Murray remodel creates a new wing for sixth-graders

By Kristal Leebrick

When students returned to Murray Middle School in September they were greeted with a little more elbowroom in the school’s halls and classrooms.

Murray unveiled a $2 million remodel this fall that includes a new sixth-grade wing and cafeteria. The school also experienced a significant decline in enrollment from last year’s 900 students to 693 this year.

Last year, Murray transitioned from a grades 7-8 junior high school to a 6-8 middle school. Part of the school’s overcrowding was due to an extra-large eighth-grade class. Now the three grades are fairly evenly split with 235 sixth-graders, 219 seventh-graders and 233 eighth-graders.

The remodel took out the school’s swimming pool and replaced it with a state-of-the-art cafeteria and kitchen. The pool had not been used for several years, according to principal Stacy Theien-Collins.

The cafeteria floor was tiled to mimic the swimming lanes in the old pool and the former swimming bench along one wall was kept in the design, according to David Moll of ATS&R Architects, who designed the new space. The pool’s locker room is now storage space.

The school’s former cafeteria was remodeled into five classrooms and two locker bags for the sixth grade. “Now all the sixth grade is together and the new classrooms have windows,” Moll said.

At the school’s ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 11, district superintendent Valeria Silva praised the architects and district project manager Andrew McGlory for getting the work done in 10 weeks and having it ready when school started.

Superintendent Valeria Silva, school board member Louise Seeba and Murray principal Stacy Theien-Collins cut the ribbon to the new cafeteria on Sept. 11. Photos by Kristal Leebrick

What’s ahead for Como post office?

By Roger Bergerson

For those who might have believed the future of the U.S. Postal Service’s Como Station was secure, it was disconcerting to see a “For Sale” sign go up on the building in late-August.

Five years ago, when branches were being closed, the facility at 2286 Como Ave. was considered vulnerable, but it survived those cuts. Now uncertainty has returned because the Postal Service rents rather than owns the space it occupies, and the building’s owner has put it on the market, with an asking price of $799,900.

“We have a lease through the end of 2015 that would be binding on a new owner,” said Pete Nowacki, spokesman for the Postal Service. “There are no plans to move or change the operations of the post office.”

The building had been home to auto repair and servicing businesses since at least 1933 when Harold McCann, who worked on stock cars he raced at the Minnesota State Fair and elsewhere. After fire gutted the structure in the late 1960s, McCann rebuilt, and the Postal Service began leasing the space in 1970.

(For the previous 40 years, the Como branch post office had worked on stock cars he raced at the Minnesota State Fair and elsewhere.)

The building had been home to auto repair and servicing businesses since at least 1933 when Harold “Buzz” McCann acquired it in 1960. His company, Statewide Engine Rebuilders, served the trucking industry. On the side, McCann worked on stock cars he raced at the Minnesota State Fair and elsewhere.

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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. He will discuss the history of the Sainty City's police department, which has not always been so圣.

District 10 holds elections for railroad safety on Saturday. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N. The forum will include presentations about railroad safety and emergency preparedness and a question-and-answer session. Learn more at district10como.com/chark.org.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 207 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Chili cook-off is Oct. 4
The 2014 Falcon Heights Fire Department open house and chili cook-off will be held 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. Attendees can meet local firefighters, tour the garage, sit in fire trucks and check out firefighter gear. A new addition this year is a chili cook-off. Whether you have an amazing chili recipe to show off or just want to sample, come take part in this new fundraising event.

All proceeds will benefit the Firefighter Relief Association, and the winning chili will receive a prestigious traveling trophy. Entry is free.

Complete the registration form at www.falconheights.org. Cost to attend the all-you-can-eat chili is $5 for children and $7 for adults and $3 for children under 12.

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.

New bus route connects Lauderdale to Green Line
Metro Transit has a new bus route serving Lauderdale. Route 30 connects north Minneapolis to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. The bus will pick up riders on Larpenteur Avenue before heading south on Eustis Street to HealthPartners and ultimately the METRO Green Lines Raymond Avenue Station. On the return, the bus connects residents to the shops at the Quarry in northeast Minneapolis before traveling on through Minneapolis to Golden Valley (ending near Theodore Wirth Park).

The bus runs every 30 minutes Monday through Saturday. More information and schedules are available at LauderdaleCityHall.org.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 City Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 600 Cromwell Ave. The district land use committee met on the first Thursday of each month at SSA. The Energy Resiliency Group generally met every Thursday of each month. Email er@ssaco.org find out locations and dates. The Environment Committee met at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at SSA. The Transportation Committee met on the first Monday of each month at SSA.

District 12 posts election
The St. Anthony Park Community Council board of directors has postponed the October election of board members to spring 2015 or until the board completes a strategic planning process.

The board passed a resolution at its Sept. 11 meeting, postponing the elections.

The district council is currently working with a consultant to find ways to improve itself and better serve St. Anthony Park. Board members, many of whom have sat on the body for many years, are dedicated to this intensive planning process and feel bringing on new members at this time would complicate the process and potentially hinder the productivity of this important phase in the organization’s history.

Board retreat time to reflect, plan
The St. Anthony Park Community Council board of directors participated in a team-building retreat in August at Luther Seminary. Consultant Barbara Raye of the St. Anthony Park-based Center for Policy, Planning and Performance facilitated the retreat.

“The board was able to start building a vision of how to better serve the St. Anthony Park community moving forward,” said SAPCC executive director Suypa M. Iranda.

“We should feel really good about what we accomplished,” said one board member in a survey about the retreat.

“The whole point of the retreat was to talk about who we are, what we need to do, how we must improve. The facilitator did an excellent job moving things along,” said another.

Board members and staff also participated in the Diamond Inclusiveness Assessment, a tool designed to help organizations measure and shape their cultural-inclusiveness performance.

Council launches youth Civic Stewardship Apprentice Program
The District 12 Community Council has launched a pilot program with Jennings Community Charter School and Avidon School to work with students on civic involvement. The Civic Stewardship Apprentice Program (CSAP) will work with three students for one-semester terms on neighborhood projects of each student’s choosing. Students will attend certain committee meetings, and help St. Anthony Park Community Council staff pursue projects and initiatives by helping around the office and at events throughout the semester.

Parking Possibilities on University Avenue
A group calling themselves Parking Possibilities has launched an online community conversation about parking on University Avenue along the Green Line. University Avenue currently has two driving lanes in each direction. Parking Possibilities is asking residents and businesses in each segment of the corridor whether one lane in each direction should be used for parking instead.

The group is asking input to formulate a report to present to the St. Paul City Council. Learn more about the parking options being considered and fill out a short survey at www.parkingpossibilitiesmp.com.

