Poetry palooza 3

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

St. Anthony Park
Falcon Heights
Lauderdale
Como Park

Festival to showcase Transition Town effort

By Kristal Lembrik

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 Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2233 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 2003 by Rob Hopkins, a British instructor of ecological design, based into “build resiliency,” meaning find ways to make a community 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 issue).

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 Fuller-Ericksen, District 12 community organizer. “At the end of the day, that is what organizers hope will happen: either join an

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 prove to be somewhat deceiving.

The City of St. Paul’s initial goals for the bridge, which lies just northeast of the Hennepin Avenue and Lexington Parkway intersection, were modest. The plan was to use a combination of federal and local funding to stabilize what remained of it so that it wasn’t unsafe 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 interpretive site, tied in with the

Regional Park, but in recent decades, it was basically abandoned and all but forgotten by the general public.

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 drawn initially—and is still in use today.

The bridge, 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 railing that were a key feature of that design are gone, but they can be recreated using the original plans, Vaney said.

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 drawn initially—and is still in use today.
Reason #19

Please join us on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Como Park 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; and Activities Leader, age 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 elsewhere for ages 3 and older, including Blairstown, Hi-Party Cottages, Plant, Cook and Painting. 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 accesses to a full kitchen.

Community Park has outdoor picnic areas with picnic tables and benches as well as baseball and soccer fields, a playground, exercise stations and a walking path. The park building has a full kitchen and indoor bathrooms. Curtis Field is ideal for smaller gatherings and includes tables, chairs, indoor restrooms, picnic tables, a baseball 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 St. Anthony Park City 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 Relevance Group meets on the third Thursday. Email angie@sp.org to find out the location.

The Environment Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at SSA.

Smoking Sewers

The St. Paul Public Works Department will conduct smokes 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, 612-213-4233, or the Sewer Utility Desk, 220-266-6324. For questions, call Paul Kubesh, 651-238-5872.

Kosta Ponds Cleanup

The annual cleanup of St. Anthony Park’s Kosta 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 2366 Kosta Ave, west of Hennepin Ave, for supplies and directions. Then meet up with your fellow neighborhood volunteers to clean up the ponds. Contact Matt Cass 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 available at any time. Volunteers will identify 10 trees in front of their homes, on their streets or on walks they take regularly through the neighborhood to monitor through the summer.

To find out more about the project, contact Chris Buyarski at buyar002@umn.edu, 612-624-3485 or 612-624-3485 or 612-612-6245.

Final Como Sunday Series

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.
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 fuel?’ 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 whole mountain gets scraped,” 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 stomped 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 to clean the water, we need to know what’s in the water.”

For more information, visit www.fracwater.org.
**EDITORIAL**

Transition: Everybody’s doing it

“Snow becomes our familiar.” That line from the poem “Knowing,” written by Falcon Heights poet Mary Willett, sums up the feelings here at the Bugle as January kept on going, plowing its way through March. Snow fell, 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 writers who contributed to our third annual poetry contest this month (see the three winning poems, including Willett’s “Knowing,” on page 7). It’s our 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 11). It’s happening as we say goodbye to longtime Bugle writer Anne Holzman and hello to Kyle M. Ianulli, who writes about transition at the Finnish Bistro on page 14. Holzman had 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. Ianulli 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 M. Anne 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 submission 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.

**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 February 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 this 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.

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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
- 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

Other opportunities:
- Share your expertise—with a smaller time commitment—by joining one of the committees: Advertising, Editorial, Fund Drive, Personnel, Community Relations and Distribution or Website.

If you want to help shape the strategic direction of your local, prize-winning, nonprofit newspaper, either on the board or as a committee member, or to learn more, visit www.parkbugle.org or www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org.

Kate Ryan
St. Anthony Park

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**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 M inne sota students from age 3 through third grade with the goal of helping ensure all M inne sota 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. 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 I love what I do and look forward to serving at my site every day. M inne sota 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 M mong 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 am 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.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org.

Kate Ryan
St. Anthony Park

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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 neighborhood communities and encourage community participation.

Opinions expressed in the Bugle by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc. Copyright 2013, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Park Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by an elected board of directors. Currently serving on the board are Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamson, Emily Bradpect, Barnet Brosnahan, Hnn Fendorf, Nate Finn, Mark Johanson, John Landers, Karen Liley, Nancy Olen, Glen Rockoff, Ian Sedgwick, Blaine Teynor, Kate Wellingtuln and Eric Wiifering.
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 String 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, 236 S. 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, 2229 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 traditional 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 Fuller-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 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, Fuller-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.

WANTED

ANYONE WITH A VOICE!
Are you an amateur singer? Professionally trained? Do you sing in the shower?
WE WANT YOU!
Vienna Community Arts is forming a COMMUNITY CHOIR with singers who live in Como, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale & St. Anthony Park. We invite singers of all ages, any level of experience to sing with us.
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Contact Herbert or Nancy 651-808-5980 rncatosogabe@msn.com
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Faith and Creation Lecture: Anticipating our Future Food and Faith World

Featuring Dr. Frederick L. Kirschenmann, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Iowa State University and Distinguished Fellow, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

The public is welcome. Free.
More information: www.lutherseminary.edu/lectures • 651-641-3494 • lmack@lutherseminary.edu

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Northeastern Hall, 321 Falcon Dr., St. Paul, Minn.

