



Hmong Freedom Celebration

Organizers encourage neighbors to join the July festivities in Como Park

Page 7



Hats off!

Check out the winners of the Bugle's fourth annual hat contest

Pages 10-11



School's out

And we have a lot of end-of-year news from area schools.

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St. Anthony Park

Falcon Heights

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Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

July 2013

Summertime in Bugleland

Our top picks for local warm-weather fun

If you haven't visited **Como Pool**, get over there. After four years of no local pool, this neighborhood amenity reopened at 1150 Como Ave. last year, and it features a little something for everyone. The pool has a 400-foot lazy river, a zip line, a diving well, a rock climbing wall, a six-lane lap pool, a splash pool for the little ones, and open and lap swim times. Find the pool's schedule by calling 651-489-0378 or go to stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=2672.

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Parkway, has something musical or theatrical happening almost every summer night. Rosetown Playhouse will present the musical "Annie" for two weekends, July 11-13 and July 18-20. Hillcrest Theater will stage "Grease" July 25-27 and Aug. 1-3. There's a packed schedule through Sept. 1. You can see the schedule at www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/View/65554.

Feeling nostalgic or maybe even a little patriotic? Head to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood on July 4 for the 66th annual **Fourth in the Park** celebration. The day begins with the Langford Park Distance Races (note: races begin at 8:30 a.m. this year), and features a parade; patriotic program; horseshoe, volleyball and tennis tournaments; and music, including Denny & the Dawgs at 4:30 p.m. You can find out everything you need to know on page 6.

The 33rd annual **Hmong Freedom Celebration and Sports Festival** is July 6-7 and organizers are encouraging neighbors to come



Como Pool has a little something for everyone this summer. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

down to Como Park to join the festivities, which will include sports tournaments, a talent show, hundreds of booths selling artisanal textiles, crafts and other goods, and a lot of authentic Hmong cuisine. Find out more in our story on page 7.

Lauderdale's **Music Under the Trees** program will feature the band Blue Stratum on Monday, July 15, at 7:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket to Lauderdale Community Park, 1885 Fulham St., and enjoy Schwann's ice cream while listening to music.

Como Fest 2013 is July 18-20. The event will take place at three locations in the Como Park neighborhood and includes a family

campout on Friday, July 19, at Northwest Como Rec Center, 1550 N. Hamline Ave. Find out more about it in our City Files section on page 2.

You can eat, drink and shop in the Como Avenue business district of St. Anthony Park on the third Thursdays of July and August at **Park B4 Dark**. The annual event features merchant specials and live music on the avenue. Festivities will

Urban farm planned for Hermes site

By Roger Bergerson

A "healthy-living campus" will sprout on the former Hermes property in Falcon Heights in the months and years ahead.

The novel initiative will link affordable housing, an urban farm and an organic food distribution center on the 3.4-acre parcel on Larpenteur Avenue just west of Snelling Avenue.

The property has been subdivided, with the affordable housing element to be managed by St. Paul-based CommonBond Communities, the Midwest's largest nonprofit provider of its kind. The urban farm will operate under the auspices of the Pohlad Family Foundation of Minneapolis.

"We're very excited and delighted about this project. . . . [T]here are so few spots available like this in the city," said Terry Egge, senior program officer with the Pohlad Family Foundation. She added that the two organizations have worked together extensively in the past.

The property, once home to a wholesale and retail floral business, greenhouse and garden center, has been vacant since the Hermes retail operation moved across Larpenteur to the Cox Insurance building last year.

Hermes site to 8

Summertime to 7

Bugle wins SPJ award

Excuse us while we blow our own bugle.

For the second year in a row, the Park Bugle has won second place for Best Issue in the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Page One Awards. Our June 2012 issue was awarded in the less-than-50,000-circulation category at the SPJ's annual awards banquet on June 18.

Finance & Commerce, a Minnesota daily newspaper that covers business news in the state, received first place in that category for its Dec. 20 issue entitled "Boom to Bust."

Last year, the Bugle was awarded second place for Best Issue for its December 2011 issue.

We thank our readers and advertisers who continue to support this award-winning, nonprofit community newspaper. We can't do it without you.



C I T Y F I L E S

Como Park

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

Como Business Network

The Como Business Network, a new initiative of the District 10 Community Council, held a kick-off meeting on June 19 at Black Bear Crossings. The network will meet again at its first "First Thursday" networking breakfast on Aug. 1 from 8 to 9 a.m. at Como Park Grill, 1341 Pascal St. The free breakfast and brief program will be open to all businesses located in or serving the Como Park neighborhood. RSVP to District 10 at 651-344-8989 or district10@district10comopark.org

District Plan Committee update

In May, the District Plan Committee hosted an open house to discuss transportation challenges facing the neighborhood. Attendees engaged in a map exercise that allowed area residents to identify transportation issues and create a catalog of solutions.

The information will help with the completion of the district's land-use plan, which will eventually be adopted by the St Paul City Council.

More opportunities to participate in the planning process will occur later this year. Subscribe to District 10's weekly e-newsletter at www.district10comopark.org for updates.

Board elections

Julie Tholen of Breda Avenue was elected to the vacant Subdistrict 1 position (western side of the neighborhood) and Patricia Grans of Simpson Street was elected to the vacant at-large position. There is still one vacancy for a representative of Subdistrict 3 (eastern side, from Victoria to Dale).

Sholom Campus update

Rhett McSweeney, of Senior Investors LLC, gave an update on the Sholom Home campus redevelopment at the District 10 board meeting on June 18. Senior Investors plans to create a senior living center with a focus on individuals with memory care conditions. An application has been submitted to the State of Minnesota to add the property to the historic registry. If the application is approved, it will then be forwarded to the U.S. Department of the Interior for a final determination. Historic designation will qualify the property for tax credits and ensure

that the historic characteristics will be preserved.

An application has been submitted to the City of St. Paul for tax-increment financing to support interior renovations. If the two applications are approved, construction could begin within six months with a spring 2015 opening at the latest.

Neighbors present at the meeting commented that the property had improved in the last year, although mowing and graffiti remain a concern. Additionally, neighbors expressed concerns about the property being used for paid parking during the Minnesota State Fair. If Senior Investors LLC is able to close on the property by Aug. 1 as expected, there will be no paid parking during the fair, McSweeney said.

Como Park Elementary sign

The District 10 board of directors is sending a second letter to St. Paul Public Schools asking the district to address neighborhood concerns about a new digital sign being erected at Como Park Elementary School. Residents on Grotto Street have concerns about two digital signs being placed in a one-block area. The district has not answered repeated queries about the new sign (for example, will it scroll or flash and how bright will it be?), according to Ted Blank, District 10 administrator.

District 10 boundary change

The committee working on implementing the boundary change between Districts 6 and 10 reported that only one person from the South Como area has expressed interest in joining the committee.

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.

Make a difference—get involved

Falcon Heights residents are encouraged to apply for openings on the city's Planning Commission and Neighborhood Commission.

High school students may be eligible. Contact city administrator Bart Fischer, 651-792-7600, for more information.

Applications are being accepted at City Hall. You can find a commission application form at www.falconheights.org.

August Park & Recreation camps

Register for the following camps at www.falconheights.org. Click on Parks and Recreation in the column

on the left of the page.

Tennis Camp, for ages 5-10, will be held Monday-Friday, July 29-Aug. 2, at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave. Session 1, 9-10:30 a.m., is for ages 5-7. Session 2, 10:35-12:30 p.m., is for ages 8-10.

Sports Sampler Camp, for ages 6-8, will be held Monday-Thursday, Aug. 12-15, at Falcon Heights Elementary School, 1392 Garden Ave. Camp hours are 9:30-11 a.m.

Harry Potter Camp, for ages 8-12, will be held Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16, 8-11:45 a.m. at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave.

The Great Adventure Camp, for ages 6-12, will be held Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16, at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave. Hours are noon-4 p.m.

Lacrosse Camp, for ages 6-11, will be held Monday-Friday, Aug. 5-9. Session 1, for ages 6-8, will be held at 1-2:30 p.m. Session 2, for ages 9-11, will be held at 3-4:30 p.m.

Build Your Own Boat, for ages 10-13, will be held Monday-Thursday, Aug. 19-22, noon-4 p.m., at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave.

Upcoming events

Mark your calendars for these July events at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave.:

- **Parents Night Out**, Friday, July 19, 5-9:30 p.m. (open to Falcon Heights' Camp Kids)
- **Ice Cream Social**, Thursday, July 25, 6-8 p.m.

Lauderdale

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

Music Under the Trees

Blue Stratum will play on Monday, July 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Lauderdale Community Park, 1885 Fulham St. The event, which is sponsored by the Falcon Heights-Lauderdale Lions Club, will include treats courtesy of Schwan's. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. The event may be canceled if it rains or there is severe weather.

Schwan's will also have a truckload sale to benefit Lauderdale parks that day from 3 to 9 p.m. You can purchase directly from the Schwan's truck or preorder merchandise or gift cards and pick them up from the truck on July 15 or have the items delivered.

Call 1-888-SCHWANS or go to www.schwansfundraising.com to order. Use campaign no. 43452.

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. The 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 of the month. Email erg@sapcc.org to find out its location each month. The Environment Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday at SSA.

Raymond Avenue Phase I

Construction on Raymond Avenue between University and Hampden avenues is scheduled to begin the second week of July and last through November. The Community Council plans to hold a meeting for neighbors and property owners to discuss details of the project and parking and lane-closure solutions.

Contact Lauren Fulner-Erickson, lauren@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992, with general questions. Questions about particular properties and dates should be directed to the Department of Public Works onsite inspector, Mike Vanbeuskom, 651-775-6673, or the project engineer, Tom Stadslev, 651-266-6078.

Raymond Avenue: looking ahead

Community visioning for the reconstruction of Raymond Avenue from Hampden Avenue to Como

Avenue will begin this summer, and the District 12 Community Council is looking for bikers, walkers, business owners and neighbors who live on Raymond, as well as individuals from the rest of St. Anthony Park, to help brainstorm during block parties, with surveys and other channels of community engagement. Contact Lauren Fulner-Erickson, lauren@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992, if you are interested in joining the task force.

West Midway Industrial Strategy

The City of St. Paul recently published its West Midway Industrial Strategy, a major development initiative that deals extensively with large portions of St. Anthony Park. The project will be accepting public review and input until July 1. More information can be found at sapcc.org.

Music, art, family campout part of Como Fest lineup

Como Fest 2013 will take place July 18-20 at three locations in the Como Park neighborhood. Enjoy a fun-filled family weekend right in your own neighborhood.

Events will include live music, food, games, an art fair, a garden tour, a movie under the stars, an overnight campout and more. All events are free and open to neighbors of all ages.

