Barley genome? Done

By Judy Woodward

A St. Anthony Park resident was in the news recently for a discovery that could potentially influence things as seemingly unrelated as the health of the world’s fourth-largest cereal crop, agriculture’s response to global warming and the taste of beer.

Prof. Gary Muehlbauer, 49, who holds the Endowed Chair in Molecular Genetics Research and Education at the University of Minnesota, was part of an international team that completed the sequencing of the barley genome.

Published results of their research provide a detailed overview of the functional portions of the barley genome, the order and structure of most of its 32,000 genes, according to a university statement.

To put things in perspective, Muehlbauer says that, although the humble barley genome contains about the same number of genes as the human genome, it’s twice as big as ours. And if that isn’t enough to cut our anthropocentric pretensions down to size, Muehlbauer adds that barley is far from the most complex plant genome. In fact, for plant science, you could say that completing the barley genome is something of a warm-up act for the real braising of crop sequencing.

“The barley genome is only one-third as big as the wheat genome,” he notes.

Why wheat and barley have so much more genetic material than humans is a mystery of science.

“I think more repetitive DNA between the genes,” says Muehlbauer. “No one really knows yet what these redundancies mean — Muehlbauer is the organizer of a large-scale project designed to develop wheat and barley varieties suited to our changing climate. There are 35 scientists at 18 research institutions working on the Triticeae Coordinated Agricultural Project. "The barley genome is only one-third as big as the wheat genome," he notes. No one really knows yet what these redundancies mean."

Muehlbauer. "No one really knows yet what these redundancies mean." “There’s more repetitive DNA between the genes,” says Muehlbauer. "No one really knows yet what these redundancies mean."

Barley genome to 6

A wonderful life

Banker, arts advocate, community builder, Andy Boss’s long career has touched all corners of the city.

By Kristal Lebrick

What’s the key to good leadership? "Get to know people," says Andy Boss. And over his long career as a bank president, arts supporter and community leader, the 80-year-old Boss insists that it is the relationships built between people that gets things done.

Boss—the former president of St. Anthony Park Bank (now Park Midway Bank), founder of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the guy who in 1974 initiated the newspaper you are now reading—was honored on Oct. 23 at a celebratory event for a fundraising campaign for Park Square Theatre’s new 200-seat Andy Boss Thrust Stage. A longtime Park Square subscriber and donor, Boss serves on the steering committee for the theater’s $4.2 million “Next Stage” campaign.

T he event was billed as part of the last leg of Park Square’s capital campaign, but for many of Boss’s friends and colleagues in St. Paul, it was a tribute to a career that touched nearly every corner of the city—from public housing, education and the arts to many institutions in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood, Boss’s home for most of his life.

Held at Park Midway Bank on Como Avenue, the event’s guests included three past St. Paul mayors and the current mayor, Chris Coleman. During the party, a scroll was unrolled from the bank’s second floor that contained the names of nearly 60 nonprofits where Boss served as a founder, director, officer or funder, and sometimes, all four.

That two-story resume spanned education—Minneapolis State Colleges and Universities, Voyageur Outward Bound School, Friends of the St. Paul Public Library—government—St. Paul Public Housing Authority, St. Paul Port Authority, St. Paul Riverfront Corp.—and St. Anthony Park Corp.—and St. Anthony Park Authority.

Andy and Linda Boss in a family photo taken about three years ago. Andy Boss to 12
New board members join council
Four incumbents and three new board members were elected to District 10 on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Chris Harkness, an at-large board member, was elected as vice chair of the council.

Ted Blank, an at-large board member, was elected as treasurer.

Kim Merson, a sub-district 2 board member, was re-elected for his position, and Kate Wilsink, a sub-district 3 board member was re-elected to her position.

New board members are Jackie Gulbranson, Ted James and Mary Michalski.

Board members who stepped down from the council are Panod Klongtruatroke, vice chair; Penny Spence, treasurer; and Ron Edlund, Jody McCardle and Betty Weithman, all at-large.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 277 W. Larpent Ave.

City Hall has new solar panels
Join the City of Falcon Heights in celebrating City Hall’s new solar panel roof on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. The ceremony, which will take place at Falcon Heights City Hall, 277 W. Larpent Ave., will include remarks from elected officials, solar panel demonstration and refreshments.

Solar panel workshop
Immediately after the solar panel celebration, residents can attend a solar panel workshop at City Hall at 10 a.m.

Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) works with Applied Energy Innovations (AEI) to provide residents with great deals on solar electric installations by buying in bulk.

Learn more about the bulk-buy savings, financing options and how to reduce the costs and streamline the process at the workshop.

To attend the workshop, please RSVP your name and number of people attending with you to michelle@falconheights.org.

Space may be limited. If you have questions regarding the details of the workshop please email contact@cooperativeenergyfutures.org or call 612-568-2334.

For more information email Bart.fischer@falconheights.org.

Lauderdale
The Lauderdale City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.

Lions Club Christmas tree sales benefit community organizations
The Lions Club of Falcon Heights/Lauderdale will celebrate its 26th year of selling Christmas trees this year. Visit the club at Community Park at the corner of Rose Lawn and Cleveland. They are open evenings and weekends starting Friday, Nov. 23. Proceeds from the sale go to supporting many community organizations.

Park & Community Involvement Committee needs new members
Join the Lauderdale Park and Community Involvement Committee (PCIC) and help plan city events such as SnowFest, the city’s winter festival in January, the citywide garage sale in May, M usic Under the Trees in June and July, and more.

The committee meets the first or the third Monday of the month. Contact City Hall, 651-792-7650, to find out more.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. The district’s Land Use Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at SSA. The Energy Reduction Group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Email erj@apcc.org to find out the location each month.

Get involved
Want to know the latest about St. Anthony Park and help clean up our air and watershed, plan our transportation options or bring creative enterprises to the neighborhood? Join one of the St. Anthony Park committees or task forces. All you need to do to become a member is attend three meetings.

Find a full list of opportunities at http://apcc.org/getinvolved.

Photos wanted
What images do you think represent St. Anthony Park?

Send your photos (high resolution—at least 300 dpi; .jpg, .tif or .ap) to be added to a photo library and perhaps selected to help visually represent the community within the Raymond Avenue or West gate Station (Green Line) signage.

Photos will be the property of the St. Anthony Park District Council but any use will include photo credit for the photographer. Email your photos to Lauren at lauren@apcc.org.

Snow emergency information
The program “Understanding Snow Emergency” educates viewers on what to do with their vehicles when a snow emergency is declared. Viewers can learn about the different rules that the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have so they can avoid getting their cars ticketed and towed.

The information, provided in eight languages, is available at http://www.ashominnesota.org/libra ry/understanding-snow-emergency.

To receive the program on DVD, contact Dave Hunt at Dave.Hunt@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Don’t leave packages in your car
It’s holiday season again, which means gifts galore. Please remember to move your packages to the trunk when leaving your car on the street to prevent break-ins. The St. Paul Police Department offers more holiday-safety tips on its website, mn-stpaul.civicplus.com/index.aspx?I=NID=2309.

New bike paths connect communities
Falcon Heights, Roseville and Lauderdale residents celebrated the opening of new bicycle and pedestrian pathways at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus on Nov. 1. The $1.5 million project includes wider sidewalks on both sides of Fairview Avenue (between County Road B and County Road B) and new on-street bike lanes on Fairview Avenue (between County Road B and Larpent Avenue), Larpent Avenue (past the Gibils Museum) and along Gortner Avenue (between Larpent Avenue and Dahn Patch Avenue, which is part of the M innesota State Fairgrounds).

The project also provided new traffic signals, street trees and benches.

The project was funded through $1.3 million from Bike Walk Twin Cities, a program of Transit for Livable Communities, and $330,000 of local funding.

The Nov. 1 community celebration included local food and beverages from M inny’s Cafe, the St. Paul Classic Cookie Co. and Peace Coffee. Attendees also participated in a group bike ride along the new routes.
HOME (GROWN) BREW

New beer maker using locally sourced materials for its building and its beer

By Kristal Leibrick

Sandy and Jay Boss Febbo are bringing a new meaning to the word “microbrew.”

Their 1,300-square-foot brew house at 2300 Capp Road is “small by design,” said Sandy Boss Febbo. “We are a super-small building with a small footprint.”

The Boss Febbos are committed to environmental sustainability in their new venture, Bang Brewing Co., slated to open in late February. The couple’s penchant toward that shows in the size of the building and the materials they have used to build it.

The corrugated metal structure, designed by Geoffrey Warner at Alchemy Architects on Raymond Avenue in south St. Anthony Park, “is partial pre-fab and incorporated a number of repurposed materials,” Sandy said. The brewery’s driveway contains reclaimed wood from the parkway near the Mill City Ruins in downtown Minneapolis. The wood was sourced from Wood from the Hood, a Minneapolis company that reclaims discarded wood and trees from urban neighborhoods.

Both Jay and Sandy worked downtown and commuted by car and bicycle on West River Parkway for years before it was paved with concrete, she said. Using oak planks that had been used to build that familiar section of the road and the adjacent bike and walk paths for the brewery’s driveway and window bucks “was a fun serendipity,” Sandy said. “We also reclaimed a neighbor’s casket for some of our interior wall trim and picked up a used door for our cold room.”

The building, which resembles a grain bin, will be landscaped with a barley field. “Our intent is to show the cycle of barley growth, including potential crop rotation, while we rebuild the soil on our lot,” Sandy said. They are consulting with Driftless Organics, a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm near Soldiers Grove, Wis., on the landscaping and are in talks with the farm about growing the organic hops and grains that Bang will use in its beers. “It’s a ways off, but we’re hopeful,” Sandy said.

Bang Brewing plans to use only organic ingredients, said Jay Boss Febbo, but sourcing those ingredients locally isn’t easy. While they can get organic malt in Wisconsin, the hops will come from California, Sandy said. “Organic hops is difficult to produce,” she said, but noted that the University of Minnesota is doing a study on regional hop growing and bringing more of it into Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In line with the small footprint, the brew house is designed to reduce water use and “we are committed to utilizing wind-powered energy,” Sandy said. “We will be working to incorporate even more sustainable features as we go.”

Jay began brewing beer in 1993, while Sandy was caretaking an uncle’s house at 2320 Capp Road is “small by design.” Photo by Lori Hamilton

Speed limit on 280 back to 55 mph

By Anne Holzman

The speed limit has been increased to 55 miles per hour on the southern section of I-35W bridge, five years after the collapse of the I-35W bridge led to speed reductions to improve safety while 280 was used as an alternate route for 35W traffic.

Chad Erickson, an engineer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, said the speed limit before the bridge collapse was at 50 mph in the northern stretch around the Broadway Avenue traffic signal and 55 mph in the southern section, where there are ramps instead of interactions.

“With that was designated as a detour route,” Erickson said, “the entire stretch was down to 50.” He said the new limit was posted Aug. 22, 2007.

He added that it was “kind of an oversight” that the speed limit didn’t go back up sooner after the new I-35W bridge opened in September 2008.

A speed study was done in fall 2011 “to make sure it was appropriate” to put the limit back up, Erickson said. The study measured driver impact and safety. “It indicated speeds were not reduced with the reduction of the speed limit,” he said.

Asked whether noise had been studied, Erickson said that would not be included in a MNDOT speed study.

