



After the fracking

U professor is tasked with finding ways to recycle and clean fracking's wastewater

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It's National Poetry Month and we've got some winners.

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Gardening with native plants

It's all about the birds, the bees and the butterflies

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St. Anthony Park

Falcon Heights

Lauderdale

Como Park

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April 2013

Festival to showcase Transition Town effort

By Kristal Leebrick

If the words "smaller footprint" and "stronger community" sing to you, mark April 20 on your calendar for the All St. Anthony Park Transition Festival. That's when Transition Town ASAP (an effort initiated by the District 12 Energy Resilience Group) will showcase an ambitious community venture that organizers hope will start moving the neighborhood toward less dependence on fossil fuel.

The festival will be held that Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., and will feature local musicians and children's crafts and activities, but most important, information on how to get involved.

The Energy Resilience Group, a subcommittee of the district's Environment Committee, held community meetings in January and February to gauge interest in helping St. Anthony Park become a Transition Town, a movement started in 2005 by Rob Hopkins, a British instructor of ecological design. Its goal is to "build resiliency," meaning find ways to make a community as self-sufficient as possible to help it withstand the economic and environmental difficulties that may come as oil prices increase and climate change intensifies.

The group's February meeting culminated with the creation of seven groups with distinct goals that community members can join: Getting Started (community outreach), Sustainable Food Production, Zero Waste, Transportation, Home Energy Reduction, Densification (housing), Community Solar Power and Reflective Circle (finding a place where people can find emotional support while working on the issues).

Each of the groups will have tables set up at the All St. Anthony Park Transition Festival with information on how to become involved.

That's the point of the festival, said Lauren Fulner-Erickson, District 12 community organizer. "At the end of the day, that is what organizers hope will happen: either join an

Transition Town to 5



A tale as old as time

Murray Junior High School performed Beauty and the Beast in March. Ben Xenos (above) played the part of Gaston. At left, the beauty, Belle, was played by Abigail Moseman and Elliot Hicks played the Beast. Photos by Lori Hamilton and Dave Putnam

Como Park's historic footbridge on its way to complete renovation

By Roger Bergerson

A century ago, it functioned as an elegant main entrance to Como Regional Park, but in recent decades, the footbridge near the Historic Streetcar Station more closely resembled a crumbling wreck.

Although listed on the National Registry of Historic places, portions of the bridge had fallen away or been removed, small trees grew on its deck, and it was fenced off to protect passersby.

Happily, looks proved to be somewhat deceiving.

The City of St. Paul's initial goals for the bridge, which lies just northeast of the Horton Avenue and Lexington Parkway intersection, were modest. The plan was to use a combination of federal and local funding to stabilize what remained so that it was safe to walk or bike under, but not over. The bridge was to be considered a ruin, valued for its historical significance and part of an interpretive site, tied in with the streetcar station.

"Based on the appearance of the structure, we were under the

impression that, if we didn't do anything, the bridge would eventually collapse under its own weight," said Don Varney, a landscape architect with the city's Parks and Recreation Department and the project manager.

However, a subsequent engineering analysis revealed the concrete in the key structural elements was strong, and a complete renovation proved possible to do within the existing budget.

"I think the end result is going to be a lot more satisfying for everybody," Varney said.

Way back in 1898, the St. Paul City Railway Co. was given permission to extend its Como-Harriet streetcar line through Como Park. In exchange, the company agreed to provide various amenities, including two bridges over the tracks. The footbridge opened in 1904 and gave visitors disembarking at the new station a means of safely crossing into the park.

A sister bridge, just to the west, was constructed to handle Lexington Parkway traffic—mostly horse-

drawn initially—and is still in use today.

The bridges, by noted Minneapolis builder William S. Hewett, were among the earliest in Minnesota to be constructed of concrete reinforced with metal and the most interesting feature of the pedestrian bridge is said to be the steel arch ribs that help support it.

Its Classic Revival architectural style was common to park bridges of the era and suitable for a major entrance to the park. The railings that were a key feature of that design are gone, but they can be recreated using the original plans, Varney said.

When the streetcar era in St. Paul ended in 1953, the footbridge no longer had an essential role to play. By the time the structure received the historic designation in 1989, it was basically abandoned and all but forgotten by the general public.

In 2001, the streetcar station was restored and in 2007 the footbridge got its chance. The City of St. Paul applied for and was

Como Park footbridge to 16

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the last 10 years

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m.** as Anders Himmelstrup discusses his book, "Anders Himmelstrup: 10 Years of Painting and Sculpting," a collection of his work from the last decade.



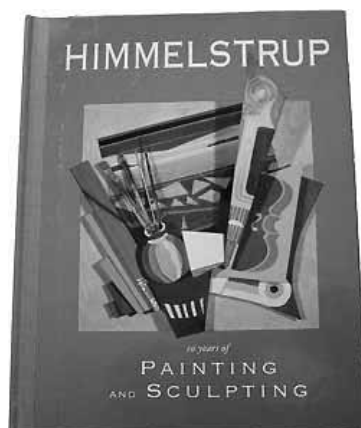
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CITY FILES

Como Park

The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

Picture life in Como Park

Walgreens has agreed to put photos depicting life in Como Park in the false windows on its new store at Lexington and Larpenteur avenues. This intersection is a major gateway to the neighborhood. Send photos that represent the area to kim.moon@district10comopark.org by Tuesday, April 16. Walgreens asks that you avoid sending political, school or church photos as the store doesn't want to appear to support one political party, school or church over another. Photos must be black and white with a resolution of 300 dpi or greater.

Mark your calendars

Two annual Como Park events to look forward to are the District 10 Neighborhood Garage Sale and Como Fest. The 12th annual garage sale is set for Saturday, May 18. Registration will open in early April. The fourth annual Como Fest is set for July 18-21.

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, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Join the Parks and Rec team

Teach sports, crafts, gardening, cooking, games or outdoor skills to children and work outside with the Falcon Heights Park and Recreation team. Positions open are Junior Leader (this is a volunteer position), ages 12-15; Assistant Rec Leader, age 16 and older; Rec Leader, age 18 and older; Head Activities Leader, 18 and

older; and Art Instructor, 18 and older.

Applications can be found at www.falconheights.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 5.

Register for summer programs

Kids enjoy affordable specialty camps and programs not found anywhere else for ages 3 and older, including Blastball, Harry Potter Camp, Plant and Cooking Naturally, along with day playground camps, sports camps and family sports programs. Online registration is available at www.falconheights.org_Parks and Recreation.

Year-round facility rentals

The City of Falcon Heights offers rentals to the public at City Hall and in several areas of Community Park and Curtiss Field for birthday parties, baby showers, family reunions, church events, graduations, corporate meetings or whatever gathering needs a place. City Hall's Council Chambers can seat up to 150 people and has access to a full kitchen.

Community Park has outdoor picnic areas with picnic tables and grills, tennis and basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields, a playground, exercise stations and a walking path. The park building has a full kitchen and indoor bathrooms. Curtiss Field is ideal for smaller gatherings and includes tables, chairs, indoor restrooms, picnic tables, a barbecue area, playground, basketball court and large open field for recreational activities.

Find out more at www.falconheights.org or call Falcon Heights City Hall at 651-792-7600.

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell

Ave. The Land Use Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at SSA. The Energy Resilience Group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday. Email erg@sapcc.org to find out the location. The Environment Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at SSA.

