



Meet the new principal

Como Park Senior High School's new leader, Theresa Neal, is a familiar face there.

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Bell Museum

It's a go: The new Bell Museum of Natural History will break ground in spring 2015.

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Happy anniversary

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church celebrates 125 years.

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*Celebrating
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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Falcon Heights
Lauderdale / Como Park

www.parkbugle.org
July 2014

Summer reading

What's the perfect beach book? It depends on who you are asking.

By Dave Healy

Summertime and the livin' is . . . what? How you finish that sentence depends on your circumstances. Are you a student or teacher who has the summer off? Are you a parent of school-age children scrambling for activities to keep them occupied? Are you a homeowner who spends some of your summer at a cabin, with the resulting responsibility of keeping two yards mowed?

If indeed summer living is supposed to be easy, how does the season affect your leisure activities? In the world of movies, we've come to

Good summer read to 6



All aboard!

District 12 Community Council member Seth Levin gets ready to hop the Green Line at the Raymond Avenue Station during its inaugural run on June 14. Trains began rolling at 10 a.m. that day. The Bugle followed Levin on his trek to the Union Depot and back to Raymond Avenue. See some of the sights from the Green Line launch on pages 10 and 11. *Photos by Kristal Leebrick*

Fridays at Langford

Senior group has been meeting at the rec center for years for the camaraderie—and the bowling

By Kristal Leebrick

Angie Gubrud rarely misses a Friday morning at Langford Recreation Center in St. Anthony Park. The 96-year-old also rarely misses a pin during the group bowling that takes place in Langford's gymnasium during the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Weekly Senior Group.

"She gets a strike 90 percent of the time," according to Zach Hahnen, who helps coordinate the group.

Gubrud is one of nearly a dozen regulars who spend two hours a week at the park bowling, playing darts, having coffee and doughnuts, and enjoying one another's company.

Gubrud, who lives in Midway, is an original member of the group, which began meeting at South St. Anthony Rec Center more than 30 years ago. It moved to Langford several years ago.

"When I started out there were

about 30 of us," Gubrud said. She got involved because a neighbor couple encouraged her and her husband to join them.

Most of the original group has died, she said, but she still comes each week because the Friday morning group is "family now."

Catherine Tarnowski, 93, a former St. Anthony Park resident who now lives at Episcopal Homes on University Avenue, joined 12 years ago. She showed up on a recent Friday for the first time in almost two years. During her absence, she stayed in touch with the group through Steve Sarrazin, a community specialist with Kaposia, a training and habilitation service for adults with developmental disabilities. Sarrazin works with six men from area group homes who attend the Friday morning activities at Langford and volunteer each week at Episcopal Homes, where they visit Tarnowski.

Sarrazin encouraged Tarnowski to visit the group and arranged for Nancy Larkey, a "newbie" who joined five and a half years ago, to give Tarnowski a ride to the rec center.

Langford to 15



At left, Steve Sarrazin helps Catherine Tarnowski as she aims for a strike during the Weekly Senior Group at Langford Park. *Photo by Kristal Leebrick*

Celebrate the Fourth in the Park. Find the schedule on page 9.

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 each month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

Registration open for Como Neighborhood Art Fair

The 2014 Como Neighborhood Art Fair will be held Sunday, July 13, noon-4:30 p.m., at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. Registration for artists of all media is open. A \$25 registration fee covers exhibit table rental. Find out more at district10comopark.org.

Como Neighborhood Days

Join your Como neighbors July 11-13 for a weekend of family-friendly events.

Friday, July 11, includes Firkin Friday with Summit Brewing at Como Park Grill and a Family Movie Night and campout at Northwest Como Recreation center.

Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival will be held Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Como Park Grill will host a patio party 4-11 p.m.

Sunday's activities include live music at Black Bear Crossings and an art fair, children's activities and a pops concert at Como Lakeside Pavilion. Find out more at www.district10comopark.org.

Como Business Network breakfast

The Como Business Network will host its quarterly networking breakfast on Friday, July 25, 7:30-9 a.m. at Como Park Grill, 1341 Pascal St. N. A \$5 registration fee includes breakfast, networking time and a speaker. Bring a friend for free! Call the District 10 Como Community Council at 651-644-3889 to register.

Host a National Night Out event

National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 5. Residents throughout Como Park traditionally host block parties to help neighbors get to know each other, talk about issues of mutual concern and have fun. Interested in hosting a National Night Out event this year? Contact the District 10 Como Community Council at 651-644-3889 for more information.

Falcon Heights

The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Ice cream social is July 24

The annual Falcon Heights Ice Cream Social will be held Thursday, July 24, 6-8 p.m. at Community Park, 2050 W. Roselawn Ave. The fun-filled family event will include musical entertainment, bouncy castles, kids' activities, a dunk tank, games and, of course, ice cream. All are welcome.

Parents Night Out

Falcon Heights residents who have been enrolled in the city's Parks and Recreation program this year are invited to participate in two Parents



Friday, June 13, was a good-luck day for the District 10 Como Community Council. The weather was perfect and nearly 250 neighbors attended the council's ice cream social at the Historic Streetcar Station. Here, children make newspaper hats with the Park Bugle at the social. *Photo by Bradley Wolfe*

Nights Out this year from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, July 18, and Friday, Aug. 8. The Parks and Recreation staff will provide games, activities and pizza to children at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave., while parents have a night out. Cost is \$15 per child. Register online at falconheights.org.

Picnic Operetta is back

The performance company Mixed Precipitation will return to Falcon Heights on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. with a performance of *King Arthur: A Picnic Operetta*.

The Falcon Heights performance is one of many that will run from Aug. 14 to Sept. 21 and Mixed Precipitation is looking for volunteers to usher and help with other tasks throughout the season.

You can volunteer once or every weekend. Find out more at www.mixedprecipitation.org, email volunteer@mixedprecipitation.org or call 414-678-9409.

Sign up for Parks and Rec camps

Here is a list of July and August camps offered by the City of Falcon Heights:

Paparazzi! Photography Class: grades 5-10, Thursday, July 10, and Tuesday, July 15, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Falcon Height City Hall, 2077 W.Larpenteur Ave. Cost is \$70 for Falcon Heights residents and \$77 for nonresidents.

Superhero and Princess Theater Camp: ages 4-7, Monday-Friday, July 28-Aug. 1, 9-11:30 a.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$55 for residents and \$62 for nonresidents.

Lacrosse Camp: ages 6-12, Monday-Friday, July 28-Aug. 1, 1-2:30 p.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$55 for residents and \$62 for nonresidents.

Sustainable Art Camp: ages

10-16, Monday-Friday, Aug. 4-8, 8:30-noon at Community Park. Cost is \$85 for residents and \$92 for nonresidents.

The Greatest Adventure Camp: ages 6-12, Monday-Friday, Aug. 4-8, noon-4 p.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$115 for residents and \$122 for nonresidents.

Harry Potter Camp: ages 8-12, Monday-Friday, Aug. 11-15, 8-11:45 a.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$85 for residents and \$92 for nonresidents.

Build Your Own Remote Control 24-inch Boat: ages 10-16, Monday-Thursday, Aug. 11-14, noon-4 p.m. at Curtiss Field, 1551 Iowa Ave. Cost is \$180 for residents and \$187 for nonresidents.

Performance Camp: ages 8-14, Monday-Friday, Aug. 11-15, 12:30-4 p.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$80 for residents and \$87 for nonresidents.

Build Your Own Kayak: ages 10-13, Monday-Thursday, Aug. 18-21, noon-4 p.m. at Community Park. Cost is \$150 for residents and \$157 for nonresidents.

Tennis Camps: Monday-Friday, July 28-Aug. 1 at Community Park. Ages 5-7, 9-10:30 a.m. Ages 8-10, 10:35-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 for residents and \$72 for nonresidents.

Lauderdale

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

Farmer's Market

The City of Lauderdale will host a farmer's market from 4-7 p.m. on the third Thursday of July, August and September at Lauderdale City Park, 1885 Fulham St. Sassy Spoon Food Truck will be at the market 4-

8 p.m. For more information, contact Susie at LauderdaleFarmersMarket@gmail.com or call 651-329-8401.

Music Under the Trees

The City of Lauderdale will present Music Under the Trees on Thursday, July 17, 6:30-8 p.m., at Lauderdale City Park. Harpist Cathy Victorsen and flautist Jane Strauman will perform.

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.

Knight challenge grants are open

The Knight Foundation is looking for projects that will make St. Paul's Central Corridor neighborhoods even more vibrant places to live, work, play and visit. Over the next three years, the Knight Green Line Challenge will fund \$1.5 million in winning projects. Anyone can apply! Applications for the first year will be accepted June 24-July 24. Visit knightgreenlinechallenge.org for details and to sign-up for email updates.

Dale Street restriping has been canceled

A proposal to restripe Dale Street from four lanes to three this summer has been shelved.

In an email from Erin Labaree, project engineer with Ramsey County Department of Public Works, Labaree said the county decided that any changes to Dale Street would require additional public meetings and more analysis of the project.

The cancellation came the day after the Como District 10 Community Council sent a letter to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners expressing its opposition to the project, which had not been made public until just days before a public meeting was held at North Dale Recreation Center on May 28.

More than 100 people filled the meeting room that night to hear county engineers explain the project, which would have extended from Larpenteur to Simon avenues and converted the current four-lane street to three lanes, with a through lane in each direction, a center turn lane and a paved shoulder on each side.

Officials cited benefits to the four- to three-lane conversion: crash reduction (studies have shown that crashes are reduced by allowing left turns to occur from a dedicated turn lane rather than from a through lane), shoulders that would provide an area for bicyclists and pedestrians to use the road more safely, reduced speeds and improved pedestrian crossings (pedestrians

ADU task force applications open

Applications are open to serve on the St. Anthony Park Task Force that will explore the potential effects of allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to be built in the neighborhood. The task force will meet at least monthly for six months with the goal of objectively analyzing the potential for allowing the construction of ADUs in the neighborhood. Find the application and information at sapcc.org/adus. Applications will remain open until 5 p.m. Friday, July 25.

Fulner moves to Hamline Midway

After nearly four years as the community organizer for the St. Anthony Park Community Council, Lauren Fulner has stepped down to work with the Hamline Midway Coalition. Fulner will be remembered at District 12 for leading the charge on the Raymond Avenue reconstruction project, helping to bring the Transition Town ASAP initiative to fruition and for playing an integral role in organizing the St. Anthony Park Community Garden.

would have to cross just two travel lanes rather than four).

