1951 tragedy ended stunt flying at Minnesota State Fair

By Roger Bergerson

It was Labor Day 1951, and what I would turn out to be the last aerial thrill show ever at the Minnesota State Fair had 26,000 spectators on the edge of their seats.

The little red-and-cream biplane with a young woman on its upper wing, sped through a series of acrobatic maneuvers as the grandstand announcer described the action and emphasized how dangerous it all was.

Kitty M. Middleton, real first name Parry, a 17-year-old from the M. Isaac O. Park, was performing in only her third air show. At the plane’s controls was former military pilot Carl Ferris, 27, of Lansing, Mich.

As usual, the act’s finale was to be an engine-off dive, then a dramatic, power-on climb, followed by a triumphant pass by the grandstand. But this time something went wrong. The plane failed to come out of the dive, crashing about a half-mile to the north near Larpenteur Avenue.

There was a Collective gasp from the crowd as first a pillar of fire rose from the crash site, then a cloud of black smoke.

Ferris died on impact, the force of which tore M. Middleton from the straps that held her to the wing, tossing her 75 feet away. She died about an hour later at the Northern Memorial Hospital.

1951 tragedy to 18

Family Reunion

Children’s Home Society, Lutheran Social Services celebrate a combined 275 years of adoption

By Judy Woodward

Early in September 1889, a small notice appeared in the “The Social World” column of the Minneapolis Tribune. Tucked in between reports of the “lemon squeeze social” at Hamline Hall and the second annual entertainment of St. John’s Catholic Total Abstinence Society was a brief paragraph noting that “the young ladies who have been doing such efficient [charity] work” had given their group a name—the Children’s Aid Society.

It was the first appearance in print of what would become a mighty force for the welfare of homeless and adopted children throughout Minnesota and beyond. The Children’s Aid Society changed its name to the Children’s Home Society in 1896, and in 1903 it opened the first of what would become several landmark buildings in St. Anthony Park.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the Children’s Home Society of Minnesota will throw itself a 125th birthday party outdoors at the Luther Seminary Field at Como Avenue and Euclid Street, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Joining with Lutheran Social Services, another longtime Minnesota child-welfare organization what they are calling “Family Reunion: Celebrating 275 Years of Adoption.”

There will be entertainment, food and games for the kids. Everyone is welcome, but organizers are issuing a special invitation to families and descendants of the estimated 46,000 children who have been adopted through the two organizations since Lutheran Social Services opened in 1865. They’ve set up a special website www.adoption275.org for adoptees and their loved ones to “Share Your Story” through photos, memories and memories.

When asked to reflect on the changes that have occurred over the last century and a quarter for the Children’s Home Society, Alexis Oberdorfer, senior director of adoption, prefers to emphasize continuity.

“That resonates today,” says Oberdorfer. “Children placed through the orphan train movement [of the late 19th and early 20th centuries] were older and they often involved sibling groups” looking for placements that would allow them to stay together. “That resonates today,” says Oberdorfer.

Nevertheless, some adoption procedures have changed dramatically over the century-plus since the society’s annual report of 1901, which described the group’s efforts to pass legislation “choking the desertion of babies and leaving them on doorsteps.” International adoptions were unknown in those days, and the 1901 report pointed out that “the majority of the
Como Park Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

City Councilmember Russ Stark will be the guest at the September District 10 Como Community Council meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Stark will provide an update on city priorities and answer questions from the audience.

Auction features unique local items
District 10 Como Community Council have created a free audio tour of Como Regional Park. The tour features anecdotes about well-known park landmarks, such as the Lakefront Pavilion and conservatory, as well as lesser-known treasures. Download the guide and access the audio tour at district10como.org.

Family Fun Run is Sept. 13
The Falcon Heights/Lauderdale 5k Family Fun Run on Saturday, Sept. 13, will feature an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast and silent auction as well as local live music and children's activities. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the race begins at 9 a.m. For more information, go to falconheights.org.

How to catch the Green Line
Wonder how to catch the Green Line from Falcon Heights? You can take a Metro Transit Route 83 bus, which has a stop at the Roseville Super Target on County Road B and Snelling Avenue, and it will take you to the train’s Lexington Parkway Station. For more information, go to metrorail.org.

Pancake breakfast, silent auction will raise funds for District 10
The District 10 Como Community Council will host its annual pancake breakfast and silent auction fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 25, 8-11 a.m., at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center, 1480 Snelling Ave. N. The event will feature an all-you-can-eat pancakes-and-sausage breakfast, beverages, a children’s activity center and Halloween costume parade, and a silent auction featuring unique local items. Donations for the silent auction are welcome. Call 651-644-3889 or email district10@district10como.org to donate or to buy tickets. Buy now and save $1 per ticket.

Pavilion hosts Family Fun Run on Sept. 6
Register now for the Como Park Golf Course Fall Harvest 4-CWardl will be certifying arts and culture along the new Green Line at the Raymond Station on September, Sept. 9-10 a.m. T. The event will include a woodworkers competition, table tennis tournament, SparkIt Mobile Trailer, onsite letterpress activities and more. Artists and businesses interested in participating should email Amy Sparks at amyg3040@amyspark.org.

Lauderdale community council
The St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC) is looking for candidates to run for the board this fall. Elections will be held in Oct. Email SAPCC executive director Susie M Andra, susie@sapcc.org, to learn more.

Community cleanup needs you
The park’s community cleanup day will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cub Foods parking lot in Fridley. To learn more, go to stanthonyarts.org.

Recycle electronics in Roseville on Sept. 27
The annual St. Anthony Park garage sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cub Foods parking lot in Fridley. To learn more, go to stanthonyarts.org.

Peace Lutheran Church in Lauderdale will partner with Tech Dump, an electronics recycling nonprofit, to collect unwanted electronics (gently used, obsolete or damaged) on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cub Foods parking lot in Fridley. To learn more, go to techdump.org.

Recycle electronics in Roseville on Sept. 27
The City of Lauderdale will host a family’s market from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18, at Lauderdale City Park, 1885 Fulham St. Sassy Spoon Food Truck will be the main event at 4 p.m. Email lauderdalefarmersmarket@gmail.com or call Susie 651-329-8401 to learn more.

Lauderdale hosts farmer’s market
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SWARM CATCHERS

One woman’s tale of finding help when a mass of bees buzzed into her yard

By D. J. Alexander

Arriving at my Falcon Heights home from a Fourth of July outing this summer, I slammed the car door, opened the backyard gate and heard what sounded like distant chainsaws or thousands of bees buzzing.

I looked up to see that it was the latter—a swirling, gliding mass of honeybees moving as one and hovering 15 feet above my head. The swarm seemed to grow denser by the minute.

Swarming is a natural process of bee colony reproduction. A hive in my neighborhood had likely become too crowded, so the queen exited with more than half of her sister-bees to seek a new place to live, whether it be an empty tree cavity, the walls of a house or a neighbor’s attic.

From what I’d read, I knew that bees on the move were full of honey and unoccupied, thus unlikely to sting. As I watched, they soon settled down, covering a branch of the crabapple tree in the corner of our yard, where they hung in a dense, moving, oval mass about the size of a pig on a spit.

Knowing we didn’t want those bees to move into a house wall, I began phoning local bee suppliers. On this holiday weekend, one place was closed, another supplier was out of town. On my third call, to the Bee Knex in M Innopel, we were told no one was there. On my fourth call, to Joe Meyer, co-owner of Four Seasons Apiaries (fourseasonsapiaries.com, 320-493-8933), he said he’d drive right over.

Four Seasons is a new firm looking toward breeding bees that can flourish in Minnesota’s climate. Four Seasons also catches swarms. Four Seasons breeds new queens for sale. On the company’s blog, you can read about grafting queen candidates—larvae of a certain age—into artificial queen cells. Using sustainable practices, Meyer and his business partner rear such queens to optimize colony traits for winter survival in the Upper Midwest. They plan to sell surviving “overwintered” colonies next May.

“Winter provides a test,” M eyer said. “It weeds out the weaker ones.” While, to many people, all striped insects with stingers look alike, honeybees actually represent a small subset of pollinators. One species, Apis mellifera, has been bred for centuries to accentuate positive characteristics such as docile disposition, high honey production, resistance to disease and hardiness in the local climate.

