

## Tonoharu

Seven years, two books and counting, Lauderdale artist Lars Martinson continues his work on a four-volume graphic novel.

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## Smart Homes

The Goldstein Gallery exhibit looks at how smarter design may help aging neighbors stay in their homes.

Page 8



## Waterways

A local father and son launch an educational adventure on the Gulf Coast.

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St. Anthony Park

Falcon Heights

Lauderdale

Como Park

# Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

March 2011

## University Avenue merchants wary as first phase of light rail construction begins

By Roger Bergerson

If there's one thing that everybody involved with the Central Corridor light-rail transit line can agree on, it's that 2011 will not be a year of business-as-usual on West University Avenue.

Preliminary utility work has provided a taste of what it will be like when heavy construction begins in a couple of weeks, starting on St. Paul's western border at Emerald Street and moving steadily eastward, reaching Hamline Avenue by year's end.

The Metropolitan Council, the agency managing the project, said that work will start on the south side of University, with one lane open in each direction on the north side. Vehicle and pedestrian access is promised to all businesses. Nevertheless, it seems inevitable that the elimination of on-street parking and the hubbub associated with such a massive undertaking will complicate the task of moving through the zone and shopping in it.

"We've told businesses that construction can be disruptive, and that they need to prepare for that disruption," said Laura Baenen, Central Corridor spokesperson for the Metropolitan Council.

### Biggest project ever

There are still a few hoops to jump through before the federal government commits to paying for the first half of the Central Corridor project, but the light-rail line clearly has

momentum going for it. Some \$145 million already has been spent on design, property acquisition and construction. By the time the nearly \$1 billion line is up and running in 2014, it will have become the largest public works project in Minnesota



history.

However, some University Avenue business owners contacted by the *Park Bugle* aren't so sure they'll still be around when the first train goes gliding by.

At least two businesses moved away

from the avenue well in advance of construction: Finn Sisu, a cross-country ski store, moved several miles north to Larpenteur Avenue in Lauderdale, and Chocolat Celeste moved from its location on University Avenue near Highway 280 to Transfer Road about a mile east.

Chocolat Celeste owner Mary Leonard says the upcoming

Light rail to 6

### Como 2030 plan heads to City Council

## Increased senior housing a goal of proposed rezoning

By Anne Holzman

The St. Paul City Council will soon be asked to consider a small-area plan that would change zoning along Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park to encourage more retail and multi-family housing, while keeping growth manageable in terms of traffic, parking and neighborhood character.

Task force leader Jon Schumacher said the vision is for modest residential growth of 10 to 15 percent, plus a few more retail options, adding up to "an area where you can kind of get everything"

within easy distance of more varied housing options.

The proposal is a result of several years of surveys, meetings and design workshops, including sessions in which neighbors were invited to redesign three specific properties along the stretch and then see the economic viability of their proposals analyzed by computers.

The areas that would be affected are within 150 feet of Como Avenue between Highway 280 and the University of Minnesota Transitway, plus the Milton Square parking lot.

The plan makes liberal use of St. Paul's recently adopted "traditional neighborhood" zones, which allows for more flexibility in mixing business and residential uses than the old zones did. Even so, the proposed zones are something of a patchwork.

"We tried to be very careful to ensure that we did not create any nonconforming uses at existing properties," task force member Roger Purdy noted. "The goal is to create different possibilities if and when a property is sold."

Como Avenue Zoning to 8



## One song, two song, red song

Cast members run through numbers for the show *Seussical* with music director, Alicia Wiesneth at Murray Junior High School. The show opens Friday, March 11, and runs through Sunday, March 13. Bring in a copy of this *Park Bugle* and receive half off one ticket. Find out more about the play in School News on page 13.

Photo by Lori Hamilton

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**Jessica Brock****Como Park****Jessica Brock** is the new District 10 Community Council administrator and coordinator.

The 2008 University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate has a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications. Brock worked in the banking industry before coming to District 10.

District 10 is still looking to fill vacancies for **subdistrict 2 and subdistrict 3 board positions**. This is a great way to be a voice in your neighborhood and play a part in fostering a friendly, active and safe community. All residents and business owners in subdistricts 2 and 3 are eligible to serve. For more information, contact District 10 at district10@district10comopark.org or 651-644-3889.Volunteers are needed to organize the **Art Crawl**, an event that will be held during the Como Staycation, which is tentatively set for Saturday, July 16.

You do not need to be an artist to get involved with this event. If you would like to participate, contact AndreaLynn Johnson at 651-283-9165 or dreandscott@yahoo.com.

**St. Anthony Park**It's not too late to save money and energy this heating season. Come to a workshop to learn about the **Energy Squad** and sign up for a visit. Area workshops include: Saturday,

March 12, 10 a.m. to noon at the Como Park Senior High School library or Thursday, March 31, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central High School auditorium. RSVP to the workshops to lauren@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992

Run for the **St. Anthony Park Community Council Board of Directors** this April and work with neighbors on local issues and be involved in decisions that affect your neighborhood. Applications are due March 14. Download a copy at www.sapcc.org. The election will take place on Tuesday, April 12, with ballots at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library and Hampden Park Food Co-op.You can sign up to **receive light-rail construction updates via email** at the Metropolitan Council website, www.metrocouncil.org. Click on Transportation, then under Transitways click on Central Corridor light rail. On that page, you can sign up for construction updates. You can also call the Central Corridor Construction Hotline at 651-602-1404.**The Green on the Screen film series** will feature *The Great Transition: An Inspiring Eco-tour* Tuesday, March 22, at 6:45 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

The movie shows how individuals, groups and communities are participating in the transition to ecological, low-energy living.

Green on the Screen is sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council's Energy Resilience Group.

**Anderson, Hausman and Lesch to hold town meeting**

Sen. Ellen Anderson, Rep. Alice Hausman and Rep. John Lesch will hold a town meeting on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lakeside Pavilion on Como Lake.

The Pavilion on Como Lake has adjacent parking (enter from Lexington Avenue). An elevator inside the building goes to the third floor, where the meeting will be held.

*Community Church Directory***❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**www.comoparklutheran.org  
www.comoeveningprayer.org  
1376 Hoyt Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55108-2300  
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Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship (nursery care 8:15 a.m. - Noon)  
9:35 a.m. Adult Education and Sunday School  
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Rides available for 10:45 a.m. worship- call before noon on Friday.  
Wednesday Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers: Worship at 7:00 p.m.  
Join us for soup suppers Wednesdays during Lent (beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9), from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., with worship at 7:00 p.m. (continuing March 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13). Proceeds help youth with mission trips and Bible camps. Suppers: \$5 adults and children 12+; \$3 children 3-11.

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www.falconheightsucc.org

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Communion, first Sunday of the month

9:30 a.m. - Faith education, nursery to adult

March 3 (Thursday), 7 p.m. - Juncture One (alternative worship experience)

March 6, 11:45 a.m. - P2P (People to People) Dialogue: Presentation on Project Home, an overnight family shelter program.

March 8, 4:30 p.m. - Mardi Gras; pancake supper at 5:30 p.m.

March 9, 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday service

March 13 - Reminder: Daylight Saving Time begins

March 20, 10:30 a.m. - Holy Humor Sunday

March 27, 11:45 a.m. - Service of Christian Healing (follows morning worship)

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

Ash Wednesday Worship: March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Soup Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

and continue every Wednesday in Lent

Wednesday Lenten Worship Series 7:00 p.m. - Prayer

Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church 1:30 p.m.

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The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector, www.stmatthewsmn.org

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9:15a.m. Education for all ages

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

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

7:00p.m. Night Prayer, with dinner at 5:30pm.

March 4: Join us for a "Spring Fling": dinner and circle dancing for all ages; 5:30pm.

\$15.00 per family - all proceeds benefit Acts 2 Fund for families in need.

March 9: Ash Wednesday services at 10:00am and 5:30pm, followed by soup supper

March 12: Half-Day Lenten Retreat with Dan &amp; Judy Johnson, 9:00am - 12:15

The Undercroft Gallery hosts the 13th annual Community Art Show through April 8

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# An American in Japan, Parts II, III and IV

*In this chapter the graphic novelist learns his brush is mightier than his pen*

By Ruth Weleczki

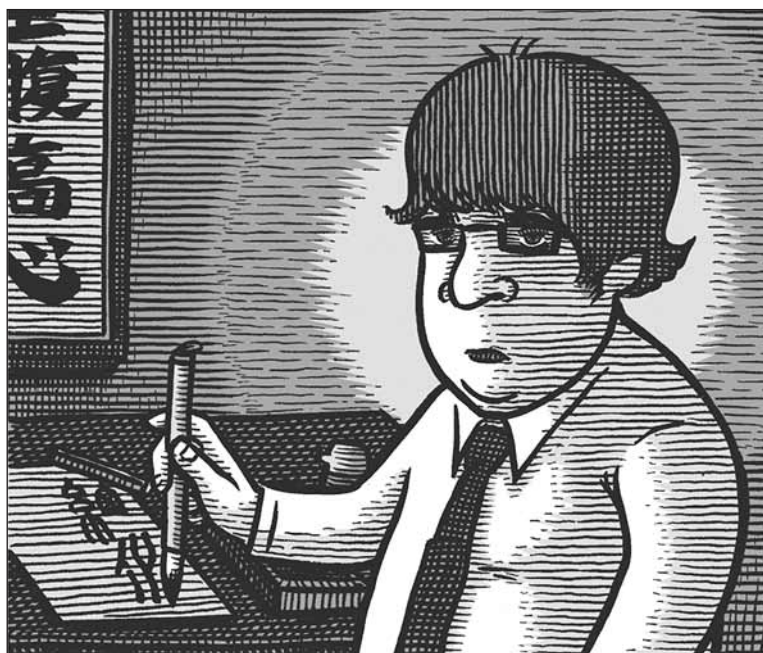
In the time it takes Lars Martinson to draw one page for his graphic-novel series *Tonoharu*, you could read the four-book collection. His *Judge Parker*-pace may seem at odds with the hurry-up, technology-saturated culture that surrounds him, but it makes sense when you know that he draws each three- to six-panel page by hand.

