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, Sharratt’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 The regular complement of cars and pedestrians have been replaced by mounds of loose earth, earthmoving equipment like backhoes and bobcats, and a platoon of construction workers, all courtesy of the Central Corridor Light Rail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.

Laura Baenen, the manager for the contractor working on the project, 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. said he 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 K-eyes Restaurant and back around to University Avenue from the wet.

“I’m not 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 for IJP 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 deluge of pedestrian traffic, Tillman was wearing an orange shirt that rivaled Besaw’s vest for sheer visibility.

Traffic hazards aside, Tillman was surprisedly 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 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

College Park stormwater project set to begin soon

Contraction 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 Steve Boller, operations 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,” Eider 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 east of the University Street.

The bulk of the work is the excavation to place pipe in the ground. 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, Eider 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 Lebrink

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 parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the school parking lot, 740 Rose Avenue, 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.

Sis boom bah! Como Park Senior High School launches an old/new tradition: the homecoming parade

A spirit bus will be available to transport spectators from the school to the game. The cost is $11 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 coolparkerboosterclub@gmail.com.

— Kristal Lebrink

Night of the living dead

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

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CITY FILES

Compo 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 Summit Hill 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 research an existing playground and build a new facility.
A public meeting will be 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 Oct. 11 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 Mears, project manager, for more information. Alice.Mears@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-288-6412.

District 10 Como Community Council to hold annual elections
District 10 resident will vote for new Como Community Council members Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station.

Lauderdale
City hosts annual Halloween party
The city of Lauderdale will host its annual Halloween party at Falcon Heights City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 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.

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, district10@comopark.org or contact Lee at 651-644-3889 or 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, 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 business sponsors.
Contact Justin Miller at 651-792-7611 or 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, 1877 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.

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Music in the Park and Schubert Club

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

By Kristal Leebrick

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.

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 officers who were 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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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 officers who were 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.

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

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HOMECOMING: TRICK OR TREAT?

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.

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 2013, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

Current serving on the board are Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamson, Emily Bielobolt, Brunon Bombard, Ann Fendorf, N.te Flintk, M.ark Johanson, John Landre, Karen Liley, Nancy O’laj, Glen Skoboth, Jan Sedgwick, Blaine Thiraster, Kathy Wellington and Erin Wieland.

A history note

The story on the Colossal Cafe mentions that the space “housed a doctor’s office for 40 years.” It was a bit more than that. Drs. Balcombe and Army were in that space starting sometime in the 1940s, followed by Drs. Severson, M.ildig and maybe another one or two. It was probably about 40 years ago that Dr. Miller recruited Dr. Gilbertson to take the space. 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 Bugle

Grandparents are a great Minnesota resource

When we think of Minnesotans, resources, perhaps we envision lakes, woods or minnows, 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 relatives’ children. According to the National Committee for Grandparents’ 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, but they are also those who take on the responsibility of caring for another family members’ children. They provide safety and stability, and 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 entering it, or remaining in the public foster-care system—yet they need many of the same supports available in their communities.

The 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 child in their care or the types of legal aid needed to make educational decisions for a child residing with them.

Kinship caregivers, particularly grandparents, face legal, financial, educational, emotional and health issues that require an ongoing role, often for the second time in their lives. Many have fixed or limited incomes—and 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 relative’s care, whether death, military deployment, parental substance abuse, health or mental health issues, divorce, financial strain, or incarceration. M.arian 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.”

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 care 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 relative caregivers 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
MKCA Kinship Caregivers Association

The Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association is a nonprofit organization serving people caregivers, 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:

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mariela@parkbugle.org
Carol Klee and Luis Ramos-Garcia
info@parkbugle.org
Debra A. Zimmer
info@parkbugle.org

We are getting ready to launch our 2011-2012 fund drive and we hope you’ll consider making a donation. Well have more information in the next issue of the Park Bugle.
District council gives nod to Raymond Avenue project

By Kristal Lebrick

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 Hamden 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 is considering 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 60 parking spaces, according to Paul St. Martin, assistant city engineer. Construction would begin on the project in 2013 and would take up 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 Geoghegan, shop, Salon George, 5316 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 Mabey, 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. Mabey 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 Hamden Park or the rec center, Mabey 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 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.

By Kristal Lebrick

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 Doherty 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 catologue and a materials selector. She was in charge of purchasing, cataloging, travel guides, and music and DVDs for all ages.