By now folks have surely heard of Africanized bees, whose aggressive hive defense earned them the nickname “killer,” but the vast majority of honeybees buzzing around here originated from southern and central Europe, the heart of Italy in particular. Those bees are under threat.

In recent years commercial beekeepers have suffered devastating colony losses from colony collapse disorder (CCD). Bees today face risks to their survival, with more than half of the world’s bee colonies in decline. One reason for this is the trendy practice of removing bees from their hives to move them into new locations, a practice that has been found to cause stress in bees, and to disrupt their colonies.

Two concerns also play a role in the decline of bee colonies. First, pesticides are toxic to honeybees and other pollinators. Second, the expansion of suburban sprawl has reduced the amount of land available for bees to forage. The result is a decrease in the number of wild or “feral” colonies, M eyer said. At the same time the number of managed colonies, along with native pollinators, has declined, so saving swarms is good for the environment.

The concerts have capitalized on the intimacy of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ (capacity 350) since artistic director Julie Himmelstrup founded the series in 1979. The concerts draw chamber music lovers (performers, composers and audience members alike) to the Sunday afternoon presentations.

Music in the Park Series six-concert subscriptions are $132. Discounts are available for students. Single tickets start at $25.

Purchase tickets online at boxoffice.org or call the box office at 651-292-3268.
E D I T O R I A L
This, that and the other thing

As we were heading to press last week, we learned that the building that houses the U.S. Post Offices Como Station at 2266 Como Ave. in St. Anthony Park was for sale. That bit of news came as a surprise to the postal office itself, according to Postal Service employee Annette Edburn. The Postal Service has rented the building since 1970 and does not own it. Lorraine McCann and her late husband, Harold, bought the building in 1955. It had served as a Phillips station and garage, known as State Wide Engine Rebuilding. That business was run hand-in-hand with McCann’s love of stock car racing. H e won the 1961 State Fair M innesota Classic in a ’61 Ford. McCann had offered the building for sale in 1996. It was for sale for two years but never found a buyer at the market. At that time, the building was assessed at a market value of $156,000.

Cory Kingsby, the realtor representing Lorraine McCann, said the property is listed for sale at $779,900. Como Station is a busy hub in the neighborhood and a convenient station for many in the area. Let’s hope that whoever buys the building will keep renting it to the U.S. Postal Service.

Welcome to the Bugle’s new board members
September brings changes to Park Press, the nonprofit board of directors that publishes the Park Bugle. Four board members who spent the last three to six years lending their expertise in helping navigate the Bugle through some tough economic times have ended their terms. Nancy Olsen, Mark Johnson, Nate Flinn and Bruno Bornstein: Thank you for your time and immense talents.

We have three new board members taking the helm this month. They are P.J. Polafy, Betty Currie and Molly Mcgregor. This paper owes its longevity to the dozens of volunteers who have governed the operations of the Bugle since its inception in 1974. Welcome to our new board members.

And speaking of longevity
The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation marks its 15th year in September, and you can read all about it on pages 8-9. The foundation is directly responsible for helping launch, sustain and bolster a number of initiatives and institutions in the neighborhood. From the environmental education programs at Murray M iddle and St. Anthony Park E lementary schools and the elementary school’s artist residency program to St. Anthony Park Area Senior’s (the former block nurse program) to the Schubert Club’s Music in the Park Series to the Park Bugle, the foundation has lent a hand and strengthened the bonds in the neighborhood.

To the many volunteer board members who have served the foundation over the last 15 years and to Jon Schumacher, the executive director extraordinaire, well done!

Small is beautiful . . . and vulnerable

The Park Bugle began publishing in summer 1974, and to mark the 40th anniversary of this community newspaper, we will publish publishing back issues in the coming months. This editorial, written by editor Dave Healy in June 2003, seems just as appropriate today as it did 11 years ago.

What do people want in a neighborhood?

Recent events provide some clues about what Bugle readers value in the areas where they live. In Falcon Heights, the impending Town of Falcon Heights decision to replace an older commercial area with mixed-use construction that combines housing and retail establishments.

In St. Anthony Park, housing is also on people’s minds, as witnessed by discussion at a May 6 neighborhood forum that addressed a serious concern for a variety of affordable housing options.

St. Anthony Park residents have been prompted recently to weigh in on other issues as well. The threatened closing of the South Anthony Recreation center drew strong opposition, making it clear that the neighborhood highly values that resource.

Our community assets were affirmed in responses to a neighborhood survey conducted by urban geographer David Langner. Residents listed green space, the library and effective schools as things they liked about their community. The survey also revealed a strong value for varied, accessible shopping areas.

Two themes emerge from these events diversity and accessibility. People like variety in housing, in shopping, in a mix of developed and undeveloped land. And they like being close to the places they depend on for shopping, recreation and edification.

But maintaining diversity and accessibility is an enterprise fraught with peril. Commercial, educational and recreational facilities close when people live in an area threatened by a bigger-is-better mindset. The neighborhood drugstores, gas station, grocery store, barbershop, hardware store, post office—all are endangered species. So are neighborhood schools and recreation centers.

One way local establishments cope with the threat of being overshadowed or swallowed up is by trying to attract people from outside the community. So a neighborhood school becomes a magnet school. A store or restaurant tries to become a “destination” for people who may live far away. But what happens to the neighborhood feel of these places in the process?

Small may be beautiful but it’s also vulnerable. What’s the future of such longstanding local establishments as M i c a w i e r’s Bookstore or Blomberg Pharmacy or H er b ood Market or N o ll Hardware? How about the Como Station Post Office? Or neighborhood elementary schools like Chelsea Heights or St. Anthony Park? Or recreation centers like Langford, South Anthony or Northwest Como?

If the small enterprise can compete, it will fold. The resulting reduction in accessibility makes a community less attractive. Ironically, however, success can threaten the other thing people value about their neighborhood diversity.

Communities perceived as successful become attractive to outsiders, which causes real estate to appreciate, which makes housing affordable to an ever-narrower range of buyers, which makes neighborhoods less heterogeneous.

Healthy neighborhoods are a precious but fragile resource.
Black flies, mosquitoes, joint replacements won’t keep these women from their annual Boundary Waters trip

By Michelle Christianson

Last summer I had both of my hips replaced within a six-week span (another whole story), which kept me from doing many of the things that make summer so enjoyable. One of the adventures I missed the most was going on my Boundary Waters canoe trip with my women friends.

The group I go with is an offshoot of a Roseville Lutheran Church women’s group, begun in 1988 as a way to help women feel strong and capable. From that small group of women, our ranks have grown to include Kersey, Ruddy, Duke, Kathy Wellington and me, all of St. Anthony Park, and Nancy Nelson, of Roseville.

There are many reasons we joined the canoe group. We all like to go with just the women—we make for a less stressful, less competitive, more relaxing experience. Everyone pitches in and works together. Many of us want to return to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) when we were younger, and this annual trip makes us feel like we did then. And, really, the BWCA is the most beautiful place.

What’s remarkable about our trip is we do everything ourselves without an outfitter. We have the use of three canoes, four tents, all the packs we need, equipment and all the personal gear needed for a wilderness camping trip. We plan all our routes and meals (with no dried foods), get the permits, and portage and paddle when and where we like. Even more remarkable is that we still go. Many of us or any group have strong, involving sports, enjoying swimming, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing, but this year, one woman was 73, two were 72, one 65, and 64 was the “baby.” We’ve replaced or are contemplating replacing joints, and aches and pains don’t disappear as fast as they did when we were younger. Nevertheless, though we don’t do much portaging as we used to (which is a good thing, considering we had three canoes and eight packs this year), we still paddle well—including this July on giant Sagana Lake with a pretty good wind. And because we realize how fleeting life is, we enjoy the experience even more than when we took it for granted that we could do it.

Over the years, the canoe group has gone out of Ely, Sawbill Lake and, most often, off the Gunflint Trail, especially after the areas built their home on Lake Superior near Grand Marais (a great place to stay before and after going out). We don’t have a favorite place to canoe; if we feel bad, we’ll go somewhere else. But we like places with big campsites, big rocks, open views and access for interesting day trips. A Pine Lake was a real favorite until the fire that devasted the area, and we’ll go back out in the Seagull Lake vicinity because we’ve gotten to know Debbie Mork, who runs Seagull Outfitters and is always willing to keep us informed about conditions in that area.