The speed limit is still at the slightly lower 50 mph on the northern end of 280, as it has been since the highway was built, except during construction projects, he said.

Gaye Larson, who lives on Bourne Avenue in St. Anthony Park, has worked with neighbors for years to get the state to reduce noise from the freeway, said she was not aware of the speed limit change.

Speed limit to 10 mph

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GET TO A BETTER STATE*; CALL ME TODAY.
Dump the ‘bargain’ mentality, invest locally

Exit polls during the Nov. 6 election showed the economy remains a top concern for voters, as gas prices and unemployment continue to rank high on their worry lists.

As lawmakers head to Washington to deal with the fiscal cliff, we can do our part here, at home, to give the economy a job shop local. Consumers can bolster their local economy by supporting the businesses in their communities. Data show that when you spend money close to home, more of that money stays in the community than the dollars spent online or at retailers owned by out-of-state companies.

A 2011 study done by two Pennsylvania State University economists, Stephen Goetz and David Fleming, found that after analyzing 2,953 counties, both rural and urban, the researchers saw 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 locally owned businesses has a ripple effect: thriving local businesses hire local accountants, local carpenters and local plumbers. Community businesses often employ people who live in the area, and those employees are more likely to visit the local bakery or restaurants.

Creative businesses are more likely to support community institutions such as schools and libraries, bank at the local banks and advertise in the local news media. And they contribute to vibrant, walkable town centers that reduce the need to use cars while shopping.

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization working to strengthen independent businesses and local economies, lists its Top 10 Reasons to Support Locally Owned Businesses (reprinted with permission):

1. Local character and property
   In an increasingly homogenized world, communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character have an economic advantage.

2. Community well-being
   Locally owned businesses build strong communities by sustaining vibrant town centers, linking neighbors in a web of economic and social relationships, and contributing to local causes.

3. Local decision-making
   Local ownership ensures that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions.

4. Keeping dollars in the local economy
   Compared to chain stores, locally owned businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy, enriching the whole community.

5. Jobs and wages
   Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits than chains do.

6. Entrepreneurship
   Entrepreneurship fuels America’s economic innovation and prosperity, and serves as a key means for families to move out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.

7. Public benefits and costs
   Local stores in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure and make more efficient use of public services relative to big-box stores and strip shopping malls.

8. Environmental sustainability
   Local stores help sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers, which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution.

9. Competition
   A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.

10. Product diversity
    A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based, not on a national sales plan, but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.

The next time you’re tempted to click on your Facebook friend’s latest online deal, think about your community and then ask yourself if that incredible deal is really good investment.

Put the Bugle on your year-end gift list

As you assess your year-end charitable giving, don’t forget to give to the Park Bugle.

Like most nonprofits, the Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray its annual operating costs. Your donations go toward the cost of printing and producing a newspaper that is delivered, free of charge, to 14,500 households and businesses in the communities of Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and Anthony Park. Help us reach our goal of $35,000 in our 2012-13 fund drive.

It’s easy to give. Go to www.parkbugle.org and click on the green Give N button in the upper right corner, or send a check to the Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

We’re your neighbor. Your gift will help this award-winning, community-supported newspaper remain part of your community for years to come.

John Marty thanks voters
Thank you to the voters of District 66 for your support. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to serve you in the Senate.

As I went door-to-door around the district it was a pleasure to talk and meet so many of you. Thank you for the ideas that you shared. Your advice will be helpful to me at the Capitol. Please feel welcome to contact me whenever you have concerns. myartyn@senate.mn or 651-296-5645.

I will continue to do my best to build a better future for all Minnesotans.

John Marty
Senator

Camp taught STEM concepts to solve real-world problems
I would like to thank St. Paul Community Education and Rondo Education Center for hosting the Camp Invention program this summer.

Camp Invention Director Nichelle Schilling and the talented local teaching camp staff helped prepare local youth for futures success through practical application of the 21st-century learning skills such as teamwork, creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving.

Thirty-seven St. Paul-area elementary students joined more than 77,000 students nationwide in tackling exciting hands-on STEM challenges at the Camp Invention program.

The science, technology, engineering and math concepts that they learned were used to solve a series of real-world problems that required innovative solutions.

I especially want to thank the adult and youth staff and the students in the St. Paul area for exceptional creativity and inventiveness that they displayed throughout the week.

Susan Z. Clarke
Regional consultant for Camp Invention
Yes, Virginia, there is Santa, or two

By Adam Granger

I grew up next to the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority house, near the University of Oklahoma campus and, as a no-doubt cute 4-year-old, I became a mascot of sorts to the residents. In December 1953, they invited me over to meet Santa Claus and get a couple of early presents from him and to tell him what I hoped to see under the tree on Christmas morning. Even at my tender age, I couldn’t help notice that Santa had cleavage and wore mascara.

When my mother was putting me to bed that night, I had questions: “Mom, why does Santa have a bosom?”

“Huh, just out of shape.”

“But, why was he wearing mascara?”

“That’s really none of our business,” she replied, inadvertently exhibiting an enlightenment and tolerance 60 years ahead of its time.

Two days later, we went to the John A. Brown department store in Oklahoma City, and there was Santa again. I sat in his lap and told him again what I wanted.

On the drive home, I had more questions:

“Mom, what happened to Santa’s bosom?”

“Maybe he’s been watching Jack LaLanne.”

“The exercise guy? Then why doesn’t the real Santa sue?”

“Maybe he’s been watching Jack LaLanne.”

“Mom, what else does Santa havecleavage?”

“Why, he’s just out of shape.”

“Hi, I’m Santa Claus. North Pole.”

“Hi, I’m Santa Claus. North Pole.”

“So, you are Santa Claus?”

“Yeah!”

“Huh, just out of shape.”

“Whoa! And why wasn’t he wearing mascara today?”

“I took the mascara off.”

“Okay, okay, why is Santa wearing only his Santa clothes. Given the failure of my earlier inquiries, I decided to work this one out on my own, and what I came up with was that Santa was himself flame-retardant. (Don’t credit me with genius here; it was the only logical explanation.)”

If I, a fairly normal kid, was this confused in the relatively rustic mid-20th century, it’s hard to imagine the perplexion 21st-century youth must feel. Like a Wherries Waldo tableau in reverse, there are Santas everywhere and, unlike Clark Kent and Superman or Peter Parker and Spider-Man, there is physical nexus we often see more than one simultaneously.

If a study were undertaken, it would reveal that, during holiday season, a child will see 63.3 Santas a week. Some will be tall and some short, some will be black, some will have Brooklyn accents, some will have breath that smells like your parents’ after an English faculty party, some will have tattoos, some will be animated and, yes, some will be female. And, other than the red suits in which they are clad, the only common thread is that they will all claim to be Santa, which, of course, can’t possibly be true.

So what’s a kid to think? Well, let’s start with what we know and work backward from there. Santa is real and lives at the North Pole and delivers presents to good boys and girls who are nice and do their chores and, of course, aren’t Santa. But then, why doesn’t the real Santa sue the fake ones? Well, because Santa isn’t litigious. If he were, his attorneys would be bogging the world’s courts with undersized-chimney and icy-roof lawsuits.

And besides, the pseudo-Santas lessen the Christmas Eve burden of the real Santa without, for the most part, seriously tarnishing his reputation. A thousand years ago, there were few enough people in the world that Santa could actually visit every house in one evening, but does anyone really believe that’s possible in today’s world, with 7 billion people? Enter the generic Santa, a worldwide cohort of good and kind souls whose only fault are the claims of being the original Santa (white lies, at worst). It’s win-win for old St. Nick.

So kids, here’s my advice on coping with Christmas in the 21st century: Go along with the charade. Sit in “Santa’s” lap, tell him (or her) what you want for Christmas, and don’t ask questions. Then, when you get home, drop the real Santa a line. He’s this address:

Santa Claus
North Pole

He’ll be glad to hear from you.

Adam Granger lives with his wife, son, dog and cat in St. Anthony Park. He is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.
Barley genome from 1

2005 and now a new brewery on what was an undeveloped parcel of land just east of the Raymond Avenue railroad bridge in south St. Anthony Park. Sandy Bos Fedib is quite familiar with the neighborhood. She’s the niece of Andy Boss (see our story on him on page 1), retired president of St. Anthony Park Bank (now Park Midwest Bank). Her father, Gary, was Andy’s brother. Her great-grandfather, Andrew Boss, was one of the founders of the bank.

Initially, the brewery will be open one or two weeknights and on Saturday afternoons, Sandy said. When customers visit the tasting room, they will be seated in the middle of the brewery, along with the sacks of grain and all the equipment needed to mash, boil and ferment the ingredients that go into beer.

The couple’s full-time jobs contributed to the naming of their brew. Jay is a software engineer at Wells Fargo. Sandy is an executive producer at Carmichael Lynch. The name for their new venture “has a layered meaning” that fell out of both of their industries, Sandy said. The logo for the beer will be a stylized exclamation point, a nod to both computer culture and typography, where an exclamation point is called “a ‘bang.’”

“As Jay began his numbering system for his homebrews, he always started his file-naming convention with a ‘bang’ instead of a hash tag,” Sandy said.

Bang Brewing will focus on American ales. Jay, who will be brewing the beer, said the company’s first release will be a very pale ale called “N eat.”

Sandy admits that she’s biased when it comes to her husband’s beers, “but his beers are good,” she said.

Barley genome from 1

Project (TCAP). “For the TCAP,” Muehlbauer says, “the barley genome sequence will be quite useful and a powerful tool to increase the efficiency of barley breeding.”

“Once we have the sequence, we can zoom in on those lines that confer specific traits—like drought tolerance. You can identify types of genes important for different traits, and then assess them in standard field trials.”

Resistance to dry conditions has a special value for barley cultivation, because of a nasty, moisture-loving fungal pathogen that causes a plant disease called fusarium head blight. Apart from damage it does to the crop, fusarium causes uncontrolled vomiting in humans and animals that consume the grain.

“It’s a huge problem,” says Muehlbauer. “All the barley [cultivation] is moving to drier places where the fungus is not as much of a problem.” Twenty years ago, for example, Minnesota had 10 times as many acres growing barley than it does now. Barley cultivation has shifted to drier regions in the Dakotas and Canada.

The newly mapped genome may hold the key to eventually developing a strain of fusarium-resistant barley. Currently, there is no completely resistant barley strain, but there are strains that show partial resistance. “The genome can show multiple gene sequences providing some areas of resistance,” Muehlbauer says. Success might lie in combining partially resistant strains.

Fusarium is not the only disease threat to barley. “When the environment changes,” says Muehlbauer, “the pathogens change.” Global warming, in other words, doesn’t merely overtake our air conditioning systems, create frequent megatorms and melt the polar ice caps. Talk with Muehlbauer long enough and you’ll learn about potential vegetable threats that rank right up there with nuclear annihilation and a return of the 1918 flu pandemic. There is Ugan99, for example, a pathogen discovered in Uganda in 1999. “Eighty to 90 percent of barley and what worldwide is susceptible to this,” Muehlbauer says, and a big enough outbreak could conceivably deviate world grain supplies.

Scientists like Muehlbauer are clearly in the frontlines of the global struggle against agricultural diseases, but happily that’s not the only use that they will find for the barley genome. Basic barley rarely finds its way onto the supper menu. Aside from the occasional can of beef and barley soup, it’s hardly a household staple. “I hear too much chaff in barley and it goes off-color really quickly,” says Muehlbauer.

