Pup wrapper, Frasier has taken State Fair eye candy and turned it into a an

eye-catching, educational tool. The object of the game is to record fair-related answers on a card with Frasier’s alphabet illustrations. For example, “A” is for ... *alligator* on a stick; “B” is for the *blaring* music from the Grandstand or the *bellyache* induced by too many Sweet Martha cookies.

Participants will be rewarded with official State Fair blue ribbons from the Fabulous Fair Alphabet Booth across from the 4-H Building in Baldwin Park.

Amidst the fanfare of roller coaster rides, Grand Stand attractions and the sea of deep-fried, sauce-covered eatins, one thing is missing from the fair: a cholesterol-screening post. And Tums.

Ruth Weleccki is a freelance writer and editor and award-winning crop artist. Her seed of choice is the mung bean, although she is also fond of the adzuki.

State Fair Photos Courtesy of the Minnesota State Fair



Paradise not lost on this parking lot

By Ruth Weleccki

The Minnesota State Fair is many things to many people: Some brace themselves for the onslaught of more than 1.5 million visitors descending on their neighborhood. Others embrace those 12 days of crowds and noises and lights and smells. And then there are those who see the fair as an opportunity, and they seize it.

Tom Stinar is in the latter camp. His parents own an apartment building a block from the fair’s Snelling entrance. Initially, the Stinars’ neighbors rented the apartment parking space and charged fair-goers to park for the day. But the St. Anthony Park family quickly realized their earning potential, ditched the middlemen and began running the short-term parking business themselves. Stinar’s parents own the rental property, but he and his buddies do all the heavy lifting (park vehicles) and pocket the cash.

“It’s a real moneymaker,” says 15-year-old Stinar, who charges fair-goers \$15 during the week, \$20 on weekends. (The fair, in contrast, charges \$11 for all-day parking, but that can mean waiting in long lines with no guarantee of a parking space.) “People are desperate and will pay almost anything for a spot

that’s a block from the fair,” Stinar says, recalling the time a woman scrambled to find the money for what she thought was a \$50 parking space. In the three years they’ve manned the lot, they’ve been stiffed only once, he says. “Most people are very nice,” he says. “We even have some repeat customers.”

Their workday begins between 8 and 9 a.m., and by the lunch hour, they’ve reached their 30-car limit. (With the constant coming and going, however, they’ve taken in as many 50 vehicles in a day.) On weekends, the lot fills up in an hour. When that happens, Stinar and his friends kick back and shoot the breeze. “It’s very fun. We camp out for the whole day with lawn chairs and coolers,” he says, laughing. “We even have a TV!”

Working 12-hour days for nearly two consecutive weeks might not appeal to everyone, but for Stinar, it’s easy money. And, aside from a cursory onceover with the lawnmower, there is no pre-fair prep work.

“We have the system down,” Stinar says. “It’s pretty much down to a science.”

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Gotta go?

Here's are the best places at the fair to do just that

By Kristal Leebrick

Tucked behind the Chevy pickups and Isuzu semi-trailers off of Cooper Street at the Minnesota State Fair there's a place where you can find relief from the crowds and the clamor. It's a red clapboard building with the word "Restrooms" painted across it: men's on one side, women's on the other.

Just one block from the everyday-at-2 p.m. parade route, the packed Fine Arts building and the bustling Eco Experience, you don't have to wait to use the bathroom. There's no line. There's toilet paper in every stall. A couple of teenage girls keep the sinks clean and the bench out front is often empty so you can take a breather while waiting for your companion to finish up.

You can't spend a day at the fair without using a toilet, and the Great Minnesota Get-Together has lots of them.

Step right up, folks. Here's your State Fair guide to using the loo: the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good

Location, location, location means a lot when you have to go. The Grandstand offers up two colossal restrooms on each end of the main floor with dozens of stalls, sinks and towel dispensers. Despite their mass, there's also a mass of people swarming the two floors of merchandise mania where you can buy anything from a handwriting analysis to bamboo polo shirts, sushi knives and extension cords. That means a packed facility.

