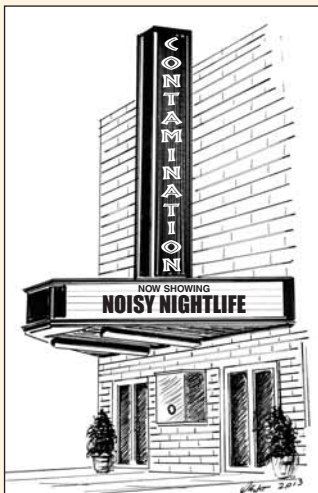


A new crossword puzzle!

It's just what you need on these cold winter nights.

Page 6



The way we were (and almost were)

Three stories about our past and a look at how different our community might have been.

Pages 7-9



Eat well and prosper

Your guide to lucky foods to make your new year bright.

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Park Bugle

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January 2014

Elpis Enterprises helps homeless youth build job skills and their future

By Roger Bergerson

Some homeless young people are finding that making T-shirts and building bird feeders can provide a path to a brighter future.

That's not to suggest that Elpis Enterprises (Elpis means *hope* in Greek) thinks it can somehow solve the youth homelessness issue all by itself. It's too big and complex a problem.

"On our best day, we help homeless youth understand what it takes to hold down a job," said Paul

Ramsour, executive director of the nonprofit organization. "And in the process, they have a chance to redefine themselves."

In a one-time mattress factory that's being redeveloped at 558 Vandalia Street in St. Paul, just north of I-94, young people earn what for many is the first steady income they have known.

Elpis has two businesses:

- Screenprinting custom T-shirts for corporations and other nonprofits. In addition, youth groups

can create designs for their own shirts and then come in and help print them.

- Making bird feeders and nest boxes, as well as kits for both, out of recycled cedar. The organization also conducts about 120 off-site workshops a year for youth groups.

Homeless young people come to Elpis as referrals from either the Youth Opportunity Center in Minneapolis or Ramsey County's YouthLEAD program.

Estimates vary as to the

numbers of homeless youth in Minnesota, in part because they can tend to go unnoticed. An Amherst H. Wilder Foundation study in 2012 counted nearly 1,200 people under age 21 as homeless in Minnesota on a given day, but acknowledged that was undoubtedly a low figure.

"Many of the youth we work with have low self-esteem," Ramsour noted. "In some cases, the people they depended on have told or showed that they didn't care about them."

Shadaria Brown, leader of the woodworking program, came to the Twin Cities from Illinois several years ago, mostly staying with friends and sleeping rough on several occasions.

Lashay Declerq-Ransom, who coordinates screenprinting, started running away from home when she was 13, sleeping in cars and abandoned houses.

From 15 to 20 such young people are employed in Elpis's six-month program annually and can advance through promotions and pay increases. Just showing up on time is a big hurdle for some of them, according to Josh Hosterman, Elpis operations manager. Most have never

Elpis Enterprises to 3



Langford Park Winter Classic set for Jan. 9-12

Winter enthusiasts, mark your calendars for the 55th annual Langford Park Winter Classic, Jan. 9-12. The event kicks off on Thursday, Jan. 9, with a Squirt hockey tournament. The three-day tournament will include two Langford teams, two Edgumbe teams, a team from the City of Lakes club and a team from Roseville.

The Winter Classic takes place on outdoor ice rinks and inside the Langford Rec Center throughout the weekend with a basketball tournament, free skating, concessions, a medallion hunt, and an outdoor barbecue on Saturday and Sunday. A Mini-Mite Hockey Scramble with first-graders and younger will conclude the festivities on Sunday afternoon. Call Langford Park, 651-298-5765, for schedule information.

Season of light

Ingrid Bollman learns how to dip beeswax candles from Lindsay Hunter, a site interpreter from Gibbs Farm Museum, at Bungalow Pottery in St. Anthony Park on Dec. 7. Gibbs Farm's candle-making was one of the many activities happening along Como Avenue that weekend during the neighborhood's annual Shop Home for the Holidays event. For more December scenes from throughout the community, turn to pages 10 and 11. Photo by Lori Hamilton

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 Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

Sunday Series continues in 2014

The District 10 Como Community Council will present its popular Sunday Series speaker program on the following dates in 2014: Sunday,

Feb. 23 (The Bird Man of Lauderdale, Clay Christensen); Sunday, March 23 (Solar Energy Panel); and Sunday, April 27 (Environmentally Friendly Lawn and Garden Care). Watch www.district10comopark.org for times and event venues.

District 10 Land Use Committee's January meeting is in December

Due to the holidays, District 10's

January Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

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. Larpentour Ave.

Falcon Heights receives AAA rating

The City of Falcon Heights recently received a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's, which cited the city's strong budget flexibility, strong liquidity, consistency in general fund results and strong management with good financial policies.

The AAA rating is the highest rating that can be awarded and means that Falcon Heights has an extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments. Past and present mayors, city council members and staff should be commended for their hard work in making this AAA rating possible.

For questions or comments, contact city administrator Bart Fischer at 651-792-7600 or bart.fischer@falconheights.org.

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. The district's Land Use Committee meets 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 the location each month. The Environment Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at SSA.

Neighborhood Honor Roll

The following St. Anthony Park residents have been named to the City of St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll: Cindy Thrasher and Julie Glowka, for their work in coordinating the annual Fourth in the Park celebration each July; Sue

Connor and Sherm Eagles, for their ongoing work on behalf of the St. Anthony Park Community Garden; and Deanna Seppanan, for bringing back a play area at Monkey Island. The recipients will be honored by the city at a dinner in January.

Design review for housing options

A public design-review meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Luther Seminary's Northwestern Hall on the northwest corner of Hendon Avenue and Fulham Street to present "example designs" of housing options currently being studied for the neighborhood.

Six designs, each adding a second living unit to an existing single-family property, are being developed by local architects for the review. Drawings for each design will be discussed by the architect and the property owner. An open question and comment period will follow the presentations. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

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LUTHER SEMINARY

Meet your neighbors at 28th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner

The 28th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, March 1. The fun, food and neighborliness will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. Then diners fan out across the neighborhood to partake in a series of salad, dinner and dessert courses hosted at the homes of Progressive

Dinner participants.

It's an opportunity to meet your neighbors, enjoy a special meal and have great conversations.

Look for more information on the event and downloadable registration forms at <http://sapcc.org/dinner>. You must register by Feb. 19 to participate. On the form, you can select the course you are willing to host.

After submitting a registration form, one of the coordinating committee members will contact you by Feb. 27 to confirm the course and the number of people you will be

hosting. Participants can host up to eight people in their homes for one of the courses (salad, dinner or dessert) or choose to bring appetizers for that number of people to share at the church during the welcome and appetizer course.

The evening begins with appetizers at 5:30 p.m., salad and bread at host homes at 6:30 p.m., main course at 7:30 p.m., and dessert from 8:45 to 9:45 p.m.

If you have questions or would like to help coordinate, call Jane Leonard at 651-303-5263 or email her at minntwin@comcast.net.

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South Como's recycling day moves to Monday

Eureka Recycling will begin picking up South Como residents' recycling on Mondays, starting Jan. 6.

South Como residents—who live in the area between Lexington Avenue and Dale Street, south of Maryland Avenue and north of the railroad tracks near the Pierce Butler Route—are leaving District 6 and becoming part of District 10 in January. The South Como area will have its last Wednesday collection on Thursday, Jan. 2 (the Wednesday

collection will be delayed due to the New Year's Day holiday).

If you are unsure if your residence is in the redefined District 10, would like stickers for your calendar to help remember your new recycling day or have any questions about this or any other area of waste reduction and recycling, call Eureka Recycling's Zero-Waste Hotline at 651-222-7678 or email info@eurekarecycling.org.

All Art Is On Sale!

Warm up your home for the cold months ahead.

During the month of January, all of our framed and unframed art is reduced 15% - 75%. There is still plenty of winter left. Now is a great time to freshen the view inside your home and save money too. Come in soon for best selection!
Hours: Weekdays 10:00 am - 5:30 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm / 2186 Como Avenue / 651-645-7862



Driftwood, Rock Star will host youth arts showcase in January

By Kristal Leebrick

The creativity spotlight will shine on the corner of Raymond and University avenues on Friday, Jan. 10, when students from the St. Paul Public Schools Lab program showcase their art, poetry and performance work at Driftwood Community Arts and Rockstar Supply Co.

Youth Arts Intersection will begin with an art show and reception at 5:30 p.m. at Driftwood, 777 Raymond Ave., where nearly 200 students in the Lab program will display their work. Then the event will move to Rock Star Supply Co., 2388 University Ave., for performances that will include spoken word, theater and dance.

The Lab is a mobile arts and wellness-based program that offers therapeutic services to students who fall under the Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD) umbrella in St. Paul Public Schools. It currently works in 11 middle and

high schools in the district, including Murray Middle School, Como Park Senior High and Central High School, but will expand to 14 schools soon, said program director Theresa Pease.

The program was started by Mary Tinucci in 2004 at Homeroft Elementary School. Pease joined the Lab in 2008. At that time, students were either bussed or taxied to Homeroft, where they were immersed in art, wellness groups, music and writing groups, yoga, mindfulness and martial arts, Pease said.

Many of the students involved in the Lab have multiple challenges in their lives that include poverty, violence, loss, grief, chemical abuse in the family and high mobility, Pease said. After attending the Lab, "kids would come to us and say they feel calm in that space. Kids who wouldn't have named themselves as poets took on that title."

The students gain confidence

and competence, and that helps them academically, Pease said.

Three years ago, the program moved to Journeys Secondary School near West Seventh Street and became a mobile program where the services are brought to the students.

January's Youth Arts Intersection will be a showcase but also a fundraiser for the program, which is funded in part through the school district but also depends on grants and other sources. CDs and anthologies of the students' work will be on sale, as well as the art at Driftwood.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet some of the therapeutic dogs from Paws for Learning, an organization that brings dog teams into Twin Cities schools to work weekly with students.