Como Fest will kick off on Thursday, July 18, with Lyngblomsten's Midsummer Festival, which will feature music, arts and crafts, and activities for all ages, 2-9 p.m. On Friday, July 19,

Como Fest moves to Northwest Como Rec Center for an outdoor evening of fun, including a climbing tower, outdoor movie (*The Lorax*) and a campout under the stars. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, July 20, activities will take place at the Church of the Holy Childhood on Midway Parkway, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and include an art fair, make-and-take children's crafts and the annual Como Park Garden Tour, highlighting 15 neighborhood gardens.

A complete schedule is available at www.district10comopark.org.

Monkey Island rebuild to begin this summer

Construction of a new play area at Hendon Avenue and Branston Street in St. Anthony Park will begin this summer and take approximately two months to complete.

The city removed the park's 1960s playground equipment in May 2012 without public notice citing safety concerns. Residents were told that the city had no plans or funds to replace the equipment.

Neighbors quickly banded together to work with the city to replace the playground. The project will be funded through the city, private donations from the neighborhood, Sunrise Banks, St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and with a \$10,000 grant from the BNSF Railroad Foundation.

The new playground will feature a picnic table and a swinging bench, along with some fun smaller features that will incorporate natural elements, such as boulders and, possibly, animal tracks in the concrete sidewalk, said Deanna Seppanen, a neighbor who was a part of the playground replacement effort. Two trees will be removed at the park but will be replaced in 2014.

Learn about Snelling Bus Rapid Transit

Metro Transit will host three open houses in July regarding the design for the upcoming Snelling Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), slated to open in late 2015. The project will bring enhanced bus service and stations to Snelling Avenue, Ford Parkway and 46th Street between Rosedale Center and the 46th Street Station on the METRO Blue Line. The public open houses will address specific bus routes. The schedule is listed below:

- **Routes 84 and 87:** Tuesday, July 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hamline University Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room, 1536 Hewitt Ave.
- **Routes 23, 70, 84, 87 and 134:** Monday, July 15, 5-7 p.m., Hillcrest Recreational Center, gymnasium, 1978 Ford Parkway.
- **Routes 63 and 84:** Wednesday, July 17, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Macalester College, Weyerhaeuser Hall boardroom, 62 Macalester St.

For more information about Snelling Bus Rapid Transit, visit metrotransit.org/snelling-brt or email brtprojects@metrotransit.org.

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Longtime community activists to be honored at July 4 celebration

By Marlee Leebrick-Stryker

Despite being the latest recipients of the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation's Spirit of the Park Award, Kiki Gore doesn't consider herself or her husband, Warren, special.

"They give an award to someone in the community that has exemplified the spirit of the community," she said. But the spirit of the community is that "the community itself pushes people to be involved. We all know our neighbors and we all help each other out. I think that Warren and I are just being used as examples."

Jon Schumacher, executive director of the foundation, sees it differently. "Warren and Kiki were chosen for the very reason that they think being inclusive, welcoming, involved and supportive is no big deal," he said.

"From Warren's longtime commitment to our branch library to Kiki's famous knitted baby hats sent near and far, they are neighbors who understand what community means and how it works best."

The Gores have lived in St. Anthony Park for 43 years. They moved to the Twin Cities 45 years ago, intending to stay for just one year, but then Warren received a position in the Rhetoric Department at the University of Minnesota, which was located on the St. Paul campus at that time. The Gores made their home near Grand Avenue by Macalester College.

"After the first year we decided that we didn't want to live anywhere else; we absolutely loved it," Gore said. "Warren's wonderful department chairman said, 'We need to move you closer to the campus so that you don't have to drive back and forth,' which appealed to me because we've always lived near where Warren's worked, and so we came to SAP not knowing what a wonderful community it was."

The proximity to home from Warren's office made a big difference to the Gores, Kiki said. They were raising a son and daughter as Warren worked at the university and Kiki taught high school Spanish. She taught at both Como Park Senior and Central high schools and at St. Paul Academy.

It didn't take long for the couple to become involved in the community. In 1970, the St. Anthony Park Library Association



Kiki and Warren Gore

sponsored the first neighborhood arts festival, and Warren and Kiki were active in the festival for years afterward.

"He was president of SAP library board and was, every year without fail, down there arranging the flags and putting up the booths," Kiki said. "He was always involved with the library book sale and the art fair and getting things organized."

'The community itself pushes people to be involved.' – Kiki Gore

Out of that involvement came a lifelong love for the library and the community that surrounded it. Warren planted the flower boxes that line the library's windows for many years with volunteers from the community that included local high school students and Boy Scouts.

"He always involved other people because he thought it was important," she said. His volunteer activities included being president of St. Anthony Park Elementary School's parent-teacher association and 4-H.

"He was just a wonderful, active person. Not only that, he's just a really nice person. He was always willing to help out, and that's what people notice about him. Funny, loves a good chuckle and loves to

never disappoint anybody."

These days Warren is living at St. Anthony Park Home while Kiki continues to keep their home on Raymond Avenue. Spending just an hour in their house shows what mainstays they are to the neighborhood. Neighbors and friends stop by for visits and Kiki is always up for a chat. "How is the family? Are you still taking dance

classes? I can't wait to see your next show," she says to neighbor children who stopped by on a recent afternoon. The house is filled with photographs of the Gores' children and relatives.

While Kiki and Warren remain modest about their contributions to the community, it's not hard to see why these kind, energetic people are being honored.

The Gores will be presented with the award during the Fourth in the Park celebration on Thursday, July 4, at Langford Park. A \$500 donation will be given to the Fourth in the Park committee in the Gores' name. The day's festivities will begin after the parade, which starts at 11 a.m. at Luther Place.

Marlee Leebrick-Stryker is a recent graduate of Beloit College and is spending the summer writing for Twin Cities publications.

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**The next deadline
is July 17. The paper
will be publish
on July 30.**

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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C O M M E N T A R Y

The Park Bugle welcomes letters and commentaries 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 July issue is Wednesday, July 17.

The red house on the hill

By Philip McDonald

Thousands of veterans were still returning home from the war in the Pacific in 1946. The first hour-long entertainment program premiered on TV, and future president Bill Clinton was born. That was also the last year that one of the most iconic homes in St. Anthony Park was put up for sale.

After more than 66 years, the prominent 19th-century Victorian house at 2239 Gordon Ave., the home of siblings Paul and Ann Brey, is once again for sale. The “red house on the hill” has always held a compelling attraction for me. Growing up in St. Anthony Park meant spending as much time as possible in the shadow of the red house, kicking-about at Langford Park. And as a vestige of those times, turning 12 meant I was ready to shoulder a Pioneer Press paper delivery bag. My assigned route ran only as far south as Carter, but I frequently substituted on the adjoining route that included Gordon Avenue.

I’d cheat the long walk up the hill in the front yard of the red house as best as I could, giving the paper a good final heave to launch it up as close to the front porch as possible.

Sure, I was lazy, but there was also the element of fear. This same fear also gripped my buddies and me every year during Halloween. While our sole mission was to knock on as many doors as possible, we faithfully skipped the red house on the hill. It was always dimly lit, mysterious and just plain scary. Framed by bare and crooked autumn oak limbs, the ominous third-floor balcony evoked the image of a witch lying in wait,

about to dispatch her flying monkeys as soon as we reached the door.

If only we knew. . . .

A number of years later I met and married a girl named Denise DuBrail, and it came to pass that Denise was also Paul and Ann’s niece. In the 35 years since, the red house on the hill has become an integral and treasured part of our lives.

In 1887 the property was purchased by Sarah and Isaac Cheney and they completed the home in 1891 following three years of construction. A millstone left behind by subsequent owners, members of the Washburn family, still adorns the backyard, a 1920s-era relic of the old Washburn-Crosby Mills, forerunner to General Mills. The home was also owned for a time by John Rockwell, a former high-level official with the Minnesota Department of Education. The story is told that Rockwell ultimately lost his position because he protected several of his employees by not disclosing his prior knowledge that the employees dared to support a truckers strike in the 1930s.

Elizabeth Brey, Paul and Ann’s mother, purchased the home and the two adjacent lots in 1946. Elizabeth had just lost her husband, Frank, to cancer. She was one of the earliest

graduates from a professional nursing program in Minnesota and needed gainful employment to support her family. With six children to care for, her arrival in St. Paul from the small farming community of Wabasso, Minn., was a move of necessity.

Frank Brey was a 1910 graduate of the University of Minnesota medical school and was a pioneer in the practice of medicine. His life’s work is featured in the book *Country Doctor and City Doctor: Father and Daughter*, written and published in 2006 by Paul and Ann’s sister, Theresa Brey Haddy. Theresa, also a physician, told nieces and nephews for decades that there was a real human skeleton in the second floor of the original carriage barn, now a garage in the backyard. This legend seemed a useful ruse to keep kids away from all the stuff stored in the attic. But the legend was revealed as fact about 10 years ago when it was decided that the skeleton, an authentic teaching specimen given to her by an anatomy professor, required a final and legally proper disposition.

In all, after more than 120 years, the red house has been home to only five owners.

For the past seven decades Paul and Ann have been active in the local

community. Ann’s cascading front-yard gardens are well-known and have been part of past home garden tours. Poster children for the Greatest Generation, Ann and Paul are among the kindest and most generous people with whom one could ever be acquainted. Even dating to their earliest years in St. Anthony Park, their house has been a temporary home for many local and visiting university students, leading to lifelong friendships stretching as far away as Spain and Korea.

All that is the essence of family virtues, generosity, kindness and love has been nurtured within the walls of the red house on hill. So much for the youthful notion of witches looming behind the balcony. It is sad to see our family’s presence in this special house about to come to pass after so many years. Denise’s earliest memories, and those of our five now-grown children, were the adventures of playing in the attic.

Ann and Paul remain in good health. Those with deep roots in St. Anthony Park understand that continuity and longevity are essential parts of the fabric of a strong neighborhood. The cherished memories of this house will be with my family forever.

But in all honesty, “Uncle” Paul’s generosity is not without fault. He has always been predisposed to over-serving the few who dared to knock on his door on Halloween.

If we only knew.

Philip McDonald grew up in St. Anthony Park and graduated from Murray High School, where he met his wife, Denise. They live in Roseville.

L E T T E R S

One man’s nuisance . . .

In reference to the letter, “SLOG: This neighborhood is not your enemy,” printed in the June 2013 Park Bugle, thanks to Marie Williams for her article about graffiti. Graffiti was rampant in the 1960s, including in St. Anthony Park.

I came to St. Anthony Park in the late ’50s and was aghast at the graffiti everywhere in our community. The thought was what to do about it? The most visible sight was the water tower. Students from our high school and the University of Minnesota regularly climbed the stairs after dark and many painted their tag on the tower. The tower was an “attractive nuisance” and informed several council members of St. Paul’s liability if one of the students should fall and be injured or killed. Within one month, our water tower was painted, fenced and locked. At the same time, all of St. Paul’s water towers were secured.