But barley has another, far more noteworthy, role in the global wheat American diet. Although three-quarters of barley is used for animal feed, a vital 20 percent of the crop finds its way into beer.

Barley is a prime ingredient in beer, and thanks to gene sequencing, there may one day be more flavor in the suds. Muehlbauer, “we already working with two microbreweries—Nevada of California—to investigate whether different lines of barley yield different flavors in the beer. We want brewing companies to work with us,” he says.

For Muehlbauer, crop improvement is something of a family business. He grew up in Pullman, Wash., where his father was a plant scientist at Washington State University specializing in pea and lentil breeding. Muehlbauer remembers the day in 1982 when his father decided to buy a computer. A teenager at the time, Muehlbauer says, “we laughed. Why would he need a computer? But [my father] was convinced that he would need it in his future.”

His dad was right, of course, and Muehlbauer and his graduate students spend plenty of time generating computer data these days. Still, an observer senses that much of his enthusiasm is reserved for what he calls “wet lab” work, assessing the results of breeding experimentation. His most satisfying professional moments come “when my students and post-doctoral fellows come up with new results that we can understand and interpret.” Unfortunately, the scientific process being what it is, those interesting discoveries don’t occur all that frequently.

“Science is never like a Eureka moment,” says Muehlbauer. “You can see the progression toward the result. It would be good if there was always a new result every other week.”

But reality is otherwise. “Every three years you get a result, and then you spend the next two years writing it up.”

Judy Woodward is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.
Interactive literacy project opens at St. Anthony Park Branch Library

By Kristal Leebrick

Amy Unger poses in the children's area of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library where the Alphabet Place is on display. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

The ABCs of the light-rail line

Interactive literacy project opens at St. Anthony Park Branch Library

By Kristal Leebrick

Amy Unger has been on a treasure hunt since March. That's when the Falcon Heights resident began walking the six miles of the Central Corridor in search of interesting letters to photograph and compile into a literary art project she calls the Alphabet Place.

Starting at Highway 280 and heading east on University Avenue, Unger walked past the Capitol and covered both sides of the street, taking snapshots of letters on commercial and construction signs and buildings.

She sometimes formed her own letters out of the bricks, nails and chains she found amid the construction debris.

Unger's four-month trek along the avenue culminated in an interactive exhibit this summer at Rondo Community Outreach Library in St. Paul. Titled the Alphabet Place, the exhibit featured Unger's photographs, interactive alphabet board games for children to play and an alphabet treasure hunt.

Alphabet Place is now at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library. An opening of the hands-on exhibit will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The event will feature local guitarist Dawn Tanner playing a variety of alphabet songs, multiple board games—the Alphabet Matrix—to play and a treasure hunt where children will search for photos of the 26 letters of the alphabet pasted in the book stacks and on walls and posts in the children's area of the library.

Children who find them all will receive a laminated bookmark featuring some of Unger's photographs. The project was inspired by St. Paul-based artist Drella Fraser's use of found letters in her Alphabet Forest at the Minnesota State Fair, where Unger volunteered last summer. Licensed as an elementary school teacher, Unger brought her education background into the project, as well as her experience working with her now-teenage son who went through years of vision therapy to help him coordinate his visual and motor skills.

The initial project at Rondo Library was funded through a $1,000 grant from Irrigate, an artist-led "placemaking" initiative that is bringing artists together with businesses, organizations and community groups along the Central Corridor to bring "color, art, surprise, creativity and fun" to the communities along the light rail line, according to Irrigate's website. The group describes placemaking as "the act of people coming together to change overlooked and undervalued public and shared spaces into welcoming places where community gathers, supports one another and thrives."

"The idea of placemaking is more powerful than we understand," Unger said.

In July, she traveled to New York City and had planned to take photos there of found letters but she couldn't do it.

"New York was not a reference point for my life," she said. Unger, who was raised in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis and recently moved back from California to Minnesota said, "I made my place here. My trip helped me to place myself."

Unger hopes the children who see the photos in the library will recognize that the letters are part of their place, too, and that they will see the letters as familiar elements in their communities or that they will recognize some of them on their own journeys on University Avenue and recall the photographs at the library.

"I want the kids to own the alphabet," she said.

Kristal Leebrick is the editor of the Park Bugle.

Parkinson’s Support Group at Lyngblomsten

For caregivers and people living with Parkinson’s or other movement disorders

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3 p.m.

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St. Anthony Park, $272,900
Como Curb Cleanup

This year’s event gathers 1,290 bags and that means 11,610 pounds of leaves were prevented from draining into Como Lake and the Mississippi River.

By Janna Caywood

Como residents turned out in record numbers between Oct. 12 and 21 to take part in the Como Curb Cleanup. The results for the fall 2012 effort: 1,290 bags. This is nearly double the record from fall 2011—671 bags. Thank you, Como neighbors.

The Como Curb Cleanup is an annual, communitywide effort to clean up leaves and other organic debris from curbs and street gutters. In doing this, residents prevent phosphorus from leaching out of the leaves, as stormwater flows through them, and into storm sewers that drain to Como Lake and the Mississippi River. Como Lake is already degraded due to excessive phosphorus concentrations.

This year we determined, on average, a bag contained 9 pounds of dry leaf litter. Multiply this by 1,290 and we come up with 11,610 pounds of leaves removed from our street gutters.

The Como Lake Neighbor Network is now working with the University of Minnesota, Capitol Region Watershed District and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to come up with a close approximation of how many pounds of phosphorus our one-week effort prevented from entering our local waters. That number will be shared at CLNN.org in early December.

These results are remarkable. They demonstrate how much Como neighbors value Como Lake, and they demonstrate the pollution-prevention impact we can have as a community when we work collaboratively toward a shared goal.

These results also demonstrate the willingness of Como citizens to work in partnership with local government in returning Como Lake to a healthy, stable condition.

We are gathering feedback about this year’s cleanup and ideas to make next year’s effort even better. If you are a Como resident who participated in the effort, please go to CLNN.org to complete an online survey. Or you can send an email to janna@watertoxicide.org or call 651-261-7416.

We thank our many partners who provided critical collaboration and support for this project. We especially want to thank Capitol Region Watershed District for providing generous grant funding.

Our list of partners grows every year. We are so awed by the outpouring of support for this citizen-led initiative.

Thank you to the following:

Capitol Region Watershed District; Citizens League District 1C Community Council; District 6 Planning Council; City of St. Paul; Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5 City Councilwoman; Ramsey County Public Health; Vaxia Environmental Services; Walters Recycling and Refuse; Consel Disposal Services; 7 Corners Painting; Orchard Recreation; Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps; U of M Water Resource Students in Action; U of M Carlson School of Management grad students; Girl Scout Troop 53160; North Como Presbyterian Church; U of M Ecology, Evolution and Behavior (EEB) Club; Minnesotta Pollution Control Agency staff; members of Como Lake Neighbor Network; Como block leaders; and Como residents.

Janna Caywood is the lead organizer of the Como Lake Neighbor Network.

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Pelham site defeat holds lessons for neighborhood district councils

By Anne Holzman

The final dismissal of neighbors’ objections to developer John Allen’s office warehouse plan for 650 Pelham Blvd. came in an October court ruling that allows Allen to move forward with his project. The site lies in a zone just north of I-94 that is industrial but within sight of the Central Corridor light-rail line to the north and Merriam Park homes to the south. Union Park and St. Anthony Park district councils had succeeded in stalling the project a year ago based on the city’s plans for transit-friendly commercial and residential development.

Allen and many members of the city’s staff and zoning board, said the petitioning industry and truck access to the interstate made Allen’s plan and the 200 jobs he claims will come with it a good use of the site.

Lauren Fulner-Erickson, organizer for the St. Anthony Park Committee worked hard to support the council’s Land Use Community Council (District 12), said the council’s zoning and other considerations. “We want development that fits into the community,” she continued. “We want design that’s more green, more connected and more urban.”

“This whole process has made it seem like district councils are anti-business, but that’s not true.”

— Lauren Fulner-Erickson

She said the rift between her organization and business groups became clear during the Pelham fight, and she’s already started working on building bridges, of the social variety. “We realized we really have to figure out what room we might have to affect the Pelham site,” Fulner-Erickson said.

One insight struck the group — Allen has purchased, cleaned up and sold the Pelham site to Allen and backed his plan. “This whole process has made it seem like district councils are anti-business, but that’s not true,” Fulner-Erickson said. “We’re hoping that developers will approach district council early in the process of a new project.”

“We want development that fits into the community,” she continued. “We don’t design that’s more green, more connected and more urban.”

So we’ve been having more informal meetings to share projects and priorities,” she said, noting that chamber and Port Authority staff have attended at least four district council meetings not involving the Pelham site this year. “We want to discuss issues before they become conflicts,” she said.

One result of the Central Council meetings with city and Ward 4 staff, drafted letters of support for Union Park’s position, said the council’s staff were conducting a post-mortem to see what other lessons might be learned. That important, Fulner-Erickson said, because of other issues swirling around the Central Corridor, which should have trains running along it in less than two years.

In particular she said, the council wants to correct the impression left by the battle with Allen that council’s respond only to residential concerns. “Were trying to build better relations with the Port Authority and with developers,” Fulner-Erickson said. The St. Paul Port Authority had purchased, cleaned up and sold the Pelham site to Allen and backed his plan.

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We've always wanted timing done, describing a method of scoring pavement so that tires run parallel to the lines. "We've asked them to do that, and it's really simple living," Larson said. Larson would like to see a round wall near Energy Park Drive, as well.

Fishbeck from 9

Corridor has been a boom in neighborhood initiatives to weigh in on development along the line, and St. Anthony Park is no exception. The Creative Enterprise Zone looking to cultivate artistic enterprises near the Raymond station is "blossoming," Fulner-Erickson said.

Neighbors have also kept an eye on the St. Paul Public Works Department's Northwest Quadrant Study, just completed, as well as the ongoing West 5th Avenue Study. The Department of Planning and Economic Development hopes will help bring jobs to the area and increase the visibility of University Avenue.

A new committee of the St. Anthony Park Community Council has formed to address some of those issues and help neighbors connect with the various entities steering the area.

A new committee of the St. Anthony Park Community Council has formed to address some of those issues and help neighbors connect with the various entities steering development in the area.

John Mark Lucas has stepped up as one of three co-chairs for the committee.

"There's been quite a lot of discussion about truck traffic and truck access to freeways," he said.

Lucas urged concerned neighbors to get in touch with the district council and join the conversation. The transportation committee meets the third Monday of each month at South St. Anthony Recreation Center, 890 Cromwell Ave., and welcomes visitors.

Other district council committees would welcome more participation, too, said organizer Fulner-Erickson, who works as a part-time organizer assisting Executive Director Amy Sparks.

Details of the community council's work can be found at www.capcc.org.

As each proposal develops around the neighborhood, "the more educated, strong voices we have from the neighborhood, the stronger our case will be," Fulner-Erickson said.

It's key to have volunteers present at meetings with city staff, zoning board and city council, she said. "We need people at those meetings who can speak both from their own experience and from the position of the community council. I think the tone is very different when the message comes from a neighborhood resident rather than from district council staff."

Anne Holzman lives and writes in St. Anthony Park.