If you are interested in getting involved with the event as a sponsor or volunteer, contact Pease at Theresa.Pease@spps.org.

Elpis Enterprises from 1

made anything with their hands before. They also learn about teamwork, use of computer software and customer relations, things that may be completely new to them.

"We're helping them find a path for what may be a long journey," says Hosterman. "They're learning how to learn."

Added Declerq-Ransom, who intends to study nursing at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, "It's so important that they help the people that come here look for their next job."

She alluded to the fact that Elpis graduates aren't just sent off on their own when they've finished the program. Hosterman works with each to develop a plan for what's next, whether it's an education track or in the job market.

But in the meantime, Elpis is a haven of sorts for those who so need one.

"On the outside, you're constantly reminded that you're homeless," said Shadaria Brown. "In a way, this becomes a home, at least for a while. I don't know where I'd be without Elpis."

Learn more about Elpis Enterprises and view the products offered in its online store at www.elpisenterprises.org.

Roger Bergerson writes about history and Bugle-area news from his home in the Como Park neighborhood.



At top, Shadaria Brown, left, and Lashay Declerq-Ransom, in the screenprinting shop. Bottom, from left, Paul Ramsour, Elpis Enterprises executive director, Josh Hosterman, operations manager, and Angel Morales, intern, with bird feeders. Photos by Roger Bergerson



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EDITORIAL

Changes

We mark the new year with three articles that look at our communities’ past (they begin on page 7). Some readers may remember the St. Paul Workhouse that stood for 78 years in the spot now occupied by the Como Pool in Como Park.

How different would our lives be if that penal institution hadn’t moved to Maplewood in 1960?

And how different would things be if a 1922 effort to open a movie theater on Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park was successful or our part of Ramsey County had been pulled into Hennepin County in 1900? Read the page 9 story that looks at how things might have been if some proposals had come to fruition.

Our communities and their institutions aren’t stagnant. Schools grow,

contract, close, change. Businesses move out and in. Streetcar lines are removed and a light rail transit line is built. Immersed in the flux are our neighbors who work hard to help us manage the transitions.

One thing that never seems to change is the number of people willing to volunteer to make our communities livable and enjoyable. We give a giant shout out to those who sit on the District 10 and 12 community councils and all their many task forces, the city councils in Lauderdale and Falcon Heights, the school PTAs and site councils, and our nonprofit boards (including the Bugle’s publisher, Park Press), and to the business owners who bring us what we need in our neighborhoods and those who organize the community events that we love.

Happy new year.

COMMENTARY

New Year’s resolutions you can sink your teeth into

By Adam Granger

The word *resolution* has many meanings, including contradictory ones concerning endings and beginnings. With a new year breathing down our necks, it’s the latter that’s on my mind.

New Year’s resolutions are often the subject of scorn or ridicule, and probably rightly so. Many of us make the same promises to ourselves year after year—we’re going to lose weight or quit smoking or stop drinking—promises that become more hollow and absurd with each annual iteration.

Resolutions of this heft are setups for failure. Failure leads to moodiness, sleeplessness, friendlessness and despair. Ultimately, people who make such grand pledges often lose their livelihoods and their loved ones, and end up shuffling dissolutely down the sidewalk mumbling to themselves and staring dull-eyed straight through passersby. It’s not a pretty picture.

It’s probably clear by now that I recommend against what I’ll call Profound Resolutions, and I think the paragraph above offers compelling support of this position. So what to do on New Year’s Day?

Do we simply go capriciously about our business as though we had no interest in bettering our lives? Of course not. Although some of us have to search hard, there’s room for improvement in all of our britches. The secret is to make your resolutions reasonable and viable. Simply put, don’t bite off more than you can chew.

I have followed this protocol for decades, and I am a happy fellow who is made happier by my small successes. What follows is my list of resolutions for 2014, all completely doable and none so ponderous as to be rendered impossible. Here goes:

I hereby resolve

- to stop yelling at bad drivers. Unless I’m really screaming, the only people who hear me are the ones in my car.
- to stop buying jeroboam-sized canisters of mayonnaise and pallets of Nutella at warehouse stores.
- to keep picking up nickels I see on the street.
- to start picking up pennies I see on the street.
- to try to stop, finally, being ticked off at Chet Atkins and Owen Bradley for creating the “countrypolitan sound” and almost ruining country music.

- to try to limit my online playing of Word Hero to seven hours a day.
- to stop being irritated by the fact that 16 of the 24 minutes of *The Colbert Report* are taken up by people screaming at him in adulation. (I understand that it goes with his onscreen persona, but it got old for yours truly after about three days.)
- to think about my birth family—my mother, my father and my brother, all dead—at least once a day.
- to accept the fact that politicians have to lie to get—and keep—their jobs, instead of taking it personally every time someone I voted for tells a whopper.
- to try not to be a winter weather weenie. After all, I did move here voluntarily from Oklahoma.
- to take no offense when offense is unintended.
- to take no offense when offense is intended.
- not to be scared of the doctor.
- not to start my answers to questions with the word *sø*.
- to keep my cat’s claws trimmed.
- to limit the number of books I’m simultaneously reading to single digits.
- to at least think about it the

next time I am offered a performing tour of Australia.

- to lift my foot a little higher on the seventh step of our stairs so I don’t trip every time I climb them.
- to forgive those who need forgiving.
- not to laugh when I see people talking real loud on their cellphones in public.
- not to respond to a point that someone makes by saying, “Exactly.”
- to count my blessings before they hatch, grow up and move away.
- not to be so irritated by upspeak that I don’t pay attention to what’s being said.

See what I mean? These are resolutions a guy can sink his teeth into, and I will prevail on at least some of them. And, heck, if I do end up walking out of Costco on Jan. 23 with a 40-pack of suet cakes, or if I wind up wearing noise-canceling headphones through most of *The Colbert Report* on Feb. 12, well, who cares? It’s not like I promised myself I’d lose 100 pounds.

Adam Granger lives in St. Anthony Park with his wife and son and is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

LETTERS

The Bugle welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor. Send them to editor@parkbugle.org.

Learn about how sulfide mining could affect the BWCA

You will have an opportunity to hear about how the extraction of copper and nickel (sulfide mining) in the BWCA and Lake Superior watersheds will impact the wetland and forest ecosystems in northern Minnesota on Monday, Jan. 6, at the St. Anthony Park Library, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

A representative from the Friends of the BWCA, as well as a retired miner who lives adjacent to the area where mines are being

proposed, will be present. If one mine is permitted, it opens the door to the other mining corporations already waiting in line for this type of hard rock mining.

Please come to the St. Anthony Park Library for the discussion and a chance to have your questions answered. We can make our opinions heard now during the public comment period before decisions are made by state and federal agencies.

*Margot Monson
 St. Anthony Park*

Quonset huts?

In reference to the Bugle article “University Grove: An architectural time capsule” in the Oct. 2013 edition: The article states that the east end of the Grove neighborhood had hastily erected Quonset huts for students on the G.I. Bill.

I lived in the Veteran Village several years beginning about 1954. There never were any Quonset huts there. The only Quonset huts were along Como Avenue halfway to the U main campus. The Veterans Village in the Grove consisted of

temporary corrugated metal barracks, two housing units per barrack.

They were very popular because everyone was in the same situation and they were low cost.

*Frederic R. Steinhauser
 Age 95*

Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

Thanks to the following Park Bugle readers who have contributed to the Bugle’s 2013–14 fund drive. This list reflects those who gave up to Dec. 5. We’ll publish more donors in the next issue. The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper’s annual operating costs. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000. If you haven’t contributed to the fund drive, you still can. You can donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE NOW button at the top of the page. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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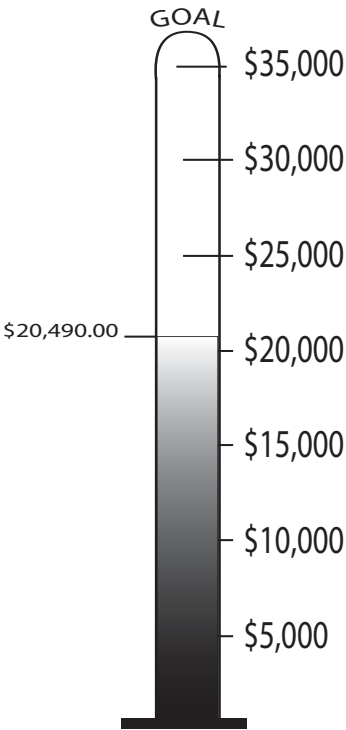
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Gryphon Trio will perform with Music in the Park in January

The Schubert Club's Music in the Park Series will present Canada's Gryphon Trio, one of the world's preeminent piano trios, on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

The Gryphon Trio—Annalee Patipatanakoon, violin; Roman Borys, cello; and James Parker, piano—will present “Around the Great War,” featuring works by Rebecca Clarke, Charles Ives, and Maurice Ravel.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Gryphon Trio has commissioned and premiered more than 75 new works from established and emerging composers around the world. The group's recordings are an

encyclopedia of works by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Lalo, Shostakovich and Piazzolla. In 2011, the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences acknowledged the Trio's recent recording of piano trios by Ludwig van Beethoven with a Juno Award in the category Best Classical Album: Solo and Chamber Music.

Pushing the boundaries of chamber music, the Trio has collaborated on special projects with clarinetist James Campbell, actor Colin Fox, choreographer David Earle, and a host of jazz luminaries at Lula Lounge, Toronto's leading venue for jazz and world music. The group's most ambitious undertaking to date

is a multimedia production of composer Christos Hatzis's epic work Constantinople, scored for mezzo-soprano, Middle Eastern singer, violin, cello, piano, and electronic audiovisual media, which they have brought to audiences across North America and at the Royal Opera House in London.

The ensemble-in-residence at Music Toronto for 10 years, the Gryphon Trio tours extensively throughout North America and Europe.

Cost is \$24 for adults. You can buy tickets online at schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

Ski center opens at Como Park

The Como Park Ski Center will have preseason hours for general downhill and cross-country use Dec. 21–22.