AD U task force members named
The District 12 Community Council Land Use Committee has named 10 St. Anthony Park residents to a task force to study the potential effects of allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in neighborhood. The members will meet monthly for six months to study the issue. The task force members are Claudia Wiegrese, Glen Skohnheit, James Stout, John Selz, Karen Hovland, Mark Thieroff, Nancy Plagens, Nick Thomey, Phil Carlson and Suzanne Garfield.

Gertrude Esters Day
In honor of her 100th birthday and civic involvement, Falcon Heights Mayor Peter Lindstrom has declared Oct. 1 Gertrude Esters Day in the city. Lindstrom presented Esters with the declaration on Sept. 7 at a breakfast she held at 1666 Coffman Condominiums on Larpenteur Avenue, the complex she took a lead roll in developing in the mid-1980s.

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By Warren Wolfe

Shortly after Charles Luman reluctantly placed his wife, Libby, in an assisted-living home, a friend at a weekly breakfast looked closely at him and said, “Chuck, you look a lot better.”

“How, I didn’t think I looked so bad,” Luman, 79, of Roseville recalled later. “But maybe that’s what happens when you take care of somebody with Alzheimer’s. You kind of slowly wear down without realizing it.”

The swelling tide of people with dementia and caregivers like Luman—both growing as the population ages—is why 32 groups of volunteers in Minnesota have embarked on programs to help make their communities “dementia friendly.”

The City of Roseville is among them. About 20 residents, care providers, city officials, parish nurses and groups such as the Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program and Lyngblomsten are working on a project called Roseville Act on Alzheimer’s. It is part of a statewide collaborative working to improve life for those with Alzheimer’s and to help their families and community businesses, churches and other groups be more effective.

A community forum to address those issues will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Fairview Community Center, 1910 County Road B W.

Years ago, dementia—most common among older people—was rarely simply because died much younger. By 2050, about 89,000 Minnesotans had Alzheimer’s and similar dementia diseases. Now the number is about 95,000 and will reach 110,000 by the year 2025, officials estimate.

It affects about one in nine people 65 and older, and about one in three 85 and older. Alzheimer’s accounts for about 70 percent of dementia diseases.

There is no cure, although medications can slow its progress for a time in about half of patients. Damage to brain cells slowly disrupts a person’s memory, judgment and personality. Eventually it leads to death, although most patients die earlier of something else.

In Roseville, nearly 750 people have dementia. Most live at home and about 110 live alone. Roseville has one of the highest percentages in the state of people age 65 and older (20.2 percent). By contrast, Minnesotans age 65 and older make up 12.9 percent of the population. Roseville also has a higher rate of dementia than in many Minnesota communities (10.13 percent).

At the community meeting Oct. 21, residents and others with ties to Roseville will hear about its strengths and gaps in meeting the needs of people with dementia. They’ll also learn results of a recent survey of residents and businesses that found strong support for improving knowledge about the signs of dementia, the skills to interact with people with dementia and the ability to make referrals.

Then they will help select priorities for future action, such as developing a list of community resources or training neighbors, businesses and clergy to better understand and help people with dementia.

“There are lots of really smart people who have dementia,” Luman said.

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By Kyle Mianulli

Charles Luman visits his wife, Libby, several times a week at an assisted-living home in Maplewood. Luman holds the couple’s wedding photo on a recent visit. Photo by Krista Leebrick

New Lyrebird Youth Choir will perform hits from ’50s, ’60s, ’70s

By Kyle Mianulli

Chanson Voice and Music Academy is looking to bring a taste of the neighborhood to the neighborhood and area youth. The music school at 795 Raymond Ave. launched the Lyrebird Youth Choir this fall for sixth- to eighth-graders, who will perfect and perform hit songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s at a theme-based community outreach event in October and at a final concert Nov. 23 at the Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Parkway, Minneapolis.

The 10-week session is called “Going Back in Time Along the Green Line,” which is just what the group will do at their community event Saturday, Oct. 18. Outfitted in retro fashions, the youth group will make its way up and down the METRO Green Line, singing hits from groups like The Beatles and Led Zeppelin. The day will culminate with special performances at area shops, including Succotash and Shag Studio.

Directors Anika Kildergard and Cassandra McNally, who teach at the school, say there is an essential community-oriented aspect to choir. They hope to partner with local shops around the Raymond-University area by partnering with local shops for the event.

Feeling part of a whole, along with the personal empowerment that comes from mastering one’s own body as an instrument, is also a valuable experience for youth in the transformational phase of their lives leading up to high school, said Kildergard.

“It’s the most exciting part about choir is being able to come together and make one piece of music,” McNally said.

“There’s really something empowering about using your body to do something that is successful,” Kildergard added. “It’s also about young people getting together to do something successful.”

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Roseville part of study on creating ‘dementia friendly’ communities

By Warren Wolfe

The music school at 795 Raymond Ave. launched the Lyrebird Youth Choir this fall for sixth- to eighth-graders, who will perfect and perform timeless hits from the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s at a retro-themed community outreach day Saturday, Oct. 21.

Outfitted in retro fashions, the youth group will make its way up and down the METRO Green Line, singing hits from groups like The Beatles and Led Zeppelin. The day will culminate with special performances at area shops, including Succotash and Shag Studio.

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Why I teach at Murray Middle School

By Tim Chase

With the passing of iconic Murray science teacher Dr. Johnny Bland last fall, I found myself going over some of his stories. One that stuck out in my mind was from the time that Nancy Nelson retired and Tom Olm took over as principal, as I was fraught with concern as to how the transition would happen. Johnny took me aside, as he and fellow science teacher Art Payne often did, and explained, “Principal problems and principals go, but Tim, you’ll be here forever.”

It was funny how he was right about that and so many other things.

In the last year, Murray has gone through the biggest changes this building has seen in over 22 years. We have transitioned from a junior high to a middle school concept and all that goes with that model. Along with that, we have a complete replacement of the administrative staff, added sixth-grade students, put them in a inadequate facility for a year, and had more students in the school than I had ever seen in my 20 years of teaching at Murray.

I have enjoyed teaching at Murray over the years, getting to know many people in the community, the students and parents. I take great pride in teaching science, watching the “light” go on when a student begins to understand, seeing students asking questions and helping each other, and having the administrative support of new ideas. I like the laughter in the hallways, parents and guardians who ask questions and insist on a strong school, and the parents/guardians who volunteer to make Murray an even better school.

But my thoughts as to why I took the job at Murray were brought back to mind. I listened to a story on NPR the Saturday after Johnny’s passing. I was correcting papers and I wrote a story about Brown v. The Board of Education case. It is so clear that the journey to equitable education for all is still a journey this country is on and unfortunately, it has many more twists and turns in the road ahead. It reminded me that the school is the place for learning so many things, like reading and writing, but it is also the place where communities come together. It is where white meets black, poor meets rich, English meets other languages, and academically gifted meets academically challenged. It is where students can learn they are more alike than different.

