Perfect
Alec Soth’s photos reveal the everyday that’s often overlooked

By Ruth Wleccki

There are three things you should know about world-renowned photographer Alec Soth:

1. He has no photos of his family.
2. The self-described introvert has a gift for connecting with strangers.
3. His success leaves him little time to take pictures.

Capturing that Kodak Moment

Alec Soth (rhymes with oath) concedes.

Alec Soth's photos should be a snap for anyone with a point-and-shoot camera. But Soth admits (rather sheepishly) he is no different than any other parent attempting (not always successfully) to catch The Moment: “Please, smile. Please,” he’ll implore his 4- and 8-year-old children before they blitz off to more interesting activities.

Despite his parental pleading—and much to the chagrin of his family—the walls in the home of this award-winning photographer are not crowded with 8x10s of his loved ones. “They are not happy with me,” Soth (rhymes with oath) concedes. But when shooting photos is a day job, even a famous photographer might want to leave his work at the office.

The younger of two brothers, Soth, 40, grew up in Chanhassen. In high school, the shy teenager delived into painting. After graduation, he attended Sarah Lawrence College in New York, “a super-über liberal college that did not believe in grades,” he says, laughing. “They did have professors, however.” And despite his parental pleading—and much to the chagrin of his family—the walls in the home of this award-winning photographer are not crowded with 8x10s of his loved ones. “They are not happy with me,” Soth says.

ASHLEY AND KELLY

For his 2007 project Paris Minnesota for “Fashion Magazine,” Alec Soth contrasts everyday people—like Cass Lake High School cheerleaders Ashley and Kelly—against the ever-camera-ready fashion models of Paris. “The way these people [fashion models] present themselves to the world is very different from my Cass Lake High School cheerleaders AshHey and Kelly—against the ever-camera-ready fashion models of Paris. “The way these people [fashion models] present themselves to the world is very different from my people,” Soth told The Telegraph in 2007. “I needed to inject that into the project somehow: real people and, also, my people.”

Black Bear Crossings provides more than just a meal for those spending Thanksgiving alone

By Kristal Leebrick

The shopping list for Pam Glass' Thanksgiving Day meal includes four 25-pound turkeys, 75 pounds of potatoes, 10 pounds of cranberries and enough pumpkin to fill at least 20 pies.

She's never quite sure how many people she'll be feeding until she shows up at her door.

This is the fourth year that Pam and her husband, Dave Glass, have offered a free Thanksgiving dinner to anyone who comes to their restaurant, Black Bear Crossings on the Lake at Como Lakeside Pavilion in Como Regional Park. So far, they haven't run out of food.

They served 40 to 50 people their first year, Glass said. Last year, 120 people came to the restaurant for a traditional meal. She has between 10 and 15 volunteers each year and often has to turn down people who would like to help.

Both Pam and Dave are volunteers at heart, she said. She's spent a number of holidays volunteering when they were dating. When Pam's mother-in-law died in 2006, “that just left a really big void. It was so sad to think about going through a holiday without her,” Pam said.

So she suggested hosting a free meal in honor of Dave's mom.

That first year, the couple found that most of the people who came were spending Thanksgiving alone.

“At first I thought it would be people who were having a hardship financially and aren’t able to have a nice dinner, but what I found is that those people don’t have the transportation to get to us,” Pam said.

I hose who do come are often older with no family nearby, though she says she does get younger people who don’t have the money to go home for the holiday.

One of their regular customers, a woman in her 80s who has a car, shuttles a number of older women who have no family in town to the restaurant each year.

This year’s meal will be served from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 25. No reservations are needed. Just show up.

Stop the Lot

A proposed parking lot at the corner of Hamline and Arlington avenues in Como Regional Park is off the table.

Critical Fractures

An interview with U design dean Tom Fisher looks at how our post-World War II-era faith in technology doesn’t anticipate failure.

St. Anthony Park
Falcon Heights
Lauderdale
Como Park

Pages 12

The Park Bugle received a $3,000 matching grant from founding editor Gail McClure. Donate online by Dec. 15 and double your gift! Go to www.parkbugle.org and click on DONATE NOW.
Compo Park

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for snowboard, cross-country and downhill ski lessons at Compo Park Ski Center, 1431 W. Lonsorng Pike.

The center opens Saturday, Dec. 20, weather permitting, and features 1.7 kilometers of lighted cross-country ski trails for beginner-level skiing, 5 kilometers of intermediate- and advanced-level groomed classic and skate-style cross-country trails and a downhill area. The ski center has snow machines and four lighted tow ropes for night skiing.

The center offers food service, downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding rentals, and affordable lessons taught by professional instructors. The center is open Saturdays, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3–9 p.m. It is closed Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The center will have extended hours from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2. Go to www.stpaul.gov/parks for more information or call the center at 651-488-9673 after Dec. 20.

Registration for winter classes at Northwest Compo Recreation Center begins soon. The center will be offering a number of youth classes starting in January, including skating lessons, American Red Cross babysitting training and dance. Call the center to find out how to see a list of the classes, 651-296-5813.

Falcon Heights

Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation is offering several children’s art classes on Saturdays in December and January. For the Arts for the Seasons, ages 4 to 6, will be held Dec. 4, 10:30–11:30 a.m., at Community Park, 2050 Rosalawn Ave. Cost is $12 for Falcon Heights residents and $17 for nonresidents. The cost for both the winter and spring series is $20 for Falcon Heights residents and $25 for nonresidents.

Kids Holiday Ceramics, ages 5 to 12, will be held Dec. 18, 10–11:30 a.m., at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpent Ave. Cost is $15 for Falcon Heights residents and $20 for nonresidents.

Watercolor Painting, ages 5 to 14, will be held Jan. 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., at Community Park, 2050 Rosalawn Ave. Cost is $40 for Falcon Heights residents and $45 for nonresidents.

The Curtiss Field warming house, 1551 W. Iola St., will open Dec. 23 and remain open through Feb. 20. Skating instructors will be available for children just learning to skate at Curtiss Field, Monday, Jan. 17 (there is no school that day), and there will be free hot chocolate until supplies last.

The city of Falcon Heights is seeking residents to serve on the following volunteer commissions:

- Neighborhood Commission members work with residents on block parties, emergency preparedness and other city activities. The commission meets the fourth Monday of each month.
- Human Rights Commission members work to prevent human rights violations within the city and respond to them when they occur. Recent committee projects include a youth poster contest and discussions on diversity. The commission meets the first Monday of each month.
- Planning Commission members advise the City Council on land-use issues, development proposals and variance requests. The commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- You can find the commission application at www.falconheights.org or call City Hall at 651-792-7600. Interested citizens should complete an application and send it to City Hall.

Lauderdale

A public hearing and presentation regarding Lauderdale’s 2011 levy and budget will be held during the Dec. 14 Lauderdale City Council meeting. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.

St. Anthony Park

Backyard Talks: Sustainable Winter Sidewalk Management will be held Thursday, Dec. 2, at 1 p.m. at 2314 University Ave. (in the basement of Fortin Consulting). Learn how to deal with salt and sand this winter to prevent damage not only to the surrounding landscaping but to the overall watershed quality, and learn about alternatives to salt. This Backyard Talk will be presented by Connie Fortin and is sponsored by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

The talk is open to business owners and residents from all neighborhoods. RSVP to Lauren at the St. Anthony Park Community Council, lauren@aspcc.org or 651-649-5992.

The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft St. Anthony Park Como 2030 Small Area Plan and Zoning Study Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 6:30–10:30 p.m. The plan was recommended by a neighborhood task force and the District 12 St. Anthony Park Community Council. The plan is an update of the 1991 plan and zoning recommendations are available from principal city planner Allan Tomtonson, 651-266-6379 or allan.tomtonson@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a second public hearing on proposed Zoning Code text amendments and property rezoning for implementation of the Central Corridor Development Strategy and station area plans adopted by the City Council on Friday, Dec. 3, 8:30–10:30 a.m. The hearing will address proposed rezoning that would change the zoning classification for industrial uses within the study area. The proposed text amendments and proposed zoning map changes are available online at www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor; click on Central Corridor Zoning Study.