The next graffiti target was the black railroad bridge over Raymond

Avenue. It had paintings on both sides of the bridge. I painted the bridge twice and kept spray cans in my car for smaller hits. A third major site was the west side of the real estate and insurance building along Knapp Street. With the owner’s help, I cleaned off the graffiti on the entire wall twice on the lower section.

There were numerous sites, including the traffic signal boxes, equipment at Dave’s hardware and the recreation building in Langford Park.

In addition to the graffiti nuisance was the taping and stapling of notices on trees and posts along the streets. Many of those were university-generated, but some were for lost cats and dogs or local events.

St. Anthony Park has long been one of the most desirable communities in the Twin Cities. Let us all keep it that way.

*Fred Steinhauser, 95
St. Anthony Park resident
for 56 years*

. . . is another man’s . . .

The following comment was posted at www.parkbugle.org in response to Marie Williams’ letter last month.

This letter is complete garbage. You’re taking blind guesses at why someone would write “slog” on garbage cans and electrical boxes. You’re assuming with absolutely no evidence that it’s a troubled teen who is trying to fit in or vent their angsty hatred.

Slog is not hate; this letter is hate. In the time you took to write this letter you could have “volunteered in your community or become an art therapist.” It’s called street art, and you’ve completely missed that.

There is no way that slog promotes hate, and ugliness is your opinion. Honestly, stick to yoga lessons and Caribou Coffee rather than attempt to write letters in the Park Bugle.

*Sam Diamond
Address unknown*

Tying up loose ends

Rita Dove once wrote, “Life, friends, is ragged. Loose ends are the rule.” Your “Lives Lived” section ties these ends.

*Elizabeth Ellis
St. Paul*

Thank you, Bugle supporters

Thank you to the following supporters for contributing to the 2012–13 fund drive. We have reached \$32,793 toward our goal of \$35,000.

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C O M M E N T A R Y

Collecting consciousness

'Today's prosaic irrelevancy is tomorrow's archeological rock star'

By Adam Granger

I often ask people if they collect anything. At first they say no, but then, upon reflection, they say, "Well, I do collect ____," and you can fill in the blank with pretty much any noun you can imagine. Last week, a cashier at a thrift store told me she collects owls.

I collect small things, maybe miniature, but not necessarily. The two criteria are that they've got to be small and I've got to think they're neat. I've had this passion as long as I can remember. I still have items from my early childhood: a tiny black pot, a small leather dictionary, a miniature deck of playing cards and 20 or so china animals (an unsettling synchronicity between myself and the pathetic Laura Wingfield, the owner of Tennessee Williams' titular glass menagerie).

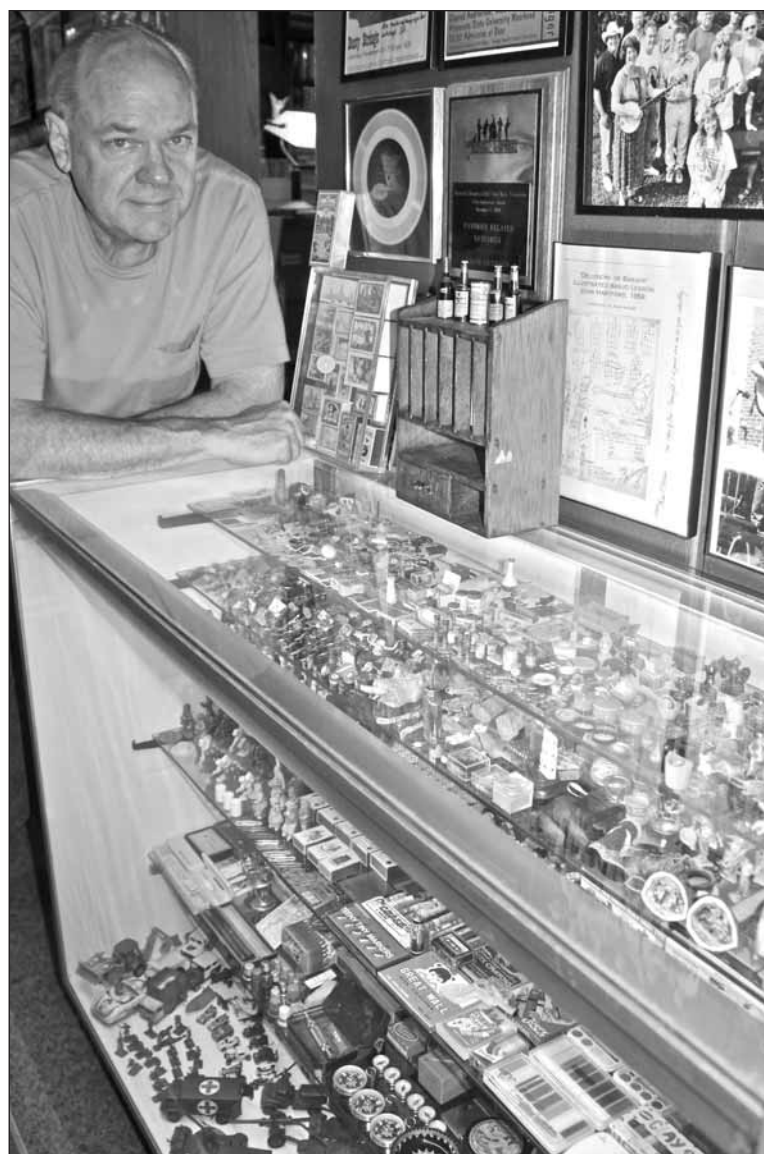
My adult collecting began in earnest about 25 years ago, when we bought our house and I suddenly had space not hitherto afforded by apartments and car trunks. I acquired a large commercial glass display case and filled it with literally a thousand cool little things. It lived in our dining room for a while, but when I got a second, bigger case and filled it, too, it became clear even to me that the collection needed to migrate southward.

Today, my basement "museum" contains dozens of display cases and boxes holding tens of thousands of items in 60-odd collections: miniature versions of knives, books, slot machines (more than 200!), harmonicas, tools and puzzles, as well as folding fans, wind-up toys, styrene figures, travel sewing kits, money facsimiles, boxes of staples, cloth patches, sets of nesting boxes, campaign buttons, and—well, you get the picture. All that's missing is a partridge in a pear tree.

Am I, then, like Miss Wingfield, communing more with my menagerie than with the outside world? Well, I certainly was as a child. Williams may as well have been sitting in my house with a pad and pencil, watching the 11-year-old Adam acquiring his pets week by week, allowance by allowance.

A friend of mine, William Davies King, a drama professor in Santa Barbara, Calif., has written a wonderful hemi-autobiography called *Collections of Nothing*. He is more the philosopher than I and a terrific writer. While I describe "a collection" as "a deliberately accumulated and curated group of three or more similar things," his definition is "a multiplicity of objects explainable only by the fact that in relation to each other they define a unity." Both definitions end at the same place, and my route is faster, but his is more scenic.

As to the Glass Menagerie Syndrome, King believes that the



Adam Granger's basement is filled with tens of thousands of "cool little things": miniature versions of knives, books, slot machines, harmonicas, tools and puzzles, many of which he began gathering as a child. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

impulse to collect comes from wounds in our personal lives, a theory to which I also subscribe. (My wife once remarked that I didn't have enough as a kid. "Of what?" I asked her. "Of anything," she replied.)

But wait: I'm happy now and well-adjusted (at least in the ways that count), and yet I love collecting more than ever. What's up with that? While my collecting may or may not still deliver a steady IV drip to whatever old wounds I bear, the lion's share seems to be paid toward the sheer, non-neurotic pleasure and satisfaction of seeing sets of things lined up neatly in well-lit display cases.

As for acquisitions, people give them to me, or I find them on the ground, or at thrift stores, or on eBay. Nothing costs much; these things are of little value. Nobody else wants the stuff I want, which makes me different from the collector of Impressionist art or Stickley furniture.

But I am also different from King, who, as his book title suggests, collects things of no value—to use his words, "a super-superfluity of substance." He gave a paper recently in Washington, D.C., for the Popular Culture Association in which he showed images of his collection of 84 different Life Cereal boxes. In total,

he has more than 2,000 cereal boxes. And pressed into scores of ring binders are tuna-can labels, water-bottle labels, "tamper-evident" seals, more than 800 linings from security envelopes and dozens of other worthless collections.

Except that they're not worthless (and you knew I was going to say that). Today's prosaic irrelevancy is tomorrow's archeological rock star. And worth can be made from worthless: My mom used to collect pieces of wire that she found in the street. She'd hang them on our walls, and they'd get lots of compliments. Thus did the valueless become the valued, and if King's labels and boxes survive his life, they will be gold to future social scientists and armchair time-travelers. I can't imagine that the Smithsonian won't jump at the chance to acquire his oeuvre.

And what of my collections? Well, probably not Smithsonianable, but there is money there, if my progeny has the patience to ferret it out. (Reverse eBay engines!)

And if they don't, watch the dumpster behind our house after you've read my obit; there'll be some good stuff in there.

To see some of Adam Granger's collections, go to <http://imgur.com/a/mUcqP>.

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What’s great about America? Ask a sixth-grader

Sixth-grade students at St. Anthony Park Elementary School have participated in the Fourth of July Essay Contest since 1978, when Robert Hahnen Sr. of St. Anthony Park launched the program under the auspices of American Legion Post 34. When the post dissolved in the 1990s, a fund was set up through the St. Anthony Park Library Association to carry on the tradition.

This year, sixth-graders at the school were asked, What makes America great? Jamie Cohen of St. Anthony Park wrote the first-place essay. Henry Hanson and Georgia Langer, both of St. Anthony Park, wrote the second- and third-place essays, respectively.

The students are invited to read their essays during the Fourth in the Park program at Langford Park’s bandshell on Thursday, July 4, following the Grand Parade. The parade begins at 11 a.m. and the program—featuring essay winners, local dignitaries and music by the St. Anthony Park Community Band—begins right after the parade. To learn more about why America is great in the eyes of a sixth-grader, read on.

THERE MAY BE MANY REASONS why America is great. I came up with a few reasons that matter most to me. These are freedom, creative expression and the

compassion of American people.

The amount of freedom we have is a special part of our nation. We choose our leaders, we choose where we live, whom we love and marry, what we do for a living, that is something we should be proud of. The definition of liberty is having the ability to act according to your own will, as long as it doesn’t affect the ability of someone else.

A second thing that makes America great is our commitment to creative expression, especially in the form of music and movies. I love movies. I love the special effects and the way they can make you sit on the edge of your seat because you don’t know what is going to happen next. Music in America is astonishing. There are so many genres that can suit the tastes of each of us. The creative energy one can put into making music and movies is incredible, and our country feeds and is fed by this energy.