April 22, 2013 | 7 p.m.
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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 last that’s the ballpark estimate, according to library manager Susan Henny. Bids for the project went out at press time, so the project schedule was not yet solidified. What Henny 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/checkout where the compact disk and periodicals are now shelved, a counter area with laptop outlets and a lounge area with periodicals that current office area, 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 Associates used book sale during the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 1.— Kristal Leibrick

Keystone expands Meals on Wheels options

Keystone Community Services is expanding the Meals on Wheels program of St. Anthony Park Area Seniors. Starting June 1, 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/checkout where the compact disk and periodicals are now shelved, a counter area with laptop outlets and a lounge area with periodicals that current office area, and a new service desk in the area where the copying machine now sits.

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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 also 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 context 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.”

The poems were judged

directly by the poetic month

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 bloomy 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 earth is dry And thirsty.
Desperate are the seeds
That we come to know
Between pillars of the Pavilion.
Shutters, shake shingles,
While brimming apple boughs are bent.

We 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,
Where lately trumpets
Spouted white music
And flowers are flown to sweet lands
Smelling of dogwood, oleander, rosemary,
Those who have silenced;
Feral-cat winds rocked
All looseness outside:
Shutters, shake shingles,
Fighting for a just and civil society.

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

— Marilynne Thomas Walton, Falcon Heights

3. present pass

placid and demure
Spring parsons melancholy
And greets winter’s drift.

— Kate Mabel, St. Anthony Park
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 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. Even 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.

As urban gardeners, we can help stop this decline by planting native plants in our gardens.

Nearby 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.
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 fruits 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.APrarieHaven.com to see her stories and photos about that project.
**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 651-449-1686 for more information.

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

**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.

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

**5 SATURDAY**

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www.holtzclawplanning.com

**Contact Information:**

Blomberg Pharmacy, 1393 N. Harvard Ave, 651-646-9645
CHSFS: Children’s Home Society & Family Services, 1605 Eustis St, 651-646-7771
Falcon Heights Elementary School, 1392 W. Garden Ave.
Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St, 651-646-2601
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 Hi I Middle Ave.
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 1393 W. Garden Ave.

**Brock Block Exercise**

St. Anthony Park Area Senior’s 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.

**27 SATURDAY**
Spring rummage and bake sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N. Roy St., 651-656-9445.

**28 SATURDAY**
Adoption Fair, 9 a.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

**29 SATURDAY**
Co-ed Drum Circle, 110, drums provided, Women’s Drum Center
Lucy’s Coffee Café hosts D ear o f H ard o f Hearing Art Showcase
M innesota H ands and Voices is presenting a showcase of artwork from deaf or hard-of-hearing youth from across M innesota at Lucy’s Coffee Café in the Griggs/M idway Building 540 Fairview Ave., through mid-April. A trip involves the youth is Youth Pride in Being Deaf o r H ard o f H earing. You can also see artwork online at mnhandsandvoices.org.

Park Perks raises funds for M urray band trip and Local G irl Scouts
Park Perks coffee bar at Park M idway Bank, 2300 Como Ave., raised $728 for the M urray J unior H igh School band trip. During the month of April, Park Perks will raise money to support G irl Scout T roop 50375’s trip to visit a G irl Scout lodge in L ondon in A ugust.

Local G irl Scouts head to London
By Michele Christianson
More than seven ninth-grade G irl Scouts do to broaden their horizons and develop stronger bonds? Why, go to L ondon, of course, the birthplace of the 100-year-old scouting organization. The members of G irl Scout T roop 50375 will stay at P ax L odge in H ampstead, N orth L ondon, next A pril. Their trip includes a two-night camping trip on B rownsea 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 they grew slowly as they got older to devote more time to outside interests. Annelia Anderson, Frances Fuller, Ellie T hompson, Elysia Gauthier, A manda B aden and M aine Lightfoot stayed in the troop. T hose girls are also involved in such varied activities as drama, 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, R ita G oodrich and S arah Anderson, will accompany them on the trip, along with A my Tomczyk.

When the girls were in fourth grade, their troop leader, G reta G authier 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. L ondon won.

The scouts have raised enough money for the stay in London and Browne’s. 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 garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home garage sale, sold crafts at Shop Home 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Chelsea Hights Elementary 1557 Huron St., 651-293-8790 www.chalesps.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. Raffle 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.sps2.org

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. All items are at cost. 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.comor.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.


Close Up Ten Como Park High School students participated in the national Close Up Washington, D.C., program March 27-30. Students met with 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 M arch to judge the school’s annual science fair. Como science students have a long relationship working with St. Anthony Park students. Teacher Kathy Kahri* biology students started helping science teacher Jim Shrankler’s elementary students in the early-1990s.