*Tonoharu* is a semi-autobiographical illustrated account of Martinson's three-year teaching experience abroad. In 2003, armed with a passion for travel and a graphic design degree, Martinson left for rural Japan, where he taught English to 1,800 students, ranging in age from 6 to 16. The new college graduate, who didn't speak the language and had no training or education as a teacher, realized he had a story to tell.

"I drew heavily from my own experience, but ultimately it's a work of fiction," the Lauderdale resident says. "Some of the characters were sort of based on people I knew, but even there they were pretty fictionalized."

He spent seven years on the first two *Tonoharu* volumes (*Part Two* was released last fall), and *Parts Three* and *Four* won't make it to your neighborhood bookstore until 2015, a pace that Martinson regards as "dismally slow." Still, seven years is remarkable if you consider the staggering number of illustrations that make up *Tonoharu*. In *Part Two* alone, there are more than 550 intricately detailed, hand-drawn illustrations. (Martinson would like to note, with *Part Three* underway, he's closing in on the 1,000th-drawing mark.)

"I usually manage [to finish] between one to two pages a week, as



A (Self-) Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. Illustration by Lars Martinson

long as I get to work on them every day," he says. Depending on the complexity, however, one drawing—there are at least three and as many as six on one page—can take a few hours or a couple of days to finish. Sometimes longer.

"*Tonoharu: Part 3*, Page 4 done! I'm going at the breakneck pace of a page a month," Martinson tweeted on Feb. 16. "This past month has been unusual, both in terms of the complexity of the panels I've had to draw, and other obligations taking away from work time," he later explained.

## \$10,000 springboard

Martinson had help getting his self-published project off the ground. In 2007, the Xeric Foundation awarded him a \$10,000 grant—"a substantial chunk of change" in comic-book land, he says. "It was extremely

gratifying for a first book." The Xeric Foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation that offers aid to self-publishing comic-book creators. Xeric owner Peter A. Laird is a co-creator of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, which was, coincidentally, one of Martinson's childhood obsessions.

*Tonoharu: Part One* was released in April 2008, just as Martinson was leaving on a two-year Monbukagakusho Research Scholarship to study East Asian calligraphy at Shikoku University. He sees calligraphy as a natural extension of cartooning. "Line drawing is synonymous to cartoon drawing," he says. "Lines dominate cartoons."

More than a hobby of writing pretty letters, calligraphy is a highly revered art form in Japan and takes years to master. "I really just

Graphic novelist to 10

# Children's Home Society event celebrates children's birth cultures

By Natalie Zett

When Billie Gray was dating her future husband, she agreed to marry him with one stipulation: that their family would be made up of two biological children and two adopted children.

"So we're at three and counting!" said Gray, who lives with her family in St. Anthony Park.

"When I was a kid, I read *Orphan Train*, which was based on the orphan trains that came through the United States between the late 19th and early 20th centuries," Gray said. "After that, I knew someday that I would adopt."

A few years after reading that book, Gray's parents adopted a Korean girl through Children's

Home Society and Family Services (CHSFS). "I have three sisters, one of whom is adopted, and that's totally normal [to me]," Gray said. "And now, we have two biological children—boys—who are 9 and 6. When the youngest was 18 months old, we embarked on the adoption experience through Children's Home—that's where my family adopted my sister—that's part of the circle."

Gray is part of a committee that is planning the Children's Home Adoption Celebration on Saturday, March 5, at the University of Minnesota Field House in Minneapolis (see more information at the end of the article). The event is

open to the public and will feature cultural activities and entertainment. People can explore customs and traditions of Central and Eastern Europe, China and Southeast Asia, Ethiopia, Korea, Latin America, Nepal, India, Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

CHSFS has offered adoption services for more than 120 years, said Kim Herman, community relations specialist at CHSFS. "Our core purpose is finding permanent homes for children through domestic and international adoption." In addition, CHSFS offers post-adoption services, early learning, support services, counseling and therapy and is

Children's Home Society to 6

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**The deadline for the  
next issue is March 16.**

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. Copyright 2011, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Currently serving on the board are Emily Blodgett, Andrew Eklund, Audrey Estebo, Ann Fendorf, Paul Kammueeller, Jill Kottke, Karen Lilley, Nancy Olsen, Thue Rasmussen, Jan Sedgewick, Todd Shannon and Eric Wieffering.

## E D I T O R I A L

### April is the coolest month

Poet T. S. Elliott might have said April was the cruelest month, but the view from here shows April as a bright light at the end of this winter tunnel.

It's hard to think of April as malicious when you've just spent a long, federal-holiday weekend shoveling out from another foot of snow.

At press time, the Twin Cities had seen 74.5 inches of snow fall this winter. And it's not over yet.

We're crying uncle.

So, dear readers, we think we all need a diversion, a group project to help us slog our way through March, the real demon month in Minnesota.

April is National Poetry Month, and we're stealing from the playbook of a local daily newspaper columnist (we know a good idea when we see one): We're having a poetry contest. An "I Survived the Winter of 2010–2011" contest.

Here are the particulars:

Poems can take any form you choose. (We dare you to try a villanelle.)

The subject of your work is this winter, this spring or the transition between them.

Submissions must be received by March 14. Send them to Editor, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or to editor@parkbugle.org.

There will be one winner, but we'll try to publish more than just the winning poem in the April issue of the *Bugle*. We'll publish all entries on our website.

There will be a prize. We just don't know what it is yet, but we promise it will be nice.

Get out those pens. On your mark, get set, compose!

## L E T T E R S

### More on starlings

Thirty years ago I read in *King Solomon's Ring*, by the naturalist Conrad Lorenz, that starlings make the best pets of any bird he knew. Because of their intelligence, sociability, and that with the right feed, their droppings hard and odorless. And, I might add, beauty (in the details). And because they're not "native," legal.

So, with the help of SAP resident Billy Kidd, I adopted three baby starlings, literally abandoned on the steps of the nature center where he worked. A wonderful adventure, feeding them by chopsticks, all lined up on my arm, teaching them to fly, hearing their first songs. While still fairly young, Bewitched died tragically; Bothered and Bemildred I let go beside a flock of their brethren.

These days I might hesitate to interfere with the "natural" course of things, and of starlings, but that was then.

*Robin Fox  
St. Anthony Park*

*The Birdman of Lauderdale wrote about  
starlings in last month's Bugle.*

### Community engagement ensures 'Strong Communities'

Over 300 parents crowded into the Rondo Education Center on Saturday, Feb. 12, to voice their concerns over dramatic changes proposed for St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS). Given the state fiscal crisis some changes are necessary, but the shift from city-wide to community schools is a reversal of decades of school policy. Such a significant change should not be taken lightly and the voices of parents must be heard.

After an initial video and an introduction by Superintendent Valeria Silva, we were divided into smaller groups according to topics of interest and first language. It's unlikely that this separation was itself strategic, but it served well to divide a group that clearly wanted to be collectively recognized as a voice in the debate on the proposed changes.

In our group an extensive list of concerns were raised. As the meeting progressed it became increasingly evident that, given the extent and complexity of the proposed changes, there is not enough time for parents to fully understand them and the implications they have for our children, our schools or the district as a whole. It was clear that the three-

month timeline between Jan. 12, when the plan was announced, and March 15 (the date on which the school board will vote) is simply too short to allow for either genuine delivery of accurate information about the plan or an exploration of what it will mean in reality for the people who it will greatly impact, including children, teachers, parents and administrators. And there certainly isn't time for meaningful input from the community.

The administration's attempt to present us with a *fait accompli* was crystal clear. It was also clear that the plan was developed without the input of those who will be most affected by it: the school children and the parents who are their voice. The stated intention of the plan to create "strong schools at the heart of strong communities" is ironic given the way the plan was developed and is being quickly forced through. Instead of acknowledging and listening to the expertise of the community, the decisions were made by the SPPS administration and announced to parents as subjects rather than partners. Throughout the meeting, educational research was cited as the basis for the decisions being made. Research has its place in informing such plans, but genuine engagement with members of a community is the most effective way of strengthening community and developing a sustainable plan.

It is a huge mistake for the school board to hastily push this plan through. The board should imme-

diately postpone the March 15 vote and take more time to inform and consult with those who have a right to improve the design of this plan and who could greatly improve its chances of succeeding.

Interested parents can talk on Facebook at Voices of SPPS Parents.