So I appreciate that Murray is one of these truly diverse places where a student can meet everyone from all walks of life. Our school is that place where communities come together, where isolation with “like-minded” people is disrupted and we see the world, as it truly is diverse and complicated.

Donna (Mrs. Chase) and I have sent our three kids to Murray over the years. We have been in a conversation last year about something that happened in our son’s sixth-grade classroom at Murray, and she said she was glad that he got to interact with people from other cultures and walks of life, as he will have to in the real world. The sooner he meets and embraces the fact that he is more alike than different from other people, the sooner he will be able to interact competently and sensitively to those around him in his journey.

Murray affords him this opportunity.

This school year has gotten off to a great start. The overcrowding has ended with more than 100 fewer students in the building, so class sizes are reasonable. We have a sixth-grade wing that is made for teaching our students, and we have a staff that wants to teach here. All of this makes a great difference. Together, the staff and parents/guardians, are working to build a strong school in a strong community. I’m looking forward to the coming year at Murray Middle School.

Tim Chase is a science teacher at Murray Middle School.
Black Bear Crossings owner announces city council candidacy

David Glass announced his candidacy for St. Paul Ward 5 City Council at a press conference at his restaurant, Black Bear Crossings on the Lake at Como Lakeside Pavilion, on Sept. 17. The seat is currently held by Amy Brendmoen, who won election in a close race against incumbent Lee Heigen in 2011. The election will be held Nov. 3, 2015.

“More common sense and more business sense is needed in St. Paul decision making,” Glass said in his announcement.

Glass and his wife, Pamela, opened the Black Bear Coffee House and Community Circle south of Lake Como by the railroad tracks 18 years ago. In 2000, they contracted with the City of St. Paul to open Black Bear Crossings on the Lake—a coffee shop and wedding vendor—at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. The city chose not to renew that contract last fall. In November the city announced it was looking for a new vendor to provide better service and draw more visitors to the venue.

The Glasses filed a suit against the city this summer over its refusal to renew the lease and accusing the city of defamation. A Ramsey County district judge ruled that Black Bear was eligible for damages over the city’s refusal to renew the lease but denied the restaurant’s request to have the lease extended.

The city reached an $800,000 settlement with the Glasses to avoid going to trial.

Black Bear will continue operating through the end of the year. The city began taking proposals for a new vendor in September and will be reviewing those proposals Oct. 10-12.
Music in the Park will host two concerts in October

The Schubert Club’s Music in the Park Series will present two chamber music concerts in October at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

The Danish String Quartet will perform on Sunday, Oct. 12, and the Miami String Quartet with pianist Lydia Artymiw will perform on Sunday, Oct. 26. Both concerts begin at 4 p.m. with a preconcert talk beginning at 3 p.m.

Embodying the quintessential elements of a chamber music ensemble, the Danish String Quartet has established a reputation for its integrated sound, impeccable intonation and judicious balance. The quartet makes its Twin Cities debut at this concert.

Praised in the New York Times as having everything one wants in a quartet: a rich, precisely balanced sound, a broad coloristic palette, real unity of interpretive purpose and seemingly unfailing energy,” the Miami String Quartet has established its place among the most widely respected quartets in America. For more than 20 years, their diversity in programming, poise in performance, keen sense of ensemble and impeccable musicality have made the Miami String Quartet one of the most sought-after quartets in chamber music today. The quartet returns to Music in the Park Series with their long-time musical collaborator, Artymiw, who has also appeared on the series with many other celebrated chamber ensembles including the American, Daedalus and Guarneri string quartets. Artymiw is Distinguished McKnight Professor of Piano at the University of Minnesota School of Music, where she has taught since 1989.

Halloween fun to benefit Special Olympics team

A “Halloween Spooktacular” will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. The event is a fundraiser for the St. Paul Magic Special Olympics team.

The event will feature a nonthreatening haunted house, kids games, prizes, treats, a costume parade, a fire truck from the St. Paul Fire Department, a police car from the St. Paul Police Department, facepainting and a horse-drawn hayride. Costumes are encouraged.

Halloween fun for kids of all ages. For more information contact Karen Ueland, 651-488-3262.

Supportive Care Conferencing - Who and What is at Your Table?

When a loved one is in declining mental or physical health, how does a family talk about what matters most? Join us for this session led by Scott Curran, LifeCourse Social Worker from Allina Health.

Thursday, October 2
10 - 11:30 a.m.
St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ
2129 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul

All are welcome. The session is free.
Co-sponsored by SAP Lutheran Church, SAP United Methodist Church, SAP United Church of Christ, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church and SAP Area Seniors
651-642-9052 www.sap seniors.org

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Post office from 1

The former post office sign in front of the Como Station post office is not a welcome sight for many area residents.

operated around the corner at 2238 Carter Ave., today the site of M.I. (Michele’s Books.)

During the mid-1990s, McCann, then a resident of Hayward, Wis., tried to sell the building but was unsuccessful.

Cory Kingbay, the real estate agent listing the property, says McCann’s widow, Lorraine, now thinks it’s time to try again. He says he’s had a number of inquiries about the site from prospective buyers looking for locations for office, retail and restaurant operations.
Transition Town wins grant challenge

Congratulations to Transition Town All St. Anthony Park, which won the most votes in the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundations’ 15th anniversary grant challenge.

To celebrate 15 years of serving the community, the foundation announced the competition in May as a way to encourage fresh ideas for neighborhood initiatives. The foundation will grant $5,000 per year for three years to Transition Town, a group that was established two years ago to work on economic and infrastructure resilience in the community as it faces challenges associated with global climate change.

The group has already begun looking into creating a community-owned solar garden, local food production and preservation, and more. The grant will support broader community participation and communication through social media, Internet outlets and print.

St. Anthony Park residents and business owners voted online through Aug. 31 for one of three organizations to receive the three-year grant. The winner was announced at an anniversary party for the foundation at Urban Growler Brewing Co. on Sept. 19. Transition Town received 227 votes.

The other two contenders for the grants were Shakespeare in the Park, an outdoor community theater project that would provide performing arts opportunities for all ages (it received 150 votes), and M id-Continent Oceanographic Institute (formerly Rock Star Supply Co.), a nonprofit group at Raymond and University avenues that offers tutoring, writing development and homework help to students ages 6-18 from low-income households (it received 195 votes).

“The foundation looks forward to working with the Transition Town folks to bring our community together and build consensus around their sustainability goals,” foundation executive director Jon Schumacher said. “We also want to work with the other two finalists to help them achieve their goals.” —Kristal Leebrick

St. Paul Vocal Forum will celebrate its 10th anniversary at October concert

The St. Paul Vocal Forum will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a concert “How Can I Keep from Singing” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

The concert will include a newly commissioned work entitled “Her Face Is Framed,” a secular piece inspired by St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians.