The county had received a \$49,000 federal grant for the project. The project needed to be authorized by June 30 to use the grant money, which now will be returned to the federal government, Labaree said.

Many residents at the May meeting said the June deadline did not allow enough time for the community to make an informed decision. The District 10 letter sent to the commission said the plan "was developed without any input from local residents."

The Como Community Council's letter urged the county to put the Dale Street project on hold.

In her email, Labaree said that residents questioned the loss of parking, increased congestion and the frequent stopping of service vehicles, such as garbage trucks and buses, as potential problems, but the "most significant concern raised at the [May] meeting was the short timeframe for the public-involvement process."

The District 10 Land Use Committee will launch a community conversation about how best to build a better Dale Street at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 30, at 7 p.m. at North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.—*Kristal Leebrick*

Meet Como High's new principal

A former assistant principal at Como Park Senior High School, Theresa Neal returns after more than a decade of leading SPPS alternative programs

By Kristal Leebrick

Many longtime teachers and staff members at Como Park Senior High School will welcome a familiar face back to the school when Theresa Neal steps in as principal this fall.

Neal spent three years as an assistant principal at Como, from 2002 to 2005. She was named principal on June 2. Her predecessor, Dan Mesick, who led the school since 2005, has been put on special assignment with the St. Paul Public Schools Office of College and Career Readiness.

Since 2005, Neal has served as principal at Journeys Secondary School and 16 other alternative care and treatment programs that provide education programs within St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS). The programs include Boys Totem Town, Juvenile Detention Center, Transitions for Success, five hospitals (where programs are offered to children with long-term illnesses) and the Emily Program, which has residential and day treatment programs for eating disorders in St. Anthony Park.

Born and raised in the Rondo community of St. Paul, Neal is a graduate of Concordia Academy. She has a bachelor's degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, a master's from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and her principal licensure from St. Mary's University in Winona.

Her work in special education and with troubled teens runs deep. She began her career more than 35 years ago as a youth advocate at Highland Park Senior High School.

In a letter to the Como Park school community, SPPS Superintendent Valeria Silva said she wanted to choose "a passionate educator to lead Como." An online



Theresa Neal made one of her first public appearances as Como Park Senior High School's new principal at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on June 7. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

survey conducted at the school this year "was instrumental in helping identify a leader who understands how to help students and families who face extra challenges both inside and outside of school. Theresa Neal is that leader," Silva wrote.

Neal sees a principal's role as "finding a balance" between helping each student accelerate and creating a school community that works, she said.

"We all believe that the common piece is 'it's about the kids,'" she said. "As principal, the balance and challenge is how do we escalate the children who are excelling and accelerate those who are challenged by adversity beyond their control?"

"There are 1,300-plus individuals at Como Park Senior High School," she said, "yet 1,300 and X amount of staff make up a whole, collectively. How do we find the balance with what's good for the individual is good for the whole?"

Students, staff and the community need to be listened to "to know what is working, what we want

to improve and enhance," she said. "How do we collaboratively do that?"

She plans to launch a community council at the school that will include parents, business people and community leaders to do just that.

The school community will also welcome back Amy Dutton, a former business teacher at Como, as an assistant principal. Dutton has been working with Neal as an administrative intern and teacher on special assignment.

Neal is a widow (she was married to Howard Porter, a Ramsey County probation officer and Villanova University basketball star who was murdered in 2007), mom and grandmother. Her granddaughter just finished her 4-year-old program at J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School.

"I am now connected [to SPPS] as a grandmother," she said, which has made her realize that her job is educating "our 1,300 here [at Como] but also paving the way for those who follow."

Murray Middle School's year of transition saw challenges

By Libor Jany

Murray Middle School's nearly 900 students dispersed for summer break earlier this month, allowing the school a chance to catch its breath after a year that saw seismic changes across St. Paul Public Schools.

As it transitioned from a grade 7-8 junior high to a 6-8 middle school, Murray officials promised they would continue looking for ways to better serve their students.

Many parents lauded new principal Stacy Theien-Collins and her staff for working, in the face of budget cuts and overcrowding, to create an environment where students can feel safe and focus on education.

But progress was slow to come, and toward the end of the school year some parents' patience began wearing

thin with Murray's growing pains.

Theien-Collins was hired last year from the East Metro Integration District, a consortium of 10 school districts in Ramsey, Anoka and Washington counties, to lead the new middle school.

The school has had "many, many successes this year in welcoming the sixth-graders into Murray, and there were also many challenges in transitioning to a middle school and the sheer amount of change Murray in particular faced this year," Theien-Collins said as she sat in her office on a recent morning. "Our goal is to build on the successes that we had and address the challenges and continue to improve."

She pointed out that a few bumps in the road are to be expected, considering the major changes the district adopted.

Among the other changes made at the beginning of last school year were expanding the day to seven periods and going to the quarter system.

The school ran into many of the same problems facing other schools in the district, such as swelling class sizes (the current student-to-teacher ratio is 35-1, officials said) and disciplinary issues that parents say distract students from learning.

The challenge of reducing overcrowding in classrooms is particularly vexing, officials and parents agree. Theien-Collins said the school will add classroom space for incoming sixth-graders as part of a \$2 million remodeling project that, when completed in the fall, will also include a new cafeteria.

Murray to 17

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E D I T O R I A L

July 4 event relies on your donations

When the inaugural issue of the Park Bugle hit the streets in July 1974, half of the free-distribution community newspaper's front page was filled with a schedule of events for the annual Fourth of July celebration at Langford Park.

The day began with baseball and softball games and distance races. The Grand Parade assembled on Luther Place between Como Avenue and Grantham Street at 11:30 a.m. and featured "bike, trike and wagon floats."

An opening ceremony at the north end of the park began at 12:15 p.m. The afternoon was devoted to tennis, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments and music by Igor Razskazoff's Band, Neil Christian's Country Folk and the Hall Brothers Band, a Dixieland Jazz band from Mendota. A chicken barbecue dinner orchestrated by a group from Murray High School fed the masses at 5 p.m. Cost was \$2.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children under 12.

Forty years ago, the July 4 celebration was organized by the St. Anthony Park Association, an organization that dismantled a little more than a decade ago.

The Fourth in the Park continues much as it did in 1974, but some things have changed. The baseball and softball games have ended, along with

the chicken dinner, which was replaced by pulled-pork sandwiches and hot dogs served by the Langford Park Booster Club. And it's now organized by the Fourth in the Park Committee and sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation.

What hasn't changed is it's still a labor of love for the volunteers who begin in February to pull it together. (Cindy Thrasher and Julie Glowka have been the leaders for two decades, but they are moving on after this year and handing the reins to St. Anthony Park residents Jeanne Hansen, Emma Seeley and Josh Becerra—see the story on page 9.)

And putting on such a giant community event isn't free. The Fourth in the Park Committee depends on donations to raise the \$11,000 it takes to cover the music, mailing, insurance, advertising, ponies and parade permits.

If you love this annual gathering and want to see it continue, consider donating now—before July 4. You can drop off your donation at Sunrise Bank, 2300 Como Ave., or it mail to Fourth in the Park, PO Box 8062, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Happy Independence Day.

L E T T E R S

Local schools are creating School Forest Programs

St. Anthony Park Elementary School wants to extend environmental learning opportunities for students in grades K-5 and has applied to become part of the Minnesota School Forest Program. The program was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1948 and is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry. There are 139 School Forest Programs in Minnesota. These programs designate the outdoors as a classroom and learning space. If approved, the St. Anthony Park program would be called Langford Park School Forest Program.

In April, staff coordinators from the St. Paul Public Schools, St. Anthony Park Elementary School (Langford Park), Murray Middle School (College Park) and Crossroads Elementary School (Marydale Park) met with representatives from the DNR and the City of St. Paul to work out joint powers of agreement for park usage. Other schools in St. Paul Public Schools—including American Indian Magnet, Como Park Senior High and Como Park Elementary—have successfully established School Forest Programs.

Sixteen staff members at St. Anthony Park are working with Karen Christenson, one of the school's science specialists, and Susan Fredrickson, a fifth-grade teacher, to establish the program and ensure the natural environment of Langford Park will not be altered but will be used by students to employ the natural world as a means to learn topics such as math, science, reading, writing, geography and the arts.

Benefits to St. Anthony Park Elementary students and staff include free educational materials, free workshops, assistance finding grant opportunities, staff development centered around integration of the outdoor classroom

and, of course, the enjoyment and appreciation of our outdoor environment.

The City of St. Paul and the DNR estimate the approval process would take a few months, and the expected official start of the program at St. Anthony Park Elementary would be this fall.

For more information about the School Forest Program, visit www.mndnr.gov/schoolforest.

Below is the mission of the Langford Park School Forest Program.

Langford Park School Forest

We are preparing our students to be well-rounded, lifelong learners who make informed environmental observations and decisions as part of a world-class education.

MISSION:

- To continue our rich tradition of utilizing the outdoors to teach students about our natural resources through direct experience.
- To connect our students to the natural environment through hands-on, cross-curricular activities in our schoolyard and the adjacent parkland.
- To promote and encourage wise stewardship of our land and resources, with particular attention to our three existing gardens.

Poems offer perspective of sister's silent illness

We knew more about my sister Jean's crochet and other handwork than we did about her poetry. In fact, we thought her one lyrical poem was a single depiction of her gracious and appreciative spirit; writing for her did not appear to be a common practice.

Jean did not go beyond high school, although she took a class at Carleton College in Northfield taught by Professor Paul Wellstone, long before he became a senator. At that time, he was growing as an

activist, organizing community efforts for marginalized persons. He and his wife, Sheila, started a movement to make healthcare accessible to all persons with mental illness.

And Jean could personally identify.

After her class, Jean and other supporters became involved in the Wellstone lobby, which started with Citizens Organized Acting Together (COACT). The mission then, in 1987, was to establish universal healthcare that also included care for mental illness.

As a U.S. senator, Wellstone worked hard to fulfill this mission, which was actualized in 2008, several years after he, Sheila and their daughter, Marcia, were killed in a 2002 plane crash.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 created the justice needed for requiring that most health insurers cover mental health and addiction treatment in the same way they cover physical illnesses.

