

### Como Cleanup

The annual Como Curbside Cleanup has been extended to seven days this year.

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### New preschool opens in Como

A former grocery store and meat market is now home to a preschool and childcare center.

**Page 14**



### Night of the living dead

Zombies trump witches, warlocks and vampires—even our infamous politicians—this Halloween.

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St. Anthony Park  
Falcon Heights  
Lauderdale  
Como Park

# Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

October 2011

## Waiting for the LRT

*The Park Bugle takes a (short) walk on the wild side*

By Judy Woodward

In normal times, the corner of University and Raymond is one of the main intersections in the Bugle readership area. But for anyone trying to get to the Edge Coffee House, Sharrett's Liquors, Twin Cities Reptiles or any business on the north side of the 2300 block of University Avenue in recent days, these are far from normal times.

A couple of weeks ago, a giant excavation hole was opened on the north side of the intersection, where the street and sidewalk used to be. The ordinary complement of cars and pedestrians have been replaced by mounds of loose earth, earthmoving equipment like backhoes and bobcats, and a platoon of construction workers, all courtesy of the Central Corridor Light Rail Construction project.

LRT communications manager Laura Baenen promised this phase of heavy construction at the intersection will be completed by the end of the year. Meanwhile, Walsh Construction worker Tom Besaw Jr. had been given the job of telling coffee-seeking pedestrians, "You can't get there from here."

Clad in a neon-green traffic vest, Besaw said that, in the course of an

hour, he had directed 30 or 40 pedestrians back up north on Raymond, through the alley behind Keyes Restaurant and back around to University Avenue from the west. "Most people are nice about it," said Besaw over the din of heavy equipment, "but they've got to be really careful."

Reilly Tillman, who works at IFP Media Arts, an independent educational film organization on the south side of University near Jimmy John's, might agree. He was about to cross University on his way to the Edge when a woman made a right turn in front of him. "I could have reached out and smacked her car," he said. "In fact, I did. She was quite oblivious, but I had right-of-way." Perhaps, not coincidentally, considering the daily perils of his pedestrian route, Tillman was wearing an orange shirt that rivaled the Besaw's vest for sheer visibility.

Traffic hazards aside, Tillman is surprisingly upbeat in his assessment of the impact that LRT construction has had on his own company. "It's not been as catastrophic as I expected," he said. "I don't think we're losing customers. I was expecting the windows to be rattling



Steve Boller is one of a dozen musicians who gathered on a recent Saturday morning at the Edge Coffee House for an old-time music jam. The twice-weekly jam is open to the public, and the musicians insist there is plenty of parking to be had on surrounding streets. Photo by Lori Hamilton

constantly, but things haven't been that disruptive." He noted that his business is lucky to have off-street parking and access from nearby Pelham Parkway and Franklin Avenue. He sounded a

*Waiting for the LRT to 8*

## College Park stormwater project set to begin soon

*Contruction will keep a part of park off-limits*

St. Anthony Park dog walkers and Frisbee players who frequent College Park will have to find a new venue this fall. The park will become a heavy construction zone by early October when the City of St. Paul begins its stormwater infiltration-and-treatment project in the southwestern area of the park.

The project's aim is to curb the amount of pollutants running into the Mississippi River from stormwater runoff and to control the water that pours into the park after a heavy rainfall.

Area residents can expect a lot of truck and construction traffic, according to Bruce Elder, sewer utility manager at St. Paul Public Works.

"People should watch out," he said, "and keep kids safe." The beginning of the project will be "intense for a couple of weeks," Elder said. And though the construction site will be fenced in, "Children should be told not to be at that end of the park."

All construction equipment will be entering at the north side of the park just east of Hythe Street.

The bulk of the work is the excavation to place pipe in the ground, said Elder. Then grass will be planted in the spring, which means the area will be off-limits until turf is established.

For those who worry about spending a winter away from Suicide Hill, College Park's notorious sledding hill, Elder said the city will be able to accommodate sledders by using hay bales to block the project area. The city has awarded a \$945,000 contract to Bolander and Sons of St. Paul to do the project. —Kristal Leebrick

## Sis boom bah!

*Como Park Senior High School launches an old/new tradition: the homecoming parade*

The Como Park High School Booster Club is bringing the homecoming parade back to St. Paul complete with a marching band, flag-and-drill unit, class floats, homecoming royalty and more. The high school's first—and it's hoped annual—parade and picnic will be held Saturday, Oct. 15.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the school parking lot, 740 Rose Ave. W., and wind its way north on Grotto Street, then west on Wheelock Parkway, south on Victoria Street, east on Rose Avenue and then back to the school. A picnic will follow on the school grounds from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Como Cougars will take on the Harding Knights at the homecoming football game at 2 p.m. at Griffin Field, Lexington Avenue and I-94.

A spirit bus will be available to transport spectators from the school to the game. The cost is \$1 and must be purchased in advance at the school.

"We're hoping to start a new tradition at Como Park," said Jill Kottke, one of the founders of the booster club. "Homecoming creates some favorite high school memories, along with building school spirit."

Parade-watchers are encouraged to use the Como Park Elementary School lawn and parking lot at 780 W. Wheelock Parkway, said Cougar mom Susan Zinkl, parade coordinator.

Local businesses that want to take part in the parade or make a donation should contact the club at comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com.

—Kristal Leebrick

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### Como Park

#### Public meetings scheduled for new Como Regional Park play area

Residents can attend two more public meetings about a new play area that will be built in the Hamline picnic area of Como Regional Park. The Como Regional Park Advisory Committee is serving as the design advisory task force for the new play area. The park has received \$413,000 in Capital Improvement Budget and STAR funds to replace an existing playground and build a new facility.

A public meeting was held Sept. 13 to present preliminary ideas and listen to residents' concerns about the play area. Two more public meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 11, and Tuesday, Nov. 8. The October meeting will present preferred concepts and the intent of the play area character. The November meeting will present the play area's final concept. Both meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station.

All meetings are open to the public and feedback is welcome.

Contact Alice Messer, project manager, for more information: [Alice.Messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Alice.Messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-266-6412.

The city website has meeting notes and project graphics, [www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4618](http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4618).

#### District 10 Como Community Council to hold annual elections

District 10 residents will vote for new Community Council members Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Historical Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. There are seven positions open, including the chair and secretary, on the 15-member all-volunteer council. The council is a nonprofit organization that provides a voice for the neighborhood in the city of St. Paul.

Residents with a variety of expertise are encouraged to cast their names on the ballot. All residents and business owners in the district are eligible to serve. Candidates should submit an application by Tuesday, Sept. 27, to ensure that their names are included on the official ballot.

Additional nominees can be made the night of the meeting from the floor.

For more information on board member duties, to view a job description and to download an application, visit the website, [district10comopark.org](http://district10comopark.org) or contact Jessie at 65-644-3889 or [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org).

### Falcon Heights

#### Falcon Heights urges residents to buy local with new campaign

The Falcon Heights City Council and Environment Commission has launched a Falcon Heights Buy Local Campaign. Residents can find Buy Local cards on the city's website, [www.falconheights.org](http://www.falconheights.org), and then collect stickers at seven of the 13 participating businesses across the city for a chance to win a prize in a drawing. Cards can be returned to City Hall with your name and contact information written on the back of the card for a chance to win. Drawings are held quarterly and prizes are from participating businesses. Questions? Contact Justin Miller at 651-792-7611 or [justin.miller@falconheights.org](mailto:justin.miller@falconheights.org).

#### Fire department hosts open house

The Falcon Heights Fire Department will hold its annual Open House at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet firefighters, tour the fire garage, sit in the fire trucks and check out the firefighter gear.

During the open house, children will be able to explore a dump truck, snowplow and other vehicles used by Falcon Heights and Ramsey County.

### Lauderdale

#### City hosts annual Halloween party

The city of Lauderdale will host a Halloween party Monday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.

The event will include hot dogs, popcorn, apple cider, hot chocolate, Trick-or-Treat bags and spooky fun.

Costumes are traditional for both adults and children.

Donations of candy or money, which make the event possible, may be brought to City Hall Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### St. Anthony Park

#### Placemaking initiative aims to mobilize artists along light rail line

The St. Anthony Park Community Council will be participating in Irrigate, an artist-led creative placemaking initiative on the six-mile Central Corridor light rail line. The group will bring together developers, resident artists on both ends of the corridor, a diverse ethnic and culture mix among the neighborhoods and the cCity of St. Paul.

Placemaking is an increasingly popular concept of bringing people together to look at particular spaces in a community to discover stakeholders' needs and aspirations. This information is then used to create a common vision for that place. The vision can evolve into an implementation strategy, beginning with small-scale improvements that can immediately bring benefits to public spaces and the people who use them.

Irrigate will collaborate with local private and nonprofit groups. It is hoped that by mobilizing artists to engage in their community, Irrigate will bring creativity, art and fun to the landscape of the Central Corridor. Irrigate will train artists in community development and creative placemaking and instigate artist-led projects along the corridor that benefit businesses and neighborhoods. Irrigate is a partnership between the City of St. Paul, Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation and Springboard for the Arts. Go to <http://irrigatearts.org> for more information.