City of St. Paul

St. Paul Public Works has changed its 24-hour street maintenance telephone number to 651-266-9700. To ease the transition for residents, Lalker said that the old number, 651-292-6600, will be active until next spring. Once that number has been disconnected, it will direct callers to the new number, where they can speak with a representative.

Shovel those sidewalks. It’s illegal in St. Paul to leave snow accumulation on sidewalks, throw snow on ice or to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of accumulation. To report a sidewalk, that’s a safety hazard and needs shoveling, call the Department of Safety and Inspections, 651-266-8989.
The collapse of the 35W Bridge got Tom Fisher to thinking about other critical fractures in the world. And the more he explored the more alarmed he became.

There was the single levy breach in New Orleans that flooded the whole city after only a moderate hurricane. There was the BP oil platform explosion and spill that couldn’t be fixed. There was the H1N1 pandemic that failed to kill millions worldwide only because the flu strain was relatively mild. There were the systematic failures of the housing and financial markets that rapidly engulfed the entire economy.

And there are the ongoing trends that portend larger disasters: a disparity in wealth that the world has never seen, and a singular reliance on fossil fuels that pose huge risks to almost every aspect of life. Fisher, who is the dean of the University of Minnesota’s College of Design and a resident of St. Anthony Park, sees a common thread running through all of these failures or pending failures: It’s hubris.

More specifically, it’s a post-World War II-era, technology-driven faith that has led us to design systems—from bridges to levees, from health care to credit default swaps—that seem efficient and innovative when actually they’re the opposite because they trap the anticipation of failure. And so, when something goes wrong it goes terribly wrong.

He showed diagrams to illustrate his points about exponential increases in worrisome trends (from warm weather to natural disasters to temperatures to income inequities), describing all of these as systems heading for smashups.

And so, when people ask about the current system, “We believe that our technology has made us invincible, but we’re wrong,” Fisher said one morning in late October while discussing his new book (his sixth) due for publication next year, Fracture Critical: How We Design Our Way to Disasters.

“I’m not saying we could achieve a perfect world,” he added. “But we must rediscover the resilience that we must build into our thinking and our designing.”

“That’s a lot to have for breakfast,” one listener told Fisher as he finished his talk at the Cuningham Group architectural firm in Minneapolis. I had to agree. Fisher’s firm, the Fishman Group architectural firm in Minneapolis, I had to agree. Fisher’s message was a peaceful one, so I asked him to sit down for a second cup of coffee and a few more questions.

A designer’s eyes-view

I’ve known Fisher for more than a decade. He’s not a gloomy man by nature, but cheerful, boundlessly curious and artfully articulate, the kind of public intellectual that universities cherish. In just 15 years, he’s transformed the U’s architecture school from an excellent technical training ground to a kind of integrated launch pad that applies design to nearly every human pursuit. To my eye, his design lens offers a keen view of the world’s problems, a view that hovers between art and science.

A good designer sees the challenge in stark terms (building a house on a slope, for example), then applies creativity to the solution (planting as much ground cover as possible to keep the soil in place). Designers are optimistic by nature, and that makes Fisher’s analysis less scary than it first seems.

“We live in an incredibly exciting time,” he tells me. “We’re at the cup of a Renaissance, but we don’t know it yet.” Old hierarchies and compartments are breaking down, he says, and we’re discovering that everything is related to everything else. The world, he says, is less like a conventional machine than like an ecosystem—or like the intricate connections. Innovation is something that’s bound to happen, he says, as long as we come to terms with the flaws in our past thinking.

Here are edited excerpts of the conversation:

Berg: And what would those stories be?

Fisher: We still view government as a machine that you can control by switching a few levers. The world is now more like the internet, where nobody has levers to turn. O n the web you just move around obstacles, sort of like the way people are moving around government. We’re human ecology. The question isn’t whether we’re part of the animal kingdom or not. We are. But we operate as if we’re still in an age of survival of the fittest, of competition, of setting up political enemies and polarization, about D democrats and Republicans. When the real world already depend on mutual support and cooperation.

Fisher: How do you interpret the incredible anger you see in politics?

Fisher: There’s some connection between inequality and anger; studies show that correlation. But there’s also a sense that the old solutions aren’t working. The Tea Party is popular because people think it’s new. I’m skeptical because it’s funded by those who want to perpetuate the inequalities that make people angry and to perpetuate the old ways.

Berg: Aren’t people also frustrated because the future we thought we’d have may not arrive in quite the same way? For example, coming out of the Great Recession, how different will our communities and our lifestyles be?

Fisher: Space will shrink. We’ll live more compactly because we can’t afford M McMansions anymore. There may be no market for large segments of the suburban landscape. Cities will be more diverse and have smaller footprints, and we’ll realize that we must do everything we can to accelerate innovation. And that means a lot of face-to-face contact and interaction because that’s how ideas flow.
Support, connection and the free flow of information

Tom Fisher, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, and a Park Bugle neighbor, says we are living in an exciting time where our old hierarchies are breaking down and we're discovering that everything is related to everything else. The world, he says, is moving out of an age of competition and survival of the fittest and moving into one that depends on mutual support and cooperation.

Recognizing our connections will lead to innovation, Fisher maintains. In an interview reprinted from MinnPost (page 3), Fisher says we need human interaction to make ideas flow. Intellectual isolationism won't work.

That's a pretty hopeful message coming amid our economic downturn and on the heels of a negative election cycle.

Mutual support, Cooperation. Human interaction. Whether it's working together to find solutions to neighborhood parking issues (see page 12) or supporting local farmers (see page 9), we depend on each other.

Thank you from Matt Bostrom

Thank you for the privilege you have given me to be the new Ramsey County sheriff. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you as I have gone all over the county. The citizens of Ramsey County have been so gracious to me and my family, and we deeply appreciate the kindness you have shown us and all our volunteers.

I am ready to serve the citizens of Ramsey County and have begun to prepare for an orderly transition. I am excited for the days and weeks ahead to work with my dedicated law enforcement team as we begin to work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies and elected officials throughout Ramsey County.

We have already begun the process of creating partnerships with all of these groups.

So, thank you again for your support. I promise to do my best to serve you as your sheriff and to earn your trust and respect as our department seeks to serve you.

Matt Bostrom
Newly elected Ramsey County sheriff

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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 neighborhoods and encourage community par-ticipation.

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Donations help cover Bugle operating costs

For 35 years, the Park Bugle has been the trusted source of news about and for your neighbors and your community. When we surveyed readers earlier this year, 96 percent said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the Bugle. And 99 percent said having news about their community was important or “very important.”

More than ever, we need your help to ensure that the Bugle remains an integral part of this community.

• Like M Inneota Public Radio, the Park Bugle is a tax-exempt nonprofit. Advertising covers most, but not all, of the cost of producing and publishing the paper, which is delivered free to 14,000 homes and businesses. We always have relied on donations to help cover our costs.

• The economy has taken a toll on media outlets large and small. Many vibrant neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, including Seward and Prospect Park, have been forced to shut down their nonprofit newspapers.

• The Bugle has not been sheltered from this trend. In the past two fiscal years, our advertising revenue plunged an unprecedented 22 percent, or a total of $34,000.

We responded with a number of responsible cost-saving measures, such as reducing the number of pages we publish. But this crisis also prompted us to take a tough look at what we were doing, how we were doing it and how we can do better.

For the first time in years, we embarked on the kind of short- and long-range planning that can help ensure that the Park Bugle not only survives, but thrives.

We are more committed than ever to producing the kind of stories that our readers and advertising partners value. We’ve added some new features to the paper. We’ve created a Facebook page and are exploring ways to enhance the content of the printed publication and our website, parkbugle.com.

The Park Bugle wouldn’t be where it is today without generous donations from our readers—our neighbors and our friends.