*Amanda McCormick, Robbie Ramer, Melanie Alvar, Anne Kelly Berg, David Sisk, Carla Belistri*

### Sixth grade should stay in the district's elementary schools

Among the changes being considered by the St. Paul school system is a shift of sixth grade from elementary to middle school. The rationale offered for this change is that students need an additional year in middle school to develop a stronger connection to the school. This, it is suggested, will improve student achievement.

Unfortunately, this is not borne out by research. The research points to numerous negative outcomes from moving sixth-graders out of elementary schools and into middle schools, including lower on-time graduation rates, lower academic achievement and increased behavioral problems.

According to the district's figures, 73.1 percent of St. Paul Public Schools students are economically disadvantaged. The research shows that the negative effects of moving to middle school is greatest for lower-socio-economic-status students. Given the evidence, the proposed shift is precisely

the wrong approach.

*Corwin Kruse  
St. Paul*

### Human geography is key to understanding our world

From the price of corn flakes to eating your way around the world on University Avenue, human geography is key to understanding our world.

Take the price of corn flakes. In the coming months the price of cereal is likely to soar in grocery stores. The reason? A drought in Russia and flooding in Pakistan, China and Australia have created a world shortage of corn, wheat and soybeans.

It is not just our kids who need to be reminded of how important human geography is to understanding our world; adults also need a gentle reminder.

Take University Avenue in St. Paul. A person could essentially eat his or her way around the world. Why? When entrepreneurs from around the world migrate here, they bring a piece of their culture to share with us: their food. We study migration, culture and something called relocation diffusion, which explains this restaurant phenomenon.

Let's remember human geography: it's key to understanding our world!

*Stephanie McCleerey  
Human Geography teacher  
Como Park Senior High School*

## Fund Drive Contributors

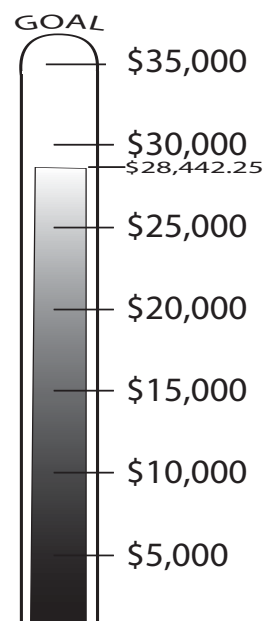
We're making our way to our \$35,000 goal in this year's fund drive. Thanks to these readers for their support.

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### Thank you!

More than 525 families and individuals and 18 businesses have contributed to the Park Bugle's 2010–11 fund drive. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 this year to cover the expenses that our ad revenue does not cover. So far, contributions have totaled \$28,442.25.

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# C O M M E N T A R Y

## Who pays for tax-free online shopping?

By Mary Hamel and Jeff Warner

Economists might argue whether recovery has begun from the Great Recession, but no one can dispute our state's current budget challenge, the biggest in decades. Minnesota's projected midyear budget shortfall of \$209 million forces local governments to decrease essential services, such as policing, firefighting and education.

Yet Minnesota allows the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars by allowing remote online retailers with a significant business presence in our state to ignore their obligation to collect sales tax. And opponents of sales-tax equity have, so far, managed to obfuscate the issue through misinformation and scapegoating.

Under current sales-tax law, any out-of-state retailer is required to collect and remit sales tax for purchases made by residents in Minnesota if the retailer maintains a physical presence in our state (that is, has a store, warehouse, office or sales agent in the state).

Amazon.com and other online giants use thousands of affiliates in Minnesota, who earn a commission when a product sells through the affiliate's promotion, making Amazon a sales agent by definition. The legal presence of these online mega-retailers in our state should require them to collect sales tax.

Not surprisingly, the Amazons of the world and online affiliates oppose sales-tax law enforcement because it allows them a significant competitive advantage over in-state businesses, which shoulders the additional cost of sales tax.

Consumers undoubtedly enjoy this so-called advantage and often shop at out-of-state e-tailers to avoid paying sales tax. But who is footing the bill for these duty-free purchases? Neither online affiliates nor remote retailers.

And it's not just a few dollars flowing out-of-state every year but an annual loss of hundreds of millions of dollars, to our first responders, local communities and tax burden. This money is flying out of state to remote retailers and their affiliates that pocket the cash, while taxpayers subsidize their use of our in-state services, our roads and their very business.

Hans Weyandt, co-owner of Micawber's Books, 2238 Carter Ave., says the issue of taxation is important to all retail stores. "The idea isn't so much about fairness as it is about what is, in effect, being stolen from communities," he says. "E-commerce depends on not having to pay state sales tax in order to pad their discounting. And with budgets tight everywhere, it seems more prudent than ever to make sure all retailers pay the percentages due."

Taking advantage of our state's unwillingness to enforce sales-tax laws during the best of times is egregious enough. During a recession, however, it's an affront to every business and citizen in the state. On an economic level, it makes no sense.

Legislators who oppose sales-tax equity cite fiscal responsibility. But how fiscally responsible is public policy that subsidizes out-of-state retailers while punishing in-state, tax-paying businesses and residents? Does fiscal responsibility demand that our state government burden residents and businesses with higher taxes and fewer services to placate out-of-state retailers that only take from our state and provide nothing in return?

Yet that's the current stance of many of our legislators. How's that working out for us? The current budget shortfall tells us the answer is not so good.

We're not calling for a new tax. If an out-of-state retailer does not have nexus in the state, shoppers are already required by law to submit the sales tax to the state. The real question is who should collect this tax: you as a consumer or the out-of-state retailer? Though our state has done little to enforce the collection of use tax from residents, as the budget situation worsens, it will. So, either you're going to pay it, or someone is going to collect it from you.

Finally, concerns that sales-tax equity would harm online business in the state are misguided. Most online retailers, including Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble and Sears, already collect and remit sales tax for online purchases. Technological advances have greatly simplified and automated this task. Huge corporate retailers like Amazon.com and Overstock.com are the few remaining holdouts. They siphon significant funds from our communities each year.

So please, when you go to the internet for some tax-free shopping, remember your tax-free purchase costs all of us and our communities a lot more than you might think.

Mary Hamel is the executive director of the Metro Independent Business Alliance. Jeff Warner is the board president.

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### Light Rail from 1

disruption, elimination of already-limited street parking and difficult delivery access played a major part in her decision. "There was just too much uncertainty and a retail store without parking isn't viable," she says.

### Parking squeeze looms

"For the next five years, the issue will be parking," says Jack McCann, president of the University Avenue Betterment (formerly Business) Association. He is a partner in Update Company, which owns eight buildings in the Raymond and University area, including Midtown Commons at 2324-2334 W. University Ave.

McCann advocates creating "pocket" parking lots that businesses can share. "There could be meters to pay for it, on-street parking is municipal, after all," he said. "If a business owner can say, 'Well, at least customers can park on this block,' the vitality stays. The last thing this area needs is a whole lot of 'for sale' or 'for rent' signs."

Although the city may seek funding for parking projects from the Metropolitan Council, there's no money to do anything at this time, said Craig Blakely, senior planner, Planning and Economic Development. Meanwhile, a set of recommendations for better management of parking in the corridor is moving through the city process, including the dedication of parking to commercial use on the side streets one block north and south of

University.

### Attitudes vary

The business owners who have their own parking lots tend to feel a lot more positively about light rail than those that don't.

The Egg and I restaurant, for example, has a small lot it can use on the north (University Avenue) side of the Court International Building, just west of Highway 280. And even if that lot is blocked, says "Egg" owner Eric Grotbeck, there's plenty of parking on the east side of the building. "I envision that things are going to be OK for us, but I worry about businesses that rely solely on on-street parking," he said.

"Honestly, I'm not too concerned, although I may be naïve," said Bruce Delles, owner of Twin Cities Reptiles, 2363 University Ave., that also has a parking lot. "We're not a Starbucks; we don't have a lot of competition and none close by. We may lose the tentative shopper, but I guess we've just got to deal with this. It's called progress."

The outlook is far less sanguine a few doors west at Sharrett's Liquor Store, which has no off-street parking. "I've been in conversations with the city to see if some accommodation can't be made, especially on Raymond Avenue," said Dana Rose, co-owner of Sharrett's. "It's going to be a mess, because most of our trade drives to us and deliveries coming in are going to be trouble. If

we survive over the long haul, it's going to be amazing."

Big Top Liquors at Snelling and University has off-street parking, but manager Tim O'Connell says that's no help, given the congestion that's coming. "Snelling is a mess now from 3 to 6 p.m.," he said, "and it's only going to get much, much worse. People are going to avoid this area."

### Agencies reviewing impact

McCann of the Betterment Association predicts businesses that rely on street parking will lose 30 to 60 percent of their revenue during light-rail construction. Recently, as part of a larger ruling, a federal judge directed the Federal Transit Administration and the Metropolitan Council to conduct further study of the economic impact of light-rail construction on businesses in the corridor.

The agencies are complying, but no one is predicting that monetary relief will be forthcoming beyond the \$1.5 million small-business loan fund already in place. Critics say that sum is woefully inadequate, given the losses likely to be experienced by the estimated 1,000 small businesses along the entire Central Corridor.

You can find out how to sign up for e-mail updates on upcoming developments at the project website, www.centralcorridor.org.

*Roger Bergerson is a freelance writer and longtime Como Park resident.*

### Children's Home Society from 3

contracted through the state to help find adoptive families for children in foster care.