A few days after Jean's beautiful memorial service in Faribault, Minn., her daughter Ruth sent Uncle Jim and me a significant number of poems discovered in a private space.

Jean apparently kept them secret to protect her children from her deeply distressed moments. Expecting similar sentiments to her one known poem, I opened the mail and found unforeseen, astonishing and exquisitely articulated feelings. I sobbed in seeing this side of Jean's pain not before visible.

Coincidentally, the next day, the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church Sunday Forum featured a speaker from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) who provided current information on its outreach programs. I knew that, despite my concern of not making it through a reading, I wanted to share with our community the profound thoughts Jean had voiced.

At the end of the forum, I stepped up to the podium totally at peace and eager to speak from Jean's heart and let our friends know of the bravery it takes to journey through this debilitating disease. The response from the audience and the NAMI spokesperson was appreciation and interest in sharing her poems more broadly. Therefore, I share in the following poem the silent perspective of our Jean, who asked little of her life but a sense of peace and rest.

Free

Feel the sun, even when
The evening shadows fall I
Can feel its warmth upon
My face and soul.

Once it was not so.

The mountain seemed eternally high
Impossible to reach the top beyond.
With its light, bright among
The shadowy rocks.
So close, so far away.

I fell a thousand times before,
The first shadow disappeared and,
I knew I would fall now more
Free at last.

Among the rocks I battled
With the demons, and had to
Reach among the thorns to find
Where the roses grow.

Each step I took was filled
With pain, and yet I knew
To reach the top was
To find a world where I belonged.

Where the sun outshines the
shadows.
And laughter drowns out the tears.
Trust and love overtake the fears.
And, I am free at last.

*Dr. Mary Etta Litsheim, Ph.D.
University Grove*

Mary Mergenthal to be honored at international Welsh festival in August

By Michelle Christianson

Anyone who meets longtime St. Anthony Park resident Mary (Margaret Morris) Mergenthal finds out pretty quickly that she's Welsh, and if you have known her for some length of time, you know that she is deeply involved in the Welsh community, both in the U.S. and in Wales.

In August, Mergenthal's many contributions to preserving Welsh heritage will be recognized when she receives the National Welsh American Foundation's highest honor, the NWAFA Heritage Medallion. The award will be presented at the North American Festival of Wales, Aug. 28-31, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis.

Mergenthal's work includes directing *gymanfaeodd ganu* (hours-long hymn sings) in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington state; serving as a board member and president of both the Minnesota Welsh Association and St. David's Society of Minnesota; and co-chairing the North American Festival of Wales, this year (with Kay Gavin) and in 1999. In addition, she was editor and owner of the Welsh paper *Y Drych* for 12 years and still contributes to the paper's successor, *Ninnau*.



Mary Mergenthal's passion for all things Welsh will be honored this summer. Photo by Paula Carter

Mergenthal's father, Griff Morris, immigrated to Minnesota from Wales in 1910, and he passed on his love of all things Welsh to his daughter. She learned Welsh words and the alto parts to Welsh hymns by attending *gymanfaeodd ganu* with her grandmother in Mankato.

After graduating from St. Olaf College in Northfield, she met her husband, Jennings, and they had two daughters. They moved to St. Anthony Park where she has conducted children's choirs at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. Mergenthal also was the editor of the

Park Bugle for six years in the 1980s and still serves as the editor of the Lives Lived memorial section of the paper.

Nearly 500 people from all over the world are expected to attend the Welsh festival in August. Highlights will include musical concerts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; a poetry and music competition called the *Eisteddfod* (which also includes a concert Saturday); seminars and Welsh movies; a banquet on Friday and dinners on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; and a concluding bilingual church service and the 83rd National Gymanfa Ganu at Westminster Presbyterian Church across from the Hyatt Regency on Sunday. A Welsh marketplace and tearoom will be open every day, and each evening will end with the singing of Welsh hymns and old favorites.

You can purchase tickets for each day of the festival and for the dinner and concerts and find the rules and applications for the competitions online at www.nafow.org. In addition, Mergenthal has tickets for Only Men Aloud, an eight-man a cappella group, which will perform at the Grand Concert on Saturday night. To purchase those tickets, contact mary.mergenthal@gmail.com.

Bugle wins three Page One Awards

The Park Bugle received three Page One Awards from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists (MN SPI) at its May awards banquet.

Editor Kristal Leebrick received first place for headline writing and second place for an editorial entitled "Uncle," published in the May 2013 issue.

Writer Judy Woodward won third place for her story on St. Anthony Park artist Julie

Buffalohead, which was also published in the May 2013 Bugle.

Awards were given in more than 60 categories for newspaper reporting, online news, photography, television, radio and multimedia. Entries for the 2014 Page One Awards were judged by journalists from the Oklahoma Pro Chapter of the SPI.

The Bugle competes in the Newspaper—Less than 50,000 Circulation category.

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Summer reads from 1

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What about readers? Do their habits change during the summer months? Amazon has an annual Best Beach Reads list, as do many other book-related websites.

What are people looking for in a summer read?

Tom Bielenberg, owner of Micawber's Books in St. Anthony Park, said that some of the major publishing houses do target certain books for summer release.

"A publisher's rep will often tout a particular title as 'a great summer read' or 'a perfect beach read,'" he said. "That might be a big romantic novel, for example. Or another category is books about baseball, which are almost never released in the fall."

Micawber's customers don't typically announce that they want a beach read, Bielenberg said, but "someone might come in and say 'I'm looking for something a little lighter.' Or a person might specify a paperback rather than a hardcover if it's going to be read on vacation somewhere."

"I think summer is a state of mind," said Bielenberg, "and that state might be quite different for one person than for another."

One book that's been selling well at Micawber's this summer is *Midnight in Europe*, by Alan Furst, he said.

"A new Furst book often comes out in the summer," he noted. "Furst writes espionage novels, usually set in Europe, that are not typical spy stories. They're more atmospheric and character-driven."

A book that's been popular with Micawber's customers lately would hardly be called typical summer fare: *My Struggle: Book Three*, the latest English translation in a six-volume autobiographical novel by Norwegian author Karl Ove Knausgaard.

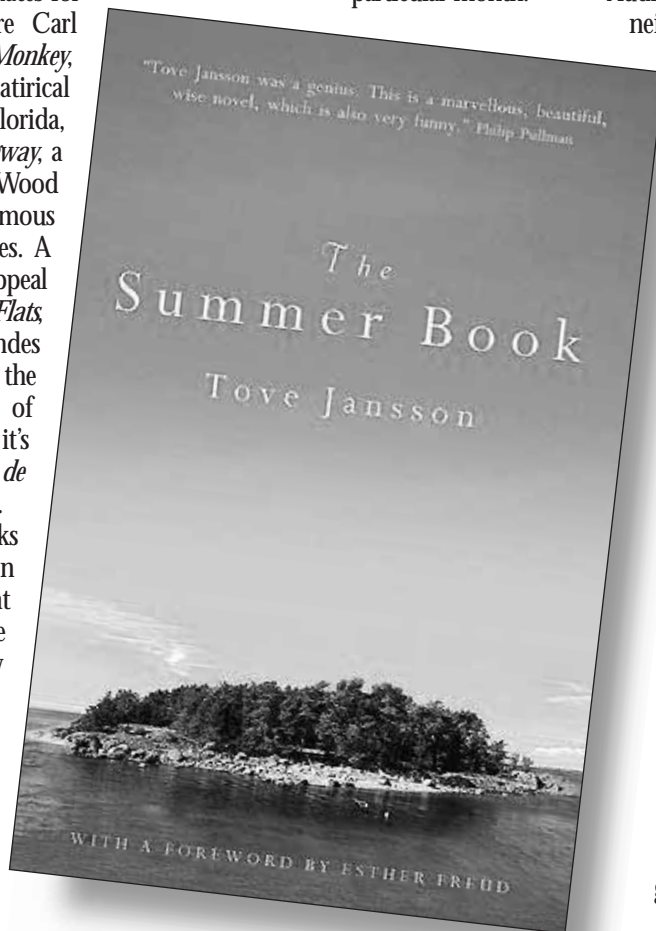
Better candidates for a beach read are Carl Hiaasen's *Bad Monkey*, another of his satirical mysteries set in Florida, and *Mrs. Hemingway*, a novel by Naomi Wood about the famous author's four wives. A book with local appeal is *The Bohemian Flats*, by Mary Relindes Ellis. Published by the University of Minnesota Press, it's partly set in *fin de siècle* Minneapolis.

Other books that have been selling well at Micawber's include *The Expats*, by Chris Pavone; Alexander McCall Smith's *The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon*; *Class A: Baseball in the Middle of Everywhere*, by Lucas Mann; and Bill Bryson's *One Summer*.

The Sunday Afternoon Book Club meets monthly at Micawber's. In June, the group discussed *Escape from Camp 14*, the story of Shin Dong-hyuk, the only person ever to escape from a North Korean political

prison camp. Not exactly light reading. July's book is a little less grim: Herman Koch's *The Dinner*, a psychological thriller.

Book club member Mayda Morgan said that the season is one of several factors the group considers when choosing a book for a particular month.



"For summer, we're looking for something engaging, but also the kind of book you can put down for a while and come back to, since people are more likely to be on vacation," she said.

People's choices for summer

reading are to some extent influenced by what's being published, Morgan said.

"We play this little game with publishers. They come out with 'a great summer read,' and we gladly play along."

St. Anthony Park resident Audrey Estebo is part of a neighborhood book group that's been meeting since 1997. The group reads a mix of fiction and nonfiction, by both U.S. and international authors.

Each of the group's 15 members chooses a book, so the reading schedule is set for more than a year at a time. That procedure doesn't usually highlight the seasonality of a particular choice, Estebo said, but she added that sometimes a group member will say, "Let's go with something lighter for summer."

That approach did not prevail last month, when the group read Nam Le's *The Boat*, a collection of short stories with topics ranging from My Lai to boat people fleeing Communism to teenage gangsters.

In a random survey of Micawber's customers, most said that their summer reading habits are different from the rest of the year.

"I have more time in the summer, so I read a lot more," said Ben Bollinger-Danielson of University Grove. Currently he's enjoying *Jewelweed*, by David Rhodes. "I really like Rhodes' descriptions," he said.

Frank Shaw of Roseville sets himself an annual reading schedule each January and uses the summer to catch up.