And we’re confident that, with your financial support, we can continue to be part of the community conversation for decades to come.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:
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You can also donate online at GiveN.org. Visit the Bugle page, and click the green GiveN button at the top right corner of the page.

— Park Press Board of Directors

From 2008-09 to 2009-10, the Bugle’s total revenue declined 14 percent. Revenue from ads and classifieds declined 18 percent. That’s a decline of more than $26,000 in the last year.

The Park Bugle welcomes your news & ideas

Here’s how to reach us:

To contact the editor, send an email to Kristal Leebrick, editor@parkbugle.org or call 651-646-5369.

If you want to place an ad for a business south of Como Avenue, contact Chrissy Ames, 651-208-5540 or chrissy@parkbugle.org

To place an education-related ad or an ad for a business north of Como Avenue, contact Genevieve Plagens, 651-325-7119 or genevieve@parkbugle.org

To place a classified ad, contact the editor: editor@parkbugle.org or call 651-646-5369.

The Four Stages of Cruelty

by Keith Hollihan

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Police arrest four in area burglary cases

By Kristal Leebrick

The St. Paul Police Department arrested four juveniles Nov. 17 who may have been involved in recent burglaries in the Como Park and St. Anthony Park neighborhoods this fall. Both areas have reported an increase in home and business burglaries since early October.

At press time, senior commander Todd Astvell said patrol officers stopped the juveniles in an alley behind the house that had been burglarized during the time period that the homeowner was gone. T here were two incidents led some area residents to speculate that the burglars were working in teams and using cell phones to alert perpetrators inside the homes as to when a resident may be returning to the house.

Astvell said the police “have no reason to believe” that the people seen talking on cell phones had any connection to the crimes.

Last week’s arrest may be connected to ten area burglaries, Astvell said.

The increase in burglaries prompted the St. Paul police Department to send undercover agents into the neighborhoods, Astvell said.

This week

Compo Park Senior High School Prospective Student and Parent Advanced Placement Information Night

Tuesday, November 30, 2010, 7 - 8 pm

Como Park Senior High School Library, 740 West Phose Avenue, 651-250-8800

Please join us as we present information about

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Monday December 6th at 7 p.m.

Ben Percy will read from The Wilding published by Graywolf Press.

Wednesday December 15th at 7 p.m.

local author Keith Hollihan will read from his debut The Four Stages of Cruelty published by Graywolf Press.

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Fisher from 3
Berg: Does that mean the office park as we know it is dead? In the post-World War II era, it was the way business was organized. We were insular. We had lunch at the company cafeteria and rarely talked to anyone outside the company.

Fisher: That style has proved detrimental to innovation. It’s a monoculture. The Big Three automakers were an example. They were all in one city. They didn’t see change coming. They chose the Hummer instead of the electric car when they might have selected both. The companies and cities that are the most diversified in their thinking will have an advantage. Those systems that are both efficient and full of redundancies will prosper. The human brain has both. The World Wide Web has both. That’s the new model. That is a shift of the kind that comes every 300 or 400 years. That is equivalent to Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press. It’s a whole new reality.

Berg: Some people thought that Obama was going to be this change.

Fisher: Yes, but Washington turns out to be this incredible trap of old thinking. All institutions are in that trap, even universities.

Berg: So, returning to the question of cities and their need to diversify: Is zoning obsolete?

Fisher: Zoning, if it means separating the uses of land, is absolutely obsolete. There ought to be many functions going on in the same block, as there once were. So-called “form-based” codes get us part way there. But they too are concerned superficially with how buildings look. The important thing is experimentation. Let different communities try different things on a limited basis. One neighborhood might want to do farming.

Berg: Is the office building over? What about the high-rise?

Fisher: The office building as we know it is dead. We’re not going back into a feudal, hierarchical mode. We’ll emphasize on local economies. We’ll have an emphasis on local. We’ll eventually go down the way Lehman Brothers went. It’s a whole new world that we’re already in. That kind of gain. I firmly believe that this new world that we’re already in will be better than the one we left. But it will be profoundly different.

— Tom Fisher

It’s winter: Do you know the snow emergency rules?
The Nov. 13 snowstorm was a good reminder that it’s never too early to brush up on your city’s snow emergency policies. Here are the rules for each of the communities in the Bugle distribution area.

Falcon Heights
A snow emergency is declared after two inches of new snow falls and that’s also when the ticketing of cars parked on the streets begins. A snow emergency remains in effect until the streets are plowed curb to curb.

St. Paul
Plowing begins at 9 p.m. on Night Plow Routes the day the snow emergency is declared. Parking is banned on the routes until snow is plowed all the way to the curb. Night Plow Routes are the main or arterial streets in the city plus the side of north-south residential streets. There are signs that say “Night Plow Route” on these streets, and in the case of the residential streets, the signs say “Night Plow Route This Side of Street.”

Tagging and towing begins immediately at 9 p.m. the day the snow emergency is declared and continues for 96 hours after it was declared. Day Plow Routes begin the following morning. New signs start after the night routes are plowed, typically around 8 a.m. Parking is banned on these routes until snow is plowed all the way to the curb. Day Plow Routes are the east-west residential streets plus one side of north-south residential streets. Residents can be notified of snow emergencies through email or text messages by signing up at www.stpaul.gov/snowalert. You can also follow the emergency declarations on Twitter by signing up at www.twitter.com/stpaulpublicfeeds. Those without internet service can call the snow emergency hotline 24 hours a day at 651-266-PLOW (7569) or 651-266-9700.

Lauderdale
A snow emergency is declared after a snowfall of more than two inches. Parking is banned on city streets for 48 hours or until snow removal has been completed on that street, whichever occurs first.

Fisher: Yes, but I don’t think it’s right to portray this as a loss. It’s a different kind of gain. I firmly believe that this new world that we’re already in will be better than the one we left. But it will be profoundly different. And we don’t know yet what to call it.

This article originally appeared Oct. 25 on www.MinnPost.com. It is reprinted with permission.
Winter brings new birds to our feeders, a long journey to our summer friends

These little guys winter in the southern United States and in Mexico. The red-winged blackbirds that are so vocal around our ponds and marshes from spring through summer migrate to the southern United States, where they winter with the resident red-winged blackbirds that stay there year-round.

Some of us have been watching chimney swifts for a number of years. They're described as flying cigars: black with no visible tail in flight, sweepback wings that flutter almost constantly. Scientists discovered these birds wintered about 20 years ago when a wintering population was found along the Atlantic coast.

Our state bird, the common loon, isn't a yard bird, but we're all excited to hear and see one. Loons migrate from our freshwater lakes to saltwater coastal areas. Many spend winter along the southern United States in the Gulf of Mexico (which gives us concern over effects of the British Petroleum oil spill on the wintering birds). Some winter along the Atlantic coast.

Another bird we see in the summer is the great blue heron. This bird stands in shallow water waiting for food to swim by, a fish or a frog. Many will stay as long as there's open water. When the winter's here, they winter along ice-free ponds, streams or coastal areas, mostly in the southern United States or the Caribbean coast.

You'll also recognize the great egret in flight, a large white bird that looks almost buoyant despite its size. They're waders, too, like the great blue heron. Both egrets and great blue herons have been found in Minnesota on Christmas Bird Counts. Egrets from Minnesota migrate down the Mississippi River to the southern United States and along the Gulf Coast to Central America.

Migration is one of the deadliest times in the life of a bird. An estimated 50 percent of songbirds die on migration, falling victim to bad weather, power lines, windows and prowling cats. So, although it appears as though they're heading for a balmy winter vacation, in fact it's dangerous and exhausting for these beautiful creatures, and a matter of life and death.

All the more reason to welcome them back in the spring.