"We also work with international organizations, and help support orphans around the world," Herman said.

Gray wanted to adopt an older child with special needs, she said, so she and her husband worked with the Waiting International Children program through CHSFS, which, among other things, seeks homes for children with medical conditions and special needs. Gray's 5-year-old daughter, who was adopted from China at 18 months old, had a cleft palate and had not received treatment until coming to Minnesota.

"I'm an advocate for special-needs kids," said Gray. "If people realize how seamlessly they can fit that into their families, they'd be amazed. In our case, we visit the surgeon, the speech therapist, and then we have the usual bucket of kids' activities: dropping kids off at

school, taking them to karate and so on. It's what we do."

Gray considers every adopted child as one whose needs are special. "Their life experience differs so much from that of other children," she said.

Children's Home Society encourages adoptive families to expose their children to cultural activities and learn about the birth culture of their adopted children. "We decided to have one big event where all families who have been brought together through adoption can come together," Herman said. The event will feature food and crafts from the countries where the society does adoptions.

"Thirty years ago, when I was growing up with my adopted Korean sister, it was all about her assimilating into this culture," Gray said. "Nowadays, there's an awareness that adoption is a lifelong journey. Right after we returned from China with our daughter, I looked at her and thought, we changed her nationality and she had no say in that! That's

why it's important to maintain ties to her birth culture."

One of the goals of the Adoption Celebration is to raise funds for orphanages in the countries where families adopted their children, Herman said. For example, CHSFS assists a foster program in China, an orphanage in Russia, a school in Ethiopia, a women's shelter in Latin America and a children's medical facility in Korea.

Herman invites the public to the celebration. "For as many adoptions as we do, there are some children who are never adopted," Herman said. "We want to serve those kids as well and make sure they thrive, are healthy and have access to opportunities. That, along with celebrating adoptive children and their families, is the reason for the event."

### If you want to go

The Children's Home Society Adoption Celebration will be held Saturday, March 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Field House, 1800 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages 2-18 if you register at chsfs.org/adoptioncelebration in advance. Admission at the door is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-18. Infants are free.

For more information call 651-255-2316.

*Natalie Zeit is a frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.*

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# Voices

## Mimi Jennings

By Judy Woodward

*Rosemary "Mimi" Jennings, 68, retired in 2006 from a 30-year career as a high school French teacher. She spent her last years at Central High School in St. Paul. The St. Anthony Park resident's work as a political and community activist continues.*

**Jennings:** I had intended to major in math in college [at St. Catherine University in St. Paul], but the main math teacher was on sabbatical. Meanwhile, I was soaking up French as the liberal arts language requirement. It was water on parched ground. I like the ability to communicate in another language and to put on a different culture. It's like playing dress-up: You can try on different things, but it's pure happenstance that it was French.

So much has changed since I came into teaching in 1966. In my first job, there was a dress code for teachers. I couldn't wear colored hose or bright colors; they were able to criticize the length of my skirts . . . but right now there's a swing back in the direction of repression and lack of self-expression. Fulfilling test requirements takes precedence over creativity and self-expression.

In 1985-86, I won a Fulbright and changed places with a teacher in France. Living in France, I realized

they're breathing their ancestors' air. I picked up on their ancient culture, [but I realized there are] certain things about American society I won't give up. [In America, I can] sit cross-legged on a tall stool while talking to students. I couldn't do that in France. There's a rigidity in that culture.

I've always had the idea to speak up. You take part, you show up. In 1968, I participated in the longest strike in the history of Michigan education. Later, my students [at Central High] focused on child-labor conditions, sweatshop labor. The kids wanted to let us know how bad it was, but they didn't want to stop with that.

These days my activism is taking me to a movement called Transition Towns. It's an environmental movement that has to do with presenting the community with the possibility of transitioning off oil.

I work for the DFL and MoveOn.org, but I'm so disap-

pointed with Obama. Let me put it this way: In 1981, [François] Mitterrand ran [for president of France] on the promise that he would outlaw capital punishment. He got elected and he did it. What happened to the promises that Obama made?

*Editor's note: Voices is designed to capture the words of some of the interesting people who live among us. If there's someone whose voice you'd like to hear, let us know.*



Photo by Lori Hamilton

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Still I Rise by Maya Angelou (2001)  
My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me by Maya Angelou and Margaret Courtney-Clarke (Mar 11, 2003)  
Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou (Feb 1, 2000)  
Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan (6)  
So B. It By Sarah Weeks (6)  
The Paper Crane by Molly Bang (1)  
Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes (1)  
Bailey Goes Camping by Keven Henkes (1)  
Non Fiction books on Countries: (in Europe, Asia, SA, and Africa)  
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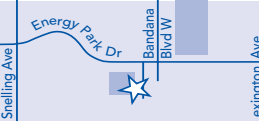
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As city leaders look for ways to keep seniors in their communities, Goldstein Gallery looks at how smarter design could help them stay in their own homes longer.  
*Photo by Evan Baden*

### Como Avenue Zoning from 1

For example, the plan keeps the parcel where Park Service is located as a B2 Community Business area, which allows a service station, but the rest of the business area between Luther Place and Commonwealth Avenue would be rezoned from a B2 to a TN2 Traditional Neighborhood. That would allow more mixed-use developments such as buildings with commercial space on the main floor and housing above it.

Task force member Steve Townley, whose real estate office at 2190 Como Avenue is one of the properties that could be affected by the changes, said the building he owns could be combined with the one next door, making it possible to develop something new.

Townley said "a cohesive zoning plan" will help draw businesses along Como together. "It's going to cause a

little bit more uniformity—with character," he said. "There's still a lot of opportunity for creativity."

And it will be attractive to developers looking for opportunities, Townley said. "Now there's something that somebody could look at and say, 'Here are some possibilities.'"

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation commissioned the study and paid for the design consultants.

Schumacher, the foundation's executive director, said the city's trend toward centralizing services means St. Anthony Park needs to maintain its population numbers in order to retain schools, libraries, parks and other services within walking distance.

The 2000 census showed a declining population in the previous decade, as duplexes were converted

to single-family homes and children grew up and moved away.

St. Paul city planner Allan Torstenson, who lives in the neighborhood and served on the task force, said the 2010 census information isn't available yet, but he doesn't expect significant changes in those trends.

Meanwhile, empty-nesters can't find suitable homes in the neighborhood, Schumacher said.

"There are neighbors who want to find smaller places to live," Schumacher said. "Those people are taking their time, their talent and their buying power to other communities."

The plan calls for increased housing options for seniors within walking distance of the neighborhood's "downtown." That could mean some sites may see taller buildings.

The zoning changes would allow that along parts of Como Avenue. The plan suggests that the city consider allowing mixed-use development proposals that exceed three stories if they met the core goals listed in the Como 2030 plan.

The likeliest short-term result will be opening up some of the Luther Seminary property at Eustis Street and Como Avenue to allow a mix of commercial and higher density residential uses, Schumacher said. The St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church parking lot at Hillside and Como has also been central to the discussion, he said, as a possible site for development.

To find out more about the plan, you can download the document, "An Addendum to the St. Paul Comprehensive Plan," at [www.stpaul.gov/Documentview.aspx?DID=14746](http://www.stpaul.gov/Documentview.aspx?DID=14746).

Affected property owners will be notified of a City Council hearing in the coming months, Torstenson said. Hearing notices will also be published in local newspapers.

Townley expressed confidence that Como 2030 will enhance the neighborhood while remaining "sensitive" to concerns about too much growth.

"The long-term goal is managing the inevitable change that will occur in St. Anthony Park," he said.

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

### Get your grab-bar on

The hunt is on for senior housing. But with smarter design, some neighbors can stay in homes that might at first glance appear hopelessly inaccessible. That's the premise of the current show at the Goldstein Gallery, on the second floor of McNeal Hall (there are elevators) on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

"Smart House, Livable Community" packs a lot of ideas into the Goldstein's modest 900 square feet—familiar dimensions for fans of architect Sarah Susanka's *Not So Big House* series of books, as Goldstein director Lin Nelson-Mayson remarked.

The entryway signals the exhibit's attention to detail, with a place to put down packages while hunting for keys. Light, bright colors "were selected with aging eyes in mind," Nelson-Mayson said.

Inside are rooms with lots of moving parts. "We encourage visitors to look in cabinets, pick things up, move things around," she said.

Many of the items featured are locally sourced, including an office chair designed in the Twin Cities and a grab-bar from Handi Medical Supply at Highway 280 and University Avenue.

They kept the budget modest, Nelson-Mayson said. "It's off-the-shelf kind of stuff."

Graphic designer Jeanne Schacht, a 20-year St. Anthony Park resident who worked on the exhibit, said the project nudged her to think long-term about staying in the neighborhood.

"Just as we try to save for retirement," Schacht said, "we also need to make plans for ways that we can adapt our homes to make life easier as we age."

In case eyes of any age miss some of the exhibit's details, each room has a video that shows the gallery's fictitious residents, "Jim" and "Sarah," explaining the modifications they've chosen for their home.

The couple also appears in *Smart House, Livable Community: The Movie*, which will screen at 6 p.m. April 7 in 33 McNeal Hall and will run on Twin Cities Public Television later in April. —*Anne Holzman*



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# 3rd Coast Connect

*Father and son explore the Gulf Coast by land and sea*

By Kristal Leebrick

Take two kayaks, two bicycles, a 34-foot-long boat and a mess of video equipment, drop it down on the Gulf Coast and you've got the right ingredients a local father and son need to explore (and document) the barrier islands, estuaries and other unique coastal environments between the Mississippi Delta and the Florida Panhandle.