Happy holidays from the staff at the Park Bugle

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Earhart mystery still intrigues Como resident

By Roger Bergerson

When early news reports depicted last July’s search for Amelia Earhart, the vanished aviatrix, as a failure, Kenton Spading knew that wasn’t necessarily the case.

Having participated in earlier expeditions sponsored by the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, the Como resident understood that underwater imagery recorded in the South Pacific would take months to analyze.

Sure enough, in October the group announced there was a strong possibility that it had found the landing gear from the Lockheed Electra 10E in which Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan were flying when they disappeared in the South Pacific on July 2, 1937.

“That’s the story of archeology, incremental gains,” Spading observed.

A hydrologic civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, Spading became intrigued with the aircraft-recovery group after reading about its projects 20 years ago and wanted to participate himself.

Even though the group’s expeditions are staffed primarily by volunteers, not everyone who wants to go is accepted. Spading was judged to be a good fit because of his technical and engineering background.

Initially, Spading participated in a series of four expeditions in search of the “White Bird,” the plane piloted by two French aviators attempting to cross the Atlantic in 1927. Had they been successful, there would have been no reason for Charles Lindbergh’s subsequent attempt. Instead, the Frenchmen disappeared along with their craft and Spading took part in an unsuccessful effort to trace them that eventually led to Newfoundland.

In 1997, he joined the group’s search for Earhart and Noonan, who went missing after leaving New Guinea bound for Hawaii. Earhart, one of the most famous women of her era, was attempting to become the first person to fly around the world at the equator, a distance of 28,000 miles.

(Earhart had a St. Paul connection, having attended Central High School for her junior year in 1913-14, when her father was employed by the Great Northern Railway.)

The group’s interest centers on remote and uninhabited Nikumaroro, a coral island that is today part of the island nation of Kiribati. The hypothesis is that Earhart and Noonan landed on a reef there after failing to find Howland Island, their refueling stop to the north, and ultimately perished from unknown causes.

Spading acknowledges that there are competing theories about the disappearance, the leading one being that the plane simply crashed into the ocean.

Plenty of circumstantial evidence has been discovered that supports the case for Nikumaroro, such as signs of campfires, charred bones and foie gras and hand lotion that an American woman would have seen in stores in the 1930s.

In 1998, Spading traveled to England to carry out archival research relating to bones found on Nikumaroro and turned over to British authorities in 1940. He found interesting data, but nothing that conclusively linked the remains to either Earhart or Noonan.

Subsequently, Spading and three colleagues co-authored Amelia Earhart’s Shoes: Is the Mystery Solved? The title is a tongue-in-cheek reference to yet another lead that didn’t quite pan out. The book chronicles the search for the aviatrix and navigator, along with the twists and turns in a detective story that’s still evolving.

He’s kept in touch with the aircraft recovery group and would like to participate again one day in the Earhart search, although certainly not for the creature comforts, because there aren’t any.

Things have changed, however. The expeditions have become so expensive—July’s cost more than $2 million—that some volunteers now are required to pay a substantial fee to go along.

“There’s still a core group with specific skill sets that they need, but overall it will be harder for me to be involved,” he said, “especially because the recent emphasis is on underwater search expertise.”
Andy Boss from 1

institutions—Children’s Home Society of M innesota, St. Anthony
Park H omestay, Music in the Park Series, to name a few.

Park Midway President Rick Boss describes Boss as a “volunteer
extraordinaire—who has really touched all the sectors:
education, business, the arts, housing—or a leader.

“W’ll be most remembered for his mentorship of hundreds of
business and organizational leaders who relied on him for his
good judgment and highly developed sense
of governing,” Beeson says.

Ellen Watters agrees. “I can trace
my career and all of the boards and
volunteer activities I’ve been in in the
last 15 or 20 years and it all goes back
to Andy, which is really remarkable,”
she says. Now a community-
development consultant, Watters
met Boss while they both served on
the St. Anthony Park Community
Council. That relationship led
Watters to work for the St. Anthony
Park Business Association, then the
Midway Chamber of Commerce and
then the St. Paul Area Chamber of
Commerce.

“He introduced me to a ton of
people—and got me involved in many
tings,” she says. “O nce you get in
Andy’s network, it’s a pretty
boundary-less network. It goes
everywhere.”

Watters is now chair of the
board of directors at the Northern
Clay Center, a nationally recognized
center for ceramic arts, which Boss
was instrumental in founding in 1990.

Boss insists that his involvement
in so many things was that he was
genuinely interested in “getting to
know people who were interested in
the same things I am.”

The clay center—which first
opened in a building at Raymond
and University and is now in the
Seward neighborhood of
Minneapolis—“really came out of a
number of people just getting
together and talking about how it
can be done,” he says. O nce the center
was built, Boss participated in the
center by not only serving on the
board of directors but by taking
ceramic classes himself. “I made a
few nice pots,” he says, and smiles.

In 1974, Boss approached
Roger Swarson, the publisher of the
Grand Gazette, about starting a
newspaper in the St. Anthony
Park neighborhood.

“I wanted to know more about
putting a newspaper together,” he
says. Within a year, Boss had helped
establish Park Press Inc., the
nonprofit board that has been
publishing the Park Bugle ever since.

“This is a guy who saw things
that needed fixed and said, ‘Let’s get
that done.’ ” says Jon Schumacher,
executive director of the 14-year-old
St. Anthony Park Community
Foundation.

“He started the community
foundation,” Watters says. Initial
planning for the foundation began in
Andy and Linda Boss’s living room.

“He was a banker who was very
much a part of the community,”
Schumacher says. “He was so
involved in the city that he knew
that there would need to be more private
involvement in city institutions.
He had an idea that at sometime in the
future, it would be nice to have a
safety net for this community, and
starting the foundation was a way to
put money where it would continue
to support this neighborhood when the
city was not able to do that. And
that certainly was what happened in the
14 years since.”

In the last few years, age and
health issues have prevented Boss
from being as active in community
affairs as he once was, but “he still
knows what’s going on with whatever organization you are
attached to,” Schumacher says. “The
last time I visited him, the first thing
he asked was, ‘What’s going on with
the foundation?’ ”

“H e was my mentor in terms of
community building,” Schumacher
says.

In 2007, real estate developer Steve
Wellington—who’s first project was
the former St. Anthony Park Bank
building at 2265 Como Ave.—says
Boss showed him “that you can be a
successful businessman and an
equally capable community leader.”

“I’m 24 years of service on the
board of the Public Housing Agency
was a tremendous gift to the
community,” Wellington says. The
agency’s headquarters, the W.
Andrew Boss Building at 555 N.
Wabasha St., was named after him.

“He worried about the city’s
poorest,” Wellington says. “It’s hard
to replace someone who cares as
much about the Northern Clay
Center as a high rise over on the east
side.”

“He’s really sort of a George
Bailey from the [1946 movie] It’s a
Wonderful Life,” Beeson says. “He’s
the epitome of that. Everybody draws
those parallels, but he’s as much of a
Jimmy Stewart character as there is
it’s an amazing career—life.”

Boss was able to give the
community a sense of strength and
control, Beeson says. “T h at’s what
building community is about—it’s
giving a sense of control of our
destiny. Andy has a very clear sense
about community and doing it the
right way and balancing between the
residential and the business side and
also recognizing the power of not-
for-profits and the need for those
agencies in the communities. He used
the power of his bank presidency to bring about
community change.”

Beeson joined the bank in 1988
after working for the city for 10 years.
“Andy Boss taught me how to be
involved in the community from a
business standpoint,” Beeson says.
“There are business people who
choose not to get involved for fear of
controversy or fear of alienating
constituencies, but Andy was able to
navigate that.”

When Boss sold the bank in
1993, “he was careful who he sold it
to,” Beeson says. “He’s the R eiling family
[owners of Sunrise Community
Bank] has been an outstanding
steward of the neighborhood and the
community and kept the
community-focused. He could
have sold it to anybody and made
more money. T hat was a judgment
on his part, to do the right thing. I
don’t think a lot of people know that.
S he didn’t just look for the highest
bidder. The community has been a
beneficiary of that.”

Boss’s wife of 26 years, Linda,
describes her husband’s leadership
skills as “innovative.”

“He loves people,” she says. “He’s
loved to collaborate and he was good
at connecting people.”

Raised in St. Paul, Boss attended
the University of M innesota and
spent two years in the U.S. Army.
After the service, he moved to
Chicago to work for a bank and
quickly was president of the jaycees,”
Linda Boss says. “H e meets and
greets and makes people feel
comfortable and excited about it.”

“H e doesn’t drag people into
something as he has done. It’s
always ‘somebody else had a good
idea.’ ”

An example W h en asked if any
project in his career stands out, one
he particularly proud of, Andy Boss
said he “never stopped to think
about it.”

Being a community leader is not
something one plans, he says. “You
get to know people. You ask about
each other kids. You become friends
and work together, talk together
about what you can do to improve
whatever is on the table.”

“The relationships between
people come into play quite often.”
And for Boss, that has been “very
satisfying.”
December diversions
Looking for festive fun this month? Read on.

The St. Anthony Park neighborhood kicks off the holiday season on Saturday, Dec. 1, with its annual Shop Home for the Holidays in the Como Avenue business district. Shoppers will find merchant specials, reindeer-pulled sleigh rides and Santa photo-ops at Park Midway Bank from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., cookie decorating at Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a wine-tasting at the Little Wine Shoppe, 2236 Carter Ave., and an artisan market at Milton Square, at the corner of Como and Carter avenues.

If you shop at Micawber’s Books, 2238 Carter Ave., a portion of that day’s purchases will go to St. Anthony Park Elementary School.

Satori Photography will host a complimentary hot-chocolate bar at the artisan village and will be selling gift certificates. Milton Square’s skincare boutique, Complexions on Carter, will hold an open house from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day.

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 can make a hand-dipped candle to take home with them.

Finnish Bistro will feature a make-your-own gift basket fête from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. You supply the basket and fill it with your choice of Bistro goodies, then let the Basket Professionals complete the arrangement with cellophane wrap and ribbons. The staff will be serving complimentary hard apple cider for the 21-and-older crowd and non-alcoholic apple cider for the younger crowd.

This year, Milton Square’s artisan market—featuring silk-screened textiles, pottery, jewelry, foil mosaics, gourmet cookies and granola, felted handbags, and more—will continue on Sunday, Dec. 2, from noon to 4 p.m. Murray Junior High School’s band will also be on hand to sell brownie and hot cocoa mixes, bath salts and more to raise money for a spring trip.

SANTA’S EVERYWHERE, MAN: 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. 1, then return to the neighborhood at 5 p.m. for a tree-lighting event in the Milton Square Courtyard, 2232 Carter Ave.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation will host a dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Friday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park. The event will include a spaghetti dinner, craft project, cookie decorating and face-painting. Cost is $5 per person. Register at any St. Paul recreation center or call 651-298-5765. Register online at www.stpaul.gov/parks.

Santa and Christmas Carol will host two nights of storytelling for children in the lower level of Milton Square on Monday, Dec. 10, at 5:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but Santa and Christmas Carol are requesting guests bring a new pair of mittens or gloves to be donated to a local charity. Space is limited, so reserve a spot by Saturday, Dec. 1, at 9:30 a.m.

December diversions continued on next page
BLUE HOUSE BOUTIQUE: This unique boutique is a major fundraiser for the Blue House, an orphanage in rural Uganda for girls who have lost their parents to AIDS. The Blue House was started by the late Beatrice Garubanda, a native of Uganda who had lived in St. Anthony Park.