Finally, America’s greatness is shown in the compassion of its people. When awful things happen, Americans always rush to help. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, it was devastating. Homes were destroyed and people lost their lives. Many people across the nation helped in some way. People sent money, donated blood, even went to help the city rebuild. When the

bombs went off in Boston, many people were hurt severely and lives were lost. Again, the compassion of the American people was revealed.

Some people think America’s best days are in the past. I disagree. If we embrace our freedom, if we experience our creativity, if we act with compassion, we will embrace America.—*Jamie Cohen*

IT SOMETIMES SEEMS HARD TO SEE how America is great. After all, you don’t hear about the great things we do on the radio or TV all that much, but if you stop and think, you realized that America is great in more ways than you had imagined. For starters, we live in a democratic country; we are not run by a dictatorship, or have a communist government. We have the ability to say, and do what we want, without being punished.

Another great thing about America is how diverse the population is and how many different ethnic groups there are. You don’t have to be a certain type of person to live in America. You also get to choose what you are going to be, you could be a doctor, lawyer, or astronaut, anything really, and it’s all up to you to decide what it is.

We have free education all through high school, even if it is no

longer one of the best. Also we don’t have severe air pollution, we can run outside, sit on our porches, and watch sports. Other parts of the world don’t have this luxury. People in parts of China have to use air filters, and children are prevented by their parents from going outside.

All of these things are great, but I think the greatest thing of all is that our country is a beacon of hope to others in other parts of the world. That they think of living in America as the good life and would rather be here than where they are. Many people try to get here through the Mexican border every day. Lady Liberty sits on our coast for a reason. We are the land of the free for a reason. We call ourselves Americans with pride, and we should, because America is great.—*Henry Hanson*

AMERICA IS MY HOME, MY HAPPY PLACE, and my life. America is a wonderful place to be. But why? What makes America so spectacular? Some may say the equality or unity. I say that it is that we can disagree with the government and be out of harm’s way while doing so. Places in the world like Saudi Arabia or North Korea can’t speak out against the government or things unmentionable could happen to them. I am honored to be in this

country because I know that I can fight for what I believe in, and I will not get bad consequences for doing so.

Americans are allowed to speak freely of their opinions, and fight for the things that matter to us. I am an American and am proud to say so because I know that as our generation gets older and more opinions arise on political issues or any other thing that needs to be debated, I know that we will be able to speak freely among our peers and stand up for what we believe in.

Speaking is my strongest forte, and I do not think about it before I speak freely. It never occurred to me, until a little bit ago that in other places around the world, there is someone who loves to talk just as much as I do, but cannot talk about what they are for or against. That just baffles me. I do not understand it. I am happy that I live in America, because I know that my political views will not hurt me and that I am safe to believe in any cause that I choose to believe in.

Being able to stand up for what you believe in is what makes America a phenomenal place to live, and I know that this is a place where I feel OK to speak out and cherish America because this is a place where I feel safe and happy to say what I believe in.—*Georgia Langer*



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8:00 a.m.

LANGFORD PARK DISTANCE RACES
New Start Time!

Registration at 8:00 a.m. at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park. Small registration fee. Races start at 8:30 a.m. 4 miles: Divisions for men, women and masters (40 and over). 2 miles: Joggers and juniors (15 and younger).

10:30 a.m.

GRAND PARADE ASSEMBLES

Children’s bikes, trikes and wagons assemble at Ned’s Park Service, 2277 Como Ave., St. Paul. Bands, vehicles and marching units assemble nearby at Luther Place. Get your free U.S. flag!

11:00 a.m.

GRAND PARADE BEGINS

It proceeds from Luther Place down Como Avenue to Langford Park. Parade includes color guard, neighborhood units, bands, floats, VIPs, music, kids and much more! Program follows the parade at the bandstand in Langford Park. Watch for the St. Anthony Park Community Band!

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1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

PONY RIDES

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2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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Hmong Freedom Celebration will fill Como Park July 6 and 7

Organizers want residents outside the Hmong community to attend

By Kyle Mianulli

Tens of thousands of people will again be making their way to the Como Park neighborhood for the 33rd annual Hmong Freedom Celebration and Sports Festival July 6 and 7 at McMurray Field in Como Park.

Commonly known as J4, due to its overlap with the Fourth of July weekend, the two-day event is regarded as one of the largest annual gatherings in the global Hmong community. It draws attendees from all over the world, but you don't have to cross an ocean or be of Hmong heritage to be welcome at the celebration.

This year, event organizers are making a point of welcoming non-Hmong community members to partake in the festivities—especially neighbors in the Como neighborhood.

"I would personally like to invite all the neighbors to come join us and see what we're doing," said spokesperson Janelle Vang.

There will be no shortage of things to see, including hundreds of booths offering artisanal textiles, crafts and other goods, and an abundance of vendors offering authentic Hmong cuisine.

Perhaps the biggest draw for the festival is the sporting events. Athletes are brought in from all over the world to compete for cash prizes in men's



Top events at the Hmong Freedom Celebration and Sports Festival are the soccer, football and volleyball tournaments.

and women's divisions of soccer, football and volleyball. There is even a senior's division of soccer for contestants more than 40 years old.

Some less familiar sports to those outside the Hmong community will also draw spectators. Kato is a traditional Hmong sport similar to volleyball where players hit a small woven ball over a net, using nearly every part of their body except their hands. Top spinning is a traditional sport that involves hurling large wooden tops.

Organizers are also hoping to host the second annual Miss Hmong Teen pageant this year if they can get enough contestants, Vang said.

There will be a stage with live music where participants can also showcase their singing and dancing

talents.

Organizers are still working with the city to get permits for fireworks, as well.

With the second largest Hmong community in the country, Minnesota is a natural destination for a global event like this, Vang says. Of the more than 60,000 Hmong residents of the state, almost half reside in St. Paul.

Event organizers are expecting 20,000 to 40,000 people, Vang said. Last year the event drew 50,000—the largest crowds since the festival began in 1980.

The potential for complications that may arise from such a large influx of people to a residential area

Hmong festival to 8

Summertime from 1

begin at 5 p.m.

Mixed Precipitation will again bring its **Picnic Operetta to Falcon Heights Community Garden** on Sunday, Aug. 11. This year, the theater group will perform "Agent Fidelio," an 1805 opera of revolution and liberation all set in the lovely community garden in Community Park at Cleveland and Roselawn avenues. The performance will include a five-course tasting menu of locally grown, performance-inspired appetizers that will be served during the show. Find out more at www.mixedprecipitation.org.

Nothing captures the magic of a summer night like watching hundreds of lanterns being released into the Frog Pond and Japanese Garden at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. The annual **Japanese Lantern Light Festival** is on Sunday, Aug. 18. Find out more at comozooconservatory.org.

And, love it or hate it, the Minnesota State Fair begins Thursday, Aug. 22. Put the Horticulture Building at the top of your fun-at-the-fair list. There, at the corner of Judson and Underwood, you can see clever crop art, taste locally brewed beer and view the Minnesota Horticultural Society's gardens outside the building, which are tended by Ronald Dufault and other members of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club.

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Hermes site from 1

Falcon Heights city administrator Bart Fischer said he hasn't heard any objections to the development and none were raised at either Planning Commission or City Council meetings on the subject.

Endorsing the project at the council session was Will Allen, who heads Growing Power Inc., a Milwaukee, Wis.-based nonprofit that promotes the healthful and self-reliant aspects of urban agriculture across the country.

There is still much planning to do, Egge said, and more specifics

about the urban farm operation will be announced in the months ahead. But if all goes as planned, it will open in May 2014.

Existing buildings on the northwest and southeast sections of the L-shaped site will be renovated to accommodate a warehouse, distribution center, training facility and small deli and grocery store selling produce. Organic food will be grown both indoors and out and also will be supplied by outside vendors.

By reducing the costs associated with the production of healthy food,

it will be possible to make it affordable and accessible for more consumers, Egge said. The produce is expected to appeal to restaurant, food co-op and institutional buyers.

Meanwhile, the former Hermes retail store and greenhouse will be demolished to make way for a new 47-unit affordable housing apartment building developed by CommonBond Communities.

The building will be a mix of affordable and market-rate apartments, targeted to individuals and families working in the surrounding community and with

the urban farm operation. Along with shelter, CommonBond offers a variety of programs designed to help its clients. In this case, those are likely to include offerings in healthy food and nutrition education and agricultural business practices, in addition to employment opportunities right next door.

Falcon Heights officials understandably are elated that a site with a deserted air about it is coming back to life.

"This project tackles head-on some of our region's greatest challenges—affordable housing,

workforce development and healthy living—and combines them on one campus," noted Mayor Peter Lindstrom. "And the fact that it is adjacent to the University of Minnesota with a wealth of students and faculty interested in these issues is a significant advantage, as well."

"On a personal level," he added, "I'm looking forward to visiting the retail operation to pick up organically grown food any time of the year."

Roger Bergerson writes from his home in Como Park and is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

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Hmong festival from 7

are evident, and the event has caused some tension in the Como Park neighborhood in past years.

"I think a lot of folks who live in the neighborhood think it's a great [event] and they are really happy to have it here, but that's a huge number of people to drop in the middle of a residential neighborhood," District 10 administrator Ted Blank said.

Residents have raised concerns about traffic, noise, parking and garbage, according to Blank.

Recognizing the challenges that accompany hosting an event of this size in a residential area, organizers have worked to allay some of the concerns.

To help alleviate parking congestion in the neighborhood, festival-goers are encouraged to park in one of the State Fairground lots, where they can take a shuttle to the

grounds.

A community meeting was hosted this year to get feedback from the neighborhood, but no one showed up with any questions, Blank said. "It seems like most of the neighborhood concerns that were raised in past years have been mitigated."

Facilities at Como Park will be open as usual, according to Blank, though finding parking may be a trick.

The festival is also a chance for people outside the Hmong community to get to know a culture they may not be familiar with, Blank says.

"It's for other cultures to learn about the Hmong culture," Vang said. "When you are there, everyone is friendly and everyone wants to get to know everybody."

The festival has come a long way since its humble beginnings on Harriet Island more than 30 years ago. The Lao Family Community of

Minnesota Inc., who continues to organize J4 today, was created by a small group of immigrants to help Vietnam War refugees adapt to life in the United States by offering services such as translating, transportation, English training and job placement.

As the Hmong community has continued to grow, so have the services offered by Lao Family. The group now also provides extensive youth training services that deal with things like tobacco use and pregnancy prevention.

The celebration has become an economic boon for the city of St. Paul too, Vang says. Many attendees who travel large distances for the event will often stay a week or two before and after to visit the city and their family.

Admission to the festival is \$5 per person at the gate. Seniors over 65 and children under 3 get in free.