The best parts of doing an annual canoe trip? Of course, there’s getting away from the responsibilities and worries of everyday life, having no agenda to keep and reveling in the fact that we can do it, but there’s more.

We love the peacefulness, serenity and beauty of the north woods. Listening to the loons and the wind sighing through the pines; swimming in the cool, clear lakes; and cooking meals over fires that we built ourselves. It’s fun to wake up each morning not knowing exactly what will happen during the rest of the day. It helps you realize how much of life we have no control over and how much we depend on each other. We have a real camaraderie and know that we will support each other, not just on the trips, but also through the joys and hard parts of the rest of our lives.

The worst parts of the trip are what you just imagine: mosquitoes, black flies, rain and high winds. (And I personally am not a fan of the latrines, though they are better than no latrines.) Just looking at the good and the bad, the good certainly outweighs the far off.

As in all long-term relationships, there are stories that keep passing on about what happened in earlier years. I hear the one about the bear that came into camp and would not be deterred from eating all the food (even though it was chased away a couple of times, the pack was hung in the tree, and pots and pans were waded while the campers sat in a canoe watching the bear eat). I hear there have been several trips when we evacuate in early because of rainstorms. My first second trip was just weeks after the 1999 blowdown, a derecho that destroyed 25 million trees in the BWCA alone and killed one person and injured 70 who were camping in the area. We were awed by the huge fallen trees that made portaging more than difficult and some campsites useless, and we were amazed that more people were not killed.

More than once there have been fires raging as we camped in nearby areas. We have seen helicopters carrying water from lakes around us to try to douse a fire and have sometimes run into more than the usual number of people looking for camp sites because their original plans had to change. One morning we awoke to smoke that looked like thick fog on the lake and sometimes we have talked to firefighters who were informing campers where fire would be a problem.

As in all long-term relationships, there are stories that keep coming back about how we feel like we did then. And, really, the stories will keep coming back about how we feel just like we did then.

Thoughts on Ferguson, Mo.

By Beth Mercer-Taylor

I am a white person saddened and disturbed by the death of an unarmed black teen in Missouri, and the aftermath, I am writing to you for several reasons. It is a story that is too perfect for us to ever completely separate from ourselves. It is a story that is too emotional for us to put down. It is a story that makes us think about our own stories, our identity and our cultural roots, just like you do. As in high school, I hold advantages in environmental justice and inequities within the U.S. and around the world.

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homless children came from American parentage and the least from Irish and Scottish nationalities. (Italics in the original.) Was the report alluding perhaps to an unacknowledged pecking order of desirability among available children? For a homeless child in earlier days, adoption often followed a stay of months or even years in the institutional setting of the orphanage.

In 1903 Joseph Elsinger, a St. Paul merchant, donated the land on Commonwealth Avenue for the first Children’s Home Society building in St. Anthony Park. Named for the deceased daughter of another early benefactor, Capt. John Martin, the Jean Martin Brown Receiving Home for Children, was renamed St. Anthony Park Home and is still in use as a skilled nursing facility for adults. The original plan was to use the new facility as a temporary way station en route to a permanent home for the children. With that end in mind, only children considered adoptable were accepted at the home, but even so “the period of detention was frequently somewhat extended,” according to a 1907 report.

The society closed its nurseries in 1948, after social workers determined that family-centered foster care placement was better suited to early childhood development than an institutional setting. A few years later, in the 1950s, the Children’s Home Society began its first international adoptions with the Baby from Abroad program. The earliest international adoptions came primarily from post-war Germany, but by the late 1960s, the society had begun its Korean adoption program, which soon came to be the largest such program in the United States.

The modern era of open adoptions wouldn’t arrive for many decades, but early placements of Children’s Home Society were not without occasional drama. A newspaper article from 1900 recounts the “remarkable romance of Little Elsie Ries.” Taken from her parents when her mother was sent to the workhouse just after her birth, Little Elsie was adopted by a “well-to-do family in Chicago.” A year later her rehabilitated birth mother convinced a sympathetic judge to order the reunion of the family. Children’s Home Director E.P. Savage was dispatched to Chicago to bring Elsie back. There he learned to his astonishment “that the woman who adopted [Elsie] passed [her] off on her husband as her own.” Furthermore, the Chicago man refused to give the baby up, declaring “that he had become attached to her” and that “he would shoot anyone” attempting to take her away. And there the story ends, the adoptive father defiant and the birth mother in St. Paul “weeping and . . . forever separated from her child.” No further mention of Elsie or either set of her parents can be found.

Of course, most early adoption accounts didn’t strike such a tragic note. Far more typical were letters like the one from the May 1904 issue of the Society’s publication, The Minnesota Children’s Home Finder, in which “Mrs. M.” an adoptive mother, reported that her son is a “nice, strong, healthy boy, besides being truthful and industrious. . . . he is good at anything, whether at chopping wood or eating mince pie.”

Adoption procedures have changed since the era of Little Elsie and the unnamed young fan of mince pie. What remains is what Oberdorfer calls “the goal to strive for . . . all kids to be cared for in a family setting. I would love to say that there wouldn’t be a need for adoption by the time the Children’s Home Society celebrates its 200th birthday in 2089,” she says, “but I don’t see that being eliminated.”

Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Roseville Library and a regular contributor to the Bugle. In 1901, “four sturdy little boys and a little girl all of one family” came to Children’s Home from the western part of the state.
As the baby boom ages

Falcon Heights is a good case study on how a community is affected by an older demographic.

This article is part of the occasional Who Are We? series in which writer Judy Woodward examines the Bugle's communities from the changes that have taken place in the 1980 U.S. Census to the present.

By Judy Woodward

What's going to happen to the baby boom generation now that they are beginning to reach their senior years? Thanks to their numbers, they've exerted an outside influence on society ever since they were bursting the seams of their grade schools back in the '50s, '60s and early '70s. Are they still going to be reshaping the demographic landscape in their seventh and eighth decades?

One place to look for some answers is the northeast section of Falcon Heights, known officially as Ramsey County Census Tract 419. Census figures tell us that in 1970, the median age in Falcon Heights was just 25, reflecting the many families with children living in the city. By the time of the Census 2012 American Community Survey estimates, the median age for Tract 419 had risen to 43.3, with women reflecting an even higher median age at 47.4.

In 1960, baby boomers—those born between 1946 and 1964—made up about 45 percent of the population in Falcon Heights. By 2012, baby boomers still made up nearly 40 percent of the residents of Tract 419.

The difference is that the boomers are several decades older, changing the area from a suburban neighborhood of postwar families to a more established residential area, with people living in the same Falcon Heights house for 40 years.

In that respect, they're like a lot of their neighbors.

The Ciernias arrived in Falcon Heights just at the beginning of Paul's 25-year career with a local computer manufacturer. They were among the many young couples who moved to the comfortable inner-city suburban neighborhood of postwar ramblers. They raised a family, made some improvements to their house and watched their children grow up, "People stay in their homes. Fifty years ago the area was teaming with children," Paul says, "but in more recent years, "We've seen changes in age composition, and household size has decreased.""

Jones says that, in part to boomers with paid-off mortgages and stable lives, Falcon Heights survived the Great Recession in good shape.

"We haven't seen housing values decline. Our housing stock is good quality, but small," she says. "We're close enough in (to the metro center) to be a desirable place to live, but there's no pressure to add housing density." Without many cafes and boutiques—what Jones calls the ''walkable amenity''—Falcon Heights is likely to escape gentrification pressures. "We aren't prestigious enough to attract teardowns," she notes wryly.

Calling Falcon Heights "an island of placity" and "a comfortable place without a lot of change," Jones notes that most changes produced by the aging of the baby boom have been small and incremental. "There was demand for a recreational ice-skating rink at the city park and more interest in community garden plots. The Recreation Department still maintains outreach to youth and families" but it's added yoga for older adults. "Extension classes for older adults offered by the University of MInnesota through the Other Lifelong Learning Institute have found a home at City Hall."