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

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

Murray Junior High 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 Chaes. As spring continues, the students will measure buds on trees and 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 WI St. Gertrude 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. John McKeeman, 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 award On March 4, representatives from the U.S. Postal Service and VFW Post 470, located on Como Regional Park, 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. Anthony Park Elementary boys basketball team. Three Destination ImagiNation teams are heading to the state competition April 16 at Champlin Park High School. One fifth-grade team, the M usic Education team, is advancing, as well as two fourth-grade teams, Six Skizzing Skittles and Flying Pickles. Inc. Other four 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 Hauzen for organizing the fundraiser.


D1 teams head to state Three Destination ImagiNation teams are heading to the state competition April 16 at Champlin Park High School. One fifth-grade team, the M usic Education team, is advancing, as well as two fourth-grade teams, Six Skizzing Skittles and Flying Pickles. Inc. Other four 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 Hauzen for organizing the fundraiser.

Rosenhale high school presents ‘How to Succeed in Business’ Rosenhale Area High School (RAHS), 3240 W. County Road B3, will present “How to Succeed in Business Without Really T rying,” 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 the performance time, is $5. A free senior matinee will be presented on Wednesday, April 3, at 1 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.mrktix.com or call 651-604-1481.

Roseville Area High School (RAHS), 3240 W. County Road B3, 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 the performance time, is $5. A free senior matinee will be presented on Wednesday, April 3, at 1 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.mrktix.com or call 651-604-1481.
L I V E S L I V E D

The Park Bugleprints obituaries free of charge as a service to our communities. Send information about death to our obituaries editor, Mary L. Engelhart, MaryEngelhart@comcast.net or call 651-644-1650. To buy an In Memoriam ad, contact editor@parkbugle.org or call 651-646-3369.

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 30 years. She was a talented seamstress, a gifted crocheter 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-Holliman; nine grandchildren; and brother Gene Kerys of Corvalis, Ore.

John Kersey

John H. Kerys, 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 long-time 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 bone marrow transplant for malignant lymphoma. That patient is alive and well today, and bone marrow transplantation has become the standard of care for many types of blood cancers and other illnesses. John loved his family, his work, world travel, his cabin on the North Shore and his more than 50 canoe trips to the U.S. and Canada.

He eloped 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 1960s 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 T&I play hockey for many years at Langford and attending countless school programs, recitals and science fairs at both SAP and Shore and his more than 50 canoe trips to the U.S. and Canada.

Jim Rogen

Jim Rogen, 60, of Walker, Minn., was preceded in death in 2011 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) Oppegaard, Jim (Ann) Quinn, Evelyn Clementsen Rogen. His memorial service was held March 9 at Water Lodge on March 9.

The Rev. Donald Flaten

The Rev. Donald Flaten, 88, died on Feb. 23. He lived a happy life on Doswell Avenue for 43 years. He was preceded in death in 2011 by his wife, Grace. He is survived by sons Dave and James; daughter Joan Hallinan; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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

His funeral service was held on March 12 at North Heights Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his siblings, Glendon, Bill, Dottie and Val (Dave) Johnson.

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) Oppegaard, Paul (Linda) Rogen and Lois (Randy) Perkins.

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

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The Rev. Donald Flaten, 88, died on Feb. 23. He lived a happy life on Doswell Avenue for 43 years. He was preceded in death in 2011 by his wife, Grace. He is survived by sons Dave and James; daughter Joan Hallinan; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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

His funeral service was held on March 12 at North Heights Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his siblings, Glendon, Bill, Dottie and Val (Dave) Johnson.

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) Oppegaard, Paul (Linda) Rogen and Lois (Randy) Perkins.

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

Edith Balthazor

Edith 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 30 years. She was a talented seamstress, a gifted crocheter 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-Holliman; nine grandchildren; and brother Gene Kerys of Corvalis, Ore.

John Kersey

John H. Kerys, 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 long-time 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 bone marrow transplant for malignant lymphoma. That patient is alive and well today, and bone marrow transplantation has become the standard of care for many types of blood cancers and other illnesses. John loved his family, his work, world travel, his cabin on the North Shore and his more than 50 canoe trips to the U.S. and Canada.

He eloped 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 1960s 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 T&I play hockey for many years at Langford and attending countless school programs, recitals and science fairs at both SAP and Shore and his more than 50 canoe trips to the U.S. and Canada.

Jim Rogen

Jim Rogen, 60, of Walker, Minn., was preceded in death in 2011 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) Oppegaard, Paul (Linda) Rogen and Lois (Randy) Perkins.

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

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

For now, Weise is keeping the name, but said she might be open to a rebranding in 2014. "This bistro is staying put though. Weise wouldn't own it any other way," she says. "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 Salt Lake City Standard-Examiner. He also writes for the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Business News

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
Celebrating your graduates with an ad in the May or June issue of the Park Bugle.

For just $40 you can let your graduates know how proud of them you are!

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Deadline: May issue, April 10
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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.”

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

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.