Clay Christensen is the Birdman of Lauderdale. You can ask him bird-related questions at his blog at www.birdbugle.org.
Granola maker uses seasonal, local ingredients

By Natalie Zett

Granola, long-touted as a healthy snack, consists mostly of oats, seeds, raisins and nuts epoxied together with honey. Healthy doesn't always translate into tasty, so commercial versions can be overly sweetened, sending blood sugars through the roof. But in Lesley Powers' kitchen, granola is undergoing a makeover as this former restaurateur and chef transforms the breakfast staple into a healthy gourmet's delight.

Powers sits in her dining room amidst various bins of granola bars, ready for delivery to local shops, such as the Bibelot stores in the Twin Cities. "I use mostly local ingredients," she said. "But what's different about my approach is that the granola is totally seasonally focused."

Powers was born in Canada and came to St. Anthony Park via Toronto, the Caribbean and Australia. "My dad worked for UNESCO, so we moved around a lot," she said.

When she was 14, her family moved to Australia where she mostly remained until adulthood. She worked as a chef in some of Australia's finest hotels and restaurants and eventually opened her own restaurant in Sydney. Long before the local food movement was popular, Powers was using fresh regional foods in her restaurant. "Being connected to what is locally grown in your biosphere has been part of me for a very long time," she said. "My basic philosophy during my restaurant years was simple food done really well with glorious fresh ingredients in season."

Powers came to the United States after marrying a St. Paul native. Long before the local food movement was popular, Powers was using fresh ingredients as the Bibelot stores in the Twin Cities. "I use mostly local ingredients," she said. "But what's different about my approach is that the granola is totally seasonally focused."

Powers eventually sold the restaurant to raise her family. They moved to St. Paul in 1996 so their children would know their Minnesota relatives. They hadn't heard of the St. Anthony Park but fell in love with the neighborhood and the house in which they still live. "We looked at the house and then we walked down to M 10th Square and the whole vibe of it felt really neighborly," she said.

They returned to Australia briefly. "We were living in Melbourne, which has a vibrant food culture with its fresh food and great markets," she said. "Since Melbourne had a well-known pastry school, I took classes to refresh my pastry skills."

Upon returning to St. Paul in 2006, Powers was filled with inspiration and ideas for a new business. "I came back with the notion that I wanted to develop a gourmet cookie tin that would fit nicely in the gourmet gift-giving niche, and it was then I launched my company, Bliss. My kids were teenagers, and I didn't want to work full-time, so it was really a great fit and a step into coming back into the food world."

Powers sold her cookie tins to both corporations and via small local gourmet shops, and they quickly became popular. "After I lost two of my kids to college, I was ready to do something more and I thought of granola. Granola, such from the beginning, was all about nourishing my family and offering an excess honey and sweeteners in granola—\"you rely on granola for its natural goodness and it's pretty much a healthy treat.\" She asked the owners of the shops that had bought her cookie tins if they'd be interested in granola and they acquiesced. "I started developing this line of four seasons granola and it immediately became successful," Powers said. "When you eat seasonally, it helps you harmonize with nature. We know instinctively that we want to eat lighter in spring and summer, and in autumn and winter we seek food that provides warmth and energy."

Bliss' four seasonal granola flavors are pumpkin spice (fall), pecan cinnamon (winter), cherry almond (spring) and macadamia crunch (summer). "This is my nod to the tropics," Powers said.

That's how we met," she said. "They lived in Australia during the first 10 years of their marriage where their three children were born. Powers eventually sold the restaurant to raise her family. They moved to St. Paul in 1996 so their children would know their Minnesota relatives. They hadn't heard of the St. Anthony Park but fell in love with the neighborhood and the house in which they still live. "We looked at the house and then we walked down to M 10th Square and the whole vibe of it felt really neighborly," she said.

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"What's unique about my granola is that it's made weekly—very small batch production—nothing is mechanized. Everything is handmade, hand-tumed and hand-packaged. That ensures the freshest, most delicious product possible. If I could make 100 percent M innesota granola, I would, but to that end as much of the ingredients as possible are local."

Powers' success helps the businesses of other local food producers, too. "I know my maple syrup guy, I know my honey supplier, and I know the farmer that produces my oats and seeds. I love knowing the people that grow the food that I use to make my granola. That's a pretty rare connection."

Rich and eloquent are normally not terms used to describe granola, but Bliss Granola is all that and more. "My returning customers sometimes use the granola to augment their oatmeal, just give it a little sprinkling of granola and that gives it a little crunch," she said. "The possibilities are endless. What I love about the granola is that it's healthy. I'm very proud of that."

For more information, contact Lesley Powers at 651-642-1545 or lespowersbsda.com.

By Natalie Zett

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"I love it when I'm at Mill City Farmers Market and kids of return customers come up to me and say, \"Guess what flavor we're getting this week?\”"

Powers' success helps the businesses of other local food producers, too. "I know my maple syrup guy, I know my honey supplier, and I know the farmer that produces my oats and seeds. I love knowing the people that grow the food that I use to make my granola. That's a pretty rare connection."

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Natalie Zett is an award-winning writer and frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.
Restaurant’s menu often relies on whatever a farmer digs up

By Kristal Leebrikk

It’s a Friday morning in early November and “Farmer” Bob Schuett has just shown up at the backdoor of Muffuletta, 2260 C o m o Ave. W., with a produce delivery that includes Swiss chard, H oneycrisp apples, butternut squash, Brussels sprouts and (believe it or not) tomatoes.

“Those are the makings of what chef Jason Schellin calls his brown-bag special. Throughout the week, Schellin takes what farmers bring to his restaurant and brainstormst each night’s menu. This night, the special will be pan-roasted Hawaiian blue marlin with roasted Brussels sprouts and butternut squash. Schellin plans to combine the apples with the watermelon radishes (green flesh with a bright red interior) he bought with a bright red interior) he bought a little over a week ago. They were rinsed off they were fine. Collared greens are hardy and can withstand freezing temperatures. Schellin said, but once they were snowed under, they were frozen.

Chef Jason Schellin calls his weekly farm deliveries “a traveling farmers market.” The locally grown produce these farmers bring to him each week is what drives his nightly menu. That’s why Schellin said, “Always something different every day.” Schellin said. About 40 percent of the restaurant’s menu stays the same, and the rest changes with the season.

Farmer Bob is one of seven regulars who deliver produce and meat to Muffuletta throughout the week during the growing season. Schuett and about three other farmers continue their deliveries throughout the winter.

“Schuett is known to have really, really nice tomatoes [in the winter] that still taste like tomatoes.” Schellin said. “The farmer grows them hydroponically so his customers can get tomatoes all year long. He’s also known to go to great lengths to provide just the right ingredient to his chefs. Last winter, Schuett dug out a crop of collared greens from a snow bank. They were frozen, Schellin said, but once they were rinsed off they were fine. Collared greens are hardy and can withstand freezing temperatures.

Schellin’s favorite season to cook is late summer and early fall when tomatoes and corn are in abundance along with summer beans, peas and carrots. “There’s so much to work with, plus at the end of summer you get early butternut squash. You have the best of two seasons to work with,” Schellin said. “Now that the days are short and temperatures are dipping, Schellin is working more with slow-cooked meals. “We do the restaurant’s version of the crockpot: braising meat, short ribs, pork shoulder. I love to work with legumes—beans and lentils— in winter.” The meats he uses come straight from farmers. Muflluteta lists its seven main local farmers on a sign in the restaurant. Farmer Bob of Scandia, Fischer Family Farms of Waseca, Midwest Salad Company of Waseca, W. J. Acres Poultry of Pepin Lakes, Hidden Streams Farm of Elgin, 1,000 Acres Cattle Company of Cannon Falls and FootJoy Farms of Sparta. W. J. Schuett also orders lamb from Hill and Vale Farms of Wykoff and eggs, meat and cheese through the Southeast Minnesota Food Network, a cooperative of small family farms.

“Land of small farms don’t have transportation or the means to get stuff up here,” he said. The network allows the farms to pool their resources in order to sell their products in the Twin Cities.

