



Toto, we aren't in Como anymore

New MLS designations rankle 'Como' residents.

Page 3



Fund-drive premium

Readers who contribute \$100 or more to the Bugle's 2012 fund drive receive Dave Healy's book *Above the Fold*.

Page 4



Holiday haute cuisine

We've got recipes for latkes, spare ribs, Skånsk Gröt and more!

Page 15

Handy pull-out Holiday Shopping Guide inside

Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

December 2011

St. Anthony Park
Falcon Heights
Lauderdale
Como Park

College Park is open for winter

Stormwater project on hold

Area sledders can put College Park's Suicide Hill back on the winter to-do list. The discovery of an unexpected elevation of groundwater has put a stormwater infiltration-and-treatment project on hold, according to Bruce Elder, sewer utility manager at St. Paul Public Works.

The \$945,000 project was set to begin in early October, but the city has delayed the project "until we understand why we see this increase in water elevation," Elder said.

The city has been monitoring the groundwater in the park for several years. The recent increase "is not consistent with readings we've taken over the last three years," Elder said. The city is working with a geotechnical company to find out the source of the increased groundwater.

In the meantime, College Park will remain a construction-free zone this winter. — Kristal Leebrick



SNOWBIRDS

Black-capped chickadees are frequent visitors at our winter bird feeders. The little birds are masters at adapting to Minnesota's cold weather, and some of those adaptations may be why they never leave. You can read more about the chickadee on page 9. Photo by Ben Wilson

WW II volunteer, world trekker, storyteller

Gertrude Esteros, retired U design head, reflects on war, her 97 years and a lifetime of learning

By Kristal Leebrick

Gertrude Esteros still recalls the day she *knew* she'd see the world. It was spring. She was picking strawberries next to a wooded area on her parents' farm near Saginaw, Minn. She was 7 years old.

"I got a little tired of picking and moved into the shade of the trees," she said. "I sat there and ate some of those berries I had just picked, and I remember thinking, 'When I get bigger I am going to travel all over the world. I am going to see the whole world.'"

Nineteen years later, on Dec. 7, 1941, Esteros began

to realize her childhood vision as she stood in a crowded college



Gertrude Esteros joined the Red Cross just months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

auditorium and listened to President Roosevelt announce over the radio that the Japanese had just attacked Pearl Harbor. Within months Esteros quit her teaching position at Linwood College near St. Louis, Mo., and joined the American Red Cross. She shipped off to the South Pacific in December 1942 and served in the Pacific Theater until the war ended in 1945.

Seven decades have passed since the United States was drawn into World War II. Esteros is now 97 and living in a condominium at 1666 Coffman, the sprawling white University of Minnesota senior complex on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights. Her home is filled with pieces of art that map Esteros' efforts to see the *whole* world: an altar piece from India, masks and carvings from New Guinea, a wooden peasant creche from Poland, a granary door from Mali, prints from fellow faculty members.

Esteros (pronounced "es-te-rose") retired from the university in 1980 after building an impressive resume that includes heading the Department of Design for 30 years and founding the Goldstein Gallery (now the Goldstein Museum of Design). A housing expert, she took a lead role in developing the building she now lives in.

She's a quick-witted woman who says she wouldn't have lived so long without a sense of humor. Her body is wearing out, she says with a shrug. Her arthritis troubles her and she depends on a walker to get around, but she can hear well and continues to participate in groups she's been involved in for years. She holds meetings at her dining room table and attends lectures at 1666, where she still heads the community's garden club.

Gertrude Esteros to 7
More World War II stories on 7 & 8

CITY FILES



Clowning around in District 10

A clown and her bag of tricks were a big hit in the Kid's Corner at the annual Pancake Breakfast held at the Job Corps Center.

Como Park

District 10's annual Pancake Breakfast was a success

The District 10 Como Community Council held its third-annual Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 29 in the cafeteria of the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center, 1480 N. Snelling Ave. Pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee were served to Como Park neighbors and friends

in an effort to raise funds for future District 10 programs. Job Corps's student government sponsored a festive Kid's Corner with free treats, art, games and face painting.

The council thanks everyone who attended and the volunteers from District 10, Job Corps and the neighborhood. Check out the photos from the pancake breakfast at www.district10comopark.org.

Council welcomes new members

Three new boardmembers were elected to the 15-member, volunteer District 10 board of directors on Oct. 18. They include Laurie Erickson (subdistrict 1), Richard Dian (subdistrict 3) and Ronald Edlund (at-large). Jon Knox (board chair) and Ted Blank (at-large) were re-elected for second terms.

The council says goodbye to four outstanding board members whose terms have ended: Marsha Milgrom (secretary), Mike MacDonald (subdistrict 1), Pete Bolstad (subdistrict 2) and Dolores Rufenacht (at-large). During her two-year term as secretary, Milgrom was instrumental in ensuring accurate record keeping and developing sound practices, including an employee handbook. MacDonald served four years on the board and was chair of the

Environment Committee. Bolstad has been an active board member over the last two years and influential on many issues. He chaired the Como Regional Park Transportation Implementation Plan Ad Hoc Committee, as well as served as a member of the Neighborhood Safety Committee. Serving a two-year term, Rufenacht was a devoted chair of the Neighborhood Safety Committee and a leader on many events, including the Bike Safety Rodeo, Staycation and National Night Out.

Seats still open on the council

The secretary position and a subdistrict 2 seat remain vacant. Applicants must be residents or business owners in subdistrict 2 to run for the subdistrict 2 open position; however, all residents and business owners of District 10 are eligible to run for the secretary position. (Visit District 10's website, www.district10comopark.org to view a map of district and subdistrict boundaries.) The secretary's responsibilities include ensuring that accurate records of all council meetings are posted on the website and maintained in the district office, assisting the chairperson as requested and serving on the executive committee.

Serving on the District 10 board is a great way to be a voice in the neighborhood and to play a part in fostering a friendly, active and safe community. For more information, visit www.district10comopark.org or contact the District 10 office, district10@district10comopark.org or call 651-644-3889.

Falcon Heights

Buy Local Campaign

You can support the local economy and protect the environment (and win a prize!) by shopping locally. Staying close to home means you drive less and fewer emissions are released, thereby helping the environment.

Buy Local cards can be found on the city of Falcon Heights website, www.falconheights.org. Collect stickers at seven of the 13 participating businesses across the city, then return the card to City Hall, 2077 W. Larpentour Ave., with your name and contact information on back for a chance to win. Drawings are held quarterly for prizes from participating businesses.

Thursday-morning yoga

The city is offering a new yoga class Thursdays from 9 to 9:55 a.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall. Drop-ins are welcome. The single-class drop-in rate is \$12 or \$10 for students (identification is required). Find out more at www.falconheights.org-parks-and-recreation.

Duct Tape Sculpture Camp

Duct tape isn't just for fixing things; you can also make fun and creative works of art in a one-session class for ages 8 to 12 on Friday, Dec. 2, from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall. Cost is \$45. Find out more at www.falconheights.org or call 651-792-7617.

Winter Break Adventure Camp

Winter Break Adventure Camp for ages 4 to 12 will be held Monday through Thursday, Dec. 26 to 29, at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave. Sign up for a morning session, 9 a.m. to noon, or afternoon session, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 for Falcon Heights residents and \$62 for nonresidents.

Go to www.falconheights.org or call 651-792-7617 for more information.

Plan to attend January Winterfest

Winterfest is set for Sunday, Jan. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave. Celebrate winter by ice skating or cross country skiing. Enjoy a horse-drawn hayride and hot cocoa or cinnamon apple cider. Then warm up your toes at a bonfire while roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. There will be winter crafts, a snowball toss, snow painting, snowman making and more, including the annual Falcon Hunt. Pictures of the falcon will appear on the city's Facebook page a week before the event. Written clues will be given every half hour during the event, starting at 1:30 p.m. The finder of the falcon will win a \$50 Target gift certificate.

Lauderdale

Public comment sought on proposed 2012 levy

The Lauderdale City Council will take public comment on the proposed 2012 levy and budget at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in the city council chambers at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.

St. Anthony Park

Recycle your old holiday lights

The Clean Energy Resource Team is partnering again this year with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to help Minnesotans recycle their old holiday lights instead of throwing them away. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, is one of the drop-off locations. Visit the website, www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org for a list of other drop-off locations.

Group to look at future development in Central Corridor

Following Union Park District Council's successful appeal of the 650 Pelham Ave. site plan, several individuals from both Union Park and St. Anthony Park have formed a working group to help shape future development conversations and plans. If you are interested in joining this cohort to be part of creating the ever-changing face of the neighborhood, contact Lauren Fulner-Erickson, community organizer, 651-649-5992 or lauren@sapcc.org.

Irrigate aims to engage artists along the Central Corridor

Irrigate is an artist-led creative place-making initiative spanning the six miles of the Central Corridor Light Rail line in St. Paul during the years of its construction. This is a unique opportunity that aims to mobilize artists to engage in their community and have an impact on how the area develops. Irrigate hopes to change the landscape of the Central Corridor with creativity and fun. Learn more, including how to apply as an artist or get involved as a community organization, at irrigatearts.org.

Other projects in the works

The Community Council is planning projects for 2012. Possibilities include a new St. Anthony Park directory, a home tour and a revision of the St. Anthony Park Portrait of a Community book. If you are interested in co-creating any of these initiatives, contact Amy Sparks at 651-649-5992 or amy@sapcc.org.

Also on the docket for early 2012 are a business crime-prevention meeting, identity-theft informational meeting, a University-Raymond-area parking solutions task force and board elections. Keep your eye out for more details in future *Bugle* issues and check our website: sapcc.org.

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Save the date for annual SAP Progressive Dinner

The annual St. Anthony Park Progressive dinner will be held Saturday, Feb. 25. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers at the St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

Participants then fan out across the neighborhood to share salads, main and desserts at host homes.

Read the January *Park Bugle* and for details on how to sign up. If you want to sign up now or need more information, email coordinator Jane Leonard at minntwin@comcast.net.

MLS designation riles residents who thought they lived in 'Como'

By Roger Bergerson

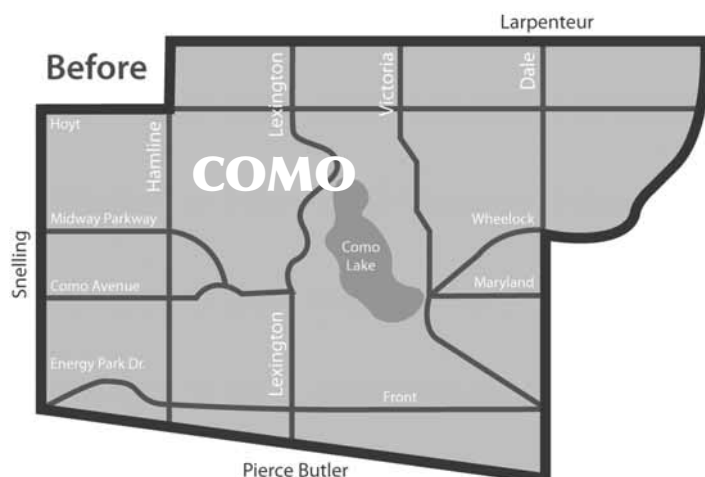
Nearly 2,000 residences formerly identified as being in "Como" have been given a different designation by a homes-for-sale listing, a decision that has many homeowners steamed.

"Illogical," is one of the assessments of the change by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). "Remarkably silly," "outrageous" and "idiotic" also are in the mix.

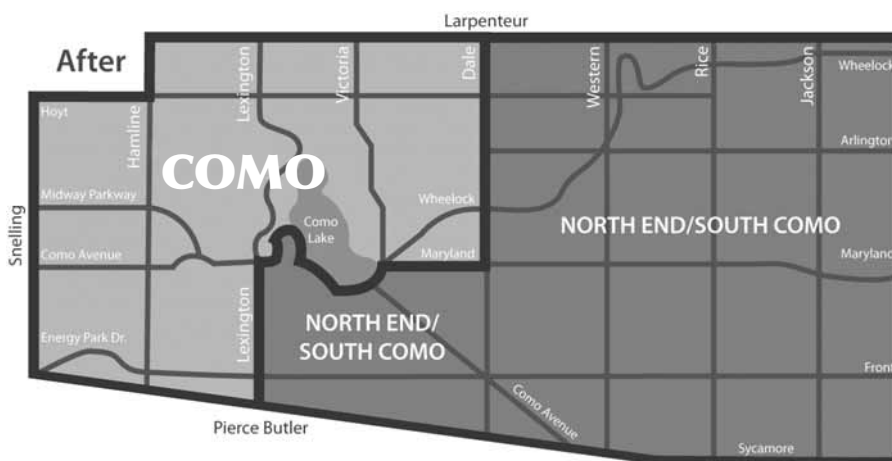
The Regional Multiple Listing Service of Minnesota Inc. is owned by the realtor associations of St. Paul and Minneapolis and provides real estate professionals across Minnesota and western Wisconsin with information about property for sale. Recently, it announced the elimination of its former district system for home listings in the Twin Cities metropolitan area in favor of a new one based on neighborhoods.