Kyle Mianulli is a freelance journalist in the Twin Cities

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The Birdman
of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

A child's-eye view of birding

Some great birds and one gracious lady with a spotting scope made a big difference in a young girl's life.

Cynthia, the lady with the scope, is a friend of mine, an annual friend, I'd say. My son Drew and I see her nearly every year at St. Paul Audubon's Warbler Weekend held on Mother's Day weekend at the Villa Maria Retreat and Conference Center near Frontenac, Minn.

And then we go out looking for birds, especially migrating warblers, from sunrise to sunset. Besides the grounds of the villa itself, there are some "birdy" venues not far from there, including the Old Frontenac Cemetery, Sand Point, Frontenac State Park and Hok-Si-La Park, north of Lake City.

Drew and I had good luck at Hok-Si-La Park on Saturday morning of this year's event, and we decided to try it again in the afternoon. We didn't even get into the park proper before we found folks standing along the entrance road, looking off into the flooded forest. We parked along the side and walked up to them.

"Whatcha seeing?" I asked Cynthia, who was there with several friends who we knew. There was also a family of five, who we didn't know.

"Lots of northern waterthrushes, common yellowthroats and yellow warblers," Cynthia said. There was a flurry of bird activity. This spring was so delayed with snow and ice covering the landscape for so long that the trees hadn't leafed out yet and there weren't many insects for the birds. Especially lacking were the usual caterpillars, the inchworms that warblers love to feast on as they fuel up on their northward migration. So the birds were down among the fallen trees, floating logs and sodden

stumps, looking for anything they could eat.

I noticed that the mom and dad of the family had binoculars, but not the kids. There were two boys, perhaps 7 and 4, and an older girl of about 11. The boys were very active, only occasionally interested in looking at the birds, but the girl had a small notepad and was writing down the name of every bird that anyone called out—writing more than looking—and appearing to enjoy it immensely.

Cynthia helped the family identify the common yellowthroat. The birds were so close, you could see the detail with the naked eye. The older boy seemed impressed by the yellowthroat's black mask. The family was from the Twin Cities and was here on a birding trip as a Mother's Day treat for Mom.

Cynthia helped the girl, whose name was Emma Anne, with the names of the birds and their spelling. Emma Anne's notes included all the wildlife they'd seen, not just birds, but also a muskrat.

We moved the car to the parking lot and then Drew and I hiked to the edge of a marshy backwater where we saw a solitary sandpiper walking along the edge, probing the mud, and a spotted sandpiper not far away.

There were also more northern waterthrushes, yellow warblers and common yellowthroats.

Soon Cynthia came along and set up her spotting scope to get a better look at the sandpipers. The family of five was right behind, and Cynthia asked if they'd like to see the birds through the scope. The parents went first and then Cynthia lowered the scope for Emma Anne. She was awed by the close-up look at the long-legged, long-billed, graceful

sandpipers. She stayed looking, enthralled, while Cynthia put a yellow warbler and then a northern waterthrush in the scope's sights. Her brothers dared each other to see who could get closest to the edge of the water without stepping in the mud.

Emma Anne went back to her folks and Cynthia raised the scope to her own eye level. Then she found a common yellowthroat, the one with that dramatic black mask.

Cynthia called Emma Anne back and asked if she could lift her up to the eyepiece. Emma Anne nodded vigorously. Cynthia hoisted her to the scope and let her see the gorgeous yellowthroat. Emma Anne was visibly excited to see the bird in such detail.

Her father appreciated Cynthia's time with his daughter and asked if he could take a photo of Emma Anne with Cynthia and the scope. And so they posed together.

When family started to leave, Emma Anne ran back to Cynthia and thanked her enthusiastically for showing her the birds.

There's one young girl who has been turned on to birds, the love of nature and, I hope, a lifelong concern for the environment that nurtures both us and the birds.

Clay Christensen watches and writes about birds at his home in Lauderdale and blogs on his website at www.BirdmanofLauderdale.com.

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Annalia Anderson, 15, and Cathal Mee, 8, were the winners of the Park Bugle's fourth annual Art Party Hat Contest at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on June 1. Annalia won in the adult category this year, after three years of winning in the youth category. We'd like to repeat the message on Cathal's hat: "There's gnome place like the Bugle."

Photos by Kristal Leebrick



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Neighbors

Sing with your neighbors

If you haven't had a chance to experience the monthly St. Anthony Park Neighborhood Sing you can on Monday, July 15. Musicians Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed will lead participants in songs from the book *Rise Up Singing* and any requests.

The event will be held at Luther Seminary's Olson Student Center, 1490 Fulham St. A social and gathering time will begin at 6:30 p.m. and singing will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. No experience or trained voices are needed to participate.

The event is free, but a hat will be passed for the musicians. Luther Seminary is offering the use of the space for free, though organizers encourage singers to patronize the coffee shop on the second level of the student center as a thank you for the seminary's support of the event.

The neighborhood sing began in May, with more than 100 people attending. The July event will be the third of what has become a monthly event. Organizers encourage those with the book *Rise Up Singing* to bring it along.

The event is co-sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community



Ann Reed and Dan Chouinard lead neighbors in a group sing on the third Monday of the month at Luther Seminary's Olson Student Center.

Council and will meet every third Monday of the month.

Sign up for summer camps and fall sports at Northwest Como

Register for summer camps and classes and fall sports at Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 N. Hamline Ave.

The summer offerings include the following programs: Tae Kwon

Do, Artist Workshop, Soccer Review, Funtastic Fridays, Babysitters Training, Yoga, Ultimate Frisbee, Clay Making, Game On, Robotics Star Wars Droid Builder, Extreme Robotics Robo-Sports, Intro to Acting, Twinkle Toes, Jump Start

Into Kindergarten, Cheerleading, Archery, Basketball, Soccer, Snag-Golf, Volleyball, Flag Football and Mini Hawk.

A family overnight campout with an outdoor movie will be held at the recreation center on Friday, July 19 during the neighborhood celebration Como Fest. The event is listed as activity no. 12307 in the St. Paul Parks and Recreation listing.

Fall sports registration begins Monday, July 8, for soccer, ages 3-14, and flag football, ages 7-10.

Register at www.stpaul.gov/park, call 651-298-5813 or come into Northwest Como Recreation Center Monday through Thursday, 1-8:30 p.m., or Friday, 1-5:30 p.m.

Garden club awards scholarship

The 2013 St. Anthony Park Garden Club scholarship was given to Kristen Waurio, a senior at the University of Minnesota working on a combination horticulture and business degree. Waurio is from the

Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where her grandparents started a small dairy farm after arriving from Finland.

Waurio started an internship this spring at Abrahamson's Nursery in St. Croix Falls, where she learned about the production of annuals during the busiest time of the year. After the intensive greenhouse season, she planned to move to the tree nursery.

Waurio is interested in organic production after working in the pesticide lab at the university and learning how detrimental pesticides can be to wildlife and the environment.—*Mary Winget*

Garden tour is June 29

The St. Anthony Park Garden Tour is Saturday, June 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance tickets are available for \$12 at Speedy Market, Micawber's and the Bibelot.

Day-of-the-tour tickets are \$15 at the St. Anthony Park Library lawn, 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Mississippi trekkers, front row, from left: Nick Jacobsen, John Proper and Lucas Carmichael Tanaka. Back row, from left: Will Farley, Peter Fortier, Caleb Andrew, Jack Farley, Ethan Helmer, Elliott Helmer, Jackson Lee, Bruce Deal and Ben Schafer.

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Boy Scouts aim to canoe the Mississippi from Itasca to St. Paul over five years

The Boy Scouts of Troop 17 have a five-year mission to canoe the Mississippi River from its source at Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota to St. Paul over the next five years. The trip began on June 8 when 11 scouts, 10 leaders and other family members launched a flotilla of eight canoes and three kayaks on Lake Itasca and headed down the first stretch of the river.

The troop, which is sponsored by St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, plans to make several trips each year on various sections of the river so that by the fall 2018 the Scouts will have covered the more than 500 miles between the headwaters and St. Paul. Leaders hope that some of the young boys who participated in this first leg of the trip will be able to canoe the entire stretch of the river before they graduate from high school.

A number of the Scouts in the troop are starting with Boy Scouts this year and have just complete fifth grade. This was the first canoe trip for several of the boys and for others it was their first chance to try kayaking.

The trip started with some basic instruction and then skills were tested on the flat water, traveling the entire 6-mile length of the lake before heading down the narrow winding river, which is less than 20 feet wide in most places.

One of the Scouts commented that "going through the tight turns and dodging fallen trees was really fun!" and another said "making the kayak go straight was a lot harder than it looked."

Despite a few minor spills, one abandon-ship maneuver to prevent tipping over and heavy drizzle (some might call it rain) all day Sunday, everyone kept their spirits up and

enjoyed the experience despite getting fairly wet.

The group camped at a remote site on the river and woke up to the gobble-gobble of wild turkeys and the drumming from rough grouse. Pancakes with blueberries were a big hit for breakfast and one Scout mastered the fine art of flipping pancakes without using the spatula.

The campsite was shared with three kayakers from New Orleans who were headed down river, planning to spend the summer traveling back home.

One of the goals of scouting is to help youth develop the camping and organizational skills needed so that they can plan and carry out a trip like that on their own in a few years. For now everyone is looking forward to another leg of the trip later this summer and eventually getting all the way to St. Paul in a few years.

JULY

Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by July 17 to be included in the August Bugle.

4 THURSDAY

Fourth in the Park: Como Avenue parade begins at 11 a.m., refreshments and activities open at noon at Langford Park (see page 6 for more information)

9 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library Summer Reading Program: musician Paul Spring, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church (SAPUMC)

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

10 WEDNESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library's Mandarin Chinese storytime, 3 p.m., SAPUMC

English Conversation Circle, every Wednesday, 4-5:30 p.m., SAPUMC

13 SATURDAY

International and domestic adoption information session, 9-11:30 a.m., CHSFS

16 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library's Summer Reading Program: Snapdragon Seeds Music, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., SAPUMC

Minnesota's Waiting Children information session; learn about adopting children who live in foster care, 6-8 p.m., CHSFS

18 THURSDAY

Como Fest: Lyngblomsten's Midsummer Festival, 2-9 p.m., Lyngblomsten, St. Paul

Park B4 Dark: Eat, drink, shop along Como Avenue, St. Anthony Park, 5-8 p.m.

19 FRIDAY

Como Fest: climbing tower, outdoor movie and campout under the stars, Northwest Como Recreation Center, 6 p.m.-8 a.m.