"The classes are very well attended," says Jones, as is the free income tax help offered to senior citizens by AARP.

In fact, one of the biggest changes that Jones has noticed is how people communicate with City Hall. When Jones started working there, "The phones rang all day. Now people email us. The boomers are on the electronic side of the divide. Phone calls get fewer and fewer ... residents are passively engaged but in electronic space." Often, people want to communicate with City Hall about a building permit. Although Falcon Heights is a "fully connected community," according to Jones, she handles the permitting process for improvements.

"People are not expanding their houses, but they are remodeling the interior. Many have reduced four little bedrooms to two luxury ones. Or they've remodeled the kitchen or add a bath. But they're not expanding the footprint of the house."

The Ciernias are just as likely to hop on their bicycles for recreation as they do cite access to public transportation as a neighborhood plus. "Our house is close to bus service on Snelling Avenue. That's a nice thing," says Paul.

Jones agrees, noting that public transportation in their area has improved with the recent addition of express buses on Snelling Avenue that connect Falcon Heights to the new Green Line light rail on University Avenue in St. Paul.

The Ciernias' children are now grown, and one big difference in the area is the decrease in the number of school-age children in the last 40 years. "Our first child was born in 1976," Paul says. "I have kids around. Everyone on the block had kids."

But that number was not to last.

Mobile society makes it hard to predict school district needs

According Jan Vanderwall, retired technology coordinator of Roseville Area Schools and a boomer himself, the number of young children in the district dropped so precipitously in the 1980s that the Ciernia local school, Falcon Heights Elementary, was briefly closed.

Vanderwall explains that the further adventures of Falcon Heights Elementary School are a good illustration of the pitfalls of demographic prediction. "I've been in the business of making enrollment projections based on the birth rates five years earlier. I was accurate to within around 10 kids (out of 500) in predicting the right number of kindergarten children." Now we live in an increasingly mobile society, says Vanderwall, "and those birth rate numbers have become meaningless as predictors."

Falcon Heights Elementary has long since reopened and enrollment has stabilized, he explains, but fewer students come from the Ciernia neighborhood. An influx of Somali immigrants plus other residents of the new apartment complex at Larpenteur and Snelling avenues, as well as cross-border enrollment from St. Paul, account for many of the new students.

What hasn't altered over the years, says Vanderwall, is Falcon Heights financial support for its school. "The district has never lost a

Baby boom to 16
Joe Meyer of Four Seasons Apiaries shakes bees into the super. Photos by D.J. Alexander

Joe Meyer of Four Seasons Apiaries sucks the bees out with a special vacuum and cuts out the comb, keeping an eye out all the while for the queen.

So the July save at my home was relatively easy. As soon as the swarm in our yard finished entering the bee box, Meyer nonchalantly tucked a piece of screen into the rectangular opening (to let in air) and neatly stowed the now-covered super in his car's trunk. While to us it was a wonder, he made it all seem quite ordinary.

D.J. Alexander is a freelance writer who lives in Falcon Heights.

You have just days left to vote for one of three proposals in the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation's 15th Anniversary Grant Challenge. Voting ends on Sunday, Aug. 31.

To celebrate 15 years of serving the community, the foundation announced the competition in May as a way to encourage fresh ideas for neighborhood initiatives. The foundation will grant $5,000 per year for three years to the winner. The top three entries in the contest include:

- **Shakespeare in the Park**: An annual outdoor community theater that will provide performing art opportunities for all ages at a walking- and bike-friendly location. The project would be guided by Sam Bardwell, a Guthrie-trained actor, director and Shakespeare expert.

- **Transition Town All St. Anthony Park**: This group has already started working on community-owned solar, local food production and preservation, and more. The grant would support broader community participation and communication through social media, internet and print for this group of neighbors working to make the community more resilient as it deals with challenges associated with global climate change. The grant would help with the creation of a community road map toward energy conservation that would also increase economic and infrastructure resilience, and enable the community to work and celebrate together across generations.

- **Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (formerly Rock Star Supply Co.)**: a nonprofit group at Raymond and University avenue that offers tutoring, writing development and homework help to students ages 6-18 from low-income households.

Voting for community foundation’s grant challenge ends Aug. 31

15 years of giving

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation invites the community to celebrate the foundation’s 15th anniversary on Friday, Sept. 19, 7-10 p.m. at Urban Growler Brewing Co., 2325 Endicott St.

The event will feature music, a trivia contest with prizes and a short program at 8 p.m. to thank the community for helping the foundation achieve $1 million in pledges to its Forever Fund. This endowment fund has provided more than $400,000 in grants to community organizations supporting education, arts, seniors, health, environmental and economic development programs.

Music will be provided by local favorites, Sweet Rhubarb, starting at 7 p.m., with headliners, Field Trip, featuring former neighbor, Lucy M ichelle, taking the stage from 9-10 p.m. M ichelle gained national recognition over the past few years with the Velvet Lapelles, who form the foundation of the more recent Field Trip ensemble. Sweet Rhubarb, consisting of neighbors Amy Fato, BurnNk ruglar and Priscilla T homas, has been playing a mix of bluegrass, pop, country and folk around the region for the past several years.

The event is free but participants pay for their own food and beverages.

Bark Perks raised $530 for ReIn in Sarcoma.

During the month of October we are raising money for Community Neighborhood Housing Services.

Saint Anthony Park

15th Anniversary Celebration

Friday September 19, 7-10pm
at Urban Growler Brewing Company
2325 Endicott Street St. Paul, MN 55114

Join your friends and neighbors

Grant Challenge Winner Announced!

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation invites the community to celebrate the foundation’s 15th anniversary on Friday, Sept. 19, 7-10 p.m. at Urban Growler Brewing Co., 2325 Endicott St.

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The many benefits of bird feeding

I really enjoy watching birds. When I began watching birds about 25 years ago, I would walk the three or four blocks to Lake on the northeast border of Lauderdale and the M Itland H IIs Golf Course. I'd go early on a Saturday morning, sit under a big cottonwood tree and watch to see what would show up. It was there that I learned to identify eastern kingbirds. A pair had a nest on a limb that reached out over the lake. I was feeding, chasing away any bird that came too close. I could see why they were called kingbirds.

And there I learned to watch pied-billed grebes and to keep watching them. They're a small, duck-like bird when seen at a distance, but keep watching. They can adjust their buoyancy so that they float with just their head sticking out of the water. And sometimes, after diving for food, they'll come up under some pond weeds and peer out from under their impromptu disguises.

In my life, I've been on many field trips around Minnesota to the East and West Coasts, as well as some expeditions to far-off places like Nova Scotia, Costa Rica, the Amazon and Ecuador. Those trips built up my life list, and it was fun to be in a totally different habitat seeing birds we'd never seen in the upper Midwest.

But I began to feel like I was just a stenographer, writing down what the trip leader called out and not taking the time to try to identify the birds myself. In fact, if I'd been challenged to do the identification myself, my list would have been challenged to do the identification myself. In fact, if I'd been taking the time to try to identify the birds, the trip leader called out and not taken the time to really observe the bird for myself, my list would have been more than a few moments at a time. I really enjoy watching birds. When I began watching birds about 25 years ago, I would walk the three or four blocks to Lake on the northeast border of Lauderdale and the M IIs Golf Course. I'd go early on a Saturday morning, sit under a big cottonwood tree and watch to see what would show up. It was there that I learned to identify eastern kingbirds. A pair had a nest on a limb that reached out over the lake. I was feeding, chasing away any bird that came too close. I could see why they were called kingbirds.

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But I began to feel like I was just a stenographer, writing down what the trip leader called out and not taking the time to try to identify the birds myself. In fact, if I'd been challenged to do the identification myself, my list would have been dramatically shorter. There wasn't any time to really observe the bird for more than a few moments at a time. I haven't traveled after birds for about 10 years now. And I'm OK with that.

What I've done is changed how I look at birds. Rather than just ticking them off my list, I'm learning to pay attention to the birds I see. The other morning I saw three newly fledged chipping sparrows sitting on the front sidewalk. I walked toward them to get the newspaper, and they looked at each other as if to say, "What's this big thing coming? Mom's never told us about this." And they took off.