Como Park Ski Center will begin regular season hours on Thursday, Dec. 26, with special holiday hours Dec. 26-Jan. 2.

The Como Park Ski Chalet Hours are Saturdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (lessons only); Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3-9 p.m.; and Fridays, 5-10 p.m. The Ski

Center is closed on Mondays and Thursdays.

The Como Ski Center chalet offers food service; downhill ski, snowboard and cross country ski rentals; and affordable lessons taught by professional instructors. Registrations for ski and snowboard lessons, which begin in early January, are now being accepted. Lesson information and schedules can be found by clicking on the winter activities link at stpaul.gov/parks.

Friday Family Night Ski sessions return with discounted skiing on

Fridays, 5-10 p.m., Dec. 27 through Feb. 7. Equipment rentals and tow rope tickets are discounted to \$60 for a family of five and \$15 for individuals.

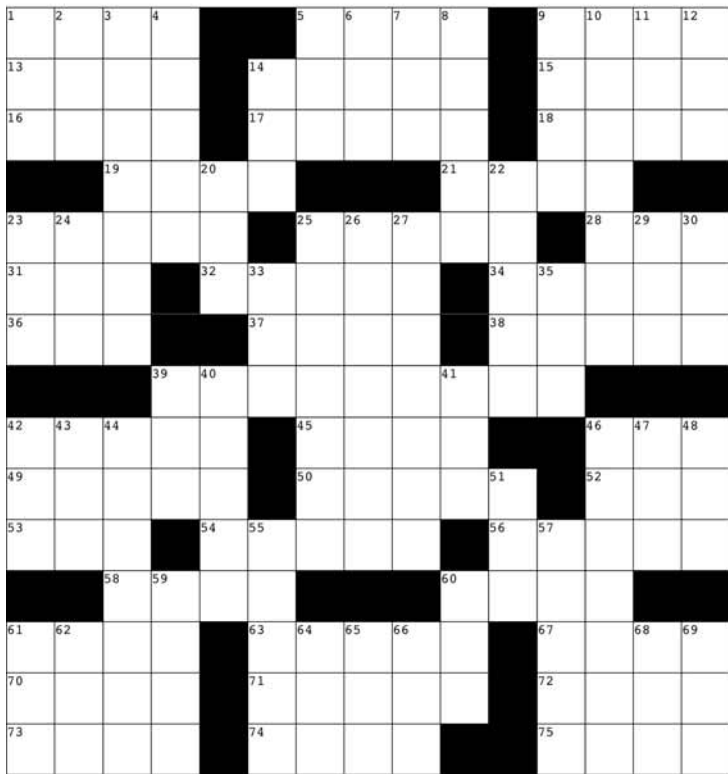
The Como Park Ski Center also features cross country skiing with 1.7K of lighted cross country ski trails for beginner-level skiing and 5K of intermediate- and advanced-level skiing.

For more information visit www.stpaul.gov/parks or call the Como Park Ski Center Chalet at 651-488-9673.

Crossword puzzle

By Dave Healy

You can find the answers to the puzzle on page 18.



ACROSS

- 1 ___ facto
- 5 Former Steelers coach Chuck ___ (and, with 74 and 62 Across, one of 39 Across)
- 9 See 2 Down
- 13 Prophet
- 14 Lash ___, King of the Bullwhip
- 15 Spoken
- 16 Protected area (and, with 3 Down, one of 39 Across)
- 17 Deadly poem?
- 18 Try try again
- 19 Despicable
- 21 John Glenn downed it in 1962
- 23 New Hampshire neighbor
- 25 “Glengarry Glen Ross” playwright David ___
- 28 ___ Tatum
- 31 Curve
- 32 The Donald's first wife
- 34 ___-spring mattress
- 36 Kicker or golfer's friend
- 37 One kind of enemy
- 38 Nuts
- 39 Theme of this puzzle
- 42 Blush
- 45 Have the ___ for
- 46 ___ the bomb
- 49 Instrument for 28 Across
- 50 Famous Bombeck and others
- 52 One can be positive or negative
- 53 Priestly garb
- 54 Anatomical backs
- 56 A famous one is periodic
- 58 Portent
- 60 Bronte's Jane ___
- 61 See 5 Across
- 63 Protagonist in “Paradise Lost”
- 67 “As ___ Dying”
- 70 First murder victim, per Genesis
- 71 African antelope
- 72 Jog
- 73 See 5 Across
- 74 Temporary shelter
- 75 Proofreader's directive

DOWN

- 1 Net gainer? (abbr.)
- 2 Early-bearing legume (and, with 10 Across, one of 39 Across)
- 3 See 17 Across
- 4 Big name in pest control
- 5 New York pub. of Faulkner
- 6 Some is smelted
- 7 Certain nut
- 8 Site of MacArthur's “I have returned”
- 9 Smut
- 10 The “pizza herb”
- 11 Dear old ___
- 12 ___ Poke
- 14 Majors or Marvin
- 20 Floral neckwear
- 22 Leaning
- 23 Tangle
- 24 We ___ the World
- 25 Parade participant
- 26 Secures
- 27 Esteemed one
- 29 Stimpy's pal
- 30 Stab
- 33 Alt.
- 35 House identifiers (abbr.)
- 39 ___ Cheri
- 40 Wear away
- 41 Priv. threat, to some
- 42 Numbers runner? (abbr.)
- 43 Rembrandt's medium
- 44 Clock puncher
- 46 Trinket (and one of 39 Across)
- 47 Former Time Warner acquisition
- 48 St. Paul to Pine City dir.
- 51 Place for a porker
- 55 Inception
- 57 Husks
- 59 Fuse
- 60 Rear
- 61 When doubled, pedal type
- 62 Former home to Dr. J
- 64 Pub quaff
- 65 Beat
- 66 Picnic intruder
- 68 Mimic
- 69 As of ___

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A 1932 bank robbery ends with Christmas tragedy

By Roger Bergerson

As 1932 wound down and the Great Depression deepened, an unemployed St. Paul man was elated to land a job selling Christmas wreaths door-to-door.

That's what 29-year-old Oscar Erickson was doing in the neighborhood west of Como Park on the afternoon of Dec. 16, accompanied by a friend, Arthur Zachman, 22. Little did the two suspect that fate would soon find them crossing paths with a band of violent criminals.

For at the same time, the notorious Barker-Karpis Gang was robbing a bank on East Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis of \$20,000 cash and another \$100,000 in negotiable securities, killing one policeman and leaving another mortally wounded. One of the gang's own bullets had punctured a tire on the getaway car, so their progress was impaired as they fled east, first on Hennepin and then Larpenteur Avenue.

The tire came off completely at Snelling Avenue and Larpenteur and the stolen Lincoln limped into Como Park on the rim, stopping near what is today the Como Town amusement area.

The gang proceeded to transfer its loot to a Chevrolet sedan stashed there. Driving into the park on her way downtown and seeing the disabled car, Mrs. Winifred Williams, 1400 Midway Parkway, stopped to inquire if she could help. "Scram," she was told.

Erickson was not so lucky. Arriving shortly thereafter, with Zachman in the passenger seat, he slowed down to stare at the suspicious-looking men. Gang leader Fred Barker, according to later statements by confederates, became enraged and fired several times, hitting Erickson in the head.

Erickson slumped in the seat and the car continued its forward momentum, with Zachman guiding it to a stop out of sight of the gunmen. He then took the wheel and drove the bleeding and unconscious Erickson to the police station at University Avenue and St. Albans Street.

From there, a police ambulance took Erickson to Ancker Hospital near downtown. He died in the early hours of the next day without regaining consciousness, with his 20-year-old wife, Delvina, at his side.

Barker was never prosecuted for any of the Dec. 16 murders and remained at large for several more years, dying in a shootout with federal agents in rural Florida in early 1935. (His mother perished with him and it has been alleged that FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover conjured up the sinister persona of "Ma" Barker to forestall adverse public reaction.)

The Twin Cities was a haven for criminals during Prohibition. In St. Paul, the understanding was that police would leave the crooks alone as long as they behaved themselves

while in town. They didn't hesitate to raise havoc elsewhere, however, and it became common for newspapers across the Midwest to note that bank robbers were last seen "heading in the direction of St. Paul."

But the robbery of the Minneapolis bank and the police killings showed that criminals such as Barker were no longer honoring the agreement. As a crime wave ensued, citizens grew increasingly angry about the thugs in their midst. For one thing, it became apparent that the crooks were better armed than the police force trying to control them.

Erickson's widow told reporters that she and her husband had been married for two years and had no children. She said Oscar was a native of Willmar, Minn., having come to St. Paul in the early 1920s. On that Friday, he had left their apartment near the State Capitol in high spirits because he had finally landed a job after months of unemployment, last working as a railroad dining car attendant.

"He had just been let out of St. Joseph's Hospital, where he had an operation for appendicitis," she said. "We had so many doctor bills and other things to meet. Yesterday noon it seemed that things finally were straightening out for us."

Instead, Mrs. Erickson buried her husband in Roselawn Cemetery and moved in with a sister in

A pretty dark-haired woman today had all the hopes of her life "shot down."



Delvina Erickson was described as "calm and collected" as she sat by her husband's hospital bedside. *St. Paul Daily News*, December 17, 1932. *Minnesota Historical Society*

Minneapolis while she looked for a job as a telephone operator.

Roger Bergerson is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

This article was made possible in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



Arthur Zachman (left), Minneapolis police officers Leo Gorsky and Ira Evans, and Oscar Erickson. *St. Paul Dispatch*, December 17, 1932. *Minnesota Historical Society*



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Criminals sentenced to the workhouse could look forward to a ride out to “the summer resort by the lake” in the Black Maria, a horse-drawn workhouse van. *Minnesota Historical Society*

Como Park was temporary home to a city workhouse—for 78 years

By Sharon Shinomiya

A penal institution in a park?

For 78 years, from 1882 until 1960, the St. Paul Workhouse occupied a portion of Como Park. Its red brick, three-story building stood where the Como Regional Park Pool is now located.