20 SATURDAY

Como Fest: art fair, make-and-take children's crafts and Como Park Garden Tour, Church of the Holy Childhood, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

23 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library's Summer Reading Program: Schiffelly Puppets, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., SAPUMC

Adoption information session, 6-8:30 p.m., CHSFS

24 WEDNESDAY

Local folk band Sweet Rhubarb plays at Raspberry Island in downtown St. Paul, 12:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Library's Mandarin Chinese storytime, 3 p.m., SAPUMC

28 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Unlocking the Secrets of My DNA," by Bonnie Rough, 2:30 p.m., Micawber's

30 TUESDAY

Library Summer Reading Program: Magical Mia, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., SAPUMC

BLOCK NURSE EXERCISE

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors hosts classes at these times and places:

Tuesdays & Fridays, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 3-4 p.m.

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

Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Church of the Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Parkway, 651-644-7495

Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Ave., 651-646-2941

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

Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 N. Hamline Ave., 651-298-5813

Seal High Rise, 825 Seal St.

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



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Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.*

Charles Anderson

Charles Samuel Anderson, 83, a St. Anthony Park resident for more than 50 years, died June 14. He was born March 4, 1930, in Madison, Wis.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps (1951-53) and as a pastor in Madison, Wis., and Brooklyn, N.Y. (1957-61); professor at Luther Seminary (1961-76); and dean (1976-80) and president (1980-97) at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

He was devoted to his family and dedicated to his work and to the church. The family is grateful for his love and for many amazing years and adventures. They also express heartfelt thanks to the caring staff at Clare Bridge and Allina Hospice for their many kindnesses.

He is survived by his family: his wife of 61 years, Catherine; his children, Eric (Brenda) and Kristin; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held June 18 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Katherine Badger

Katherine Marie Badger, 64, longtime resident of St. Anthony Park and recently of Woodbury, died May 28. She was a 1966 graduate of St. Joseph's Academy. As a career media buyer, she established the company Time & Space Inc.

She is survived by her son, Jeremy (Reeta); grandchildren, Miranda and Maria; brothers Bill (Nan), Don (Kristin), Bob and Paul (Jeannie); and sisters Leslie Kreutter (Mark Trostad), Joan Cotten-Parks (Steve), Lynne Kuhn (Jim) and Carol Gandrud.

She was the birth mother of Patrick (LeAnn) and grandmother of Danielle, Jordan, Chelsea and Bailey; and great-grandmother of Ayden.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 3 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in St. Anthony Park, with interment at Oakland Cemetery.

Maynard Christopherson

Maynard L. Christopherson, 70, of St. Paul, died on June 12. A caring man with a wonderful sense of humor, Maynard worked as an accountant at the University of Minnesota for 27 years.

He is survived by his former wife, Lorraine (Jon); daughter, Tammy (Nathan); son, Tyler (Kyle); grandchildren, Harper, Crosby, Max and Sam; and many loving friends.

A memorial service was held June 25 at Centennial Lakes Pavilion, Edina.

Frances Heinselman

Frances B. Heinselman, 90, of Kenyon, Minn., formerly of Falcon Heights, died June 5 at Reflections Care Suites in Northfield due to complications from leukemia.

Frances was born on March 22, 1923, to James and Geraldine (Vogel) Brown in St. Paul. On Sept.

18, 1942, Frances married Miron "Bud" L. Heinselman. While raising her family in Grand Rapids, Minn., she was a church organist and taught piano lessons.

She also accompanied her husband on many research and recreational canoe trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park. She and Miron lobbied in Washington, D.C., for legislation to preserve the wilderness character of the BWCAW.

After Miron's death in 1993, Frances and her children completed and published his book, *The Boundary Waters Wilderness Ecosystem*. She volunteered full-time at Langton Place (Presbyterian Homes of Roseville) for 23 years.

Frances is survived by her children, Ann (Allen) Stolee and Russell (Barbara) Heinselman; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Beverly (Orrin) Sechter. Per her request, no services were held.

Miriam Jennings Hey

Miriam Jennings Hey, 95, died May 22.

Miriam was born on Sept. 22, 1917. She taught for many years at Brimhall School in Falcon Heights.

She is survived by her husband, Richard; children, Richard (Donna), Philip and Janet (Roger); grandchildren, Dylan, Clare (Troy), Louis (Katie), Anne (Josh) and Ellen; great-grandson, Miles; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial celebration was held on June 8, at Luther Seminary's Olson Campus Center.

**Sheila Holleran**

Sheila A. Holleran, 52, died June 7 of a heart attack. Shoppers at Tim and Tom's Speedy Market in St. Anthony Park will remember her cheerful spirit when she cashiered there.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Shirley. She is survived by her father, Tom; her children, Gary (Charity) Benson, Kevin (Crystal) Benson, Dan Benson and Kelly (Orion) Nason; five grandchildren; four sisters, Tut Holleran, Mary (Mike) Pfundstien, Kathy (Bob) Schuller and Teddy (Glenn) Vitali; and a brother, Mike

(Carol) Holleran.

Her funeral services were held June 14 at O'Halloran & Murphy Funeral Home in St. Paul, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Phyllis Johnson

Phyllis A. Johnson, 84, of Buffalo, Minn., formerly of St. Paul, died May 18 at Parkview Care Center in Buffalo. Phyllis graduated from Murray High School in 1946.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Luette Nielsen, brother, Loren C. Johnson, and brother-in-law, Norm Nielsen. Phyllis is survived by a sister-in-law, Lois Johnson.

John Kiel

John Kiel, 86, of Wahkon, Minn., formerly of Falcon Heights, died May 24 in Onamia. He was born in Pease, Minn., and married Stella Wessman on April 16, 1949.

They lived in Falcon Heights for 40 years while John worked for Northern States Power Co. in a variety of positions, including lineman, foreman, instructor and safety control.

John was a member of Rose Hill Alliance Church while living in Falcon Heights. He loved working on church projects and on the construction of Camp Big Sandy in McGregor, Minn.

He is survived by his wife; children Richard (Carole), Debra (John) Merritt and Michael (Kristin); eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Harry (Lorna) and Lester (Marge); and his sisters-in-law, Lorraine Kiel and Loree Vanman.

His funeral was held May 29 at Milaca Evangelical Free Church, with interment at Forest Hill Cemetery in Milaca.

Bruce Kuettner

Bruce J. Kuettner, 72, of Taylors Falls, Minn., formerly of St. Paul, died May 27.

Bruce lived a full and happy life. He was a cheerleader and gymnast at both Murray High School and the University of Minnesota.

He had such a good time at the U, they asked him to leave. He then went on to graduate from the College of St. Cloud with a teaching degree.

He taught in St. Paul Public Schools, first as a physical education teacher and then as a guidance counselor, after receiving his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. He also coached gymnastics, boys at Johnson High School and girls at Harding High School.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Carol; son, Scott (Sue); daughter, Stephanie Kruse (Dorian Peterson); four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sisters, Mary Anne Papke (Richard) and Phyllis Fortier.

His memorial service was held May 31 at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Stillwater.

Darlene McMinn

Darlene M. McMinn, 65, of Falcon Heights died recently.

Darlene spent most of her working career with General Mills and the City of St. Paul.

She is survived by her partner of 23 years, Marie Furton; brother, Wayne (Muriel); and a niece and nephew. No services were held.

Donald Mead

Donald W. Mead, 81, of Falcon Heights, died at home on June 5.

Don was involved for nearly 50 years with the South St. Paul Male Chorus and his lifelong career with Northwestern Bell/U.S. West.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Geraldine. He is survived by two sons, John (Kay) and Jeff (Kymm); a daughter, Ellen "Ellie" Tarnowski (Doug); four grandchildren; and one granddaughter.

His funeral service was held June 13 at Roseville Memorial Chapel, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Lorraine Miller

Lorraine H. (Gittens) Miller, 77, of St. Anthony Park, formerly of Roseville, died June 7. Born in St. Paul to Joseph and Helen Gittens, she married Louie Miller on Oct. 3, 1953. They traveled the world as an Air Force family and settled in Roseville in 1967.

Lorraine was a devoted mother and animal lover, she enjoyed music and dancing. She was outgoing and friendly, which helped her in her pursuits in retail, including jobs at McGuires, Blue Bird Gift Shop, Galaxy Popcorn and the Brothers.

Lorraine moved to St. Anthony Park Home in 2003 for support for her Parkinson's Disease. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her son, Larry; daughter, Loretta (Kelly); and two grandchildren.

Her funeral service was held at Kessler & Maguire Funeral Home in St. Paul on June 12, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Robert Morin

Robert James Morin, 86, died at home May 15. He was born on March 15, 1927, in Superior, Wis., the son of Peter and Violet (Saterstrom) Morin. Bob married Muriel Joan Benson on June 17, 1950, in Superior, Wis. He was a graduate of East High School in Superior and attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Bob enjoyed a long career with the Great Northern Railroad and the Burlington Northern Railroad. He was a veteran of the United States Army. Bob was a Mason and a member of the Osman Shrine. He was also an active member of Como Park Lutheran Church and Relaxed Rails.

Bob is survived by his wife; son, Robert Morin (Colleen); and

brother, Chester.

His memorial service was held June 4 at Como Park Lutheran Church, with inurnment at Roselawn Cemetery.

John Novotny Jr.

John Aloysius Novotny Jr., 83, of Lauderdale, died peacefully surrounded by family on May 19. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Ethel, and seven siblings. He is survived by his children, John III (Diana), Mark, Lisa and David; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

His funeral service was held May 23 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell in Shoreview, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Helen Olsen

Helena Alberta "Helen" Olsen, 99, of St. Anthony Park, died peacefully May 21. She worked at the former Linnea Home, at the site of the current Linnea Gardens.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, and five siblings. She is survived by four nieces and a nephew; a nephew-in-law; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 28 at the Church of Corpus Christi in Roseville, with interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

James Palmer

James Harlow Palmer, 93, died May 24. His wife, Lillian Palmer, died April 19. Lee and Jim were married 67 years.

They had three daughters, Susan Withrow (Stephen), Nancy Palmer (Michael Hopps) and Kathy Bigelow (Bill); seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He worked in the St. Paul Public Schools for 30 years as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal at Murray High School and other high schools.

A celebration of his life was held at St. Paul Episcopal Homes, Cornelia House Chapel, on May 29.

Edward Pojar

Edward Joseph Pojar, 93, died June 3. He was a lifelong resident of the South Como Park neighborhood. He died peacefully in the house where he was born.

He loved golf, photography, fast boats and faster cars. He was feisty and fun-loving, with a quick wit and a wild sense of humor. His gift to everyone around him was his ability to make people laugh.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Paul and Theodore. He will be missed by his many nieces and nephews and sister-in-law Lorraine.

Memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Maplewood on June 7, with interment at St. John's Cemetery.



Business News

The (Java) train left the station

By Roger Bergerson

A metamorphosis of sorts took place on June 1 when the Java Train coffee shop on Pascal Street near Midway Parkway became the Como Park Grill.

Gone are the banana lattes, although there still are coffee drink offerings. Gone are the caboose and the rest of the play area, though children remain welcome and there's still plenty of ice cream.