The special thing about seeing three young chipping sparrows is that it means the parents were able to get three of their eggs to hatch and fledge—no small task, it turns out. Chipping sparrows are a favorite host parent for brown-headed cowbirds. The female cowbird lays its egg in the chipping sparrow's nest and when the egg hatches, the chipping sparrow parents spend all their time stuffing food into that big cowbird chick.

So those three chippers made it up and out of the nest. Hooray for success! We're fortunate that our kitchen is in the front of our house. I can sit at the table with my morning coffee and the paper and look out at the bird activity at the feeders in the front yard. (It also helps that I'm retired.)

That's a great way to get to know birds. Put up some feeders and add a bird bath if you can. You'll get to recognize "frequent flyers," birds that favor a certain feeder.

You can experiment with feeder types, feeder placement and seed choices to see what works for the birds in your neighborhood. The proprietor of your wild bird store will be very willing to offer suggestions.

Over the past two summers, we've had great interest at our grape jelly feeder. We've seen more orioles than we've ever had before. And, beyond feeding those returning migrants in spring, we've watched as they bring their youngsters to the grape jelly later in the summer. That means that somewhere near by, a pair of orioles (or more) have successfully built that hanging basket nest and raised a couple of kids.

Another success.

Feeding birds can benefit more than just the birds. In June, I gave a talk on neighborhood birds at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis. Afterwards, I was signing copies of my book, a woman asked me to dedicate it to her husband. She said, "Write: To Steve, who feeds the birds."

"Hers out there every morning, filling up all the feeders," she said. "Every morning ... since the dog died."

Feeding the birds had offered some solace to him after he lost his morning ritual of walking his dog. I wrote out the dedication, autographed it and handed the book to her.

She leaned toward me and said softly, "We're going to get another dog."

Feeding the birds might bring you unexpected benefits as well.

Clay Christensen's book, The Birdman of Lauderdale, is available from local bookstores and bird stores as well as online from Birdmanbook.com.

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The business area surrounding the intersection at Raymond and University avenues whispers of old-time small-town Main Street and modern urban community in the same breathe. Creative and industrial commerce thrive side-by-side, setting the backdrop to a vibrant and energized residential community.

The ebb and flow of the Raymond-University district over the past half-century reflects the fluctuations of populations and eras come and gone. Today, it's hard to miss the glint of a new golden era. The arrival of the Green Line, signaling the start of a new microbreweries—could be seen to subside. Today, industry, and the tension eventually began to turn heads and draw crowds from across the Twin Cities.

The steadily increasing stream of new faces—young and old—dotting the streetscape appears to be ushering in a new era for south St. Anthony Park. The arrival of the Green Line, combined with a cluster of new residential and commercial developments— not to mention a growing number of local and national entrepreneurs—indicates the start of a new golden era.

New found harmony

The last “golden era” for St. Anthony Park roughly took place between 1950 and 1970, as David Lanegran explains in his book St. Anthony Park: Portrait of a Community. With World War II over, household incomes were on the rise and business and industry were booming.

The population of north St. Anthony Park was on a steady incline, but expanding industrial operations taking advantage of the central location and ample shipping routes radiating from the area began to take over residential land in the south. While the population of north St. Anthony Park grew by 26 percent in the past two decades, the fluctuations of populations over the past half-century reflect the ebb and flow of the area that had already resulted from freeway construction.

Worried their cozy residential community was in jeopardy, neighbors banded together to fight the expansion. They went as far as creating a document called “Battle Plan for Survival: Let’s Beat the Industrial Bulldozer” (The Neighborhood Strangler). In it, the South St. Anthony Project Area Committee outlined 16 points, including calling for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to convert industrial land into housing.

The group was largely unsuccessful in their demands, and the tension eventually began to subside. Today, industry, residential and commercial sectors of south St. Anthony Park seem to have found a peaceful harmony.

Instead of viewing industry as a threat, many now see it as a welcomed reminder of the area’s heritage that brings both charm and valuable jobs to the area. “South St. Anthony Park is unique in that we are able to co-exist with industrial uses right next to residential,” said Ellen Waters, who lives in south St. Anthony Park and served on the District 12 Community Council for nearly 10 years. She also ran the now-defunct St. Anthony Park Business Council from 1994 to 1996.

“We didn’t want to get rid of industry, but to balance it and residential, and I think we have succeeded,” she said. “I don’t want our community to be solely a place people live—it should be a place for people to make a living as well.”

Shannon Forney, who is preparing to open a new café, WORKHORSE COFFEE BAR, in the old Edge coffee shop space, says she appreciates the industrial character of the neighborhood and the fact that it has historically been a place characterized by work and industry. She sees a renewed appreciation of industry and manufacturing broadly.

“I think there is a real renaissance of the worker, where there’s a celebration of that industry and manufacturing,” she says.

No longer solely identified by its industrial past, a growing number of vibrant small businesses are joining hundreds of new housing units at residential developments like the Carleton Artist Lofts, the Lyric and C&E Apartments to create a bustling and unique urban community.

New businesses add to area’s growing identity

Just within the last two years more than a half dozen new businesses opened doors at Raymond and University. Every one of them is independent, locally owned and has some sort of creative flavor. Many are also lending to the emergence of a vintage and retro shopping destination as well.

The two most recent arrivals on the block are Junk Love at 777 Raymond Ave. and Skon Chiropractic at 856 Raymond Ave. Both opened within the last two months.
Junk Love is adding to the retro vibe of the area with an eclectic offering of salvage and restoration Americana. Combined with other local shopping outfits like longstanding Succotash, which celebrated its 19th anniversary in the storefront at 781 Raymond Ave. this month, Shag Studio at 799 Raymond Ave. and MidModMen + Friends at 2401 University Ave., the area has already been recognized as a destination for retro treasure hunters.

Throwing in Spinario Design and Classic Retro at Pete’s—each less than one LRT stop away from the hub at Raymond and University—the Star Tribune called the area the “Best hotspot for retro style” in its 2014 Best of MN feature.

“Everyone kind of has their own style,” Malia Schroeder, who owns Junk Love, said of the cluster of vintage shops. “As a hunter of this stuff, when I go somewhere and I see there’s five other places I can stop at, I’m stoked.”

The retro identity includes more than salvage and restoration housewares and furniture. Two new used record shops—Barely Brothers and Agartha—offer a vinyl music shopping experience. And the block’s longest-standing institution, Key’s Café, an area fixture for 40 years, offers an old-timey menu and diner décor. Owner Barbara Hunn says today, she sees more young people at the diner counter taking the place of industrial workers who would often post up for breakfast and lunch daily in years past.

Today the faces populating the streetscape are a bit younger on the whole, a bit more artsy, and “maybe a little bit of a hipster thing creeping in,” as Spencer Brooks of Barely Brothers Records, notes.

Creativity abounds

Retro shopping is only part of the area’s emerging identity. “This place is filled with creative businesses,” said Neal Kielar, who owns MidModMen, with his partner, John Mihus. Apart from the immense creative energy it takes to curate a successful midcentury retro furniture store, they also host the work of two local artists in their store.

CJ creativity might not be the first thought to come to mind when thinking of a chiropractor, but the newly opened Skon Chiropractic proves otherwise. Owened and operated by husband-and-wife team William and Suzanne Skon, the office doubles as a gallery for Suzanne’s artwork. The space is filled with drawings, paintings and sculptures she created over the last 15 years.

Workhorse Coffee Bar will be the newest business to open in the area later this fall. The women-owned business is moving into 2399 University Ave. with plans to offer performances by local musicians and a place for local artists to display their work. Owners Shannon Forney and Ty Barnett were chosen as one of 69 finalists from more than 800 entries in the St. Paul Knight Arts Challenge. Their proposal is to curate St. Paul’s tiniest museum in a recessed fire hose cabinet in front of their shop.

Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., is perhaps the most obvious manifestation of creativity in the area with a rotating gallery featuring work from local and regional artists. Creative work continues up Raymond Avenue at Salongeorge, 856 Raymond Ave., where Patty George and her team “find inspiration every day in the hair industry, fashion, the arts.” The salon offers hair and beauty services but also hosts a rotating display of art. Two music schools—Chanson Voice and Music Academy and Swift Music, both on the 700 block of Raymond Ave.—attract plenty of musicians to the area, as well.