#### Get your city guides and recycling bins or bags at district office

The recently updated community Guide to the City of St. Paul City Services is now available at the St. Anthony Park Community Council office, 890 Cromwell Ave. The office also has recycling bins for homeowners, recycling bags for renters in buildings of 12 apartments or more and welcome kits for new neighbors. Contact the St. Anthony Park Community Council if you would like any of these at 651-649-5992 or [info@sapcc.org](mailto:info@sapcc.org).

### City of St. Paul

#### League of Women Voters hosts candidate forums for Wards 4 & 5

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring St. Paul City Council candidate forums for Wards 4 and 5 in October.

The Ward 5 forum is Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Bernard's Parish Hall, 147 W. Geranium Ave.

The Ward 4 candidate forum is Thursday, Oct. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Owens Science Hall Auditorium, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Av

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## Music in the Park and Schubert Club

# Last year's merger has brought good things to both institutions

By Kristal Leebrik

One year after Music in the Park merged with the Schubert Club, Julie Himmelstrup, founder and artistic director of Music in the Park, reports that the union of the two longstanding St. Paul institutions has gone well.

"I can't help but think that timing and good fortune has just followed us through this thing," Himmelstrup said. She gives credit to Kathleen van Bergen, the Schubert Club's artistic and executive director who orchestrated the merger last October.

Van Bergen recently left the Schubert Club to begin work as the president and CEO of the Philharmonic Center for the Arts in Naples, Fla. The Schubert Club has named Barry Kempton as the club's new artistic and executive director.

Kempton has extensive experience in arts management and artistic programming. He is currently in his fifth year as chief executive of the City of London Sinfonia in England and he worked with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra for 11 years as vice president for artistic planning. His first position, after graduating from the University of Bristol, was with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra as concerts director and education manager.

Last year, when van Bergen

approached Himmelstrup to combine forces with the Schubert Club, Himmelstrup described it as "a gift from heaven." Music in the Park was solid, she said, but joining a well-established and well-respected institution like the Schubert Club, which has a nearly \$2 million annual budget and a 12-person staff, was very attractive. Himmelstrup was acting as artistic director as well as chief fundraiser of Music in the Park, and she had a staff of one, Brian Woods, who worked half time. Woods is now program manager with the Schubert Club.

Himmelstrup founded Music in the Park and introduced the chamber music series to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood 33 years ago. "There have been a lot of changes [since the merger], but a lot that's the same," she said. "It's still the Music in the Park series."

Music in the Park has been "allowed to be a community force and not be swallowed up by a big organization," she said. "We still have our family series coming up and things going on in the [local] schools, and we are still holding our opening reception at Muffuletta."

And the concerts are still held at the original venue, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

This year, in honor of the church's 125th anniversary, cellist Wendy Warner and pianist Irina Nuzova, who will be playing a Music in the Park concert Sunday, Nov. 13, will play for the UCC's church service that morning.

Two big changes to the series that longtime concert-goers will notice is that tickets are no longer sold at area stores, and this year the concert series is introducing assigned seating. "I don't know how that's going to work," Himmelstrup said. "That has yet to be tested, but in the long run we are keeping it in the community, which is what I worried about."

Music in the Park's merger with the Schubert Club ultimately "was the best chance for the series to survive," she said. "It gives me a chance to ultimately retire, but also has given me a new lease on being able to do the artistic things that I think are important."

The Schubert Club has done some good things for the series, she says. "We have 60 new subscribers for the series this season, and a total subscriber base of 286."

Himmelstrup doesn't hesitate to note, however, that "we've done some good things for the Schubert Club, too."

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## Burglars smash door but take nothing in September Finnish Bistro break-in

On Sept. 14, the Finnish Bistro, 2264 Como Ave., was burglarized.

The incident took place some time between 11:50 p.m. Sept. 13 and 1 a.m. Sept. 14. Security cameras show that four males in hooded sweatshirts gained entry by smashing the double-pane door facing Carter Avenue. They used such force to gain entry to the office that they shattered the door frame, according to Finnish Bistro manager Sarah Clayton.

Despite the broken door and the mess, the burglars took nothing of value.

A deliveryman, who was dropping off fresh pastries for the day, was first on the scene and reported the break-in to the St. Paul

Police Department at about 4 a.m., Clayton said. Within minutes of that phone call, police notified Finnish Bistro owner Soile Anderson.

Clayton got a call from police about 5 a.m. and arrived at the store to find glass scattered across the floor.

This is the second burglary at the Bistro this year. On July 11, someone broke into the restaurant's office during the business day and took a laptop computer and some printer ink cartridges.

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**The deadline for the next issue is Oct. 12.**

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.

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## E D I T O R I A L

## Homecoming: Trick or treat?

One of our favorite pieces of news this month is the birth of a new tradition at Como Park Senior High School: the homecoming parade—the 33-year-old high school's first.

Readers who grew up in smaller communities remember the fall parade that preceded the homecoming football game: the marching band, the homecoming royalty, the class floats. This year, family garages in the area will be filled with chicken wire, crepe paper and teenagers as the students ready their floats for the march near Como Lake on Oct. 15.

The parade is the brainchild of the Como Park High School Booster Club, a parent and alumni group formed last year that aims to support the arts, athletics and club activities at the school. The group recognizes that these activities need outside financial support in order to thrive and continue. Besides raising money, the group wants to build school spirit and community awareness, said Jill Kottke, one of the founders. And getting alumni involved is key to the group's success, she said. That's not hard when many of the parents at the school are alums themselves. One of the parents involved with the parade planning, Julie Gabrielli, is a 1984 graduate of Como Park.

The parade, which will be followed by a family picnic, seems like a good way to get students and families involved in their community high school, Kottke said.

Bringing more family and community involvement into homecoming puts a positive spin on the event. Many of the students are excited about this year's activities, reports parade coordinator Susan Zinkl.

Last year, the high school canceled homecoming events because of increased vandalism perpetrated by students at the homes of both students

and faculty. For decades, mischief-making has been part of some students' extracurricular homecoming activities at all of the area high schools—public and private. We have seen—and maybe waxed nostalgic at—the streams of toilet paper blowing in the wind as we walk by the home of The Chosen Student on a cool fall morning. In the big picture, TP'ing the trees and lawns of fellow students is little more than a harmless prank, but in recent years the antics ante has been upped.

Families have reported racial and sexual epithets sprayed on sidewalks with shaving cream, garbage and materials from recycling bins dumped on lawns, eggs thrown against houses and paint splattered on homes and garages. The monkey business has become mean-spirited and is damaging to property and psyche. What may have started as a joke has evolved into malicious vandalism.

How can these merry pranksters channel their need to decorate someone's home without the destruction? Here's an idea: Remember the amusing trend from years ago where people would blanket a friend's lawn with plastic flamingo lawn ornaments to celebrate a birthday or some other special event? The flock of birds was here today and gone tomorrow. Whoever planted them picked them up later.

Perhaps our teenage tricksters could tap their creativity. If the goal of TP'ing someone's lawn is to show affection or admiration, try a temporary art installation of sorts that won't damage a person's property. A crowd of cardboard cougars to greet the victim at sunrise?

If the goal is to hurt someone, then cut it out, kids. It's time to grow up.

## L E T T E R S

**A history note**

The story on the Colossal Cafe mentions that the space "housed a doctor's office for 40 years." It was quite a bit longer than that. Drs. Balcome and Army were in that space starting sometime in the 1940s, followed by Drs. Severtson, Hilgidick and maybe another one or two. It was probably about 40 years ago that Bert Miller recruited Dr. Gilbertson to take the office. You could visit the doctor and then go through the hallway that ran behind the barber shop into Miller Drug to fill your prescription.

*Mike Bulger  
St. Paul*

**Grandparents are a great Minnesota resource**

When we think of Minnesota's resources, perhaps we envision lakes, woods or mining, but we should also think of our grandparents.

In September, we recognized "Grandparents Month," celebrating and raising awareness about the contributions of grandparents, including those who are raising other relative's children. According to the National Committee for Grandparent's Rights, more than 17,000 grandparents in Minnesota report having their grandchildren live with them.

A recently released U.S. Census Bureau report reveals that the number of children living with a grandparent has increased by 64 percent over the past 20 years.

Grandparents play an important role in providing care for children—they are the most frequently mentioned care providers for

children under age 5 among all types of relatives. In 2009, 7.8 million children lived in households with at least one grandparent present (11 percent of all children).

Grandparents represent the most frequent "kinship caregivers" for children—that is, relatives who take on the responsibility of caring for another family member's children. They provide safety and stability, cultural and familial continuity, love and nurture when a child's biological parents are unable to do so. They are often invisible—providing "informal" care outside of the public foster-care system and preventing more children from ending up, or remaining, in the public foster-care system—yet they need many of the same supports available to recognized foster families.

Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (MKCA)—the only statewide agency focused on the needs and contributions of grandparents and other kinship caregivers—has found that more than three-quarters of the relatives who call MKCA's "Warmline" are grandparents, and 84 percent of callers are female. At this time of year, those who seek help from the MKCA Warmline often call with questions about school enrollment, specialized educational services for the children in their care or the type of legal authority needed to make educational decisions for a child relative in their care.