A Twin Cities chamber choir originally based at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, the Vocal Forum was founded by artistic director David Ryan Moberg, whose brother, Glenn Berg-Moberg is a pastor at the church. The choir includes singers from around the Twin Cities who audition to become a part of the 24-member group. The choir collects donations for charitable organizations at their concerts as a part of their mission to “brighten our world by sharing beautiful music and make a difference where there is need,” according to their web site.

Current artistic director Karen Barrett has invited alumni of the choir to join current members on several pieces in the Oct. 25 program, and the original accompanist, Ann Braaten, will be featured on organ.

A pre-concert discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature the composer, David Ryan Moberg, and lyricist, Glenn Berg-Moberg, of “Her Face Is Framed” to be performed that evening. Guests are invited to stay for a reception immediately following the concert.—Alex Lodner
Walk for hunger on Oct. 12

Sometimes the troubles of the world seem so overwhelming that there is just nothing you can do about them. But in October, you can make a dent in world hunger by taking part in the annual CROP Hunger Walk at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2233 Como Ave W.

In the 20 years of its existence, CROP Hunger Walks have raised more than $294 million to fight world hunger, with nearly 2,000 communities taking part each year. The walk is a community built, interfaith and benefit both world and local programs. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds stay in the community. Last year nearly 20 St. Paul groups raised more than $20,000. This year’s goal is $30,000, with the local money going to the Department of Indian Work shelf at the St. Paul Area Council of Churches.

Walkers will meet at the church for registration at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12. The walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. Participants may walk 2.5 miles or 5 miles on a clearly marked route. You can walk with friends if you don’t have a church affiliation, and if you don’t feel up to walking, you can contribute by buying books at the church book sale before or after the walk. (All proceeds will go to CROP)

For more information go to www.spacc.org/crop or Shelley Weiss at 651-206-4557 or at sweiss@spacc.org – M. Michelle Christiansen

Alzheimer’s from 3

For those in the caregiving trenches, the work never ends—even when a loved one enters a nursing home assisted-living facility. “It’s really hard to watch as Libby changes,” Luman said. “It’s like the person you love is slowly disappearing, and you can’t do much about it.”

He still teaches a course in business operations management at Metro State University after years as an engineer, business executive and early developer of computer systems. He remembers the family meeting where his two daughters told him it was time for their mom to move to assisted living so paid professionals could take over her care.

“They were right, but it wasn’t easy to let go,” Luman said.

By that time, about five years after her diagnosis, he employed two aides to come morning and evening to help dress, bathe and feed his wife. She had attended adult day care for about five hours several times a week. That gave him a break from the daily stress, but eventually the disease progressed and she no longer could participate.

My caregiver support group at the Roseville Community Center told me that 40 percent of caregivers die before the person they’re caring for,” he said. “That’s kind of shocking, but it shows how important it is to take care of yourself, and how important community support can be.”

He visits Libby about every other day. And while the stress is less, it’s still there. “Sometimes it’s hard for friends to remember that Libby is still Libby. You have to remember that.”

Warren Wolfe of Roseville retired last year from the Star Tribune, where he wrote about aging issues for 21 years. He and his wife, Sheryl Faribanks, have four parents, two with dementia. They also are active in the Roseville Act on Alzheimer’s Project. For more about the Act on Alzheimer’s, go to the Roseville city website www.ci.roseville.mn.us and search for Alzheimer’s.

This article was supported by the MetLife Foundation, journalists in Aging Fellowships, a program of the New America Media and the Gerontological Society of America.

For more about the Act on Alzheimer’s, contact Anika Kildegaard at kilde016@morris.umn.edu or 320-263-8612. Kildegaard and McNally wrote about aging issues for 21 years. The Lyrebird Youth Choir is now meeting weekly but will still accept new registrations. To sign up, learn more, contact Anika Kildegaard at kilde016@morris.umn.edu or 320-263-8612, or Cassandra M O’Neill at mockingbirdstatedoorvoice@gmail.com or 612-834-8612.
St. Anthony Park's Como Avenue shops

They’ve got (almost) everything you need

By Judy Woodward

Thirty years ago or thereabouts, an immigrant arrived in Minnesota from a land that knew no winter. A transplanted Californian from the San Francisco Bay Area, the newcomer had a small child, a husband who was constantly traveling for business. The first flakes of what was to be a harsh winter had already begun to fall and the immigrant knew not a single neighbor. Worse still—she had absolutely no idea how to drive in snow.

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and Acupuncture with Cadance to help you face life's aches and pains.

Want to buy a gift? Whether the present is intended for someone special or for yourself, you have Emil Gustafson for jewelry, Bungalow Pottery at Milton Square for unique display pieces, and Bibelot for everything else. If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind item for the house, try Thistle, the eclectic boutique in the basement of Milton Square that opens only on special weekends and by appointment. Or visit Carter Ave. Frame Shop to get ideas for framing anything from a recently purchased watercolor to your child's first-grade self-portrait to a treasured memento from a trip abroad.

Is there a child or an expectant parent on your list? Peapods Natural Toys and Baby Care offers everything from eco-friendly toys to free classes on cloth-diapering techniques.

How about updating your look? Try Salon in the Park for a full range of salon hair care services. Your face will thank you if you make an appointment with Complexions on Carter, a skincare boutique on the second floor of Milton Square. Esthetician Maggie Miley offers a 60-minute “Signature Facial” that includes massage, cleansing and

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Your neighbors in St. Anthony Park

ST. ANTHONY PARK DENTAL CARE
2278 Como Avenue / St. Paul

Park Perks

Park Perks raised $574 for The Works Museum.

During the month of November we are raising money for Community Involvement Programs annual Holiday Wish program.

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Of course, a day of shopping can be hard on more than your wallet. If all the buying decisions leave you feeling temporarily overwhelmed, consider this: The Como Avenue business district can help you escape (visit Como Rose Travel in the Healy building at the corner of Doswell Avenue) or focus on more serious things as well. A little farther east on Como Avenue is Jim Roehrenbach’s State Farm Insurance agency to safeguard your valuables and Steve Townley ReMax real estate, in case the unthinkable happens and you want to leave the area. Remember the sobering adage that nothing in life is certain except death and taxes? The area has those certainties covered too. A choice of Como Avenue churches and Luther Seminary are there to take care of the next life. As for this one, why postpone the inevitable? You can finish up your day with a tax or financial strategizing appointment at the office of Catherine Holtzclaw Planning, LLC or estate planning at Pierce Richards Law Office at Milton Square.

Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Roseville Public Library and a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.
Salsa Lisa happy in new home

By Roger Bergerson

Neighbors and community groups may have wanted something other than an office-building warehouse at 650 Pelham Blvd., just north of I-94, but the new facility was just what the founder of Salsa Lisa was looking for.