That adventure began in January when John and Nat Shepard fired up the twin 350-horsepower engines of their rented boat, the *Boudreaux*, and launched 3rd Coast Connect, a multi-media project that follows their exploration of life—both human and animal—along the coast.

John Shepard is an associate professor and multimedia producer at Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE). 3rd Coast Connect is his semester-long sabbatical project. Media gathered during this trip will be used in CGEE's *Waters to the Sea* educational programs, which explore water issues in various parts of the country, including the upper Mississippi River region, the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola rivers in Georgia, and the Trinity River area in Texas. The programs are used in grades four through eight in various school districts, Shepard said. The Dallas-Fort Worth Independent School district uses the Trinity River program in its seventh-grade curriculum.

The original CGEE program, *The WTTS: Upper Mississippi*, was piloted at St. Anthony Park Elementary School and Murray Junior High in 1999. It explores how human land use has impacted water quality throughout history in the Upper Mississippi watershed. The program uses historical characters, animation and interactive simulations.

Nat Shepard was in fifth grade and his sister, Anna, was in seventh grade when it was piloted. John was

an active parent at both schools at that time. "I was involved in the PTO and in supporting environmental education and service-learning programs at the schools," he said.

When the elder Shepard asked his son last fall to join him on 3rd Coast Connect, Nat didn't hesitate. A recent graduate of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash., he was washing dishes in a restaurant in Tacoma and hadn't found a full-time job.

"It didn't take much pulling once he let the line out," Nat said. "I almost immediately said yes without being very certain about the details, because at that time he hadn't even secured a boat."

The trip began in Pensacola, Fla., where on the first day, the two adventurers encountered a pod of dolphins that swam within inches of the stern of the boat. They continued to interact with dolphins on the first leg of the trip. Whenever they saw a pod rising to the surface in the distance, John Shepard said, the dolphins almost always came by the boat "to surf our wake and check out what we're doing."

The Shepards are maintaining a blog that chronicles their journey. In one post John Shepard describes the brown pelicans they've seen peering at them from pilings and buoys. Another post was written after a visit to the oyster beds in Mobile Bay, an area that was indirectly but "catastrophically" impacted by last year's BP oil spill.

The "wealth of wildlife" has been the highlight of the trip, John Shepard said. "The bird life has been constant: wintering loons—like us, snowbirds from the north—plus wonderful pelicans, egrets, great blue herons and lots of ducks."

The project has been broken into two trips. "We started in Pensacola and went east along the Florida panhandle and slowly made our way back," he said. In mid-February, John returned to Minnesota, while Nat stayed behind to work with a filmmaker his dad knows.

"I'll be getting more videography experience and an idea of how to put together multi-media projects," Nat said. "I don't have much formal training."

Father and son will launch the *Boudreaux* one more time the second week of March and head west to explore the Mississippi Delta.

"I'm excited about that because [CGEE has] focused a lot on the Mississippi River," John said. "So much of what people do in the Twin Cities and the agricultural areas in the Upper Midwest has a huge impact on water quality in the delta. There are strong connections between our lives in Minnesota and the Gulf Coast. It's something most people don't think much about or aren't aware of."

The Shepards will be on the coast until sometime in May. You can learn more about the project at [thirdcoastconnect.wordpress.com](http://thirdcoastconnect.wordpress.com).



Nat and John Shepard set sail on a multi-month cruise in January along the Gulf Coast, also referred to as our country's Third Coast. This photo and the photo of the egret on page 1 are © 2011 Cascade Communications, Inc.

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Arts & Humanities, Community Economic Development, Education, En-  
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Eligible Organizations:

Not-for-profit organizations, neighborhood, and community-based groups  
serving the needs of the St. Anthony Park/District 12 area.

Grant Application Forms:

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St. Anthony Park Branch Library.



Grant size:  
\$5,000 maximum

Questions:

Contact Jon Schumacher at  
651/641-1455 or

on-line at [jon@sapfoundation.org](mailto:jon@sapfoundation.org)

## MARCH

# Events

Contact information for the venues  
listed here are at the end of the  
calendar of events. Send your events  
to [calendar@parkbugle.org](mailto:calendar@parkbugle.org) by  
March 16 to be included in the April  
issue of the Park Bugle.

### 1 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Garden Club, "The  
History of the Marjorie McNeely  
Conservatory," by Tina Dombrowski,  
7 p.m., St. Matthew's Episcopal  
Church. Business meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Free and open to the public.

### 2 WEDNESDAY

St. Anthony Park Book Club, 6:30  
p.m., St. Anthony Park library

Home Bible study, Living Word  
Fellowship, every Wednesday at 7  
p.m., 1728 St. Mary St., Falcon  
Heights, 256-762-7301

### 4 FRIDAY

World Day of Prayer, 9–11:30  
a.m., individual prayer and  
meditation; 4:30–6:30 p.m., spoken  
prayers, scripture readings, music and  
individual prayer and meditation; St.  
Anthony Park Lutheran Church

### 5 SATURDAY

Pine Wood Derby workshop, 9 a.m.,  
St. Anthony Park United Methodist  
Church

### 6 SUNDAY

Presentation on Project Home, an  
overnight family shelter program,  
11:45 a.m., Falcon Heights United  
Church of Christ

Parish dinner, the Church of St.  
Cecilia, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

### 10 THURSDAY

"Two Centuries of Human Impact on  
the Upper Mississippi," St. Paul  
Audubon Society, 6:45 p.m.,  
Fairview Community Center

### 11 FRIDAY

*Seussical*, Murray Junior High, 7 p.m.

### 12 SATURDAY

Pack 22 Pine Wood Derby, St.  
Anthony Park United Methodist  
Church, 8 a.m.

Be Well As You Age Film Series:  
*Preserving Personal Autonomy*,  
10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park  
library

*Seussical*, Murray Junior High, 7 p.m.

### 13 SUNDAY

*Seussical*, Murray Junior High, 2 p.m.

### 19 SATURDAY

Spring Craft and Bake Sale, 9 a.m.–5  
p.m., Zion Lutheran Church

Experimental Filmmaking for Teens,  
1:30–4:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park  
library

### 20 SUNDAY

Spring Craft and Bake Sale, 9 a.m.–5  
p.m., Zion Lutheran Church

### 22 TUESDAY

Green on the Screen: *The Great  
Transition: An Inspiring Eco-tour*,  
6:45 p.m., St. Anthony Park United  
Methodist Church

### 26 SATURDAY

Youth Performance Company presents

*Northstar State!*, 11 a.m.–12:30  
p.m., St. Anthony Park library

### 29 TUESDAY

MOMS Club St. Paul, Midway/Como  
East Chapter, all member's meeting  
(existing and prospective members),  
9:30 a.m., St. Timothy Lutheran  
Church. Call Hydee Becker, 651-  
488-7476, for more information.

### 27 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Reading Group:  
*Zeitun* by Dave Eggers, Micawber's  
Books, 2:30 p.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church of St. Cecilia, 2357 Bayless  
Place, 651-644-4502

Fairview Community Center, 1910  
West County Road B, Roseville

Falcon Heights United Church of  
Christ, 1795 Holton St., 651-  
646-2681

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

Murray Junior High School, 2200  
Buford Ave., 651-293-8740

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

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church,  
2323 Como Ave., 651-645-0371

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Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 651-  
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### Graphic novelist from 3

scratched the surface," Martinson  
says. Still, the discipline and control  
he learned has added depth to his  
drawings, he says. "Calligraphy really  
opened my eyes wide. It has  
redefined how I think of lines."

Martinson is a master of line  
control and his densely drawn images  
illustrate the power of subtly: He can  
convey emotion or alter tone with  
the slight of his pen. His depictions  
of Japanese landscaping are stunning  
as well.

The "record of energy" that the  
paintbrush creates can't be replicated  
by pencil or pen, Martinson says.  
Brush and ink are harder to control,  
messier and more time-consuming  
than conventional drawing tools, but  
"it's incredibly versatile and worth the  
effort. The line work is lively; it's  
gorgeous. It's an incredible art of  
nuance."

### From then until now

It's been more than two years since  
Martinson studied abroad. And  
though eager to use his calligraphy  
skills, he's committed to maintaining  
a consistent tone throughout his  
*Tonoharu* series. So until the ink dries  
on *Volume 4*, Martinson's calligraphy  
skills will be used sparingly.

When he closes the final chapter  
on his *Tonoharu* adventure,  
Martinson plans to put his graphic-  
novel skills to work on an  
introductory, how-to East Asian  
calligraphy guide. He's got the script  
(mostly) written; he just needs to  
draw some pictures.

"I'm hoping to draw it in a  
much looser, quicker style than  
*Tonoharu*, so I hope to finish it  
within a year or two after *Tonoharu*  
is done," he says. "But I have a pretty  
dismal track record for keeping to

deadlines, so we'll see what happens."

### Hindsight is always . . . insightful

Looking back, Martinson says, he  
was naïve about the amount of time  
needed to produce a project as  
elaborate and complex as *Tonoharu*.  
If he had a do-over, he would scale  
back the number of pages and  
consider using ballpoint pen to move  
things along, he says.