"The restaurant business is very difficult and you have to reinvent yourself from time to time," said co-owner Steve Finnegan, who with his wife, Christine, opened the establishment nearly a decade ago.

"We needed to depart from the coffee shop persona," he said. "There's a lot of competition for the coffee dollar and you need high-volume sales to be profitable enough. We chose the name Como Park Grill to convey that we're a full-scale restaurant."

Although the majority of menu items remain the same, there are several new dishes, including tacos, Reuben and Rachel sandwiches, and a spinach-and-apple salad. The owners hope to add burgers and fries by the end of the summer.

Other changes mostly are cosmetic: new paint, newly polyurethaned booths, a bar replacing the old counter. There will be several TVs, but Finnegan says the Grill won't be a sports bar. The exterior of the building also will be repainted and the existing mural modified.

The outdoor patio area remains, as does the faux water tower harkening back to the Java Train days.

There's no doubt, though, that the elimination of the play area is what has people in the neighborhood talking.

"I've had some negative comments from parents with small children who didn't want to see it go, but I believe we lost business from people who were turned off by the noise the area generated," Finnegan said.

"Change isn't always popular. A few people in the area definitely were opposed to us opening in the first place and others objected when we added beer and wine. You can't please all the customers all the time, but overall I think we'll be presenting a more comfortable dining experience."

Ed Dykhuizen is one of those lamenting what he sees as the demise of a "one-of-a-kind, perfect neighborhood spot," where he would walk with his 2-year-old daughter for ice cream.



Como Grill owners Christine and Steve Finnegan. Photo by Roger Bergerson

"This is disappointing to see," he commented. "I'm afraid it's going to be another Champps and we don't need another one of those."

Parent and longtime customer Lori Treiber said is happy that a restaurant such as the Como Park Grill is so close to home, especially during the school year when she may not have time to make dinner.

"It's still going to be family-friendly, just not a play destination," she said.

"Having a place like this in the neighborhood gives it a small-time feel. Steve and Christine have given us a wonderful place to gather."

Roger Bergerson is a local historian and a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Local businesses celebrate their independence in July

Merchant specials, gift card drawing part of monthlong MetroIBA member promotion

The Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA) wants you to celebrate your independent locally owned businesses throughout July and has created a month-long promotion to encourage Twin Cities residents to do just that.

Twenty-five Twin Cities merchants are participating in the MetroIBA's "Celebrate Your Independents" program, including Bugle-area stores Micawber's Books, Bibelot Shops, Peapods and Warners' Stellan.

Other St. Paul area stores include Computer Revolution in Roseville, Creative Lighting, Gingko Coffee House, Golden Fig, Mosaic on a Stick, Trotter's Cafe and Wet Paint.

Merchants are offering a variety of in-store discounts and participants may enter a drawing by going online to register. Two winners will each receive \$1,250 in gifts cards from half of the 25 participating businesses.

Here's how it works: go to www.buylocaltwinincities.com to register and to print out the Celebrate Your Independents

brochure, which features a passport that contains the 25 special merchant offers. When you register you will be entered into the drawing.

You get more chances to enter the drawing by visiting each store, where you will receive a code that will allow you to enter the drawing again.

A person could potentially enter the drawing 26 times.

No purchase is necessary, but participants get one entry per person per store.

The merchant offerings are valid July 1-31. Gift card winners will be selected in August at a drawing at Peapods in St. Anthony Park.

For more information and to find the downloadable brochure, go to www.buylocaltwinincities.com.

MetroIBA is a nonprofit organization working to support and preserve locally owned, independent businesses in the Twin Cities.

Its mission is to help the Twin Cities maintain its unique community character, provide continuing opportunities for entrepreneurs and build economic strength.

Community Worship Directory



❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

1376 W. Hoyt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108-2300 | 651-646-7127 | Handicapped accessible

Summer Worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Kindling Faith Worship: The first Sunday of each month.

Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.,

Camp Style Worship: 9:30 a.m.,

Whole Congregation Learning: 10:15 a.m.

www.comoparklutheran.org/get-involved/children-youth-and-family-ministries/

Pastor: Martin R. Ericson

Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ MT. OLIVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH—WELS

www.mtolive-wels.net, 651-645-2575

1460 Almond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108

Handicapped accessible

Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Pastor: Al Schleusener

❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

1744 Walnut St. (at Ione), Lauderdale, 651-644-5440

www.peacelauderale.com

Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Reconciling in Christ Congregation

All are welcome. Come as you are.

❖ SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH

3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, 612-378-3602, www.spiritunited.com

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Message & Music. No summer Sunday School

All are welcome. Come as you are. Handicapped accessible.

A leading-edge spiritual community emphasizing the Unity of Spirit—one Source in all.

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place. 651-644-4502

Website: www.stceciliaspn.org

Handicapped accessible

Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. at the church

Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the church

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth Ave. (corner of Commonwealth and Chelmsford)

651-646-7173 www.sapucc.org

Worship: 9:15 a.m. (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Pastor: Victoria Wilgocki

God Is Still Speaking

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation. All are welcome!

www.sapumc.org, 2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como), 651-646-4859

Pastor: Melanie Homan

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship celebration and Sunday School

11 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments

6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor

Mondays: 7 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

2323 Como Ave. W. (651) 645-0371

Staffed nursery available - Handicap-accessible

Pastors Glenn Berg-Moberg and Marc Ostlie-Olson

Web, Facebook, & Twitter: SAPLC

Sunday Worship - Summer Schedule

One service 10 a.m.

Fellowship for all follows

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector www.stmatthewsmn.org

2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 651-645-3058

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. service (summer schedule),

Nursery care available

Wednesday: Noon service with communion, followed by lunch

Offerings: Please check our website for opportunities to learn, serve and meet some of your wonderful neighbors! Project Home: Our church serves as a temporary homeless shelter for families with young children during the month of August. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry or assist during evening hours, visit our website: www.stmatthewsmn.org

To add your church to the directory, contact Genevieve Plagens at 651-325-7189 or genevieve@parkbugle.org.

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Business Briefs

Favorite Financial Planner

Catherine Holtzclaw of Holtzclaw Planning LLC was named Favorite Financial Planner by the Minnesota Women's Press. Holtzclaw offers income-tax preparation, financial and estate planning, retirement planning, business startup services, IRS audit representation and more. Find out more at www.holtzclawplanning.com.

New leader at Schubert Club

Nina Archabal has been named the

40th president of the Schubert Club board of directors. Archabal is the director emerita of the Minnesota Historical Society, having recently retired after 23 years of service as its director and state historic preservation officer.

Beeson named U regents chair

Rick Beeson, executive vice president and director of corporate development and government relations with Sunrise Banks, has been named chair of the University

of Minnesota board of regents. The former president and CEO at Park Midway Bank, Beeson has been a regent since 2009.

Urban Growler to host open house

You can get a taste of the Urban Growler Brewing Co., 2325 Endicott St., St. Anthony Park, at an open house on Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Tour the space, sample the beer and find out how to become a founding member.

Lives Lived from 14

George Richter

George Brownell Richter, 86, of Grand Rapids, Minn., formerly of St. Paul, died June 10 in Grand Rapids. He taught engineering at the University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas. George also taught at Mechanical Arts, which became St. Paul Technical College, where he directed the Adult Technical Education Division.

Preceding him in death were his brother, Ray; sister, Marjorie; daughters, infant Mary Catherine and Elisabeth Gibson; great-granddaughter, Danielle Gibson; and his first wife, Patricia Grain Richter. George is survived by his wife, Twila

Ryhti, and her three children, Katrina Erickson, Robb-Lee Lussier and Kyria Tarnowski and their nine children. He is also survived by his children, Mark, Mari Baker, Joseph, Melodie Anderson and Mike Gibson; 22 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 14 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids, Minn. A second Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 24 at the Church of the Holy Childhood.

Bonnie Roell

Bonnie Roell, 69, died May 15 of pancreatic cancer. She had run

Bonnie's Cafe on University Avenue for nearly 40 years.

Roell lived in Maplewood but was up at 2 a.m. daily to make sure Bonnie's was ready to open with pancakes, French toast and coffee at 4:30 a.m.

Roell was preceded in death by her husband, Roger, and her youngest daughter, Wendy. She is survived by her daughters Tammie Rhoades and Becky Boosbrugger and longtime companion John Rybisky.

A remembrance service was held May 21 at Roseville Memorial Chapel with lunch following at Bonnie's Cafe.



Celebrating

The Power of Our Partnership

Xcel Energy wishes to congratulate our 21 local community partners who were recently recognized with the 2013 Environmental Initiative Award in the energy and climate protection category. The Minneapolis based Environmental Initiative is a nonprofit organization that builds partnerships with nonprofit, business and government leaders to work collaboratively to solve environmental problems.

Harnessing the power of collaboration with the city of Minneapolis and the city of St. Paul, the award-winning Energy Innovation Corridor partners avoided nearly 1.8 billion pounds of carbon dioxide emissions since 2010 through energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart technology and transportation efforts.

Congratulations to the following Energy Innovation Corridor partners:

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To learn more about the **Energy Innovation Corridor** visit: energyinnovationcorridor.com.



xcelenergy.com

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School News

School News will be on vacation in August. Look for more school news in the September issue of the Park Bugle.

Brimhall Elementary
1744 W. County Road B
651-638-1958, isd623.org/bh

End-of-year wrap-up

Brimhall Elementary ended another exciting year on June 7. Late April featured the first all-school Earth Day grounds cleanup to prepare for the annual International Festival in May. Student teams cleaned indoors and out to make the school look great for the celebration. The festival raised thousands of dollars for the Brimhall PTA and celebrated the school's global focus this year, Oceania (the area of the globe that covers Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands), and a year of hard work by Brimhall students, staff and volunteers.

Other end-of-year events included field trips, music concerts by grade, orchestra and band concerts, volunteer recognition breakfast, Math Masters competition and Awards Day, honoring students who excelled in academic and extra-curricular activities.

Thanks to all who supported Brimhall Elementary this year.

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

Outstanding creativity

The Purple Platypi tied for fifth place and won the Renaissance Award for outstanding creativity at Destination ImagiNation's 2013 Global Finals in May.

For the past four years, Wendell

Finals in Tennessee after placing first at the regional competition in March and the state competition in April.

The Purple Platypi began working on the challenge in December after choosing to compete in the fine arts category. Their challenge was called "In Disguise," which required creating a skit focusing on a character that uses a disguise to achieve a goal. The requirements included using two masks, one decorative and one morphing. The team developed a story about an egg-loving man who visits a zoo and uses a disguise to sneak into the ostrich enclosure to steal a giant egg for an omelet. The team created a zoo set, a huge ostrich costume and a 4-foot-tall paper-mache egg that hatched to reveal a baby ostrich inside.

The team scoured Goodwill for costumes and used cheap items like bathroom rugs to simulate feathers.