The boutique will be open Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

New this year: African gifts, including baskets and pictures made in Kazo. Saturday’s sale features a homemade lunch (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), coffee and pastries.

CHILDREN’S ART WORKSHOP: Driftwood Community Arts is offering a free art workshop for kids of all ages on Sunday, Dec. 2, in the lower level of Milton Square. The workshop will run from noon to 4 p.m., alongside the artisan market.

YOU’VE NEVER HEARD OF THE CHRISTMAS SAUSAGE? Listen up. This year, Tim Faacks’ goal at Tim & Tom’s Speedy Market, 2310 Como Ave. W., is to craft Lindquist family’s Christmas sausage since just after Halloween and through New Year’s Day.

The Christmas sausage is made down by the family of Harry Lindquist from the 1920s to the 1960s. St. Anthony Park natives Dave and Rose Hansen planted pine, spruce and fir seedlings near Anoka in 1952, beginning the first Christmas tree farm in Minnesota. The holiday memories of our family and thousands of others have grown ever since.

DECEMBER diversions continued

emailing Heather at miltonsquare2232@gmail.com.

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out of 2,000 pounds of the Vue. It’s been mincing meat for all his life. He’s been mincing meat to keep the stuff in stock

You’ll hear “Magnificat” by Arvo Pärt, “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming” by Hugo Distler and more. St. Anthony Park Lutheran
Church organist Ann Braaten will accompany the choir. Admission is free, but guests are encouraged to bring a donation of hats and mittens for the Mary Hall Supportive Housing Program in St. Paul.

HOLIDAY SHOW AT GALLERY 1639: Located in the Cox Insurance building at 1639 W Larpenteur Ave., Gallery 1639 is hosting a festive show featuring the work of Denise Hermes—collector of vintage Christmas and found objects, who combines fresh greens into her designs—and Whitney Hermes, whose graphic products play with favorite holiday sayings and songs. The show runs through Saturday, Dec. 15 and is open 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

December diversions continued on next page
December diversions continued

Monday-Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

CELTIC YULE PARTY: Boiled In Lead will play an acoustic “Yule Party” concert at on Friday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The holiday event will include a traditional mummers mystery play and “The Short Swords,” a rapper sword dance team. Tickets are $18 in advance and $20 at the door. Children 12 and under free.

Find out more at www.thecelticjunction.com.

Celtic Junction
836 N. Prior Ave.
8:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: The Minnesota State Horticultural Society’s holiday open house is Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature a holiday decorating demonstration at 11 a.m., as well as local vendors selling handmade holiday merchandise and gift items. The society is located at 2705 Lincoln Drive, Roseville. Go to www.northerngardener.org for more information.

Horticultural Society Holiday Open House:
Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2705 Lincoln Drive, Roseville.

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By Clay Christensen

In the late 1800s, some folks in the United States would spend the time between Christmas and New Year’s Day on what was called a “side hunt.” It was basically a time to go out into the woods and blue away at anything that moved: small mammals and birds, especially hawks and raptors. This wasn’t to get food for the coming winter. It was a competition to see who could amass the greatest pile of corpses.

That began to change on Christmas Day 1900, when renowned ornithologist Frank Chapman and some 26 friends began what became the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Chapman had proposed that folks count instead of shoot, and see who could count the most birds of the most diverse species. That first year, they totaled 90 species.

Chapman’s idea has grown in the intervening 113 years to more than 63,000 counters in more than 2,200 locations covering the Western Hemisphere. In the United States alone, more than 665 species were identified last year.

The Christmas Bird Count has become one of the longest-running citizen science projects in the nation. The data reported in these surveys have chronicled fluctuations in many bird populations.

In 1960, the National Audubon Society documented the decline of several species, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons. They attributed the decline to thinning eggshells caused by the pesticide DDT. CBC data helped to illustrate this trend.

DDT was banned in 1972, leading to the recovery of many of these species.

The CBC takes place in a 15-mile-diameter circle. The St. Paul Audubon Society’s count circle is centered on the intersection of County Road B and Dale Street. It extends from North Oaks south to Lilydale and from northeast Minneapolise to the north St. Paul.

The St. Paul Audubon Society’s CBC takes place on the Saturday before Dec. 15. There are no guarantees of what the weather will be. Some years it’s been so cold that the car windows frost up and observers have to peer out a little opening at the top. Other years, it’s almost shirt-sleeve weather.

Bill Stjern, coordinator for St. Paul Audubon’s CBC, sets up teams of volunteer observers and assigns each team a section of the count circle.

Some teams go out before dawn to look for owls in their area. Many groups stop for breakfast together to plan their day.

Most teams go by car from point to point in their survey area and hike trails in the parks, fields and woodlands in their sector.

The purpose of the survey is to count every individual bird of every species in your area, even while driving or walking, from the common crows, house sparrows and pigeons, to the more thrilling hawks, eagles, and woodpeckers.

At the end of the day, there is usually a tally party at someone’s home, a potluck where the teams get together and swap tales, sometimes exaggerating their sightings just a bit for effect. Reports of a roseate spoonbill are met with a great deal of skepticism.

Val Cunningham, a bird watcher, field trip leader and writer from the Como Park neighborhood has participated in the St. Paul Audubon Society’s CBC for 23 years. “I love doing it,” she says, “even though when it’s over I ask myself, ‘Why?’ But I forget about the cold by March, and I’m ready for the next CBC. It’s a major National Audubon Society effort and I feel like I’m giving something back to birds through this citizen science survey. And it’s a great break in the middle of the holiday craziness.”

If you’d like to join a CBC team, contact Bill Stjern at nonkestar@comcast.net. He tries to match beginning bird watchers with more experienced ones to ease you into the survey. Since team leaders and team members usually return from year to year, they’ll have a good idea of the more productive “birdie” areas in the assigned territory. You won’t be driving around aimlessly hoping to stumble across some remarkable birds.

Contact Stjern by Dec. 10, if you’re interested in participating. If you live within the count circle and can’t join a team, you can still count the birds at your feeders on Dec. 15 and report them to the count coordinator. Let Stjern know in advance that you’d like to be a feeder watcher for the CBC.

There used to be a nominal fee to cover data reporting and administrative costs, but this year, participating in the CBC is free.

So join one of the longest-running citizen science projects and prepare to be surprised by the number of birds that are out and about in our Minnesota winter. “It’s fun to see what birds are doing on a winter’s day,” Cunningham says.

Clay Christensen has participated in the St. Paul Audubon Society and other Christmas Bird Counts for 25 years and was the count coordinator for a number of those years.

Clay Christensen is the writer of the “Birdman of Lauderdale” column in the Park Bugle.

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

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A Carolina wren was photographed during a past Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Ben Wilson

2012 Best of the Cities
—Minnesota Monthly

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St. Anthony Park Garden Club adds new limestone landscaping at library

By Rebecca Arnold

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club added new limestone landscaping to the outdoor seating areas of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library grounds. Access to the benches is improved and opened from the sidewalk. Solid limestone hardscape now sets the stage for additional plants in this area next year.

John Thomas of Thomas Landscape has designed and developed a number of gardens and outdoor spaces for numerous St. Anthony Park homes. In addition, he volunteers consultant services such as plantings in this area. His design work also reconfigured a worn-out slope on the grounds by adding ornamental serviceberry trees and a curved bed of perennial and annual plants above a stone wall leading to the book return area of the building.

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club welcomes new members and visitors to its monthly meetings. Learn more by visiting Facebook.com/SAPGardenClub.

Driftwood Community Arts offers variety of classes

Driftwood Community Arts, 777 Raymond Ave., is offering the following classes this month. To find out more go to www.driftwoodcommunityarts.com or call 651-340-0929.

December classes are listed below:

- Drawing 101, Tuesdays, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4: Participants will learn about a variety of drawing materials and techniques and learn to apply them in realistic and abstract drawings. Ages 13-17; 10-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is $25.

- Printing, Saturdays, Dec. 1 and 8: Explore relief printing by designing, carving and printing your own uninked prints. Print multiples of your artwork. Ages 17-adult; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is $30.

- Knitting basics, Tuesday, Dec. 11: Learn the basics of knitting, including how to knit, purl, cast on and bind off. Ages 17-adult; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is $15.

- Portraiture, Saturday, Dec. 15: Learn to capture a person’s face by exploring portrait techniques. Ages 9-12; 10 a.m.-noon. Cost is $20.

Baroque Christmas favorites part of Nov. 25 Music in the Park

The Schubert Club will present the Aulos Ensemble with soprano, Dominique Labelle this Sunday, Nov. 25, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth. The concert is part of the Music in the Park series.

The Aulos Ensemble and Labelle will perform a program of Baroque Christmas favorites that include traditional French carols and music by Vivaldi, Bach, Scarlatti, Corelli and Rameau.

Tickets are $24 for adults and $12 for student rush. You can order tickets online at schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

Concert and silent auction will benefit local food-allergy group

The sixth annual benefit concert and silent auction for the Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota (AFAA) will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2233 Como Ave.

Step into the church for music and refreshments and to bid on items in the silent auction. Proceeds go to the volunteer-run nonprofit AFAA, which provides food-allergy education, advocacy and support throughout Minnesota.

Show your support by donating items or services or by volunteering for setup or serving refreshments. Contact Jeff Schaefer or Nona Narvaez at 651-644-5937 to help.

Hennepin History Museum hosts Bettye Olson retrospective

Paintings, drawings and monoprints by St. Anthony Park artist Bettye Olson are on display at the Hennepin History Museum, 2303 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis, through Jan. 13. The show is a history of Olson’s career, which began when she studied at the University of Minnesota in the 1940s. Olson participated in the Stillwater Art Colony, traveled to Europe, California and New Mexico, and in 1964, was one of five women to found the West Lake Gallery on Lake Street in Minneapolis.

Olson’s work is in the permanent collections of the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Historical Society, the Smaland Museum of Finland and the Weisman Museum of M’nneapolis.

This exhibition looks at a selection of early and recent works of Olson, whose studio is in the Dow Building at 2242 University Ave. S., St. Paul.

Human Rights Symposium Dec. 3

The M’nnesota Department of Human Rights will host a Human Rights Symposium on Monday, Dec. 3, at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education & Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave.

Workshop topics include the work of the New Bullying Task Force, voting rights in Minnesota, the use of criminal background checks in the hiring process, recent efforts to eliminate racial employment disparities and more.

Workshop speakers include Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Commissioner of Human Rights Kevin Lindsey, Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassellius, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, Judge Pamela Alexander

Neighbors
Neighbors from 18 of Falcon Heights, and Moira Loyce Houlton’s Nutcracker Fantasy

and Karen Francois, director of Employment Equity at the M inneapolis Department of Human Rights.

The cost is $70 per individual. (Please note there is no group rate; discount rate for this event.) Attendance is limited to 200, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, call 651-539-1126 (TTY 651-296-1283) or 1-800-657-3704, or register online at www.humanrights.state.mn.us/public_affairs/hrsymposium_dec2012.html.

If more information, contact Tasha Byers at the M inneapolis Department of Human Rights, tasha.byers@state.mn.us or 651-201-3076.