"My pleasure reading is mostly fiction," he said, "but not necessarily light." His latest reads included *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach.

For Patty Fenstermaker, an East Side resident, her "personal summer reading program" includes mostly classics. She was looking for Thoreau's *Walden* at Micawber's, and her list includes other books that "I might have read back in an English class but am more likely to appreciate now."

Fenstermaker's personal program started after she went to a public library and found "they don't have a summer reading program for adults, so I started my own."

An obvious category of readers for whom summer changes their reading patterns is students. Marjorie Hakala, who lives in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood, is working on an MFA in creative writing at Hamline University.

"Summer is when I read things I've been hearing about but don't have time for during the school year," she said. As if to confirm the distinctiveness of the season, she had decided to buy *The Summer Book*, by Tove Jansson.

For other students, summer is about assignments. When interrupted from his browsing, Erik Wilson-Wieberg was looking longingly at *Lincoln's Bishop*, by Gustav Niebuhr, an account of Lincoln's decision in 1862 to spare the lives of 265 condemned Sioux men and the Episcopal bishop who counseled him.

"If it weren't June, I'd probably buy this," Wilson-Wieberg said. "I'm a big Abraham Lincoln fan. But right now I'm taking a class at Luther Seminary, so my reading is restricted to commentaries on the book of Acts."

Every June through August the St. Paul Public Libraries sponsor a summer reading program for school-age kids. This year's theme is Summer of Learning. Participants can earn book prizes by reading (alone or with someone else) and completing specific activities.

Because kids don't need to register for the program, the St. Anthony Park Library doesn't have firm numbers on participation. However, staff said so far this summer's library events have drawn about 200 kids per week.

To see a schedule of July's summer reading events at the library, see the events calendar on page 16.

Another summer library opportunity is Bookawocky.org, where readers can track their summer reading online and share titles and recommendations with others. Visit their website for details.

Dave Healy is a freelance writer and editor. He was the editor of the Park Bugle for 10 years, retiring in 2010.

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New Bell Museum: a tale of tenacity

By Roger Bergerson

Rep. Alice Hausman was understandably upbeat after the 2014 session of the Minnesota Legislature. After a 10-year struggle, funding for a new Bell Museum of Natural History—and planetarium—was finally secured.

“There’s a sense of enormous relief and such joy,” Hausman, DFL-St. Paul, said in the days following Gov. Mark Dayton’s signing of the bill. “This going to be a legacy for generations of Minnesotans to come.”

Groundbreaking for the \$57.5 million facility on the southwest corner of Larpentur and Cleveland avenues is tentatively scheduled for spring 2015. The museum is part of the University of Minnesota.

When the recent legislative session convened, Bell supporters knew they were facing a make-or-break situation. The 2008 and 2009 legislatures passed a \$24 million proposal for a new museum, only to have it undone by Gov. Tim Pawlenty vetoes.

At that point, the University dropped the project from its list of priorities. More frustration followed in 2013, when Hausman included the museum in a bonding bill that failed to pass.

Now the 2014 session would be her last as the influential chair of the House Capital Investment Committee. Despite a self-acknowledged stubborn streak, she let it be known that she saw this as the project’s last chance.

The planetarium, once a fixture at the old Minneapolis Central Library, was now part of the Bell proposal. It was left homeless after the library was razed a decade ago and the Minnesota Planetarium Society transferred its assets to the Bell in 2011.

The University’s position, as articulated by its president, Eric Kaler, was that it would support the Bell funding only if it did not divert

money from projects endorsed by the Board of Regents. Museum staff members were instructed not to work on behalf of a new facility.

That left it up to the Bell’s advisory board to spearhead the effort, according to board vice-chair Lee Pfannmuller. “All of the board members got deeply involved, as did the museum membership. People all over the state were contacting their elected officials,” she said.

Hausman said it also helped that high-profile supporters such as Dennis Anderson, outdoor writer for the Star-Tribune; meteorologist Paul Douglas; and climatologist Mark Seeley publicly backed the project.

In the end, Hausman and Sen. John Marty, DFL-Roseville, the chief Senate author, were successful in gaining approval for the new facility, which will lie in both of their legislative districts. But it took some

creativity to get it financed.

It was finally agreed that the university would sell \$51.5 million in bonds to fund the project, with the Legislature providing the money to cover the debt service. Another \$6 million is to be raised privately.

“I am grateful for the steadfast leadership provided by Rep. Alice Hausman, who has championed the project for over a decade,” said Susan Weller, Bell executive director, in a letter to supporters. “This positive outcome speaks volumes about her outstanding integrity and vision of Minnesota’s future science, technology, engineering and math-related workforce.”

Added Pfannmuller, “A lot of people worked hard on this, but what really made the difference was Alice. We wouldn’t be anywhere without her.”

Room to grow in Falcon Heights

The plot of land that the new Bell Museum of Natural History and Planetarium will occupy has a historical connection with the education of young people. From 1873 to 1959, it was the location of the Gibbs School, established by pioneer Heman Gibbs across the road from his farmhouse.

Initially, the museum and planetarium will occupy about 7 acres of the 12-acre site, with the rest set aside for what is hoped will one day be outdoor classrooms.

In its current location on the University of Minnesota’s East Bank, the Bell Museum’s educational programs serve nearly 60,000 children and families a year, but officials say the new facility will accommodate many more.

And there will be a lot more exhibit space.

“When the Legislature approved the funding in 2008 and 2009, the plan was that Audubon and the Art of Birds would be the opening exhibit at the new Bell,” recounts Don Luce, curator of exhibits.

With the gubernatorial vetoes, Luce and colleagues decided to go ahead and display the Audubon exhibit on a smaller scale, from October 2013 to June 2014. It turned out to be one of the most popular shows in the Bell’s history.

“Not only will the new building give us an opportunity to show our existing collections to good advantage, having 2,000 more square feet of exhibit space will allow us to stage a lot of shows that the Bell has not previously been able to accept,” Luce said.

Como artist’s work chosen for Minnesota State Fair’s commemorative poster

Having a deep fondness for the traditions of the Minnesota State Fair, Emily L. Taylor created a watercolor that celebrates them with all the exuberance of American folk art.

The Como resident’s entry recently was selected as the fair’s 2014 Official Commemorative Art, the 11th in a series of such works.

“I can only hope that this painting will capture for the public what I feel is the essence of the Great Minnesota Get-Together’s community and spirit,” said Taylor, whose home is several blocks east of the fairgrounds.

Taylor earned her bachelor of fine arts degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She is a professional artist and teacher and recently launched Artfulu—art



Emily L. Taylor and her award-winning watercolor.

State Fair art to 14

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Getting to the train

As the METRO Green Line opened on June 14, some bus-service enhancements also began that are intended to strengthen connections to the light-rail line.

Como Park residents can access a new route, **Route 83**, to get to the Green Line. The route provides service on Lexington Parkway between Roseville and W. Seventh Street in St. Paul. Buses run every 30 minutes seven days a week and provide service to Roseville Super Target on County Road B, Como Regional Park, Concordia University, Central High School, Grand Avenue and Summit Brewery.

Service on **Route 67** runs every 20 to 30 minutes seven days a week. The route provides service on Minnehaha and Franklin avenues and connects with Green Line stations at Rice Street and Fairview and Raymond avenues, as well as the Franklin Avenue Station on the METRO Blue Line in Minneapolis.

More trips have been added to **Route 65** along Dale Street and County Road B between the Rosedale Transit Center and a new southern extension to Grand Avenue. The route makes connections with Green Line light-rail trains at Dale Street.

University Avenue buses
Service on bus routes that run parallel

to the Green Line also changed on June 14.

Route 16 provides local service between the Green Line's Stadium Village Station in Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul, with a new eastern routing serving St. Paul College and the Minnesota History Center. Overnight trips have been replaced by Green Line service.

Route 94 provides nonstop, express service between downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis. The route no longer serves the State Capitol and instead goes directly to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul. Night and weekend off-peak trips on Route 94 have been replaced by Green Line service.

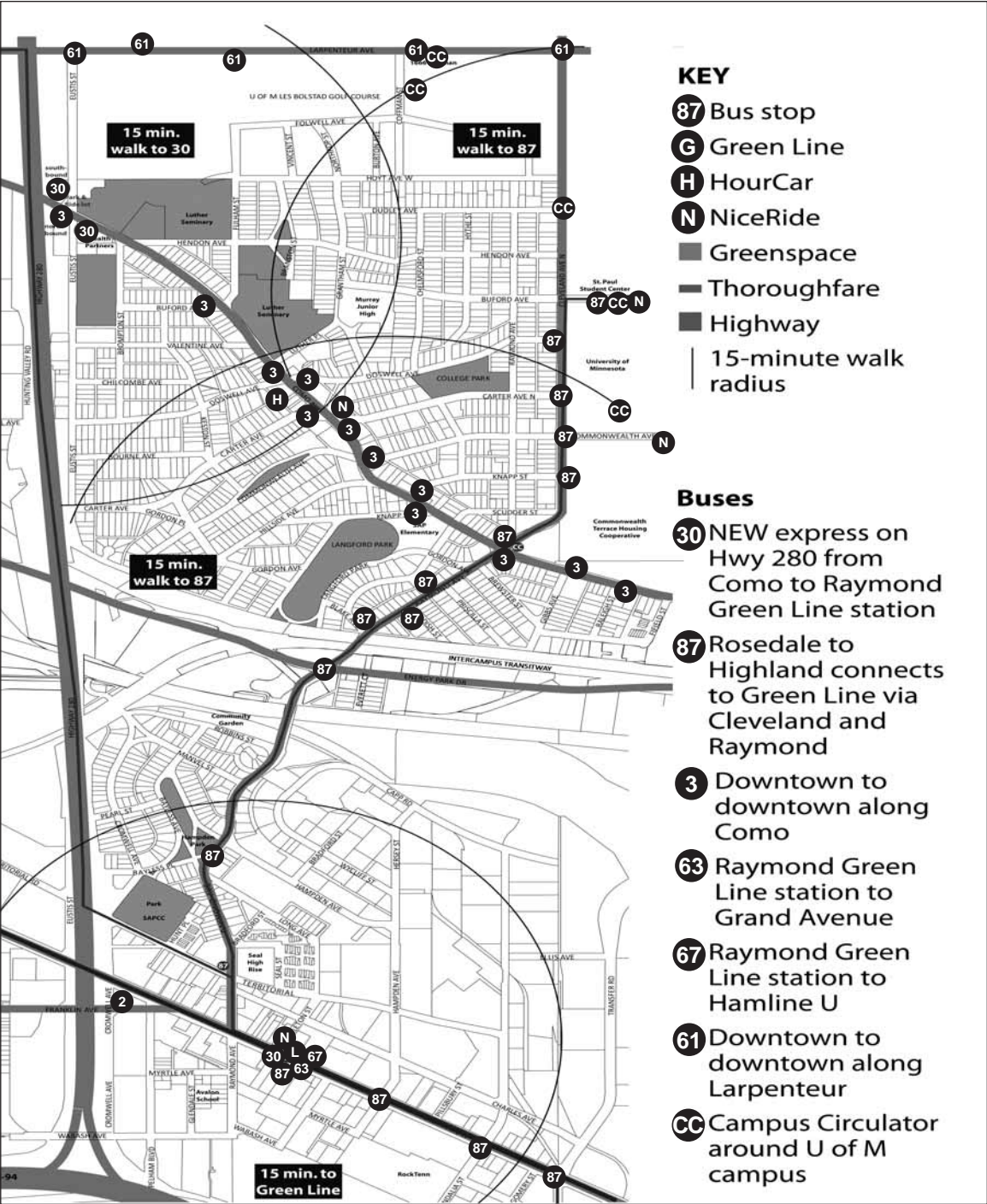
Route 50, a limited-stop service on University Avenue, is no longer running and has been replaced by the Green Line.