Smoking Sewers

The St. Paul Public Works Department will conduct smoke tests of the sanitary sewer system from April to mid-June. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, from 4-7 p.m. at the St. Anthony Park Library to explain the process. For more information, call SEH, 612-219-4231, or the Sewer Utility Desk, 651-266-6234. During testing, call Paul Kubesh, 651-238-0572

Green on the Screen

Two environmental movies will be shown in April at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church at Como and Hillside. *White Water Black Gold*, which looks at the environmental costs of mining oil from tar sands, will be shown Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. *Passive House—A Building Revolution* looks at how houses can be comfortable and use less energy and will be shown Saturday, April 6, at 1 p.m.

Kasota Ponds Cleanup

The annual cleanup of St. Anthony Park's Kasota Ponds will take place on Saturday, April 20, 9-11 a.m. These wetlands are a critical part of our Mississippi River watershed. On the day of the event, check in with the coordinator in the parking lot at 2536 Kasota Ave., west of Highway 280, for supplies and directions then meet up with your fellow neighborhood volunteers to clean up the ponds. Contact Matt Hass at greatwent80@hotmail.com with questions or to RSVP.

Wanted: Volunteers to study trees in Falcon Heights, Como

A group of University of Minnesota ecology professors is looking for volunteers to monitor the phenology (budburst, leafing, flowering, fruiting and leaf fall) of select boulevard trees in Falcon Heights and the Como Park neighborhood to learn more about when the trees drop their nutrient-rich biomass (flower parts, seeds and leaves). The project is aimed at timing street sweeping to prevent the debris from washing into local lakes through the stormwater drainage systems.

The ecologists spearheading the project—Dr. Sarah Hobbie, Dr. Rebecca Montgomery, Dr. Jacques C. Finlay, Chris Buyarski and Daniel Nidzgorski—are all residents of

either Falcon Heights or Como Park.

Janna Caywood, lead organizer of the Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN), says the project will help CLNN refine its strategies to advance Como Lake's restoration. Daniel Nidzgorski will work with CLNN this year to help target the "hot spots" during the Como Curb Cleanup in October, Caywood said.

Volunteers will identify one to 10 trees in front of their homes, on their streets or on walks they take regularly through the neighborhood to monitor through the year.

To find out more about the project, contact Chris Buyarski at buyar002@umn.edu, 612-624-3485 or 612-624-7734.

Final Como Sunday Series looks at urban gardening

Como Community Council's final Sunday Series event, "Creative Gardening for Urban Spaces," will take place on April 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at St. Timothy Lutheran

Church, N. 1465 Victoria St.

A panel of Como neighbors will share their creative ideas for our urban yards. This event is free and open to the public.



University of Minnesota professor of biochemistry Larry Wackett. Photo by Lori Hamilton

U professor studies ways to clean and recycle fracking's wastewater

By Judy Woodward

Fracking is in the news these days. The process involves extracting natural gas from shale rock formations deep below the earth's surface by hydraulic fracturing—essentially blasting out the gas under high pressure with chemically treated water. Largely because of fracking, natural gas production is rising. Supporters of fracking hail it as a step toward ensuring the nation's energy independence. Its detractors say that fracking will lay waste to huge stretches of rural America, contaminate the ground water supply and destroy the delicate balance of nature.

Como Park resident Larry Wackett sees things somewhat differently. For Wackett, Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Minnesota's BioTechnology Institute, fracking is one alternative in the business of making sure we have enough fossil fuel to power our lives. Wackett's work focuses on making the process less destructive by creating methods to cleanse and recycle the massive amounts of water used.

A clear-eyed view of the limitations and possibilities of energy resources is one of the most important things that he brings to the discussion of fracking, he says.

"People say, 'Why don't we give up fossil fuels?' Well, I used to work on renewable energy, and it's a myth that we could cover our energy needs with renewable [sources]," he says.

Without fossil fuels, asserts Wackett, "we could only feed half the population of the world. Our choices are oil, coal or natural gas, and the main way we get gas is [by] fracking."

Wackett thinks that it's a misrepresentation to say that fracking "is the worst form of getting fuel." The power of coal mining to despoil the landscape is frequently overlooked, he says. "Most people have not seen coal mining where a

whole mountain gets scrapped," he says. As for oil, "If we don't frack, there will likely be drilling in the Arctic."

Wackett has not yet visited a fracking site. Currently, his lab works on analyzing samples of wastewater taken from Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania and the Bakken shale of North Dakota.

"To clean the water, we need to know what's in the water," Wackett says. "We're developing methods that will be used in purification of the water used in fracking. We're funded by the National Science Foundation, but we're also talking to companies [involved in fracking]. They're under the pressure of public opinion. If they can re-use water, they'll save money and it will be good for the environment."

Wackett is getting to know something about the pressure of public opinion himself. In his long career in academic biochemistry, the 59-year-old professor has never before worked on anything as contentious as fracking. Not one to shrink from controversy, Wackett has

embraced the challenge of interacting with the public.

"It's easy to work on esoteric things, but this is different. I think there's a lot of misinformation," he says.

He is the first to admit that there are surprises in leaving the ivory tower. At a recent public talk on his work, he was surprised to find the auditorium overflowing—and armed security guards flanking the stage. Fortunately, he remarks wryly, "nobody stormed the stage."

The questions were polite but pointed. He thinks part of the controversy over fracking is "symptomatic of a polarized society. You can find whatever information you want to find on the Internet" to support your position, he says.

Wackett sees his work as a corrective to the do-it-yourself online "science" that sometimes infuses ideological sites on all sides of a controversial issue.

"My role is to analyze these water samples," he says. "My goal is

Wastewater to 6

St. Paul filmmaker to screen new documentary about frac sand mining

St. Paul filmmaker Jim Tittle will host a preview of his new documentary film, *The Price of Sand*, at the Grandview Theater, 1830 Grand Ave., St. Paul, on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. With original interviews, coverage of recent events and local music, the 57-minute film explores the controversy surrounding frac sand mining.

Tittle became interested in frac-sand mining two years ago after an oil company quietly acquired land near his mother's house in Hay Creek Township, near Red Wing and then announced plans to build a 150-acre open-pit industrial silica mine.

In November 2011, Tittle began working on *The Price of Sand*, his first feature-length film. Tittle interviewed more than four dozen business owners, small town mayors, farmers and truckers.

Silica sand from Minnesota and Wisconsin is transported by rail to fracking operations in North Dakota and Texas and other major oil fields. Trains carrying loads of silica travel through the Twin Cities and can be seen regularly in the St. Anthony Park rail yards.

For more information, visit www.thepriceofsand.com.

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The May deadline is April 10. The paper will be published on April 23.

The Park Bugle is a nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

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EDITORIAL

Transition: Everybody's doing it

"Snow becomes our familiar." That line from the poem "Knowing," written by Falcon Heights poet Marilyn Thomas Walton, sums up the feelings here at the Bugle as January kept on going, plowing its way through March.

Shovels, ice and cold became our familiar.

But as we move into April, we know warm weather and that shimmering haze of green you see in the trees just before the buds burst into leaves will be here before you can say the word "transition."

Transition is the thread running through this month's Bugle. It's the prompt we gave to writers who contributed to our third annual poetry contest this month (see the three winning poems, including Walton's "Knowing," on page 7). It's the goal of District 12's Energy Resilience Group, which has launched an ambitious community effort to find ways to move away from fossil-fuel dependence and become more reliant on community resources (see "Festival to showcase Transition Town effort" on page 1). And it's happening as we say goodbye to longtime Bugle writer Anne Holzman and hello to Kyle Mianulli, who writes about transition at the Finnish Bistro on page 14. Holzman has been contributing to the Bugle since 2002. She and her family are pulling up stakes and moving to a new part of the Twin Cities. Mianulli is a 2011 graduate from the University of Wisconsin's journalism school and has been writing for the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council.