Lisa Nicholson’s sauce company had outgrown its production kitchen space nearby on University Avenue and the St. Anthony Park resident wanted to stay in the area. In March, Salsa Lisa became the first tenant in the new M3 Industrial Center.

“At our previous location, we’d added on incrementally as we grew, but here we had a chance to design our space, and the flow of our processes is much improved,” she said. “Another advantage is that here we have four loading docks, while before we had one that we shared.”

For about a year, the Union Park and St. Anthony Park community councils succeeded in blocking the plans of Industrial Equities L.L.P. to build on the 5.2-acre tract. It had been the site of two O’neill Express warehouse buildings until the St. Paul Port Authority demolished them to clear the parcel for development. The St. Paul City Council sided with residents, but a Ramsey County District Court judge ruled in October 2012 that the developer could proceed. The 56,000-square-foot facility was completed in August 2013 and today it is fully leased.

Nicholson started making salsas to sell while attending the University of Minnesota in the early 1990s, founding her company in 1995. In 2010, Calavo Growers Inc., of Santa Paula, Calif., seeking a line of salsas to complement its guacamole products acquired majority ownership of Salsa Lisa.

“Our salsa appealed to them because we use fresh tomatoes, all natural ingredients and our products have a long shelf-life,” Nicholson said. The six varieties of Salsa Lisa are refrigerated, which Nicholson says helps preserve their fresh flavor and nutritional value.

Locally, Salsa Lisa is available in most grocery stores and food co-ops, and Calavo’s clout has helped place the products with major national retailers. The salsas currently are sold in 15 states, mainly in the Midwest and Northeast, as well as California.

On the day Nicholson talked to the Park Bugle, the operation was making 1,000 gallons of salsa, some of it destined for sale at Costco. Trucks from St. Paul carry the sauces to Calavo distribution centers in California, New Jersey and Texas.

“Salsa is easy to make cheap,” said Nicholson. “It’s hard to make it really good. Consumers are very discerning, and they have responded very favorably to our full-flavored products. It tends to get personal: ‘That’s my salsa, that’s the only one I use.’”

In a few years, Calavo could exercise its option to acquire the share of the company still owned by Nicholson. In the meantime, she says the relationship she has with the parent company is a good one.

“We’re very well supported,” she said, “and they’re very good at letting us do what we know how to do.”

Roger Bergerson is a local historian, journalist and regular contributor to the Park Bugle.
A beer opener

Urban Growler proprietors Deb Loch (left) and Jill Pavlak (second from left) were joined by St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman (second from right) and councilmember Russ Stark (right) at the brewery’s grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 27. The brewery and restaurant, located at 2325 Endicott St., St. Anthony Park, is open six days a week: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-9 p.m.; Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, noon-10 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Photo by Kyle Mundek

**IFP Minnesota will be an anchor tenant at new Vandalia Tower**

Independent Filmmaker Project Minnesota (IFP MInnesota) will be an anchor tenant in Vandalia Tower, a new development by First & First, located at 550 Vandalia (off of University Avenue). The organization is moving from its current location at 2446 University Ave. W.

“We’re thrilled to be one of the first organizations to make the move to Vandalia Tower,” said IFP Minnesota executive director Andrew Peterson.

Opening in January 2015, the new state-of-the-art media arts center will feature multiple classrooms (all equipped with projection and sound), screening space, video editing stations, a dedicated youth space and a photography gallery, as well as offices and meeting space.

With Lake Monster Brewing also in the building, IFP Minnesota hopes to be a site for receptions, events and screenings, including outdoor screenings in Vandalia Tower’s courtyard.

IFP members and friends can get a first look at the new space under construction on Saturday, Nov. 8, at a grand opening event.

More than $10,000 in prizes will be given away at home tour

Castle Building & Remodeling plans to give away more than $10,000 in remodeling prizes to entice visitors to its annual Educational Home Tour, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28.

The tour—which will run from noon to 6 p.m. each day—will feature 14 Twin Cities homes, along with two projects using eco-friendly sustainable building materials from Castle’s sister company, Natural Built Home, and three landscaping projects through Field Outdoor Spaces.

The 2014 Castle Educational Home Tour purpose is to show, everyday remodeling projects, not just the largest or most expensive projects.

The grand prize is a $5,000 remodeling project. Additional prizes include:

- Custom bathroom vanity, countertop, sink and faucet replacement ($3,350 value)
- $1,000 Warner’s Stellan gift certificate
- $1,500 Landscaping Design Services from Field Landscaping
- Kohler cast-iron sink and a faucet ($1,000 value)
- $550 gift card to Natural Built Home gift
- Mythic Paint gift certificate to Natural Built Home $250
- Various door prizes, totaling more than $1,000 in value

Attendees have multiple chances to enter for all the prizes, with a check-in opportunity at all 19 homes on the tour.

For more information, go to www.castlehometour.com.

**Business Briefs**

Peapods awarded for its sustainable business practices

Green America, a national nonprofit that promotes sustainable business practices, named St. Paul’s Peapods Natural Toys & Baby Care a store as one of three winners of the Summer 2014 People and Planet Award.

The award, which includes a $5,000 prize, was given to three of the 10 businesses from across the country that were nominated. In addition to Peapods, Give Gum of Providence, R.I., and Green Beginning Community Preschool of Los Angeles were also named as winners.

Peapods, which is celebrating 15 years in business this month, offers wood toys, cloth diapers, baby carriers and other green goods for kids at its store at 2290 Como Ave.

M. Illic Adelsham, the founder and co-owner of Peapods, said they were “incredibly honored” to receive the award.

“Our goal at Peapods has always been twofold: to offer the safest and greenest goods and to build community in our city. We believe that a locally owned store benefits a neighborhood in dozens of ways that chain stores or e-commerce sites do not. Today, we are thankful to our community for helping us achieve this award,” Adelsham says they plan to use the award money to invest in more energy-efficient light fixtures and improve their selection of sustainable-made toys for the upcoming holiday season.

You can find out more about the store at www.peapods.com.

**Hermes wins big at State Fair**

Hermes Floral, 1639 Larpenteur Ave., took two out of three of the top spots in the M Innate State Floral Association’s two-part design competition at the Minnesota State Fair in August.

George Sawday placed second and Sandy Biedler placed third. You can see Sawday’s and Biedler’s semifinal and final arrangements on the Hermes Floral’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/pages/Hermes-Floral/.
November issue.

Venue information is listed at the end of the story.

2 THURSDAY
Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

3 FRIDAY
Preschool storytime (ages 3-5), every Friday, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
YMCA camps fall garage sale begins at State Fair Merchandise Mart (see more information on page 15.)

7 TUESDAY
Baby toddler lap sit storytime (birth-2), every Tuesday, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Word Basics: Part One, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:00 a.m.