Back in 1881, the St. Paul City Council granted the workhouse board 40 acres of land in Como Park, upon which to erect the city's new workhouse. The 260-acre park stood dormant, awaiting funds for development, and was then on the rural outskirts of the city.

The building opened in February 1883 and admitted its first inmate, the “notorious” David Hoar, sentenced to 60 days for drunkenness, not for the first time or the last. The building had 30 two-person cells, an assembly room on the third floor and dungeons in the basement. Workhouse staff included an on-call physician, a chief jailer, four guards (one of whom was also a barber), a teamster and two cooks.

The workhouse lived up to its name: Inmates were put to work for the duration of their sentences, which ranged from five days (which was more common) to a year (a rare sentence). Soon after it opened, inmates helped build an on-site residence for the workhouse superintendent and two additions to the already-too-small workhouse.

The facility became a self-sustaining institution. Inmates grew hay, oats, corn, potatoes, and other vegetables on 20 acres of former woodland that had been cleared for farming and gardening. The grains and produce were sold and profits were used to fund workhouse operations. A knitting shop opened in 1886 and produced socks and other items for lumbermen. When demand for knitted goods decreased, a broom factory opened in 1895. Tailor and shoe shops operated in later years.

Women inmates worked in the laundry and made prison garments.

Inmates also labored in the park, clearing brush and grubbing stumps, building fences, thinning out the woods and making roads. When inmates were not at work, they were confined to their cells.

Those sentenced to the workhouse could look forward to a ride out to “the summer resort by the lake” in the Black Maria, a horse-drawn workhouse van. Most were first-time offenders convicted of drunkenness, vagrancy, larceny and disorderly conduct. A few regulars highlighted in a 1904 article earned nicknames like “Repeater Pete” Heaney, 22, sentenced 29 times by then, or Hannah Albrecht, 55, “The Lady of the Lake,” then serving her 38th sentence.

When inmates came to the workhouse to serve their sentences, they were searched, bathed and given a haircut. Dressed in prison garb and fed with soup, bread and coffee, prisoners were set to work until the bell rang at 8:30 p.m., after which they spent the long night in their cells in complete darkness.

In 1887, funds became available for park development and a park board was established. One of the first tasks encountered by the new board was the workhouse: It did not belong in the park and should be relocated elsewhere as soon as possible. Its “naked breadths of ploughed field, the rough board fences and other agricultural incidents, do not form an agreeable frontispiece to the picture book of the park,” park board president J. A. Wheelock stated in 1895. Though he praised it as “exceptionally well-managed” and an important factor in the work of park improvements from 1883-1894, he described workhouse inmates as “not the best kind of labor.”

Workhouse inmates provided more than 72,000 days of work in the park during that period. However, inmates had to work in one large group under guard for relatively short periods of time and

did not necessarily care about the quality of their work.

While the workhouse was “temporarily” located in the park, the park board wanted to at least hide its “uncouth and forbidding aspect” behind trees. Board members felt especially sore that the workhouse board had cut down those 20 acres of trees for a farm. The workhouse was considered a serious impediment to the development of that part of the park, not at all in keeping with the grand park entrance planned at Lexington Parkway.

Unfortunately, the city couldn't afford to move the workhouse elsewhere.

In 1898, the park board asserted its authority and took possession of 24.5 acres of workhouse grounds consisting of most of the workhouse's farm. When the workhouse board took the matter to court, the court decided that one city board could not sue another. The park board began to plant those trees.

Things got a bit uglier in 1903 when the workhouse added a 150-foot tower to the front of the building. Park superintendent Frederick Nussbaumer declared that the workhouse board, “through an uncontrollable spirit for improvement and electrified by a magic touch of art, built a sentinel on the east front of the building in the shape of a galvanized spire, proclaiming in silent protest its unpleasant prominence in the surroundings.” The workhouse board replied that the park board had trespassed and spoiled a productive farm, and the tower, while perhaps taller than necessary and architecturally out of proportion, was added for fire safety.

Then the park board refused to use workhouse labor, calling the benefit of such labor an “old fiction which sought to justify” the workhouse's “illegal location” in the park. William Pitt Murray defended

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The way we (almost) were

History shows our community could have been quite different than it is today

By Judy Woodward

When you think of our neighborhoods, what comes to mind? If you're like many Bugle-area residents, the words "quiet, tree-lined and community-oriented" probably emerge quickly, followed perhaps by "family-friendly, progressive and well-educated."

Throughout the Twin Cities we are known for our pleasant houses, safe streets and civic-minded residents.

The area's character, however, was not ordained by nature, and our growth as a community followed no predetermined path of inevitable upward progress. An examination of the historical record shows that it all could have been much, much different.

For starters, we might have been part of Minneapolis.

In January 1900, the Hennepin County auditor claimed that, under the terms of an old legislative act, a big chunk of St. Paul belonged, in fact, to Minneapolis. The issue in question was, of course, property taxes: Which city's coffers would receive the revenues from St. Anthony Park and the northern section of the Midway district?

One resident's response went straight to the point. Area real estate dealer, C.W. Chase, went on record saying, "I prefer to remain in Ramsey County. The taxes are about one-fourth of what they would be [in Minneapolis]."

Local furniture dealer S.E. Brace took an approach so balanced that he could have used a jeweler's scale. "I ... prefer to be in St. Paul. It would have been far better, however, if originally the district had been included in Minneapolis." The Minneapolis Tribune pontificated in the rich purple prose of the era that bringing our district into the Hennepin County fold "would be a bad thing for both places, as it would rip open the old sore which is fast healing up, and create a fresh and deeper animosity."

Perhaps the county auditor heeded the newspaper's advice and allowed those interurban wounds to remain closed, since there don't seem to have been any other attempts to move the city borders. But that doesn't mean we were necessarily on the way to our current state.

We might have been an upscale preserve of the rich.

According to David Lanegran's book *St. Anthony Park: Portrait of a Community*, the original design for the area called for boundaries extending well into what is now Falcon Heights and Como Park. The early developers of the area had a vision of a "romantic suburb," says Lanegran, with "wealthy families ensconced in suburban villas tastefully sited on lots ranging from 5 to 25 acres."

We have only to look around

our relatively densely settled neighborhoods to realize that things didn't turn out quite according to plan. Nevertheless, parts of the area retained a healthy measure of social pretension for an astonishingly long time.

Well up to the 1930s, the society pages charted the daily life of the residents with the kind of breathless interest that we now reserve for the Kardashians. Readers of the Minneapolis Journal were regularly updated, for example, on the vacation plans of faculty at the University of Minnesota. Star Island in Cass Lake was a favored faculty resort, attracting a long list of professors and their families in the summer of 1936. But even the toniest lake resort was outclassed by the destination of a lucky few that summer, including "Dr. and Mrs. Chester A. Stewart ... [who] will sail in August and travel on the continent. ..."

Even when they stayed home, area residents sometimes found themselves in the society columns of the day. The Minneapolis Tribune charted the schedule of Mrs. Duvall Fontaine Polk (of the Virginia Polks), who lived on Keston Street in St. Anthony Park in a house that still stands. Mrs. Polk's life was one long social whirl of teas for her fellow Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members, followed by cultural soirées such as the one reported in 1894 when the good lady and her husband "gave a reception and musicale at their residence" for about 100 guests. Alas, the couple's good fortune does not appear to have survived into their later years. Mr. Polk, who was the manager of the U.S. Life Insurance Co., seems to have met later business reverses. His life insurance company disappears from local business directories by 1920, and by 1930 the City Directory reports that the widowed Daughter of the American Revolution had moved—of all places—to Canada.

But social graces don't always guarantee a quiet life.

We might have become a lawless den of iniquity.

The mean streets of St. Anthony Park? It sounds unlikely, but at the turn of the 20th century—and co-existing with the genteel musical soirées—there was an extraordinary amount of mayhem in our neighborhoods, if newspaper accounts can be believed. With a population that was only a fraction of our modern head count, the area managed to produce regular lurid headlines and a remarkable assortment of bad guys. Long before legendary gangster Ma Barker took up residence near Langford Park in the 1930s, the Tribune reported a varied crop of miscreants.

In 1893, there was a night of terror at the Brace residence at 923 Bayless Ave., when the family of the same S.E. Brace quoted above awoke

to find masked men pointing revolvers at their heads. After ransacking the house and uttering a stream of abuse that the newspaper helpfully rendered as one long dash, the assailants made off with Mr. Brace's gold watch, an item more "valuable because of its associations than its intrinsic worth."

Then there was George Howard, an urban cattle rustler of 1900. At a time when even city households often kept a cow for milk, Howard stole his bovine prey from neighboring homes and brought them, one cow at a time, to the "slaughterhouse in St. Anthony Park."

Howard attracted the suspicions of the slaughterhouse management by his willingness to settle for below-market value for his swag-on-the-hoof. Police were notified and a sting operation was set up. Before long, Howard was behind bars and the latest Bossie had been restored to its owner. Police had an explanation. Howard, they noted, was "from Duluth and ... had been driving a sprinkling wagon in the Kenwood District."

Another headline-grabbing affair involved a distraught lawman from Wisconsin who was arrested after brandishing a revolver in St. Anthony Park in spring 1908. Under the headline "Demented Sheriff is in Jail in St. Paul," the Tribune explained that Sheriff Joseph Bartelne of Lincoln, Wis., was actually a victim of workplace stress. Before boarding a train to St. Paul, the officer had spent three days in the Wisconsin woods unsuccessfully tracking an escaped murderer.

So how did Bartelne end up in Minnesota? Did the sheriff think the prisoner had fled to the Twin Cities? Was the escaped man ever recaptured? The news report is maddeningly silent on the details.

In terms of sheer criminal hoopla, perhaps nothing surpassed the Calderone affair of 1903. One Salvatore Battalia had been murdered on Franklin Avenue and the police traced a trail of blood, or so the Tribune reported in breathless tones, that led directly back to Tony Candiota's shoe repair shop in St. Anthony Park.