Be a part of the Magic

St. Paul M agic, an Area 12 M inneapolis Special Olympics Team, is preparing for the basketball and swimming season and is looking for interested athletes, families and volunteers to participate. The season begins mid-January.

Special Olympics is an opportunity for athletes to learn specific sport skills at varied ability levels, increase their ability to function within a team, meet new friends, develop healthy life skills and have fun. Parents have the opportunity to have fun supporting their athlete while networking with parents at practices, competitions and fundraisers. Volunteers have the opportunity to increase their ability to understand others’ differences through 1:1 relationship development.

It is a win-win.

To find out more, contact Heidi Jensen, thepaul.magic@gmail.com or 651-214-6517. You can also check out the team on Facebook: The St. Paul M agic.

Women’s Drum Center offers

Women Who Groove class

Women Who Groove, a three-session drum class, will be held at the Women’s Drum Center, 2242 W. University Ave., on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, at 6:30 p.m. Participants will be taught three to four songs, with the goal of progression on rhythms and techniques. Some drumming experience is required. Drums and sticks will be provided. The cost for the three classes is $36. Find out more at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Mental health support groups are free for families, partners, spouses

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences.

A support group meets in St. Paul on the second Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Goddard-Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave., room 123. For more information, contact Sonja at 651-357-2077.

A group also meets at 6:30 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 255 N. D. St. For more information, call Marc at 763-227-9446.

A partners and spouses group meets in Falcon Heights on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:45 p.m. at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. For more information, call Lois at 651-788-1920 or Donna at 651-645-2948, ext. 101.

Northwest Como Recreation Center announces class schedule

Register for classes and sports teams at Northwest Como Recreation Center online at stpaul.gov/parks, call 651-298-5813 or visit the recreation center Monday through Thursday 3-8 p.m. or Fridays 3-6 p.m. Registration for winter and spring classes begins Monday, Dec. 10.

Upcoming events at Northwest Como are listed below:

- Basketball players are needed for the girls’ ages 11-14 team and the boys’ ages 11-12 team.
- Tae Kwon Do for ages 6 and older begins Jan. 9 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost is $50/month.
- Cardio Kick Boxing for adults and teens will begin on Jan. 9 and will meet Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The cost is $48 for eight sessions.
- Artist Workshop for ages 9-13 will meet Mondays from 3-5 p.m., starting Jan. 7. The cost is $50 for six sessions.
- Artist Workshop for ages 6-9 will meet Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m., starting Jan. 9. The cost is $50 for six sessions.

Local poet launches new book

Local poet Leigh Herrick is launching her book, Home Front, at three upcoming book events. Home Front is a collection of poetry and prose written between the months preceding Sept. 11, 2001, and those shortly following the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Herrick will read at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave., in St. Paul on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

A book launch will be held on Friday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Bookhouse, 429 14th Ave. S.E. in Dinkytown.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, she will hold a book signing from 2 to 4 p.m. at the studio of Branko Gulin, whose illustrations are in the book. The studio is 77 13th Ave. N.E., #111. For more information go to www.leigherrick.com.

New play opens at the Gremlin

“A hairsplintering tale...”

“A Hairsplintering Tale...” is a collection of poetry and illustrations by the book’s author, the late John Kornblum. The illustrations are in the book. The studio is 77 13th Ave. N.E., #111. For more information go to www.leigherrick.com.

17% off one item

Expires January 15, 2013

Not valid with ANY other offer and only one coupon accepted per day per family.
December

Events

Venus information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Dec. 5 to be included in the January 2012 issue.

1 Saturday
Blue House Boutique, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Shop for the holidays, merchant specials all day, St. Anthony Park, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Artisan Village, lower level, Milton Square, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Reindeer-pulled sleigh rides, meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Park Midway Bank
Gibbs Museum candle-making at Bungalow Pottery, Milton Square, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

2 Sunday
Blue House Boutique, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Artisan Village, lower level, Milton Square, noon-4 p.m.
Driftwood Community Arts will host a kids’ art workshop, free, lower level, Milton Square, 12-4 p.m. Hosted by Driftwood Community Arts.

3 Monday
English as a second language class, Dec. 3 & 10, St. Anthony Park Library, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 651-442-0411 to register.
St. Anthony Park Cub Scout Pack 22 meeting, 7 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church

5 Wednesday
Free blood pressure screening, first Wednesday of the month, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Blomberg Pharmacy. Sponsored by Como Park/Park Heights Living at Home Blood Pressure Program.
English Conversation Circles, every Wednesday except Dec. 26, 4:30 p.m.
One-on-One Career Building, every Wednesday except Dec. 26, St. Anthony Park Library, 5-7 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Book Club, “The House at Terrace Rd” by Nathalie Solomons, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-8 p.m.

7 Friday
Preschool storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m.

8 Saturday
Experience the old-time magic of the season with a “Pioneer Christmas,” Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

10 Monday
Storytelling with Santa and Christmas Carol, lower level Milton Square, 5-30 p.m. Free, but a donation of mittens or gloves for a local charity is requested. Space is limited. Email miltosquare242@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

11 Tuesday
Adoptive Parents Group: Parenting Adopted Adults. For parents whose adopted children are now adults themselves, 6-8 p.m., CHSFS
Adoptive Parents Group: Minnesota’s Waiting Children, for parents whose adopted children through Minnesota’s foster care system, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSFS

12 Wednesday
Minnesota’s Waiting Children Information Session, learn about adopting children who live in foster care, 6-8 p.m., CHSFS

13 Thursday
Savvy Skincare Basics seminar, Complexions on Carter, 6 p.m. Call 651-238-2338 or email info@complexionsoncarter.com for information.
In Defense of Crows, St. Paul Audubon Society, Fairview Community Center, 7 p.m.

14 Friday
Preschool storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Spaghetti dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Langford Park Recreation Center, 5-10 p.m. Cost is $5 per person. Call 651-298-5765 to reserve your spot.

15 Saturday
International & Domestic Adoption Information Session, 9-11:30 a.m., CHSFS
Experience the old-time Magic of the Season with a “Pioneer Christmas,” Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

17 Saturday
Storytelling with Santa and Christmas Carol, lower level Milton Square, 6:30 p.m. Free, but a donation of mittens or gloves for a local charity is requested. Space is limited. Email miltosquare242@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

19 Saturday
Spaghetti dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Langford Park Recreation Center, 5-10 p.m. Cost is $5 per person. Call 651-298-5765 to reserve your spot.

21 Sunday
Winter break fun: Clay and Tell, create a clay character and tell a story about it, St. Anthony Park Library, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

25 Thursday
Saturday movie: “The Avengers,” St. Anthony Park library, noon-3 p.m.

Block Nurse Exercise
St. Anthony Park Area Senior’s block nurse exercise classes meet at these times and places:

Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., 3-4 p.m.
Mondays and Thursdays, St. Paul High Rise, 825 Seal St., 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, SAP United Methodist Church, 2200 Hilde Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Contact Information:
Blomberg Pharmacy, 1593 N. Haiti Ave., 651-646-8645
Bungalow Pottery, 2230 Carter Ave., 651-644-4091
civic junction, 836 Prior Ave N.
CHSFS: Children’s Home Society & Family Services, 1605 Eustis St., 651-646-7771
Driftwood Community Arts, 651-340-0929.
www.driftwoodcommunityarts.com
Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, Roseville
Gibbs Museum, 2009 Lakeview Ave. W., 651-646-8629
Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765
Milton Square, 2232 Carter Ave., miltosquare242@gmail.com
St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2233 Como Ave., 651-645-3071
St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hilde Ave.
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3038

Bungalow Pottery
Candle Dipping! Dec 1st 10-2
Open at least Wed-Sat 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
2230 Carter Ave., bungalowpottery.com

Community Events sponsored by
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Want to learn more about the Amelia Earhart mystery? There are a host of books about Earhart’s disappearance, including Amelia Earhart’s Shoes: Is the Mystery Solved? by Thomas F. King, Randall S. Jacobson, Karen R. Burns and Kenton Spading, Altamira Press, Lanham, Md., 2004.

Earhart mystery from 11

It’s been 75 years since Earhart disappeared— nobody tends to get lost in the shuffle—and she has largely faded from public memory. So what keeps the search going? Spading was asked.

“If you asked the core team members, you’d probably get a different answer in every case,” he said. “Some are pilots and own aircraft, so it’s an aviation thing with them. “For me personally, it’s the pursuit that excites me,” he said. “I love trying to solve historical mysteries.”

Roger Bergerson is a local historian who lives in the Como Park neighborhood.

Austin Granger

By Judy Woodward

St. Anthony Park resident Austin Granger, 21, is a college senior studying computer science at the University of Minnesota. His large-scale kinetic sculptures made of the children’s construction toy K’NEX are amazing feats of design and ingenuity. A video of his latest piece, called Clockwork, has gone viral, attracting more than 2 million viewers since it was posted to YouTube in mid-September. The attention his video received landed him on the front page of the Pioneer Press, as well as on ABC and CBS TV news and the online news source, Huffington Post. In October, the K’NEX company flew Granger to Pennsylvania to meet their CEO and design team and tour the plant. You can see Granger’s work, accompanied by music he composed, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=q76r-3z4Ckk.

A project like [Clockwork] usually has a small viewer group. Usually it’s just other K’NEX fans. Having it go viral is quite unusual. I guess it’s just luck of the draw [that determines] whichever one happens to get out into the real world.

I’ve made $5,500 off this video. It’s definitely a great source of revenue. I’ll put a lot towards school. I may not have to take out another loan. Also, one of my computers was dying and now I can get it fixed. Mostly I’ll buy new parts and components for future projects.

The most practical application of [my skills] would be working for K’NEX. I’m going to send them a résumé. I can think of very few other professional applications—unless I become an artist doing installations in museums.

So what keeps the search going, Spading was asked?

“If you asked the core team members, you’d probably get a different answer in every case,” he said. “Some are pilots and own aircraft, so it’s an aviation thing with them. “For me personally, it’s the pursuit that excites me,” he said. “I love trying to solve historical mysteries.”

Roger Bergerson is a local historian who lives in the Como Park neighborhood.
Norene Gunther
Noreene Gunther (née Perkins), 97, formerly of the Como Park area, died peacefully Oct. 13. She was preceded in death by her husband, Heman, and son, Edward. She is survived by her children, Geraldine Anderson, John (Letty) and Mary (Donald) Gehman; eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 18 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Minneapolis with interment at Crystal Lake Cemetery.

Bonnie Jean Hanson
Bonnie Jean Hanson, 69, of Lauderdale, died Nov. 11. Bonnie enjoyed volunteering in various church activities, baking, spending days at the lake, spending time with family, and being a member of St. Anthony Park O.E.S #212 and M Immacula #87. She also volunteered at Gibbs Farm. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Roger; children, Kim (Tom) Nagorski and Roger Hanson; two grandchildren; and a sister, Linda (Jerry) Hays. An Eastern Star service was held Nov. 14 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom Funeral Home in Shoroville. Her funeral was held Nov. 15 at North Heights Lutheran Church in Roseville, with internment at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery.

John Och
John “Jack” Och, 79, of Roseville, died Oct. 21. Upon graduating from Murray High School, Jack entered the Navy and spent his enlisted years as an aircraft mechanic. He was followed by a career that spanned 45 years as a machinist at Northwest Orient Airlines. He was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

His children recall with fondness the many memorable family vacations spent snowmobiling and camping throughout Minnesota, surrounding states and Canada. The annual fishing and camping trips spent with his brothers, sons, nephew, and sons-in-law, were cherished by Jack. His family is grateful that he was able to recently experience one before he died following the onset of a sudden illness.