Roundtable Coffee, the Twin Cities’ first coffee-roasting incubator space, probes the artisanal side of the coffee world like few others. And the artistic eye and craftmanship of Jerry Meusburger and Dianne Revoir at Bargain Upholstery, 797 Raymond Ave., bring a craft-
Raymond-University from 11
oriented creative slant to the block. Of course, one would be remiss not to mention the culinary creativity drawing crowds of customers at Foxy Falafel.

Creative entrepreneurship radiates far into the neighborhood, and interest in the area from other creative enterprises seems to be growing. “We’ve noticed we are fielding more and more inquiries from professional but creative entrepreneurs and arts organizations,” said Brad Johnson, who owns three of the storefronts on the 700 block of Raymond.

“The branding work that neighborhood groups like [the Creative Enterprise Zone, a District 12 task force working to bring more creative businesses to the neighborhood] have been doing lately seems definitely to have had an effect.”

Small-town charm, collaborative spirit
Much of the charm business owners and residents enjoy in the Raymond-University area stems from a feeling that things wouldn’t look or feel much different a half decade earlier. The fact that there is hardly a chain store or national retailer in sight certainly lends to that sentiment.

“There’s something about the neighborhood—it’s got an authentic feel. We’re in a big city that has a reasonable amount of uniformity to it, and there is something about [this place] that still has that authentic feel to it, . . . there’s no pretense here,” Kielar said.

MidModMen started as a pop-up shop through the Starling Project put on by the St. Anthony Park Community Council in 2012. Surprised by both their success and the quaint, tightness of the community, Kielar and Mehus decided to stick around.

They didn’t expect the robust neighborhood market they found here, Kielar said. Many St. Anthony Park neighbors are regulars in their store, both buying their products and offering up vintage finds of their own for restoration and resale.

When people communicate and talk and share ideas it just makes collectively everything happen and more desirable to travel to,” Schroeder said. And travel they will.

Evidence of the promised increase in pedestrian traffic accompanying the new Green Line is mostly anecdotal at this point, but many shop owners in the area say they are already seeing an effect. Kielar said he recently had a customer in his shop who took public transit all the way from St. Cloud to ride the Green Line from start to finish.

“Whether the Green Line tourism factor will persist remains to be seen, but for the time being, the future looks promising for the shops at Raymond and University Avenues. There’s definitely an upward trend in this area, no doubt there,” Albright says.

Kyle Mianulli is a freelance writer who lives and shops in the Raymond-University area.
Skon Chiropractic opens on Raymond in St. Anthony Park

By Roger Bergerson

Dr. Bill Skon was never what you'd call a long-distance commuter.

Like his father and uncle before him, he maintained a chiropractic practice in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood of St. Paul, but in recent years he dreamed of working closer to his St. Anthony Park home.

“I love to live and work. I'm a five-minute bike ride away,” said Skon.

The Associated Bank building at Snelling and Selby avenues where he rented space has been torn down to make way for a Whole Foods store and apartments, so Skon Chiropractic moved to 816 Raymond Ave., south of Hampden Park.

The landscape architect who previously occupied the quarters had displayed art, which made the space especially appealing to Skon and his wife, Suzanne. In addition to being the office manager, Suzanne Skon is an artist herself.

“We tried to retain the gallery feeling by having Suzanne's work throughout,” Bill Skon said, “which I think makes it nice for both us and our patients. It seems appropriate since the area is regarded as a creative zone.”

Skon Chiropractic can help with injuries or pain arising from a variety of conditions and circumstances. In addition, Skon said, most people can benefit from having a chiropractic adjustment every so often. He takes a holistic approach, emphasizing the importance of exercise and nutrition to overall health and well-being.

“We're pretty low key,” he added. “We meet people where they're at, giving them the care they need, whether that's for relief of their symptoms or to help maintain a healthy lifestyle.”

To learn more about Skon Chiropractic, go to www.skonchiro.com.

New deli menu, outdoor dining on new co-op manager’s to-do list

By Kristal Leebrick

Hampden Park Co-op's new general manager, Greg Junge, wants to capitalize on the opening of the Green Line on University Avenue and the two new brewer-ies—Urban Growler and Bang—just blocks away on Endicott Street by expanding the 40-year-old food cooperative's offerings.

Last week, the co-op added an outdoor dining area, and Junge plans to add more items to the deli menu to include a line of evening desserts that may attract some Urban Growler after-dinner traffic to the co-op, which is located at the corner of Hampden and Raymond avenues.

More community outreach (which includes letting the public know they can stop to live music on Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., new menu items and fresh paint are on the list for Junge, who started his position in July after a six-month search by the co-op's board of directors. Junge (pronounced "young") brings 15 years of management experience, working for various food service and food retail organizations such as Walmart and Sodexo and startup Northeast Minneapolis restaurant SNAP!}

By Kristal Leebrick

Hampden Park Co-op is a member-owned full-line grocery store with more than 3,500 members. Junge wants to see the membership increase.

It’s a big part of the community, and the store did a great job of sticking to its mission during the recent economic recession, Junge says. That mission is to serve its member-owners and the community by promoting wholesome, healthful and ecologically sound food consumption with the involvement of its members in food selection and operation of the co-op. Many of the co-op’s members volunteer in the store in exchange for discounts on their groceries.

Prior to joining the co-op, Junge was the assistant store manager of the grocery section at the Cottage Grove Walmart, which has a full line of natural and organic foods. He previously was general manager for Sodexo at General Mills, where he created lunchtime offerings with rotating menus prepared by high-profile local chefs. His background also includes serving as the general manager of SNAP!, a pizza and ice cream restaurant in Northeast Minneapolis that was open for several years.

Left: Greg Junge joined Hampden Park Co-op in July. Photo by Kristal Leebrick.
Sparky’s Grill opens at Como Golf Course

By Alex Lodner

When the new Sparky’s Grill at the Como Golf Course Club House opened in June, the event went virtually unnoticed. A green sign marked the entrance to the new establishment, but for a while only those who regularly golfed at the course discovered that what used to be a simple concession stand is now a sunny restaurant with one of the best views in the city.

Site manager Don Siggelkow hopes the new venture will attract more golfers and non-golfers alike to feel welcome here and bring their families to enjoy our food and the golf course, but Prom Catering, an Oakdale-based event-management company hired in January to manage both the Como and Phalen golf courses, is upset and looking at other options, he said. The Como Golf Course Club House has a new restaurant but still needs to find a way to generate the needed income and make Como Golf Course a destination for people around the metro. We really want to keep this wonderful golf course going.”

“We want golfers and non-golfers alike to feel welcome here and bring their families to enjoy our food and these amazing vistas,” Siggelkow said.

“Think of it as a public park, with a great restaurant.”

In order for the restaurant to be as much of an attraction as the course, Sparky’s Grill has Caesar salads, veggie burgers, BLTs, mac and cheese, and chicken wings. Sparky’s also has a full-service bar with tap beers, wine and liquor. It also offers coffee and breakfast sandwiches for early birds, getting in a few holes or a ski run before work.

The upper level of the clubhouse, complete with a wood-burning fireplace, is available for special events such as wedding rehearsal dinners or business meetings. Events can be catered by the grill downstairs or by Prom Catering out of its Oakdale facility, which offers a larger menu.

Siggelkow said the menu will continue to expand, with comfort food dishes added in the winter for skiers and sledders—and the views through the clubhouse windows are just as beautiful in the snowy months.

JT’s Fitness offers one-on-one personal training on Como Ave.

Jim Thomas, proprietor of JT’s Fitness at 1810 Como Ave., likes to emphasize the word “personal” when he refers to the training he provides. To him, this means getting new gyms across the Minnesota State Fair. A longtime athlete and personal trainer since 1995, he says he loves what he does: “If you have a goal, I’ll help you achieve it through diet and exercise.”

Jim Thomas of J.T.’s Fitness. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

A native of Jackson, Miss., Thomas came to the Twin Cities in 1980 to follow a high school football coach who had accepted a job at Inver Hills Community College.