The backdoor deliveries are a traveling farmer’s market, Schellin said. “As a system he prefers to him visiting the cities’ markets on the weekends. “A lot of chefs will do the Saturday and Sunday farmers markets because it’s good to have them seen doing this. To me— for lack of a better term—a waste of time and a waste of money when I can get the same stuff and have them deliver it.”

Schellin has been with Muffuletta for three years, but the practice of buying from local farmers began before him. He said Farmer Bob Schuett has stories that go back to the 1930s where farmers would go to two or three chefs before Schellin.

Schellin is carrying on the tradition of farm-to-table seasonal food, he said, and “letting the deliveries dictate what ends up on the menu. That’s the fun thing about our job.”
though he had the skills to take
advanced painting as a freshman, he
found no joy in it.

"Deep down, I didn't like painting," he says. "I didn't like being
in a studio."

He tried outdoor sculpture but
was more intrigued with photo-
graphing the surroundings than the
art. His next challenge was to figure
out "how can I tease these people
out of the picture? I was terrified of
people," he says. Being people-
phobic made photographing them
difficult. So a determined Soth
immersed himself in people-friendly
settings and forced himself to take
pictures.

In college Soth worked as an
assistant to commercial photogra-
phers but grew disenchanted by the
mechanical, deliberateness it re-
quired. Resigned to the fact that
painting did not translate into a
lucrative livelihood, Soth took various photo-
related jobs, including one at the
Minnissippi Institute of Arts, where he
worked for seven years archiving
in-house photos.

"It was a decent job, kinda
related to photography, and I was
done at 5," Soth says.

Eclectics and outcasts

Soth's big break— which he promp-
ted by printing and giving away 50
ink-jet books— came in 2004 with
Sleeping by the Mississippi, a five-year
photojournalism project docu-
menting the lives that define and line
national acclaim with its powerfully
ink-jet books—came in 2004 with
Soth's photos are deliberate, but
true— a sort of past-candid hybrid.
He looks past the obvious to reveal
stark, stunning everyday qualities
that are often missed or overlooked.
Here is nothing "pretty" about his
pictures, no instant gratification. His
photos require contemplation, and
that requires time. What he captures
in that post-"Say 'Cheeeeese!'"
moment is unnerving in its honesty.
From Soth's girl to fisherman to
mother-daughter prostitutes, Soth's
subjects are composed and
unapologetic, as though they've
looked up from their private lives to
say: "Can I help you?" before re-
sumying conversation.

For Niagara, the Mississippi
follow-up, Soth sought a love story.
What had emerged from the honeymoon
capital was a darker tale that looks at
betrayal, suicide, suspicion and pain.
Harder than persuading newlyweds
to disrobe for the camera, he says,
was asking people to share with him
their love letters, which express
affection, as well as despair, anger,
rejection.

"I don't take happy photos," Soth
says. "I'm not looking for
sadness, but I am attracted to certain
trends in people." Like Kym in the
Polish Palace. Sitting in the "V" of a
depressed, fake-leather booth—a
Läinenkugel-bottle light hanging
above her on one side, paper hearts
on the other—she wears a look of
bored resignation, like she is waiting
for someone but wouldn't be
surprised if they didn't show.

To draw out and then capture
that candor requires more than
serendipity and a quick click of the
shutter. The secret is to help his
subjects forget they are the focal
point. So, when Soth hauls out the
6-by-10 view camera, the attention
shifts. As he moves through the
kumbersome set-up, snapping the
tripod into place, positioning the
camera and loading film cartridges—
one at a time— his subjects begin to
relax. And that's when Soth's
genius and his quiet, self-
deprecating humor come in and The
Moment begins to unfold.

Too busy to work

Siri Engberg.

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taking photos and more about administrative maneuvering, a skill he is still mastering, he says. "There is this fantasy that I’m just driving around taking my pictures," Soth says. "I barely take pictures anymore. It’s more about just dealing with problems."

"There is no romance, but there are moments of romance," he says. "But it tends not to be here."

Ironically, the business minutia that consumes Soth’s time—tracking photos, coordinating shows and schedules, negotiating commissions and contracts—is a product of his impressive body of work that stretches around the world. "So much of my work is from outside the country," Soth says, because "I’d have a hard time sustaining myself with work in Minnesota, or even just in the United States."

Soth spent two years planning the installation of his current show at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, From Here to There: Alec Soth’s America, which runs through Jan. 2. The exhibit features a decade’s worth of photos from myriad projects and includes his latest, Broken Manual. It’s not as easy as it looks—all the planning and designing, organizing and orchestrating that go into a show, Soth says, "but you want it to look that way."

Ruth Weleczki is a freelance writer who lives in St. Anthony Park.

**ANE, PARIS MINNESOTA**

This photo, taken in 2007, was for the collection Paris Minnesota for “Fashion Magazine.” “For me, Paris is this glamorous older woman and Minnesota is this beautifully awkward teenager,” Soth told The Telegraph in 2007. “We found Jane, who was perfect, the ultimate sophisticated Paris woman. It turned out she’s originally from Wisconsin, right next to Minnesota. I loved that.”

**A DOG’S LIFE**

Misha, left, her famous master, and her never-changing to-do list: Look cute. Sniff stuff. Nap a lot.

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SAINT ANTHONY PARK

KEEP IT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
By Kristal Leebrick

A proposed parking lot at the corner of Lexington and Hamline avenues will be taken out of the Como Park Regional Transportation Implementation Plan and residents in the western part of Como Park will have parking implemented on their streets in May 2011.

At a public hearing Nov. 17, city Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahn told the St. Paul City Council that the creation of a 480-car parking structure at Lexington and Hamline was going to be removed from the plan. And council member Russ Stark assured the dozens of Como Park residents attending the hearing that the approved permit parking will begin in the spring.

The hearing was part of a process that began last summer when Kimley-Horn and Associates, a consultant that specializes in roadwayways and traffic, began working with the city and Como Park residents to come up with a plan to help alleviate the traffic problems that are plaguing the park and the residents who live around it. In the last five years, the amount of visitors to the park each year has grown by 1 million people. Eighty-four percent of the park’s visitors come from outside of the city of St. Paul, according to M Chiella-Funer, campus manager at the park.

In October, District 10 residents voted against some of the 47 recommendations in the Como Park Regional Transportation Implementation Plan and held a “Stop the Lot” rally on Oct. 30 at Hamline and Lexington to protest the proposed lot.

Permit parking was approved last year, but Parks and Recreation asked the council to delay implementing permit parking until other parking solutions had been found. She said thousands of her patrons would be “surprised and angered” if they weren’t able to park close to the park.

Furser said there would not be one solution to the parking and traffic issues at the park. Some of the recommendations include purchasing or constructing a permanent shuttle lot with 500 parking spaces within 2 miles of the park and increasing visitors’ awareness of the shuttle and how to use it.

Residents who spoke at the public hearing urged the council to consider creating a permanent committee of residents and other stakeholders to address the issues associated with the park and its use. At the Stop the Lot rally in October, state representative Alice Hausman told that crowd that she’d like to see “no more cars in Como Park.” She said the traffic issues in the park and the surrounding neighborhood were a “regional transportation problem.” All efforts should be toward establishing an off-site shuttle parking area and good public mass transit planning, Hausman said.

By Roger Bergerson

The Toogood Building at 2230 Como Ave. has changed hands, but both its name and legacy of service will live on.

The acquisition by the Emily Program, an organization providing treatment for eating disorders and related problems, brings the number of its locations in Minnesota to seven, including its headquarters at 2265 Como Ave. and the Anna Wexin House at 1449 Cleveland Ave.

The Anna Wexin House has been the site of a residential program for both adolescent and adult clients, but when the Toogood facility opens next June, it will house the adolescent program, with the Cleveland Avenue location serving as its adult programs.

The Anna Wexin House is a 16-bed facility, while the Toogood site—a name for the program there has yet to be determined—will have 10 beds.

Although the additional capacity will be welcome, it pales when one considers the scope of need, said Jillian Croll, director of communications, outreach and research with the Emily Program.