If you can hold it for a short jog down Nelson Street and slip behind the Giant Slide, you'll find another hidden gem: restrooms with lots of stalls, a drinking fountain inside both the women's and men's johns, private accessible stalls and hardly anyone waiting to use them.

Women, this is for you: If you've suddenly got the urge to use the biffy after spending too much time in the Horticulture Building sampling Minnesota-made wine and laughing a bit too hard at the Michele Bachmann-inspired seed art, don't let the lines at that restroom daunt you. Pat and Jane



will help you find the first available stall.

"Right here, baby, right here," Pat beckons to the first woman in line. "Number 3 is open."

This is their second year at the fair, and they keep things running at a fast clip. No toilet paper in stall 12? No problem. "Here, baby, let's try a different stall," Pat coos to one of her patrons.

The bad

By all appearances, the new enormous restrooms at the International Bazaar seem just the spot to hit after listening to a little salsa music and downing a couple of Summits. But that's the problem: Everyone else just finished their beers too.

Using a restroom near any of the free entertainment or beer gardens is trying. You can catch someone singing your favorite Neil Diamond tune at the nonstop karaoke stage in the Garden on Underwood Street while you wait, but then you'll probably also have to listen to someone sing "Billie Jean" and a show tune you can't quite put your finger on before you can uncross those legs.

The ugly

Have you visited the lavatories in the animal barns?

The sanctuary

The Mighty Midway offers plenty of plastic Porta Potties, but the Kidway northeast of there between Underwood and Cooper streets has

real flush toilets with sinks and security.

No visiting politicians will get away with foot tapping or lewd and lascivious behavior here. Right next to the paintings of carousel horses and State Fair mascots Fairchild and Fairborne are signs that say, "This restroom is under video surveillance by State Fair Police."

Kristal Leebrick has been searching for the perfect State Fair restroom for more than 25 years.

This article appeared in the Twin Cities Daily Planet, www.tcdaily-planet.org, August 2009.

Hail to the chief

Art Blakey Jr. reflects on 30 years of policing the fair

By Natalie Zett

Although the sultry summer of 2010 is nearly over, slowing down is the last thing on Art Blakey Jr.'s mind. For Blakey, chief of police of the Minnesota State Fair, it's time to ratchet everything up several notches as he prepares for his umpteenth fair.

Blakey surveys the office: laptops are booted and rows of dispatch radios stand at attention on a nearby table while two officers in an adjacent room answer phones and rifle through files. This building, called "the house," was a former manager's residence and now serves as the police station.

"Everything's ready to go," declares Blakey, who's been the chief (mostly a part-time position) since 1980. He exerts a calm, powerful command of a room with his resonant baritone voice and his size—he's a big man. Definite assets in his line of work.

"People think we have a lot of crime at the fair, but mostly it's petty stuff," says Blakey, 75. He began working the fair as a Ramsey County reserve deputy in 1965. Five years later, he became a full-time deputy sheriff.

Back then, Blakey says, the fair hired police officers and a chief to work during the fair, and they'd go



Chief Art Blakey Jr

back to their jurisdictions after Labor Day. "After it ended, they'd leave and lock everything up until the next year," he says. Now, the fairgrounds hosts events such as car shows, antique sales and horse shows year-round, which means there is always a need for a police presence.

Every August, Blakey hires between 200 to 250 officers from around the state. He says it's a good

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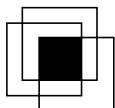
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State Fair from 9

starting place for people who want to go into law enforcement because the new officers get to work with retired police officers, many of whom have 25 to 30 years of experience.

A lot goes on behind the scenes to make the Great Minnesota Get-Together continue yearly without a hitch. When the fair begins, Blakey starts work early. On the first day, he's there at 4 a.m. "I want to make sure nothing goes wrong," he says. "One year, somebody forgot to unlock the gate. Fortunately, I had the keys."