In St. Paul, for example, gone are the "District 744-Como" and "District 742-Central" designations. Replacing them are "Como," the boundaries of which generally conform to those of the District 10 Como Community Council, and "North End/South Como," analogous to the configuration of the District 6 Planning Council.

The controversy arises from the fact that two areas formerly included in District 744 are now grouped



The "Before" and "After" maps show the former MLS district designated "742-Como" and how the MLS now lists "District 10-Como" and "District 6-North End/South Como."



within North End/South Como.

This particularly riles the neighborhood just east of Lexington Parkway and south of Lake Como where residents are mere footsteps from the park and lake.

Many were alerted to the change

by fliers distributed by agents with Keller Williams Realty, including Shawn Korby, a resident of the affected area south of the lake. He argues that the new system is as arbitrary as the old one and will

MLS listings to 10

City Council approves Raymond Avenue project

District council to form group that will look at solutions to loss of street parking

By Kristal Leebrick

The St. Paul City Council approved a major street project on Raymond Avenue in south St. Anthony at its Nov. 2 meeting.

The \$2.1 million project will narrow parts of Raymond, add bump-outs to decrease the length of pedestrian crossings, add new pedestrian crossings and medians, eliminate some on-street parking and add new lighting, sidewalks and curbs. Construction is set to begin in 2013 and take three to four months to complete.

The project will eliminate about 51 of the existing 112 parking spots on the west side of the street between Territorial and Hampden avenues and add about a quarter of an acre of parkland.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council is working to

form a group that will look at possible solutions to the loss of parking on the avenue. That group will begin meeting in spring 2012. Contact District 12 community organizer Lauren Fulner-Erickson at 651-649-5992 or lauren@sapcc.org if you want to be involved.

The plan to rework the street began in October 2004. In 2006, a proposal was submitted to the city's Capital Improvement Budget Committee for funds for the project. Those funds were approved in 2011. The project also received a \$1 million federal grant through the Metropolitan Council.

Raymond Avenue was built in 1923 and, other than a new overlay of asphalt in 1956, 1982 and 2000, no work has been done on it since it was built, according to city engineer

Paul St. Martin. The original pavement is nearly 90 years old.

Here are highlights of the project:

- Curb lines and parking will not change from University to Territorial Road. The street will be restriped and bump-outs will be added at all four corners of the Territorial Road and Raymond intersection.

- Parking will continue on both sides of the street from Territorial to the Ellis-Bradford intersection. Bump-outs will be added at Ellis.

- Ellis and Bradford will be realigned. Currently, both streets come together to intersect at Raymond, creating a large pedestrian crossing. Bradford would be realigned to Ellis and Ellis would intersect with Raymond. The

Raymond Avenue project to 8

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Photo: Britt Olsen Ecker

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Editor

Kristal Leebrick
651-214-6526
editor@parkbugle.org

Obituaries Editor

Mary Mergenthal
651-644-1650
mary.mergenthal@comcast.net

Production Manager

Stephen D. Parker
651-489-0993

Copy Editor

Ruth Weleccki

Proofreader

Christine Elsing

Circulation

651-214-6526
editor@parkbugle.org

Subscriptions and Billing

Fariha Sanikhatam,
Business Manager
651-646-5369
fariha@parkbugle.org

Calendar Submissions

calendar@parkbugle.org

Display Advertising

Genevieve Plagens
651-325-7189
genevieve@parkbugle.org

Ruth Weleccki
651-335-0299
ruth.weleccki@parkbugle.org

Classified Advertising

651-646-5369
classifieds@parkbugle.org

The news and advertising deadline for the next issue is Dec. 7.

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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Currently serving on the board are Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamsen, Emily Blodgett, Bruno Bornsstein, Ann Fendorf, Nate Flink, Mark Johanson, John Landree, Karen Lilley, Nancy Olsen, Glen Skovholt, Jan Sedgewick, Blaine Thrasher, Kathy Wellington and Eric Wieffering.

EDITORIAL

Local spending ripples through the community

'Tis the season of accelerated shopping, so if you are out and about spending money, consider the benefits of spending it close to home.

To be sure, the “buy local” movement is more than just a feel-good, help-your-neighbors trend. Data show that buying your goods close to home boosts the economy. That’s right: one concrete way to lift stagnant incomes in the United States is through nurturing our small, locally owned businesses.

That’s what two Pennsylvania State University economists, Stephan Goetz and David Fleming, found in their study, “Does Local Firm Ownership Matter?” (published in the July 2011 Economic Development Quarterly). After analyzing 2,953 counties, both rural and urban, the researchers found a positive link between small, locally owned firms and per-capita income growth. The study also found that medium-sized and larger firms appeared to have just the opposite effect on local economies when they are not locally owned.

Supporting local business has what is called a “multiplier effect,” according to Mary Hamel, *Bugle* reader and executive director of the Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA), a nonprofit group that promotes and supports locally owned, independent businesses in the Twin Cities region. “When you spend your money locally, three times as much money stays in

the community,” she said.

Buying close to home has a ripple effect: the thriving local business hires a local accountant, local carpenters and local plumbers. The community business often employs people who live in the area. Local business owners and workers are more likely to visit the local bakery or restaurant. That business is more likely to support community institutions such as schools and libraries, bank at the local bank and advertise in the local news media, and that includes the *Park Bugle*.

That brings us to what we really want to say in this space this month. The *Bugle*, your nonprofit, community newspaper, is grateful to all the locally owned businesses that advertise with us each month. That advertising has a ripple effect: It helps those businesses get the word out about their products or services, and in turn it helps the *Bugle* publish each month to bring our readers news about our schools, our local institutions, our neighbors—and our local businesses. (Our other source of funding is you, the readers, contributing to our annual fund drive.)

So to our generous advertisers and to our readers who have already given this fall: thank you.

LETTERS

Elected officials should address excessive garbage truck traffic

I read with great interest the article by Jay Coggins on garbage trucks and particulate matter pollution, which appeared in the November 2011 edition of your paper. I thoroughly agree with Mr. Coggins that particulate matter presents a serious health hazard that we should address. In contrast to ozone, which occurs during the warmer months of the year, particulate matter pollution is present year round and can be particularly insidious on winter days of thermal inversion when the particles are trapped in the air around us rather than being dispersed by the wind. Of greatest concern is the fine particulate matter of 2.5 microns and smaller, which not only can enter the lungs but also diffuse through the lung tissue into the blood stream. (See “Fine Particle Air Pollution and Mortality in 20 U.S. Cities, 1987–1994,” in the Dec. 14, 2000, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.)

As Mr. Coggins points out, diesel trucks and buses are a significant source of particulate matter pollution, as they emit nitrogen oxides, which undergo a chemical reaction in the atmosphere to produce fine particulate matter.

I thoroughly agree that the number of garbage trucks servicing our neighborhoods should be reduced to some efficient minimum; however, I believe the scope of the problem is beyond the capacity of neighborhood groups to solve on their own. We should encourage our newly elected City Council members to take up the problem. Couldn’t the council or some other government entity negotiate with the hauling companies themselves in order to divide the city into areas and market shares that each would be responsible for? I would think that this would be in the hauling companies’ best interest as well. Wouldn’t they save money and resources by serving a more concentrated area rather than a variety of customers scattered

throughout the city?

Another concern that I have is that I don’t think garbage trucks alone should be targeted. An overall strategy for reducing particulate matter pollution from all of its sources should be adopted, and the burden for its reduction or elimination should be borne across the spectrum of producers. For example, consider in our own city how school buses greatly compromise air quality. In contrast to garbage trucks, there are many of these motoring through our neighborhoods morning and afternoon, five days a week. If multiple sources are targeted, perhaps the overall levels of particulate pollution can be reduced far more than by simply eliminating redundancies in garbage collection.

I am grateful to Mr. Coggins for bringing up the problem. All studies seem to indicate that there is no level

of particulate matter pollution that is benign in its health effects. (Again, see the above study.) It might be difficult to organize our neighbors, but we could at least contact our representatives at the city and state level and ask for a solution to the problem.

*Christopher Tyndall
Como Park
(Tyndall is a registered
respiratory therapist)*

Disabled persons can call the city to get sidewalks shoveled

I have worked to get St. Paul sidewalks shoveled in the winter to enable people with mobility problems to use the sidewalks. St. Paul Smart Trips developed a door hanger to tell property owners to shovel their sidewalks.

To get a sidewalk shoveled, a disabled person just needs to call the City of St. Paul with the address of the property that needs shoveled. Call 651-266-8989.

I live in the Seal Hi-Rise on Raymond Avenue, a block north of University Avenue. I got the entire walk between my building and the sidewalk last winter shoveled to the concrete with the exception of one stretch of parking lot that is zoned residential. Two people have told me how much they appreciated being able to reach the University 16 bus so easily.

St. Paul won’t do anything without an address because they need it to identify the property owners so be sure to note the address before you call.

*Linda M. Mainquist
St. Anthony Park*

The Bugle: Your source for local, relevant news

Donate \$100 or more to the *Park Bugle’s* annual fund drive and we’ll give you a copy of *Above the Fold*, longtime *Bugle* editor Dave Healy’s collection of selected editorials he wrote during his 10 years at the paper.

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To keep bringing you the news you want and need about the community where you live, we must raise \$35,000 this year. The *Park Bugle* is one of a handful of nonprofit community newspapers left in the nation.

Please help us keep the *Bugle* alive and healthy with your tax-deductible gift today. You can send your contribution to the Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or give on line at www.parkbugle.org and click on the green “Donate Now” button at the top of the page.



C O M M E N T A R Y

The Parent-Teacher

Why No Child Left Behind needs to be left behind

By Megan Marsnik

I met a young couple at a party recently who had just moved to Minnesota. They have two children, one of whom will start kindergarten next year. "Where will you send your son to school?" I asked the mother.

"I don't know," she said. Although she'd heard good things about her neighborhood schools, St. Anthony Park Elementary and Murray Junior High, Murray was not being considered. "You'll probably think I'm neurotic," she said, "but I've been doing a lot of research, and I definitely don't want my kids to attend Murray."

"What kind of research?" I asked.

"I went online to the Department of Education. According to No Child Left Behind, Murray is a failing school," she told me. "And I don't want my kids to go to a failing school."

As a parent of an incredible happy and well-educated Murray eighth-grader, I cringed. As a public school teacher, I double-cringed. I knew exactly what she was talking about. The latest report cards released by the Department of Education did, in fact, indicate that Murray is not making "adequate yearly progress," or AYP. Nor are most other St. Paul junior or senior high schools. The same is true in Minneapolis. Statewide, 47 percent of all schools are "failing."

Are they failing?

As required under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and state statute, the Department of Education issues standardized tests (the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, or MCAs) to all students in third to eighth grade and 10th and 11th grades. Results are compiled separately for each ethnic group, for special education and for English language learners. In each grouping, 95 percent of students must show up to take the test. If they don't, the school fails.

In addition to showing up for the test, 90 percent of each demographic must test proficient in reading and math. If they don't,



Megan Marsnik

the school fails.

I teach at a multicultural, arts-loving, urban public high school in Minneapolis. For the last two years, the *Washington Post* has rated this school the "Best High School in Minnesota." We offer rigorous, college-preparatory programs that challenge students from all demographics. And, unlike Blake, Breck, St. Paul Academy and other schools that rival our college-acceptance rate, the school where I teach is free to the public. Yet, according to the NCLB, we are failing.

Why did we not make "adequate yearly progress"? As schoolwide scores skyrocketed, we decreased the achievement gap for the sixth year in a row. However, one student in a particular demographic did not take the test, so we failed the participation qualification. Three students in a different demographic did not score proficient in math. As a result, the Department of Education labeled us as failing to meet AYP.

I wish we had done more for those students; truly I do. Yet, it is difficult for students, parents and educators not to feel duped. The standards set are unrealistic.

At best, the NCLB labels are inaccurate and misleading. At worst, they threaten the future of public education. If the public believes that

public education is broken to this hyperbolic degree, why would they want to fund it? As great public schools fail to meet the unattainable standards, they are penalized.

If a school does not make AYP, it is not given more resources. Are additional teachers or aides hired to lower class sizes and give struggling students more attention? Are more translators hired to help communicate with parents? No. If a school does not make AYP, that school (provided it receives Title I funding) must pay for private tutoring for any student in the school or pay to transport any student to a school that did make "adequate yearly progress."

Last year, 460 St. Paul students were transported to other schools at the district's expense. About 15,000 were eligible. As a whole, students who transferred did not improve proficiency on the standardized tests.

NCLB supporters laud this standardized-testing program for its ability to hold schools and teachers accountable. As a parent and a teacher, I firmly believe that schools and teachers should be accountable. Teachers should produce measurable results.