— Kristal Lebrick

2 In The Park

2376 Carter Ave.
$379,900
100 Year Old Beauty
Old World Charm
With newer Kitchen & Baths
+-+ Bedrooms
2 Bath
Deep Lot-D-eck-Sauna

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Gary: 651-639-6304 garyspar@jednarealty.com
Peter: 651-639-6368 peterpars@jednarealty.com
Lindsey: 651-639-6432 lindseyn@jednarealty.com
3/4 mile west of Hwy. 280
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Tuesday, Oct. 4,
Mary Rockcastle
reads from her
new novel,
“The Caddis Wood.”

Thursday, Oct. 13,
Pauline Boss
discusses her new
work, “Learning Someone Who Has Dementia.”

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**OCTOBER Events**

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

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

2 **SUNDAY**
   Lincoln Place Choral Society, 7:30 p.m., Larpenteur Park Recreation Center.
   St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library.
   St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m., St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

3 **MONDAY**
   6-7:30 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center.
   Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall.
   Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall.

4 **TUESDAY**
   October Market at Larpenteur Park, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Larpenteur Park.
   6-7:30 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center.
   Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall.

5 **WEDNESDAY**
   Boundary Waters Conference Center, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park library.
   Cooking & Art for preschoolers, 4 sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Langford Park Recreation Center.
   See Balik Do for Youth, ages 6-13, weekly sessions, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Langford Park Recreation Center.
   See Balik Do for Adults, 16+, 6:30-8 p.m., weekly sessions, Langford Park Recreation Center.

6 **THURSDAY**
   St. Anthony Park Book Club, “My World: A Real World” by E.L. Doctorow, 6:30-8 p.m., Palm Garden Bar & Grill.
   St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 10-11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library.
   St. Anthony Park Book Club, “The Writing of the Dead” by Philip Pullman, 7:30 p.m., Highrise.

7 **FRIDAY**
   St. Anthony Park Book Club, “No Impact Man” by Colin Beavan, 6:30-8 p.m., Palm Garden Bar & Grill.
   St. Anthony Park Book Club, “No Impact Man” by Colin Beavan, 6:30-8 p.m., Palm Garden Bar & Grill.
   St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 10-11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library.

8 **SATURDAY**
   St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 10-11 a.m., St. Anthony Park library.
   St. Anthony Park Book Club, “A Monstrous Regiment of Women” by Laurie King, 7:30 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: 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- **Mondays and Thursdays,** Seal Highrise: 8:25 Seal St., 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays,** SAP United Methodist Church: 2200 M Medical Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**VENUES:**

- Edge Coffee House, 2399 University Ave., 651-641-1656
- Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 651-644-5050
- Hansen Tree Farm, 7440 N.W. Alpine Dr., Anoka 55303-4756
- Gibbs Museum, Larpenteur and University Ave. W. 651-646-8629
- Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765
- Micawber’s Books, 2238 Carter Ave., 651-649-5585
- Rosalie Area M Idde School, 15 E. County Road B2, Little Canada
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411
- St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058
- Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W.

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The poor, plain-looking mourning dove

In this issue of the Bugle, the Birdman of Lauderdale抒s 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 they could survive in Minnesota, where there are so many predators. It seemed to me that a bird of that size would have a hard time surviving in the wild.

But after doing some research on mourning doves, I've learned that they are quite skilled 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 rusty breast and a bluish crown and nape that often seems iridescent. The female has a tawny-brown breast and is rather drab overall. You can't help but admire and confound your friends and family by identifying the sex of the mourning dove 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 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 is fed pigeon milk. The pigeon milk is high in protein and fats, and it is rich in calcium. The young bird gets enough of these essentials to help it grow and develop.

So with such a robust reproducibility 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, according to the Department of Natural Resources. One estimate of the number of birds harvested in any given year is between 15 and 20 million.

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By Kristal Leebrick

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

The U.S. Soccer grant that Kroeten plans to apply for is very competitive, he said. But JOPT 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 JOPT 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.

JOPT moved in to the recreation center after leasing it from the city in 2009. In this arrangement, JOPT 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 community needs to chime in, he said.

The building, located at 890 Cromwell Ave., now in place, Ted Kroeten, founder and director of JOPT, wants to apply now for a $200,000 grant to implement the plans. The grant cycle ends Oct. 31.