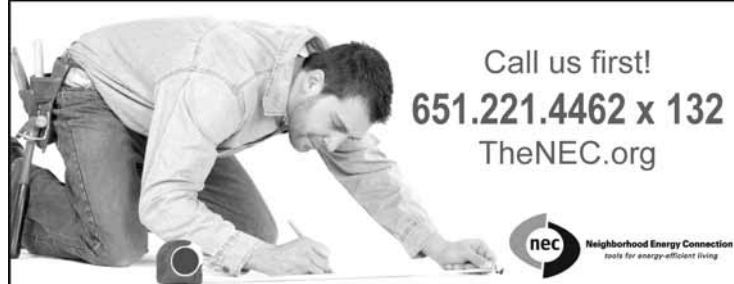
Given the Italian names of all involved, it was perhaps inevitable that the paper also muttered darkly about a Mafia link. Later reports discredited the Mafia angle and exonerated Candiota, but even the eventual account of bloody revenge and betrayal seems entirely too operatic for the modern-day neighborhood.


But the most disturbing episode of all might have been the evening that Charles M. Banks was almost lynched. Newspapers of earlier times didn't get bogged down in niceties like concealing the names of uncharged suspects or their victims. Thus it was in early January 1905 that the Tribune described the final

History to 14

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It's not Christmas until decorations start appearing on the pine tree on the southwest side of Lake Como (at right). Neighbors say the tree has been decorated anonymously for at least 20 years and no one seems to know how the tradition began or who initiated it. Other holiday scenes on this page include, a close-up view of one of the many varieties of poinsettias on display in the Sunken Garden at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park through Jan. 5 and some hardy souls who braved the subzero temps on Dec. 7 to visit the reindeer at Sunrise Bank during St. Anthony Park's Shop Home for the Holidays event. *Tree photos by Stephen D. Parker, poinsettia photo by Kristal Leebrick and reindeer photo by Lori Hamilton.*



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At top, Como Zoo's reindeer are celebrities! The zoo installed a webcam that viewers can check out through Animal Planet LIVE. You can watch them at www.apl.tv/reindeer.htm. They have out-of-town plans on Dec. 24, but they will be back on Dec. 25, and the zoo is open that day if you want to see them up close. At bottom, Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Sunrise Bank during St. Anthony Park's Shop Home for the Holidays on Dec. 7. *Reindeer photo by Kristal Leebrick. Santa photo by Jason Scott.*

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Santa Claus, Christmas Carol and carolers from Vienna Community Arts were on hand for festivities at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park on Dec. 7.

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

Harold Alexander

Harold H. Alexander, 89, died Nov. 5. He was a designer, artist and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois and University of Minnesota. He lived in Arden Hills. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Anne; sons, Jeffrey, Peter, Timothy and Patrick; daughter, Cassandra; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His memorial service was held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on Nov. 30. Memorials may be made to Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Regional Park.

Salvador Battisto

Salvador P. "Sam" Battisto, 85, died Nov. 25. He was the founder of A-1 Vacuum Cleaner Co. Sam was an active outdoorsman, traveler and teacher; loved being with people; was an Army veteran and a longtime St. Paul resident, with fun stops in Kailua, Hawaii, and Sacramento, Cal. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Peter, and siblings Ann and Alex. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; son Russ (Mary); daughters, Sue (Ron), Robyn (Jim), Sally and Rhonda; brother Jerry (Norma); five

grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. His funeral was held Dec. 3 at Corpus Christi Church in Roseville, with interment at Fort Snelling. Marcella Boomer Marcella L. Boomer (née Skorczewski), 93, died Dec. 2. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey A.; two sisters and a brother. She is survived by nieces, a nephew, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family thanks the staff at Lyngblomsten Care Center and Allina Hospice for the loving care they gave Marcella. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 6 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Oakland Cemetery.

Veronica Frantz

Veronica A. (Zaremba) Frantz, 98, of Roseville (formerly Falcon Heights), died on Nov. 23. Vee was born of Lithuanian immigrants in Enfield, Conn., in 1915. Always generous to those around her, she became an outstanding head nurse at Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Mass., where she ran a tight ship and also served as

a crack surgical scrub nurse. There she met and married the late Dr. Ivan D. Frantz Jr., and in Boston gave birth to the first of five boys, Ivan III, while Ivan Jr. was serving in the Navy during World War II. Vee was an excellent cook, tireless in looking after her boys and very proud of them. She showed genuine interest in the lives of everyone she met, and in typical fashion came to know well and to be well-loved by the excellent staff of Sunrise Senior Living in Roseville, where she spent her final years. Over the many years of raising her family in Falcon Heights, she was actively engaged in charitable work for Children's Home Society and in organizing volunteers for the University of Minnesota Faculty Women's scholarship fund. She volunteered at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, where she faithfully attended for many years. She is survived by five sons, Ivan III (Barbara); Charles Joseph; Donald (Barbara); Karl (Judith); and Robert (Janell); 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A church friend said, "Vee volunteered in several capacities at Corpus Christi. She worked several years at the rummage sale sorting shoes; she worked in the kitchen for Leisure Center; and she was always available for help in the office."

Visitation will be held at Roseville Memorial Chapel on Sunday, Jan. 12, 4-8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 14, at 10 a.m. at Corpus Christi Church in Roseville, followed by burial at Fort Snelling. Dale Gengler Dale Joseph Gengler, 62, died Nov. 27 at home in Falcon Heights. Dale grew up with nine siblings on a dairy farm in Slayton, Minn. He completed his food science degree in 1973 at the University of Minnesota and married Irene (née Roberts) in 1974. They shared a home for 39 years and a business for nearly 25 years. Dale was a jack-of-all-trades: food scientist, chemist, Mr. Mom, product researcher, handyman, gardener and repurposer of all things otherwise used and forgotten. Dale is survived by his wife; daughter, Amanda; son, Justin (Teresa); mother, Dolores; and nine siblings. A memorial service was held Dec. 5 at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Roseville.

Beverly Holcomb

Beverly J. Holcomb, née Crowther, died Nov. 29, a month short of her 77th birthday. She was a longtime member of Roseville VFW Auxiliary 7555. She was preceded in death by her sister, Shirley. She is survived by her husband, Larry; children, Bob (Shari) Crowther, Wanda Sauer, Karen (Mike) McCarthy and Janet (Sam) Nelson; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Her memorial service was held Dec. 3 at Como Park Lutheran Church. William Korstad William B. Korstad, 97, died peacefully on Nov. 10 in Naples, Fla. Bill was born in Thief River Falls, Minn., on July 1, 1916. Bill attended Macalester College and William Mitchell Law School and became an attorney. At Macalester he met his future wife of 65 years, Dorothy. Bill and Dorothy made their home in Falcon Heights and then North Oaks. They raised two children and were members of the Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. He is survived by a daughter, Beverly (Jonathan) Tomhave; son, Stephen W. (Rachel) Korstad; four grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. His funeral service was held Nov. 26 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. Julia Leitzke Julia Dart Leitzke, 81, of St. Anthony Park, died Nov. 25. She was a 1950 graduate of Wayzata High School and 1954 graduate of Macalester College. She received her master's degree in library science from the University of Minnesota in 1959. She began volunteering at the library at St. Anthony Park Elementary School in 1970. She was later employed as a librarian in various St. Paul public schools, retiring in 1993. Julia was an active member of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, singing in the choir, serving on many boards and participating in the Lucy Cummings Circle of the church's Women's Fellowship. She also was a sister in PEO International, a member of Sierra Club OWLS and a volunteer at Joseph's Coat, a free clothing store in St. Paul. She and her husband, Nowell, also volunteered with Meals on Wheels and she was a season ticket holder for Music in the Park. She loved to travel, journeying extensively through four continents. She was an ardent advocate for social justice issues and a supporter of many local arts organizations. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Nowell; son, David Leitzke; daughters, Susan (Arthur) Charlton and Sara (Michael) Quinn; and four grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Sat., Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Memorials are requested to the Friends of the St. Paul Libraries, Joseph's Coat or St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. Helen Wilson Helen C. Wilson, 93, died Nov. 18. She was a member of St. Anthony Park OES 212 and St. Paul Mat Sha Temple 62 Daughters of the Nile. She is survived by a niece, Cheryl Miffitt. An OES and Daughters of the Nile Service was

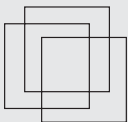
held Nov. 24 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home. Her funeral was held there on Nov. 25, with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

A tribute to Mandela

By Ted Homdrom After serving as a missionary for 35 years (1950-1985) in Apartheid South Africa, one example I documented in my book, Mission Memories II, shows the practical effects of Apartheid that spread even to country mission work in the early 1950s: But there was a new menace of intimidation that was slowly creeping up of which we were unaware when we felt the Call to South Africa. True, Alan Paton's Cry the Beloved Country vividly portrayed how the blacks were subordinated by the white minority government. But now that the National Party, which had come into power in 1948, was implementing its policy of Apartheid, or separation of the races, they, even on a country mission station, were beginning to see threats. When Pastor Shadrach Bhengu came to my office early one Saturday morning in 1952, he was remarkably disturbed. "Yesterday," he said, "while I was applying for a Marriage Officer's Permit, the magistrate suddenly began questioning me intensely. He wanted to know whether I was a member of the African National Congress or if I had been associating with any of its members." He was then warned to refrain from any kind of politics or association with them—or he could face possible detention. The district magistrates had evidently been warned to be on the alert for any spread of black nationalism by members of the ANC. Many, like Nelson Mandela, were prominent members of the ANC who faced the huge Rivonia Treason Trial (1962-1964) and imprisonment until 1990. During Mandela's imprisonment, there was a complete blackout in the public press. My greatest impression of what Mandela believed in and stood for was the concluding statement of the speech he gave at his trial: "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." May God bless his memory. Ted Homdrom's book Mission Memories II describes the struggles of an American missionary family as South Africa was embroiled in apartheid. He now lives in St. Anthony Park.

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the eat beat

New Year's health, prosperity, good fortune? Get cooking

By Alex Lodner

The birth of a new year brings with it hope and optimism. We make resolutions to pursue better health, save money, spend more time with family. We start diets and savings accounts; we implement family dinners.