Blakey himself doesn't wear a uniform when on duty and prefers using the powers of persuasion when dealing with people. "If there's a problem I want to talk them out of it," he says.

Last year, more than a million people attended the fair. "For those 12 days, we're the second-largest city in Minnesota," Blakey says. "When I started, we did get some pick-pocketing, but now we've educated people to watch themselves. Our biggest thing is what we call 'lost parents,' but if a child is lost, we put the description out there through dispatch and we have reservists and law enforcement at each gate. Years ago, you'd come through the gates and you would only see officers on the Midway. Now, they're

everywhere."

No child—or adult—goes missing at the fair for long. "About seven years ago a senior got lost," he says. "His bus went back to Willmar without him and, in the meantime, we searched everywhere for him." Assuming he got on the wrong bus, they began running through the list of busses, checking every one. "Then, we got a call from the hog barn. They said, 'Hey, we got a guy sleeping in here.' This senior was a hog farmer so that's where he went."

Other than lost seniors, lost children and petty theft, there's seldom anything major. Sometimes they encounter fights or teenagers trying to sneak alcohol into the fair. "The few fights we have—it's not strangers—they know each other," he says. And they are on to the teens: "You get young teenagers now with water bottles. If under-age kids are passing bottles around we'll say, 'What's in that water?'"

At the end of each fair season, Blakey contemplates retirement for a nanosecond. "Every year I say I'm not coming back, but I always do.

It's like a real family for me." A couple of years ago Blakey had surgery, and as his wife drove him home from the hospital, he asked to drive by the fair. "My wife, Carolyn, said, 'The fairgrounds are still there!' But I made her drive through just to make sure!"

Blakey spent 35 years with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and retired as commander of the East Metro Gang Strike Force in 2003. He says he has been blessed to work with great people at the fair. "I enjoy every minute of it. Sometimes, I just get in the car and drive on the fairgrounds. The big thing is the community, seeing the people coming back every year."

Natalie Zett is an award-winning writer who lived in inner-city Detroit before moving to St. Paul. Her first encounter with the Minnesota State Fair was while living in a dormitory at Luther Seminary just west of the fairgrounds. She mistook the end-of-the-night fireworks for gunshots and called 911. Her dorm-mates never stopped reminding her of the night she thought St. Paul was under siege.

A night at the fair

By Dave Healy

Today's Minnesota State Fair midway is a pale imitation of the midways of my youth. In vain does one look for a live barker enticing Midwest innocents to plumb the mysteries of the girlie show or brave the terrors of the freak show, promising to let everyone in on a child's ticket "for the next 15 minutes only."

So it had been many years since I'd ventured onto the southwest corner of the fairgrounds when, on a recent State Fair outing with my brother Paul, I let him convince me to take a walk on the not-so-wild side.

We knew we'd see no girlie shows. There was something billed as a freak show, but the recorded pitch didn't grab us. It looked as though our midway jaunt would be uneventful. Then, just as we approached the first Ferris wheel, a live voice cut through the cotton-candied air: "Hey big guy! Over here!"

Since either of us would qualify as big, both our heads turned. The voice came from a guy holding a basketball and standing in front of a basket that looked to be at least 11 feet off the ground, a good foot higher than regulation. The hoop, on the other hand, was considerably

smaller than official size. It seemed little larger than the ball.

"Two shots for two bucks," said the guy. "Make 'em both and pick your prize."

I turned to move on, but Paul caught me up short: "I'll pay for you to try it."

I'm no novice with a basketball, but the odds of this shot looked slim indeed. Still, it wouldn't cost me anything, so why not?

Paul forked over the money and I took the ball. Bouncing it twice, I let fly. The ball hung against the Minnesota sky and dropped. Swish. The proprietor handed it back to me. "Not bad, tall man," he said. "Let's see you do it again." Two more bounces and . . . nothing but net.

Without a word, I turned to go. "What about your prize?" asked Paul.

I looked at the guy holding the ball, who suddenly was strangely silent.

"Give it to a kid," I said.