The site plan includes the building of a new field that can be divided into a variety of play spaces, outdoor walking paths, a clay field, a running and walking path with exercise stations, and a plaza area. This would bring JOPT closer to its vision “of having a soccer program that can be divided into a variety of play spaces, outdoor walking paths, a clay field, a running and walking path with exercise stations, and a plaza area. This would bring JOPT closer to its vision “of having a soccer program that can be divided into a variety of play spaces, outdoor walking paths, a clay field, a running and walking path with exercise stations, and a plaza area.

JOPT 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 JOPT, 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 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.
Voices

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 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.

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.

By Judy Woodward

Ya Ya. Photo by Lori Hamilton

CANNED GOOD

A tight economy and LRT construction have taken a toll on your neighbors’ wallets and purses. Help extend the shelf life of Keystone Community Services’ Midway food bank with a food donation. For each non-perishable food item you bring in on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011, Finnish Bistro will give you a fresh-baked, chocolate chip cookie.

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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

Neighborhoods

Karen Nelson Hoyle 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 Gag.

SAP women win in Loft awards
Two St. Anthony Park residents were recently honored at the Loft Literary 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 "Mary and the Acorns," which is in the Loft Mentor Series. Duggan's award will be $5 bag sale from 10 a.m. to noon.

All proceeds go to the camps. For more information, call 612-645-6605.

Finnish Bistro hosts food-drive for Keystone food shelves
Finnish Bistro, 2264 Como Ave., will host a food-ship drive for Keystone Community Services on Wednesday, Oct. 5, during business hours 6:30 a.m. to 8 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 pastry 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, call 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 Malm, 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 Haml ine 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 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 13 and 14 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.
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 organic debris 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 an 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 St. 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 Lakes condition and current restoration efforts, or how to join the Como Lake Neighbor Network go to www.clnn.org or contact Janna Caywood, 651-261-7416 or jcaywood@goldengate.net.

Janna Caywood is the lead organizer for the Como Lake Neighbor Network.
We welcome new items that pertain to students and schools in our neighborhood 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.

Como Park Senior High 740 Rose Ave, 651-293-8800
www.comores.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 Aliisa Renee, Jerrod Lucker and Derrick Harper, and hip hop dancer Faydis Bood-Dah. 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-T team has also gotten off to a strong start with a 4-4-1 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-day period 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 3) 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.murrayssops.org

Murray’s Earth Science classes conducted the first field investigation of the season on Sept. 23 and 26 at Lyllede 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 in the layers to determine what type of environment this area was millions of years ago. Visit murrayssops.org to see photos of the field investigation.

On Sept. 30, 10th and 12th grade students spent the day at Forts Folle Avoine. This is the school’s first field day this year. Students were able to use their knowledge from the classroom while visiting the Forts. A big change this year at St. Anthony Park School 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. Anthony Park has a number of new staff members. The list includes: Jan Magon, fifth-grade teacher; Karen Paulsen, physical education; Kathleen Kesler, American VISTA; Marisa Bensoho, speech pathology; Patti Duder, social worker; Paula Austin, fifth-grade teacher; Rebecca Patient, nurse; and Tari Hella-Yelk, fifth-grade teacher.

The school’s sixth grade will head up to Wolff 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 kindergartener students will visit Gibbs M Laura and Farm in Hafine.

The St. Anthony Park School Association’s Fall Festival will be 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.

We hope that this is a great start to the year for you and yours! We wish you much success.

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Gerhard and Pauline (Polly) Cartford

November 3
2 p.m. - Hymn Sing
3 p.m. - Reception
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October 28, 2011
St. Anthony Park

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St. Anthony Park Dental Care
2278 Como Avenue / St. Paul

School News
Dr. Bryce L. Crawford Jr.

Bernard Christianson

Dr. Wallace Anderson

University, where he received his working as a ranch hand on Jimmy he won first place and $500 in the 15 was the youngest student to and Andy Nelson.

Sloan, McKendree, Melinda Kurysh Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park.

Dr. Bryce L. Crawford Jr., 96, of St. Roselawn Cemetery.

in Shoreview, with interment at 29 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Miller; two grandchildren; two great-Gordon; step-daughter, Georgeanne LaVerne M. Coverdale, née Ringius,

She was a secretary at Armour & Miller; two grandchildren; two great-grand-children; sister, Hazel Reed; and brother-in-law, Dick Coverdale. He his funeral services was had Aug. 29. At 9 at St. Henry-Benjamin-Potbell at Shoreview, with interment at Rosedale Cemetery.