Keeping with the theme of transition (and our vexing winter), we invite you to turn to pages 8 and 9 where naturalist Marcie O'Connor writes about gardening with native plants and shares some warm green photos from her own efforts. Pin up those photos where you can see them every day until those warm days finally arrive. It will hasten your psychological transition into spring.

On another note

In 2012, the Bugle began the "Who Are We?" series of stories that looked at demographic changes to our communities from the 1970 U.S. Census to the latest Census in 2010. In November, Judy Woodward wrote about our voting habits in the 1970s and how the voting public had changed—a lot—since then. Woodward also wrote about families and marriage and how the definition of family is changing here (January 2013). The Bugle has been awarded a \$2,000 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to continue that work, so stay tuned for more in-depth research and interesting stories that aim to answer the question, Who are we?

LETTERS

The Park Bugle welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Send your submissions to editor@parkbugle.org or to Editor, Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. The deadline for the May issue is Wednesday, April 10.

Minnesota Reading Corps helps her give back to the community

"What are you doing after graduation?" This one question kept bothering me during my senior year of college, mainly since I couldn't give my friends and family a concrete answer for the longest time. I wanted to do something right out of college that would let me make a difference in my community while earning valuable career experience.

Minnesota Reading Corps is a research-based AmeriCorps program

targeted at Minnesota students from age 3 through third grade with the goal of helping ensure all Minnesota children are on track to reading proficiency by the end of third grade. I work one-on-one daily with my students, monitor their progress weekly and have a file full of graphs to show their growth that I can share with their teachers. It's inspiring to see the number of letter sounds or words they can read in a minute increasing each week.

I can honestly say that I love

what I do and look forward to serving at my site every day. Minnesota Reading Corps is a great opportunity to give back to my community. My school is very engaged with our community, sponsoring math and fitness nights, grocery distributions and other events such as our annual Hmong New Year celebration. By getting involved and helping out with these events, as well as other community service events, I am able to help engage parents in their child's

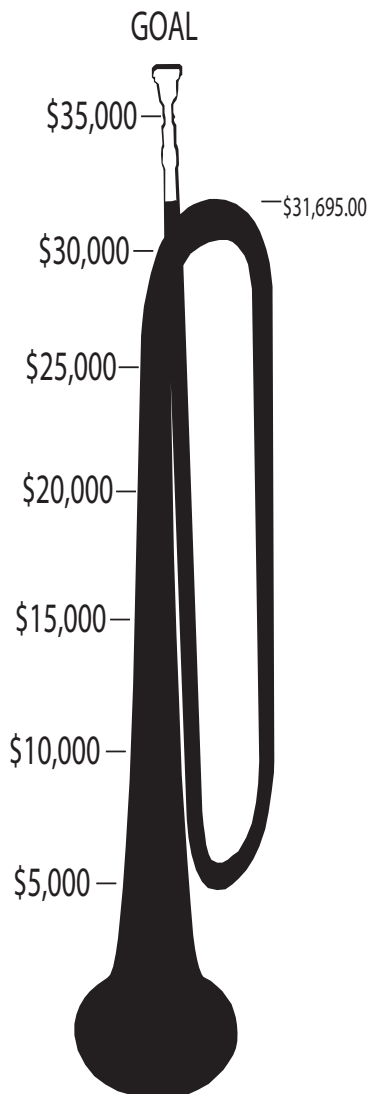
education and connect with my students outside the classroom, something that I really have come to love. It's great knowing that I'm able to give back to my community and that my service has more impact than just the hours I spend in school with the kids. To learn more, visit www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org or www.MinnesotaMathCorps.org.

*Kate Ryan
St. Anthony Park*

Thank you for supporting the Bugle

We are just \$3,300 away from our 2012-13 fund-drive goal of \$35,000. This list of donors reflects those who gave between Feb. 16 and March 15. The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper's annual operating costs. If you haven't contributed to the fund drive, you still can. Donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click on the green DONATE NOW button at the top of the right-hand column. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Thank you!

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The Bugle needs you

The Park Bugle is seeking candidates to fill openings on its board of directors.

The board consists of residents and business owners from the communities served by the newspaper. We especially encourage candidates from the Como Park neighborhood and the cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights to achieve geographic balance on the board.

Skills and background desired:

- Organizational or management skills, especially with nonprofits, including board service
- Fundraising and grant-writing experience, a strong connection to the community and the ability to comfortably approach potential donors
- Advertising experience, specifically sales, to support our sales representatives
- Racial and cultural diversity

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If you want to help shape the strategic direction of your local, prize-winning, nonprofit newspaper, either on the board or a committee, send a short note and biography to editor@parkbugle.org, with DIRECTORS in the subject line. Or send a letter to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, Attn: Directors.

Music series ends season with a little something for everyone

The Schubert Club's Music in the Park Series and Family Concerts season will conclude in April with performances by the Lau Hawaiian Collective and the Shanghai Quartet.

The Family Concert "Water Music" by the Lau Hawaiian Collective will have two performances on Friday, April 12: one at 6:15 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. Concerts are held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

The collective will also perform for students at St. Anthony Park

Elementary School on April 29.

Tickets for the Family Concerts are \$7 and can be ordered online at Schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

The Shanghai String Quartet will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, April 28, at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. A preconcert discussion will begin at 3 p.m. A limited number of tickets are still available for \$24. Order tickets at schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

The quartet has a long history of championing new music and juxtaposing traditions of Eastern and Western music.

The Family Concert Series is supported by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the Trillium Foundation. The Shanghai String Quartet concert is presented with the support of the Performing Arts Fund of Arts Midwest. The elementary school performance is supported, in part, by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

Transition Town from 1

existing group or start one."

There's something for everyone in this, and that's what Fulner-Erickson says she likes about the Transition Town movement: it's positive and accessible. "It's not just the save-the-polar-bears crowd; it's not one issue." It's also about community, the local economy, health care, education, the aging population and more, she said.

"It brings people in who may or may not be that interested in climate change or peak oil, but community is their priority," she said. "They want to connect with their neighbors and if it helps with climate change, well OK."

What began as "a core group of people meeting in living rooms and

just talking and reading books and watching movies" has moved into a highly energized effort, Fulner-Erickson said. "It just seems like the Transition Town principles are deeply rooted in a lot of people's lives in the neighborhood. It's a community that is already connected to each other and that's a big part of what Transition Town is all about. It makes

me excited to be a part of it as a staff person."

The festival was timed to be close to Earth Day, Monday, April 22, and to piggyback on the annual Kasota Ponds Cleanup, which will take place the morning of April 20. To find out more about the cleanup, look for the article in the City Files section on page 2.

Donate your books to library book sale

The St. Anthony Park Library Association is seeking donations for its annual book sale to be held on Saturday, June 1, during the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival.

You can donate new or gently used books, CDs and DVDs. No textbooks or VHS/cassette tapes please.

Bring materials to the book cart in the lower level of the library any time the library is open from now until mid-May.

Questions? Contact Susan Dean at smdean16@gmail.com.

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Remodeling project will close library for six weeks this spring

The first floor of the St. Anthony Park Library will be closed for remodeling for about six weeks starting in May. At least that's the ballpark estimate, according to library manager Susan Henry.

Bids for the project went out at press time, so the project's schedule was not determined. What Henry does know is that the main floor of the library will be closed for at least a

month and a half once the project starts. When the main floor reopens, it will have a number of new features, including an automated self-check-in kiosk where the compact disks and periodicals are now shelved, a counter area with laptop outlets and a lounge area with periodicals where the current office area is, and a new service desk in the area where the copying machine now sits.