"I envisioned a 200-page book  
that I'd finish in two years ... my  
plan didn't work out. If I could go  
back, I'd make it 128 pages and be  
done with it."

But he can't. And that's good.  
Because, like the soap-opera-style  
comic strip *Judge Parker*, he will tell  
his story in the fullness of time.

*Ruth Wleczki is a frequent contributor  
to the Park Bugle.*



## Volunteering Matters

# Group gives immigrant girls tools to apply to and finance college

By Kristal Leebrick

Before Bee Vang moved to Minnesota in fall 2006 from a village in Laos, she was told her straight dark hair would get her into trouble.

"They said girls coming to America had to have curly hair like American people or they would hit you with a car," said the Como Park High School senior.

That hair story wasn't the only tall tale Vang heard before immigrating to the United States. Once she began her life here, she learned quickly that Americans don't feed each other to wild reptiles, everyone isn't rich and everything is not always beautiful and nice, she said.

One thing Vang had counted on that *is* true: She could get an education here.

And when she graduates this spring from Como Park Senior High School, Vang plans to continue that education at one of the six colleges she has applied to, thanks in part to the help she received through Girls Getting Ahead in Leadership (GGAL), one of several programs offered by the Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE).

WISE is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 to help Asian, African and Latino immigrant women and girls succeed in Minnesota. GGAL's goal is to teach low-income immigrant high school girls what they need to know to get into college and how to finance their educations.

The group holds Saturday-afternoon workshops for 11th- and 12th-grade girls throughout the school year at its University Avenue offices. There are 25 students enrolled in the program this year and 15 mentors. Most of the girls come from high schools in the St. Paul school district; the mentors include college students seeking school credit and young adults who simply enjoy the work, said Sarah Gerdes, GGAL coordinator.

Vang's mentor, Andrea Moen, fits into both of those categories. The



GGAL mentors Beth Blankenheim (far left) and Samawada Issak (far right) work with Hamdi Abukar (grade 12, Harding High School) and Robdu Woliye (grade 12, Como Park High School) as they learn about college scholarships, grants and loans. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

University of Minnesota elementary education major joined GGAL last fall for a course that required her to earn credit for volunteering. She stayed on this semester.

"I wanted to continue at least until the end of the school year to help these girls get into college," Moen said. "I want to see who gets in where and be excited for them when they do and help them look at alternatives if they don't. I want to see how it all panned out with them and continue to support them."

The 2008 Highland Park High School graduate said her parents helped her apply to colleges. The girls in GGAL don't get that help at home, she said. "A lot of their parents don't know anything about applying for college," Moen said.

Moen hadn't considered working with an immigrant population before GGAL, she said. "It's very eye-opening, how much they've been through. A lot of people look down on immigrants and refugees, and then they tell you their stories and how they didn't know any English and started school the very next day after they arrived. It's crazy to hear about it."

Being a mentor helped Moen see "how badly these girls want to become more literate." So she started a book club to help them with that. Right now they are reading *A Step from Heaven* by An Na, the story of Young Ju who emigrates from Korea to the United States at the age of 4.

The girls read one chapter a week together after the GGAL workshop. Many of the girls "are very anxious to learn English better and become better at speaking in front of people," Moen said. She has them take turns reading each week's chapter out loud. "A lot of them are self-conscious about speaking in front of groups and I felt like reading would help them with that, learning new words, reading in front of each other, discussing the book."

When Vang moved here four-and-a-half years ago, she could read and write in Hmong, but she knew no English. Two years ago, Vang transferred from St. Paul's LEAP High School, a program that serves new arrivals to the United States or those who have limited English skills, to Como Park Senior High School to be with more English-speaking students.

Vang relates to the protagonist in *A Step from Heaven*, she said. In fact, Young Ju was told that same curly-hair story.

To find out more about GGAL, or to volunteer to be a mentor, contact Sarah Gerdes at 651-646-3268. You can also learn more at [www.womenofwise.org](http://www.womenofwise.org).



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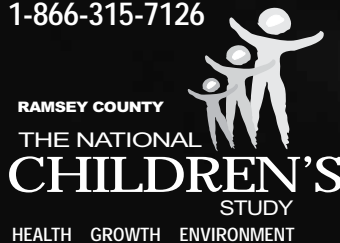


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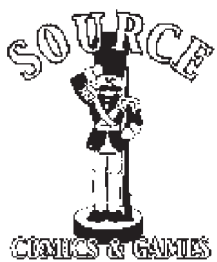
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## Neighbors

### St. Cecilia's to host parish dinner

The Church of St. Cecilia, 2357 Bayless Place, will host its annual roast turkey dinner on Sunday, March 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church basement. Tickets are \$8; children ages 8 and under eat for free.

The ever-popular raffle is back. Prizes include an Apple iPad, Xbox 360 with Kinect, a \$250 gift certificate from the Minnesota Bed and Breakfast Association and a \$150 gift certificate to Heartland Restaurant. For more information call 651-644-4502.

### Pine Wood Derby is March 12

St. Anthony Park Cub Scout Pack 22 is holding its annual Pine Wood Derby on Saturday, March 12, at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and racing beings at 9 a.m.

Any kindergarten-to-fourth-grade boy is welcome to build a car and race with the pack. Boys can attend a workshop on Saturday, March 5, at 9 a.m. at the church and receive a free car kit and help building a car to race in the derby.

For more information, contact Clay Helmer at 651-603-6987 or Chris Jacobsen at 651-649-1660.

### Theatre Pro Rata performs *Dido, Queen of Carthage* at Gremlin

Theatre Pro Rata will open *Dido, Queen of Carthage* by Christopher Marlowe at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave., on Saturday, March 5. The production runs through March 20. For more information, call 612-874-9321 or email info@theatreprorata.org.

### Ginkgo hosts dinner performance with songwriter Richard Shindell

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., is hosting a dinner and performance with singer-songwriter Richard Shindell Wednesday, March 9. Shindell was a member of the trio Cry Cry Cry with Dar Williams and Lucy Kaplansky.

There are only 50 seats available for the evening. Attendees can choose dinner and performance for \$47.50 or dessert and performance for \$38.50. Call 651-645-2647 for more information.

### Zion Lutheran Church seeks artists and crafters for sale

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold a spring craft and bake sale Saturday, March 19, and Sunday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The goal of the sale is to raise funds through booth rentals and concessions to help renovate the church. Local artists and crafters are encouraged to reserve a booth and sell handmade products at the church. Bakers are also encouraged to donate goods for the sale.

To find out more, contact Barb Mork at 612-327-0207 or carrot022699@yahoo.com.

### Audubon program looks at human impact on Mississippi River

"Two Centuries of Human Impact on the Upper Mississippi River" will be presented by Daniel Engstrom, director of the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, Roseville.

The public is invited to this free St. Paul Audubon Society program. A social time with refreshments begins at 6:45 p.m. For more information, call Val Cunningham at 651-645-5230.

### Library offers gardening programs

Experts from a variety of gardening

fields will share their insights and know-how at St. Paul Public Library branches on Wednesdays in March. All events are free.

"Gardening for Bees" will be presented March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., 651-642-0293.

"Rain Barrel Technology" will be presented March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave, 651-642-0411.

"Growing Perennials in Cold Climates" will be presented March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library.

### Teens Create! with Intermedia Arts

St. Paul Public Branch Library and Intermedia Arts will offer an experimental film workshop Saturday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m. at the library, 2245 Como Ave. Teens will create short films and experiment with the elements of filmmaking. The programs are free, but space is limited, so pre-registration is required. For more information call 651-642-0411.

### Book of Faith Jubilee set for April

The second Book of Faith Jubilee at Luther Seminary, "Inspiring Everyday People to Engage the Bible," will be held April 29 to May 1.

Four keynote presentations will be given by Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor, House for All Sinners and Saints, Denver, Colo.; Craig Koester, professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary; John Roberto, president and founder of LifelongFaith Associates; and Jessicah Duckworth, associate professor of Christian formation and teaching, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

Registration is open. For more information or to register, visit www.luthersem.edu/jubilee or call 651-641-3416.

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**Park Midway Bank's Park Perks coffee bar**, located at the 2300 Como Ave. branch, will be supporting the Chelsea Heights Elementary School PTO during March and also conducting a book drive for the school in the bank lobby. See the ads on pages 5 and 7 for more information.

Students and families are invited to attend **Camp Read-A-Lot**, a fun night of reading activities, storytelling and snacks on Wednesday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. All adults who accompany children that night will be eligible for door prizes, including a 2005 edition on the Worldbook Encyclopedia, a complete boxed set of Harry Potter books, a geographer's dream package of a globe, family atlas, and three wall maps, and a shopping spree collection of bookstore gift cards. Children will be able to select books to take home as well.

On Saturday, March 5, 45 students and their volunteer parent managers will participate in the **East Metro Regional Destination ImagiNation** tournament at Harding Senior High School. The seven Chelsea Heights' teams will be tested on their ability to think on their feet, work together and devise original solutions to their challenges.