The Parent-Teacher to 10

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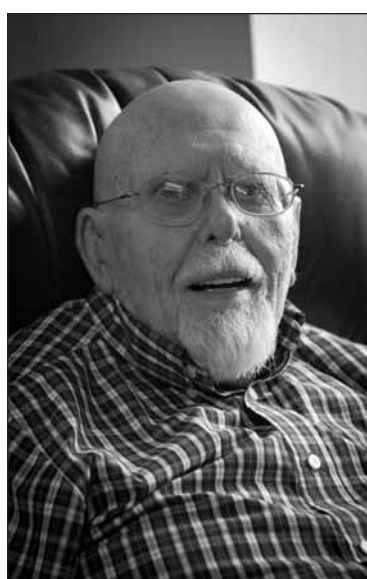


Voices

Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

By Judy Woodward

Dec. 7, 2011, marks the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii, the event that drew the United States into World War II. Residents of Lyngblomsten Retirement Community in Como Park shared their memories of Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. (Photos by Lori Hamilton)



Paul Samuelson, 90

I was 19. On Dec. 7, I was at home on the farm southwest of Starbuck, Minn. I remember that evening we sat and listened to President Roosevelt on the radio, who informed us that we had been attacked.

I didn't think about the future then, but the following spring I joined up. I wanted to do my share, and my dad and my younger brother worked the farm.

I joined the Army and I ended up in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. We were given credit for turning the war around.



Mary Eileen O'Brien, 90

I was 20 and I was a junior at St. Catherine's [University]. That Sunday afternoon we were rehearsing a musical show. They said we could take a coffee break, so we went down to the tearoom.

The radio was on, and some of the students started crying because their fathers were in the service. One girl's father was an officer at Pearl Harbor. Later that day, her mother called to tell her that her father had survived.

The man I was going out with (we married in 1944) was in the Army Reserves. He called me from Fort Snelling that afternoon and said, "We're prepared and we're not prepared." It was a total surprise to everyone.



Janet Christianson, 92

On Dec. 7, 1941, I was 22 years old and I worked as a bookkeeper for my uncle's plumbing business. It was a beautiful sunny day. I lived in the Como Park area, and we walked six blocks to the Warrendale Presbyterian Church at Como and Lexington. After church, I went with my boyfriend to his parents for a meal, and then we all went for a Sunday drive.

It came in on the radio. Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I hardly knew where Pearl Harbor was. What a shock. We were all stunned.

I didn't marry that boyfriend. He went into the Navy [and I didn't hear from him]. A couple of years later, he called from San Francisco to see if I wanted to get married, but I was going with somebody else by then.



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1942 disaster

Air crash snatched young lives, stunned close-knit community

By Roger Bergerson

Despite some clouds and rain, things looked bright for the three boyhood buddies from Como on that summer morning in 1942. Recently graduated from Murray High School, Roy Josephson, Jim Painter and Bob Paulson had maintenance jobs with Northwest Airlines at Wold-Chamberlain Field, the predecessor to today’s Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. They had just finished their night shift on July 30 and were elated by the prospect that they were next in line for assignment to Alaska. In the meantime, the young men and a few colleagues—including Wilbur Rose from St. Anthony Park, who’d graduated from Murray the year before—had convinced a couple of pilots to take them along on a flight. The aircraft was a Boeing 247, an early commercial airliner, being converted to wartime use as a U.S. Army transport. The pilots were familiarizing themselves with its operation. But a supposedly routine flight took a disastrous turn seconds after takeoff. The plane swept nose upward into an almost vertical

position, flipped backward and crashed at 7:42 a.m. with a terrific impact that could be heard for miles. Its 10 occupants were killed instantly. The enormity of the tragedy was slow to unfold in the neighborhood just southeast of the Snelling and Como avenues intersection. The Josephson and Paulson families lived at 1387 and 1419 Wynne Ave., respectively, with the Painters nearby at 1525 Breda Ave. About 8:30 a.m., Orville Painter heard there had been a crash and called his wife, Clara, from his job at the Midway Creamery on Como Avenue to ask if Jim was home from work and knew anything about it. A few minutes later, Roy Josephson’s mother called Mrs. Painter with the devastating news that Roy had been killed. Anxious about their own sons, Mrs. Painter and Hazel Paulson drove to the airport and entered the Northwest Airlines office, realizing the awful truth as employees offered their condolences. That night, the grief-stricken parents talked to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* about their sons, how they’d been close since starting kindergarten at Tilden Elementary School over on

Arona Street. (The reporter, 21-year-old Gareth Hiebert, went on to write for the St. Paul papers for almost 50 years, more than 30 of them as the Oliver Towne columnist for the *St. Paul Dispatch*.) The Murray High School student newspaper, *The Murcurie*, later recalled that all three played on the school’s football team. Josephson was captain his senior year. It also noted that Wilbur Rose had been one of the best-liked students in the Class of 1941, excelling at basketball, track and skiing. Rose’s father, Raymond, was a plant pathologist in the University of Minnesota’s College of Agriculture and the family lived at 2292 Carter Ave. Hazel Paulson was a sales person for a milliner in downtown St. Paul, while Luther Josephson worked as a mechanic in the nearby Northern Pacific Railway shops.



Both the St. Paul Dispatch and the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported on the 1942 plane crash that claimed the lives of four local men in 1942. Image courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

After a combined service for the three friends at Como Park Lutheran Church, they were interred at Roselawn Cemetery. Rose was buried at Taylors Falls, Wis. The Army conducted an investigation into the cause of the crash, but it is not clear if the findings were ever made public. Despite the fatalities, the accident does not appear on lists of fatal airline crashes.

In those unsettling early days of World War II, the disaster quickly faded from the public consciousness but area residents of a certain age still remember the shock wave it sent through the community. *Roger Bergerson, a former newspaper reporter, lives in Como Park resident.*

WW II volunteer, world trekker, storyteller

Gertrude Esteros from 1

“The beauty of aging,” she says, “is you learn so much more.”

Doing something positive

Esteros was 27 when she decided to put her career on hold and head into a war zone. “I was aware of the European war perhaps more profoundly than most Americans,” she said. A child of Finnish immigrants, she had family who had fought and were displaced in the 1939 Russian invasion of Finland. (Esteros would head to Finland with the Friends Service Committee after the war to help Finnish refugees build homes.) Describing herself as “something of a pacifist,” Esteros felt she needed to do something to help the people involved in the war. “Here I was sitting in the middle of the United States perfectly safe and sound while all this was going on in the world,” she said. “I didn’t believe in war. I thought I could do something positive.” The Red Cross was recruiting, Esteros said, “and I was welcomed with open arms. I was the right age. In order to join the Red Cross you had to be a college graduate, you had to be 25 years of age or older and you had to be recommended in some way that they

knew that you were a stable person. Not that they said it in quite those words, but the pressures [of war] were many.” Her first assignment was as a recreation worker at a field hospital in Finschhafen, New Guinea, where she led activities for able-bodied soldiers. That included a group of paratroopers who were mistakenly dropped in New Guinea, Esteros said. “They found themselves with nothing to do. New Guinea didn’t need paratroopers. Here were these highly motivated paratroopers and they had nothing to do.” So she engaged them in what she called “real conversation.” “We did storytelling,” she said. “I had

Esteros’ home is filled with art from her world travels, including masks and carvings from her second trip to New Guinea in 1980.

sessions that were just remarkable. They adored [it]. I learned this was the most important form of recreation I

could do. They could talk about their dog or their home or their wife or their children or parents or anything.” The camp’s commanding officer told her that whenever he was looking for Esteros, he only had to look for a group of men “sitting around in a circle talking away.” Storytelling was innate to Esteros. “I happened to be a pretty good storyteller myself because we told stories in my own family. This is how we entertained ourselves in the wintertime.” Her parents told such detailed stories of their homeland, she said, that when she finally traveled to Finland, her mental image of the country was quite accurate, she said. She hasn’t lost her ability to tell a good yarn. While entertaining a visitor at her home recently, Esteros pulled a carved wooden bowl shaped like a fish from a nearby shelf. “This is the story of my going on a trip to a village while I was in New Guinea,” she began.

The fish bowl story

“It’s strange. There are whole long periods of time when I was at Finschhafen where I have no memory at all. It must have been dull,” she laughed. “We must have been just marking time.” One Saturday morning in New Guinea has stayed with her: “It was a



Esteros says humor is the key to telling a good story and living to 97: “This is why we told stories during the war. You just wouldn’t have made it if you couldn’t have laughed.” Photo by Lori Hamilton

free day and some men soldiers said they were going to go on a trek to visit a village.” She was eager to join them. “I wanted to see something more than just our G.I. encampment and the hospital life,” she said. “There were eight of us to begin with, two jeeps full. We drove the jeeps as far as we could go and then

we had to walk [through] grass over the height of your head—thick, thick rush—and the other women said, ‘We aren’t going to spend our weekend walking through that,’ and I said, ‘Oh, I’m going. There’s a village there somewhere. I’m going.’”

Gertrude Esteros to 8

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Gertrude Esteros from 7

'When I get bigger . . . I am going to see the whole world.'

The other women drove back to camp, but Esteros continued. It was a difficult hike, she said, particularly when the group reached a wide ravine. "I did some running steps and I leaped across, and at that point I'm thinking, 'Isn't it a good thing those other women didn't come?'"

The group eventually met up with some native men. "They came through between the trees carrying long wood spears and I thought, 'Oh, my goodness, isn't this fascinating,'" Esteros said. "I was just thrilled to see something like that." One of the soldiers was able to speak some of the native language and the group was led to the village, where Esteros said she saw only men and boys.

"Where are the women and the little girls?" she asked. "And this got translated to the head man and he grinned at me."

Esteros was led to a clearing where she was introduced to a woman she assumed was the head man's "No. 1 wife."

"She was a little woman, the oldest woman in the group," she said. "I think he had five wives. I stayed there with the women and he went back to be with the men."

Esteros was wearing her Red Cross uniform: a long-sleeved khaki shirt, khaki pants, boots and a cap. "And the women came and felt my sleeve and touched my arm and were curious. . . . They were wearing no

clothes at all down to the waist, and so I took off my shirt to show them I was a woman," she said. "Oh, they were so pleased. But then they were curious about my bra, so I took it off."

The women passed the bra around and tried it on, she said. She laughed hard as she continued to describe that day. "It was so funny. I remember thinking, 'I'd like to have a picture of this.'"

Esteros sat on the ground and the women gathered in a circle around her. A little girl climbed onto her lap and Esteros saw the head man peer around some trees.

"He smiled so broadly," she said. "I think he was so pleased that I was getting along with his wives and his children." Eventually, Esteros put her shirt and bra back on and went back to the men.

As the group of Americans were leaving the village, "the head man came and gave me two gifts: a spear and a bowl shaped like a fish, and as I understand it this is a ceremonial bowl, though I do not understand what kind of ceremony it was.

"It was a lovely exchange. I never had such a wonderful experience."

'So much absurdity'

As the war progressed, Esteros was relocated to the Philippines where she worked in hospital wards as the casualties mounted. Though she had

"marvelous experiences" serving with the Red Cross, she also experienced much horror.

"You really wonder why we haven't learned," she said quietly. "We are so willing to go to war. Eventually you have to make peace, you might as well keep it in the beginning and not go through the terrible conflict. The violence does an awful lot of damage. It's so very, very wasteful."

When Esteros looks back at her work during World War II and her long life, she sees her ability to laugh as the thread that has made it a satisfying near century.

"If I didn't have positive ways of thinking, I don't think I would have lived to 97," she said. "You can't live with hate. It does bad things to you. It messes up the organism." With that last statement, she lets out another deep laugh and then looks at her guest: "This is why we told stories during the war with the GIs. You just wouldn't have made it if you couldn't have laughed. "There is so much absurdity; there is nothing more absurd than war.

"You do war to bring peace? Isn't that crazy?"

Gertrude Esteros is featured in the Minnesota Historical Society's exhibit The Greatest Generation. You can read more about her time in the war at <http://stories.mnhs.org/stories/mgg/war>.

Raymond Avenue project from 3

realignment will require the city to acquire some land from a townhome association at that intersection.

• Bike lanes will be added between the Ellis-Bradford intersection and Long Avenue. That block is the only

part of the avenue that at present does not have bike lanes. Parking will be permitted on the east side of the street only.

• The intersection at Long and Raymond will be narrowed and Long will intersect with Raymond just south of the curve at that point of the road.

• From Long to Hampden Avenue, three medians will be added along Raymond with space to allow cars to turn into Bayless Avenue and the Hampden Park Food Co-op parking lot.

• Bayless Place will be extended to meet Raymond Avenue, and the

intersection at Bayless Avenue and Raymond will be removed.

• The metro transit bus bay at the northwest side of Hampden will move to the southwest corner of Hampden and Raymond.

• The island at Hampden and Raymond will be enlarged and landscaped.

• The project will include reconstruction of the water main, new sidewalks and new street lights from Territorial to Hampden. The lights will be the lantern-style lamps similar to those installed in north St. Anthony Park in the last decade.

SAP senior group earns Charities Review seal

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors (formerly the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program) has been awarded the Charities Review Council "Meets All Standards" Seal and certified in accountability by meeting all 27 of the council's accountability standards.