The library's Summer Reading program will not be affected by the work, as the lower level will remain open during the remodeling. The auditorium will also be available for bookings during that time and will be open for the St. Anthony Park Library Association's used book sale during the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 1.—
Kristal Leebrick

Keystone expands Meals on Wheels options

Area neighbors who are no longer able to prepare meals for themselves or who want the convenience of ready-to-eat meals delivered to their door can find expanded options in the Meals on Wheels program of Keystone Community Services. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. by community

volunteers recruited by St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

Menus are created from scratch by a local caterer, using organic ingredients whenever possible. Meals can be tailored for individual needs and preferences. Options include regular, diabetic, low-salt, gluten-free and kosher. Participants can choose

to receive a ready-to-eat daily hot meal, a daily fresh meal to reheat at the recipient's convenience or daily or weekly frozen meals.

To learn more, call Jeanne Leifeld at Keystone Senior Program, 651-645-7424, or go to keystoneservices.org and click on Meals on Wheels.

Wastewater from 3

not to make companies look good or to back environmentalists up, but to publish what we find."

It's a modern-day formulation of a scientific creed that he's embraced in one way or another since he was a boy growing up in the New York City area. "I've always been interested in science," he says, "since I inherited my older brother's chemistry set."

Part of the excitement of chemistry was producing the colorful special effects of chemistry with explosive flashes and flammable salts. Wackett marvels that, as a 12-year-old in those long gone days, he was able to go to hobby shops in search of

the incendiary ingredients for his innocent fireworks.

"Now they'd never sell those chemicals to the general public," he says.

At 16, he was constructing his own telescope at New York's Hayden Planetarium. "I was told I could make a better telescope for \$200 in materials than you could buy for \$3,000," he says. It was the kind of do-it-yourself revelation that produces a bench scientist.

After earning a doctorate from the University of Texas and pursuing a post-doctoral fellowship at MIT, Wackett arrived in Minnesota as an assistant professor in 1987. He's built his career at the U ever since. He met

his wife here, and his two children attended St. Paul public schools. "This area is a really good fit for me," he says.

When he's not working, Wackett's often to be found down at the Midway YMCA playing pickup basketball with guys less than half his age. "Even though I can't run, I have a skill," he says. "I'm better than the rest of them at shooting."

A researcher even in his recreational hours, he attributes his hoops prowess to instructional videos he got for his son when the boy was trying to improve his own game in high school. As a result, the son became a good athlete, but Wackett watched them too and "became a much better shooter."

Wackett confesses that he can't predict how long fracking will last as a source of natural gas.

"I'm not a geologist. This is not my area," he explains before hazarding a guess. "It's a random walk to try to estimate the size of a [fracking] field. Maybe 50 to 100 years. Maybe less."

Meanwhile, Wackett often tells the critics he encounters, "[Fracking] is happening. You can just criticize it, or you can try to do something."

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St. Anthony Park Area Seniors presents: 2013 Senior Cinema Series

"Trouble With the Curve" 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at SAP Library

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April: *the poetic month*

As winter *transitions* to spring, we offer you the three winning entries of the third annual Park Bugle Poetry Contest. This year's prompt was "transition" and 19 poets submitted work.

The first-place poem, "The Seven Months That Aren't Winter," was written by Susan Warde of St. Anthony Park. Marilynne Thomas Walton of Falcon Heights wrote the No. 2 poem, "Knowing." This is Walton's second time winning in the contest. Her poem "Valentine Danger Time" was the first-place poem in our first contest in 2011.

Third place this year goes to

the haiku "present pass" by Kate Mabel of St. Anthony Park. Susan Warde received a gift certificate to Micawber's Books for her No. 1 poem.

The poems were judged anonymously by Dave Healy, a former editor of the Park Bugle, Public Art Review and the Writing Center Journal. Healy has taught composition and literature at Bethel College and the University of Minnesota and has had his own work published in Elysian Fields Quarterly, Turtle Quarterly and the Fib Review.

You'll find the winning poems printed below, and you can read all

the submissions at the Bugle's website, www.parkbugle.org.

Here's what our judge had to say about the three poems:

All three winning poets address the contest theme of transition by describing the natural world.

In "The Seven Months That Aren't Winter," Susan Warde makes artful use of rhyme, alliteration and personification in a sensuous tour of the temperate seasons. There are many lines to praise. Two of my favorites are these:

"While brimming apple boughs are bent / Beneath the welcome weight of fruit."

Marilynne Thomas Walton also uses alliteration to good effect and has created some arresting images. From now on whenever I hear a storm howl, I'll think: feral-cat winds. And I'll never be able to look at crows as anything other than black-frock-coated.

Haiku, despite its apparent simplicity, is difficult to do well. Kate Mabel proves an adept practitioner of the form in "present pass." I like the poet's implicit permission for us to feel melancholic in spring and the ambiguity of "winter's drift."

1.

The Seven Months That Aren't Winter

Dispersed in cheerful clumps, a few
Blond daffodils that nod their heads
Above the spreading squill (so blue!)
Appear in all the garden beds.

Some trees flaunt crowns of pink and white,
A festive feast for every bee.
And then the petals, too, take flight:
A careless breeze has set them free

And now like snow they lie beneath
The branches bright with early green.
Then roses bloom, and bridal wreath,
And blowsy peonies steal the scene.

Lilies trumpet, "July is here!"
But then, no rain. We scan the sky
For laden clouds that don't appear.
The lawns go brown. The earth is dry

And thirsty. Desperate are the seeds
We sowed in April. Now they long
For moisture. Undeterred, the weeds,
Triumphantly have joined the throng.

The show goes on. Though some are spent,
Other blossoms will follow suit,
While brimming apple boughs are bent
Beneath the welcome weight of fruit.

The days grow brief, and bronze and gold
And radiant red suffuse the trees.
Then seasoned gardeners brave the cold
To bury bulbs before the freeze.

And when at last the flowers fade
And fall's first ruinous killing frost
Has put an end to this parade
Of garden's glory, is all lost?

Though some of us may not be here
To witness it, the earth fulfills
The promise of another year:
The comeliness of daffodils.

—Susan Warde, St. Anthony Park

2.

Knowing

On the night
of Thanksgiving
first snow fell,
spread as familiar
as butter on bread.
Calculating its own depth
on the wrought-iron railings,
along the bare branches
of penitent undiseased ash trees.
Weighed ancient arborvitaes
into softness for swings
and hammocks of chickadees.

Feral-cat winds rocked
all looseness outside:
Shutters, shake shingles,
the unfrozen waters of Como Lake,
where lately trumpets
spouted white music
between pillars of the Pavilion.
Now the fog horns of Canada geese
have silenced;
flown to sweet lands
smelling of dogwood, oleander, rosemary,
and honeysuckle in the Carolinas.

Snow becomes our familiar.
In the same way
that we come to know
the distancing death of
a loved one.
Winter crows in black frock coats,
snow-huddling, are last to leave the wake.

—Marilynne Thomas Walton, Falcon Heights

3.

present pass

placid and demure
spring pardons melancholy
and greets winter's drift

—Kate Mabel, St. Anthony Park

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The birds, the bees, the butterflies

Native insects and animals thrive when gardens feature native plants

By Marcie O'Connor

When you start planning your garden this spring, consider adding plants that are native to this part of the country to help feed songbirds and attract butterflies and other wildlife to your garden.