After more than two decades at Fitness Express in the Commodore Hotel on Western Avenue in downtown St. Paul and just a year on Selby Avenue, Thomas moved his business to Como Avenue this summer. He brought all of his longtime clients with him, he says, and that includes doctors, lawyers, school superintendents and people who want to lose weight, get in shape or even gain the strength to climb mountains.

Jim Thomas of J.T.'s Fitness. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

JT’s Fitness offers one-on-one personal training on Como Ave.
St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville has a new pastor

By Janet Lunder Hanafin

If there is a typical Lutheran pastor, the Rev. Ali Ferin isn't there yet. But, as the new associate pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, she is on her way. Pastor Ali, as she is known, is a 2014 graduate of Hamline University's bachelor of arts degree in social work. She started her journey to becoming a pastor in 2011 when she was accepted into Luther Seminary, the Lutheran Church in America's seminary in St. Paul. In high school, Ferin found community through various church choirs, teaching Sunday school and confirmation class, singing in all the choirs, taught Sunday school and met her husband when they both worked at a Lutheran Bible camp for a summer. Even as a youngster she wanted to work in the church, so she took an adult education class while still in high school. Her one rebellious act was attending Iowa State University with her sweetheart rather than going to one of the Lutheran colleges.

Ferin's interest in social, grassroots movements and communities, particularly indigenous peoples, got its start when she was 16 and spent part of a summer on a church mission trip to Tanzania.

"I left so much of my heart there," she said. "I thought theologically for the first time in my life why God moves the way God moves, and why the world works the way it works. I learned so much about seeing poverty, and also seeing abundance, seeing joy happen despite fear and illness." Ferin completed her undergraduate degree in philosophy with a minor in international relations in three years. married her husband, Ben, and "pipelined" straight to Luther Seminary, intending to become a youth director.

"As I was taking the classes and starting to be formed as a pastor, I realized that it felt really right," she said. "It was a challenge, but it was everything I had hoped for. Sometimes I wonder what is God doing, but I could never imagine not doing this." She hoped to find a job in the Twin Cities because her husband is employed here, but she knew it would be difficult. She admits to being surprised when she was invited to interview for an opening at St. Michael's.

"St. Michael's is a healthy, thriving community, with a history of social action, (which) I care about," she said. "After meeting with Pastor (Roland) Hayes and learning more about St. Michael’s, I knew this is what I felt like to be called." Ferin began her work at St. Michael's the first week in July and has already been initiated into the experience of congregational family camp at Luther Dell in northern Minnesota and Vacation Bible School at the church. She was ordained on July 26.

She and her husband enjoy running and traveling together, and reading is a treasured interest, but time for hobbies is limited, she said. Her family lives in the area and she is an adoring aunt to a new nephew.

As she begins her ministry, she looks forward to "learning from Roland's wisdom," she said. "It's critical for me as a young pastor to learn some of those skills that only come with experience. There's something about congregational ministry that has pulled me in. I really believe in the power of what a congregation can do in a community."
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Community Worship Directory

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
1744 Walnut St. (at home), Lauderale, 651-644-5440
www.peacetudente.com
Sunday worshop, 10 a.m.
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
All are welcome. Come as you are.

S P I R I T U N I T E D C H U R C H
3204 Como Ave S.E., MInneapolis, 612-378-3602, www.spiritunited.com
All are welcome. Come as you are.

ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
2326 Carter Ave., St. Paul 55108
651-645-5178
M-Th 10 a.m.-6 p.m., F-Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
www.thelittlewinehoppe.com

Worship

SUNDAY MASSES: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the church
ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
2315 Como Ave. St. Paul

Worship

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A recording in Congregation. All are welcome!
www.stampumc.org, 2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como), 651-646-4859
Pastor: Melanie Homan
For children 3 (as of July 1) through Grade 5 (completed).

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2129 Commonwealth Ave (corner of Commonwealth and Chelmsford)
651-646-7173 www.sapumc.org
9:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages; 10:30 a.m. worship
Pastor: Victoria W. Ligocki
Grd is 5th Speaking

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 651-645-9308
Regular Fall Worship Schedule begins Sundays, September 7
Education for all ages begins September 14. All are welcome!
Sundays 9:15 a.m. Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with sermon and communion
Nursery care provided 9:00 a.m.-11:20 a.m.
7 p.m. Night Prayer with reflection and communion, dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8 p.m. Michgewi Worship in the side chapel, lunch following.
**SEPTEMBER 2014 PARK BUGLE 17**

**Events**

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, Sept. 3, to be included in the October issue.

**1 SEPTEMBER**

Winter sports registration opens at St. Paul’s Park and Recreation. Register early for discounts. Call 651-284-6400 or go to saintpaul.gov/athletics to register.

**2 TUESDAY**

Baby lap storytime, Tuesdays, St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Blood drive at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2-7 p.m. Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org and key in the ZIP code 55108, or call Michelle at 651-647-9526.

Domestic & international adoption information session, CHLSS, 6-8:30 p.m.

**3 WEDNESDAY**

Adult Basic English Class, Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park Library, 1 p.m.

Conversation Circle, Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park Library, 4 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Book Club, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30 p.m.

**5 FRIDAY**

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

Falcon Heights Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

Co-ed Drum Circle: percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women’s Drum Circle, 6:30-8 p.m. Register at chlss.org/supportgroups.

**6 MONDAY**

Parent—Toddler Time, a six-session play group for adopted children ages 1–4 and their parents, begins at CHLSS, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call 651-647-9000 or www.womensdrumcenter.org.

**8 MONDAY**

Falconers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

Crocket Like a Pro, four-session adult class meets every Monday in September. St. Anthony Park Library, 6-7 p.m. Call 651-642-0413 to register.

**9 TUESDAY**

Adoptive Parents Group, for parents whose adopted children are now adults, CHLSS, 6-8 p.m.

**11 THURSDAY**

Senior Cinema Series: “Mud,” St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m.

**13 SATURDAY**

St. Anthony Park neighborhood garage sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**15 MONDAY**

Community Sing, Olson Student Center, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. Free admission.

**17 WEDNESDAY**

Minnesota’s Waiting Children Information Session: Learn about adopting children who live in foster care, CHLSS, 6-8 p.m.

**18 THURSDAY**

Pre-school Mandarin Chinese Storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Farmers Market, Lauderdale City Park, 4-7 p.m. Food from Sassy Spoon Food Truck, 4-8 p.m.

**20 SATURDAY**

Domestic and international adoption information session, CHLSS, 9-11:30 a.m.

Community cleanup, state fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**22 MONDAY**

Falconers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

Bubble Gum Group, a six-session group for kids ages 8-11 and includes a parents group, begins at CHLSS, 6:30-8 p.m. Register at chlss.org/supportgroups.

**26 FRIDAY**

Co-ed Drum Circle: percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women’s Drum Circle, 6:30 p.m., $10 at the door, drums provided.

**28 SUNDAY**

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, “To Sing Along the Way,” by various female poets. Micawber’s Books, 2:30 p.m.

**29 MONDAY**

Beyond the Bubble, an eight-session group for youth ages 11 and older and includes a parents group, begins at CHLSS, 6:30-8 p.m. Register at chlss.org/supportgroups.

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**5 FRIDAY**

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Falconers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

Crocket Like a Pro, four-session adult class meets every Monday in September. St. Anthony Park Library, 6-7 p.m. Call 651-642-0413 to register.

Author William Kent Krueger will read from “Wriggly Island,” M’Cawber’s Books, 7 p.m.

Joseph A. Amara, of M’agus Books & Herbs, will speak on high magic at Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7-9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Theosophical Society. Free refreshments and parking in lot east of the church. $10 suggested donation.

**9 TUESDAY**

Adoptive Parents Group, for parents whose adopted children are now adults, CHLSS, 6-8 p.m.

**11 THURSDAY**

Senior Cinema Series: “Mud,” St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m.