Kinship caregivers, particularly grandparents, face legal, financial, educational, emotional and health issues as they take on a parenting role, often for the second time in their lives. Many have fixed or limited incomes—more than half of the caregivers calling the MKCA

Warmline have incomes under \$30,000—and they may be dealing with their own health problems at the same time they are helping the children cope with the difficult circumstances that brought them under a relatives' care, whether death, military deployment, parental substance abuse, health or mental health issues, divorce, financial strain, or incarceration. Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, notes in her column Child Watch, "Often caregivers unexpectedly thrust into this role may be hesitant to share their new challenges with others, and if they do, often find it difficult to connect with networks to find programs and assistance for which they are eligible."

In spite of these challenges, kinship caregivers impart a valuable contribution to the families and communities of which they are a part, providing an unacknowledged safety net for vulnerable children who cannot be cared for by their own

parents. Think of all the children that would be homeless or in foster care, were it not for the nurture and support of these caring elders.

So, the next time we offer gratitude for the bountiful resources in our state, let's remember the grandparents and other relatives among us who are caring for some of the most vulnerable youngsters in our communities, and who most often do it without fanfare or recognition. They need and deserve our support.

*Carla Jacobson  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Kinship  
Caregivers Association  
www.mkca.org*

*The Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association is a nonprofit organization serving people caring for, or considering caring for, a relative's child through information, support and educational workshops.*

## Thank you to all who contributed to our 2010–2011 fund drive

We thank all of our readers who contributed to our 2010–2011 fund drive. The *Park Bugle* raised \$31,173.64 in contributions in the last year. In the last month, the following people contributed the drive:

Beth and Jon Commers  
Victor Etienne  
Carol Klee and Luis Ramos-Garcia  
Debra A. Zimmer

We are getting ready to launch our 2011–2012 fund drive and we hope you'll consider making a donation. We'll have more information in the next issue of the *Park Bugle*.

# District council gives nod to Raymond Avenue project

*Next steps are a community meeting in October and public hearing before the City Council in November*

By Kristal Leebrick

After two hours of listening to comments from local business owners and residents at its Sept. 8 regular meeting, the St. Anthony Park Community Council voted 9-4 to approve a proposed Raymond Avenue traffic-calming project that would stretch from University Avenue to Hampden Avenue.

The plan will be presented at a public meeting Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park.

A public hearing before the St. Paul City Council is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. The City Council could vote on the project by the end of November.

Nearly 30 community members came to the Sept. 8 meeting to comment, mostly negatively, on the project. If approved by the City Council, that stretch of Raymond Avenue stands to lose about 51 parking spaces, according to Paul St. Martin, assistant city engineer. Construction would begin on the project in 2013 and would take three to four months to complete.

The \$2.1 million project would narrow parts of Raymond; add bump-outs to decrease the length of pedestrian crossings; add new

pedestrian crossings and medians; add new lighting, sidewalks and curbs; and add a bike lane on the west side of the block between Bradford-Ellis intersection and Long Avenue.

Patty George's shop, Salon George at 856 Raymond Ave., is on that block, which would also lose street parking on the west side, which is mostly residential. Taking away parking makes it harder for people to get to businesses, George said. "And when it's not easy to get to businesses, they will go away."

A number of residents expressed concerns that parking needs would increase with light rail as commuters from outside the neighborhood would be driving into the area to catch the train.

Brian Longley, a longtime community council member who voted against the project, said at the meeting that he thought the plan could be improved. An avid bicyclist who uses Raymond Avenue to commute to work each day, Longley said that when efforts to calm traffic on Raymond Avenue began a number of years ago "light rail was not on our radar and neither was the increase in bicycling." He said he was sensitive to the loss of parking and the impact light-rail construction has

had on businesses at Raymond and University.

Steve Mastey, a member of the council whose business, Landscape Architecture Inc., is located in the same building as Salon George, is very much in favor of the project. Mastey was a member of the Traffic Calming Task Force, which initiated the project in 2004, in its beginning.

Back then, residents came to the task force meetings expressing concerns about children trying to cross Raymond from the east side to get to Hampden Park or the rec center, Mastey said. "The main reason we started this is neighbors identified Raymond as dangerous," he said. "We went to the city and begged them to do this. We are really excited that this is happening."

City engineers presenting the plan said that Raymond Avenue eventually would be rebuilt whether

or not this project is approved. The original pavement on the street is nearly 90 years old and the area has a history of water main breaks, St. Martin said. The city could work on sewer issues as the street is torn up.

Had the community council not approved the plan, the project would still go before the City Council, St. Martin said.

Plans to rework the street began in October 2004, when a public meeting was held and residents expressed concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety. A task force was formed and in 2006 a proposal was submitted to the city to fund the project through the city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). The budget request was approved in late 2010 and the city was awarded a \$1 million federal grant by the Metropolitan Council for the project.

If approved, property owners along the project route will be assessed \$153,000 for the grading, paving and lighting on the street. That amounts to \$2,616 for a 50-foot parcel. Property owners could choose to pay the assessment up front or stretch it over 20 years at 4.75 percent interest. Payments would begin at \$285.36 the first year for 50 feet of property and decrease each year as the principal is paid down.

## St. Anthony Park library names new manager

Susan Henry has been named branch manager of the St. Anthony Park library. Henry has been working as the temporary branch manager since April, when Peg Doheny retired.

"I'm so glad to be here," Henry said. "I fell in love with this place. I fell in love with the building. I fell in love with the staff and I fell in love with the community."

Henry has worked with the St. Paul Public Library since 1977 as a cataloguer and a materials selector. She was in charge of purchasing adult fiction, travel guides, and music and DVDs for all ages.

—Kristal Leebrick



Susan Henry

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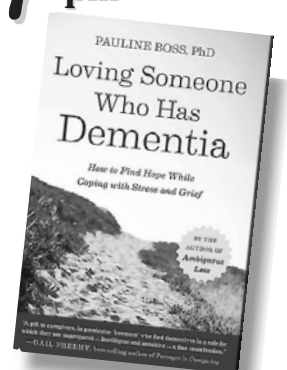
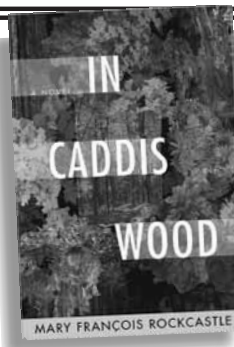
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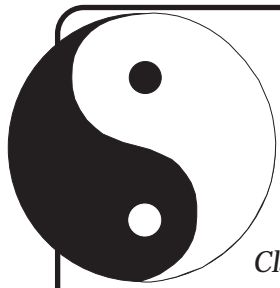
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## OCTOBER

# Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to [calendar@parkbugle.org](mailto:calendar@parkbugle.org) by Oct. 12 to be included in the next issue.

### 1 SATURDAY

Old-time music jam every Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Edge Coffee House

Apple Festival, noon-4 p.m., Gibbs Museum

North Star Barbershop Chorus free concert, "Love Is in the Cards" or "Writing a Wrong," 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Roseville Middle School

Barn dance at Hansen Tree Farm, 5:30-9 p.m.; live music 7-9 p.m. Freewill donations accepted. Sponsored by St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church

### 2 SUNDAY

Old-time music jam every Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Edge Coffee House

Apple Festival, noon-4 p.m., Gibbs Museum

### 4 TUESDAY

Baby Lapsit Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library

St. Anthony Park Garden Club, business meeting is at 6:30-7 p.m. "Minnesota Natives and their Herbal, Medicinal, Utility and Food Uses" by Mary Maguire Lerman, 7-8 p.m., St. Matthews Episcopal Church

### 5 WEDNESDAY

YMCA Camps Widjwagan and du Nord Fall Garage Sale through Saturday, Oct. 8. Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart. Call 651-645-6605 for more information.

Open computer lab, every Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

English Conversation Circle, every Wednesday, 4-5:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

Mediterranean Cooking, 4 sessions, 6-7:30 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center

St. Anthony Park Book Club, "No Impact Man" by Colin Beavan, 6:30-8 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

### 6 THURSDAY

Cooking & Art for preschoolers, 4 sessions, 10:45 a.m.-noon, Langford Park Recreation Center

Art: 3D, Paint and Clay, for preschoolers, 4 sessions, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Langford Park Recreation Center

Soo Bahk Do for Youth, ages 6-15, weekly sessions, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center

Soo Bahk Do for Adults, 16+, 6:30-8 p.m., weekly sessions, Langford Park Recreation Center

### 7 FRIDAY

Preschool Storytime, every Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park library

### 10 MONDAY

Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall

St. Anthony Park Branch Library closed for staff day

### 15 SATURDAY

Women's Drop-In Drum Circle, 6:30 p.m., \$10 at the door, Women's Drum Center

### 18 TUESDAY

Baby Lapsit Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library

Family bonfire at Langford, 6:30-8 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center

### 22 SATURDAY

St. Paul Parks and Recreation Halloween Party, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave., 651-298-5677

### 24 MONDAY

Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall

### 25 TUESDAY

Rose Ensemble Sing-Along, 7-8:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

### 28 FRIDAY

St. Anthony Park Elementary School Fall Festival, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

### 30 SUNDAY

Old-Time Halloween, noon-4 p.m., Gibbs Museum

Sunday Afternoon Reading Group, "A Monstrous Regiment of Women" by Laurie King, 2:30 p.m., Micawber's Books

### BLOCK NURSE EXERCISE

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors block nurse exercise classes meet at these times and places:

**Tuesdays and Fridays**, St. Anthony Park Library, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

**Mondays and Thursdays**, Seal Highrise, 825 Seal St., 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays**, SAP United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m.