We have the best of intentions. But a little luck on our side doesn't hurt, either.

Around the world, many cultures celebrate with traditional foods believed to bring good fortune in the new year. From Hoppin' John, popular in the southern United States, to a dozen sweet grapes enjoyed in Spain, there is a lucky treat for every palate.

Most of the world's New Year's traditions revolve around sharing food with friends and family. Some morsels are believed to bring great prosperity and health, while a few are best avoided. The recurring theme for lucky meals seems to include foods that symbolize wealth and prosperity.

Full circle

Round foods symbolize money and affluence in many cultures. In Italy, *Cotechino con Lentichie*, a dish made of pork sausages and green lentils is served because the green lentils represent coins. Here in the South, we have Hoppin' John, a dish that includes the coin-shaped black-eyed peas, which are considered fortunate.

Not surprisingly, round or ring-shaped sweets are popular on New Year's around the world. Baking coins or small trinkets into cakes and breads is a common (albeit slightly dangerous) practice in many

countries. Whoever gets the slice with the prize will have a prosperous year. In Greek tradition, a coin is baked into a sweet bread called *Vasilopita*. The bread is named for St. Basil, whose main claim to fame was returning lost jewels to their rightful owners inside cakes or breads.

The more the merrier

The Japanese consume *osechi-ryori*, colorful dishes packed in lacquer boxes called *jubako*, over the first few days of the new year. Each dish and ingredient in *osechi-ryori* has meaning such as good health, happiness or prosperity.

Spaniards mark the new year by popping a grape for each chime of the bell tower at midnight, while Swedes indulge in a smorgasbord of fish, crab, oysters and shrimp.

Pomegranates are not only a gorgeous centerpiece to any holiday table, their garnet-colored seeds symbolize prosperity and abundance in several countries. In Greece, a pomegranate is smashed on the floor in front of the door to reveal its contents. The more seeds, the more luck for the homeowners.

In Japan, soba noodles consumed at midnight on Dec. 31 are called *toshi-koshi soba*, meaning "from one year to another." These lengthy noodles symbolize longevity, so the longer, the better.

Lucky piggy

In some countries, including Cuba, Hungary and Austria, pigs are considered to be especially progressive because their little hooves point forward and they forage headfirst, rarely moving backward.

Luckily, pork dishes come in an array of delicious varieties such as roast suckling pig (Ireland, Cuba, Austria), roast pork and sausages with cabbage (Germany) and pig's feet (Sweden). Better yet, do as the Pennsylvania Dutch do, and marry pork sausage with some tangy sauerkraut, whose long strands represent a long life.

Leafy greens

Around the world, people eat leafy greens like kale and cabbage on New Year's Day because they resemble the best kind of green—cash. Rumor has it, the more you eat, the more prosperous you'll be. The Danish may have the right idea, noshing on stewed kale sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon.

Unlucky chickens

Steering clear of "unlucky" foods is wise year round but seems especially critical on New Year's.

According to many cultures, eating anything with wings can bring on bad juju in the upcoming year because it could fly away, taking good fortune with it. Chickens are especially ominous because they scratch backward, unlike the forward-thinking pig. You might also want to avoid backward-swimming lobsters.

The color white is a symbol of

death in the Chinese culture, so the Chinese avoid eggs during their New Year's celebrations.

Lucky Hoppin' John

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
1 medium red pepper, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 16-ounce package dry black-eyed peas
1 large (about 3/4 pound) smoked ham hock
2 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
1/4 tsp. red pepper, crushed
1 bay leaf
2 tsp. salt
2 cups long-grain rice
Parsley, chopped, for garnish

Directions

1. Heat vegetable oil in a 4-quart saucepan over medium-high heat. Add celery, onion and red pepper; cook 10 minutes until golden. Add garlic; cook 2 minutes longer.

2. Rinse peas with running cold water and discard any stones or shriveled peas. Add peas, ham hock, chicken broth, crushed red pepper, bay leaf, 1 tsp. salt and 4 cups water to celery mixture; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 40 minutes or until peas are tender.

3. Prepare rice as label directs, but use 1 tsp. salt and do not add margarine or butter.

4. In large bowl, gently mix pea mixture and rice. Serve hot.

Alex Lodner is a freelance writer who lives in Como Park.

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Free music series returns at Como Zoo & Conservatory

The Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is bringing back its Thursday-night winter music program, Music Under Glass, starting Jan. 5.

The free eight-week series includes live local musicians playing blues, bluegrass and ballads. Beer and wine will be available to purchase. The concerts will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The eight-week program kicks off with Matt Moberg playing acoustic folk and Americana. The rest of the schedule is listed below:

- Jan. 12: The Sunny Era, Gypsy indie rock
- Jan. 19: The Parisota Hot Club, music of Django Reinhardt
- Feb. 2: Urban Hillbilly Quartet, a mash-up of country, bluegrass and rock and roll
- Feb. 9: The Sudden Lovelys, self-described "aggressive folk"
- Feb. 16: Café Accordion Orchestra, swing, ballads, tangos, cha-chas and rumbas
- Feb. 23: The Ericksons, heart-breaking and heart-warming harmonies
- March 2: Jack Klatt, blues, rags and jazz

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Workhouse from 8

the workhouse in a 1904 newspaper article, noting its fine management, chiding the park board being unable

to complete its work (without workhouse labor), and mentioning, perhaps with no small satisfaction, that the tower “throws members of the park board into spasms every

time they look at it.”

Economic conditions conspired to keep the workhouse in the park and the rhetoric died down. By 1918, the workhouse was old and obsolete. Its cells had no running water or toilets, it was too small and cost too much to operate, the building wasn't fireproof (even with the tower), the grounds were too small, and inmates had to walk to their work in gravel pits and on city roads through then well-settled residential neighborhoods. The building was repeatedly condemned. Each time, just enough repairs were made to keep it going, but it didn't make sense to sink large amounts of money into an institution that needed to be relocated.

The slow move out of Como Park began when the workhouse first rented farmland outside the city in 1923. Nineteen years later, it purchased 239 acres in Maplewood and finally, in 1958, groundbreaking for a new facility began there. In 1960, the old workhouse, described in a Pioneer Press article as “ancient, unloved and unlovely,” was torn down.

Sharon Shinomiya is a freelance writer who lives in the Como Park neighborhood.

History from 9

minutes of the crime spree of the 18-year-old Banks.

Originally from Humboldt, Iowa, Banks had reduced our area to “a state of terror since Christmas as a result of the numerous assaults and holdups on men and women, some of which have taken place in daylight.” In the early evening of Jan. 4, he made the fatal error of attacking a Miss Hanson who was “knocked insensible ... and brutally assaulted” but not before her screams roused the attention of “several men ... at the Interurban Amusement Park” (possibly located in modern-day Como Regional Park).

The men quickly constituted themselves a posse and, armed with muskets, set off into the woods to track down their quarry. They were not long in finding him, and then the action really got going. A crowd gathered, bearing rope and yelling, “String him up.” Only the timely arrival of the Como Avenue streetcar allowed the “wiser heads” to extract their prisoner from the clutches of the mob and haul him off to the police station on Prior

Avenue.

Lynch mobs in Como Park are unsettling, but let's jump ahead a couple of decades to consider the strangest alternate future of all for our area.

We might have had a nightlife district. We might even have become noisy.

If there's one adjective overwhelmingly associated with our neighborhoods, it's “quiet.” Try finding a late-night restaurant or even houselights that stay lit past midnight. Then consider how different the scene might be if Oscar Tatkin had managed to realize his dream, as reported by the St. Paul Dispatch in 1922.

Claiming to represent

“Eastern capital,” Tatkin applied to the St. Paul City Council for a permit to construct a “\$65,000 motion picture theater on Como between Carter and Doswell avenues.” Tatkin claimed that he had already received permission to build a similar theater on Grand Avenue.

Supposing Tatkin had gotten his permit? In some parallel universe, could Como Avenue have become a second Grand Avenue—the biggest and most upscale shopping street in the city? We'll never know, in part because of the full-throated outrage expressed that day by St. Anthony Park dignitaries. Among those making “strenuous objections” to Tatkin's plan were a local bank president, the registrar of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and prominent businessman Gilbert Gutterson.

Declaring the neighborhood “a home community,” the men cautioned that it would be “contaminated by a theater.” Dean W.C. Coffey of the Minnesota College of Agriculture (as the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus was then known) warned that the picture show would prove a vile distraction to the 700 students under his supervision.

The students were “entertained with an educational film each Saturday night at the school,” he intoned. “Once a week is often enough.”

And there it stands. Dean Coffey thundering from the podium, and Tatkin recoiling in dismay, his plans rebuffed. Perhaps it was at that moment that the future of our area was truly determined. But, as we have seen, it could all have been quite different.

Judy Woodward is a Ramsey County librarian and a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

These articles were made possible in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

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Web, Facebook, & Twitter: SAPLC
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Education hour for all 9:45 a.m.
Children's choir school (babies to Grade 6) every Wed. afternoon (call for times)
Wednesday Night Community Dinner every Wed. 5-6:30 p.m. (free will offering)

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector 2136 Carter at Chelmsford
651-645-3058 www.stmatthewsmn.org
Sundays 9:15 a.m. Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Nursery care provided 9:00-11:20 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Night Prayer with Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 p.m. (Living Creche), 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m. - All are welcome!
Nigerian Celebration: Jan 12, 9:15 a.m. all ages learning hour including Nigerian history, culture, and music. Worship service and music from Nigeria featured January 12, 19 and 26 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

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

JANUARY Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Jan. 15 to be included in the next issue.

3 FRIDAY

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

6 MONDAY

Learn about the proposed sulfide mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and how it would impact the wetland and forest ecosystems, St. Anthony Park Library, 6-7:30 p.m.

8 WEDNESDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese Storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 3 p.m.

English Conversation Circle, every Wednesday, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Book Club, "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library

9 THURSDAY

Author Paul Clifford Larson talks about Architect Cap Wigington, Mosaic on a Stick, 7 p.m.