9 TUESDAY
St. Anthony Park Senior Cinema Series, "Stories We Tell," St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m.

10 FRIDAY
Come hear the story of the Titanic from the unique point of view of Sylvia Caldwell, the wife of Titanic survivor, Albert Caldwell. The story will be dramatically presented by Mr. Caldwell's great niece, Julie Hedgpeth Williams, the author of the book, "A Rare Titanic Family." St. Anthony Park Library, noon-1 p.m.

11 SATURDAY
Fall craft fair, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Roseville, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

12 SUNDAY
North Suburban Evening Lions Club "All the Waffles You Can Eat Breakfast," John Rose Oval Skating Center, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Raffle, cake walk, 50s, raffle. Ages 8 and over: $5 and under free.
CROP Hunger Walk, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 1 p.m. Walk 2.5 or 5 miles to raise money for the Department of Indian Work Food Shelf and Church World Service. Learn more at www.spacc.org/crop.

13 MONDAY
Falconers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.
"The Art of White Magic," presented by William Reader, Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7 p.m.

14 TUESDAY
Microsoft Word Basics: Part One, St. Anthony Park Library, 10 a.m.-noon. Class is limited to four. Call 651-642-0411 to reserve a spot.

16 THURSDAY
Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

17 FRIDAY
"All the Waffles You Can Eat Breakfast," John Rose Oval Skating Center, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Raffle, cake walk, 50s, raffle. Ages 8 and over: $5 and under free.
CROP Hunger Walk, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 1 p.m. Walk 2.5 or 5 miles to raise money for the Department of Indian Work Food Shelf and Church World Service. Learn more at www.spacc.org/crop.

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

25 SATURDAY
Craft fair, sale, bake sale, lunch and raffle, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

26 SUNDAY
Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity," by Katherine Boo, Micawber's Books, 2:30 p.m.

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

30 THURSDAY
Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

VENUE INFORMATION
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors exercise classes meet at these same 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.

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Cindy Miller - Reiki

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To add your business to this listing, contact
Bradley Wolfe at 651-393-6814 or bradleywolfe@parkbugle.org

31 OCTOBER 2014

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WARM show features local women artists

Beyond the Surface, the 2013-14 WARM Mentor Program Exhibit featuring a number of area artists will be held Oct. 3-31 at the Grain Belt Bottling House, 79 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis.

An opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Artists exhibiting with the mentor program include Linda Rickels Baudry, Audra M. Eam, and Manda Soderman-Olson.

GALLERY hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.
SAP Elementary seeks tutors
St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp St., is seeking volunteer tutors to work with K-5 students in reading, writing or math. Tutors must be at least 16 years old, eager to build relationships with students and help them succeed, and be available for a minimum of one hour per week for the school year. No teaching experience is necessary. Training and teacher support will be provided. To volunteer, contact Becky Kalhoff, tutoring coordinator, at Rebecca.Kalhoff@rams.org or 651-744-2468.

Afterschool program needs tutors
Rediscover the joys of learning by volunteering with Project for Pride in Living (PPL) afterschool youth programs in St. Paul. PPL strives to empower students from low-income families to access quality education and in life through academic support and hands-on enrichment activities. Volunteers work with students on literacy, homework and relationship building.

Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-7 p.m. at locations in Highland Park and the Selby/Dale neighborhoods. To apply, contact Anna Preus at anna.preus@ppl-inc.org or 612-455-7444. Learn more about PPL at www.ppl-inc.org.

YMCA camps
Widjiwagan, du Nord fall garage sale starts Oct. 2
The annual fall garage sale for YMCA camps Widjiwagan and du Nord will be held Wednesday, Oct. 1, to Saturday, Oct. 4.

The sale is open 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday. The Saturday bag sale will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 250 local vendors will serve appetizers, and wine. Early bird tickets are $25 each. Guests 21 years or older are welcome. Call 651-489-1459, or go to www.mmsaschool.org to find out more.

End of life is topic at local events
H olcolm-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 536 N. Snelling Ave., will host a coffee hour for anyone interested in learning more about cremation, funeral services and more from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the funeral chapel. Call 651-646-2844 for more information.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, Pastor Ruth Sorensen-Proskoch of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, at Nanda and Victoria avenues in St. Paul, will host an information session “Planning for Our Last Season” from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. Barbara Hannah of Holcolm-Henry-Boom-Purcell, Janelle Calhoum of Thrivent and Charles Nelson of Chandler & Brown will talk about funerary and personal planning, wills and trusts, powers of attorney, health care directives and more.

There will be time for the presenters to answer questions. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the church at russ@sttim.org or 651-489-0336.

Recycle your electronics
Recycle your used or old electronics 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Church of Corpus Christi, 2131 Fairview Ave. N., Roseville. A senior high Girl Scout troop is hosting the Tech Dump as a fundraiser for an international trip. The electronics will be collected by Tech Dump and any data on the items will be securely destroyed by the company, which is a licensed electronics recycler. You can dump your old computers, cell phones, electrical cords, hard drives, televisions and computer monitors. There will be a tax-deductible $15 to $45 fee for CRT recycling.

Call Tech Dump, 763-432-3117, for more details. Items that cannot be accepted are washers/dryers, water heaters, space heaters, dehumidifiers, stoves or refrigerators.

Luther Seminary to host ‘Sing the Faith’ hymn festival
On Oct. 26, Luther Seminary will hold its annual Singing the Faith hymn festival, a service of hymn and readings celebrating the Lutheran Reformation. This year’s festival is titled “Singing the Faith: Readings from Luther’s Catechism on the Lord’s Prayer” and will feature the St. Olaf Choir.

Following the program, a traditional Norwegian smorgasbord with lutefisk, meatballs, side dishes and desserts will be served. Tickets for the smorgasbord are $25.

The program will be held in the Chapel of the Incarnation in the Olson Campus Center on the Luther Seminary campus. Find out more about the event at www.lutherseminar.edu/refelt.

Used book sale at Roseville Library
The Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is hosting a “Spooktacular” Used Book Sale Oct. 22-26 at Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Avenue N.

T housands of books, movies, taking books and CDs from all seven branches of Ramsey County Library, as well as private donations, will be sold. Most items sell for $1 or less.

Books are presented by genre in fiction, nonfiction, children and young adult categories to make shopping easier.

Sale hours are 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22 for an exclusive “Friends Members-Only” pre-sale. A membership can be purchased for $20 at the sale.

Public sale hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24-25; and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. A $5 Bag Sale will be held on Sunday.

Proceeds from the Friends book sales and used book stores benefit Ramsey County public libraries in Mounds View, Roseville, Shoreview and White Bear Lake.