### VENUES:

Edge Coffee House, 2399 University Ave., 651-641-1656

Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpeur Ave., 651-644-5050

Hansen Tree Farm, 7440 N.W. Alpine Dr., Anoka 55303-4756

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

Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765

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

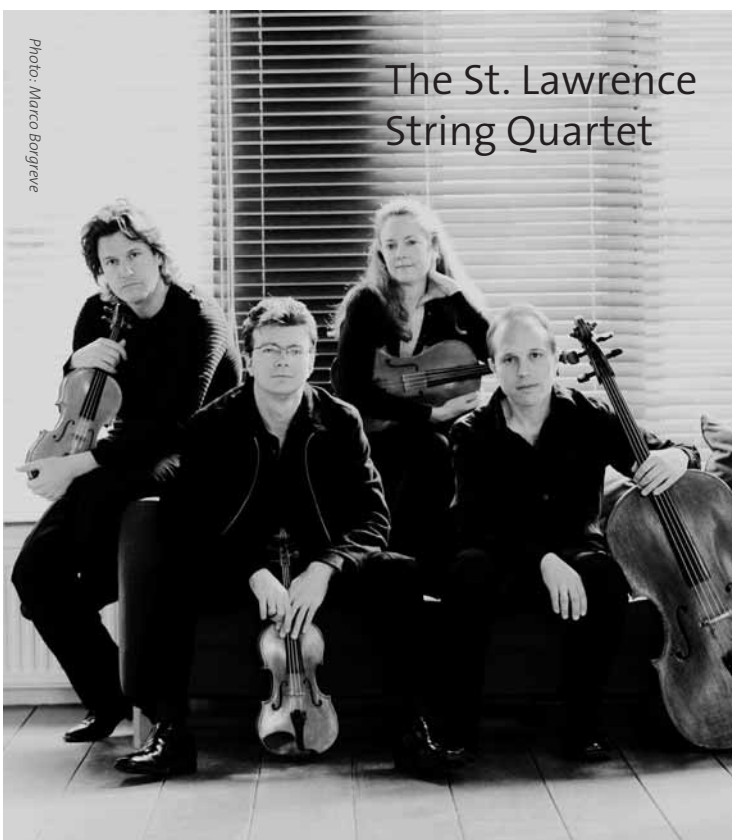
Roseville Area Middle School, 15 E. County Road B2, Little Canada

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

St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058

Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W.

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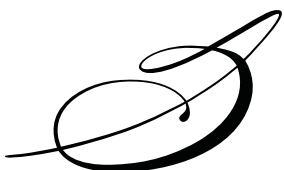
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## The Birdman of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

# The poor, plain-looking mourning dove

*In this issue of the Bugle, the Birdman of Lauderdale softens his attitude toward a bird he once called 'stupid'*

I've always considered the mourning dove a rather stupid—and stupid-looking—bird. I couldn't imagine how that tiny head could contain enough brains for a bird that large. It reminded me of a dinosaur: all body, little head.

And I'm not alone in my views.

Pete Dunne, author of field guides and other books about birds, describes the mourning dove as a "teardrop with a tail or a pear on a stick!" He says, "No other dove seems so overall plain, so microcephalic, so tine-tailed."

But after doing some research on mourning doves, I've learned that they are unique in several ways.

The mourning dove is a plump bird with a very pointed tail. It has a black bill that may appear to dip down at the tip. It has dark red legs and feet. The dark brown eyes are bordered by bluish skin.

The male mourning dove is larger than its mate, has a pale rosy breast and a bluish crown and nape that often seems iridescent. The female has a tannish breast and is rather brown overall. You can amaze and confound your friends and family by identifying the sex of the mourning doves in your yard.

It turns out that the mourning dove is one of the few birds that feed "milk" to its young. Not the way a mammal does, and not that type of milk, but rather a special pigeon milk that's produced in the bird's crop.

The crop is an enlarged pocket of the upper esophagus, whose walls secrete a milky fluid that's rich in fat and protein. For the first few days after hatching, the young are exclusively fed pigeon milk.

The young bird inserts its beak into the corner of the parent's bill and the adult regurgitates pigeon milk for the youngster. After the first few days, partially digested seeds or fruit is mixed in with the milk.

I've noticed when a dove is drinking from the bird bath, it doesn't dip its head and then tilt it back to let the water trickle down its throat. A dove can suck water like a horse without lifting its head. Most other birds can't do that.

Mourning doves pant when they get hot, so they need lots of water. They can suck up three times their daily water requirement in less than a minute.

Mourning doves are prolific. In warmer climates, they can produce up to six broods a year, usually two offspring per brood. Here in Minnesota, they probably have two or three broods in a summer.

They build a flimsy stick nest in a tree or bush, sometimes on a building ledge, rarely right on the ground. Both parents incubate the eggs for about two weeks. The female usually takes the day shift, the male the night.

After hatching, both parents feed the young, producing that special, nutritional pigeon milk. Sometimes the female lays eggs for the next clutch while the young from the previous cycle are still in the nest. The young fledge in about 15 days, but hang around to be fed by their parents for the next one to two weeks.

So with such a robust reproduction rate, why aren't we knee-deep in mourning doves? Some may blame hunting pressure. Dove hunters in North America harvest more than 20 million birds annually, exceeding the harvest of all other migratory game birds combined.

As Duluth author, birder and scientist Laura Erickson says, "Mourning doves are not much smaller than Cornish hens, and falcons and human hunters agree that their flavor is superb."

Even so, hunting isn't the major cause of mortality. Nonhunting mortality is estimated at four to five times the hunting figure. And doves have a lot of nonhuman predators, too. Raccoons, rat snakes and other reptiles, as well as blue jays and crows, take their eggs and young.

Fledglings and adults are preyed on by raptors, mammals (think roaming house cats), falcons and accipiters, like sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks.

Besides predators, mourning doves are subject to the vagaries of rough weather. Downpours can destroy their flimsy nests, dumping eggs or nestlings onto the ground.

An early snow can cover the ground to a depth that makes feeding on seeds nearly impossible. That's when bird feeders can be life savers for doves (and other seed eaters).

And you'll notice an occasional dove with missing or abbreviated toes. Freezing winter weather takes its

toll on those that try to stick it out till spring.

Mourning doves live an average of one year beyond their hatching year. Half to three-quarters of the population dies annually. So the birds you see this year may not be back next year.

Mourning doves are unique critters, living rather tough lives. So, I encourage you to join me in adopting a new attitude toward them, treating the doves with a little higher regard and respect.

*You can find out more about Clay Christensen's bird-watching ventures on his blog at [www.parkbugle.org](http://www.parkbugle.org).*

## Climate change and state moose numbers next Audubon topic

Mark S. Lenarz, a research biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will present "Are Minnesota Moose Another Victim of Climate Change," Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. at Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, Roseville.

Moose numbers in the northeastern region of the state are in decline. Lenarz's work suggests moose populations are being affected by warming temperatures.

The event is free and open to the public. A social time with refreshments begins at 6:45 p.m. For more information, call Val Cunningham at 651-645-5230.

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# South St. Anthony soccer program seeks ten-year lease at Parks and Rec building

By Kristal Leebrick

Joy of the People, the nonprofit youth soccer program based at South St. Anthony Park Recreation Center, is hoping to develop its field space through a U.S. Soccer Foundation grant, but the group needs a ten-year lease from the city of St. Paul in order to qualify for the grant.

JOTP was awarded a U.S. Soccer Foundation grant earlier this year that paid for facility design and planning services. With those plans now in place, Ted Kroeten, founder and director of JOTP, wants to apply for a \$200,000 grant to implement the plans. The grant cycle ends Oct. 31.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council will host a public meeting about the soccer program's plans at its regular monthly board meeting Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. at the recreation center, located at 890 Cromwell Ave.

The site plan includes the building of a new field that can be divided into a variety of play spaces, outdoor futsal courts, a sand court, grass fields, a clay field, a running and walking path with exercise stations, and a plaza area. This would bring JOTP closer to its vision "of having a multi-surface, soccer-training and free-play facility," said Kroeten.

"We are trying to create inviting spaces for kids to play, but our focus—because we know it—is soccer."

The U.S. Soccer grant that Kroeten plans to apply for is very competitive, he said. But JOTP is the kind of program the foundation likes to sponsor: it's urban, diverse and caters to children. The foundation needs a written agreement that the space can be used for 10 years in order for JOTP to be considered, Kroeten said. The group has met with St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark to discuss legal issues surrounding the project. Now, the community needs to chime in, he said.