He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, He is survived by her husband, Gordon; step-daughter, Gerianne M lier; two grandchildren; two great-grand-children; sister, Hazel Reed; and brother-in-law, Dick Coverdale. He his funeral services was had Aug. 29. At 9 at St. Henry-Benjamin-Potbell at Shoreview, with interment at Rosedale Cemetery.

LaVerne M. Coverdale

LaVerne M. Coverdale, nie Ringius, died Aug. 24 of age of 82. She was a secretary at Armour & Co. for many years. She served as an election judge in Como Park and was election judge in Como Park and was a time employee of the Ziegler Co.

Bud was a U.S. Navy veteran and long-service employee of the Ziegler Co. 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 Sheriff: 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 Glen scotch.

Memorials may be made to St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, 2200 Hildale Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Alice Kiel

Alice Kiel, 96, died Aug. 25. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, and two brothers She survived by a brother, William Longley, and her sons, Brian (Anne) Longley, Craig (Kathy) Longley and Ted Longley; Private services held.

Verna Mikesh

Verna Mikesh, 90, died on 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 Breckinridge M inn, her elementary and junior high school years were spent at the first consolidated school in Minnesota, near Doran.

In 1935, after winning a $75 M inneapolis journalism scholarship, Mikesh 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 (1960) and Heritage Crafts: Clovis Bazer (1983). She helped organize Minnesota State Fair 4-H exhibits and served as 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, nie Sant, Aug. 17. Aug. 24. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Novak, Jr., and by her parents, John and Laurette Novak. She was survived by her children, Jim (Sheryl), Mike (Vicki), Bob (Kerri) and Tom; 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 was preceded by his children, Kris Dallin and Kris A. A funeral was held Aug. 26 at St. Morris Nilan Chapel in Richfield, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Artene Vannelli

Artene R. Vannelli, 78, died Aug. 18. She was a longtime Como Park resident. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Roger. She is survived by a daughter, Camille (Rich) Olander; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Kathy (Robert) Deiman; and best friend of 60 years, Pat Keener. Muslims of Central Burma was celebrated at the Catholic Church Aug. 22, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

The Park Bugle print publication is free of charge as a service to our communities. Send information about area deaths to: Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.
Business News

Childcare center opens in Como

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

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 M Arie 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 Hilldale 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 credited 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. Not that the initial dust has settled, however, “We can cut back to nine-hour days!” Shellum exclaimed.

For more information, go to comoparklanguageandarts.com.

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

Business News continues on 16


Bruce's Gutter Repairs. Interior and exterior. I strive to have a positive, working relationship with my customers. Plus, I am a genuinely nice person to work with. References available from your neighborhood! Tom Marron, 651-230-1272.

Mining for Old Bamboo Fly Rods. WANTED: Any condition. Contact Greg at 651-644-0510 or taylor317@comcast.net.

The Park Bugle welcomes your news and views.

Contact the editor: editor@parkbugle.org or 651-214-6526.

To place an ad for businesses south of Como Avenue or an education-related ad, contact Ruth Weleczki, 651-646-0929. ruth.weleczki@parkbugle.org

To place an ad for businesses north of Como Avenue, contact Genevieve Plagens, 651-925-7189. genevieve@parkbugle.org

Classifieds and subscriptions: Fariba Sanikhatam, 651-646-5516.

Non-owner charge for nights and weekends.
Zombies, reapers and witches, oh my!

By Kristal Ledbrink

Halloween seems to come earlier each year.

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

“Halloween used to be just one day of the year, but now it’s 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.

It is 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.

With 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 zombie accoutrements will be bare.

Charlie Sheen is looking to be a popular persona at parties this year, Cohn said. And maybe Minnesota-as 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-Oct.

For now, the store’s political mask selection is limited to President Barack Obama and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

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: Everything is 30 percent off plus the date. “We’re hoping to do business is fluid, however. “Last year we didn’t have a Lady Gaga costume in stock at first, but later in the season,” said Matt Cohn.

Halloween merchandise may be packed with characters from the latest summer blockbuster, but tradition tends to win out, said Dick Cohn. “The hot costume this year might be Charlie Sheen, but the classes of outlast them every year.”

The store has rows of hot pink and fluorescent blue wigs and hair-dos 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 is T’grim raper, hands-down.

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

Fall into some great deals!

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