Native plants provide habitat for native insects. Native insects are interesting and beautiful to look at, and they're also important because they provide food for songbirds. As wild land disappears, the habitat for native insects disappears, and now we're seeing declines in the populations of songbirds. As urban gardeners, we can help stop this decline by planting native plants in our gardens.

Native plants have been here for thousands of years and have been evolving with each other and with the insects and other animals that have been living here with them.

Exotic plants have been here only a few hundred years or less. They were brought here—some intentionally and some by accident—since the time of European settlement.

Most gardeners grow exotic plants. They are the ones sold in garden stores, they have the biggest, showiest flowers, and they have the longest bloom times. But there's a problem with growing only exotics: most native insects can't eat them.

Native insects need to eat native plants. Plants and insects evolved together, and many insects have evolved to specialize in only one kind of plant.

One familiar example is monarch butterflies. Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed plants. Milkweed gets its name from the milky juice in its stems and leaves. The juice contains several toxic compounds. Monarch caterpillars have specialized to feed on the leaves in spite of their toxicity. In fact, monarch caterpillars use the toxic compounds to make themselves toxic to predators.

Exotic plants have these evolutionary relationships with insects in their home countries, but not with our insects. So most



A cabbage white butterfly on blue vervain. Photo by Marcie O'Connor

butterfly caterpillars can't eat the exotics in our gardens.

Native insects seldom cause permanent damage to native plants. It's an evolutionary relationship. The insects benefit from having the plants around, so they usually don't do a lot of damage, just enough to keep themselves alive.

Most of the insects we consider pests are not native. Like non-native plants, they were brought here from other countries. Japanese beetles, emerald ash borers and gypsy moths are all non-native pests. One of the reasons they cause such problems for us is that our native plants haven't evolved any defenses against them.

As our human population grows, we use more land for agriculture, roads, houses and industry, and for endless acres of mowed, chemically treated lawns and non-native landscape plantings. Every year there is less wild land, and even small "wild" areas are often overrun with non-native, invasive plant species. This habitat loss is especially important when it comes to native insects.

One thing that city dwellers can do to help is to grow diverse plantings of native plants—plants that insects can use—in our gardens.

It's good to have insects in our gardens for a couple of reasons.

Nearly all songbirds eat insects. Even birds that we think of as seed-

eaters, like sparrows, eat insects when they're feeding their babies. Insects are high in protein, which is what growing fledglings need. If we don't have insects, we won't have birds.

And most people enjoy seeing butterflies in their gardens. Butterflies will come to nectar in a garden of exotic plants, but their caterpillars can't eat the plants. If we want to feed their caterpillars so there will be more butterflies, we need to have plants they can eat. Those caterpillars are also an important food for birds.

You don't have to dig up your whole garden and plant only natives. It can be done gradually, at whatever pace works for you. Each time you decide to add a plant, or replace an old one, think about using a native. A mix of natives and non-natives may fit better into your style. Or you may decide to go entirely native.

When you are choosing seeds to plant, beware of buying packets or bags of seeds that are labeled "wildflower mix." "Wildflower" doesn't necessarily mean "native." These mixes usually contain mostly seeds of non-native annual flowers, a few perennials and sometimes a few natives.

As you plant your garden this spring, plant a few native flowers. And next year, plant a few more. You'll be helping the birds, and every native you plant will bring new and interesting creatures into your yard.

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Where to buy natives

Be sure to buy plants that are grown in nurseries, not dug from the wild. Here is a list of area nurseries that carry native plants:

- *Kinnickinnic Native Plants*, 235 State Road 65, River Falls, 715-425-7605
- *Linder's Garden Center*, 270 W. Larpenteur Ave., St. Paul, Minn., 651-488-1927: has a section of natives
- *Prairie Moon*, 507-452-1362 www.prairiemoon.com: a mail-order company in Winona with a large selection of seeds and plants
- *Prairie Restorations*, 651-433-1435, www.prairieresto.com: an online catalog with retail stores in Scandia and Princeton
- *OutBack Nursery*, 15280 110th St. S., Hastings, 651-438-2771: specializes in native shrubs but does sell flowers
- *Stockholm Gardens*, Highway 35 on the east edge of Stockholm, Wis., 715-442-3200: hosts a Woodland Wildflower Weekend April 26-28
- *Landscape Revival*: Native Plant Expo and Market, Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Community Pavilion, Roseville Rainbow Foods, 1201 W. Larpenteur Ave. Go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org for more information.

Reading list

- *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy
- *Attracting Native Pollinators*, published by the Xerces Society
- *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota* by Lynn M. Steiner is readable and good for people working on small gardens.

Marcie O'Connor is a naturalist who divides her time between St. Anthony Park and western Wisconsin, where she and her husband have been restoring the prairie and savannah of an old farm in Buffalo County for the last 13 years. Visit www.APrairieHaven.com to see her stories and photos about that project.



This photo shows a part of the prairie O'Connor helped plant at 1666 Coffman in Lauderdale.



A soldier beetle on blue vervain.

Photos by Marcie O'Connor

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APRIL

Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by April 10 to be included in the May Bugle.

1 MONDAY

St. Anthony Park Cub Scout Pack 22, 7 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church. Call 651-649-1660 for more information.

2 TUESDAY

Baby lapsit story time, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library

St. Anthony Park Garden Club: "Grandma's Peonies and More." Business meeting, 6:30 p.m.; social

time; 7 p.m., program; 7:15 p.m., St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall

Green on the Screen: "White Water Black Gold," 7-8:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church

International & Domestic Adoption Information Session, 6-8:30 p.m., CHSFS

Basketball open gym for youth and adults, every Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., Langford Park Rec Center

3 WEDNESDAY

Free blood pressure screening, first Wednesday of each month, 11-11:30

a.m., Blomberg Pharmacy. Sponsored by Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program.

Conversation circle every Wednesday, 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library

One-on-One Career Building, every Wednesday, 5 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library

St. Anthony Park Library book club, 6:30 p.m. Call library for book title.

5 FRIDAY

Preschool storytime, every Friday, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library

6 SATURDAY

Saturday movie: "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," noon, St. Anthony Park Library

Green on the Screen: "Passive House: A Building Revolution," 1-2:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church

8 MONDAY

I-Ching workshop by the Rev. J. Thomas Hyder, 7-9 p.m., Spirit United Church

9 TUESDAY

Adoptive Parents Group: for parents of adopted adult children, 6-8p.m., CHSFS

Adoptive Parents Group: for parents who adopted children through Minnesota's foster care system, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSFS

11 THURSDAY

Senior Cinema Series: "Trouble with the Curve," 1 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library

13 SATURDAY

Silent Auction for Chelsea Heights school, 5:30 p.m., Gabe's By the Park, 991 N. Lexington Parkway

15 MONDAY

Rose Ensemble, "Zieleński in Venice," 7

p.m., St. Anthony Park Library

16 TUESDAY

Baby lapsit story time, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library

"Elder Care and Memory Loss," free three-session series presented by Lynn Cibazar of DARTS, 7 p.m., Falcon Heights United Church of Christ

18 THURSDAY

Minnesota's Waiting Children Information Session, 6-8 p.m., CHSFS

20 SATURDAY

Adoption Fair, 9a.m.-noon, CHSFS

Kids Stuff Sale, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Falcon Heights Elementary

All St. Anthony Park Transition Festival, 1- 4 p.m., St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church

26 FRIDAY

Co-ed Drum Circle: \$10, drums provided, Women's Drum Center

27 SATURDAY

Spring rummage and bake sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N. Roy St., 651-656-6549.

Casino night, Maternity of Mary Church, 6:30 p.m.