JOTP moved in to the recreation center after leasing it from the city in 2009. In this arrangement, JOTP is responsible for day-to-day operations and pays for utilities and building maintenance. The city pays for outdoor maintenance.

District 12 Community Council continues to rent office space there and the building's community room is available for neighborhood use.

Joy of the People (*Alegria do povo*) is the Brazilian expression for soccer, according to JOTP's website. A former director of coaching and player development for the St. Paul Blackhawks Soccer Club, Kroeten started the JOTP program with the intention of shifting focus from competition to skills development and love of the game, according to the website.



The JOTP project site plan includes a (A) synthetic-turf soccer field, (B) pedestrian walk and fitness trail, (C) patio, (D) street court, (E) clay court, (F) sand court and (G) grass field. The existing recreation center (H), basketball court (I) and playground (J) are part of the site plan.

## Waiting for the LRT from 1

cautionary note that businesses like the Edge Coffee House are probably not so well-situated: "We have to wonder if there will ever be any more street parking on University. Problems may never end for small businesses with no parking."

Tillman is such a fan of the Edge that he has posted an enthusiastic endorsement of the coffee shop on Facebook. Nothing will prevent him from making the trek for his daily cup of Joe, but others may not share his determination. The owner of the Edge, who goes by the name of Ya Ya, estimates that her business is down by 60 percent, forcing her to cut back hours and apply for an operating loan. [See "Voices," at right]

On a warm afternoon, the screen door was the only barrier between the coffee house and the noise of construction; but that hardly mattered since there was only one other customer in the shop aside from Tillman—and he was ordering

his coffee to go. Bob Malles of Desnoyer Park explained that he had ridden over on his bike.

"I'm a coffee shop patron of many places," he said. "I like to get out." He admitted that he was surprised to find the sidewalk missing when he crossed University Avenue, but he had no problem following Besaw's directions to approach via the alley.

The young barista at the Edge, who gave his name as Jordan, may have been the sunniest person in sight. "I don't mind the noise," he said, "but then I'm leaving next week for San Francisco to study economics at Berkeley."

Down the block at Sharrett's Liquors, the mood was scarcely lighter. Manager Teddy Kline noted, "Business is slow, but we're not shortening hours yet. One good thing [about the construction]: It's solidifying our customer base. The ones who come are making more of an effort."

One such loyal Sharrett's customer is Gene Crawshaw from north St. Anthony Park who had stopped in on his way to pick up his daughter from her Irish dance class at Celtic Junction on Prior Avenue.

"I read about all this on the local list-serv," he said, gesturing in the general direction of the giant hole that had temporarily swallowed the store's front sidewalk. "They're urging people to support local businesses affected by the construction. We went to Café Biaggio [at 2356 University Ave. W.] a few nights ago."

Stepping up to Sharrett's

checkout counter, twenty-something Joe Kuntz professed no such loyalty. "I always come here," he said. "I live at the Carleton Artists' Lofts, and Sharrett's is the closest place."

Out on the sidewalk heading north on Raymond, Pamela Richmond of north Minneapolis, took the philosophic view. A slender woman in a long denim skirt and a close-cropped silvery Afro, she was looking for a bite to eat on her break from class at the Minnesota School of Bartending at 2426 University Ave. "Sure, the construction is a little inconvenient, but it's Minnesota and late summer," she shrugged. "That's what we do here."

Just down the block from her was Ron Dufault, former member of the St. Anthony Park Community Council. "I walked down from north St. Anthony Park," he explained, "Normally I would have taken the bus. I'll be glad when the construction is done, but it hasn't stopped me. I've been in favor of the LRT project since the beginning."

Dufault then revealed something fairly unusual about himself. Of all the people out on this warm and sunny afternoon, only Dufault and liquor store clerk Tim Reinardy declared that when the \$957 million Light Rail Transportation project is fully completed in 2014, they plan to be regular riders. "This is the price you pay for progress," Dufault said. "Now I've got to find where my bus stop is."

Readers can follow the daily progress of the LRT project at [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org).



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## Voices

## YA YA

By Judy Woodward

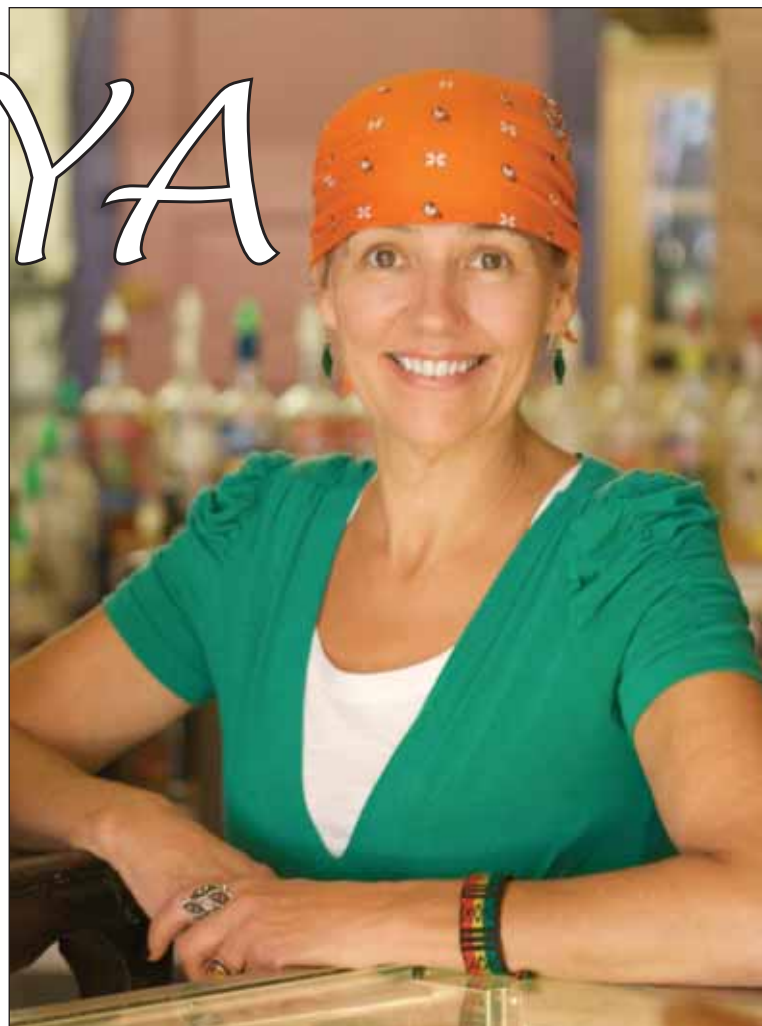
**A**lithe woman who wears her brown hair in braids and seems far younger than her 53 years, she is a whirlwind of activity, simultaneously baking muffins, stirring homemade soup and serving customers at the Edge Coffee House, 2399 University Ave.

People call her Ya Ya, but her legal name is Patricia Y, and she may be the last person in America who still says "groovy" in tones of sincere conviction. She hands over freshly brewed coffee with a brisk, "Voila!" until one day a patron points out that an Italian "Prego!" might be better suited to the espresso drinks she serves. From then on, that customer can expect a little Italian with every order.

**Ya Ya:** I was born Patricia Johnson, but I changed my [last] name legally to the letter Y for the fun of it. I was in broadcasting school at the time, and I figured that you always have to ask "Why?" to resolve any issue. I always ask "Why?" There's no period behind the Y in my name, just one letter.

I started the Edge in February 2009. I call it a coffee house because it's like home. There's good home-cooked food, fresh-brewed cups of coffee and pleasant people.

How do I remember everyone's order so well? Well, some of them are



Ya Ya. Photo by Lori Hamilton

regular customers, and everyone is special. Your order of a dry cappuccino isn't something that I hear every day. Besides, I always get a little Italian lesson with you.

My accountant told me that business at the Edge is down 60 percent since the construction began. It's worrisome. I'd be really sad if I can't do this anymore. But I talked to the Neighborhood Development Center people yesterday and I put in an application for a [Central

Corridor Ready for Rail] loan. In three weeks I'll find out if my application goes through.

They expect to be done with the construction out front by Thanksgiving. That would help.

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### Al has been the only St. Paul Board member:

- 1) Elected chair of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts
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## St. Paul needs Al Oertwig back on the school board

Prepared and Paid for by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St., St. Paul, Mn. 55130



## Neighbors



Karen Nelson Hoyle

### Eric Carle Museum honors Karen Nelson Hoyle

Karen Nelson Hoyle, professor and curator of the Children's Literature Research Collections at the University of Minnesota and a resident of St. Anthony Park, was honored by the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art Sept. 22 in New York City.

Hoyle has built an outstanding body of children's literature at the University of Minnesota since she began work there in 1967. Hoyle has served as secretary of the International Research Society for Children's Literature, president of the Children's Literature Association and on the American Library Association committees for the Batchelder, Caldecott, Newbery and Wilder awards. A prolific writer, she is the author of the book *Wanda Gág*.