“arists in Minnesota alone there are likely 200,000 people struggling with eating disorders, and once the Toogood program is up and running, will have a grand total of 26 beds available for treatment,” she noted, adding that there are only about 40 residential treatment programs in the entire country.

Since its construction in 1959, the Toogood Building has been open to other expansion possibilities, in St. Anthony Park or elsewhere, if the right sort of facility becomes available. It is also looking for opportunities nationwide and will open an office in Seattle, Wash., next spring.

Rogor Bergeron, a former newspaper reporter, is a freelance writer and long-time Como Park resident.
Hockey interest grows at Langford

By Anne Holzman

As dwindling public resources chip away at parks programs everywhere, Langford Park Hockey grows stronger by the season, this year expanding to a Bantam-level team for 13- and 14-year-olds. About 70 players registered two years ago, said parent and Langford hockey coach Scott H. Lundquist. Last year there were about 90 and this year they'll have at least 105, he said.

Langford distinguishes itself by using outdoor ice for practice, which enables the team to get by with significantly lower participation fees and by emphasizing play over competition, requiring fewer practices than many teams and allowing absences.

“We understand that families are busy with school and other activities,” Hamilton said. “We try to limit practices to two weekends.”

Langford recognizes that families may need to miss practice now and then, he said. “I’ve heard that some programs penalize kids for not making a game or practice by having them sit out at game time. We try not to do that.”

While Langford is seeing a boost in its program, not all hockey programs around the city are experiencing enrollment growth. Increased demands on time and increased fees have made it harder for kids to be down to one city-wide team.

“Increased demands on time—the city has dropped off, too,” Lundquist said. “This year they’ll have at least 105, he said.

While Langford is the only city-wide program in the Como Park neighborhoods, Langford does host a Winter Classic, at which neighbors can watch the action and sample the chili, hot chocolate and other treats at the fundraising lunch inside. This season’s event will be Jan. 6-9.

Not all teams post their fees online, but a program in South St. Paul lists $777 for Squirts, which includes an ‘a volunteer fee.”

Despite the hard work, “it’s a neat get-together,” he said.

All that volunteering, adds up to big savings. Ice time at the indoor arenas used by most teams for practice—and used by Langford teams for most games—costs about $160 per hour, which accounts for the lower fees to play at Langford, Lundquist said.

Langford Park Hockey gets support from the Langford Booster Club, including access to insurance. While most Langford games are played at indoor rinks outside the neighborhood, Langford Park Hockey does host a Winter Classic, at which neighbors can watch the action and sample the chili, hot chocolate and other treats at the fundraising lunch inside.

This season’s event will be Jan. 6-9. A booster club is going to sponsor a competitive/soccer team next fall that mirrors the approach taken with the hockey program.

At press time, Hamilton received word that the club’s application had been approved by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association.

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer who lives in St. Anthony Park.

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Nicollet County
The fifth-graders at Chelsea Heights Elementary have the opportunity three times each year to have a hands-on learning experience through the Kids-n-Chemistry program. Rutired chemists lead the students in investigations designed to follow the inquiry process, expand chemistry understanding and just have fun with science. On Nov. 2, teams of chemists brought all the supplies, including safety materials such as goggles, for each student. Working with plant chemicals (cabbage juice) to determine pH levels, students tested various household products to determine their acid and base levels and the effects they have on our ecosystems.

Como Park Senior High
740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800
www.comar.spps.org

More than 80 students from Como Park Senior High worked together on Oct. 29 at Feed My Starving Children’s location in Eagan, packing more than 20,000 meals that will be shipped to impoverished countries such as Uganda and Nigeria to help combat world hunger. The students were from the AVID program, a college-prep program that supports students in pre-Advanced Placement (AP) and AP classes and the Paws for Peace, an extra-curricular group that works on issues of world peace.

The boys cross country team won the conference meet for the first time in the history of the school. The runners from Como who were in the top 10 in the conference are Nate Rue, Evan Hampon, Abdalslaan Hasan, Marshall Landrum and Chris Hutton. They are coached by Chris Lundstrom, an award-winning runner himself.

The Como Mentoring Club is a group of 80 upper classmen who meet twice a week to help freshmen with their homework or just hang out with them to ease the transition from middle school to high school. The club took a field trip in October to the University of MInnesota St. Paul Student Center bowling alley with a group of ninth-grade students. About 40 English Language Learner students are part of the program, and the club gives them the chance to connect with non-English speakers.

Como Park Senior High has established a new chapter of Future Educators of America this year. It is a dynamic, diverse group of students who are interested in entering the field of education. Como’s Future Educators, along with National Honor Society members, began their first project of the school year tutoring ninth-grade students who are struggling in their English classes. Other activities include guest speakers and service projects, including a winter coat drive.

An informational session on Como Park’s Advanced Placement program will be held Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in the school library. It is open to any students and their parents who would like to find out more about this comprehensive rigorous college-preparatory program. Both faculty and students will present information and be available for questions.

Murray Junior High
2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740
www.murray.spps.org

Murray’s book fair at Barnes and Noble in the HarMar Mall is Thursday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. It’s a great way to get a jump on holiday book-buying and help Murray. A percentage of the net sales will be donated to the school. Just use a voucher or mention Murray’s fundraising code, 10116598, at the time of purchase. Students from Murray’s band, orchestra, rock band and poetry group will perform from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

New this year is the opportunity for friends and relatives to shop at any Barnes and Noble store in the United States or online on Dec. 2 to support the school. A representative from St. Paul Public Schools Placement Center will be at Murray Dec. 6 for a parent forum on “Choosing a High School.” The forum will be held in the school library from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The registration process will be explained and former Murray students will talk about why they picked the high school they are now attending.

Since the end of October, magnet science students in grades 7 and 8 have been working on their science fair projects in preparation for the biggest science fair in Minnesota. The fair is scheduled for Jan. 18. If you are interested in being a judge at this event, contact Gen NaKaniishi at gen.nakaniishi@spps.org.

As part of the St. Paul Public Schools plan to maintain elementary instrumental music programs, the Extended Day for Learning Program (EDLP) offers band and string instruction for students in grades 5 and 6 after school. EDLP offers after-school classes for elementary students in reading, math, academic enrichment and instrumental music instruction.

More than 100 children stay after school at SAP for help in math and reading, and for enrichment classes, such as French, science, technology, drama and instrumental music. Thanks to help from the community, our school will continue to be a site for instrumental music education.

Margo Monson, a neighborhood resident and grandmother of students Ben and Luke Williams, has continued her effort to get locally grown apples on the school’s snack menu. This year, the parent-teacher organization, SAPSA helped Monson pay for enough apples from Minnesota orchards so that each student in the school enjoyed a crisp, sweet snack.

The first round of conferences took place in November. Volunteers provided dinner at the school for staff and conducted the annual Donate-a-Book sale for the school library.

Early a dozen Destination Imagination teams have been organized for students in grades 3-6. The students have begun working on skits for competition in March.

Winter weather is upon us. Families with students are advised to tune into WCCO-TV or radio or visit the school district website at www.spps.org for up-to-the-minute information on school closing and weather-related delays.

Tours for families interested in SAP Elementary for the 2011-12 school year will begin in January.

Important dates in December:

• The winter holiday music concert is Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

• Winter break begins Dec. 20 and school resumes on Jan. 3.

• On Dec. 4, M tomorrow’s Books will donate a portion of the day’s book sales to the school.

• Dec. 6 is third-grade family science night with science teacher M. Schrankler at 6:30 p.m.

• Parents and neighbors are invited to join Principal Ann Johnson for coffee and conversation at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 9.

• The Site Council meets at 5 p.m. Dec. 13.

• The kindergartener music program and “Mike a M emory Day” is Dec. 17.