One hundred and seventy kids, parents and family members attended **Family Fitness Night** on Jan. 28. A kick-off to the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Season, families carried "passports" to six activity stations, receiving stamps as they completed jumping jacks, yoga poses, sprints and chair sits. Simply Good Eating provided "color your plate" with fruits and vegetables, showing children and adults that fruits and vegetables are a good source of many essential vitamins and minerals. J&J Distributing Company provided apples for families to fuel up on after all their hard work. Thank you to the parent volunteers and Como Park Senior High School student volunteers who made the event successful.

Applications for St. Paul Public

Schools are due by March 22. **Chelsea Heights offers tours** for prospective students on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Please call the school office at 651-293-8790 to set up a tour.

**Como Park Senior High**  
740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800  
[www.como.spps.org](http://www.como.spps.org)

In March, two dozen of Como's best and brightest science students will be volunteering as **science fair judges at St. Anthony Park and Chelsea Heights** elementary schools. These students have had college-level science classes within Como Park's Advanced Placement program and enjoy working with young students.

The **Como Park swim team** had a good showing at the city conference meet with one relay championship—Justin Miller, Sam Lee, Shawn Halvorson and Carl Kron—and two individual championships, Justin Miller and Carl Kron. Miller also received the Rosene Award as the conference's outstanding swimmer.

Como's **School-Wide History Day Fair** will be held in the school's cafeteria on Tuesday, March 1, from 2 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to view the projects. Students will be presenting their research in five categories: exhibits, websites, research papers, performances and documentary films. This year's theme is "Debate and Diplomacy in History."

Gabriel Ngam, Megan Jacot and Alex Edgerton were invited to the University of Minnesota to compete in the semifinal and final rounds of the **Minnesota Brain Bee**, which is a neuroscience competition for high school students. Freshman Gabriel Ngam made it to the finals, where the top six students in the state competed in oral questioning. The bee is an attempt to motivate students to learn about the brain, to capture their imaginations and to inspire them to pursue careers in biomedical brain research.

**Murray Junior High**  
2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740  
[www.murray.spps.org](http://www.murray.spps.org)

Alec Krieger won **Murray's Geography Bee** held in late January. Thirty students participated in the last

round. Krieger has taken the test to be eligible for the state competition. He will be notified in March if he advances.

Our annual **Scripps Spelling Bee** held in January was won by Jacob Heiberger and Henry Benjamin.

The school's **History Day** competition was held Feb. 22. This year's theme was "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures and Consequences." About 100 entries moved on from the classroom to the fair. We will have the names of the students who advanced to regionals in the April edition of the *Park Bugle*.

Murray Junior High School students will give three performances of the musical *Seussical*. Tickets go on sale the week before the play, March 7 to 11. During lunchtime at Murray, that week only, tickets are only \$5. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Plan ahead! Send money to school with your student to buy tickets for themselves and for the whole family. Or bring a copy of this *Bugle* into the play and receive half off one ticket. Performance times are Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m.

**St. Anthony Park Elementary**  
2180 Knapp St., 651-293-8735  
[www.stanthony.spps.org](http://www.stanthony.spps.org)

The theme for this year's **Read-a-Thon** fundraiser is to "Measure Up" to the goal of reading for 40 minutes every day during the 11 days of the Read-a-Thon. If the goal of 230,000 minutes is reached, Principal Ann Johnson will move her office to the roof for a day this spring (after the snow melts). The goal of this fundraiser is to promote the pleasure of reading while raising money for school programs. Students will be looking for your support and sponsorship as they set goals and enjoy some good books during March.

**Two longtime teachers will be retiring** at the end of the school year: physical education teacher Joyce Holoubek and fifth-grade teacher Susan Polfliet. They have both been members of the school community for many years. Johnson says they are both "cherished" teachers who will be missed.

During March, young scientists will participate in the annual **Science Fair** on Monday, March 14. There will be two presentations on that day, from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Science teacher Jim Schrankler oversees a team of volunteer evaluators who give students individual feedback on their presentations.

Lawn signs throughout the neighborhood are there to remind families that the **deadline for applications to attend SAP Elementary**, or another St. Paul Public School, has been extended to March 22. Kindergarten registration will be on May 12. Please contact the office with any questions, 651-293-8735.

There will be **no school** on Friday, March 4, as teachers prepare for conferences on Friday, March 18 (also a day off for students). In addition, there will be evening conferences on March 16 and 17.

**Destination ImagiNation** is a competitive problem-solving activity that meets after school. Teams have been practicing since last fall and will compete in the regional tournament at Harding High School on March 5. This year there are 11 teams from SAP Elementary. We wish them luck!

**Important dates in March** include Coffee and Conversation with

Parents and the Principal on March 10 at 9:15 a.m.; the second-grade reading celebration on March 11 at 2 p.m.; a SAPSA meeting on March 15 at 5 p.m.; a Site Council meeting March 28 at 5 p.m.; and on March 30, author Lois Lowry will visit the school. Call the school if you're interested in attending.

### Tutoring showcase March 8

The St. Paul Public Schools Foundation invites the public to "Tutoring Works: A Community Conversation and Celebration" on March 8, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Parkway, to learn more about tutoring in St. Paul Public Schools.

In addition to a reception and tutoring program showcase, Superintendent Valeria Silva will talk about her proposed program Strong Schools, Strong Communities.

For those interested in tutoring, the training will be held after the reception, as well as a workshop on how to engage your community in volunteer tutoring in St. Paul.

Please RSVP to Masha Finn at [mf2@sppsfoundation.org](mailto:mf2@sppsfoundation.org).

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## March 1st is National Pig Day!

We will be celebrating with *Low Down and Coming On*, a collection of dangerous and delicious poems about, yes, pigs. **James Lenfestey**, the editor, will join contributors **Naomi Cohn**, **Susan Thurston** and **Cary Waterman**.

On **Friday, March 11**, **Mary Kay Rummel** and **Susan King** will read from their latest collections, *What's Left is the Singing* and *Bog Orchids*. Both events are free and start at 7 p.m.



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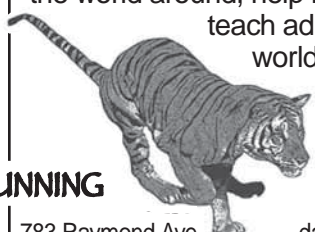
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# L I V E S L I V E D

**Mary Jane Barrett**

Mary Jane Barrett, 90, of Como Park, died Feb. 1.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Thomas J. Barrett; two sons, Thomas Jr. (Margaret) and Tony (Mary Ellen); five daughters, Judy (Michael) Semsch, Molly (Thomas) Carew, Kathleen (Paul Survis), Ellen (Dale Hennen) and Meghan (Dan) Harlander; 19 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Ruth Rice Koenig of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Phyllis Padesky of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 5 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

**Evelyn Briggs**

Evelyn Rose Briggs, 91, died Feb. 11. She was born April 30, 1919, in Thomas, S.D. She graduated from Watertown, S.D., High School and then worked in Minneapolis. In 1938, she met Clark Briggs at the Marigold Ballroom and two years later they were married.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband; sister, Shirley Ruth; brother, Harold Rose; and sons-in-law, Bob Smith and Paul Persons. She is survived by her daughters, Marilyn Smith of Lauderdale, Marcia Briggs of Chico, Calif., and Jackie (Gary) Davis of Charleston, S.C.; two grandchildren; and several “step-grand-.”

A celebration of Evelyn’s life was held at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ on Feb. 19.

**Donna Bulger**

Donna J. Bulger, born in 1929, died Jan. 13. She was the widow of the late Bob Bulger. They had been married for 50 years before Bob died in 2002.

Donna was a resident of St. Anthony Park until her final years at Presbyterian Homes of Arden Hills. Donna is survived by her daughters, Chris Gugisberg (Kim), Katie Dougherty (David) and Sue Chelstrom (Tom); three grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

A service to celebrate Donna’s life was held at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church on Feb. 19.

**Mark Eberhart**

Mark A. Eberhart died Jan. 22 at age 54. He graduated from Murray High School in 1973 and attended Hamline University and St. Cloud State University before serving in the Navy from 1977 to 1981. From 1984 to present, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

He is survived by his mother, Nancy, of St. Paul, and his father, Paul, of Bloomington; brothers, David (Julie) and Karl (Karen), as well as his grandmother, Ruth Eberhart.

A memorial service was held at Jehovah Lutheran Church in St. Paul on Jan. 29.

**Evelyn Ernest**

Evelyn H. Ernest, 90, of Falcon Heights, died Jan. 31 after a short illness.

Evelyn was born and raised in Mayville, N.D. In 1948, she married Howard Ernest of Portland, N.D.

Evelyn and Howard settled in Falcon Heights in 1952. She went back to teaching in 1965 and taught for 25 years at Hazel Park Junior High School in St. Paul.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her sister, Pearl Bakke; and her lifetime friend, Dorothy Bakke. “Evy” is survived by her son, Richard (Kim); her granddaughter, Sarah; and her sister, Pat.

The family thanks Evy’s longtime caregiver and friend, Marion Jacobsen.

A memorial service was held Feb. 4 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

**Adele Fadden**

A. Adele Fadden, born Sept. 30, 1911, lived in St. Anthony Park for many years. She died suddenly, but peacefully, Feb. 6. She was born in Le Sueur County, Minn., to Nels and Ida (Ziebarth) Arbuckle. She was a graduate of Le Sueur High School and the University of Minnesota.