Dave Healy has been going to the Minnesota State Fair for more than 50 years, during which time he has consumed 972 mini-donuts and 1,467 cheese curds.

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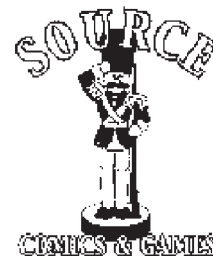
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With the help of Chelsea Heights Elementary parent volunteers, the school received a **\$2,000 library grant** from the Target Corp.

The **Hamline/Hoyt Playground and Beautification Committee** collaborated with District 10 and Northwest Como Recreation Center to host a carnival and movie night during the "Staycation" in July at Chelsea Heights. The event was a fundraiser for the school.

The **playground committee** now has a new interactive website to

report on progress, share information about upcoming events, network with others and raise money via a PayPal account. Check it out at thehhproject.com.

The school received a **\$1,000 schoolyard grant** from the University of Minnesota's Schoolyard Ecology Explorations to plant two native gardens. The outgoing sixth-grade class planted garden beds at the main entrance, and the PTO dedicated a boulder to the class of 2010. **Johnson Creek Landscaping** is donating a white swamp oak for the area next to the new toddler playground. Volunteers from **OptumHealth** provided grounds cleanup this summer.

Chelsea Heights Open House will be held on Thursday, Sept. 2, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The first **PTO meeting** will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Sept. 20** at the school.

The school's **Volunteer Reading Program** runs daily from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering in the library, please contact the school.

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

Students in grades first through sixth begin Sept. 7. Kindergarteners start on Sept. 13. SAPSA will have coffee and doughnuts for parents both mornings. The school will host an **Open House** Sept. 2, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The school's **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment** scores were released this summer. Eighty-eight percent of SAP students were proficient in math, 89 percent in reading and 87 percent in science.

The school's **front entrance** was **remodeled** to provide wheelchair

accessibility. There is a ramp in the inner hallway as well.

New staff for the 2010-11 school year are Michelle Brunswick, kindergarten teacher; Cathylynne Erickson, first-grade teacher; Christopher Funk, sixth-grade teacher; Lindsay Marcil,

Americorp VISTA; Maya Maloney, speech pathologist; Shukri Kariye, ELL educational assistant; and Carol Grady, nurse. Staff members who left the school in the spring are Barb Herman, Heather Denning, Kim Carter, Ku Yang and Jackie Pieper.

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Business News

Park Midway Bank has hired **Jason Scott** as assistant vice president and retail banking manager. Scott has more than 10 years of branch management experience in Woodbury and Minneapolis.

Terri Banaszewski, vice president of Park Midway Bank, was recently named to the board of directors for WomenVenture in St. Paul. Banaszewski has been chair of the Business Finance Advisory Committee since the end of 2008. This committee reviews all WomenVenture requests for micro loan funding.

The former Hamline Hardware Hank, 755 N. Snelling Ave., has new owners. The Gildner family purchased the business in May and has renamed it **Hamline Hardware**. The new owners, Jon, Matt, Jim and Jan Gildner, have remodeled, expanded the paint and hardware product lines, added rental tools and equipment and are continuing the window-, screen- and small-engine-repair services.

Epic Urns, which was located at 2402 University Ave., closed shop last month after three years there. The business sold artist-made funeral urns and included a gallery

that displayed urns made from porcelain, wood and even Legos. The owners cited the economy and local funeral homes' resistance to their services as the reasons the business closed.

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, 1245 Como Ave., is celebrating its 145th anniversary Sept. 18 at a gala event at the Hilton Minneapolis Hotel. "Celebration for Changing Lives" will feature former *Star Tribune* columnist Jim Klobuchar and his daughter, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Call 888-745-0013 or 651-969-2309 for information.