• Winter break begins Dec. 20.
Como Park senior named Eagle Scout

Como Park High School senior Matt Parker has been named Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America. The Troop 285 member collected 221 pairs of pajamas and books to support the Pajama Program, which was part of a national program called the Pajama Program. With the help of some local churches and neighbors, Parker delivered the pajamas and books to distribution agencies that provide care and support to children in the Twin Cities.

Gibbs Farm takes visitors on a tour of Christmas in the 1800s

Gibbs Farm, 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., Falcon Heights, is hosting a Gibbs Pioneer Christmas, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5. The two-hour program will take visitors on a tour of Christmas traditions through four decades of the 1800s. Costumed guides will tell stories of Christmas 1849 in the sod home where Anna and Heman Gibbs spent their first year in Minnesota. The one-room Gibbs home will be decorated for the holiday as it would have been in 1859, a year after Minnesota became a state. The Gibbs home parlor will display a Victorian-era Christmas celebration circa 1869, and actors will work in the summer kitchen making holiday treats from 1879. Visitors can also sing cards in the one-room schoolhouse and roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate by the bonfire. Tours begin at 10 a.m. both days and run every 20 minutes. The last tour begins at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call 651-698-4543, or visit the website.

Art at Ramsey

Art at Ramsey, a juried holiday art fair, will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Costumed guides will tell stories of Christmas 1849 in the sod home where Anna and Heman Gibbs spent their first year in Minnesota. The one-room Gibbs home will be decorated for the holiday as it would have been in 1859, a year after Minnesota became a state. The Gibbs home parlor will display a Victorian-era Christmas celebration circa 1869, and actors will work in the summer kitchen making holiday treats from 1879. Visitors can also sing cards in the one-room schoolhouse and roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate by the bonfire. Tours begin at 10 a.m. both days and run every 20 minutes. The last tour begins at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call 651-698-4543, or visit the website.

The Park Bugle

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Neighbors from 15

City champs

Two teams from the Joy of the People soccer program were named St. Paul All-City Champions this fall. Both the U12 boys and girls teams competed in the City Soccer League playoffs Oct. 15–17 and won. Here, team members celebrate their victories.

Burn This

opens at Gremlin

The Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave., will present Burn This by Lanford Wilson Dec. 3–19. Performances are Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 8 p.m. Sunday performances are at 4 p.m. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the door or by calling 651-228-7008. Guests under 30 pay half their age every night. Group rates are available, as well as discounts for seniors and Fringe button holders. Monday, Dec. 13, is a “pay what you can” performance that begins at 8 p.m.

Free parking is available in the U.S. Bank lot on Raymond Avenue and on the streets around the building.

Northwest Como U14 girls win city soccer championship

Northwest Como Recreation Center’s U14 girls soccer team was named St. Paul city champion. Players include Lily Brown, Alayna Carrier, Grace Clemens, Anika Gardner, Kennedy Gay, Taylor Koep, Angelike Martin, Mary Miles, Abigail Niemann, Juliet Rohde, Ellie Smith and Alyssa Wagner. They were coached by Josh Rohde and Michael Gay.

Flower show, tea are December highlights at conservatory

The Holiday Flower Show, beginning Dec. 4, in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Regional Park, will showcase red poinsettia cultivars Chianti, Freedom Fireworks, Prestige Maroon and Cortez Burgundy complemented with Premium Apricot poinsettias and Pink Ruffles coleus. The show runs through Jan. 23.

On Dec. 5, from 8 a.m.-10 a.m., the conservatory will open for individuals and families to use the floral setting as a backdrop for photos. Cost is $5 per person and guests can bring in their own cameras. Other events at the conservatory include a tea Dec. 10 with an 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. seating. The tea will includes three courses and a behind-the-scenes tour. Tickets are $45. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling 651-487-8250.

Skating is open at Roseville Oval Thanksgiving Day

The Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL will open Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25, for open skating and hockey from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $5 and skates are available to rent for $4. The OVAL is located at the corner of Lexington Avenue and County Road C in Roseville.

Neighborhoods

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DECEMBER

Events

Addresses and phone numbers for the venues listed here at the end of the calendar of events. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Dec. 8 to be included in the January issue of the Park Bugle.

1 WEDNESDAY
English conversation group, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

1 WEDNESDAY
St. Anthony Park Book Club, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

3 FRIDAY
Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

Art show, Historic Como Streetcar Station, 3-7 p.m.

4 SATURDAY
Shop Home for the Holidays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., featuring merchant specials in St. Anthony Park.

Artisans at M Iron Square, 9-30 a.m.-5 p.m., lower level.

Blue House Boutique, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Art Show, Historic Como Streetcar Station, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Art at Ramsey, Ramsey Junior High School, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nettie and Friends Show and Sale, opening reception, 4-6 p.m., Egg and I, East Restaurant.

Internet, email, Word and Excel training, 2 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

5 SUNDAY
Blue House Boutique, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

11 SATURDAY
Internet, email, Word and Excel training, 2 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

8th Annual Holiday craft sale, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Coffee Grounds.

14 TUESDAY
Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

15 WEDNESDAY
Sing, Play and Learn with Macphail, 1 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

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

17 FRIDAY
Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

18 SATURDAY
Internet, email, Word and Excel training, 2 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

19 FRIDAY
Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

21 TUESDAY
Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

22 WEDNESDAY
English conversation group, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

28 TUESDAY
Block nurse exercise program, 3:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

29 WEDNESDAY
English conversation group, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library.

Contact information:
Coffee Grounds, 1579 Hamline Ave., Falcon Heights
Egg and I, East Restaurant, 2550 University Ave., St. Paul
Fairview Community Center, 1110 W. County Rd. B, Roseville
Historic Streetcar Station, northeast corner of Horton and Linoignton avenues
Milton Square, corner of Carter and Como avenues
Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave., St. Paul
St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 651-645-0371
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058

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9:30 AM–5:00 PM

Saturday, December 4
9:30 AM–5:00 PM

DECEMBER 2010 ■ PARK BUGLE 17

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Bungalow Pottery
Pour some Holiday Cheer
Shop & Studio in Milton Square
2510 Carter Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
651-644-4040
bungalowpottery.com

Visit the Artisans at Milton Square
Saturdays, December 4
9:30 AM–5:00 PM

Saturday, December 4
9:30 AM–5:00 PM

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William Beck, 81, of Lauderdale, died Nov. 14. He was a 60-year employee of R. C. Hitchcock & Sons.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores; daughters, Judith (Dennis) Havel of Ft. Riley and Janet (Wayne) Christiansen of Mapplewood; eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Edith Loveridge and Marilyn (Jack) Schreier; and brothers, Dennis Joyce, Bruce (Gail) and Dr. Bob Black.

His funeral service was held Nov. 19 at Watabum-Marley Hille Chapel, with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

Robert Cooper, 85, died Oct. 29. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Berdella; sons, Douglas (Peggy) and Robert E. Cooper, 84, died Oct. 29.

His funeral service was held Nov. 12 at Roseville Memorial Chapel, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Teresa Gross

Teresa Anne Gross, 45, of Falcon Heights, died unexpectedly Nov. 1. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Lawrence and Helen Gross. She is survived by her parents, Michael and Anne Gross; siblings, Michael and Arianna Gross; aunts, Steve, Letha M. Anle, Monika, Christopher, Rebekah, Mary, Michaela and Andrea; grandchildren, Louis and Mary Breinholt; and other family members and friends.

Funeral Mass was said Nov. 8 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Falcon Heights, with interment at Valleydale Cemetery.

Paul Hammer

Paul R. Hammer, 61, of Falcon Heights, died Oct. 8. He was a 3M retiree. He had a 20-year military career and was a marathon runner. Rick ran all but the last two Twin Cities Marathons and was a winner of numerous titles and trophies.

Rick was a huge college and high school wrestling fan. He knew almost every Simpsons episode and loved to travel and spend time with family and friends.