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors earned the seal by voluntarily participating in the council's online Accountability Wizard, which addresses a nonprofit organization's performance in four critical areas: public disclosure, governance, financial activity and fundraising.

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors is

now listed as a reviewed organization on the online Giving Guide of the council's Smart Givers Network, www.smartgivers.org, and the council's Smart Giver newsletter distributed to households, businesses and nonprofits. The Smart Givers Network helps the public investigate an organization's mission statement and programs, so they can be sure of what their money supports and that the organization meets widely accepted standards.

For more information about St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, visit www.SAPAS.org or call 651-642-9052.



The Birdman
of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

Perky chickadee is here all winter

Most of us see black-capped chickadees all year 'round. They can brighten a winter day with their perky antics at the feeder, flitting to and fro, grabbing a seed and zipping off to open it, usually holding it between their feet and pecking away at it.

I've always thought that it was great of chickadees to stay around all winter, willing to brave the winter storms, finding a way to survive in our "Arctic" north.

But it may not be a matter of choice.

Chickadees are very small birds. They're about 5 inches long and weigh between 10 to 14 grams, the weight of two or three nickels. They have a black cap that comes down just over the eye that is complemented by a black bib. Between cap and bib is a white cheek and shoulder. There's some buff in the sides and belly and some white in the otherwise gray wing.

Chickadees are not strong fliers. Most of their flights are fewer than 16 yards, just a bit beyond the width of many of our lots here in Lauderdale. They really can't undertake a long migration to escape winter.

When young chickadees have fledged and acquired all their flight feathers, they leave their home territory. They may travel several miles to find another existing flock they can join. Once settled, they'll remain in the same general area for the rest of their lives.

Occasionally, especially if their population puts pressure on food sources, the first-year chickadees will move much farther south in the fall to begin a new life in a new area.

Therefore, most of the chickadees we see in the winter have been here all summer.

Winter chickadee flocks are made up of pairs from the prior breeding season, so a flock usually has an even number of birds, from two to 18 members. If there's an odd number, the flock probably contains what's called a "winter floater," an unpaired bird that is hanging around waiting for an opening to pair up with a higher-ranked bird that has lost its mate.

Chickadees have a strict pecking order. You'll recognize the dominant chickadee as the one that stays to open its seed at the feeder. The other chickadees will take a seed to a nearby perch to peck it open.

Often, chickadees will be part of a larger mixed flock that may contain white- and red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers and downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers. These mixed flocks benefit their members by increasing the number of eyes watching for predators and finding more sources of food. The chickadees are usually the leaders of a mixed flock.

A chickadee must go to bed with a full stomach in order to make it through the cold winter night. And that's a challenge, because the winter days are shorter, with less daylight to gather what little food is available. So chickadees start and end their winter foraging at lower light levels than during the rest of the year.

They've also completely molted before winter, so they have all new feathers. They can fluff out their outer feathers, thus creating an insulation layer so effective that the skin can be 70°F warmer than the air temperature.

But this puffy body may be part of the reason they can't fly much more than 16 yards at a time. It's not

Chickadees to 18

Boy scouts and retirees team up to help the chimney swift roost

By Marcia Sundquist

At a St. Paul Audubon meeting some months ago, I learned that the population of chimney swifts, a small black migrating bird, is in serious decline. The swifts depend on chimneys or similar tall structures in which to roost and to rear their young. There are fewer chimneys now and of those in existence, many are capped. Thus, a population decline has set in.

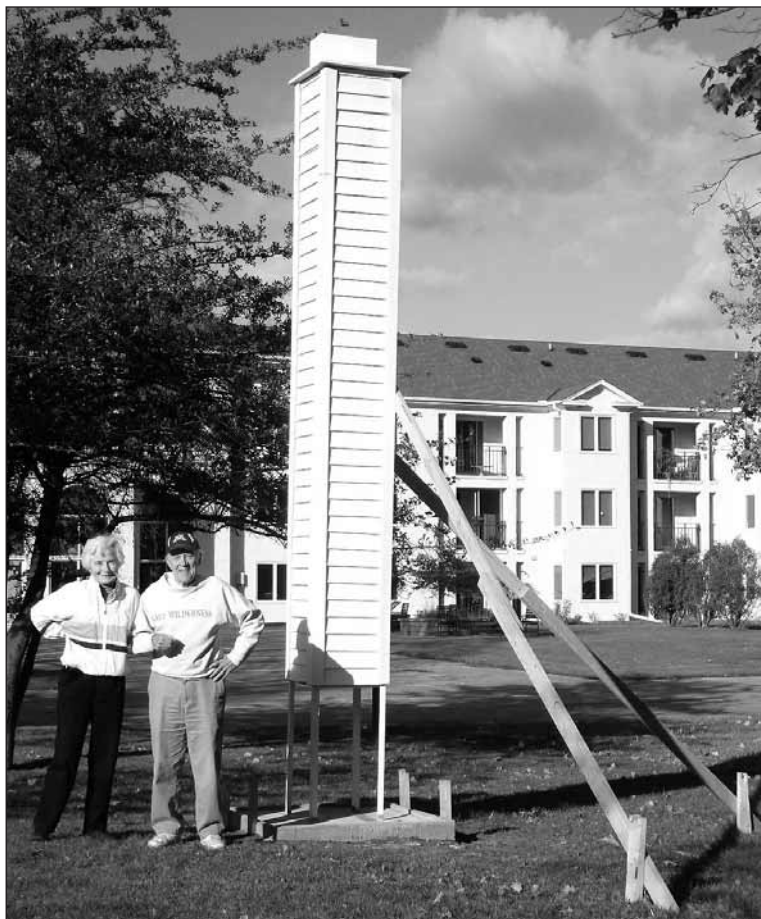
David Moore, a retired teacher from Minneapolis' Edison High School who was also at the Audubon meeting, said he had noticed the decline years ago and enlisted the help of some Boy Scouts to build chimney swift towers as one of many troop projects. While a teacher at Edison in 1981, Moore (who had been a Boy Scout in his youth) helped organize Hmong Boy Scout Troop 100. The troop has been going ever since.

Minnesota Audubon was looking for a group to build some more chimney swift towers in the area, so Moore's Scout troop teamed up with the 1666 Coffman Woodworkers Committee to build and erect a chimney swift tower. A grant through Minnesota Audubon paid for the materials.

At 1666, we await spring and some chimney swifts to discover the

tower and to begin nesting. To encourage them, we will play a

chimney swift recording in the tower so it sounds like home to them.



Marcia and Burt Sundquist stand near the chimney swift tower, where residents at 1666 Coffman hope the migratory birds will take up residence next spring. Photo by George Anderson

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MLS Listings from 3

render some available homes “invisible” to agents not familiar with the area.

“For instance, the homes on West Como Boulevard, with direct views of Como Lake and the park, currently will not show up for agents searching strictly for ‘Como,’ ” Korby said. “To find them, they would have to search North End/Como, which includes homes as far east as Rice Street and beyond.”

Several dozen homeowners responded to Korby’s alert, some voicing a concern that their property values would be hurt by the new designation.

“We bought our house because of its proximity to the park, less than half a block away,” said Debbie Prokopf, “and our appraisal noted that the proximity to the park greatly enhanced its value. This change only hurts us and benefits no one else.”

Laurie Hertz, who lives across the street from the park’s Chatsworth Woods, feels a strong connection with the area. “We have no plans to sell our house anytime soon and maybe this won’t affect our property value,” she said. “But this is a matter of community cohesiveness and neighborliness too. We live on the park; we walk through the park daily. This is our neighborhood and I don’t appreciate a bunch of realtors deciding it’s not.”

Others simply found the change nonsensical.

“This does not appear to have any rational purpose,” said Paul Jardine, “not to mention how idiotic it is that I am three doors from Como Park and not considered in that district, whereas someone living on the corner of Snelling and Hoyt is.”

Of realtor Korby’s concern, John Mosey, president of RMLS Minnesota, said that it was possible that a Como-only search could miss homes in the area. But, he contended, an agent relying solely on that approach would be ignoring the multitude of other options available, including a map-based search.

Mosey said the listing changes here are part of a national effort to improve the usefulness and accuracy of a system in which historically up to 40 percent of properties have been mislabeled, in some cases for perceived marketing advantages.

“In the Twin Cities, the district system went back decades and basically was created by the newspapers as a means for grouping classified real estate ads,” he said. “As a technology- and data-based company, we needed to provide our real estate professional members with an easier and more relevant way to search for available homes.”

The MLS listing is not meant to

be a marketing vehicle, nor is any competent appraiser going to let an MLS designation affect the value he or she places on a property, Mosey said.

“In deciding to go with the designations that municipalities and counties are using, we had no idea it would be so problematic in St. Paul,” he added. “If there’s a valid reason for an adjustment in the new system, we can do that, but these are the neighborhoods that the City of St. Paul itself has defined.”

One option for disgruntled South Como residents would be to seek a change in the district council boundaries so that their neighborhood becomes part of District 10, rather than District 6. That will not be a simple matter, because such a transfer would affect funding formulas and have other implications and require deliberations by both district councils and possibly discussions with the other 15 councils across the city.

However it plays out, the controversy about the MLS listings certainly seems to demonstrate that the old real estate adage about the importance of “location, location, location” is still right on the money.

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

The Parent-Teacher from 5

In my classroom, I give my students MCA-like multiple-choice tests the first week of school. I retest them at the end of the first semester and again at the end of the year. If more than 90 percent of them did not show at least one grade-level of improvement in that year, I would consider myself a disgrace to the profession.

(Why not 100 percent? There are many reasons. Here’s one: Some of the most brilliant, creative human beings perform poorly on standardized tests. For them, I look at several other forms of assessment to track progress and prove mastery.)

Good teachers embrace accountability; however, most of us are opposed to the NCLB.

The MCA tests do not evaluate teachers or schools on their ability to increase a student’s proficiency by a grade level in a single year. If a student enters a seventh-grade classroom reading at the fourth-grade level and he improves two-and-half grade levels in a single year, NCLB insinuates that the school has improperly educated the child since

he is still a half grade level away from proficiency.

The MCA does not measure one student’s progress throughout a given year; therefore it does not measure a teacher’s success or failure. It does not even measure one student’s progress throughout a series of years. Instead, in evaluating schools, the MCA compares the scores of one particular group of students in a demographic to the following year’s test scores of a completely different group of students in the same demographic, some of whom just arrived at the school from other districts, states and even countries.

Some good things did result from the NCLB. The law helped bring the achievement-gap crisis to the forefront. Teachers, parents, lawmakers and school administrators need to work together to create sweeping reform that will help teachers eradicate this embarrassing and paralyzing discrepancy that is particularly bad here in Minnesota. Yet slashing a school’s budget for not making “adequate yearly progress” as

determined by one dysfunctional test is not the answer. Our schools need more time to teach children to be competitive in a global economy. As it stands, some students spend up to nine weeks of their year taking tests—time they could spend learning.

Minnesota has applied for a waiver to become exempt from the NCLB. If the waiver is granted early next year, as is expected, Minnesota will continue to test students. The teacher’s union is working with lawmakers to use more authentic, reliable and varied assessments.

Minnesota will continue fighting to eradicate the achievement gap. Without the fiscally penalizing consequences of the NCLB, perhaps schools can spend less money transporting students and hiring test administrators and more money to reduce class sizes.

Our country’s competence should be measured by the effectiveness of our public schools, not by our private schools. The gap between the wealthy and the poor is frightening. Wouldn’t it be a shame if only the wealthy could afford a good education, as is the case in most third-world countries?

It is time to invest in public education and stop arbitrarily labeling great schools, like Murray Junior High, as “failing.”

Megan Marsnik writes about parenting and teaching for the Park Bugle.

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Holiday Shopping Guide



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Here's your guide to all-things-December in Bugleland this month.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa (or two): And there will be Santa-sighting opportunities galore in St. Anthony Park this month: He'll pose for photographs with Mrs. Claus at Park Midway Bank, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, then return to the neighborhood at 5 p.m. for a tree-lighting event in the Milton Square Courtyard, 2232 Carter Ave.

For more Holiday Happenings, just turn the page

Photo at right by Lori Hamilton



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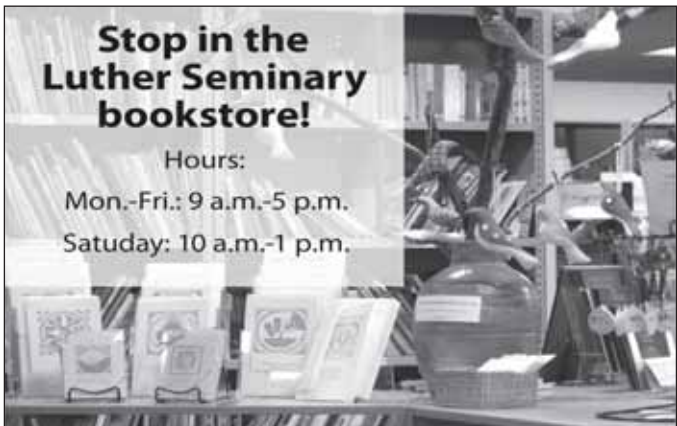
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More Holiday Happenings from 11

St. Paul Parks and Recreation will host a dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park. The event will include a spaghetti dinner, a craft project, cookie decorating and face-painting. Cost is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per family. Ages 2 and under are free. Register at any St. Paul recreation center or call 651-298-5765. Register at www.stpaul.gov/parks.
Santa and his friend Christmas Carol will hold two nights of storytelling for children in the lower level of Milton Square, on Monday, Dec. 12 and 19, at 5 p.m. To find out more about the story times or to reserve a spot for this free event, send an email to miltonsquare2262@gmail.com.