North St. Anthony Park connections to the train

Route 30 is a new express bus on Highway 280 from Como Avenue to the Raymond Avenue station. Route 30 runs every half hour Monday-Friday, from 4 a.m. to midnight. It does not run on weekends. Route 30 also runs to the Quarry, a shopping center in Northeast Minneapolis.

Route 87 connects to the Green Line via Cleveland and Raymond avenues. The route starts at Rosedale Center in Roseville. The 87 runs every 20 minutes on weekdays, evenings and weekends. You can catch it at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave.

Route 3 still takes riders from downtown Minneapolis to downtown St. Paul along Como Avenue. It runs every 5 to 15 minutes on weekdays and every 20 minutes on weekends.



A 15-minute walk to the train

St. Anthony Park resident Pat Thompson created the map at right, which Thompson says shows “that just about everyone in north St. Anthony Park is within a 15-minute walk of a bus that connects to the Raymond Avenue Green Line station.”

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Fourth in the Park coordinators named Spirit of the Park recipients

By Kristal Leebrick

When the Fourth in the Park Grand Parade marches down Como Avenue next year, Julie Glowka and Cindy Thrasher will be watching on the sidelines for the first time in 20 years.

Glowka and Thrasher, who have coordinated the July 4 parade and picnic in St. Anthony Park for nearly two decades (Thrasher started in 1994, and Glowka started in 1995), are ending their tenure this year and handing the reins to some younger neighbors, Jeanne Hansen, Emma Seeley and Josh Becerra.

In honor of their years of pulling together the mailings, parade, food, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments, music and all the volunteers that make it happen—work that begins each year in February—they will receive the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation's Spirit of the Park Award during the program at the band shell following the parade.

Thrasher was pregnant with her youngest son, Ryan, in 1994 when she began coordinating the event. She never made it to the park on July 4 that year, however, as Ryan was born at 4:29 a.m.

Glowka joined Thrasher as co-coordinator the following year. The two grew up in St. Anthony Park and



Julie Glowka and Cindy Thrasher are the 2014 Spirit of the Park Award recipients.

lived next door to each other on Commonwealth Avenue when they were very young.

Glowka, who is two years older than Thrasher, walked her young neighbor to kindergarten at St. Anthony Park Elementary School and to swimming lessons at Murray High School. And they decorated their bikes together for the Fourth of July parade, Thrasher said.

They both left the neighborhood for a short time and lived in nearby suburbs, but moved back and raised their families here. "Cindy's mom said we moved back because we wanted sidewalks,"

Glowka said.

The Spirit of the Park Award is the second honor Glowka and Thrasher will receive this year for their work. The District 12 Community Council named them to the City of St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll in January.

While they are honored to receive the attention, Glowka said, "we have mixed feelings. There are so many people in the neighborhood who have done just as much if not more than us."

The Fourth in the Park schedule is printed below.

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10:30 a.m.

GRAND PARADE ASSEMBLES
Children's bikes, trikes, wagons, etc. assemble at Park Station. Bands, vehicles and marching units assemble on Luther Place. Get your free American Flag!

11 a.m.

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

Noon

REFRESHMENT STAND OPENS
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1- 4 p.m

1- 2:30 p.m.

2:30 - 4 p.m.

4 p.m.

4:30 - 6 p.m.

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The Fourth of July Parade & Picnic is put on by the Fourth in the Park Committee and sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, St. Paul Parks & Recreation, and YOU!



The rain began to fall before the train left the Raymond Avenue Station on the morning of June 14, but that didn't stop an estimated 45,000 riders from taking the Green Line throughout the city that day. At right, St. Anthony Park residents Mark Broderick, Susan Dean and Seth Levin were some of the first riders on the train. They took the train to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul, where they were greeted by Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman and the St. Paul Saints mascot, Mudonna (lower left). At lower right, St. Anthony Park resident JoAnne Rohricht took a trolley sponsored by Sunrise Banks and the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation from the bank's Como Avenue branch to the light-rail station and back. *Photos by Kristal Leebrick*

All aboard!

The Bugle followed some neighbors on the first train out of the Raymond Avenue Station on June 14. Here are some sites from that ride.



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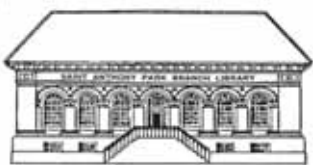
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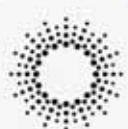


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Above, a boy's-eye view of University Avenue. Top right, members of the St. Paul Art Collective worked on a chalkboard mural at Union Depot throughout the day. At left, some of the art by Andrea Myklebust and Stanton Sears at the Raymond Avenue Station. The artists' work was inspired by the Red River oxcart trail that passed near the station site when the area was first settled and transportation from industrial activities located in the Raymond-University business district.

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The Birdman
of Lauderdale by Clay Christensen

Some fathers fish with their sons, others take father-son birding trips

My son, Drew, and I have been doing an owl survey for seven years now. It's a chance for some father-son bonding time. Some fathers and sons go fishing or hunting together. We do bird surveys or birding trips.

The owl survey is a citizen science project that monitors owl populations in the Western Great Lakes Region and always runs on a night between April 1 and 15. Our assigned survey route begins south of the town of Howard Lake, west of St. Paul about 50 miles.

We stop at each of 10 points a mile apart along the designated route, get out of the car and listen for owl calls for five minutes. I stand out beyond the front of the car; Drew stands a ways behind it.

Over the past seven years, we've struck out several times, heard one owl a couple of years and heard two owls only once. So we have fairly modest expectations.

We can't begin our route until at least a half hour past sunset. This year, we got to the first survey point a little later, at 9:45 p.m. We pulled onto the shoulder and began to get set up, putting on reflective vests, setting out reflective hazard triangles on the road and getting the starting temperature.

We did our first five minutes of listening there with no owls heard. So we picked up the triangles and drove a mile onward to survey point 2.

Point 2 gave us the same empty data set. On to survey point 3.

Our first several survey points are along a two-lane asphalt road with a 50-mph speed limit. We pulled off the road to the extent that we could, but the shoulder wasn't much wider than an automobile tire and there was a deep ditch beyond it. Drew had to be careful getting out, hanging onto the door handle until he found solid ground for his feet.

We began our five-minute survey at point 3 and heard Canada geese gabbling in the dark. There must have been a pond out there somewhere. Then we heard the low "Hooo-hoo-hoo" — a great horned owl. I heard it from across the road, then from our side of the road. So there were at least two great horneds. How nice!

We heard snow geese flying over, almost shouting at each other. These flocks continued passing from time to time all night long. I tried to catch a glimpse of them, silhouetted against the quarter moon, but couldn't.

After point 3, all our points were

along dirt or gravel roads without the steep ditches.

At point 9, our survey spot was at the end of a long driveway, and there standing guard was a German shepherd-mix dog, barking lustily. Drew asked if we were actually going to get out of the car. I told him I'd heard rural visitors often open the car door just a bit and put their hand out below it, so the dog could get a sniff of their hand. "Do you want to change seats?" he asked me.

But he boldly tried the hand-under-the-door routine, and it worked. The dog stopped barking, licked Drew's hand and wagged its tail. We got out of the car, and another dog joined its canine buddy. They sniffed us up, down and around, decided we were harmless and went back up to the house. We completed our five-minute survey and headed on to the last point.

At point 10, I heard a fragment of a barred owl call, just the descending hoot that usually ends a longer "Who cooks for you?" call. I heard barreds from two different directions. Drew heard a great horned owl "arguing" with a barred.

That would not be a good idea for the barred, since it's smaller than the great horned and could wind up as a late-night snack for the bigger raptor.

Drew heard two more owls after our last five-minute survey period was over, a barred and a great horned. He was really pumped, and I know he'll be ready to come back again next year. It's great to be out with him, doing what I love.

We heard at least five owls this year. It makes up for the earlier low counts. Maybe a later start is better. After all, owls are just starting their day as we're ending ours.

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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St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church members lay the cornerstone for the new church at 2200 Hillside Ave. in 1911. *Minnesota Historical Society*



Like many area churches, St. Anthony Park United Methodist hosted a dining hall at the Minnesota State Fair for years. *Minnesota Historical Society*

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church: practicing ‘radical hospitality’ for 125 years

By Michelle Christianson

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church member Clayton Helmer says, “Everyone in St. Anthony Park has been in this building.”

That’s probably a bit of an exaggeration, but not much. The church, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, has been home to, or hosted, community groups that span all ages from infants to senior citizens.

The church began on June 8, 1889, when six people met for a prayer service at Norris Hall, which was located at 950 Raymond Ave. in St. Anthony Park. The rapidly growing group was formally recognized as a church in October that year. The first building the church owned (969 Raymond Ave.) was occupied from 1891 until it proved too small for the growing congregation.