William Beck was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ilva. He is survived by his brothers, James (Colleen) and Mike (Jeanne) Hoke; and special friend, Judi Gilleland as well as his marathon family. A memorial service was held Oct. 27 at Holcolm-Berry-Boom Portable Funeral Home, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Mary House

Mary Alice Powell House, 101, died peacefully Sept. 16 with her daughters at her side. She was born in Waverly, Minn., on Oct. 18, 1908, and attended St. Mary's Catholic School. In 1947, Mary and Evert became members of Holy Childhood Catholic Church and actively participated in the Church School Building Fund Committee, where all of their children attended school.

Always willing to be of service, Mary joined both the Woman's Club and Rosary Society. In 1968, Mary and Evert became members of the Telephone Pioneers and retired to Sun City Center, Fla. By 1969, they became founding members of a committee that brought the first Catholic church to Sun City Center. Evert died in 1976 and, in 1977, Mary moved back to Minnesota to be closer to family. She settled in Plymouth, Minn., and became a member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church and the Plymouth Seniors. She joined the Plymouth Noon Club and St. Bartholomew's as a volunteer at Interfaith Outreach, a group that helped others and moved to St. Therese residence apartments in New Hope at age 90. Her last three years were spent at St. Therese Center.

The family's most endearing memories of Mary are her dancing and singing in a hot-pink bathing suit in Mazatlan at the age of 75, taking her first motorcycle ride at the age of 80, her flouncy square-dancing costumes and her party hats.

Mary was best known in the community for her unrelenting spirit, loving God and her family, horses and dog, and her generosity to all in need.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Evert, Oct. 19, 1976, and her two brothers, John Powell and Arthur Daus. She was survived by her children, Evert (Mary) and Barbara; and sisters, Suzanne M. House; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Mass was said on Nov. 6.
The best way to place a classified ad in the Park Bugle is to send it to editor@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. You can also call 651-646-5369. Ads are $5 per line. Enhancements are $10. Classifed ads is a good place to celebrate life's accomplishments. You can purchase a business-card-size display ad to mark an anniversary, birthday, birth, wedding or a job well done for $40. The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 10. The paper comes out Dec. 20.

IN 1971, FROM APPROXIMATELY JUNE TO September, as a resident of the Park, age 17, I went off the rails erroneously, and did damage to people. With this note I wish to say ‘I’m sorry’ to folks whom I have not yet reached with a personal apology. I also wish to extend an apology to the community at-large. Finally, I offer thanks to an extraordinary neighborhood for its nurture, and I wish blessings of the season to its residents. — Bob Frost.

Celebrating a significant event?

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Newman Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Ave., St. Paul
Admittance numbers available at 9:00 AM.
Donations of cookies (and other baked goods) will be collected on December 1 & 2. Please bring them to the door for the front desk at the Lyngblomsten Care Center.

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Crafters: Call Marilyn Hobbs at (651) 771-2308.

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In 1971, from approximately June to September, as a resident of the Park, age 17, I went off the rails erroneously, and did damage to people. With this note I wish to say “I’m sorry” to folks whom I have not yet reached with a personal apology. I also wish to extend an apology to the community at-large. Finally, I offer thanks to an extraordinary neighborhood for its nurture, and I wish blessings of the season to its residents. — Bob Frost.

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In 1971, from approximately June to September, as a resident of the Park, age 17, I went off the rails erroneously, and did damage to people. With this note I wish to say “I’m sorry” to folks whom I have not yet reached with a personal apology. I also wish to extend an apology to the community at-large. Finally, I offer thanks to an extraordinary neighborhood for its nurture, and I wish blessings of the season to its residents. — Bob Frost.

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Lives Lived from 18

Cleo Kath

Cleo L. Kath, 93, died peacefully Nov. 9. As a young woman, Cleo attended the Micawber’s School and eventually taught school herself. She helped her husband, “Clary,” with the Kath Bros. service station and, in later years, worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Cleo also was active in and volunteered at Como Park Lutheran Church, where she was a long-time member.

Cleo was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence; her son, Gary; and her sister, Frances. She is survived by numerous relatives and friends who will miss her sweet and generous spirit.

Her funeral service was held at Como Park Lutheran Church, Nov. 16, with interment at Reoashan Cemetery.

Karen Merth

Karen Rosemerth died Nov. 10. She lived in Roseville but was a member of Holy Childhood Catholic Church, Como Park.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, George; children, Dan (Mary), Monica (Doug) Johnson, Joe (Gail), Katie (Tim) Gelis, and Suzy (Dan) Jarlowsky; 16 grandchildren; and a sister, Nancy (Tom) Chidholm.

Karen was a member of Holy Childhood Catholic Church, Como Park.

The Rev. Charles Nelson


After graduation from high school in his hometown of Grand Forks, N.D., he spent three years in the Coast Guard. He graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1951, and Boston University’s School of Theology in 1955. Ordained in the Mетодist Church, he served 40 years in active ministry. First he served two parishes in Massachusetts.

During the 1980s, he was an adjunct professor in the Parks and Recreation Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

In 1966, the family moved to Cannon Falls Township on a farm near White Rock, where he planted and operated an apple orchard for 30 years. He moved off the farm in 2005 to St. Paul, where he died after gracefully managing the physical complications of Lewy Body Disease.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Anna Lisa Toker; his brother, Edwin (Polly) Toker, of Los Angeles; and a sister, Nancy (Tom) Chidholm.

The Rev. Charles Nelson was celebrated Nov. 13 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church.

Gregory Rosemark

Gregory B. Rosemark, 71, of Edina, died Nov. 9 from lung cancer. Greg was a “Como Park Boy,” who graduated from Cretin High School in 1957, served in the Navy on the intrepid aircraft carrier, and had a long career in the hospitality industry. He is survived by his wife, Diana; daughters, Christine, Theresa, and Paula; six grandchildren; and a brother, Jim.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 15 at the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Edina, with assistance at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Charles Tooker


Born July 26, 1931, in Littleton, Mass., he held a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts and a master’s degree in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh.

He worked as a city planner in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. In 1966, he opened a branch planning office in Mankato, and in 1971, he opened his own consulting office and continued working with county governments and small communities across Minnesota. During the 1980s, he was an adjunct professor in the Parks and Recreation Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Charles enjoyed collecting and refinished wood furniture and the variety of outdoor work provided by the apple orchard and farm. Together with his friend and colleague, John A. Koenke (Falcon Heights), Charlie developed the original comprehensive plans for the Cannon Valley Trail, the MIII Town Trail from Lake Blylebyt to Fairbault and the preservation of archaeological sites along the trail in Red Wing.

Special thanks from the family to the staff at the St. Anthony Park Home for their kind and loving care over the last two and a half years. A memorial service will be held in the manner of Friends, Nov. 7 at the Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse (Quaker), with interment at the Cannon Falls Cemetery in Cannon Falls, Minn.

Chung Wong

Chung Mian “Jimmy” Wong, 90, of Richfield, Minn., died Oct. 12. He was a longtime faithful member of Twin City Chinese Christian Church in Lauderdale.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary; sons, Lai, of Richfield, and Phil, of Minneapolis; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Oct. 23 at the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

David Yahanda

David Takesha Yahanda, longtime St. Anthony Park businesswoman, died peacefully at the age of 79 on Sept. 21. He was born in San Francisco, Calif., on Oct. 31, 1924. He was married to Ruth Yahanda for 57 years.

After his service in the Army from 1945 to 1947, he worked with his parents for many years in their dry-cleaning business on Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul. He continued to manage it alone after their passing until his retirement in 1986. Dave was an avid fisherman, photographer and cook.

His interests ranged from astronomy to technology and world events. He was happiest spending time with family and friends, including his time in the Nikkei Project and ACL.

He will be remembered most for his imagination, humor and optimism. He lived his life to the fullest every day. Dave is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and their son-in-law, Nancy Yahanda and Len Sitomer; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held on Nov. 6 at Lakewood Chapel in Minneapolis.

There is no charge for Bugle obituaries. Send information to Mary M. Berchall at: mary.mergenthal@comcast.net or call 651-644-1650.