SHOP HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: St. Anthony Park neighborhood businesses kick off the season on Saturday, Dec. 3, with merchant specials, carolers, reindeer-pulled sleigh rides and Santa photo-ops at Park Midway Bank, a wine-tasting at the little wine shoppe, an artisan market at Milton Square, at the corner of Como and Carter avenues, and cookie decorating at Tim and Tom's Speedy Market. Shop at Micawber's Books, 2238 Carter Ave., that day and a portion of your purchases will go to St. Anthony Park Elementary School.
New this year: Costumed interpreters from Gibbs Museum will host a beeswax candle-making workshop at Bungalow Pottery in Milton Square from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will make a hand-dipped candle that they can take home.

BLUE HOUSE BOUTIQUE: Check out this unique boutique on Saturday, Dec. 3, from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. The boutique is a major fundraiser for the Blue House, an orphanage in Uganda that was started by the late Beatrice Garubanda, a native of Uganda who had lived in St. Anthony Park. The sale features handmade items, including knits, crafts, cards, gifts, table centerpieces, ornaments, gourmet food and more. Saturday's sale features a homemade lunch (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), coffee and pastries.
HOLIDAY CONCERT: The North Star Chorus and Lake Country Chorus combine voices to bring you a delightful program of seasonal singing. The concert will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under, with a \$30 maximum per family. More information is available online at northstarchorus.org.

HOLIDAY TEA AND TOUR: Warm up at an afternoon garden tea Friday, Dec. 9, in the North Garden at Como Park's Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. There will be two seatings for the three-course tea, one at 11 a.m. and one at 2 p.m. The tea will be followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the conservatory. Tickets cost \$45. Reservations are required. Call 651-487-8250.
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TEA AND "A CHRISTMAS CAROL": Actor Luke Peterson is back at Lady Elegant's Tea Room, 2230 Carter Ave., with his one-man show of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on two Saturdays, Dec. 11 and 18. There will

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—The staff at St. Anthony Park
Todd Gro

 ST. ANTHONY PARK
DECEMBER

be two seatings each day, at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The multi-course tea includes Ebenezer Scrooge's cheddar soup, eggnog scones, Mrs. Fezziwig's English trifle and Mrs. Cratchit's plum pudding. Cost is \$45. Prepaid reservations are required. Call Lady Elegant's at 651-645-6676.

"MESSIAH" SING-ALONG: You can get your hallelujahs on Sunday, Dec. 18, at Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., for a Handel's "Messiah" Sing-along that starts at 3 p.m. The concert will feature Karen Wilkerson, soprano; Nicole Warner, alto; Brad Bradshaw, tenor; and Mike Schmidt, bass. Pianist Michael Santoro and a string quartet will accompany. The church encourages both singers and listeners to attend.

FREE HOLIDAY DANCE PERFORMANCES: Join the Sugar Plum Fairy and Falcon Heights' Out on a Limb Dance Company and School as they perform scenes from "The Nutcracker" each Wednesday from Nov. 30 to Dec. 21, at Rosedale Center in Macy's Court. Performances are every 30 minutes starting at 5:30 p.m. The last performance is at 7 p.m.

FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS OF SAUSAGE: That's how much Tim Faacks at Tim & Tom's Speedy Market, 2310 Como Ave. W., cranks out of his signature Christmas sausage each year. He's been mincing meat since just after Halloween and plans to keep the stuff in stock through New Year's Day.

The secret recipe for the Christmas sausage was handed down to Faacks by the

Lindquist family, whose patriarch, Harry, was a butcher in Minneapolis from the 1920s to the 1960s. His daughter Charlotte Lindquist Hansen, raised her family in St. Anthony Park. She is the mother of residents Dave and Mark Hansen.

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM: Gibbs Museum will host A Country Christmas for three Saturdays in December: Dec. 3, 10 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$5 for children.

ICE, FROST AND FLOWERS: Walk through a wonderland of hundreds of site-grown poinsettias at the Como conservatory's annual Holiday Flower Show, which opens Saturday, Dec. 3. This year, the Sunken Garden will feature an ice-and-frost theme showcasing the cultivars Ice Punch, Ice Crystals, Ruby Frost and Red Glitter. The conservatory will also display five red poinsettia cultivars that are new to the market: Protégé Dark Red, Viking Red, Encore, Bravo Bright Red and Jubilee Red. Dusty Miller plants, which often resemble snowflakes, will be interspersed to add to the display.

The conservatory will be open on Dec. 4 from 8 to 10 a.m. for individuals and families to use the setting as a backdrop for photos before hours. At a cost of \$5 per person, guests can bring in their cameras and find the perfect spot for their holiday photo.

The Holiday Flower Show tradition began in 1925 and continues to be the most visited flower attraction at the conservatory today. The show will run from Dec. 3 to Jan. 22. The conservatory is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both the Como Park Zoo and the conservatory are open 365 days a year.

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Holiday Shopping Guide



Learn how to make beeswax candles at Dec. 3 workshop

Gibbs Museum will host a free, hands-on candle-making workshop on Saturday, Dec. 3, at Ken Chin-Purcell's Bungalow Pottery in Milton Square, at the corner of Como and Carter avenues in St. Anthony Park. Costumed interpreters from Gibbs will assist with making beeswax candles from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find out more about the history of candlemaking below.

By Terry Swanson

For thousands of years people have experimented with various forms of lighting. For centuries, people made lamps in which they burned olive, fish and nut oils. The invention of the candle dates back to the fifth century A.D., when candles were widely used for Christian religious ceremonies.

In the 1800s, many pioneer women made their own candles. Most common were candles made from tallow, a substance rendered from cow or sheep fat. When burned, tallow candles emitted soot and smoke and had a bad smell. Pioneers also used Betty lamps thought to have been brought to America by German immigrants. A wick was placed in the iron holder, which was then filled with bacon fat.

Beeswax candles were introduced to Europe in the Middle Ages. Beeswax is made by honeybees for the construction of

their honeycomb, the chambers in which they store honey. Worker bees secrete the wax from glands, scrape it off their hind legs, chew it and then add it to the comb structure.

Beeswax candles were a big improvement over tallow candles: They were dripless, smokeless and had a sweet honey smell. It was expensive to purchase beeswax, however, so unless pioneer women kept bees, this type of candle was a luxury most pioneer families could rarely afford.

Whether women used tallow or beeswax, candle-dipping was a long and tedious process, usually done in the fall when women made the supply for an entire year, perhaps 500 candles. The tallow or beeswax was melted in large kettles; wicks were attached to sticks and dipped in the wax 12 to 15 times. The candles were air-cured and stored for future use.

By the mid-1800s, advances

in the manufacture of candle wicking and the development of materials, such as stearin and paraffin made better and cheaper candles available for household use. Kerosene lamps became popular in the 1860s, when oil drilling began. These advances meant that most women no longer made their own candles.

Visitors to Gibbs Museum make more than 7,500 beeswax candles each year. The site purchases more than 300 pounds of wax annually from local beekeepers. Before candles can be dipped, each 40-pound block of beeswax is melted, strained to remove impurities and bee parts, poured into sheet pans to harden and then broken into small pieces that are easily melted.

Terry Swanson is the program coordinator at Gibbs Museum.



Beeswax candles were introduced to Europeans in the Middle Ages.

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Bugle cookbook features fabulous festive fare

What’s December without food? We put out a call for winter recipes from our readers and we received a number of treasured how-tos, ranging from potato latkes to Scandinavian specialties to dog biscuits. You can find those recipes online at www.parkbugle.org in a handy file

that you can print out and use in your own kitchen: *The Best-Ever Park Bugle Winter Holiday Cookbook*. Here are several recipes to whet your appetite.

Potato Latkes—A Chanukah treat

The smell of hot oil makes the house feel like Chanukah. I have never met anyone of any religion who does not love these Potato Latkes.
—Judy-Ann Ehrlich, Como Park

INGREDIENTS:

4 large red potatoes
2 Tbsp. chopped onion
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 Tbsp. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
Vegetable oil, for frying

DIRECTIONS: Grate the potatoes with skins on, using a hand grater or food processor. Drain as much juice as possible. Add onion, eggs, salt, pepper, flour and baking powder. Drop by well-rounded tablespoons into hot oil in a skillet. Fry on both sides until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with a dollop of applesauce or sour cream.

Serves 6

Rosettes

My cousin Linnea and I made Swedish rosettes every Christmas season in her Stillwater kitchen. Our fathers were brothers and their parents emigrated from Sweden. When we were younger, Linnea and I celebrated holidays together on our family farms. We used this recipe from the 1966 *Zion Lutheran Centennial Cookbook*, published by the Swedish congregation in which we were baptized, confirmed and married. Dorothy Peterson, my choir director and high school Sunday school teacher, submitted the recipe. I recommend using a fryer with a thermostat to easily maintain the right temperature.

—Linda M. Manquist, St. Anthony Park

INGREDIENTS:

2 eggs
1 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup milk
1 cup flour

DIRECTIONS: Beat eggs slightly with sugar and salt; add milk and flour. Beat only until smooth. For best results, fry in a deep kettle. Heat iron in the fat. Remove iron and tap it twice on several thicknesses of flannel to remove excess fat. Dip hot iron quickly into batter. Do not let batter come up over the top of the iron. Return batter-covered iron to fat and completely submerge in the fat for 20 to 30 seconds. When fried, tip iron upside down for an instant to drain. Push rosette from iron with a piece of clean cheesecloth. Dust slightly with granulated sugar.

HINTS:

1. Blisters indicate that eggs have been beaten too much.
2. If rosette falls off, iron was not deep enough in fat.
3. If rosette does not come off easily, it is not fried enough.
4. If rosettes aren’t crisp, they have been fried too fast.
5. Be sure to wipe excess fat from iron each time before dipping.

Sven and Ole’s Swedish Christmas Porridge

We have this porridge for Christmas breakfast. It is a traditional Swedish Christmas porridge called Skånsk Gröt (SKONE-sk groot). It always takes longer than expected and holds up breakfast, so we have lots of time to open presents.

The recipe came from the American Girl Kirsten’s Cookbook. We’ve used it ever since our girls first got their dolls. Oh, and Sven and Ole are Santa’s elves who visit our house throughout the year. They love to play in dollhouses and leave notes for the girls.

—Rita LaDoux, St. Anthony Park

INGREDIENTS:

1 large, firm apple
1 tsp. butter
1 cup white rice (Basmati)
1 cup water
3-inch cinnamon stick
4 cups milk
3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1/3 cup raisins
1 tsp. vanilla
Cream
Honey

NOTE: I usually double or triple the recipe. Make sure your pan can hold 8 (x 2) or 12 (x 3) cups of milk plus the rice. Note also that it takes at least an hour to make this, so plan ahead.

DIRECTIONS: (6 servings) Peel and core apple. Dice. Set aside. Rub butter on the bottom of the saucepan. Put the rice, water and cinnamon stick into the saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cover and simmer until the water is absorbed, about 10 to 15 minutes. Add milk and return the pot to simmer. Add the raisins, apple and brown sugar.

Cover the pan and allow the porridge to simmer for about 45 minutes. As it cooks, it will thicken. Stir it once or twice as it cooks. (Keep the fire at low to medium!)

Remove from heat. Take out the cinnamon stick. Stir in the vanilla. Serve in bowls with a dab of butter and a little honey and cream.

It keeps well and makes great leftovers!

BBQ Spareribs

—Richard N. Peryam, Lauderdale

INGREDIENTS:

4 lbs. country-style ribs
1 lemon, sliced
1 medium onion, sliced
Dash of Tobasco sauce
1 1/2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup catsup
1/2 tsp. chili sauce
1/2 tsp. salt
Lemon pepper

DIRECTIONS: Heat oven to 425 degrees. Spray baking dish with Pam. Rub ribs with lemon pepper and place in casserole dish. Bake for a half hour, uncovered. Fill a 2-cup measuring cup with the other ingredients, adding water to make 2 cups sauce. Reduce the oven heat to 350. Pour sauce over ribs and cover. Bake for 2 hours.

DECEMBER

Events

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Courtney Oleen *Pottery*

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Jeanne Schacht *Earrings and Ornaments*

Sunset Designs, Lynn Hueg *Antler Jewelry*

Katie Thomey, Lily Joe *Custom-Sewn Home Décor*

Ruth Weleczki *Framed Foil Mosaics & Papier Mache Friends*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:30 A.M.—5 P.M.



Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Dec. 7 to be included in the January 2012 issue.