The Sparrs
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Gary: 651-639-6304 gary@edinarealty.com
Peter: 651-639-6386 petersparr@edinarealty.com
Lindsey: 651-639-6432 lindseyesnaola@edinarealty.com

PARK BUGLE 15

OCTOBER 2014
Shana Buchanan
Shana Gail (née Lohse) Buchanan, 42, died unexpectedly in Minneapolis Aug. 31.
Shana was born July 12, 1972, to Thomas and Alison Lohse. Shana grew up in St. Anthony Park and attended St. Anthony Park Elementary School.
She graduated from St. Paul Central High School, received her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Minnesota, and taught elementary school in Minneapolis Public Schools.
She went on to receive her law degree at William Mitchell College of Law and practiced law in the Twin Cities.

Shana appreciated the outpouring of prayers and support from friends and the community. A gathering of family and friends was held Sept. 15, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Clark Lindsay Christlieb
Clark Lindsay Christlieb, 84, known to childhood friends and family as Lindsay, was a man who lived to make others laugh and enjoy life as much as he did. He died July 26. He was a bravely fought melanoma and set a courageous example for all to follow.
He was born Feb. 27, 1930, in St. Paul. He grew up on Grantham Street in St. Anthony Park and graduated in 1948 from Murray High, where he ran track, played football and was a member of the “Bucket Brigade” basketball team and student council.

Clark graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in 1956. He spent 30 years as one of H.H. Vassarette’s top salesman in Minnesota, the West Virginia-Kentucky-Ohio region, and Texas and adjacent states, after moving to Houston with his wife, Olgia, and sons, Isaac, and Frank, in 1961.

Clark was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Christlieb and Alma Anker Christlieb, and his wife. Survivors include two sons, Isaac (Phyllis) and Frank (Kay), both of Texas; four grandchildren; dear friend and business colleague Akemi Vassarette’s top salesmen, in 1990.

He was married in 1950. After many moves, the family settled in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in the mid-1960s.
He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Doris; his children: Joan, Bob, Jon, Clark, Gary, Cary (Debbie), Becky (John Andrews and Barth (Michelle); four grandchildren; and his sister, Elizabeth Hiegel.

A service of remembrance was held Sept. 11, at St. Cecilia’s Catholic Church in St. Anthony Park, with interment at Rosemount Cemetery.

The family especially thanks Allina Hospice. Memorials are preferred to the Angel Foundation.

Pauline Roth
Pauline F. (née Palermo) Roth, 91, lifelong resident of St. Paul, passed away peacefully at SunLight Senior Living on Sept. 6.
She was preceded in death by parents, Salvatore and Josephine Palermo; husband, Lawrence; daughter, Susan M. (Arthur) grandmother, Geoffrey T. Thompson; brothers, Sam, Pauline F. (née Palermo) Roth, 91, lifelong resident of St. Paul, passed away peacefully at SunLight Senior Living on Sept. 6.
She was preceded in death by parents, Salvatore and Josephine Palermo; husband, Lawrence; daughter, Susan M. (Arthur) grandmother, Geoffrey T. Thompson; brothers, Sam,

Keystone Senior Program offers meals, flu shots and much more

Keystone Senior Program at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of services to senior adults. Call 651-645-7424 to find out more about any of the services listed below.

Meals on Wheels are available to anyone in need of nutritious meals. You can receive a hot daily meal, fresh uncooked meal or frozen meals, five to seven days a week. The cost is based on your income.
AARP Smart Driver Refresher Classes will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Merriam Park Community Center.

To add your church to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org
Science-focused middle school opens in Como Park

By Alex Lodner

The Academy for Sciences and Agriculture (AFSA) High School in Vadnais Heights has opened a middle school campus in the Como Park neighborhood.

The M Innesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council opened AFSA High School in 2001 with 39 students and six teachers in a rented space in Roseville. The school moved into its current facility in Vadnais Heights in 2003, and students in grades 5 through 8 now attend. AFSA also offers courses in college-level agriculture accounts for 20 percent of jobs in the United States.

AFSA is an tuition-free, public charter school that is authorized by the Audubon Center of the North Woods. It offers core curriculum that meets or exceeds state standards and adheres to state graduation requirements. As a science- and agriculture-focused school, AFSA also offers courses in plant, food, animal and environmental sciences and engineering. Students in the lower grades are introduced to a variety of sciences; in grades 5 through 8, they focus on agriculture literacy.

"We have students who are interested in science and agriculture, and we want to provide them with the opportunity to learn about these subjects in a hands-on way," said Ellen Purdy, Como’s 2015 National Merit Scholar.

School News

The Bugle welcomes news about students and schools in the area. The deadline for the November issue is Oct. 8. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

Avalon School

700 Gladstone St., 651-649-5495 www.avalonschool.org

Volunteer as a ‘community expert’

The school is seeking a volunteer as a community expert to answer questions about science and agriculture. The position is open to anyone interested in helping students learn about these subjects.

Join the Parent Academy

The Parent Academy is a program for parents of students in grades 5 through 8. The April meeting will be held on April 20 at 6:30 p.m., and the May meeting will be held on May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

New teachers at Chelsea Heights

Chelsea Heights Elementary School welcomes several new teachers and students this fall: kindergarten teacher Brigitte Stewart, first-grade teacher Anna Yang, second-grade teacher Laura Erickson, third-grade teacher Julie MacGregor, cultural specialist Sean Stewart and social worker Jane Butterfield.

Science News

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The Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council opened AFSA High School in 2001 with 39 students and six teachers in a rented space in Roseville. The school moved into its current facility in Vadnais Heights in 2003, and students in grades 5 through 8 now attend. AFSA also offers courses in college-level agriculture. AFSA’s mission is to “engage young adults in science and agriculture to specialize in science, food science or animal science. The school was educating more than 200 students in grades 7 through 12 from more than 20 districts in Minnesota.

But families wanted more. AFSA’s mission to “engage students in academically rigorous, student-centered learning experiences and leadership opportunities in a science and agricultural context,” along with its nontraditional approach to education, was appealing to families who desired the same experience for their young children, said Becky M eyer, AFSA’s director of education.

“We know we had many families interested in a middle school, and it is also important to try and start a relationship with students sooner in their schooling and have longer contact with them to ensure their success,” she explained. “But it is a very lengthy process to add grades.”

In March, the school’s board approved the addition of grades 5 and 6, and this fall, AFSA opened a middle school that will eventually serve grades 5 through 8.

The new school is temporarily housed in the former school building on the corner of the Holy Childhood at 1435 Midway Parkway. The board is searching for a permanent location, which it hopes will be the Como area, Meyer said.

“We love Como,” she said. “There are so many potential partnerships in the area for our students, especially the University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus.”