A new church was constructed at its present site, 2200 Hillside Ave., in 1911. In 1923 the congregation had 400 members and needed still more space, so an addition was built.

One of the most influential early pastors was the Rev. Lloyd H. Rising, who served from 1923 to 1940, according to church records. Many of the early church organizations were formed under his watch. In the late 1940s, the congregation once more was growing out of its building. This spurred both a remodel that lengthened the sanctuary and the addition of a narthex, space for the church school, offices and a new chapel.

In 1953, many long-standing members of the congregation left to join the newly formed Centennial Methodist Church in Roseville. Membership began to decline as people moved to the suburbs or joined the Roseville church. In 1993, a designer was brought in to study the building and recommend a way to keep the church’s spirit intact with a smaller congregation.

The sanctuary was remodeled to become more intimate and friendly, and the church reached out to the greater community, actively recruiting members from the University of Minnesota and other institutions in the neighborhood. In addition to groups within the congregation, such as the Ladies’ Aid Society and other women’s guilds, the Methodist Men’s Forum, Senior High School League, Youth Club and the Sunday school, the church hosted Boy Scout Troop 22 (until it disbanded in 1967), weekday church school and a drama guild. Like many other churches in the neighborhood, it had a dining hall at the Minnesota State Fair for many years.

The church’s history of “radical hospitality” continues today. The SAPUMC Nursery School, established in 1958, still serves the neighborhood (and is expanding staff and hours next fall), as does the Leisure Center, which meets at noon on Wednesdays. A highlight of the week for many seniors, the Leisure Center has offered lunch, field trips, socialization, entertainment and activities such as card games, sewing, crafts and painting.

The church is also home to the

St. Anthony Park Community Garden’s annual meeting, St. Paul Magic Special Olympics Team, St. Anthony Park Area Seniors (SAPAS), Cub Scout Pack 22, a group for new mothers, high school and middle school mentoring groups, young adult dinners and Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry.

Smaller congregations have shared the space over the years, and the church is currently home to Greater Grace, a Liberian church that uses the building for noon services on Sundays and for Bible studies.

Congregants serve meals at Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis three or four times a year and help staff Project Home, which provides emergency shelter for homeless families, when it is in the neighborhood. They also send grief baskets to St. Joseph’s Hospital for families that have lost a baby, collect school items for the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, and support Imagine No Malaria and United Methodist Committee on Relief, which provides emergency aid globally to people who have experienced a disaster in their homeland.

Church member Betty Gumbrell said the current atmosphere in the church is one of energy and hope. “The increased use of the building space delights us, and there has been a steady growth in the number of young families and children,” she said.

The church has been celebrating its anniversary with a different emphasis each month—banners one month, pictures another—all under

the slogan “125 Years of Faith, Fellowship and Service.” On Pentecost Sunday in the spring, members walked from the site of that first meeting in south St. Anthony Park to the Hillside church and followed the service with a picnic lunch.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, the church will host a celebratory service with former pastor Greg Renstrom preaching. The service will be followed by a “family reunion” with current and former members with a soup lunch made from a recipe used by former member Evelyn Harne and cooked by longtime member

Mary Markgraf. The Rev. Melanie Homan will be sending invitations to all former members as well as current ones. The yearlong celebration will end on Sunday, Dec. 14, with Bishop Bruce Ough preaching at the service. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. year-round, and all are welcome.

St. Anthony Park United Methodist has seen many changes over the years, but it is still vital and still growing.

Michelle Christianson is a piano teacher, musician and longtime contributor to the Park Bugle.



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L I V E S L I V E D

*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.*

Joy Agrimson

Joy E. Agrimson, 92, of Lauderdale, died June 4. She was born June 26, 1921, in Waubun, Minn., to Gunder and Clara Christofferson.

Joy is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert; daughter, Ann Agrimson (Tim Gustafson); two grandchildren; and sister, Verona Gordon.

Her funeral was held June 9 at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis. Joy will be laid to rest privately at a later date in Arendahl Cemetery, Peterson, Minn.

Mary Ellen Arnesen

Mary Ellen Arnesen, 88, of Roseville, died May 5.

She played a good game of bridge; was a founding member of a book club, which started in 1965 and continues to this day; and enjoyed lake life at Pelican Lake. She was an avid University of Minnesota Gopher sports fan, dating back to the first Gopher football game that she attended in 1942.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Peter Arnesen Jr. She is survived by three sons, Peter

(Lori), Paul and Terry; along with eight grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held June 5 at United Church of Christ, Falcon Heights.

Virginia Bertz

Virginia L. Bertz, 89, died June 3.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold; and sisters, Carolyn Brandes, Mary Strandberg, Veronica Richardson and Margaret O'Connell. She is survived by her children, Thomas (Cheryl), Rick (Sandy), Lawrence (Kay) and Elizabeth (Gary) Westlund; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held June 9 at the TIES Event Center in Falcon Heights, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Elizabeth Cummings Browning

Elizabeth Cummings Browning, 53, of Falcon Heights, died May 24 of complications related to frontotemporal dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

A singer-songwriter, she performed under her maiden name, Liz Cummings, with a number of popular bands in the Twin Cities, including Liberty Street, Aisha's Wild, Kurt Jorgenson, Tumblin' Dice and the Flamin' Ohs, and was a regular fill-in for bands that needed a singer or keyboardist who could step in on the spot.

She entertained diners at Famous Dave's Uptown during happy hour for several years and was part of Straighten Up and Fly Right's music-theater tribute to Nat King Cole and other productions.

The sixth of 10 children, Liz was born in Melrose Park, Ill., and got her start in music at the age of 4 when she fell in love with the piano. She moved to Missouri at age 12 and graduated from Visual and Performing Arts High School in St. Louis. Liz graduated from Rockhurst University with a degree in psychology and philosophy, but music remained her calling.

Liz cut her first and only album, "Finally!," at the age of 50, just as her brain-wasting disease began to hijack her personality.

While Liz found her voice in music, she found her purpose in being a mom to her two children, Nathan and Elsa, of Falcon Heights.

Liz worked part time at North Second Street Steel in Minneapolis for nearly 10 years, until June 2012,

when her illness made her unable to perform.

The last two years of her life were marked by a series of losses. She lost her job and alienated many friends and fellow musicians before anyone knew that a disease was twisting her personality into anger and bitterness.

In the last year of her life, Liz suddenly returned to her sweet, pleasant essence despite the pain and many indignities thrust upon her by her illness.

Liz was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Elizabeth Cummings of Monroe, La. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Dan Browning; their children, Nathan and Elsa; three brothers; and six sisters.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on May 29, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Verne Comstock Sr.

Verne Comstock Sr., former resident of St. Anthony Park, died May 26 surrounded by his family. He had served his country in North Africa, Sicily and Italy during World War II, then came home to earn a Ph.D. in agronomy and plant genetics, researching flax varieties for the USDA in California and at the University of Minnesota. He was a contemporary of Norman Borlaug. Verne developed a drought- and rust-resistant strand of flax.

He bought 21 Langford Park in 1956 and raised his six kids in the house. He was a Langford Booster member and would hold skate swaps on the front porch of his house. He planted pine trees in Langford Park and was active with the seniors group that meets on Wednesdays at the Methodist church.

He loved sports of all kinds, playing handball into his 70s and holding Vikings season tickets. Verne was a member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club and sang with the North Suburban Chorus. He was a member of Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Allison and Russell; sister, Susan Wildas; and first wife, Bettie. He is survived by his wife, Erma; children, Verne Jr. (Judy), Pamela Ehrhardt (Jim), Barbara Comstock (Peter Soukup), Gayle Curtis (Jim), Manny (Becky), Jane Rohrman (Bob), Jim D. Sentz (Katie), Reggie Gloystein (Lou) and Natalie Sentz

(Don Dudley); 15 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Verne was interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on June 6. A service followed at Centennial United Methodist Church.

Joan Lovrien

Joan Merkert Lovrien, 82, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died on May 19 in Rochester, Minn. She was the widow of Rex Lovrien, a longtime professor at the University of Minnesota.

She was born in Minneapolis to Charles and Matilda Johnson Merkert. Joan attended Washburn High School, Stephens College and the University of Minnesota. She then went on to graduate school, attending the University of Iowa's well-known studio art program.

Joan was a longtime resident of St. Anthony Park and later lived in Woodbury, before moving to Rochester, to be near her daughter Anna.

Joan was a writer and an artist and had a roving intellect. She continued studying all her life. She obtained a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She was a longtime member of Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul. More recently, she belonged to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester.

She is survived by three children, Lucy (Nicholas Poser) of Watertown, Mass.; John (Nga Tang); and Anna of Rochester.

Terence Ubel

Terence "Terry" Ubel, 72, longtime St. Anthony Park resident, died June 10.

He was a graduate of Globe Business College, worked 15 years at EcoLab and eight years for the Wilder Foundation. Terry was a dedicated volunteer and served 42 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, 10 years with the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and four years at Lyngblomsten Senior Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Florian and Dorothy; grandparents Rodney and Julia Scott; brother Steven; and sisters Mary Adams and Marge (Grant) Simpson. He is survived by his wife, Karen; son, Edward; brothers Jim and Bill; and sister Chris (Don) Dopkins.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held June 14 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Roseville.

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Taylor's artwork will be on display at the Fine Arts Center during this year's fair, Aug. 21 through Labor Day, Sept. 1.



Neighbors

Ramsey County Fair is July 9-13

The Ramsey County Fair runs from Wednesday, July 9, to Sunday, July 13, at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds, 2020 White Bear Ave., Maplewood.

Hours are 5-11 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, noon-midnight, Friday and Saturday, and noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday.

The fair includes carnival rides, daily performances, an interactive display of Dakotah life with Gibbs Museum and more.

You can find the schedule of daily highlights at www.ramseycountyfair.com.

Admission to the fair is free and parking is \$3.

International Institute offers summer Spanish classes to adults

The International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., is offering evening Spanish classes for adults July 15-Aug. 14.

The five-week classes meet twice a week. Cost is \$200 for the class, plus a \$20 one-time registration fee and \$23 for a textbook, which is available at the institute.

Classes will meet at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Register by phone at 651-647-0191, extension 340.