1 THURSDAY

Parent-toddler playtime, 9:15-10:30 a.m., for children 4 and younger, every Thursday, Langford Recreation Center. Free.

2 FRIDAY

Preschool storytime, every Friday except Dec. 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park library

3 SATURDAY

Zion Fall Bazaar, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church

Shop Home for the Holidays, St. Anthony Park, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Artisan Village, lower level, Milton Square, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Reindeer-pulled sleigh rides, meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Park Midway Bank

Gibbs Museum candle-making at Bungalow Pottery, Milton Square, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

A Country Christmas, Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blue House Boutique, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Wine-tasting, 1-4 p.m., the little wine shoppe

Tree lighting in Milton Square courtyard with Santa, 5 p.m.

4 SUNDAY

Blue House Boutique, 9 a.m.-noon, St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Study Sunday, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 5:30-9 p.m.

6 TUESDAY

Baby storytime, 10:30-11 a.m., St. Antony Park library

St. Anthony Park Garden Club, "Garden and Natural Places Down Under," by master gardener Ann Stout, 7-8 p.m.; business meeting at 6:30 p.m., St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

7 WEDNESDAY

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

St. Anthony Park Book Club, "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann, 6:30-8 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

8 THURSDAY

St. Paul Audubon hosts "Birding Area of the Falkland Islands," 7 p.m., Fairview Community Center

9 FRIDAY

Dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 5:30-7 p.m., Langford Recreation Center. Call St. Paul Parks and Recreation to make a reservation, 651-298-5765.

10 SATURDAY

A Country Christmas, Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Be Well As You Age Film Series, "Five Wishes" and a living-will seminar, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park library

11 SUNDAY

Mozart's Coronation Mass performed by Chancel Choir and orchestra. 10:30 a.m., Falcon Heights United Church of Christ

12 MONDAY

Falconers Card Club, 12 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall

Storytime with Santa and Christmas Carol, Milton Square, 5 p.m.

17 SATURDAY

A Country Christmas, Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Women's Drop-in Drum Circle, 6:30 p.m., Women's Drum Center

18 SUNDAY

"Country Angel Christmas" children's pageant, 10:30 a.m., Falcon Heights United Church of Christ

Sunday Afternoon Reading Group, "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak, 2:30 p.m., Micawber's Books

"Messiah" Sing-along, 3-5 p.m., Como Park Lutheran Church

19 MONDAY

Storytime with Santa and Christmas Carol, Milton Square, 5 p.m.

23 FRIDAY

The St. Anthony Park library will be closed Dec. 23-26

BLOCK NURSE EXERCISE

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors exercise classes schedule:

Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 3:15-4:15 p.m. (There will be no program on Friday, Dec. 23.)

Mondays and Thursdays, Seal High Rise, 825 Seal St., 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bungalow Pottery, 2230 Carter Ave., 651-644-4091

Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., 651-646-7127

Fairview Community Center, 1910 West County Road B, Roseville

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

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

Gibbs Museum, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., 651-646-8629

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

the little wine shoppe, 2236 Carter Ave., 651-645-5178

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

Milton Square, 2232 Carter Ave., miltonsquare2262@gmail.com

Park Midway Bank, 2300 Como Ave., 651-523-7800

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

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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., 651-206-7617

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., 651-645-0851

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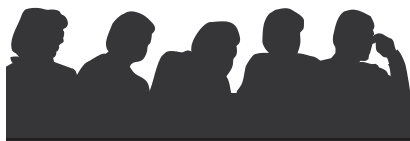
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Neighbors



City champs

Northwest Como's 12U girls soccer team (pictured above) won the city championship in the Silver Division this fall. Coached by Rohn Anderson, Eric Erickson and Eric Beckman, the team's players include Isabel Anderson, Ruby Beckman, Alyssa Clark, Anna Erickson, Emma Goff, Sophia Hoiium, Margaret and Natalie Ierien, Madeleine McPhee, Abigail Moseman, Elena Walczak and Cecelia Wulff. The 14U girls soccer team, coached by Josh Rhode, won the City Runner-Up title.



A girl and her giraffe

Last month, we published a piece about a whimsical notice that had been posted on a light pole in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood about a stuffed animal that had been found on the street.

We received this photo and note from the parents of the child who lost her playmate (the family wished to remain anonymous):

"My husband and I were looking through the most recent issue of the *Park Bugle* and came across the 'Lost and Found' notice in the 'Neighbors' section. We started laughing because we realized this was our giraffe.

"We frequently take our now 15-month-old daughter on evening walks. Usually we notice when she chucks things out of the stroller, but somehow we missed this one. On this particular night we had walked a slightly different route than usual, so when we tried to retrace our steps the next day we couldn't remember exactly where we'd been. We gave up any hope of recovering the giraffe. Thanks to the notice from the [Barbara and Gordon] Murdochs, our little girl has been reunited with

her friend."

Luther Seminary plants tree for Reformation project

On Oct. 31, which is Reformation Day for Lutherans, Luther Seminary became the eighth U.S. sponsor to take part in a worldwide garden project that will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which takes place in 2017.

The project, a Luther Garden, began in Wittenberg, Germany, where 500 trees will be planted. In conjunction, 500 trees are being planted worldwide, marking the widespread influence and significance of the Reformation. The project was initiated by Lutheran World Federation in Geneva.

Luther Seminary planted an oak tree on campus at the same time a tree was being planted in Wittenberg. The Luther Seminary tree was placed near a newly installed rain garden and will be marked with a plaque honoring the significance of the Reformation and the Luther Garden project.

In addition to the tree planting at Luther Seminary, 13 other trees were planted around the world on Oct. 31. To date, 102 of the 500 total tree pairs have been planted. When the project is complete, worldwide sponsors will have planted 1,000 trees.

To learn more about the Luther Garden project, go to <http://luthergarten.de/english>.

Roseville holiday craft fair benefits local nature center

The eighth annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, at Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive.

More than 50 local crafters and artists will be selling their handmade wares. Items include soaps and balms; natural stone, fused glass, beaded and other fine jewelry; photography; pottery; knitted items; gifts for pets; fairy and bird houses; paintings; and more. The sale includes a "Green Gifts" room.

Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The Holiday Craft Fair is a benefit for the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Crafter fees support environmental-education programs. For more information about the event, visit the craft fair's website, www.HolidayCraftFair.com.

Zion church fall bazaar

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold its Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sale will include bakery goods, crafts, needlework, recycled Christmas cards and many other holiday items. Coffee and cookies will be sold and lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 651-645-0851 or visit the church website, www.zlcmidway.org.

College of Visual Arts hosts annual Holiday Art Sale

The College of Visual Arts, 173 Western Ave. N., will hold its sixth annual Holiday Art Sale Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. A preview party will be held Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. The party will feature hors d'oeuvres and wine along with the first chance to shop the sale, which includes art by students, alumni, faculty members and staff members. The Friends of CVA is also conducting a silent auction during the event.

More than 2,000 pieces of art, most priced at less than \$100, will be offered at the sale. Proceeds benefit the artists and the CVA Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 651-757-4080.

Study Sunday offered at SAP Lutheran Church

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., will be hosting Study Sunday on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Study Sunday offers a quiet place to study, along with fair trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate, free Wi-Fi and fellowship with other students. A complimentary hot meal will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Are you a mom looking for a quiet place to read? Do you have a Christmas gift to work on or need a quiet place to finish a project? "Non-students" are welcome too.

Floor loom class offered

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. S.E., is offering

a one-day class in which participants will weave a wool scarf on a floor loom on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition is \$60 or \$60 for members with a \$25 materials fee. Call 612-436-0463 for more information.

Birding in the Falklands

St. Paul Audubon will host "Birding Area of the Falkland Islands" on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 West County Road B, Roseville.

Presented by Michael Prokosch, retired research chemist at 3M, the presentation will include a photo journey to the Falkland Islands along with a discussion of the history and geography of these interesting and historic islands, located 300 miles from the southern tip of Argentina in the South Atlantic Ocean. Prokosch has recently returned from his latest trip to the islands.

The event is open to the public with free parking. A social time with refreshments begins at 6:45 p.m. For more information, call Linda Goodspeed at 651-647-1452.

December film showing will address living wills

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors will feature the film *Five Wishes* and a seminar on living wills on Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave.

Speaker Jeanne McGill, a certified senior advisor and preplanning consultant, will

discuss how to start and structure important conversations about care in times of serious illness. The film covers the country's most popular living will, which meets the legal requirements in 42 states, including Minnesota.

Almanac seeks local stories

The *Saint Paul Almanac* is looking for untold stories of St. Paul: the funny, the embarrassing, the reflective, the sad and the sweet. The deadline to submit to the annual publication is Dec. 15.

The 2012 *Saint Paul Almanac* included stories about telepathic monkeys at the Como golf course, visiting the Pig's Eye Island city dump, how the Skyline Towers got the name "Titanic Tower" and observations about wildlife on the West Side. Other contributions have included profiles of St. Paul people, memories of historical events, family recipes, and reviews and stories about venues, restaurants and other places people love.

Submitted stories and poems should be 600 words or fewer. There is payment for accepted pieces.

A board of 21 community editors will evaluate and edit the stories. Everyone is encouraged to write—the unpublished, professional and everyone in-between.

Send your story to Kimberly Nightingale, publisher, via email, stories@saintpaulalmanac.com, or to Saint Paul Almanac 275 East 4th St., Suite 735, St. Paul, MN 55101.

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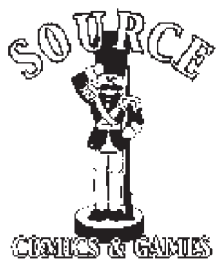
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Neighbors from 17

You can find out more about the *Saint Paul Almanac* at www.saintpaulalmanac.com.

5607, for more information about the group.

Register now for lessons at Como Park Ski Center

The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for snowboard, cross-country and downhill ski lessons at the Como Park Ski Center. Participants can register at the park and recreation website, www.stpaul.gov/parks.

The Como Park Ski Center, 1431 N. Lexington Parkway, opens pre-season (weather permitting) on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18 and opens for holiday hours on Monday, Dec. 26. The center features 1.7K of lighted cross-country ski trails for beginner-level skiing and 5K of intermediate- or advanced-level groomed classic and skate-style cross-country trails. Como Park also has snow machines creating fresh powder daily and four lighted towropes for twilight activities. The center's chalet offers food service, downhill and cross-country ski and snowboard rentals and lessons taught by professional instructors.

You can contact the center starting Dec. 17 at 651-488-9673.

Amnesty International group to meet Dec. 27

Interested in human rights? Attend the St. Paul Chapter of Amnesty International's next meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m. at Cosmic's Coffee, 189 Snelling Ave. All are welcome.

Contact Carmela Garritano, garritanocj@gmail.com or 651-962-

Chickadees from 9

aerodynamic. So the flight-distance limitation is a tradeoff to gain warmer protection against the winter's cold.

Chickadees nearly always roost in enclosed places, within dense vegetation or in a cavity, and despite the importance of the pair bond, they usually roost alone. (I've got

what was advertised as a chickadee roosting box, six pegs in it for the little critters, and it's never been used. Now I know why.) The chickadee will often stash a seed in its roosting place so breakfast will be ready. You can recognize a chickadee that's roosted in a tight cavity by its bent tail in the morning.

You may notice chickadees increasing their feeding as a storm approaches. An organ in their middle ear can sense small changes in barometric pressure. On very cold nights, chickadees go into regulated hypothermia, lowering their nighttime body temperature by 12 to 15 degrees.

Chickadees are friendly little birds. I've had them come and sit

Dec. 1. The youth class, for ages 6 to 15, will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sessions are ongoing and the cost is \$45 per month. The adult class is held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 16 and older. As with the youth class, sessions are ongoing. The cost is \$55 a month. Contact Hoggart for more information, 651-360-3787.

Landmark seeks volunteers

Landmark Center is seeking volunteers to work as tour guides or help staff the information center staff, the gift shop or special events.

Orientation and training for all positions are regularly scheduled. Recognition events, parking and bus reimbursements and a 10 percent discount in the gift shop are offered to all volunteers working in the building.

If you would like to become a volunteer, call Diane Lewis at 651-292-3230 and a volunteer informational packet will be mailed to you.

Baseball camp at Hamline

Hamline University is hosting a six-week baseball camp starting Jan. 7 in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy.

Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach.

Sessions will be offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and base running.

Cost is \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited. Registration is now under way.

To find out more go to www.USBBaseballAcademy.com or call 866-622-4487.

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Business News

Hampden Park has new director, more space and a master plan

By Anne Holzman

Three years go, Hampden Park Co-op opened its expanded first-floor space in a whirlwind. The Parkview Café had closed, the Odd Fellows moved out of the building they had owned for more than a century, and the co-op staff and board faced the big decision as to whether or not to become a property owner.

They took the plunge. A big indoor wall came down, the store expanded and a year later the transformation looked complete.

But that's only the part a passerby can see. The building, located at 928 Raymond Ave., requires some behind-the-scenes work to earn its keep as a commercial property, and with a new director in place and a plan in hand, the co-op staff and board have begun thinking in years and even decades.