He was preceded in death by his brother Kenneth. He is survived by his surviving children, Michele O’Callaghan, Melanie “Mary” M. acolla, Jenna (Bill) Finley and James (Karen); 10 grandchildren; and a brother, Ron (Sshirley).

Masa of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Oct. 24.

Bosiljka Simonovic
Bosiljka M.ariana Simonovic, 87, died Oct. 17. She was preceded in death by her husband, the Very Rev. Miota, and her twin sister, Darinka. She is survived by her daughters, Nadia (Peter) Buha, St. Louis, Mo.; Danica (Jack) Paul, Rapid, Sacramento, Calif., and Vera (Jonathan) Proctor, St. Paul; and five grandchildren.

Her funeral service was held Oct. 20 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in St. Paul, with internment at St. Mary’s Orthodox Cemetery in Mendota Heights. The family thanks the staff at St. Anthony Park A Home, whose “tender and compassionate care was unsurpassed.”

Matina Vavoulis
Matina G. Vavoulis (née Gavrilopoulos), 90, of Falcon Heights, died Oct. 10.

She was a member of St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church, and her twin sister, Darinka. She is survived by her daughters, Nada (Peter) Buha, St. Louis, Mo.; Danica (Jack) Paul, Rapid, Sacramento, Calif., and Vera (Jonathan) Proctor, St. Paul; and five grandchildren.

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Community Worship Directory

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DECEMBER 2012
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Trip to Guatemala had ‘big impact’ on local teens

Lisa Sackreiter, a member of a St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church delegation that traveled to Guatemala in October, compiled some of the delegations members’ thoughts about the five-day trip to Central America.

“We’re going to Guatemala. Who’s in?” asked Pastor Marc Ostlie-Olson of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (SAPLC), of his congregants in midsummer. Nine people eagerly raised their hands, eight from SAPLC and one from Humble Walk Lutheran Church, which serves the West Seventh neighborhood of St. Paul.

Come October, a group of 10 boarded planes on a dark October morning: five youth Rachel Williams, Lydia Neus and Isaac Hamilton, all of Como Park High School; Dane Ostlie-Olson of Central High School, and Kris Swanson of Northfield High School; and five adults—Alicia Sandy, Lisa Sackreiter, Sister Becky Swanson and Pastor Marc Ostlie-Olson, all of SAPLC; and Jay Myhre of Humble Walk.

Some members of the group spoke Spanish and some didn’t. Some had traveled outside the United States and others hadn’t.

The plan was to visit a small Lutheran congregation, Igreja Luterana Augustina Espiritu Santo, located in a secluded jungle village, with the intent of forging a lasting sister-church relationship. The church-centered community is part of the Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala (ILAG), founded in 1991 by Bishop Horacio Castillo and his family.

The 3,000-member ILAG seeks to support those in the margins of Guatemalan society, predominantly indigenous people, many of whom were displaced by the country’s 36-year civil war. The ILAG has 20 congregations spread throughout Guatemala.

The SAPLC delegation flew into Guatemala City on Oct. 14 and spent the first night the Lutheran Center, where they met Pastor Amanda Castillo, a native M’iievcan and graduate of Luther Seminary and now part of the ILAG. Pastor Amanda and Bishop Horacio accompanied the delegation to the village.

The journey began by bus in early morning rush-hour traffic and ended a day and a half later in the department of Alta Verapaz with a ride across the Rio Negro on a long wooden boat and a hike up an enormous hill to Iglesia Luterana Augustina Espiritu Santo.

When the travelers arrived, people of the village were gathered on the field in front of the simple wooden church holding welcome signs. The two groups smiled at each other as the travelers put down heavy packs and accepted tea from their hosts.

Even for the Spanish-speaking visitors, verbal communication was difficult, as the villagers spoke Q’eqchi’ (keh-keh-CHEE), so the M’iievcan teenagers pulled soccer balls from their bags and began passing them to the children. Soon they were calling out one another’s names.

While the delegation members engaged in crafts, photography, singing and tortilla-making with the children and women, Bishop Horacio and Pastor Amanda learned that several villagers of various ages had been quite ill that week. Amanda contacted doctors back in the city to determine how to protect both the villagers and their guests in the short term.

Lydia Neus experienced a “complicated cocktail of feelings,” when the M’iievcan group learned what was happening, including a sense of powerlessness in the face of injustice. At the same time, she was “overwhelmed by the amount of care and hospitality” the villagers had shown the visitors.

The focus of the following day was a worship service held in English, Spanish and Q’eqchi’. The villagers one generator powered two keyboards, an electric guitar and several speakers. The church was full of people, music, colorful decorations and hazy incense.

Fresh tortillas were grilled and tamales were steamed over circular fires on the ground in the adjoining kitchen. Meals around a long wooden table stretched out after hours of worship and play time.

“Our last dinner in the village was quite a sight,” Isaac Hamilton recalled. “By the time we were done eating, a crowd had gathered to watch us. Seeing what needed to be done, Dane and Lydia proceeded to make fools of themselves as they pretended to be monkeys or T-rexes. Even the women who had been cooking the meat were in stitches.”

The travelers’ second night in the village was already their last. It was still dark the next morning when they crawled out from under mosquito netting draping the wooden tables they slept on. The hour-long boat ride down the river at dawn was filled with talk about the next visit.

Back at the Lutheran Center after a day of bus travel through the mountains, the SAPLC group helped build a fence around a new basketball court that ILAG youth and adults use when visiting the center.

Then the group climbed back in the buses for a couple of days of wandering Antigua’s cobblestone streets to the markets, shops and churches.

Haggling over prices for souvenirs in the artisan market with vendors was exciting and novel. “Even better,” Kris Swanson noted, “was the foods market which was absolutely phenomenal. We were the only white people weaving between tamales and raw chickens.

“It was the kind of experience that shows you just how different our cultures are and how much more connected they are with what they eat. But most of all it makes want to stay much longer and get to fully immerse myself in the daily life of Guatemala.”

“By the time the sun sat on Saturday, our [one week] trip was almost over,” Rachel Williams reflected. “I bet you think I’m about to say something sappy like how going changed my life and that this trip was one of the best things that ever happened to me. That going to Guatemala will change how I see the world and the people I met made the biggest impact on my life that I’ve ever had.

“I’m guessing you’re thinking that my mind is already planning for the next time! get to go.

‘You’d be right.’

The Minnesota delegation and their new friends outside of Iglesia Luterana Augustina Espiritu Santo in Guatemala.
The boards are up and outdoor hockey is just around the corner

By Dana Fried

Scott H. Amilon had no idea that when his older son asked him to help coach his soccer team many years ago that his son meant “will you be the head coach, schedule and run practices, haul the portable nets and soccer balls around, let parents know what’s going on and be there for all the games.”

The result: “I had a blast,” Hamilton said. So when his son moved from soccer to hockey, it was obvious that Hamilton would coach. That’s how the now Langford Park Hockey coordinator got started, and that’s where he’s been for 10 years. According to Hamilton, there are about 110 kids enrolled in the program this season (the first year he coached there were only 50 to 60) and more are expected to sign up.

“This growth has enabled the program to offer a Bantam team (eightth- and ninth-graders) playing this year at a B2 competitive level,” he said. “[I]’m also a first for a Langford team and has resulted in Langford Park alumni filling the roster of the Como Park High School team.”

Nick Thomey, who last year coached Peewees at HAMilton, has two kids—a Bantam and a PeeWee—in the Langford Hockey Program. Thomey is coaching Hamilton’s daughter’s Squirt team this year. “At the Squirt level we are focusing more on individual skills, skating, stick work and basic positioning as opposed to players at the older levels,” he said. “I hope the players play better on their own ice rather than indoors.”

“I am time on the ice helps any team in skill development and team bonding. That really makes the Langford program special. It’s a bond the teams have, unlike 99 percent of the teams they play.”

John Savlekoul, coach of Langford’s second Squirt team, said the program is changing. “The younger groups are strong with more players than ever,” he said. Savlekoul mentioned that the Langford Park program is the kind of program that fosters the lifelong love of the game because it’s a supportive community and kids play with their friends. “Some of my best friends to this day are the guys I used to play hockey with,” he said.

Eric Wieffering, head coach for the Peewee team, agreed with Thomey about the outdoor ice at Langford. “When we have outdoor ice, because the players can come down and skate whenever they want,” he said. Wieffering’s team is “mostly first-year Peewees, so we’ll be playing kids that are more experienced,” he said.

This year the Peewees have a new assistant coach, Mark M. oermann, whose son plays on the team. Last year, his son played Squirts with Wieffering as his coach. “Eric’s a great coach,” M. oermann said. “He seems easily to get the most effort out of every player and team, and win or lose, the kids always work as a team and have a great attitude.” So when Wieffering asked him to be an assistant coach, he said yes.

This is the first year that the Peewees will start traveling to tournaments, which was met with excitement because they will play teams from other states in the W reston D-2s.

Like the Peewees, most of the Bantams will also be playing their first year at that level. That’s why the Bantam coach, Scott H. Amilon, thinks the Bantams, as well as the Peewees, may be in for a tough season.

Andy Friess, who also coaches the Bantams, supervises the outdoor ice. The ice at Langford depends on Friess and a team of dedicated parents. Some of the changes that he is planning to put into play this year include painted boards to help reflect sunlight and white plastic on south-facing boards to help reflect sun. Other improvements will help their ice stay colder longer.

Last, but not least, Friess said, “I’m just hoping for a lot colder winter.”

Friess and his team also wrote “LP” on each of the boards to signify that they are Langford Park’s boards, not just anybody’s. Friess did this because the city did not have booster clubs to store the boards, and he wants to make sure that they are kept in good condition.

With the season starting, Amilon compares hockey in St. Anthony Park to his own past experience. “The program I grew up playing in was a lot like Langford Park: once the outdoor ice was ready, our practices were outside and my teammates were my classmates and buddies. Everybody played. Playing hockey as a kid helped me to learn the value of working within a team and the importance of working hard, regardless of what the scoreboard or anybody else says.”

DanaFriess is a sixth-grader at Capitol Hill M.agnet School. Her twin sister, Sophia is a Langford Peewee.
The Bugle welcomes news about students and staff in the area. Please send releases to The Bugle by Wednesday, Dec. 5. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

Brimhal Elementary
1744 County Road B

Millions of minutes
Do you ever wonder whether kids in our digital age are still reading? This November, Brimhal Elementary students read 1.5 million minutes to earn a “fancy lunch” in the cafeteria. In this annual Read-a-Thon, K-6 students read—on their own or with loved ones—books as well as e-books, Kindle, Nooks and more to improve their reading level and earn pledges toward PTA-sponsored school needs. Thank you to everyone who supported their efforts.

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

Sports updates
Congratulations to the Boys Soccer team on winning the St. Paul City Conference, being Section 4 champions and going on to the state tournament. The varsity team finished with an overall record of 19-2. Head coach Eric Erickson was recognized as the Minnesota Class A Coach of the Year by the State High School Coaches Association.

The volleyball team finished second in the conference with a 10-2 record and a first-round section victory over Central.