The institute offers seven levels

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Annual Peace Lutheran Church concert to benefit local food shelf

A concert to benefit Keystone Food Shelf will be held on Thursday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 1744 Walnut St., Lauderdale. Admission is a donation to the food shelf (cash, check or nonperishable item). The concert will feature young people from the Lauderdale, Roseville, Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Park area, among others. A reception will follow the concert.

St. Kate's Art Fair Returns

A number of local artists will be exhibiting at Art at St. Kate's on Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Area artists include Linda Nelson Bryan (fiber), Matthew Krousey (clay), Colleen Tabaika (fiber) and Greta Sandquist (two-dimensional art).

Art at St. Kate's will feature 100 Midwest artists and will be held on the green triangular lawn at Cleveland and Randolph avenues on the St. Paul campus of St. Catherine University.

Learn about psychic development at Spirit United Church workshop

Dr. Reenah McGill will lead a mini-

workshop in developing psychic abilities on Monday, July 14, 7-9 p.m. at Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. McGill has a doctorate in ministry and in Oriental medicine. She taught one of the first college programs in paranormal studies at the University of Minnesota. A \$10 donation is suggested. Call 651-235-6645 to find out more.

'Conversations with Yogis' comes to St. Thomas in July

The Meditation Center of Minneapolis will present an 11-day speaker series, "Conversations with Yogis," July 21-Aug. 1 at the University of St. Thomas McNeely Center.

Each event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a meet-the-yogis tea and conversation. Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. A series pass costs \$140, or you can buy a five-lecture punch pass for \$80. Individual tickets are \$18 when purchased online and \$25 at the door for adults, \$20 for seniors and students. To find out more, go to hyt-tp.com/stpaul.html or call 612-379-2386.

The talk schedule is listed below:

• *Monday, July 21:* Dr. Phil Nurenberger, "Freedom's Path: The

Dancing Soul"

• *Tuesday, July 22:* Dr. Phil Nurenberger, "Fearless Living: The Practical Science of Yoga"

• *Wednesday, July 23:* Panel discussion with Peter Fabian, Randall Krause and Chuck Linke, "Creating a Holistic Health Lifestyle"

• *Thursday, July 24:* Swami Jaidev Bharati (Dr. Justin O'Brien): "Dialogues from ShangriLa"

• *Friday, July 25:* Charles Crenshaw: "Pathless Path"

• *Saturday, July 26:* Charles Crenshaw: "Improving Sadhana by Healing the Pranic Sheath," chanting with Charles on harmonium at 6:30 p.m.

• *Monday, July 28:* Dr. Leonard Perlmutter (Ram Lev): "Who Am I: A Deconstruction of the Soul"

• *Tuesday, July 29:* Dr. Leonard Perlmutter: "Understanding the Three Selves (Mortal, Semi-mortal, Immortal) and How to Coordinate the Functions of the Mind"

• *Wednesday, July 30:* Dr. Leonard Perlmutter: "The Healing Power of Contemplation, Repentance and Prayer"

• *Thursday, July 31:* Panel discussion: "Hatha Yoga as a

Gateway to the Subtle Body"

• *Friday, Aug. 1:* Swami Jaidev, "Becoming the Eternal Student"

Recital at Peace Lutheran Church

Peace Lutheran Church's annual chamber music recital will be held Monday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m. Now in its fourth year, the concert will feature former St. Anthony Park resident Michael Berndt on organ, and Roseville Area High School alumni Caitlin Miller and Bobby Ragoonanan (resident of Lauderdale) on piano. A reception will follow the concert at the church, located at 1744 Walnut St., Lauderdale.



Langford from 1

Larkey found out about the Weekly Senior Group after reading about it in a Parks and Rec activity brochure. "I had recently retired and was looking for something interesting to do," she said. She likes the program because it is "geared toward people of all abilities. They are all good people."

Tarnowski, an avid bowler who belonged to two leagues—one in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul—for years and kept bowling even after she started using a walker ("I'd bowl with my right hand and hold the walker with my left hand."), had not picked up a ball since she stopped attending the group in 2012. She knocked down all but one pin in her first roll from her wheelchair. Her

second roll was a disappointment. "I couldn't pick up my spare," she said.

With the help of Sarrazin and a man named Wally, Tarnowski stood for the rest of her rolls and was able to finish the morning with a couple of spares and a strike tallied.

The bowling, the darts, the camaraderie are very positive for the men in Sarrazin's group, he said. A fellow named Jack demonstrated his prowess at knocking down pins: He stands on the opposite end of the gym and rolls the ball. A strike! And then high-fives all around.

"For people like Jack, it's an enormous ego booster," Sarrazin said.

"We have a lot of fun," Hahnen said. "It's low budget. We use the resources of Parks and Recreation.

We make it work."

The group is open to people of all abilities age 55 or older (the age requirement is flexible, Hahnen said) and meets 9-11 a.m. every Friday.

The city will install central air conditioning at Langford this summer, which will make the center more comfortable for summer indoor activities, Hahnen said. The group will probably move to a different rec center during that work, as it did when the gymnasium was painted earlier this year, when members gathered at Northwest Como Recreation Center.

To find out more, call Langford at 651-298-5765.



Three members of Langford's Friday morning senior group: Fran Tarnowski, Nancy Larkey and Angie Gubrud. At right, the final score at a recent bowl.

Angie	146
Nancy	96
Don	137
Jack	70
Cliff	127
Gerald	101
Wally	172
Steve	67



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JULY

Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by July 16 to be included in the August issue.

1 TUESDAY

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

2 WEDNESDAY

English conversation circles, every Wednesday in July, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.

4 FRIDAY

Public libraries are closed for Independence Day.

Fourth in the Park, St. Anthony Park. See page 9 for a complete schedule.

6 SUNDAY

Young adult dinners, every Sunday in July, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church parlor, 6:30 p.m. Musical instruments, leftover containers and friends are all welcome. Call Katharine at 612-331-4293 with questions.

8 TUESDAY

Summer Reading Program: Music with Paul Spring, St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

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

9 WEDNESDAY

Ramsey County Fair begins and runs through Sunday, July 13. Go to www.ramseycountyfair.com to see the daily schedules. Admission is free. Parking is \$3.

10 THURSDAY

Senior Cinema Series: "42," St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m.

Annual food shelf benefit concert, Peace Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m. Admission is a donation to the Keystone Food Shelf (cash, check or nonperishable items accepted). A reception will follow the concert.

11 FRIDAY

Family Overnight Camp Out and Free Movie Night, Northwest Como Recreation Center. Jump castle, 10U baseball game and climbing tower begin at 6 p.m. "Mulan" will be shown at 9 p.m. Parents must be present. Families provide their own camping gear. Cost is \$30. Preregistration is required. Register for activity #12307 online at stpaul.gov/parks or call 651-298-5813.

14 MONDAY

Falconeers Card Club, Falcon Heights

City Hall, 1 p.m.

Dr. Reenah McGill will lead a workshop in developing psychic abilities, Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7-9 p.m.; \$10 suggested donation.

15 TUESDAY

Summer Reading Program: Magical Mia, St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Vacation Bible school, for children ages 3 through grade 5, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, July 15-17, 6-8 p.m. Free. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/lmul44c>.

16 WEDNESDAY

Beat Boxing with Steppingstone Theatre, for children kindergarten to grade 6, St. Anthony Park Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Class size is limited. Call 651-642-0411 to register.

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

17 THURSDAY

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

Music Under the Trees with harpist Cathy Victorsen and flautist Jane Strauman, Lauderdale City Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Park B4 Dark, 5-8 p.m., St. Anthony Park Como Avenue business district.

19 SATURDAY

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

21 MONDAY

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

22 TUESDAY

Summer Reading Program: Ten Penny Tunes, St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Microsoft Word class, four sessions, Tuesdays and Thursday, July 22, 24, 29 and 31, St. Anthony Park Library, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 651-642-0411 or stop in the library to sign up.

23 WEDNESDAY

Open Eye Figure Theatre presents "The Amazing Cow Boat!" on the front library of the St. Anthony Park Library, 1-1:45 p.m.

24 THURSDAY

Ice cream social, Community Park, 2050 W. Roselawn Ave., 6-8 p.m.

25 FRIDAY

Co-ed Drum Circle, Women's Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, \$10.00 at the door. Drums provided.

27 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Cathedral" by Raymond Carver, Micawber's Books, 2:30 p.m.

28 MONDAY

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

Piano and organ concert, Peace Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m. Free admission, but donations are accepted. A reception will follow the concert.

29 TUESDAY

Summer Reading Program: Splatter Sisters Present Books and Beats, St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

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

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

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

Mondays and Thursdays, Lauderdale City Hall, 2-3 p.m.

VENUES

CHLSS, Children's Home Society & Lutheran Social Service, 1605 Eustis St., 651-646-7771

Community Park, 2050 W. Roselawn Ave., Falcon Heights

Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., 651-792-7600

Lauderdale City Park, 1885 Fulham St., 651-329-8401

Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave., 651-641-3456

Micawber's Books, 2238 Carter Ave., 651-645-5506

Peace Lutheran Church, 1744 Walnut St., 651-644-5440

Spirit United Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, 651-235-6645.

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

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 651-646-4859

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

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Murray from 3

“Discipline is another area that community members and families have expressed concern about,” Theien-Collins said. “One of the things, as the new principal, that I was certainly challenged with and set a goal around was addressing culture and climate in the building, and we made many steps forward in that respect and we also know that there is still work to do, and we’re committed to that work.”

She continued: “The great part about this community is that we have stakeholders who are committed to doing the work and continuing to address culture and climate.”

In a significant program rolled out last year, teachers and administrators adopted a more restrained approach to disciplining disruptive students.

This change came as a result of a community meeting held last year that invited all “stakeholders” to share their concerns with the transition, officials said. Among the approaches discussed at the meeting was the

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, seen as an alternative to suspensions, in which students who were repeatedly disruptive were sent to see a behavior specialist.

Parent Mary Hamel said she had heard “through the parent grapevine” about bullying and disruptive classroom behavior, but added that her seventh-grade son, Alex, had had a positive experience.

“I think some of the teachers thought that their hands were tied a little bit, in terms of sending distracting students out of the classroom,” Hamel said.

Another long-term concern is whether schools, in moving away from the junior high model, can establish stronger relationships with adolescent students during a tumultuous period in their lives.

To that end, the district introduced several programs and initiatives aimed at cultivating these relationships. One such program was Camp 67, a daylong orientation for

district sixth- and seventh-graders that encourages students to interact with their peers and teachers before the start of school.