12 SUNDAY

A Gift of Music recital, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

13 MONDAY

Author Frank Joseph will speak on his book "Before Atlantis," Spirit United Methodist Church, 7 p.m. \$10 donation requested.

16 THURSDAY

Opening of the Goddess Show, a mixed-media art show at Mosaic on a Stick, 7 p.m. www.mosaiconastick.com

18 SATURDAY

Winter Family Craft Hour with winter stories and crafts for school-age children, St. Anthony Park Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

20 MONDAY

Martin Luther King Day, public schools and libraries are closed

21 TUESDAY

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

22 WEDNESDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese Storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 3 p.m.

24 FRIDAY

Co-ed Drum Circle, All levels of experience welcome; drums provided; \$10 at the door, Women's Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. www.womensdrumcenter.org

26 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Bridge of Sighs" by Richard Russo, Micawber's Books, 2:30 p.m.

28 TUESDAY

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

Design Review of Housing Options, District 12 Land Use Efficiency Task Group, Northwestern Hall (Luther Seminary campus), open to all, 7 p.m.

BLOCK NURSE EXERCISE

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

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

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

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

Thursdays, City Gables Apartments Clubhouse, Lauderdale, 2-3 p.m.

Venue information:

City Gables Apartments Clubhouse, 1611 Pleasant St., Lauderdale

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700S. Snelling Ave., 651-699-1378



All aboard the Night Trains

The Twin City Model Railroad Museum is displaying its dozens of model railroad layouts in a magical way through Feb. 22. The lights are turned down, the buildings and streetlights are lit and the make-believe town of Matlin is decked out for Christmas. The holiday Night Trains is open Saturdays, 6-9 p.m. There will be a special showing on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6-9 p.m. *Photo by Lori Hamilton*

Mosaic on a Stick, 1564 Lafond Ave., 651-645-6600

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

Olson Campus Center, Fulham Street and Hendon Avenue

Spirit United Church, 3204 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis, www.theosophical.org

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

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

Women's Drum Center, 2242 W. University Ave., St. Paul

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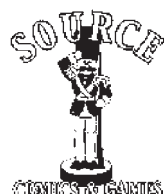
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Coldwell Banker Burnet**

**Office: 651-282-9650
Mobile: 612-790-5053**

nmeeden@cbburnet.com





Neighbors

Montessori teacher marks 25-year anniversary

For the past 25 years, Nora Cruden, or Ms. Nora as the children call her, has been making a difference for children in the community through her teaching at Kinderhaus Montessori Preschool in Roseville.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Cruden was not sure at first if teaching was the career for her. She took a year off after college to work in an office. "Sitting at a desk all day was not fulfilling," she said. "I learned I am the kind of person who needs to be active and interact with people."

Later, Cruden volunteered in a Montessori 3- and 4-year-old classroom at a local school. She was amazed when she saw firsthand how children at this age could learn so much quickly while moving around a classroom and independently making choices, she said. This experience, combined with fond



Nora Cruden is celebrating 25 years of teaching at Kinderhaus Montessori Preschool.

memories of her own early education, helped her decide to obtain a Montessori teaching certificate.

Her first Montessori teaching

job was in Colorado in 1976. In 1988, she began teaching at

Kinderhaus Montessori Preschool. Cruden's leadership helped to modernize the school, while maintaining its classical Montessori roots of focusing on the uniqueness of each child with respect to their interests and level of development.

When asked what has changed the most since she began teaching, Cruden said technology, which is a big part of children's lives today and in the future. She stressed that while computers can be helpful they cannot replace the experience of hands-on learning, especially for young children.

Her firm belief that young children need to know and understand the world through first-hand experiences has been the foundation for her teaching philosophy.

An open house will be held at

the preschool, located at 3115 N. Victoria St., on Thursday, Jan. 30, 5:30-7 p.m.

Theosophical Society to show documentary 'The Goddess'

The Theosophical Society will hold a public screening of the documentary "The Goddess" by researcher Dr. Maria Gimbutas on Monday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at Spirit United Church, 3204 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis.

There will be free refreshments and parking in the lot east of the church. The suggested donation is \$5.

For more information, call 651-235-6645 or go to the website, www.theosophical.org/membership/localgroups/Minneapolis.



Quilters share their work in the pews before donating a year's worth of stitching

The congregation at Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 W. Hoyt Ave., is treated each Thanksgiving to a sanctuary filled with the colorful handmade quilts created by the church's Tuesday-morning quilt group. The quilters gather each week throughout the year to work on quilts made from donated material. At Thanksgiving those quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief and local agencies and shelters. But before they go, the parishioners get a chance to see (and feel) the handiwork up close at the Thanksgiving Day service. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

St. Paul Parks & Rec 2014 sports registration dates

The City of St. Paul Parks & Recreation Dept. is moving to a standardized schedule for youth sports registration for all city recreation centers.

Registration for residents will now be held over the course of a month and will include "early bird" registration dates. The rollout of the new registration process will be held

Jan. 1-31 for volleyball, futsal soccer and floor hockey. Early bird registration, which includes a discount if you register online at www.stpaul.gov/athletics, will be held Jan. 1-5. The earlier you register, the bigger the discount. Registration discounts are as follows: day 1, 25 percent; day 2, 20 percent; and days 3 and 4, 10 percent.

Park & Rec programs typically range in cost from \$25 to \$75. Scholarships are available for residents who can't afford the fees. For more information, call 651-266-6400 or visit www.saintpaul.gov/athletics.

Here are the 2014 registration dates:

Spring sports (volleyball, futsal soccer and floor hockey), Jan. 1-31,

Early bird registration: Jan. 1-5

Summer sports (softball and baseball), March 1-31

Early bird registration, March 1-5

Fall sports (football, soccer), June 1-30

Early bird registration, June 1-5

Winter sports (basketball), Sept. 1-31

Early bird registration, Sept. 1-5

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or visit our website: sapcp.org

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Brimhall Elementary School

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

Brimhall roundup

Brimhall students will return to school in January ready for challenges after two weeks of holiday break. Sixth-graders will ski Afton Alps on Jan. 15, and the first spelling bee in recent Brimhall history will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, for grades 3-6. Brimhall's gym will be packed with young researchers eager to educate their guests at the 2014 Achievement Fair on Thursday, Jan. 20. The fair is for students who have opted to do independent research on a topic of their choice, from volcanoes to Victorian fashion.

Chelsea Heights Elementary

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

December concert

Fifth-grade students at Chelsea Heights will perform a musical review on Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the Chelsea Heights gymnasium. There will be two performances, 2 and 7 p.m. Music will include selections from Dominica, Jamaica, Uganda and the United States.

Como Park Senior High

740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800
www.comast.spps.org

3M finalists

Como Park Senior High School has nine finalists in the 3M Science Training Encouragement Program: Oladunni Alomaja, Gutame Burka, Sundus Hassan, Toumee Lee, Angela Lor, Shara Mafiz, Aisha Mohamed, Kongmeng Yeng and Mai Yang.

Want to learn about Como?

The Como Park Senior High Showcase will be held Thursday, Jan. 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and learn about programs and clubs and meet students and faculty.

Eighth-grade students interested in attending Como Park Senior High School next year may shadow a freshman student for a day on Tuesdays through Feb. 11. One-hour school tours for prospective students and parents will be available on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. To schedule a shadow day or tour, or for more information, contact Sandy Kestner at 651-744-3997 or sandy.kestner@spps.org. High school applications are due by Feb. 15.

Cocoa, cookies and conversation

Como Park Senior High will host an information session for families who are considering Como for next year. The gathering will include cocoa and cookies. Join Como students, parents and staff at Sunrise Bank, 2300

School News

Como Ave., on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m., to hear about their experiences at the school. All parents, guardians and prospective students are welcome.

Financial literacy

Last year, Como Park Senior High opened the Academy of Finance and the Cougar Branch Credit Union, the first credit union inside a St. Paul public school, for students and faculty to use, to teach financial literacy and provide work to students at the school.

Throughout the month of November, Como Park students were invited to play a financial game called "Tornado Bingo," where participants pick financial words from a word bank and put them on a bingo board.

Each day a new word was drawn and students were asked to come in to the Cougar Branch and define the word. Some of the words used were: "savings plan," "Direct Deposit," "ATM card" and "IRA."

The first student to get a bingo and the first to get a double bingo were given a chance to go in the Cash Tornado, a column of swirling award options that winners go into and try to grab awards.

Food drive

Como Park High School's Student Council is organizing a food drive for the food shelf at Keystone Community Services in St. Paul. Students and staff have set a goal of collecting 200 pounds. If you have Como students in your household or know any students from the neighborhood who you would like to send donations with, it would help the school reach its goal.

Great River School

1326 Energy Park Drive
www.greatriverschool.org

Open houses at Great River

Great River School, an urban Montessori charter school, will hold open houses for prospective junior and senior high school students in January. Visitors can learn about the school's curriculum and meet the faculty. All prospective seventh- and eighth-graders and their families are invited to tour the school on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Prospective ninth- through 12th-graders are invited to the school on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30-8 p.m. for informal tours (6:30-7 p.m.) and presentations about the curriculum and the school's International Baccalaureate program (7-7:45 p.m.). For more information, call Lydia McAnerney at 651-305-2780, ext. 102, or email lmcanerney@greatriverschool.org.

Small Schools Week

During Small Schools Week, Jan. 13-17, several small area schools (including some St. Paul public schools and charter schools) will hold open houses. At press time, Avalon School (grades 6-12), Laura Jeffrey

Academy (grades 5-8), Great River School (grades 9-12), Cyber Village Academy (grades 3-12), River's Edge Academy (grades 9-12) and Hiawatha Academies (grades 5-12) in St. Paul and Minneapolis were planning to open their schools to the public.

No reservations are necessary. For information on the date and times of each school's open house and an updated list of schools, go to the websites of these schools or look for a flyer at the St. Paul Public Schools School Information Fair on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the RiverCentre in downtown St. Paul.