BLOCK NURSE EXERCISE

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

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

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Blomberg Pharmacy, 1583 N. Hamline Ave., 651-646-9645

CHSFS: Children's Home Society & Family Services, 1605 Eustis St., 651-646-7771

Falcon Heights Elementary School, 1393 W. Garden Ave.

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

Maternity of Mary Church, 1414 N. Dale St., 651-489-1459

Spirit United Church, 3204 S.E. Como Ave., 612-378-3602

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

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

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058

Women's Drum Center, 2242 W. University Ave., www.womensdrumcenter.org

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Neighbors

Send your news about upcoming events or your interesting neighbors to editor@parkbugle.org. The next deadline is April 10.

Lucy's Coffee Café hosts Deaf or Hard of Hearing Art Showcase

Minnesota Hands and Voices is presenting a showcase of artwork from deaf or hard-of-hearing youth from across Minnesota at Lucy's Coffee Café in the Griggs/Midway Building, 540 Fairview Ave., through mid-April. The theme of the work is Youth Pride in Being Deaf or Hard of Hearing. You can also see the work online at mnhandsandvoices.org.

Park Perks raises funds for Murray band trip and local Girl Scouts

Park Perks coffee bar at Park Midway Bank, 2300 Como Ave., raised \$728 for the Murray Junior High School spring band trip. During the month of April, Park Perks will raise money to support Girl Scout Troop 50375's trip to visit a Girl Scout lodge in London in August.

Maternity of Mary casino night

Join Maternity of Mary Church for fun night out at the All in 4 Kids—MMSA Casino Night and Auction on Saturday, April 27, at Sirba Hall, Maternity of Mary Church, 1414 N. Dale St. The evening will feature 20 tables of games, appetizers and desserts. The night begins at 6:30 p.m., with games starting at 7 p.m. and a live auction at 9:45 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew School. To reserve tickets call 651-489-1459 or visit mmaschool.org or buy them at the door.

Park Midway hosts shredding day

Park Midway Bank will hold a shredding day for customers and the neighborhood on Saturday, May 4, from 9a.m.-noon in its parking lot at 2300 Como Ave.

Local climbers rock

Brothers Kyle and Sam Struthers of St. Anthony Park recently competed in the National Youth Championships rock climbing competition in Colorado Springs, Colo. Kyle, a freshman at Central High School, and Sam, a seventh-grader at Highland Junior High School, competed in bouldering, a type of climbing without ropes. The boys each earned one of the 35 invitations in their respective age categories by qualifying in regional and divisional competitions held in St. Louis and Indianapolis earlier in the year. Kyle finished 15th in the competition, and Sam finished 16th. The brothers both train at Vertical Endeavors climbing gym, which sent 14 climbers to Nationals. The team earned a fifth-place finish out of 35 teams.

Local Girl Scouts head to London

By Michelle Christianson

What do seven ninth-grade Girl Scouts from five high schools do to broaden their horizons and develop stronger bonds? Why, go to London, of course, the birthplace of the 100-year-old scouting organization.

The members of Girl Scout Troop 50375 will stay at Pax Lodge in Hampstead, North London, next to the world headquarters of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), in August. Their trip includes a two-night camping trip on Brownsea Island, the site of the first-ever scout camp, where they will be doing a community service project.

The troop began with 13 girls when they were in elementary school, but some girls quit as they got older to devote more time to outside interests. Annelia Anderson, Frances Fuller, Fiona Steen, Ellie Thorsgaard, Elysia Gauthier, Amanda Baden and Maxine Lightfoot stayed in the troop. Though these girls are also involved in such varied activities as dance, opera, music lessons, painting, swimming, volleyball, lacrosse and writing (as well as maintaining their status as "A" students), they have managed to stay committed to scouting. Their current leaders, Rita Goodrich and Sarah Anderson, will accompany them on the trip, along with Amy Tomczyk.

When the girls were in fourth grade, then troop leader Greta Gauthier asked them to brainstorm about what they wanted to do as a troop. They wrote their ideas on Post-it notes and organized them into things that would be easy to do and things that would count as "dreaming big." Ideas from the second group included staying at one of the four world centers of WAGGGS. London won.

Such a trip involves a lot of planning and major-league fundraising. The troop had two rules:



Troop 50375 members Amanda Baden (bottom), Fiona Steen and Frances Fuller, second row; Ellie Thorsgaard and Annelia Anderson, third row; and Elysia Gauthier and Maxine Lightfoot, at top. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

(1) All money is troop money—if you quit, the money stays with the troop, and (2) all troop members go together—if anyone had financial constraints, the trip would be scaled back.

The scouts have raised enough money for the stay in London and Brownsea. Parents are paying for airfare; the girls are providing their own spending money. In the last four years, the girls have sold cookies, participated in the neighborhood garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home for the Holidays in December at Milton Square, sold water and soft drinks to State Fair attendees and will be the recipients of the Park Perks program at Park Midway Bank, 2300 Como Ave., in April. The bank will donate profits from coffee sales in its lobby that month to the troop.

Fundraising isn't the only Girl

Scout activity the girls have participated in over the last few years. They've gone camping, took part in the Girls Scouts 100th anniversary celebration at the Mall of America and earned the organization's Bronze Award for community service for a project they did with the Animal Humane Society. They made beds, tags and treats for the animals.

While in London, the girls will stay at Pax Lodge, a communal facility that accommodates 59 people and attracts girls from all over the world. They will participate in leadership and advocacy programs at the lodge and tour London. They are looking forward to riding the London Eye, seeing "Wicked" at the theater, visiting the Tower of London and taking various tours such as the Harry Potter tour and a ghost tour.

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School News

The Bugle welcomes news about students and schools in the area. The deadline for the May issue is Wednesday, April 10. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

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

Silent Auction set for April 13

Chelsea Heights Elementary is hosting its first-ever silent auction on Saturday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Gabe's By the Park, 991 N. Lexington Parkway, to raise funds to help remove and replace the existing outdoor play structure at the school. The school has more than 450 students and also houses Northwest Como Recreation Center. The event will include appetizers, singing and

dancing the night away with karaoke. Auction items include WaterPark of America passes, Radisson Blu staycation with Comedy Club passes and a Wisconsin Dells mini vacation. There will also be a raffle for a Kindle Fire. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. The cost to attend the silent auction is \$10 per person and includes appetizers and one drink. Presale tickets are available at a discounted price. Contact Brooke Ust at 651-340-1745 for more information.

Falcon Heights Elementary
1393 Garden Ave., 651-646-0021
www.isd623.org/fh

Kids' stuff for sale

The Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale will be held Saturday, April

20, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the school. The sale will include gently used kids' clothing, toys, sporting equipment, furniture and more. Half off on marked items begins at 11 a.m. To find out more about donating gently used items or to participate as a seller, email fhkidsstuffsale@gmail.com.

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

History Day winners

The following Como Park Senior High School students participated in the regional History Day contest in March at Harding High School. Students whose names are marked with an asterisk will advance to the state contest in May.

Exhibits: Eliot Berven*, Thomas Fritts*, Keith Eicher*, Adam Swanson*, Tauchai Vang, Ella Rouillard*, Alex Konkol*, Jack Freier and Kevin Smith. In the research paper category are Julian Dokas*, William Anderson* and CharDay Vincal*. Film: Tuomas Sivula*, Mary Miles*, Emma Hartmann*, Ben Hartmann*, Delilah Wolf*, Sinead O'Duffy* and Ellie Thorsgaard*. Website: Lia Chin-Purcell*, Vincent Altobell-Velasco*, Philip Moulton*, Raymond Campos*, Adam Swenson*, Dajhir Tucker-Adams*, Madeline Post* and Alayna Carrier*. Performance: Gabrielle Welisevich*, Zahro Hashi* and Katie Erickson*.