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School News to 20

Science News

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"Students here are dedicated to science and agriculture," Gawarecki said. "They are the next generation of professionals who will be the place for the next Michael Jordon. We hope that parents, students and friends to join the club and consider making a financial contribution to the organization, which supports music, arts, athletics and extracurricular clubs and activities at the school. Find out more by calling the school at 651-693-8800.

Teachers receive Ecolab grants

Four teachers received Ecolab grants to supplement their teaching this school year. The teachers and their projects are as follows: Kathryn Kahn, funding to purchase the book Survival of the Tolerant: The Surprising Connections between Disease and Longevity and create lessons from material in the book; Elizabeth Luby, funding to purchase lab materials for the College in the Schools anatomy and physiology course to provide students with opportunities to investigate and understand the function of the human body; and Jason M cintyre, funding to purchase used digital cameras and recycled printers and toner to enable an entire classroom of 25 students to support student learning, according to principal Ann Johnson.

Fall Festival is Oct. 24

The 19th annual Fall Festival will be held at 5-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, 2014.

The Como Park Booster Club seeks members

The Como Park Booster Club is looking for CPSHS families and friends to become acquainted with the club and consider making a financial contribution to the organization, which supports music, arts, athletics and extracurricular clubs and activities at the school. Find out more by calling the school at 651-693-8800.

School News to 20
By Eric Erickson

The Como Park Senior High School girls’ volleyball team has returned to the court for the 2014 season with high expectations. After going undefeated in the St. Paul City Conference last season, the team is embracing the challenge and enjoying the work of defending the city championship.

The 2013 win was the Cougars’ first since 1994, but that championship gap can be filled with competitive teams, Smisek pointed out that she has a committed core of returning players who are leading the charge. Seven of the varsity team’s 10 full-time players are back with experience. Leadership is evident at many levels on the team, but is spearheaded by senior captain Jenna Krivit, and junior captains Bekah Hausman and Delilah Wolf.

Krivit is a middle blocker while Hausman and Wolf are both setters. Hausman and Wolf are both setters. Bekah Hausman and Delilah Wolf. Jenna Krivit and junior captains Bekah Hausman and Delilah Wolf.

Jenna Krivit and junior captains Bekah Hausman and Delilah Wolf. The team is setting up another special season. Smisek admitted being tough on her team, pushing them to maximize their opportunity this season, and, Krivit added, “not waste the potential we have.” With additional leadership from assistant coach Ashley Jones, who has been with the program for three years and is described as the “chill coach” by Hausman, the girls were on the right path to repeating the conference championship at a pre-press time.

Jennings Community Learning Center expands and remodels

By Alex Lodner

There is a sort of a rebirth happening at the Jennings Community Learning Center (JCLC), located at 2455 University Ave. W., just east of Highway 280. After 14 years of combining academics with travel opportunities for its students, the school has remodeled to better accommodate its unique learning structure. Jennings Community Learning Center (JCLC) is a tuition-free charter school serving grades 7 through 12. The school adheres to all Minnesota graduation standards, but what makes it unique is its self-directed, project-based learning model, said director Bill Zimniewicz. Students at JCLC learn in mixed-age groups facilitated by advisers. Zimniewicz believes this format fosters students’ desire to learn and create, unlike more traditional school settings that can at times lose sight of student’s individual needs and learning styles.

Ours advisors know each and every student,” Zimniewicz said. “We want to see them grow to their full potential. We want to know what they want to learn about.”

JCLC was established in 1998 by Wayne Jennings, a longtime proponent of learning through life experience. Jennings’ history of searching for nontraditional solutions to student learning needs has included founding the St. Paul Public Schools’ (SPPS) Open School (now Open World Learning Community) in 1971, along with several other charter schools. He also assisted in the design and implementation of several nontraditional schools, including SPPS’ EXPO Magnet M iddle School.

Zimniewicz is passionately dedicated to his students. “The current traditional structure doesn’t work for every student,” he said. “We want to offer an environment where students are cared about in a way that they cannot be in larger classrooms.”

Keeping group sizes at 38 students gives a long way toward fostering meaningful relationships between advisers and students, he said. “Our kids can learn by doing; they learn through experience. We can do that because they have the attention of the adviser,” said Zimniewicz.

Another of the ways that JCLC serves itself apart from traditional
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St. Anthony Park Elementary School’s 19th
Fall Festival and Silent Auction!

Friday, October 24 / 5:30-8 p.m.
- Pumpkin fun run around Langford Park (check in at 4:45, run at 5:15)
- Live music w/ “Light of the Moon” + Dancing
- Fun crafts & activities + Bake sale + Pizza
- Taco-in-a-bag • Scholastic Book Fair
- Chinook Book sale
- Decorated/carved pumpkin contest

2180 Knapp St., St. Paul 55108

School News from 17
at the school. The annual fundraiser is a fun affair with live music for dancing from Light of the Moon, a silent auction, book fair, bake sale, crafts and activities, and food. Admission is free, and all are welcome. All proceeds go toward enrichment programs at the school.

Need wrapping paper?
St. Anthony Park Elementary School students will be selling Innisbrook wrapping paper from Sept. 26 through Oct. 15. Call the school at 651-293-8735 to find out how to order some.

Jennings from 18
schools is by offering travel study programs to a select group of students each year. Groups have traveled to New York, New Orleans and Hawaii, as well as to a variety of locations in the Midwest.

“We want kids to love learning,” Zimniewicz said. “They get to see the places they are reading and learning about.” But Zimniewicz is no pushover. Students have to prove they are worthy of such unique opportunities.

“We don’t put up with violence, drugs, disrespect,” he said. “We’ve had a couple of students who were all set to go on a trip and then we had some behavioral issue with them. They didn’t get to go on that trip. I told them, ‘Work on the problem; hopefully you’ll go next year.’”

Students are held to a high standard because Zimniewicz believes they can reach it, he said. His tough love philosophy seems to work.

The school anticipated that its attendance would increase significantly this fall, which led to the rethinking of the school’s layout.

The remodeled space is bright and colorful and includes fully enclosed classrooms instead of the large cubicles the students used to gather in. The newly configured common space now includes a stage for presentations and an area for dining. The kitchen has been updated as well, and the school participates in the National School Lunch Program, which offers free or reduced-price lunches for eligible students.

Each classroom has a desktop computer for each student and boasts brightly painted desks that the students built themselves. No one is more proud than Zimniewicz.

“The kids made these,” Zimniewicz said. “They are not just learning math and science here, they are learning about pride and ownership in their work and in themselves. We are preparing them for a lifetime of learning.”

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

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Castle Building & Remodeling’s Educational Home Tour will feature twenty-four down to earth remodeling projects focusing on kitchens and baths with 10 homes in St. Paul alone! Each home features a topic that will help you to make smart decisions with your home... and you’ll have a chance to register to win $10,000 in total remodeling prizes.

See all 19 homes on September 27 - 28, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission is free to all.