### SAP women win Loft awards

Two St. Anthony Park residents were recently honored at the Loft Literacy Center in Minneapolis.

Poet Alice O. Duggan is one of 12 writers to be selected to participate in the Loft Mentor Series. Duggan is a retired preschool teacher and the author of the children's book *Violet's Finest Hour*. She has published poetry in *Water-Stone Review*, *Blue Earth Review*, *Sleet Magazine*,

*Puckerbrush Review*, *Plainsongs* and *Moon Journal*. Duggan's award will allow her to work intensively with a mentor.

Katy M. Jensen received one of seven Shabo Awards for Children's Picture Book Writers. The contest was open to writers with a "nearly there" picture book manuscript who have not yet published a book. Jensen will participate in a daylong master class and receive one-on-one manuscript consultation with a mentor.

Earlier, Jensen won the 2009-10 Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose. Her work has been published in *A View from the Loft* and *Antarctica: Life on the Ice*.—Mary Mergenthal

### Sale supports YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord

The annual YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord Fall Garage Sale is Wednesday, Oct. 5, through Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building. Admission is free.

The sale will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday to Friday and 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by a \$5 bag sale from 10 a.m. to noon.

All proceeds go to the camps. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

### Finnish Bistro hosts food-drive for Keystone food shelves

Finnish Bistro, 2264 Como Ave., will host a food-shelf drive for Keystone Community Services on Wednesday, Oct. 5, during business hours 6:30 a.m.- 8:30 p.m. Bring in a nonperishable food or personal-care item and receive a chocolate chip cookie.

Donations will benefit Keystone's Midway area food shelf. The most-needed food items are canned items; boxed dinners; and pantry basics,

including pasta, rice, cooking oil, flour and sugar. Personal-care items are also needed. They include bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, paper products, toothpaste and brushes, and diapers. For more information, contact Finnish Bistro general manager Sarah Clayton, 651-645-9181.

### Oktoberfest and rummage sale at Church of the Holy Childhood

The Church of the Holy Childhood's A Taste of Como Oktoberfest is Friday, Sept. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 if purchased before the event and \$20 at the gate. Call Larry or Barb McMahon, 651-489-2428, for tickets.

The church's rummage sale is Thursday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to noon.

### Book sale at Roseville Library

The Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is hosting a used book sale Wednesday, Oct. 12, to Sunday, Oct. 16, at Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave. N. Thousands of books, movies, talking books and CDs from all seven Ramsey County libraries, as well as private donations, will be sold. An exclusive "Friends Members Only" sale will be held Oct. 12 from 3 to 6 p.m. A membership can be purchased for \$20 at the sale. The sale will be held Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Oct. 16, noon to 4 p.m.

### Family bonfire at Langford

Langford Park and Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, will host a Family Fall Bonfire Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The free event will include games, face painting, hot chocolate and more. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. For more information, call 651-298-5765.

### Parks host Halloween party

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is hosting a free Halloween party for children age 12 and under on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave. Call 651-298-5677 to find out more.

### Gibbs celebrates Halloween

An Old-Time Halloween celebration will be held at Gibbs Museum, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., Sunday, Oct. 30, from noon to 4 p.m. Learn about the Halloween traditions brought to America in the mid-1800s by Europeans, particularly Irish

Neighbors to 11

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# Como Curbside Cleanup has been extended to seven days

By Janna Caywood

The Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN) will hold its twice-annual Como Curbside Cleanup Saturday, Oct. 15, to Saturday, Oct. 22. Extending the event to seven days will give Como residents more time to clean leaves and other organics from curbs and more opportunity for fun and informative activities.

The purpose of the event is to help neighbors work together to prevent organic debris, a major phosphorus source, from going into storm drains and into Como Lake. The lake is on the state's impaired water list due to excessive concentrations of phosphorus. The consequence is an explosion of plant growth that destabilizes the lake, harms aquatic life and threatens downstream waterways. Preventing phosphorus at the source—our neighborhood streets—is the most direct and meaningful way citizens can help restore Como Lake to a healthy, stable condition.

Here's how the cleanup works:

- Over a span of a week, Como neighbors rake and bag the organic debris—leaves, grass clippings and

loose soil—that has accumulated against the curb in front of their homes.

- Bags of “curb debris” are taken to roll-off bins located in the neighborhood, where they are counted and then dumped into the bins.
- The total number of bags filled by neighbors is announced along with a calculation of how many pounds of phosphorus the community prevented from Como Lake and how many tons of algae that phosphorus would have fueled had it reached the lake.
- The debris is taken to the county composting site.

This fall's project area is twice the size of past cleanups and will include residential streets east, south and west of the lake (see the CLNN website for a map). Como Curbside Cleanup week will begin with a kick-off event at the lake on Oct. 15. Then over the week several organized block club cleanups will take place with assistance from area youth groups as well as other interactive education and awareness activities.

Then a final wrap-up event on Oct. 22 will include a thank-you celebration and official announcement of the community totals.

The City of Saint Paul will coordinate its street-sweeping schedule with this neighbor-led effort so that there's a two-week separation between the two cleanings (ours and the city's). Fall season produces tons of leaves, which can quickly re-accumulate against curbs, so having this double effort will maximize the cleanup.

For details on which blocks will be included in the project area, how to get your block club included in the organized cleanups, a list of the week's activities and partner organizations, information on Como Lake's condition and current restoration efforts, or how to join the Como Lake Neighbor Network go to [www.clnn.org](http://www.clnn.org) or contact Janna Caywood, 651-261-7416 or [jcaywood@goldengate.net](mailto:jcaywood@goldengate.net).

*Janna Caywood is the lead organizer for the Como Lake Neighbor Network.*

## Neighbors from 10

immigrants.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 62 and older, and \$5 for children ages 2-16. Music, activities, crafts and food are included in admission. Find out more by calling 651-646-8629.

## Sing with the Rose Ensemble

The Rose Ensemble will host a free sing-along on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave.

For more information, call 651-222-3242 or go online at [www.thefriends.org](http://www.thefriends.org).

## Women with a Mission

Toastmasters host open house

Women with a Mission Toastmasters will host an open house on Saturday, Oct. 22, from

10 to 11:30 a.m. at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N. Call Judy Laren at 651-295-1413 for more information.

## Trick-or-treat with the animals

ZooBoo will be held at Como Zoo Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22-23, and Friday through Sunday, Oct. 28-30. Gates are open from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. each evening.

The park offers a free park-and-ride shuttle service located at the Minnesota State Fair parking lot on the south side of Como Avenue across from the Warner Coliseum from 4 to 8:15 p.m. each evening.

## Luther Seminary to celebrate donation of hymnal collection

A hymn sing and reception will be held at Luther Seminary Thursday,

Nov. 3, to celebrate the donation of a large hymnal collection by Gerhard and Pauline (Polly) Cartford of St. Anthony Park to the seminary's library. The hymn sing will be held at 2 p.m. in Northwestern Hall's Chapel of the Cross, 1501 Fulham St. A reception will follow in the Northwestern Hall Lower Atrium.


## Antiques club hosts Swedish Institute trunk show

The American Swedish Institute is bringing its Immigrant Trunk Show to the St. Anthony Park Antiques Club on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2334 Como Ave. The presentation is open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5. For more information, contact Ellen Healy, 651-646-8045, or Judy Payne, 651-646-4565.

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There are other great Park properties in all price ranges coming on the market soon.  
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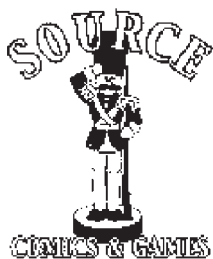
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## School News

*We welcome news items that pertain to students and schools in our readership area: Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park. The School News deadline for the November issue of the Park Bugle is Wednesday, Oct. 12. Send your news to [editor@parkbugle.org](mailto:editor@parkbugle.org).*

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

The second annual **Alumni Variety Show** is Friday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Como Park Senior High School's auditorium. Former students who plan to perform include singer-songwriters Alicia Renee, Jerrod Luckner and Derrick Harper, and hip hop dancer Fayslis BooDah. Free-will donations will be accepted.

The **Advanced Placement course offerings at Como Park High School continue to grow.** Advanced Placement offers serious, academically prepared students the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced standing in college courses. Como is home to the largest, most comprehensive AP program in St. Paul Public Schools. Como students may select from 20 courses offered across all major disciplines. AP Psychology is the newest addition.

The **Como boys soccer program is off to a great start** in the 2011 season with 60 players participating on the school's three teams. The varsity team is currently 4-1-1 on the season, despite losing many key players from the highly successful

teams of the past few years. The junior varsity team has also recorded some early-season success and has a record of 5-1. The C-Team has also gotten off to a strong start with a 4-1-1 record. Como boys soccer is known for being uniquely diverse and having a winning tradition. From St. Anthony Park to the North End, Como Park's players bring a wide range of skills and cultures together on the field. Social studies teacher Eric Erickson is head coach.