Close Up

Ten Como Park High School students participated in the national Close Up Washington, D.C., program March 3-8. Students met U.S. senators and representatives on Capitol Hill, observed a Senate Committee hearing, viewed the full House of Representatives and the Senate in session and much more.

Science fair judges

The no. 3 bus took 10 National Honor Society students from Como Park to St. Anthony Park Elementary School in March to judge the school's annual science fair.

Como science students have a long relationship working with St.

Anthony Park students. Teacher Kathy Kahn's biology students started helping science teacher Jim Shrankler's elementary students in the early-1990s.

Later this semester, NHS students will help judge at the Chelsea Heights Elementary School science fair.

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

Measuring spring

Murray Junior High School students are measuring spring at the Como Outdoor Woodland Classroom at Como Regional Park.

Students in the school's Environmental Inquiry Immersion class have been visiting the park since January to learn what abiotic and biotic factors can be measured in the forest, says science teacher Tim Chase. As spring continues, the students will measure buds on trees as they start to swell, burst and grow throughout spring. In late spring the students will survey invertebrates.

Data gathered is being recorded at Murray as well as on the Will Steger Foundation Classroom, <http://classroom.willstegerfoundation.org>. There Murray students can compare their information with that gathered by students in Bemidji and note spring's emergence in two areas of the state.

Dr. Joan McKearnan, from the Minnesota Ornithological Union, recently took the students on a field investigation at the outdoor classroom to do a short bird study.

Junior Honor Society awarded

On March 4, representatives from the U.S. Postal Service and VFW Post 99 presented Murray Junior High with an American Flag in appreciation of the students collecting items for troops stationed abroad in the annual Shop, Ship, and Share program.

Murray spring sports

March found the Murray Boys Basketball team dominating the St.

Paul City Conference, having won all 12 games played in February and early March.

Baseball, softball, badminton and co-ed track are all on tap for the spring season. Full sports schedules are listed at: spps.org/sports.

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

Read-a-thon

St. Anthony Park Elementary School students raised more than \$12,200 in the 2013 Read-a-thon by reading for 470,000 minutes between Feb. 7 and 19. This year's theme was "Goat For It!"

Because the students surpassed the goal of reading for 270,000 minutes, principal Ann Johnson will milk a goat. The milking will take place in April.

Jill Brauns' first-graders and Kathy Maguire's third-graders tied to win the K-3 class competitions. Jan Magrane's fifth-graders won the 4-6 class competition. Last year, students read 426,970 minutes. Thanks to Elizabeth Howatt and Cristy Gaffney for organizing the fundraiser.

A music teacher's dream

St. Anthony Park fifth- and sixth-graders performed at the Minnesota Music Educator's Mid-Winter Clinic on Feb. 15 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Music clips can be found on the St. Anthony Park website, <http://stanthony.spps.org>.

DI teams head to state

Three Destination ImagiNation teams are heading to the state competition April 16 at Champlin High School. One fifth-grade team, the Mustached Penguins, is advancing, as well as two fourth-grade teams, Six Sizzling Skittles and Flying Pickles, Inc. Four other teams bypassed the earlier competitions and will go to the state tournament for first-time competition in the service-learning category. A big thank you to teacher Nancy Hausman for organizing.

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Roseville high school presents 'How to Succeed in Business'

Roseville Area High School (RAHS), 1240 W. County Road B2, will present "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," Thursday, April 4, to Sunday, April 7, at the high school. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 4-6, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7. Reserved-seat tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. General admission seating, which can be purchased at performance time, is \$5. A free senior matinee will be presented on Wednesday, April 3, at 1 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.rahsdrama.net or call 651-604-1481.

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Edith Balthazor

Edith L. Balthazor, 86, formerly of St. Anthony Park, most recently of Shoreview, died Feb. 26. Edith worked in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota for more than 30 years. She was a talented seamstress, a gifted cross-stitcher and a passionate golfer and had a great sense of humor. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Balthazor.

Her memorial service was held March 9 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

The Rev. Donald Flaten

The Rev. Donald Flaten, 88, died on Feb. 17, after a short hospitalization. Don was preceded in death in 2011 by his wife, Grace. He is survived by sons Dale and James; daughter Joan Holliman; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on Feb. 23.

John Kersey

John H. Kersey, M.D., age 74, died March 10. John was a graduate of Washburn High School in Minneapolis in 1956, Dartmouth College in 1960 and the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1964. He was a longtime faculty member at the University of Minnesota Medical School, a pioneer in pediatric leukemia care and research, and the founding director of the University of Minnesota Cancer Center.

In 1975, he led the team that completed the world's first successful

Murray for both generations. He also loved buying books at Micawber's (he was a voracious reader), Anne's Christmas presents at the Bibelot and the Sunday New York Times at Speedy when they weren't up at the cabin for the weekend.

He is survived by his wife, Anne; son Charlie (Tzeitel) Kersey of Bruno, Minn.; daughter Meg Kersey Isaacson (Brian), St. Anthony Park; son Tim Kersey of Roseville; four grandchildren; and brother Gene Kersey of Corvallis, Ore.

His memorial service was held March 21 at McNamara Center at the University of Minnesota.

Victoria Lindblade

Victoria A. "Vicki" Lindblade, 61, of St. Paul, died March 7, following a long battle with cancer. Vicki was a longtime owner of Open Hands Therapeutic Massage facility, which was located in St. Anthony Park for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Glen and Florence, and Frank Foltz. She is survived by her siblings, Glendon, Bill, Dottie and Val (Dave) Johnson.

Her funeral service was held on March 12 at North Heights Lutheran Church, Roseville, with interment at Oakland Cemetery, Marine on St. Croix.

Jim Rogen

Jim Rogen, 60, of Walker, Minn.,

born in Minot, N.D., on Dec. 24, 1952, died suddenly on March 2 in Galena, Ill. He graduated from Murray High School in 1971. He attended Morningside College.

Jim began working with the elderly and the disabled in high school, worked at Montana State Hospital as a caregiver, at Minneapolis Fairview Hospital and Chicago Northwestern Hospital as a mental health counselor. Jim had a therapeutic gift as he was a calming and patient man who accepted and loved people. He believed every person was special and deserved to be treated with dignity, to be loved and to have a place they called home.

Jim grew up in St. Anthony Park and returned there with his own family. He and his wife, Ann, moved to Walker, Minn., in 1996.

Jim and Ann built May Creek Lodge Assisted Living in 2000. The following year Jim opened his first group home for developmentally



Jim Rogen

disabled, Shingobee Island Lodge, and a second one later, Summit House. He later designed and built a non-institutional home for individuals suffering from chronic mental illness. In 2008 May Creek Cottages was opened to serve residents with memory loss. Recently Jim and his son Alex opened a coffee-roasting cottage industry to provide employment for disabled residents and to provide Jim with an endless supply of good coffee.

Jim cast a wide net and will be

missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Alvin Rogen and Evelyn Clementsen Rogen. His father was once pastor at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. He is survived by his wife, Ann Noland; sons Alex Rogen and Joel Mensch; and siblings Kris (Grant) Oppegard, Paul (Linda) Rogen and Lois (Randy) Perkins.

A farewell took place at the Blue Water Lodge on March 9.

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John loved his family, his work, world travel, his cabin on the North Shore and his more than 50 canoe trips to the Quetico.