Murray Middle School

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

Parent forum

The Murray Parent Association will have a forum for eighth-grade parents on the Como Park Senior High School pathway on Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., in the school library.

Science Fair

The open house for Murray's annual Science Fair for grades 7 and 8 accelerated science students will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to come and see the science projects.

Visit the school

Prospective sixth-grade students and parents are invited to tour the school on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 9:15 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

Tutors needed

Murray's Pilot One-on-One tutoring program needs tutors. Choose any day at any time: Monday-Friday, 11:22 a.m.-12:14 p.m., 12:18-1:07 p.m. or 1:11-2 p.m. Contact Cindy Thrasher at 651.744.5232 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

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

Read-a-thon begins Jan. 3

The annual St. Anthony Park Elementary School Read-a-thon will take place from Jan. 3 to 13. The goal this year will be for students to read for 275,000 minutes and raise \$12,500.

Learn about St. Anthony Park school at information fair or visit
The 2014 Parent Information Fair will take place on Saturday, Jan. 11, 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m., at the St. Paul RiverCentre. St. Anthony Park Elementary will be one of many St. Paul school choices showcased at this event.

To find out more about the school, visit the school website, <http://stanthony.spps.org> and click on the "For Prospective Parents" page. SAP is a popular school choice because of students' high test scores,

a curriculum that includes creative arts and environmental education, and the friendly neighborhood school setting.

Tours for families interested in the school for the 2014-15 school year will begin in January. An Open House will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thanks to all school supporters

Thanks to the community that supports St. Anthony Park Elementary School. Fundraising by the parent organization SAPSA is a year-round activity at the school. It begins each fall with wrapping paper sales, Chinook book sales, and the Fall Festival and silent auction. Most recently, Micawber's Books on Carter Avenue hosted its annual fundraiser for the school on Dec. 7, donating a portion of sales that day to the school.


Money raised goes to field trips, art and music supplies, artist

residencies, library books and shelves, physical fitness awards, enrichment classes, support for the school patrol, classroom grants for teachers and much more.

We also receive support from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. Thanks to grant money, the school is able to enrich learning opportunities with the artist-in-residence program; field trips to Camp St. Croix and Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center; Destination ImagiNation; and music education. In addition, the foundation helps support the Music in the Park series, which brings performances into the school.


Volunteers donate many hours organizing fundraisers, escorting students on field trips and building a sense of community. The school welcomes volunteer tutors. Interested in tutoring? Contact Lindsay Marcil, VISTA tutoring coordinator, at lindsay.marcil@spps.org.

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Como Park Senior High School

Open House—Showcase

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Crossward puzzle answers from page 6

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Como Park Senior High School teacher Jeff Caulum gives his first-year English language learners a hands-on field trip that includes taking a city bus to a restaurant and a trip to the state Capitol. *Photo by Marlee Leebrick-Stryker*

Real-world English lessons

By Marlee Leebrick-Stryker

Imagine learning a new skill in a language you barely know. Every fall, Jeff Caulum helps a group of students do just that.

Caulum, an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher at Como Park Senior High School, takes his first-year class on a field trip that includes taking a city bus and learning how to order food at a restaurant. The day ends with a tour of the state Capitol, where the students get a crash course in Minnesota state history and government.

This year, Caulum took nearly 20 ELL students and school service volunteers on the Nov. 26 trip. "It's a great

opportunity for [the new students] to put what they've learned in class to practice and to learn real-world skills," he says.

Participation has grown since Caulum started the annual trip four years ago. This year's students are recent immigrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, Laos and the Ivory Coast. Their time spent in the United States ranges from about six months to as little as three weeks. One Ethiopian student, Tahiro Ogato, arrived at Como Park on Sept. 13, just after the school year began. His class schedule includes science, math and the requisite English. English is not his second language but his fourth. His repertoire includes Arabic and Amharic, one of the primary languages of Ethiopia. Tahiro's studies are difficult, he says, but "it's OK; I am learning."

The day starts early and cold as Caulum leads his students out to the bus stop on Maryland Avenue just a block from the high school. "It costs about \$350 to rent a bus from the district like this," says Caulum. "It's cheaper and better to just take the city bus."

When the bus arrives, the students line up as Caulum hands out bus tokens to each student. "Don't forget to get your transfer [pass]," he says, his voice raised so that the very last student can hear him. "You'll need it later."

The ride is marked with student laughter and jokes. When they get to University

Avenue, the get off the bus and walk to McDonald's, where students practice their English skills by ordering their food at the counter. Sitting down with Tahiro and his sister Mariy, the conversation ranges from favorite television channels to how coffee is gross, especially black coffee.

After a breakfast of hash browns and soda pop, the group heads to the Capitol for the tour. "What a nice church," one student says, once inside the rotunda.

The students pull their cameras out and begin documenting their visit. The chaperoning teachers give the kids 10 minutes to explore the main hall, then Caulum divides the group in two and herds them off with two Capitol docents. The tour includes a look at the house of representatives and Gov. Mark Dayton's pressroom.

A student who has just arrived from the Ivory Coast leads a miniature French lesson with his peers, defining "L'Etoile du Nord" (Star of the North)—Minnesota's motto—for everyone else.

The field trip ends with a bus ride back to school. Caulum's students now know how to catch the bus in their new home and are learning how to ask for what they need. At some point, all this will become old hat, but for now it's one discovery after another.

Marlee Leebrick-Stryker is a recent graduate of Beloit College.

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Mary Hamel, Executive Director for Metro IBA

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Business News

A crash course in bathrooms

Local plumbers Charlie Avoles and Phil Quinlan of St. Paul Pipeworks will make their television debut on Monday, Feb. 24, when the show *Bath Crashers* on the D.I.Y. Network documents the remodel of a bathroom in a home in the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis.

A wholesaler that Avoles and Quinlan work with suggested St. Paul Pipeworks to the producers of the show.

Bath Crashers is a reality TV show that has its host, Matt Muenster, cruising the aisles of a home supply center looking for people who are planning to remodel their bathroom. “He sort of ambushes them and says, ‘Well, let’s go do it right now,’” Avoles said.

Except they don’t exactly go do it now. The show works under the premise that the bath is transformed in three days. The actual shooting

schedule is six days, which is a pretty tight schedule to remodel a bathroom, Avoles said.

“Workers were crawling all over each other and there was almost always a contractor working very late into the night, usually 2 to 3 a.m.,” he said.

The Minneapolis project, which took place in early November, began with a 5-by-8-foot bathroom with three features—a toilet, sink and bathtub—that was expanded into a small bedroom next to the bathroom. The new room added more square footage, a second sink and a large walk-in shower.

The wall that came down between the two rooms was the “plumbing wall,” which is where all the pipes are hidden, Avoles said.

And those hidden pipes brought a few surprises to the pair. “We literally had to work magic to get the waste piping to work for all of the fixtures,” he said, and do it with minimal damage to the main floor below and the master bedroom above the bathroom.

Avoles said he and Quinlan may get a spotlight on the show, as they solved an unusual plumbing challenge. “The existing large 4-inch cast-iron stack came up from the basement in the middle of the existing second-floor bathroom,” Avoles said. “This was a surprise to everyone.”



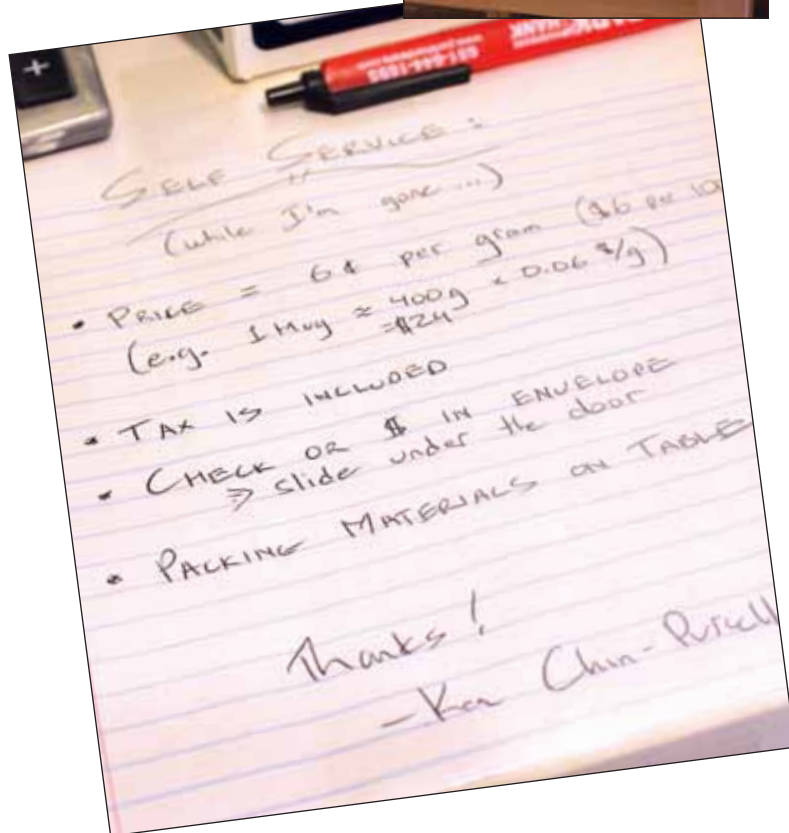
Charlie Avoles and Phil Quinlan make their television debut on the show *Bath Crashers* on Feb. 24. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

The film crew documented the plumbers’ solution to the unusual problem.

Check the local listings for the week of Feb. 24 to find out when the show will appear.—Kristal Leebrick

The honor system

Bungalow Pottery was closed for Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30, but owner Ken Chin-Purcell left some of his work out in case customers stopped in. Chin-Purcell left a detailed note on how to weigh a mug or bowl to determine its price, and those who came by to shop were able to make a purchase by putting money in an envelope and slipping it under the shop’s door. Chin-Purcell has done this before when he’s been out of town, he says, and has considered just pricing the work. But his neighbor across the hall, Eddie Owens of Turning Heads Hair Salon, who keeps watch over the potter’s work, said people enjoy weighing the pots. —Kristal Leebrick



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