Como Park High School has embarked on a **new schedule this year.** A seven-period day with several days of extended class time will allow students more options for electives as well as give teachers the opportunity to have labs, discussions, seminars and projects that may require more class time. Some enrichment offerings will also be scheduled into the advisory times.

**Homecoming is Oct. 15** and will have a new look with a parade (see page 1) and picnic before the game and then a dance. The annual pep fest and Battle of the Classes will take place during that week.

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

Murray's **Earth Science classes conducted their first field investigation** of the season on Sept. 23 and 26 at Lilydale Regional Park near downtown St. Paul. Students examined the rock layers seen in the bluffs of the Mississippi River and tried to determine which layers were the oldest. They also examined fossil clues found in the layers to determine what type of environment this area was millions of years ago. Visit [murray.spps.org](http://murray.spps.org) to see photos of the field investigation.

On Sept. 30, Madame Merchant's **seventh-grade French students spent the day at Forts Folle Avoine** in Wisconsin. About 100 students visited the camp to see what life was

like 200 years ago for the French voyageurs.

**Micaela Yarosh**, who attended Murray last year as an eighth-grader, competed in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair and on Aug. 16 was named middle school semifinalist in the Broadcom MASTERS—Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering Competition for Rising Stars. Micaela, now a freshman at Central High School, was one of 300 students from around the country to be honored.

Murray's **Hope for Tomorrow mentoring program is seeking volunteers.** Hope for Tomorrow targets eighth-grade girls who have high potential but need a mentor to support them. Mentors meet eight times in the school year on the second Wednesday of the month, October through May, from 7:30-9:40 a.m. Interested volunteers may contact coordinator Julie Remington at 651-487-0701.

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

A big change this year at St. Anthony Park is the school day starts about 45 minutes earlier than it used to. The **school day now runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Principal Ann Johnson says the new hours are good because it allows students who participate in the after-school programs to get home at an earlier time. St. Paul Public Schools is offering free breakfast to all students this year. Those who wish to have breakfast at the school need to get to the school cafeteria by 8:15 a.m.

St. Anthony Park has a number of **new staff members.** The list includes: Jan Magrane, fifth-grade teacher; Karen Paulsen, physical education; Kathleen Kessler, Americorp VISTA; Marcia Benshoof, speech pathologist; Patti Dunder, social worker; Paula Austin, first-grade teacher; Rebecca Patient, nurse; and Tari Hella-Yelk, fifth-grade teacher.

The school's sixth grade will head up to **Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Camp** in northern Minnesota the week of Oct. 10 to 14. This is an annual tradition at the school. Third-graders will go to Belwin Nature Center in October and kindergarten students will visit Gibbs Museum in Falcon Heights.

The **St. Anthony Park School Association's Fall Festival** is Friday, Oct. 28, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The **band program for fifth and sixth grades continues** to be part of the Extended Day Learning program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This year the school is offering both orchestra and band.

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L I V E S L I V E D

Dr. Wallace Anderson

Wallace Roger Anderson, 86, died July 10 in Del Mar, Calif.  
Wally was a physician and medical director at the University of Minnesota Boyton Student Health Service from 1962 to 1987.  
He is preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Elaine. He is survived by his sons, Jack (Peggy) and Bruce, and three grandchildren.  
A memorial service was held at Como Park Lutheran Church on Aug. 22, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Bernard Christianson

Bernard “Bud” Christianson, 79, of Lauderdale, died at home on Sept. 3. Bud was a U.S. Navy veteran and long-time employee of the Ziegler Co.  
He is survived by his wife, Marlys; sons, Gene and Greg (Kris); and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Sept. 10 at Peace Lutheran Church, Lauderdale.

LaVerne M. Coverdale

LaVerne M. Coverdale, née Ringius, died Aug. 24 at the age of 82.  
She was a secretary at Armour & Co. for many years. She served as an election judge in Como Park and was an active member of Warrendale Presbyterian Church.  
She is survived by her husband, Gordon; step-daughter, Georgeanne Miller; two grandchildren; two great-grand-children; sister, Hazel Reeb; and brother-in-law, Dick Coverdale.  
Her funeral service was held Aug. 29 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell in Shoreview, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Dr. Bryce L. Crawford Jr.

Dr. Bryce L. Crawford Jr., 96, of St. Anthony Park, died Friday, Sept. 16, at Presbyterian Homes of Arden Hills. A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park.  
He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, Bryce (Jane), Craig and Sherry (Tom Kueny); and grandchildren, Brittany, Chelsea, Sloan, McKendree, Melinda Kurysh and Andy Nelson.  
Dr. Crawford was born in New Orleans on Nov. 27, 1914. He grew up mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area and also in El Paso, Tex. In school, he skipped several grades and at the age of 15 was the youngest student to graduate from El Paso High School. In 1931, representing the state of Texas, he won first place and \$500 in the National Edison chemistry essay contest. He was flown to Menlo Park, N.J., for his award, where he met Henry Ford and Thomas Edison.  
As a teenager, he spent summers working as a ranch hand on Jimmy Mayhill’s ranch in the hills of Alamogordo, N.M. He married Ruth Raney in Chicago in 1940.  
He attended college at Stanford University, where he received his doctorate in chemistry in 1937. He then spent two years at Harvard

University as a National Research Fellow. He also spent a year at Yale University as a chemistry instructor. In 1940, he joined the chemistry department at the University of Minnesota. He chaired the department from 1955 to 1960 and was dean of the graduate school from 1960 to 1972. In 1982, the American Chemical Society honored Crawford with the Priestley Medal, its most prestigious award, in recognition of his many contributions to chemistry.  
During World War II, Dr. Crawford worked in research on rocket propellants and made a significant contribution to World War II rocketry and to the development of solid propellants for the much larger rockets that evolved after the war.  
Crawford was an avid fan of Sherlock Holmes and a founding member of the Norwegian Explorers Club. His sense of humor never flagged. One of his favorite pastimes was to burst into song at gatherings, entertaining his family and friends with his high school song, “Old El Paso High.” He was also fond of Glenlivet scotch.  
Memorials may be made to St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, 2200 Hillside Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

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Annual Bazaar, Bake Sale and Meatloaf Dinner: Saturday, October 8  
Bazaar & Bake Sale: 12 – 5 p.m.  
Coffee Shop: 12 – 4 p.m.  
Meatloaf Dinner: 4:30 – 7 p.m.  
Proceeds from Bazaar go to local and global missions. Tickets for the Meatloaf Dinner are: \$8.50 Adults; \$5 ages 4-12; \$3 ages 3 & under. Proceeds go to Como Park Living at Home/Block Nurse Program.  
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Wednesdays: 5:45 p.m., youth dinner and meeting; 6:15 p.m., adult study: “Saving Jesus”  
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Alice Kiel

Alice Longley Kiel, 96, died Aug. 25. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, and two brothers. She is survived by a brother, William Longley, and his sons, Brian (Nance) Longley, Craig (Kathy) Longley and Ted Longley. Private services were held. Memorials are preferred to the St. Anthony Park Home.

Verna Mikesch

Verna Mikesch, 96, died Sept. 4 at St. Anthony Park Nursing Home.  
Verna was featured in the September 2011 *Park Bugle* in an article about 4-H in the 1930s.  
Born on a farm near Breckenridge, Minn., her elementary and junior high school years were spent at the first consolidated school in Minnesota, near Doran.  
In 1935, after winning a \$75 *Minneapolis Journal* scholarship, Mikesch enrolled at the University of Minnesota and graduated with a degree in home economics in 1941.  
She worked as a 4-H agent in the state for many years until joining the state Extension staff at the university in 1955. After completing a master’s degree in rural adult education, she

worked as a professor there until she retired in 1971.  
She authored two books: *Game Animals From Field to Kitchen* (1968) and *Heritage Crafts: Clovia Bazaar* (1983). She helped organize Minnesota State Fair 4-H exhibits and served as a judge at the fair for more than 40 years.  
A memorial service was held at the Church of Corpus Christi Church in Roseville on Sept. 23.

Marjorie Novak

Marjorie Novak, née Sant, 87, died Aug. 21. Marge grew up in St. Anthony Park and graduated from Murray High School. During World War II she worked as a mechanic for Northwest Airlines. She married Vern “Bud” Novak in 1943.  
Marge was preceded in death by her husband; sons, Roger and John; and sisters, Lorraine and Marie. She is survived by her children, Jim (Sheryl), Nick (Vicki), Dan (Katie) and Tammy; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.  
Her funeral was held Sept. 8 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Lawrence Perry

Lawrence V. Perry, 91, of St. Anthony Park, died Aug. 11.  
He is survived by his children, Kris, David and Mark. A funeral was held Aug. 26 at Morris Nilsen Chapel in Richfield, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Arlene Vannelli

Arlene R. Vannelli, 78, died Aug. 18. She was a longtime Como Park resident.  
She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Roger. She is survived by a daughter, Camille (Rich) Olzenak; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Kathy (Robert) Deiman; and best friend of 60 years, Pat Keener.  
Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church Aug. 22, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

*The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge as a service to our communities. Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal, 651-644-1650 or mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.*

Community Worship Directory

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\* Celtic Liturgy from Iona Abbey begins October 2 at the 10:30 a.m. service  
\* Undercroft Gallery: Marge Bohlander: “ New Paintings of Really Old Stuff” through Oct. 15  
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## Business News

# Childcare center opens in Como

*Owners had operated St. Anthony Park Nursery School for many years*

*By Roger Bergerson*

A revitalized storefront near Como Park is hopping with preschoolers these days.