He lived a happy life on Doswell Avenue for 43 years. He loved his neighbors and loved living in St. Anthony Park.

John was a scoutmaster in the 1980s for St. Anthony Park Boy Scout Troop 17. He loved walking both his children and later his grandchildren to school at St. Anthony Park Elementary School, watching Tim play hockey for many years at Langford and attending countless school programs, recitals and science fairs at both SAP and

Community Worship Directory

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Undercroft Gallery: Glenn Halvorson Panoramas: April 7; Opening Reception 11:30 a.m.

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Business News

Finnish Bistro changes hands

By Kyle Mianulli

The Finnish Bistro in St. Anthony Park is looking for a fresh start by bringing back some familiar flavor. Former manager Sandra Weise purchased the neighborhood gathering spot at 2246 Como Ave. from longtime owner and friend Soile Anderson. Weise assumed all operations March 6.

The first change customers may have already noticed is a new menu. The bistro recently experimented with a more gourmet menu. Weise says it was not well received. One of her first decisions as owner was to bring back bistro-style offerings, focusing on soup, salad and sandwich combinations.

The popular all-day breakfast and the kids' menu have also reappeared on the menu. Other family-friendly offerings such as an antique scale so children can "pay what they weigh" are in the works as well.

Weise is playing to adult appetites too. She plans to expand the craft beer selection and host wine tastings. Live music will also be more frequent, especially on the weekends when Weise plans to extend nighttime hours to 10 p.m. She is looking for ways to take full advantage of what she calls "the best patio in St. Paul."

As the head of Deco Catering, one of the Twin Cities' premiere catering businesses, Anderson acknowledged it has been hard to commit the time and attention she would have liked to the restaurant.

"My catering is so busy and I always felt like I should have spent more time with the Finnish Bistro. That's why I think it's nice to have a person who [will be] there 100 percent," Anderson said.

Weise is the first to acknowledge the restaurant has floundered at times without consistent leadership in recent years. But she is pledging her allegiance to the community as she works to rebuild the bistro's reputation.

"This is a very tight community and they will boycott you," Weise said.

She's right. John Lentsch, 62, of St. Anthony Park, is a regular at the bistro and said when the menu switched over recently he and his brother stopped coming for a period. Nonetheless, he is happy with the latest menu change and remains a strong supporter of the restaurant.

"I think if every little neighborhood had something like this, it would improve the city immensely," Lentsch said.

Other than her brief stint as the bistro's manager in 2009, Weise is a social worker by trade. Most recently working for United Way, she thinks the skills she developed working for nonprofits for nearly 15 years will serve her well in her new role.

"I'm philanthropic and I'm community based. I want to be a



Soile Anderson (left) sold the Finnish Bistro to friend Sandra Weise, who assumed all operations on March 6. Photo by Kyle Mianulli

community staple, and not just for food," Weise said.

She won't be going at it alone. Anderson plans to play an active role as a close mentor to Weise and may even stop by periodically to whip up a special or two.

The Finnish Bistro was originally part of the Taste of Scandinavia Bakeries chain founded by Anderson in 1990. She sold all but the St. Anthony Park location to Festival Foods in 1994. The restaurant became the Finnish Bistro in 2005 when it moved across the street from its previous location in the lower level of Milton Square to the corner of Carter and Como avenues.

For now, Weise is keeping the name, but said she might be open to a rebranding in 2014.

The bistro is staying put though. Weise wouldn't have it any other way.

"I can't say I would own a restaurant or bistro anywhere else," she says. "It was as if the opportunity came for me to buy this restaurant at this location. I don't want to own another one. I like this neighborhood."

Kyle Mianulli is a freelance journalist and former editor of the Badger Herald at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also writes for the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Park Midway Bank will have a new name, Sunrise Community, in April

Pending regulatory approval, Park Midway Bank and two others will merge to become Sunrise Banks, effective April 1.

David Reiling, chief executive officer, Sunrise Community Banks, made the announcement in a March 1 letter to customers. The Reiling family has owned Park Midway, Franklin National Bank and University National Bank for the past 20 years and the three will now become one.

"This change allows us to offer you more competitive and innovative products and services, better technology, and enhanced customer service," Reiling said in the letter.

"The banks are dedicated to helping our customers and urban community succeed," he continued. "I assure you that this tradition will continue after the merger. Sunrise Banks will continue to be owned by my family, retain our talented and friendly employees, preserve our commitment to local lending and strive to better serve you." —Roger Bergerson

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 April 12.**



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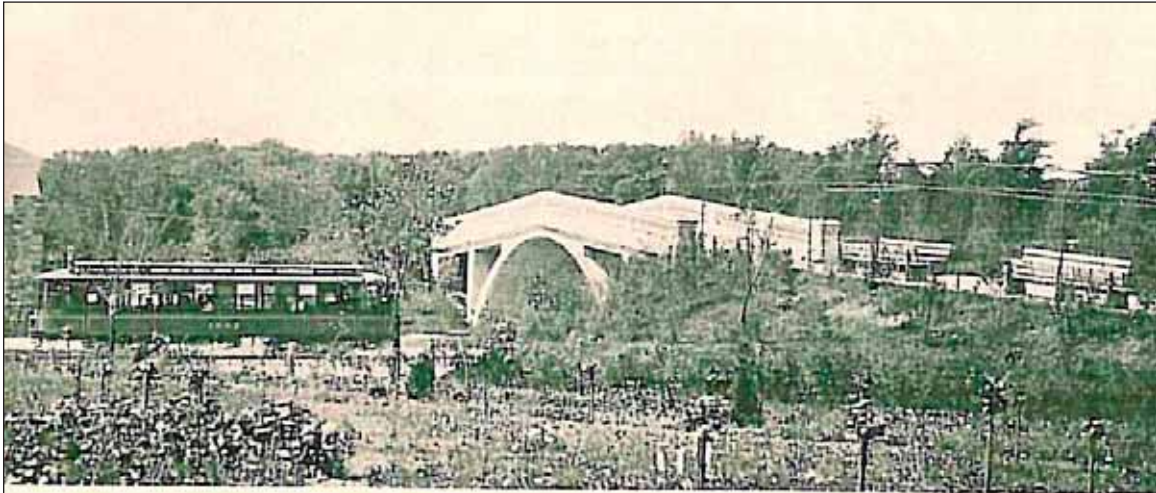
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At left, the bridge in its early days. Above, a recent view of the historic footbridge. Photo by Roger Bergerson

Como Park footbridge from 1

awarded a \$700,000 grant by the Federal Highway Administration to preserve what was left, a remnant of transportation history. The city itself provided another \$450,000 through bonding and planning moved ahead.

The finding that the bridge was fundamentally sound sent the project back to the drawing board in some respects and there still are details to be worked out, Varney said. For instance, the slopes leading up to and away from the bridge are steeper than would be allowed by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. But he is optimistic that any problems can be resolved and hopeful that the project will go out for bids this

spring, with construction beginning in summer.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Cultural Resources unit is reviewing the project on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. Kristen Zschomler, Cultural Resources supervisor, told the Park Bugle that her group had endorsed the original plan for stabilizing the footbridge and was in the process of writing an updated assessment.

"However, I don't anticipate any issues getting in the way," she said. "And this is going to be a much better outcome than what was originally envisioned."

Park Midway honored for its community involvement

Park Midway Bank is one of 21 Minnesota banks named a Community Champion by the Minnesota Bankers Association (MBA). Recipients were recognized at the MBA Bank Day at the Capitol in February.

The banks were recognized for providing funding, volunteers, materials, supplies or food to community organizations. on Feb. 5.

EXCITING CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE

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