Last summer, the board adopted a master plan that sets investment priorities, such as repairing walls and windows, making the second floor more accessible and improving energy efficiency.

The plan considers the rapidly shifting neighborhood around the co-op. Construction for traffic calming on Raymond Avenue is expected to pose a challenge in 2013, and everyone is keeping an eye on Central Corridor development, which has cost the store sales as streets are closed but could offer new marketing opportunities once the line is open.

The board also welcomed a new general manager this year.

Kari Neathery brings to the co-op her leadership experience at Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and the West Broadway Area Coalition, along with master's degrees in hospital administration and urban planning.

Neathery lives in the Hamline Midway neighborhood and has two school-age daughters.

Despite the tough economy and the growing competition from chain stores, Neathery is optimistic about Hampden Park Co-op's viability in its current location.

"The opportunity is great now for co-op groceries," Neathery said, "because of the interest in local foods, neighborhood shopping, people using their bikes. I think people look to co-ops for that leadership."

And while many co-op groceries from the 1970s have closed or adopted more traditional business models, Neathery said, HPC remains committed to using volunteers who earn a monthly discount in exchange for work.

What is now Hampden Park Co-op was founded in 1972 as St. Anthony Park Foods, a nonprofit grocery store near the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, riding a



Kari Neathery is Hampden Park Co-op's new general manager.
Photo by Kristal Leebrick

national wave of co-op grocery formations serving a growing market for natural foods. In 1979, SAP Foods acquired the Green Grass Grocery, in the co-op's current location, and renamed it SAP Too.

Green Grass rented space from the Odd Fellows fraternal organization, which had owned the building since its construction in 1903.

In the early 1990s, corporate reorganization established Hampden Park Co-op as a cooperative rather than a nonprofit. This means its primary objective is to provide services to members, and it distributes an annual "patronage refund" if income has exceeded expenses. It is governed by a member-elected board. Each member (individual or household) purchases a share for \$30 in order to join the co-op.

Neathery said the co-op now aims for \$7,000 per day in sales. Membership numbers have been "pretty stable" in recent years, she said.

Architect Paul Ormseth, a co-op member who grew up in the neighborhood and has worked on some nearby residential remodeling projects, took the lead in drafting the co-op's master plan.

Ormseth hopes it will help the membership invest wisely and prioritize "the critical part of leasing out space" so as to keep the rent coming in, he said.

He also noted the value to the neighborhood, both historic and environmental, of repurposing an old building. Moving to a new site has been discussed, he said, but "remodeling an old building is often more environmentally sound than building new."

After a series of meetings with the board and the general membership, Ormseth produced a two-phase proposal to enhance the quality of the existing space and then consider more ambitious remodeling and expansion—although expansion is limited by the size of the existing lot, and the price of the neighboring parcel has so far been too high for co-op leadership to consider.

The co-op is looking for tenants for upstairs office or studio space, as well as for first-floor space on Hampden Avenue, which was briefly occupied earlier this year by a business selling vitamins.

The Oak Floor Dance

Hampden Park to 21

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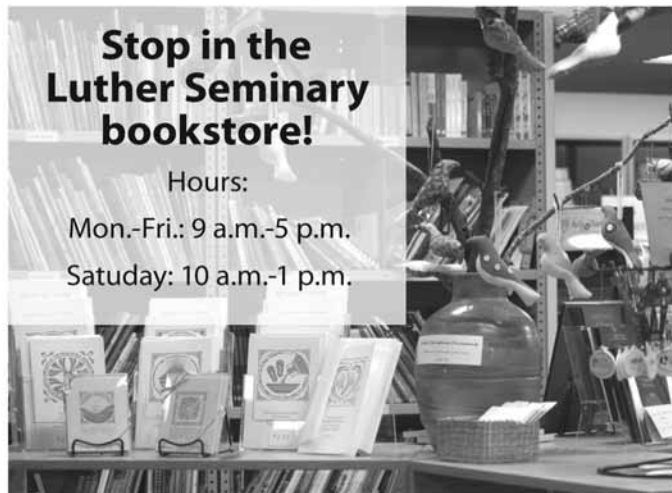
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If you want to place an ad for a business south of
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651-335-0299 or ruth.weleccki@parkbugle.org

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651-325-7189 or genevieve@parkbugle.org

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Fariba Sanikhatam, classifieds@parkbugle.org
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your news and views

LIVES LIVED

Walter Beran

Walter J. Beran, 92, died on Oct. 18. Wally was born in West St. Paul and graduated from Cretin High School in 1937. He retired from Webb Publishing in 1984.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Eunice; two sons, Dave (Bev) and Dan (Terri); a daughter, Kathy Marschel; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 21 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Dr. Eugene Fevold

Dr. Eugene L. Fevold, 93, retired Luther Seminary professor and

pastor, died Oct. 29. He grew up in small towns in North Dakota.

He served as an officer in the Army during World War II. He was stationed in England for part of that time.

Eugene was a graduate of St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity School and also completed post-graduate studies at Harvard and Princeton. In 1954–55, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Norway. Eugene was a recognized authority and author on religion in the United States, particularly on Norwegian-American Lutheranism.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothea; a brother, Norman; a sister-in-law, Lolly; and a brother-in-

law, Lester Mikelson. He is survived by his children, Constance (William Durland), Karen (Harry) Maher, Carol (John) Koepke and David (Patricia Mapes); nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Doris Mikelson; and brothers, Richard (Judith) and Joseph (Ardeth).

His funeral was held Nov. 3, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Marie Haff

Marie L. Haff, née Snell, 77, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died Oct. 10, in Afton, Minn., with her family at her side. Marie loved antiques, the outdoors, coffee and conversation with close friends.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, Allan Haff. She is survived by her children, Caroline Franklin, Melissa Strom, Douglas Mann and Gregory Mann; nine grandchildren; two sisters, Janice and Sandra; and a brother, John.

Marilyn Mortenson

Marilyn Mortenson, 82, of Falcon Heights, died peacefully Nov. 2.

She was preceded in death by James, her husband of 53 years. She is survived by her son, James (Rita); three daughters, Maria (Don Tienter) Tice, Patricia (David) Wang and Susan (Don) Perron; 19 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her brother, Dr. Thomas Russell II (Judie); and her brother-in-law, Robert B. Mortensen (Mary).

Memorial Mass of Christian was celebrated Nov. 7 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

Hilliard Smith

Hilliard E. Smith, 77, died Oct. 28, at St. Anthony Park Home. He died after a long battle with lung cancer, COPD, heart problems and other chronic illnesses. Hilliard, known by his nickname, Munchy, lived in St. Anthony Park for 65 years. He served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army 127th Airborne from 1952 to 1955.

He was journeyman carpenter and well known in the Park. He built and repaired many concrete walls and sidewalks and performed other remodeling work for Park residents.

He is survived by his sister, Catherine Hobson Birtz of Arizona, along with a niece and nephew and three grandnephews.

The family thanks the supportive staff at St. Anthony Park Home, nurses from St. Anthony Park Area Seniors and Minnesota Hospice and Palliative Care. They lessened the pain and kept him comfortable during his last months.

Interment was at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on Nov. 3.

Donald Thalhuber

Donald G. Thalhuber, 82, died Oct. 25. He was a Korean War veteran and a member of the International Association of Machinists.

He was preceded in death by his wife, RoseMarie Gau Thalhuber; brothers, Arthur and James; and sisters, Dorothy Saiko, Bernice Gau and Marie Sazevich. He is survived by sons, Peter and Kevin (Sheila); daughter, Lisanne (Bruce) Weisz; brother, Richard (Beverly); and three grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 31 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with entombment at Calvary Cemetery.

Jerome Young

Jerome “Jerry” Young, 85, longtime Como Park resident, died Nov. 6.

He was preceded in death by his son, John; sister, Phyllis Merthan; and brother, Jim. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Rosemary “Rose”; children, Tim (Dalyce), Mary (Mike) Cavanagh, Dan (Christine), Sue (Jim) Dorfner, Jerry (Rhonda), Claire (Dan) Solem, Beth (Greg) Tegdesch, Tony (Ann), Joe (Diane) and Chris (Cheryl); 38 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Bill, Chuck, Barbara Guettler and Annette Johnson.

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

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

Community Worship Directory



❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

www.ComoParkLutheran.org
www.ComoEveningPrayer.org
1376 Hoyt Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55108-2300
651-646-7127
Handicapped Accessible

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship (nursery care 8:15 a.m. - noon)
9:35 a.m. Adult Education and Sunday School
Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays
Rides available for 10:45 a.m. worship- call before noon Friday.
7:00 p.m. Como Evening Prayer Worship
Sunday, December 4: Carol Sing
With choir and orchestra at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. worship – bring family and friends!
Saturday, December 10: Advent Dinner, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Proceeds benefit youth missions and camps. \$7 adults; \$4 ages 4-12; \$20 family maximum.
Saturday, December 10: Christmas Program, 4:00 p.m.
All are welcome! Second performance: 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 11.
Sunday, December 18: Messiah Sing-A-Long, 3:00 p.m.
Come and sing the Messiah – or come to listen! – A wonderful way to celebrate the season!
Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship Services at 3:00, 4:30 & 10:30 p.m.
Candle lighting at all services; choirs at 3:00 & 4:30pm. Service at 10:30 p.m. is Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion.
Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Please join us for worship with Holy Communion.
Pastor: Martin Ericson
Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ FALCON HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1795 Holton St. at Garden, 651-646-2681
www.falconheightsucc.org
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. worship
Communion, first Sunday of the month
9:15 a.m., faith formation classes for all ages
Dec. 1 (Thursday) – 7 p.m., World AIDS Day service
Dec. 4 – 10:30 a.m., Advent Festival: worship, crafts, potluck and carols
Dec. 8 (Thursday) – 7 p.m., Juncture One alternative worship
Dec. 11 – 10:30 a.m., Chancel Choir concert: Mozart's Coronation Mass
Dec. 15 (Thursday) – Homeless march and memorial service, Minneapolis; call for details
Dec. 18 – 10:30 a.m., annual children's pageant: Country Angel Christmas – 3:30 p.m., Blue Christmas service
Dec. 21 – 5:45 p.m., soup supper and Christmas caroling
Dec. 24 – 4:30 p.m., Christmas Eve service and pageant: Country Angel Christmas – 10 p.m., Christmas Eve candlelight service with readings
Dec. 25 – No worship
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace church; handicap accessible

❖ HOLY CHILDHOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

1435 Midway Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108 Handicap Accessible
Rectory/office 651-644-7495, www.holychildhoodparish.org
Sunday Masses; Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Daily Mass 7:45 a.m. with Rosary following Mon.-Thurs. and 6:30 p.m. Thurs.
Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30-10 a.m.

❖ MT. OLIVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH-WELS

www.mtolive-wels.net, 651-645-2575
1460 Almond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
Handicapped Accessible
Sunday: Worship 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Al Schleusener

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502
Website: www.stceciliaspn.org
Handicap accessible
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m. at the church
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the church

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth Ave. (corner of Commonwealth & Chelmsford)
651-646-7173 www.sapucc.org
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Pastor Victoria Wilgocki
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www.sapumc.org
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11:00 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments

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Education Hour for all: 9:45 a.m.
Christmas Eve: 3:00, 5:30 & 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Community Dinners 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (No dinner 12/21 and 12/28)
Study Sunday w/free WiFi – Dec. 4 5:30-9 p.m. (Dinner 6-7:30 p.m.)
Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church 1:30 p.m.

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❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.stmatthewsmn.org
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7:00 p.m. Night Prayer+Eucharist and 5:30 p.m. dinner
Dec. 3 - 4 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Artisan craft sale to support the Blue House
Sunday: sale runs from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 24 4:00p.m. Children's Living Creche and All Ages Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Full Choir
Dec. 25 10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist
Undercroft Gallery: Children's Community Art Show through January 7.
Please join us – All are welcome!

❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

1744 Walnut (at Ione), Lauderdale, 651-644-5440
www.peacelauderdale.com
Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
All are welcome - Come as you are



Business News from 19

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Satori Photography will open its doors in Milton Square on Dec. 3 during the St. Anthony Park business district's Shop Home for the Holidays event. Photographers Vanessa Carrara and Sharri Keller founded Satori Photography in 2008. " 'Satori,' meaning 'instant awakening' or 'a moment of intuitive enlightenment,' represents what we yearn to capture for our clients," Carrara said. Satori Photography

specializes in child and family portraiture as well as wedding and commercial photography.

Carrara and Keller plan to have the grand opening of their shop in January. You can find out more about them at www.satoriphotog.com

Tom Fisher, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, and Renee Cheng, head of the college's Department of Architecture, have been recognized as two of the top 25 most-admired design

educators for 2012 by DesignIntelligence (DI) magazine.

DI selects educators from the disciplines of architecture, interior design, industrial design and landscape architecture who exemplify excellence in design education leadership. The graduate programs for landscape architecture and interior design were also ranked among the most admired of their kind in the country. This is the fourth time Fisher has received this recognition (2008-2010), and the

second time for Cheng (2011). It is a unique distinction for two faculty members from the same institution to be on the top-25 list at the same time.