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When: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 5:00-8:30 PM
Where: Centennial United Methodist Church (1524 West County Road C2, Roseville)
Cost: \$10 if registered by 9/7/10; \$15 at the door (includes a healthy dinner)
Questions? Contact Cindy Albing at (651) 414-5292 or calbing@lyngblomsten.org.
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Registration information is available online at www.lyngblomsten.org (see events calendar) Sponsored by

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Neighbors

Cub Scouts fire up

St. Anthony Park Cub Scout Pack 22 is holding its Fire Up event at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Langford Park bandstand. Boys in first through fifth grades are invited to join. For more information contact Clay Helmer at 651-603-6987.

Hockey registration begins

Registration for the Langford Park hockey program is at 7 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Langford Park Rec Center. Teams are Mini-Mites, Mites, Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams. Contact Scott at LangfordParkHockey@gmail.com or 651-329-8609 with any questions. Additional program information can be found at www.LangfordParkHockey.com.

Group seeks input in Central Corridor housing discussions

The Affordable Housing Work Group (AHWG) meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. W., to discuss housing issues near the light-rail project along University Avenue.

The AHWG is working to maintain and increase affordable housing in the area and wants community input regarding goals for new construction, decisions on existing housing, property tax changes and financing to build affordable housing.

Iraqi art show at St. Matthews

The opening reception for "Iraq: Reconciling Through Art" will be at noon Sunday, Sept. 19, at the Undercroft Gallery at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. The show celebrates the work of artists living and working in Iraq. All proceeds from the sale of any paintings directly benefit the artists.

Holy Childhood Oktoberfest

A Taste of Como Oktoberfest will be held at Holy Childhood Church, 1435 Midway Parkway, 5-9 p.m. Sept. 10. Cost is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For tickets, call Larry at 651-489-2428. Participants must be 21 and older.

Cancer benefit at Coffee Grounds

An evening of music, featuring Natural Babbitt, the Johnson Twins and student musicians will be held at the Coffee Grounds, 1579 Hamline Ave., 4-10 p.m. Sept. 4. "Music and Friends for Summer's End" is a benefit for Team El Camino, a group participating in the Light the Night Walk at Target Field Sept. 26 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Gopher football is back!

Here is the schedule of University of Minnesota's home football games at TCF Bank Stadium:

• Sept. 11, 11 a.m. against

South Dakota

- Sept. 18, 2:30 p.m. against Southern California
- Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. against Northern Illinois
- Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. against Northwestern (Homecoming)
- Oct. 23 at TBA against Penn State
- Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. against Ohio State
- Nov. 27 at TBA against Iowa

The homecoming parade and pep fest are at 7 p.m. Oct. 1.

Garden Club meets at Gibbs

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club will meet on Sept. 7 at Gibbs Museum, Larpenteur and Cleveland Ave., at 6:30 p.m. with a program about apples at 7:15 p.m.

Northwest Como boosters meet

The NW Como boosters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the rec center. The next meeting is Sept. 14.



NW Como wins city softball championship

Northwest Como 12U girls fastpitch softball team won the city championship this summer. Pictured are coaches Kevin Huepenbecker, Eric Forsland and Beth Langevin and players Alayna Carrier, Gabrielle Huepenbecker, Lillian Langevin, Rachel Love, Angelika Martin, Kathryn McCarrick, Mary Miles, Nicole Nordman, Maddie Post, Karissa Rucinski, Ellie Smith, Alanna Vennemann, Kaitlyn Struckman, Taylor Locken and Emily LaCroax-Dalluhn.

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SEPTEMBER

Events

Addresses and phone numbers for the venues listed here are at the end of the calendar.

1 Wednesday

- Book club, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library, *Hurry Down Sunshine: A Father's Story of Love and Madness* by Michael Greenberg

- English conversation group, 4 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park Branch Library

- Internet, email, Word and Excel training, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park Branch Library

7 Tuesday

- Baby storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

- Block Nurse exercise, 3:15 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Branch Library

- St. Anthony Park Garden Club, 6:30 p.m., Gibbs Museum.