**13 SATURDAY**

St. Anthony Park neighborhood garage sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Grace Erickson
Grace Lawrence Erickson, 97, died peacefully July 11.
For many years, Grace volunteered to read textbooks for blind college students, read books on the radio for the Minnesota Society for the Blind (now Minneapolis-based Vision Loss Resources) and served for 16 years at the Auxiliary of Doctors Hospital of St. Paul, Minn. Grace and her husband, Arnold (Arvill), were active charter members of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Como Park, and later of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in St. Paul. After moving to Anoka in 1993, Grace attended Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka. Grace moved to North Ridge Care Center in 2011 after a stroke.
She was preceded in death by her husband; siblings, Gen Thompson, Lois King, Imogene Seashore and Chuck Johnson; and special friend Ken Webster. She was survived by her son, Doug (Galene); Jack (Karin) and seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her friends at North Ridge Care Center, where, after suffering a fall, Grace would reach out to tap on their shoulders, nod her head and encouragingly say, “I’ll see you tomorrow.”
Services were held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church July 24.
Nell Mahlke
Nell (J.) Robie Mahlke, 87, of St. Paul, died Aug. 3. She is survived by her husband, Dale; sons, Jeffrey (Mary Lou Church) Philips, Christopher Phillips, Mark (Sue Phillips) and Steven (Nonie) Philips; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
1951 tragedy from 1
Pacific Hospital near Snelling and University Avenue.
Mrs. John J. Keller owned the cabbage patch behind 1780 W. Larpenteur Ave., where the plane crashed. She told the St. Paul Dispatch that, because of the daily shows, she “had lived in fear all week that we’d be killed.” Her grandson, William Miller, 13, had been lodging weeds just before the crash and started running as the plane approached.
Several thousand curiosity-seekers rushed to the scene, causing extensive damage to the 10-acre truck garden.
The teaming of Middleton and Ferris, sometimes billed as “The Skylarks,” had been veteran performers at the Minnesota State Fair and went on to work for Northwest Airlines.
Dale Doyle had a handshake agreement, recalls Chuck Doyle Jr. “No money down and $3,000 to be paid at the conclusion of the Minnesota fair.”
Aerial thrill shows—wing walkers, parachutists, car-to-plane and plane-to-plane transfers, planes crashing into houses—had been a popular grandstand feature for 40 years.
Dale Doyle had performed stunts himself at the Minnesota State Fair and went on to work for Northwest Airlines.
Middleton’s or Ferris’s survivors.

Kirk Marschel
Kirk K. Marschel, 25, of Maplewood, died July 25.
He is survived by his parents, Kevin and Paulette (Ive) Museil; brother, Erik; and grandparents, Al and Ellen Museil.
His funeral service was held July 25 at 10 a.m. at Olive Lutheran Church in Como Park.
Marion Skweres
Marion (Frost) Skweres, 96, of Falcon Heights, died July 22.
She was preceded in death by her husband and best friend of 61 years, Thomas C.; infant daughter, Jennifer; her twin brother, Donald; sisters, Heidiwenn Hennan and Irene Degan; She was survived by her children, Gail (Tad) Jaras, Pat (Mick) Aisy, Thomas (Cindy) Skweres; Charles, Ryan, and Kuan; Marion Skweres, Charles, and Kuan; grande children; and 13 great-grandchildren; and special nieces, Lorraine Hennan and nephew, Tom Degan.

Kirk used tools from mathematical logic and set theory to develop powerful methods for understanding fundamental economic questions of consumer preferences, rationality, choice, coalition formation, competition, and equilibrium. His work on revealed preference is widely applied to analyze and predict behavior by rational agents. Following his vision, generations of economists have used mathematical tools to develop simple techniques for analyzing complex problems.

Always deeply curious and passionate about ideas, Ket was a spirited colleague, dedicated mentor and lifelong learner. At his death, he was preparing a new theory on intensity of preference.

Ket met his beloved wife, Sheila Mills Richter, at Swarthmore. They met upon graduation in 1954 and remained lovingly married until her death in 2011. Both were members of the Prospect Hill Friends Meeting.

Kirk was preceded in death by his wife and parents, Maurice Nathaniel Richter and Brinda Hinsfield Keel Richter. He is survived by daughters Cynthia Rasch-Richter (Marni) of Minneapolis, and Lila and Lila (Reid) Frost of The Berkshires.

Kirk was the youngest of 13 children, didn’t require much to sustain him; he needed a more fair bookings, he needed a more
Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Fariba Sanikhaham, 651-239-0321. Ads are $5 per line. Add a box or art for $10. Next deadline: Sept. 12.

PARK ANGELS CHILDCARE. Infants to 11 years old, near Como & Dossell. Call Addie, 651-644-0518.


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

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MATTIE’S LAWN & LANDSCAPING. Spring cleanups, shrub & hedge trimming. Residential/commercial. 651-235-9384. gardnut1170@gmail.com

GARDEN MANAGEMENT, PLANTING & DESIGN Liz of M Horticultures graduate 1997, Rachel Krony. Paisley Garden Design, 651-600-1678. paisleygardendesign@gmail.com

SAT. ANTHONY PARK COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE. Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 am-6 pm. To be part of the sale, go to sapcc.org for a form and submit it by Sept. 9. To shop the sale, find maps at 8 am 113 Rappleye or Hampton Park Co-op.
Rock Star Supply Co. has new name, expanded programming

One year after Rock Star Supply Co. set up shop at the southwest corner of Raymond and University avenues, the tutoring and writing development center that offers free tutoring and homework help to low-income students ages 6 to 18, has adopted a new name and expanded programming.

Now called the M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. (Mind Improvement Outcomes Center), the center will launch a crowdfunding campaign through Indiegogo on Sept. 15 to raise capital to open a retail shop aimed at funding the program.

M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. was awarded a $30,000 Star Grant from the City of St. Paul, and the Indiegogo campaign will raise money to match that funding, said Chad Kampe, director of the center. The funding goal is $41,300.

M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. is also one of three groups in the running to receive a $5,000 grant per year over three years from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. (See the story about that grant challenge on page 8.)

M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. is working to become part of David Eggard Jr National, a nonprofit that gives leadership training, administration and other resources to writing and tutoring centers around the country. The centers are patterned after Pirate Supply Co., which was started by author Dave Eggers in San Francisco.

Pirate Supply blends a fun retail shop (yes, it sells pirate gear) with artists and writers who are willing to tutor.

Besides Kampe, M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. has two full-time AmeriCorps VISTA workers and a number of volunteers with students. Kampe says this year schools will come to the center on field trips for bookmaking and writing workshops.

Find out more about M. I. O. C. T. L. O. N. or to volunteer go to www.mioconnect.com.

Tutors needed for Minnesota Reading and Math corps

The Minnesota Reading Corps and Math Corps are statewide initiatives to help every Minnesota student become a successful reader by the end of third grade and proficient in math by the end of eighth grade.

Tutors commit to 11 months of service, during which they earn a biweekly living allowance of $526 (full-time) and an education award of up to $3,645 to help pay for further education. Full-time tutors may also receive health insurance.

Students ages 6 to 18, homework help and literacy and math tutoring are needed. Tutors commit to 11 months of service, during which they earn a biweekly living allowance of $526 (full-time) and an education award of up to $3,645 to help pay for further education. Full-time tutors may also receive health insurance.

Tutors are needed to work in the Pilot One-on-One program. Tutors will work with students in grades 6-8 weekdays between 11:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tutors can choose the day or the hour that works for them. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact Cindy T. Hraher, Pilot One-on-One tutoring coordinator, at cynthia.t.hraher@ipp.org or 651-293-8740.

Murray Middle School seeks volunteer tutors

Murray M. I. D. S. School, 2200 Buford Ave., is seeking volunteer tutors to work in the Pilot One-on-One program. Tutors will work with students in grades 6-8 weekdays between 11:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tutors can choose the day or the hour that works for them. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact Cindy T. Hraher, Pilot One-on-One tutoring coordinator, at cynthia.t.hraher@ipp.org or 651-293-8740.

Schools host Cub Scout registration night Sept. 18

“Rocket into Scouting” at your local elementary school on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 7-8 p.m.

Statewide, boys in grades K-5 can sign up for Cub Scouts on this evening. There will be registration tables at local elementary schools, including St. Anthony Park, Chelsea Heights, Como Park, Crossroads, Brimhall, Falcon Heights and Maturity of Mary-St. Andrew School.

Every new scout who registers on this evening will receive a rocket that can be built by the scout and launched. For more information, go to rocketintoscouting.org.