The trip to Tennessee "was very exciting and a huge honor," said Andersson. "We're the first team from Chelsea Heights to go and the team knows that their success will inspire the younger teams coming up."

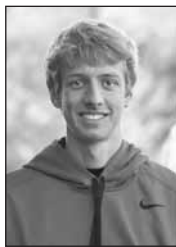
Through fundraising and financial support from the Chelsea Heights PTO, the team was able to make the expensive trip. They also shared transportation costs with teams from St. Anthony Park Elementary and Murray Junior High by chartering a bus for the 18-hour trip.

At the competition, the team participated in DI's Buddy Team program, which paired the Purple Platypi with a sixth-grade team from Mexico City called the Color Blobs.

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

Comcast scholarship winners

Como Park Senior High School seniors Joe Krivit and Yasmine Mohammed Nur were the winners of the Comcast Foundation Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program. They each received \$1,000 and were recognized at a reception honoring all



Joe Krivit

Twin Cities 2013 Leaders and Achievers Scholarship recipients in June.

Krivit will attend Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., to study political science and government.

Nur will attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to study marketing, Spanish and design.



Yasmine Mohammed Nur



Nate Parsons (left) and Ian Olesak

Big wins in spring sports

Graduating senior Ian Olesak and Nate Parsons, who just finished his sophomore year, beat the no. 3 and no. 5 seed doubles teams from Mahtomedi to place second in the 4AA Section. They made it to the semi-finals at the state tournament in the consolation round on day two, but lost against Andover, who won in the final consolation match.

Three spring teams won the City Conference title this year: the boys Ultimate Frisbee team, the varsity softball team and the boys golf team.

Big ideas

Student Marshal Landrum and science teacher Kathryn Kahn were named 2013 Bezos Scholars and are heading to the Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado at the end of June. The festival features roundtable discussions with international leaders, thinkers, policymakers and artists. Next school year, the team

plans to apply for a grant to create a local ideas festival. Look for a story about their project in the August issue of the Park Bugle.

Great River School
1326 Energy Park Drive
www.greatriverschool.org

Open Eye to visit Great River

Families are invited to join Great River School on Wednesday, July 31, at 7 p.m. for Open Eye Theatre's presentation of "Tucker's Robot." Families with children of all ages are welcome to join the school for this outdoor puppet show. Bring a blanket or chair. (Rain location will be inside at the same address.) Refreshments will be provided.

"Tucker's Robot" is about an adventurer with an unstoppable imagination who discovers an old robot in the garbage and takes it home. The show is full of surprises, a little danger and some really funny characters. For more information, contact Lydia McAnerney at 651-305-2780, ext. 102.

Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740
www.murray.spps.org

New principal at Murray

Murray Middle School will have a new administrative leadership team for the upcoming school year. Principal Tim Williams, who came to the school three years ago, has been reassigned to help with the transition to middle school at Capitol Hill. Assistant Principal Dan Sager has been reassigned to Ramsey Middle School.

Murray's new principal is Stacy Theien-Collins and the new assistant principal is Kirk Morris. LaNisha Paddock and Jamin McKenzie are the two administrative Interns.

Morris, a former intern at Murray, will be leaving his position as assistant principal at Highland Park Middle School. He has worked in St. Paul Public Schools for 16 years as a teacher and administrator and has both elementary and middle

School News to 18

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The Purple Platypi: Goodness Adekanmi, Kajsa Andersson, Zach Konkol, Theo Lucy, Mitchell McCann, Michael Smith and Grace Tienter.

Andersson and Maria Tice have coached Destination ImagiNation (DI) teams at Chelsea Heights Elementary School. DI is a nonprofit program that helps kids discover their creativity through a variety of challenges and competitions.

This year, three of the seven teams at Chelsea Heights went to the state competition and one team, the Purple Platypi, went on to Global

The two teams attended each other's performances, went swimming and even took a day trip to Dollywood to ride a few roller coasters.

"For those parents considering the school for their child, the team's success proves that the kids from this school can compete with any school in the state—even the world," Andersson said. "That's a great feeling."

Announcing the winner of 2013
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651/641-1455 www.sapfoundation.org

School News from 17

school experience as well as coaching at the high school level.

Paddock, who served as an administrative intern this past year, has experience in elementary and secondary education and was a curriculum coach at Capitol Hill prior to becoming an administrator.

McKenzie is transferring from Battle Creek Middle School, where he was a Rotary Club Teacher of the Year in science.

CAMP 67

As Murray transitions to middle school this fall, the school is offering CAMP 67, an interactive experience for all incoming sixth- and seventh-graders. The camp will take place on Thursday, Aug. 29, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Transportation will be provided for all students to and from school, and they will run through a school day in order to meet classmates and teachers.

Team-building activities will be provided through the school's new advisory curriculum, *Where Everybody Belongs* (WEB).

Students will be provided, at no cost to them, school supplies to help them prepare for the coming school year. They will go through their schedule and meet their teachers, have lunch, get their lockers and locks, and get to know the building. This is an opportunity for students to get comfortable with the building and meet new friends before the actual start of the school year. Bus

information and more details of the day will be mailed to parents in early August.

Math teacher retires

David Svenson, a math teacher at Murray since 1995, retired at the end of this school year.

Park Perks supports music trip

Sunrise Banks' Park Perks program helped reduce the cost for each participant and supported two students' costs for Murray Junior High School's band and orchestra trip to Chicago this spring. Twenty-eight students, band director Eric Dahlberg and eight parent chaperones took a bus to Chicago where the students performed at River Trails Middle School, the Adler Planetarium and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Murray student's History Day paper goes to Hmong Archives

A History Day judge requested that Txe Yang's History Day paper titled "The Vietnam War: The CIA Secret War" be sent to the Hmong Archives in St. Paul to be considered for inclusion in the archives' permanent collection. Here is an original poem she included in the paper:

*One day the Green Berets came
General Vang Pao, a leader in this town
Men of old and young, grabbing their guns
Ladies holding their babies,
watching the men flee*



Murray's band and orchestra visited Chicago this spring.

In the jungle, the guns rang. In the forest, no bird sang
My mother's gone to the garden
My father to the gun
My brothers following his footsteps
Me and my sister left all alone
Suddenly the Americans retreated,
leaving the Hmong defeated
Crossing the Mekong, as the guns rung
Sitting in the airplane, feeling so much pain
My mother to my left, my sister to my right
My fathers in the jungle, my brothers lost in sight
Here I am now, wondering how?

Murray Rock Band

Murray's Rock Band played its final concert for the school year on May 30 in the school auditorium.

The band included Jake Kassner and Sam Bergstrom on guitar, Tyrin Anderson on keyboards, Daniel Ellis and Gebriel Khadar on bass guitar, and Brian Whelan and Jackson Kerr on drums.

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

Winning writers

Three members of Matthew Crosby's kindergarten class were winners of the first Twin Cities Public Television PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest. More than 600 stories and illustrations were submitted by children in the Twin Cities. The kindergarten winners were Abigail



The new maple tree was planted as a departing gift from this year's fifth- and sixth-graders at St. Anthony Park Elementary School. *Photo by Ruth Weleczki*

B., Hashim B. and Isabella T.

Planting roots

A new fire maple tree was planted outside St. Anthony Park Elementary School in early June as a gift from the school's departing fifth- and sixth-grade classes.

The tree helps replace some of the schoolyard trees removed due to disease or the threat of the Emerald ash borer.

Students and staff gathered for a planting ceremony during the last week of school. The school thanks those who helped the students organize the gift, including fifth- and sixth-grade parents, the two student councils, Principal Ann Johnson, teacher Dan Clark, new SAPSA president Anne Aarness and the Saint Anthony Park Community

Foundation. Special thanks to parent Tryg Hansen for picking up and delivering the tree.

Global winners

The Mustached Penguins, the fifth-grade Destination ImagiNation team, managed by Anura Sirrius and Maja Beckstrom, tied for third place at the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn., in May.

The fifth-graders competed against 68 other teams in their challenge, called Wind Visible, which involved researching wind energy, making kinetic art and weaving an invisible character into their script. Team members are fifth-graders Maasia Apet, Alistair Pattison, Amelia Schucker, Olivia Ahrens, Leandra Dahlke and Lily Gordon.

Dr. Todd Grossmann, DDS
651-644-3685 tagdds.com

Dr. Paul Kirkegaard, DDS
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The Mustached Penguins

Classifieds

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Nancy Plagens says teaching hasn't really changed over the years: "... [T]he ideas remain the same. And kids are still kids." Photo by Lori Hamilton

'Seeing the future' best part of teaching says retiring educator

By Michelle Christianson

Nancy Plagens, who retired from teaching at Como Park Senior High School this spring, says that one of the best parts of teaching is "seeing the future." In fact, everything she says about teaching reflects her affection and concern for her students.

"The best part for me is having such a connection with the community," she says. "I see my students, past and present, everywhere I go—in the neighborhood, in my church, at the grocery store. I will really miss knowing so many young people after I retire."

Plagens grew up in Minnetonka and graduated from Macalester College with degrees in English and Social Studies in 1972. She taught at Bryant Junior High School in Minneapolis and at Kellogg High School in Roseville before taking a break to raise her three children, Elizabeth, Daniel and Genevieve. She returned to public education in 1995, teaching two years at Hazel Park Junior High School and finally ending up at Como, where she has taught English and history and

coordinated the school's Advanced Placement program.

Asked if teaching has changed over the course of her employment, she says, "Not really. Technology means that the delivery changes, but the ideas remain the same. And kids are still kids—and I enjoy kids."

At Como, Plagens has taught a variety of English and history courses, including American Government. In conjunction with the latter, she accompanied students to Washington, D.C., five times, with her husband, Steve, helping as a chaperone.

The trips were part of Close Up, founded in 1971, a program that brings together students from all ethnic, religious, geographic and economic backgrounds to develop knowledgeable and engaged citizens through active and informed participation.

Another highlight of Plagens' career has been working with the Advanced Placement classes. Como offers 22 courses, more than any other St. Paul high school. The program is very successful, allowing students to earn college credit. Plagens is gratified to have been a

part of this program and to have contributed to Como's success.

"Como is a great school because it's large enough to offer a comprehensive program of academics, music, drama, sports, clubs and organizations, yet small enough so students can participate freely in whatever they choose," Plagens says. "In other words, Como students do not have to 'sit on the bench' and watch while other students actually get to 'play' at their chosen activities."

In September, Plagens plans to travel to Europe with her husband so she won't miss the beginning of the school year so much. She also intends to do more volunteer work, especially with children. And, of course, there are her two (soon-to-be three) grandchildren to attend to. She will do more reading, gardening and traveling, but she will always treasure her time teaching and seeing the future through her students.

Michelle Christianson is a piano teacher, musician and writer who lives in St. Anthony Park.

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