10 Friday

- A Taste of Como Oktoberfest, 5-9 p.m., Holy Childhood Church

15 Wednesday

- English conversation group, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

- Sing, Play, Learn with MacPhail, 1 p.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

17 Friday

- Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

18 Saturday

- Falcon Heights city-wide garage sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- St. Anthony Park neighborhood garage sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

19 Sunday

- "Iraq: Reconciling Through Art," noon, Undercroft Gallery, St. Matthews Episcopal Church

21 Tuesday

- Baby storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

22 Wednesday

- English conversation group, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

24 Friday

- Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Branch Library

25 Saturday

- Chemists in the Library, 1:30 p.m., school-age, St. Anthony Park Branch Library

- Neighborhood cleanup, State Fair-grounds Camel Lot, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

26 Sunday

- Sunday Afternoon Reading Group, *Einstein's God* by Krista Tippett, Micawber's Bookstore

28 Tuesday

- Sing, Play, Learn with MacPhail, 1 p.m., ages 0-5, St. Anthony Park Branch Library, registration required

Contact information:

Gibbs Museum, Larpenteur and Cleveland, 651-646-8629

Holy Childhood Church, 1435 Midway Pkwy., 651-644-7495

Micawber's Bookstore, 2238 Carter Ave., 651-646-5506

St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058

Send items for October Events by Sept. 17 to calendar@parkbugle.org.

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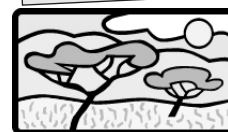
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Attend the St. Anthony Park Energy Workshop on Thursday, October 28, 1605 Eustis (Children's Home Society and Family Services building) at 6:30pm and your Squad visit will be only \$30 including all labor and materials. Or call by September 30th to schedule an appointment at the \$35 non-workshop rate. If you qualify for Energy Assistance your visit is free.

RSVP to green@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992
or go to www.sapcc.org for more info.

Sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council and brought to you by local non-profits, including the Green Institute and the Neighborhood Energy Connection, and the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund. Thanks also to St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the St. Paul Energy Challenge Grants funded by the U.S. Dept. of Energy for helping to promote the program.

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L I V E S L I V E D

John Barnum

John Timothy Barnum, 56, of Falcon Heights, died July 18.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Margaret (Peggy); children, Anne, Marie, Melissa, Patrick and Anthony; granddaughter, Jada;

parents, Jack and Shirley of Excelsior; and brother, Greg (Marcia) of Orono.

John was a retired partner at McGladrey & Pullen and member of the American Institute of CPAs Accounting Standards Board.

Mary Christianson

Mary F. Christianson, née: Haeffliger, 94, of Como Park, died Aug. 3. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert; daughter, Mary Lou Pearson; and great-great-grand-daughter, Sarah. She is survived by daughters, Marlene Gormely (Jim) and Elaine Minewegen (Mark); 12 grandchildren; 42 great-grand-children; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Allan Kraemer

Allan J. Kraemer, 80, of Falcon Heights died July 30. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War and member of Elevator Constructors Local 9.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Ma, and son, James. He is survived by children, Vicky (Ron) Childers, Sandra and Mark

(Kathleen); daughter-in-law, Suzanne; three grandchildren; a brother, William (Lois), and sisters, Ione (Eugene) Thompson and Arlene Evans.

Ronald Luzinski

Ronald J. Luzinski, 74, died July 24 after a 24-year battle with Hodgkins lymphoma and leukemia.

He was preceded in death by his brother, David. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rita (née Maher); three children, Craig (Cyndy), Mark (Deb) and Lisa (Chuck) Porter; eight grand-children; and a sister, Karen (Lee) Anderson.

Marrinette Madux

Marrinette (Englund) Madux, 84, of Falcon Heights, died July 23. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Scott Englund. She is survived by her sister, Ann Schlossmacher; children, Tony (Carole), Terry (Shirley), Connie (Tom) Swanson, Gary (Mary Beth), Lynn (Roy) Bauer and Dan; special friend, Clayton Gage; 12 grand-children; and six great-grand-children.