Beth Commers, whose two older children will transfer out of the district after this year, said school officials missed an opportunity to give students a chance at a better education by not directly addressing overcrowding and violence in the classroom.

“I do have high hopes for Stacy, but I don’t think the district is giving her a lot of resources,” Commers said. “I think the problem is bigger than Murray. I think the problem is how we treat the middle school; I don’t think that we use it as an opportunity to connect with them. I think they just see it as a step.”

Libor Jany, a St. Anthony Park native, is a journalist who has worked in newsrooms in Oregon, Mississippi, California, New Jersey and Connecticut.



Eileen Slagle and David Donch had a combined tenure of more than 50 years at Murray. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

Longtime Murray teachers retire

By Kristal Leebrick

Two Murray Middle School teachers with a combined tenure of more than 50 years in St. Paul Public Schools retired from teaching in June.

Spanish teacher David Donch and special-education teacher Eileen Slagle both spent the bulk of their careers at Murray. Donch spent 27 years teaching in the same classroom in the Buford Avenue building. He joined the staff at Murray after teaching high school English in Venezuela for 11 years.

Slagle joined Murray in 1996 after teaching at Hazel Park Preparatory Academy and in Minneapolis. Slagle taught reading,

math and science to special-education students at the school and she served as artistic director for the Murray musicals for more than a decade. She worked on props, scenery and costumes and was behind the foot-powered car built for *Grease* and the 11-seat moveable boat built for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Slagle and Donch are both natives of St. Paul. Slagle graduated from St. Joseph’s High School, and Donch graduated from Cretin High School (in the same class as Slagle’s husband).

Both teachers say education can be a rewarding career. “The best part of teaching is seeing the light dawn

on a student’s face, when you know he or she understands,” Slagle said. She enjoys running into her former students around town. In fact, she’ll be attending the wedding of one this summer.

“It’s nice to know it all turns out well for kids,” she said.

Donch agrees. He’s seen many of his students do “wonderful things with their lives. It’s very rewarding to see that,” he said.

The takeaway that both teachers stressed: Schools need more parent involvement. If parents pay attention to what is going on inside the schools and talk with teachers, “together we can make a difference,” Donch said.

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your news and views



School News

Sports roundup

Here's how spring sports at Como Park Senior High School and Murray Middle School concluded.

By Eric Erickson

Como Cougars

Baseball: There was a tight St. Paul city race that concluded with the Cougars beating Highland at home to gain a share of the City Conference Championship with a 10-2 record. The season was full of postponements and rescheduled games, but coach Matt Smith credited his senior leadership for putting the team in position to win a championship. "The seniors kept us focused this season. They've experienced the cold-shortened season from last year," he said. The boys made good use of time in the gym early in the season to stay sharp, and it led to fundamentally strong baseball when they competed.

Boys tennis: The team was led by co-captains Nate Parsons, a junior who played No. 1 singles, and senior Zach Lee at No. 2 singles. Parsons was a state tournament qualifier last year on a doubles team, and this year, he became the first Como tennis player to qualify for state as a singles player. Parsons was undefeated through the regular season and marched to the Section 4AA championship. He played two competitive matches in the state tournament before bowing out in the consolation round. Collectively, the varsity team finished fourth in the city conference and netted impressive nonconference victories over North St. Paul, Tartan and Richfield.

Boys golf: For the second consecutive season, the Cougars were the St. Paul city champions. With an undefeated conference dual meet record and the season-ending conference tournament victory, the Cougars were dominant in 2014

with a variety of players stepping up with key performances. Luke Berndt medaled with a 4-over-par at Phalen in April, and Matt Klein medaled twice in May. Tom Fritts medaled five times and won the city tournament, while Klein placed second. This earned both golfers All-Conference honors. Elliot Berven's consistency earned an honorable mention.

Softball: The impressive play of the young team earned the girls a No. 3 seed in the deep pool of talented teams in Section 4AA. The St. Paul City Champions won their first playoff game in convincing fashion but eventually fell in the double-elimination tournament to finish the season with a 19-3 record. All-Conference players included senior co-captain Cindy Pawlitschek, junior Grace Maruska and sophomore Emma Hartman. An honorable mention was earned by senior co-captain Grace Jensen, sophomores Cassie Prescott and Brianna Menssen, and freshman Kathryn Proper.

Badminton: Thirty girls took part in the 2014 badminton season. The Cougars were seeded No. 9 going into the playoffs and successfully advanced to the second round after defeating conference rival Highland Park. Senior captain Meg Stover played No. 1 singles. The No. 1 doubles team of Mouana Yang and Emily Vang, both juniors, posted an impressive winning record and finished fourth in the city.

Girls golf: The Lady Cougars golf team finished third in the St. Paul City Conference. Several golfers produced personal bests this season. Senior captain Kyndra Plowman was the medalist in three matches this

season and earned an All-Conference selection. Sophomore Olivia Berven earned an All-Conference honorable mention.

Track and field: The girls team finished fourth in the conference, led by sisters Mary and Kathleen Miles, who were strong in the distance events. Mary, a sophomore, was the city champion in the 3200 meters with a time of 11:57. The boys also finished fourth in the conference as sophomore Trevon Clay won three individual events: the long jump, 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles. Clay followed that up with victories in both hurdling events at the section meet and qualified for state. A Star Tribune article featured Clay's accomplishments and his work with Como's legendary hurdles coach Marv Rouse.

Murray Pilots

Baseball: The Murray baseball team took top honors in the City Conference, beating Highland Park Middle School 15-5 in the championship playoff. The team's overall record was 9-1 and included six wins in a row to conclude the season. The team was led by returning eighth-graders Malcolm Lurie, Joel LaChapelle, Graeme Thompson, Gunnar Olson, Rory Ierien and Ben Jackson. The starting pitcher for the championship game was Donny Ventrilli.

Track and field: Inclement weather forced meet cancellations, but the boys and girls teams both performed strongly in the four meets that were held. The boys were seventh in the

city meet. The girls team finished second in two meets and placed fourth overall in the city meet. Seventh-grader Anna Erickson was the conference champion in the 800 meters.

Softball: The Pilots had an excellent season with a solid second-place finish in the City Conference. Their overall record of 8-2 included outstanding performances in wins over Ramsey, Humboldt, Washington and Battle Creek.

Badminton: The team had an overall record of 8-5 for the 2014 season. Their consistent effort paid

off with a fifth-place finish in the 12-team St. Paul middle school conference standings. The conference tournament included impressive efforts by Mie Mae Lee and Malee Yang, both of whom advanced to the third round of singles play. The doubles teams of Beth Fryxell and Olivia Mancina, Wang Her and Deborah Oo, and Kaleena Yang and Aliana Portoghese also advanced to the third round.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School. He has coached a variety of school and youth sports teams in St. Paul in the past 20 years.



Planting the seeds

The Murray Middle School E2 science class has kept busy planting balsam fir seedlings in the northwest corner of College Park under the direction of St. Anthony Park resident Mary Maguire Lerman. The students also helped dig out and remove invasive buckthorn and burdock and then plant native plants in the park. Here, during one of the last classes, Seven Armstrong explains to the rest of the class his newfound knowledge of one of the native species the class was planting.

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Danke schön

Fifth- and sixth-graders from the Twin Cities German Immersion School walked from their school on Como Avenue on June 2 to hand deliver a donation to the Como Zoo and Conservatory. The students raised \$400.27 during the school's Entrepreneur Day in May, which they presented to Jennifer Downham, director of individual giving at the zoo. The Twin Cities German Immersion School is a public charter school sponsored by the Germanic-American Institute. Founded in 2005, the school moved into the former St. Andrew's school in the Como Park neighborhood from University Avenue a year ago.

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5 reasons to advertise in the Park Bugle

Community newspapers are readers' choice for news and advertising

Readers in areas served by community newspapers with circulations of less than 15,000 prefer the community newspaper as their source of local news and advertising.*

1. 74% of those surveyed read a local newspaper each week and prefer the printed copy to the online version.
2. Those readers, on average, share their paper with 2.33 persons.
3. 51% say they prefer to receive advertising through the newspaper instead of on the internet (11%)
4. 73% say they read most or all of their community newspaper
5. 43.8% keep their community newspaper six or more days

*2011 results of an annual survey conducted by the National Newspaper Association and the research arm of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism.



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You have entered the Creative Enterprise Zone

Internationally renowned photographer Alec Soth, who works out of a studio on Raymond Avenue, unveiled a billboard on June 3 with a cropped image from a photo he took near Red Wing, Minn. The billboard—a collaborative effort of Forecast for Public Art, First + First and the Creative Enterprise Zone—sits on the Pirtek building across from the Dubliner Pub at Vandalia Street and University Avenue. It is the first of a series of public art pieces that will pop up on University to showcase the creative work happening in the Creative Enterprise Zone, the area of St. Anthony Park that straddles Raymond and University avenues. The photo is part of a collection called “Sleeping by the Mississippi.” The billboard will be up through June 30. *Photos by Kristal Leebrick*

Lake Owasso Flower Show at...

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It’s time to Celebrate Your Independents

The Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA) wants you to celebrate your independent locally owned businesses throughout July and has created a month-long promotion to encourage Twin Cities residents to do just that. Twenty-five Twin Cities merchants are participating in the MetroIBA’s “Celebrate Your Independents” program, including area stores Micawber’s Books, the Bibelot Shops, Peapods, Warners’ Stellian and Ginkgo Coffeehouse. Merchants are offering a variety of in-store discounts, and participants may enter a drawing by registering online. Four winners will each receive \$600 in gifts cards to participating businesses. Here’s how it works: Go to www.buylocaltwincities.com to register and to print out the Celebrate Your Independents brochure, which features a passport that contains the 25 special merchant offers. When you register, you will be entered into the drawing. Participants will get more chances to enter the drawing by visiting each store, where they will receive a code that will allow them to enter the drawing again. A person could potentially enter the drawing 26 times. No purchase is necessary, but participants get one entry per person per store. The merchant offerings are valid July 1-31. A drawing to determine the winners will be held at the MetroIBA’s August networking event on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park. MetroIBA is a nonprofit organization working to support and preserve locally owned, independent businesses in the Twin Cities. Its mission is to help the Twin Cities maintain its unique community character, provide continuing opportunities for entrepreneurs and build economic strength.

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