The girls swim team finished third in the conference with a 3-2 record. Sophomore Rachel Williams broke the school record in the back stroke.

The girls swim team finished third in the conference with a 3-2 record. Sophomore Rachel Williams broke the school record in the back stroke.

Robotics Club
The Como Park Robotics Club is gearing up for another build season starting in January. Robotics is an organization that fosters spirit and competition within the realm of engineering and business management. Teams build working robots to compete in certain tasks and work together with other robots. Last spring, the team competed at the University of MInnesota’s Minneapolis Area Congress for nine schools from around the region.

National Honor Society
Congratulations to the newest members of the Como Park Senior High National Honor Society. These students were selected for their academics, leadership, character and service to their communities. They will be honored at an induction ceremony on Nov. 14. The new members include Oanh H. Song, Kyle Kottke, Nam N. Nguyen, Day Day Pak, Khalilah A. Sheng Yang, Karl Zinkl, Abigail A. Adamsiam, Ayale Agbojby, Xafna Ali, Amie Burcher-Sone, Connor Burke, Mo Chang, Jacob Cohen, Lillian C. Zainab FoFaranah, Alexander Gilebov-M Cloudu, William Hanson, Marsha Landrum, Zachary Lee, Jordyn Mogins, Emma M. Eshih, Elliot M. Moomorman, Fiona O’Leary, M. Kayla Yuan, Vn Phan, Brinelle Student, and Siry Thay. Dr. Kristopher Thompson, Lori Tran, Tinh Doan Will and Kathryn Yettar.

Como band students perform at Murray Junior High and Linders
On Nov. 14, the Como advanced band, orchestra and jazz band had an extremely successful performance. Students played at Murray Junior High School. On Nov. 17, the band performed at Linders with Inter Holiday Lighting Ceremony and Open House.

Franken visits Como Park
U.S. Senator Al Franken visited with students at Como Park Senior High on Oct. 24. The visit was planned by Como Park students M. Alkiki Reavers, Sidney Beecham and Scott Chesa. Franken spoke with students from several world history. AP government and ELL classrooms on the daily responsibilities of being a U.S. senator and being an engaged student, and or young. They then discussed issues related to the future of education, self-motivation, college and careers.

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

Upcoming events
The annual Barnes and Noble Fundraiser at HarMar Mall will be held Thursday, Dec. 6. Music students will perform from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The Winter Holiday Concert will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Winter break
School will be out from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2, 2013. Schools will open on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Pilot One-on-One Program
Murray staff and students send a huge thank you to the 25 community members and nearly 40 university students who visit the school each week to mentor and tutor students. The program has helped students find someone who will not only help them with reading or assignments, solve a math problem or think through a science procedure, but someone who will listen to them and make them feel valued.

If you have an estrangement or a two week and would like to join your friends and neighbors at Murray, contact Cindy Thrasher at 651-293-8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org.

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

Civics lessons
Mayor Chris Coleman, State Rep. Alice Hausman and St. Paul City Council member Russ Sights visited St. Anthony Park Elementary School social studies classes last month to encourage students to become educated, engaged voters. They’re a video featuring the mayor and students talking about the importance of voting and how to vote. Visit http://thebridge.spps.org/news and updates, 106.

Conferences
The November round of conferences brought a tremendous parent turnout. Volunteers provided dinner at the school Wednesday, Nov. 14, who thank the parents for the delicious meal.

Schedule a tour
Families interested in enrolling their child at the school for the 2013-14 school year are invited to call the school to schedule a tour, 651-293-8735.

Destination Imagination begins
More than a dozen Destination Imagination teams have been organized for interested students in grades 3 through 6. Practices is under way as they prepare for competition in March. The teams have high aspirations of making it to the global tournament and have begun fundraising for the event, beginning with the sale of gray hooded sweatshirts this fall. If you’d like to show your school spirit by buying a sweatshirt (asorted youth and adult sizes, $25 each) you can go online to www.sapsblog.com and find an order form that can be turned in at the school office.

Schools’ progressive open house is Dec. 4
Four area schools—three charters and one in the St. Paul Public Schools—will hold a Progressive Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The public is invited to visit any or all of the schools in one evening in a progressive dinner format. Visitors can start at one and work their way to all four schools to meet parents, students and teachers and to learn about the educational opportunities at each school. The schools include:

- Avalon School (grades 6-12), 700 Glendale St.: Avalon focuses on individualized project-based learning and engaging citizenship and is a teacher cooperative.
- Great River School (grades 1-12), 1326 Energy Park Dr. The Great River has a Montessori focus of engaging intellect, shaping character and building community.
- Open World Learning Community (grades 6-12), 6 E. Kellogg Blvd.: Open World is part of St. Paul Public Schools and is small in size, offering student-centered, expeditionary learning.
- River’s Edge Academy (grades 9-12), 138 W. Plato Blvd.: River’s Edge has an environmental focus and uses expeditionary learning and partners with Outward Bound.

For more information, contact each school or Lydia M. O’Keeney at 651-305-2780, ext. 102 or lomkeeney@greatriverhschool.org.
Makeover under way at former Vandalia Street mattress factory

By Roger Bergerson

A developer with a track record of reviving worn or neglected properties has taken on a new challenge in an industrial area south of University Avenue in St. Paul.

Minneapolis-based First & First acquired the 5.3-acre site at 558 Vandalia St. last summer from the two banks that had foreclosed on it in 2011. The oldest portion of the nine-building property along I-94 dates to about 1900 and was once home to a mattress factory. The newest segment was built around 1960.

About half of the 200,000-square-foot space is currently rented, the largest tenant being the High School for Recording Arts, a charter school.

The developer intends to retain all the structures, including an old water tower, while conducting a multi-million dollar renovation. Chad Blihovde of Java Properties, the leasing agent, said that will mean working around tenants and shifting some of them, while converting the property into a modern complex that will appeal to technology firms and creative agencies.

The work will include floor resurfacing and the installation of...
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 612-382-3074. Ads are $5 per line. Adding a box around your ad or art costs $10 each. Business-card-size celebration ads with photos are $40. The next deadline is Dec. 5.

BOUTIQUE FEATURING BLUE HERON SOAP
&Dale Cornell Photography, Dec. 1, 9-5, and Dec. 2, 10-3, 1193 Churchill St., near Como Park Street Car Station. Watch for signs. Great Christmas gifts!

FOR RENT: TWO 3-BDR. DUPLEX UNITS, N. St. Anthony Park; both units available Dec. 1. Both units have 1,100 sq. ft., 1 garage stall, washer/dryer. $1,350 per unit + utilities; contact Leah, 651-646-2466.


For rent: Great Christmas gifts! $10 each. Business-card-size celebration ads with photos are $40. 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 612-382-3074. Ads are $5 per line. Adding a box around your ad or art costs $10 each. Business-card-size celebration ads with photos are $40.

Buddy’s Tree Service
651-699-7022 www.rogertree.com

A Twin Cities Consumer Magazine rated 36 local tree services and ranked Roger’s #1!

Enrich the lives of seniors in your community & supplement your income while providing non-mechanical home care.
Established & growing St. Paul agency seeks compassionate & caring caregivers. Flexible schedules available including weekday daytime hours, overnight & weekend shifts. Retirees encouraged to apply!
651.664.8199

Boutique

Boutique featuring Blue Heron Soap & Dale Cornell Photography, Dec. 1, 9-5, and Dec. 2, 10-3, 1193 Churchill St., near Como Park Street Car Station. Watch for signs. Great Christmas gifts!

PARK ANGELS CHILDCARE.
Infant to 11 years old, near Como & Doswell. Call Adella, 651-644-5516.

BRUSHSTROKES PAINTING Interior/exterior/wall repair/texturing/carpentry. I strive to have a positive working relationship with my customers. Plus, I am a genuinely nice person to work with. References available from your neighborhood? Tom Marron, 651-230-1272.

FOR RENT: TWO 3-BDR. DUPLEX UNITS, N. St. Anthony Park; both units available Dec. 1. Both units have 1,100 sq. ft., 1 garage stall, washer/dryer. $1,350 per unit + utilities; contact Leah, 651-646-2466.

LARRY’S SNOW REMOVAL, Sidewalks, Driveways, Boulevards, Lary, 651-635-9228.

FOR RENT: TWO 3-BDR. DUPLEX UNITS, N. St. Anthony Park; both units available Dec. 1. Both units have 1,100 sq. ft., 1 garage stall, washer/dryer. $1,350 per unit + utilities; contact Leah, 651-646-2466.


PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.
651-635-9228.

Family-owned & operated, with over 20 yrs exp in the area. Cleaning. W/over 20 yrs exp in the area.


20/20 HOUSE CLEANING Perfect house cleaning. Work 20 yrs exp in the area. Family-owned & operated, 651-635-9228.

PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.

BASEMENT WALLS & FLOOR REPAIRED, painting, plaster repairs, reglaze ceramic tiles, fireplace repair. 31 yrs experience. Curt, 651-698-4743.

A few handyman tips:

- For a car wash, use hot water instead of cold. This helps to remove dirt and grime more effectively.
- When cleaning a leather couch, use a damp cloth and a small amount of water. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaning tools.
- Mix cornstarch with water to create a DIY cleaning solution for kitchen counters. The cornstarch helps to absorb grease and grime.
- To clean a stainless steel sink, use a mixture of baking soda and water. The baking soda helps to scrub away grime and stains.
- When cleaning a glass shower door, use a mixture of vinegar and water. This solution helps to remove soap scum and hard water deposits.

We make remodeling simple.
floor-to-ceiling windows, he said, as well as highlighting the brick-and-timber features of a receiving and shipping area at one time serviced by a railroad track. “We hope to be done by March of [2013],” said Blihovde. “This project has attracted a lot of interest, although prospective tenants want to see a little more progress before they commit.”

The tentative name for the property is Water Tower Place; however, Blihovde said the developers are open to alternative suggestions, especially those with a neighborhood connection.

Other First & First projects have included remodeling the former Theatre de la Jeune Lune in downtown Minneapolis into an event space called Aria at The Jeune Lune, transforming the Ice House Court Building at 2540 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, into apartments, restaurants and the Vertical Endeavors Indoor Rock Climbing Facility, and converting a former paper warehouse at 945 N.E. Broadway St., M innneapolis, into office space.

Makeover from 26

Roger Bergerson is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Matt Ellison, executive chef at Muffuletta. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

Muffuletta’s new chef revamps brunch menu

Matt Ellison took the reins as executive chef at Muffuletta. 2600 Como Ave., in late summer. Ellison, who moved from Salut in Edina, takes the place of Jason Schellin, who has moved on to work with the Smack Shack Food Truck in M inneapolis. Muffuletta diners can expect to see a revamped brunch menu under Ellison’s watch. He plans to simplify the menu, he said, with “less heavy, complicated brunch items” and bring back some traditional staples like steak and eggs.

Ellison has also added some new entrees, including the autumn dish arapes—vegetarian corn cakes with butternut squash sauce and black beans and squash on the side. As the holidays near, Ellison plans to put short ribs back on the menu and more braised meats, he said.

Before joining Muffuletta’s parent company, Parasole, two and a half years ago, Ellison worked at W.A. Frost and the Happy Gnome, both on Selby Avenue in St. Paul. He also spent a number of years with the D’Amico chain, opening Masa in downtown M inneapolis and cooking at the now-closed Campiello in Uptown. — Kristal Leebrick