Helen K. Reis

Helen K. (Eichinger) Reis, 87, formerly of Como Park, died July

20. She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew; infant daughter, Jeanne Jacqueline; and a brother and sister. She is survived by her son, Andrew (Vivian) and sisters, Anne Keating and Elsa Mann.

Major John Webster

Major John E. Webster, retired U.S. Army, 75, of Falcon Heights, died July 27.

He was preceded in death by son, John Edward Jr., and siblings, William, Frank, Edna and Charles. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Bea; children, Carla (Hayward) Norman, Tami (Carl) Greene and Jackson D. (Shea) Webster; nine grandchildren; siblings, Fred (Virginia), David (Maxcine) and Gloria; and sister-in-law, Helen Webster.

Edna Wold

Edna Vestra Wold died July 30 at the Lyngblomsten Care Center. She was born March 2, 1913, in Crookston, Minn. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, the Rev. Orville; daughter, Mary (Dr. David) Bartsch; son, the Rev. David (Catherine); five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Complete obits can be found at www.parkbugle.org.

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CPLContact ministry 651-644-1897

Sunday Fall Worship Schedule & Sunday School Kick-Off: Begins September 12

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship (nursery care provided from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Education (Adult Ed begins September 19)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays

Rides available for 10:45 a.m. worship- call the office before noon on Friday.

Wednesday Evening Activities: Begins September 15

7th & 8th grade confirmation, adult and children's choirs, bell choir, children's chime choir, senior high youth group. Meal provided 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Adults \$5, Children \$3 (3-11), Family maximum \$18.

Pastor: Martin R. Ericson

Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ FALCON HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1795 Holton St. at Garden, 651-646-2681

www.falconheightsucc.org

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. worship

Communion, first Sunday of the month

9:30 a.m. – Faith education, nursery to adult, starting Sept. 19

Sep. 12 – Welcome Sunday and Garden Party: cookout, 11:45 a.m.

Jumping tent, games, Pig's Eye Jazz Band, 12:15 p.m.

Sep. 14 – New 12-week Tues. morning Bible study, "First Light," 10:30 a.m.

Sep. 18 – Pie Festival with the Accidental Trio, 6 p.m.

Sep. 19 – Church School Rally Day (toddlers to teens), 9:30 a.m.

Sep. 19 – P2P-People to People dialogue, "Marriage Equality," 11:45 a.m.

Presenter: Monica Meyer, OutFront Minnesota

Sep. 22 – Youth group (grades 7-12), 5:45-7:10 p.m. (includes a meal)

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Daily Mass 7:45 am. Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm

and Sunday 9:30-10 am. or by appointment with priest.

Religious instruction and Baptism classes by appointment

"3rd ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST" Friday, Sept. 10th, 5-9 pm

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place. 651-644-4502

Website: www.stceciliaspn.org

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Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m. at the church

Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the church

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11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments

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Education Hour for all: 9:45 a.m.

Rally Day...Sept. 12

Wednesday Community Dinners begin Sept. 22

5:15 to 6:30 p.m. - Free will offering

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Website: www.stmatthewsmn.org

Sundays 8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (Traditional language)

9:15a.m. Education for all ages

10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist (Contemporary language)

Nursery care provided 7:50-11:20a.m.

Regular Fall Schedule begins Sunday, September 12

New Service: "Via-Media: The Christian Middle Way," Every Sunday, 7:00pm with a 5:30pm meal.

Taizé Candlelight Prayer: Every 3rd Sunday, 7:00pm

The Undercroft Gallery, "Iraq: Reconciling Through Art" Reception, Sept. 19, 12:00pm

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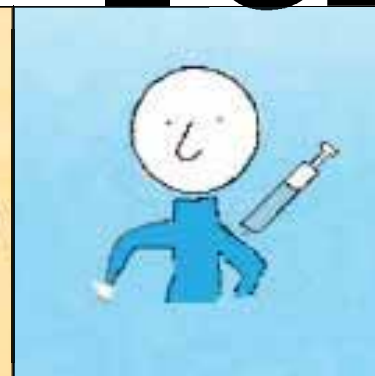
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