The building at 1503 N. Hamline Ave., just south of Hoyt Ave., is the new home of the Como Park Language and Arts Preschool and Childcare Center. Owners/teachers Laurie Erickson and Nancy Shellum are offering year-round half-day or full-day programs, two to five days a week, for children ages 33 months to five years.

"We're really excited to get started and gratified with the reception we've received from our new neighbors," Erickson said. "They're glad to see some activity in the building. It's become a very lively place."

The site on the northwest corner of Hamline and Nebraska

avenues originally was a grocery store and meat market. Over the years it has housed a barbershop, garage-door repair and installation shop, the Sally Marie Gallery and a nursing-staffing agency. It has been vacant in recent years.

Erickson and Shellum had offered a similar preschool program at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood, but wanted to expand their curriculum. They needed a fenced yard and space for a children's rest area in order to do so, things that weren't available at the church.

They didn't take possession of 1503 Hamline Ave. N. until Aug. 1, so with the start of the new school year looming, the entrepreneurs felt some pressure to get up and running.

A change in zoning classification was required in order to operate an educational facility on the site, as well as city building and fire inspections.

But the biggest potential roadblock was with the state Department of Human Services, where a backlog of license applications was made worse by the state government shutdown this past summer.

Erickson and Shellum credit state Rep. Alice Hausman (District 66B) and state Sen. Mary Jo McGuire (District 66) for supporting a women-owned business and helping expedite a licensing process that could have otherwise taken a year.

"It was nail-biting time," Shellum said of the period.

With the help of friends and family they were able to accomplish the necessary remodeling, including the addition of a bathroom and a breakfast/lunch preparation area, and decorating in only three weeks.

Erickson's daughter, Ali, who will likely pursue a career in graphic design, created a logo for the enterprise.

Erickson has a master's degree in family education and is a licensed early childhood educator, while Shellum has a degree in Spanish language and foreign studies. Besides their teaching duties, Erickson is responsible for curriculum development and Shellum functions as the center's business manager.

They intend to make maximum use of the large enclosed yard to the north of the building for exercise, as well as nearby Como Park. Erickson, a dedicated gardener, plans to use a plot on site to involve children in hands-on learning, tending and gathering produce for cooking. There will also be language, art, music and science activities.

They love the location, across the street from Chelsea Heights Elementary School, which some of the children from the preschool and childcare center will likely attend.

Given the late start, the center's initial enrollment will fall short of the goal of 30 students. When the enrollment reaches 20, Erickson and Shellum plan to hire another teacher.

As with any start-up business, Erickson and Shellum face a lot of work to get established. Now that the initial dust has settled, however, "We can cut back to nine-hour days!" Shellum exclaimed.

For more information, go to [comoparklanguageandarts.com](http://comoparklanguageandarts.com).

*Roger Bergerson is a former newspaper reporter and longtime Como Park resident.*



Nancy Shellum, left, and Laurie Erickson in the teaching area at the Como Park Language and Arts Preschool and Childcare Center.  
 Photo by Roger Bergerson



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To place a classified ad, send it to [classifieds@parkbugle.org](mailto:classifieds@parkbugle.org) or P.O.Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. You can also call Fariba Sanikhatam at 651-646-5369. Ads are \$5 per line. One line is about five words, or 36 to 38 characters. Adding a box or art around the ad is \$10. Celebrate births, engagements, weddings and other joys with a business-card-size ad for \$40. **The next deadline is Oct. 14.**



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The Park Bugle

welcomes your news and views

Contact the editor:  
[editor@parkbugle.org](mailto:editor@parkbugle.org) or call 651-214-6526.

To place an ad for businesses south of Como Avenue or an education-related ad, contact Ruth Weleccki 651-335-0299 [ruth.weleccki@parkbugle.org](mailto:ruth.weleccki@parkbugle.org)

To place an ad for businesses north of Como Avenue, contact Genevieve Plagens 651-325-7189 [genevieve@parkbugle.org](mailto:genevieve@parkbugle.org)

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Business News from 14



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LYNGBLOMSTEN

# Zombies, reapers and witches, oh my

By Kristal Leebrick

Halloween seems to come earlier each year.

The sounds of school bells and buses had barely revved up when the holiday paraphernalia started appearing on store shelves.

"Halloween used to be just one day of the year, but now it's a season," said Dick Cohn, a St. Paul resident who has spent the last 19 Augusts setting up pop-up Spirit Halloween stores in vacant big-box retail shops around the Twin Cities. This year he's operating six store fronts at suburban strip malls.

His Roseville store opened Sept. 9 at Fairview Avenue and Highway 36 in a former Circuit City space; come Nov. 2, the store will be history—until next year.

What's the hot Halloween trend this year? Zombies.

"Zombies are the new witches, vampires and grim reapers," said Cohn.

Zombie babies, zombie doctors, zombie cowboys: the intrigue with the living dead owes a lot to the emergence of Zombie Pub Crawls across major U.S. cities. The Twin Cities has the largest one, Cohn said, and the seventh annual Zombie Pub Crawl—an evening in which an expected 20,000 people will dress up as walking corpses and bar-hop at venues on the West Bank of Minneapolis and in the Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul—is scheduled for Oct. 8.

By that date, Cohn expects his shelves displaying makeup and



Automated zombie babies that scream, throw tantrums and shake uncontrollably may be haunting a home near you. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

zombie accoutrements will be bare.

Charlie Sheen is looking to be a popular persona at parties this year, Cohn said. And maybe Minnesota state representative and presidential candidate Michele Bachmann. The store has had a number of inquiries about Bachmann costumes, said Cohn's son, Matt. While they carry wigs and accessories to help revelers make their own Bachmann costume, Matt Cohn said he wouldn't be surprised to see manufacturers ship out costumes of some of the more famous and infamous political figures by mid-October. For now, the stores' political mask selection is limited to President Barack Obama and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

The Halloween merchandise business is fluid, however. "Last year we didn't have a Lady Gaga costume in stock at first, but later in the season we did," said Matt Cohn.

Halloween stores may be packed with characters from the latest summer blockbuster, but tradition tends to win out, Dick Cohn said. "The hot costume this year might be Charlie Sheen, but the classics outsell them every year."

The store has rows of hot pink and fluorescent blue wigs and hairdos from the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s, but the wig that sells the most is the one with long, straight black hair. And the perennial favorite costume? The grim reaper, hands-down.

## Business Briefs

**Suka-Rama's end-of-business fire sale was so successful** in July and August that owner Sue Rohricht is keeping her eclectic boutique, located at 2301 W. Como Ave., open at least through October. In July, Rohricht announced that the shop would be closing due to sluggish sales. She introduced a progressive business sale on July 23. Everything in the store was 23 percent off and that percentage increased as the days of the month progressed. In August, store items were discounted at 30 percent plus the date. Items

purchased on Aug. 15 were reduced 45 percent.

"We had a great month in August," Rohricht said. "As I went through all of our storage space, I found some inventory and thought I'd bring it out in September so we'd have some new stuff."

The fire sale continues through October: Everything is 30 percent off plus the date. "We're hoping to do enough business to stay open through the end of the year," Rohricht said. Longer term, she's hoping business will pick up enough that she can keep the store open indefinitely.

Suka-Rama opened in June 2006 and features affordable women's jewelry, clothing and accessories from around the world.—*Kristal Leebrick*

**Bliss Yoga and Wellness Center, 1565 Como Ave., is hosting a grand opening** Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15 and 16, with free yoga classes, a prize drawing and mini-wellness sessions on skin care, massage, Reiki, nutrition and coaching. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-230-6510 to find out more.

**Steve Rouch is celebrating his 40th year** as a professional photographer

at an open house Friday, Sept. 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. at his studio, 2184 Marshall Ave. Rouch is a former *Park Bugle* writer and photographer.

**The Finnish Bistro has a new manager**, Sarah Clayton, who succeeds Sandra Weise. Prior to her arrival in July, Clayton was food-and-beverage manager at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Bloomington for two years. And while her experience in the hospitality industry played a role in landing the job at Finnish Bistro, Clayton's Norwegian lineage didn't hurt, either.

"I have the right genes," the Iowa native said facetiously. "My grandma sure thinks it's a plus." She waves off the apparent discrepancy between her Norwegian roots and the *Finnish* Bistro. "Remember, it was Taste of Scandinavia before it was the Finnish Bistro," she said.

Clayton plans to expand the bistro's Scandinavian fare. Lutefisk will make an appearance on the New Year's Eve menu and grasshoppers may play a role in the Bistro's nod to St. Urho's Day, Finland's version of St. Patrick's Day.

Clayton's grandmother stopped in recently and gave the Bistro's lefse the thumbs up. "She was very impressed with the lefse," Clayton said.—*Ruth Weleczi*