Fisher is a leader in the public-interest design movement and a longtime researcher and advocate for using design to tackle the major economic, environmental and societal challenges facing the world. Recognized as one of the most published academics in his field, Fisher is the author of six books, 45



Tom Fisher, dean of the U of M's College of Design

book chapters and more than 250 major articles. His new book, due out in early 2013, is titled: *Designing to Avoid Disaster: The Nature of Fracture-Critical Design*.

Cheng has led the School of Architecture in a direction that builds upon its successful undergraduate and graduate degree programs in order to take advantage of new opportunities in the design and architectural professions. For example, the school's flagship, the professional M. Arch degree, was restructured to allow three distinct and complementary types of design studio teaching: large fall studios with integrated technical courses; changeable spring options configured to dive deeply into critical topics; one-week catalyst workshops that address issues not commonly seen in architecture programs, from tackling urgent needs in society to using new media or emerging technologies. This program is one of only two in the country recognized by the Fulbright scholars program for its excellence.

Hampden Park from 19

Association has been renting space for second-floor space for many years, which accounts for the thumping sometimes heard in the store below.

Neathery noted that while Central Corridor construction has at times drained dollars from the store by limiting traffic along Raymond, development nearby is generally a good thing as long as it produces more customers.

The development presents some marketing opportunities, according to Ormseth. "The co-op wants to hold onto the character of the store and the community feeling," he said. "At the same time, we want to improve the experience of new shoppers."

The co-op offers more than just good-quality food, Neathery said.

"Our staff has been here for a long time," she said. "There's a really high level of expertise."

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer who lives in St. Anthony Park and is a member of Hampden Park Co-op.

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School News

We welcome news about students or schools in our readership area: Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park. The deadline for the January 2012 issue is Wednesday, Dec. 7. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

Chelsea Heights Elementary
1557 Huron St., 651-293-8790
www.chelsea.spps.org

Support **Chelsea Heights' clothing drive**. Park Midway Bank is helping the school collect gently used hats, mittens, scarves, coats and boots for children in kindergarten to grade 6. The clothing drive ends on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Items can be dropped into specially marked boxes at Park Midway Bank (2300 Como Ave.) or in the main office of the school. The students thank you.

Como Park Lutheran Church sponsored Climb Theater's bullying workshop on Oct. 8. Students in grades 1–6 participated in the workshops, which addressed the impact of bullying on those being bullied, those doing the bullying and those who witness the incidents. Each student received a newsletter from the theater that highlighted some of the material covered. Thank you, Como Park Lutheran Church.

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

Three Como Park Senior High School seniors have been chosen for the competitive **Beat the Odds Scholarship**. While grappling with issues of being newly arriving refugees, homeless or in foster care, Raymond Perez, Tha Dah Loo and Wah Wah have demonstrated incredible, character, compassion and determination.

Como's **debate team is off to a great start** and growing to one of the largest teams in the Urban Debate League with nearly 20 debaters attending weekly tournaments. The best showing so far was at Humboldt High School's first Spooktacular debate tournament, where Dai'Quan Robinson and Stryker Thompson won Como's first-ever first-place varsity trophy. Como also took second place in novice and had two quarter-finalist varsity teams at the Humboldt tournament.

Advanced Placement Information Night is Thursday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the school library. Student and faculty will highlight the many Advanced Placement courses available to students. Information about College in the Schools and other advanced courses will also be presented.

Fall sports are wrapping up and some highlights include **Nate Rue's participation in the state cross-**

country meet at St. Olaf College on Nov. 5. All-conference and honorable mention awards for other athletes are as follows. Girls tennis: Monica Xiong and Julia Marcenco, all-conference; Susan Xiong, Paulina Vang and Madona Vang, honorable mention. Football: Beandre Baker, Fred Welch and Sam Zinkl, all-conference; Le'Andre Benion, Carter Brown, Ricky Grier and LucJan Januszewski, honorable mention. Girls swimming: Lia Chin-Purcell, Sophia Leurquin and Tasha Miller, all-conference; Rachel Williams, honorable mention. Volleyball: Whitney Burke, Alissa Denn and Abigail Smith, all-conference; Ashley Lee and Anna Nicholson, honorable mention. Girls soccer: Siri Berg-Moberg, all-conference; Claire Holdreith, Linda Lor and Mabel Smebakken, honorable mention. Boys soccer: He Moo, Joe Krivit and Yeng Yang, all-conference; Has D. Moo, Hussein Mohamed and Zach Lee, honorable mention.

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

Murray **students have been traveling to learn outside of the classroom**. In addition to the November Wolf Ridge trip, 67 eighth-grade students visited the Como planetarium to explore the solar system and the universe. Twenty-two 8th-grade AVID students visited Macalester College in November. Students from Madame Yvonne Merchant's French class attended Phantom of the Opera and Linda Wolf's students attended the Luna Negra dance performance at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts in downtown St. Paul.

The Murray traveling **volleyball team went 8–0 against conference opponents**. The team also played two nonconference games against the two best high school freshman teams in St. Paul, Highland and Central, and beat both of these teams. In the junior high tournament, held at Humboldt on Oct. 29, the Murray girls won, going 4–0, beating Ramsey in the championship match. The team went 12–0 in matches this season and did not lose a game. It was a perfect season!

Murray **girl's soccer had a great season**, finishing in second place with a record of five wins and one loss. The girls were led by 8th-graders Vanessa Acosta, Angie Martin and Lisa Torstenson. Seventh-grade standouts were Abbie Clapp, Kate Rogers and Tessa Simmons.

Murray flag football was undefeated for the second year in a row, winning the city championship. The team was lead by Mike



Murray Wolf Ridge leaders Fiona Steen, Malik Murray and Annelia Anderson. The classes taught by students at the environmental camp focus on cultures specific to the Murray Junior High School community. Photos by Tim Chase

'We are more alike than different' Murray's culture classes a tradition at Wolf Ridge environmental camp

By Kristal Leebrick

When Murray Junior High School sends 72 seventh- and eighth-graders up to Wolf Ridge environmental learning center in Finland each November, those students learn about more than northern Minnesota's ecosystem and natural history. They learn about each other.

The students spend five days taking classes on subjects such as wetland ecology, geology, orienteering and animals signs. But four 50-minute sessions that week are devoted to classes that teach the students about the variety of cultures that make up their own school's environment. Those classes are taught by the 16 eighth-graders chosen to be the student leaders for the trip.

"We are more alike than different," is a theme that has carried through the decades-long tradition of going to Wolf Ridge, said Tim Chase, science teacher and one of Murray's Wolf Ridge coordinators.

Teaching students about the variety of people in their community helps "a kid see that the student sitting next to him or her is different but the same," Chase said. "They celebrate; they have special foods. We are different but alike. We are more alike than different."

Murray students have made the trek to northern Minnesota since the 1970s, back when Wolf Ridge was at Lake Isabella and was called the Environmental Learning Center. Once lead by now-retired special education teacher Phyllis Baltes and the late Ann Bulger, volunteer coordinator at Murray, the reins were handed to Chase and English teacher Carrie Bittner about 17 years ago. "One of the main things we saw was the beauty and impact this trip had on the students," Chase said.

Bulger introduced the culture classes to Murray's camp curriculum. Bittner and Chase tweaked it by having the student leaders teach them.

The eight boys and eight girls start planning their culture classes

about a month before the camp. This year, four groups of four taught classes on Hmong, Pacific Islander, Eastern European and Hispanic cultures.

The classes reflect the variety of cultural groups represented at Murray.

One of this year's leaders, Fiona Steen, remembers taking the culture classes last year as seventh-grader. "I thought it was really interesting to learn about the different cultures that we have in our city and getting an understanding of the kids at our school," she said.

Steen was in the group that taught about Eastern Europeans this year. That choice was a no-brainer: One of the girls in her group, Diana Hristova, moved to the United States from Bulgaria five years ago. "We try to focus on cultures that are specific in our own community," Steen said. As her group learned more about immigrants from Eastern Europe, the students found that 16 percent of Eastern European immigrants in the United States are living in the Midwest.

Students who attend the Wolf Ridge program are chosen through a lottery system that first sorts the

candidates to make sure there is an even amount of seventh- and eighth-graders and boys and girls. The group is also sorted to ensure that the group represents the different ethnic groups at the school.

Student leaders are chosen through essays they write that demonstrate their leadership skills. Malik Murray said he wrote about his home responsibilities. He's the oldest in a family of six children and often cares for his younger siblings when his mother goes to work. "I teach them responsibility and how to be leaders," he said. "That's what I wrote."

The cost of the trip for each student is \$300, but grant money from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and other organizations help pay the tuition for those who don't have the means to pay the full amount, Chase said. "All we ask of the student is that they give back to the community in some way. We credit their account \$5 for every hour of community service done."

To find out more about Murray Junior High School's annual trip to Wolf Ridge and to see photos from past trips, go to http://murray.spps.org/wolf_ridge.html.



PaCha Vang, Mayah Varnado, Nia Madison and Taylor Koep presented the workshop on the Hmong culture class to their peers.

Park Bugle Classifieds

To place a classified ad, send it to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O.Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108 or 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 Dec. 9.**



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School News from 22

Cornelious, Richard Martin, Fei Xiong, Ben Taylor and Mr. do-it-all-Chris-get-busy Perry.

The Murray Parent Association will host a forum entitled **Choosing a High School** on Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. in the library. This is rescheduled from the forum's original date, Jan. 9.

Murray welcomes teacher Kellie

Saindon, who joined the math department in November. She will be teaching geometry and algebra. Saindon taught at Capitol Hill in St. Paul for eight years before coming to Murray. She says she loves math and loves teaching it. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in math from the University of Minnesota. She says she is excited to be a part of the Murray community.

A note from the math department: If parents are looking for a Christmas gift for their Challenge Algebra child, teachers are suggesting get them a Ti-83, 84 or 85 calculator.

Upcoming events at Murray are:
Dec. 1: Barnes and Noble Fundraiser at HarMar Mall
Dec. 2: End of first trimester
Dec. 15: Winter holiday concert
Dec. 22: Rock Band performance

St. Anthony Park Elementary
2180 Knapp St., 651-293-8735
www.stanthony.spps.org

December is a busy month at St. Anthony Park Elementary. Be sure to **shop at Micawber's Books**, 2238 Carter Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 3, during the local Shop Home for the Holidays event. Micawber's will donate a portion of the day's book sales to the school.

Close to 100 children stay after school every Tuesday and Thursday for extra support in math and reading and for enrichment classes such as origami, technology and world games. The **Extended Day for Learning Program (EDL)** also offers band and strings instruction for students in grades 5 and 6. Thank you to our community for your financial help enabling us to offer extra time in band and strings during the school day.

Fifteen **Destination Imagination** teams have been organized for students in grades 3–6. Practice is underway as they prepare for competition in March. A big thank you to the many adults who make this experience possible.

If it's snowing heavily this winter, **families should tune into WCCO TV or Radio** or visit the school district website at

www.spps.org to find out if schools are closing.

Prospective families can take tours of the school beginning in January.

The **2012 Parent Information Fair** will take place on Jan. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Paul RiverCentre's Grand Ballroom. St. Anthony Park Elementary will be one of many St. Paul school choices showcased at this event.

Other important dates at the school include the following:

Dec. 5: Grade 3 Family Science Night, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Dec. 6: Site Council meeting, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 22: Kindergarten Make-a-Memory Concert, 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 23: No school, winter break begins; school resumes on Jan. 4



Great River, Murray students plant at Como woodland classroom

By Deb Robinson

Volunteerism was alive and well with local school students from Great River School and Murray Junior High on Oct. 26 at the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) project site. Sixteen Great River students and their teacher,



St. Paul Parks and Recreation natural resources technician Meghan Manhattan shows Great River School volunteers how to plant the prairie plants.

Enrique Garita, planted 20 flats of prairie plants in the Savanna Woodland portion of the 17-acre woodland. Four Conservation Corps youth leaders and St. Paul Parks and Recreation's natural resources technician, Meghan Manhattan, provided guidance.

After GRS students finished planting, five Murray honor society students and their teacher, Tim Chase, spread bales of bluestem grass straw on any bare earth that remained in the planting area. Three adult volunteers connected to the project's advisory committee rounded out the crew.

Volunteerism is an important part of Great River School's mission to "prepare students for their unique roles as responsible and engaged citizens of the world." The school has a long association with the CWOC going back to 2008, when a class adopted the Como Woodland as a

project and worked on a variety of volunteer activities that benefited the site.

In 2011, Great River School applied for DNR Minnesota School Forest status for the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom. School Forest status will bring valuable state support and resources to this urban woodland educational facility in exchange for a long-term commitment from students and their school forest committee volunteers.

The long-term health of this urban woodland depends on dedicated volunteers like these students and community members. Thanks to all.

For more information about the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom project, visit www.comowoodland.org.

Deb Robinson is a member of the Como Woodland Advisory Committee.

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