She was the widow of Lt. Co. Victor J. Fadden, U.S. Army (retired). She is survived by her sister, Helen Boldthen; daughter, Vicki Gutenkauf; son, Bill; daughter-in-law, Jane; and one grandson, Eric.

Her service will be held at University Baptist Church in Minneapolis at a date to be determined.

**Hazel M. Garcia**

Hazel Garcia, 87, of Falcon Heights, died Jan. 30, suddenly from complications of recently diagnosed lymphoma. Hazel was a dear heart with a matching smile that spread joy and love to all who knew her.

She was born Jan. 6, 1924, in Lidgerwood, N.D. Hazel was a master gardener, extraordinary cook, artisan seamstress, and counselor and confidant to family.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Bud and Lee, and infant daughter, Marguerite. She is survived by her husband, Raymond Garcia; her daughter, Joanne (Stephen) Sunderland; her son, Michael (Sara) Garcia; five grandchildren; and a brother, Marvin Evenson.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 4 at the Cathedral of St. Paul, with interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

**Ann Genereux**

Ann Elizabeth Andert (Yahish) Genereux, 89, died peacefully Feb. 14.

Ann was a fun-loving person who enjoyed many things, including music, cards, bowling and, of course, cleaning.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Edward Andert; her husband of nine years, Arthur Genereux; her sister, Helen Maday; a brother, Robert; sisters-in-law, Rose, Mary Clare and Julia; and brother-in-law, Chet Maday. She is survived by her devoted companion, Ron Mickus; four daughters, Diane, Linda (Gerry) Walsh, Rose and Nancy (Wayne Prowse); a son, Gary (Mickie Rongitsch); 10 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Roman and Clarence.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 18 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

**Margaret Glass**

Margaret Bernadette Glass (née Leitner) was born June 9, 1916, the youngest of 10 children. She died peacefully on Feb. 12, four months shy of 95 years.

Marge lived a full life with Lyle, her husband of 51 years, who died in 1989. Her grandson, John, also preceded her in death. Together, Lyle and Marge had seven children: Jack (Teresa), Peggy, Lyle Jr. (Linda), Eugene (Suzanne), Bob (Jean), Terri McQuillan (Frank) and Mary Kay Quade (Doug).

Marge was a true and faithful friend, maintaining her friendship with Dorothy for more than 80 years. She loved going to casinos with Kaye, traveling with her family and Jane and Don, family rosaries and playing cribbage with Gene.

Marge and daughter Peggy co-hosted slumber parties over the years for her 10 beloved grandchildren. She is also survived by three great-granddaughters. Marge was lovingly cared for in her final years by Marcy and the staff of at St. Anthony Park Home.

Her life was celebrated Feb. 15 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church,

with interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

**Anne Lannon**

Anne Elizabeth (Condon) Lannon, 63, died Jan. 23. She had lived in Como Park for 35 years before moving to Pennsylvania, where she died. Anne loved her home across from the Como Zoo. She is survived by her daughter, Brigid Lannon; one granddaughter; and a sister, Carol Hutchinson.

**Margaret Larson**

Margaret E. “Muggs” Larson, 72, of Como Park, died Feb. 7. She was preceded in death by her son, Scott; her daughter, Paula; and their dad, Don. She is survived by two sons, Brad (Mary) and Craig; three daughters, Sue, Jody and Traci (Eugene); 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and siblings.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 9 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

**Karl Nitsch**

Karl Nitsch, 98, of St. Anthony Park, died Feb. 12. He started working for Great Northern Railroad as a machinist at age 16 and continued with Burlington Northern as a roundhouse locomotive foreman with 169 men under him. He took early retirement after 45 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Billy and Herman. He is survived by his wife, Lorretta; his daughter, Janice Soderling; two granddaughters; and a brother, Anton. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 18 at Church of Corpus Christi, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

**Adelheid Price**

Adelheid Marie (Haugan) Price, 94, of Springboro, Ohio, died Feb. 2. Adelheid was born in Loshan, Honan, China, on Jan. 19, 1917, to missionaries of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. She lived in St. Anthony Park after the family returned from China and was confirmed at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her husband, Robert; a son, Robert Jr. (Susan); two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and siblings, Sigurd Haugan, Astrid Anderson, August Haugan Jr. and Roald Haugan. She was preceded in death by four siblings. A memorial service was held Feb. 15 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Sunset Memorial Cemetery.

**Gerald McKay**

Gerald R. McKay, 65, son of Mary and Gerald McKay, died Jan. 27 while scuba diving in Bali, Indonesia. Gerald’s father was one of the founders of Park Press Inc., publisher of the *Park Bugle*.

Gerry grew up in St. Anthony Park, where he was a school police captain, paper boy, soda jerk at Guertin’s and an Eagle Scout. He

graduated from Cretin High School and then the University of Minnesota in 1972 with a law degree. He practiced as a labor arbitrator in Burlingame, Calif.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy; sons, Gerald and Michael; and sisters, Susan of Ardmore, Okla.; Marguerite of Ithaca, N.Y.; Carolyn of St. Paul; and Kathleen of Reston, Va.

**Harold Swanson**

Harold B. Swanson, 93, died peacefully Feb. 6. Swanson was a World War II veteran and former professor and department chair of agricultural journalism at the University of Minnesota and program director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He retired in 1984.

He is survived by his children, Bruce (Janet), Barbara Coulson (Ron) and Beth Faulhaber; eight grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 56 years, Linnea, and second wife of nearly 10 years, Dorothy (Leirfallom). His funeral was held Feb. 11 at Como Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

**Helen Tourville**

Helen R. Tourville, 84, of Como Park, died Feb. 4, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon; two sisters, Mary, Veronica and Elizabeth; and two brothers, Joseph and Raymond. She is survived by her daughter, Renee Stocker; her son, Tedd; two granddaughters; one great-grandson; and two sisters, Martha and Zita.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 10 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

**Darlene Vogel**

Darlene A. Vogel, 73, of North St. Paul, died unexpectedly Feb. 8. She had worked at Park Midway Bank for about 25 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy, and daughter, Debbie. She is survived by her children, Kim (Scott) Shipley and Todd Vogel; four grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Her funeral service was held Feb. 12 at Sandberg Funeral Home, with interment at Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

**Dorothy Wallner**

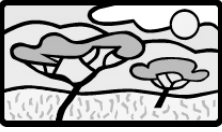
Dorothy J. Wallner (née Adams) died Feb. 14. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell, and three siblings, Frank Adams Jr., Roger Adams and Ruth Johnson. She is survived by her children, Jennifer (William) Neujahr and Russell Wallner; two grandchildren; and a brother, Clifford Adams.

Her funeral service was held Feb. 17 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, with interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

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The best way to place a classified ad in the Park Bugle is to send it to [editor@parkbugle.org](mailto: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. Classifieds 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 April issue is March 16. The paper comes out March 28.**



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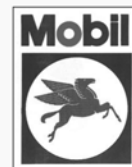
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## Business News

### Local gallery marks 25th year

The Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., has moved its main gallery from its basement location to a street-level space in the same building. That move coincides with the gallery's 25th anniversary and the opening of its new show, *The Memory of Architecture: Paintings and Drawings by Margit Schmitt and Kim Tschida Petters*, which opened Feb. 19 and runs through March 31.

The street-level gallery had been used to show the work of gallery owner Joseph Brown, a sculptor and potter. Over the last month, Brown's work has been moved into the lower level. Brown plans to exhibit the work of new artists on the first floor.

Brown's work is also on permanent display at Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, where he is the founder of the Reuben and Eva Brown Ceramics fund.

Schmitt and Petters' work

explores architecture and memory. Petters has worked as a photographer and in her paintings has outlined buildings with as few details as possible. Viewers can see a grain elevator or a house on a palette of only black, gray, white and blue.

Schmitt's paintings are based on memories of buildings from her life, specifically the Oak Grove school in Ojai, Calif., where she was educated. "I tried depicting them as well as I can," she said. The buildings are incomplete, symbolizing how memory doesn't have a complete picture. The brush strokes are what she remembers, she said.

Brown's work is on display in the lower-level gallery, and he says he'll continue to add new work as time goes on.

The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—*Robert O'Connor*



**Painting by Margit  
Schmitt on display at  
the Raymond Avenue  
Gallery**



### Cold feet, warm hearts

The Park Midway Banksicles team raised more than \$1,325 for Special Olympics when they participated in the Polar Plunge at White Bear Lake on Jan. 29. Among those brave enough to take a dip were Kristin Fults, Terri Banaszewski, Liz Lambrecht, Terri Fleming, Thea Schmidt and Melanie Rake. Jesse Mollner from the St. Paul Police Department also joined the team.

### Park Midway names senior vice president

Park Midway Bank has promoted Kathy Bjerke to senior vice president. Bjerke joined the bank in 1997 as a retail banker. Ten years ago, she took the lead in opening the bank's University/Vandalia branch and is a commercial lender. Bjerke has also been involved with the St. Paul Winter Carnival in many capacities, serving as board chair in 2008 and 2009.



### Something to smile about

Dr. Louis Thomas Austin and his staff at Austin Family Dental, 1360 Energy Park Drive, participated in the Minnesota Dental Association's "Give Kids a Smile" event on Feb. 4. The group provided 28 children with dental cleanings, X-rays, sealants, fluoride and exams at no cost to their families, according to Dr. Austin. The event was a success and something the office will do again next year, Austin said.

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