



A whole lotta summer

Park B4 Dark, the Fourth in the Park and Como Fest promise a season of fun.

Pages 6-7



A Bugle saver hunt!

Find the letters in these photos and win.

Page 10



Yes, they can can

Artist-inspired mini golf course moves closer to fruition.

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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Falcon Heights
Lauderdale / Como Park

www.parkbugle.org
June 2015

The owl babies of University Grove

By Kristal Leebrick

The sight of two great horned owl chicks hanging out in the brushy commons on Northrup Street last week was a celebratory event for neighbors in the University Grove community of Falcon Heights.

Their appearance together means the two owls—one hatched in a tree on that block and the other an orphan rescued from a clear-cutting site in Hudson, Wis.—are now siblings, said Karen Kloser, whose white oak is the place where this story began.

The two were brought together on May 5, after the University of Minnesota Raptor Center was called to help with a chick that had fallen, along with its nest, from the tree in Kloser's yard.

That tree had become home to two adult owls sometime in November, Kloser said. That's when she and neighbors began hearing the owls call in the mornings and evenings. In March, a neighbor saw one of the birds fly into a nest in Kloser's tree "and that's when we realized where [they were]," Kloser said.



University Grove resident David Wark took this photo of one of the great horned owl chicks now "hanging out" in the Falcon Heights community.

With no leaves on the trees at that time, neighbors had a good view of the owls. "It was marvelous to watch the behavior day in and day out, and then the baby appeared in late March and that was even more exciting," Kloser said.

That "adorable little white fluff of down" drew continuous crowds to her front yard. Neighbors came with cameras, telescopes, binoculars, and they watched the adult owls keeping

the chick well-fed, Kloser said.

On April 23, the chick was seen on the tree branch outside the nest. Hours later, the nest imploded into Kloser's yard and the chick was gone.

Folks in University Grove lost sight of the chick until May 5, when Rebecca Montgomery, Kloser's next-door neighbor, found it on her front stoop. She called the Raptor Center.

Julie Ponder, executive director of the center, said what

happened on Northrup Street is a normal occurrence with great horned owls.

"They are our earliest nesters," she said. "They adopt nests used by someone else. They do no home improvement and the nests don't have a lot of integrity. Chicks fall. We go and help get chicks up [into a tree] to get them away from kids, dogs and cars."

When the Raptor Center volunteer arrived, she realized the chick was probably the only one in the brood. And the Raptor Center had an orphan about the same age that had lost its family. That chick was found in Hudson after an area was cleared of trees.

"It was not a safe place and there was no place where we could safely put the chick," Ponder said.

The Raptor Center brought the chick to the St. Paul Campus.

"Two is the average size of an owl clutch," Ponder said, "and the nice thing about great horned owls is they either can't count, don't count or don't care. They will adopt chicks in the area. They are very welcoming."

Owl babies to page 9

New parking rules established for June Back to the '50s event at state fairgrounds

Participants will use the State Fair parking lots to line up for the early-morning entrance

By Roger Bergerson

Como residents who've complained about pre-dawn noise associated with the Back to the '50s car show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds may get some relief this year.

Participants in the June 18-21

event will be prohibited from parking from midnight to 6 a.m. in the entire area east of the fairgrounds, from Snelling to Hamline avenues.

"We want to keep peace with the neighborhood," said Jim Harvey, chairman of the Minnesota Street Rod Association event, for which

nearly 12,000 vintage and classic cars were registered last year.

Over time, many of those car owners have become accustomed to assembling on nearby residential streets in the wee hours and then forming an engine-revving parade onto the grounds when the gates

open at 6 a.m.

Chris Harkness lives on Midway Parkway near the Snelling Avenue entrance to the fairgrounds and says the cars begin lining up on the service road in front of her house as early as 4 a.m.

Back to the '50s to 8

One sweet night

Pie lovers: head to St. Anthony Park on Friday, June 5, when the Northern Lights 4-H Club will host its annual pie and ice cream social on the Luther Seminary lawn at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place. The event is from 7 to 9 p.m. and will include music by the St. Anthony Park Community Band.



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. Contact 651-644-3889 or www.district10comopark.org.

Council has new board members and some vacancies on the board

The Como Community Council elected a new executive board at its annual meeting in April. Officers are: Ryan Flynn, board chair; Chris Harkness, vice chair; Joao Medeiros, secretary; Amy Perna and David Sorenson, Subdistrict 1 representatives; Kim Moon and Linda Hinderscheit, Subdistrict 2

representatives; Debra Pursley and Frank Dolejsi, Subdistrict 3 representatives; Kevin Dahm and Bill Lipkin, Subdistrict 4 representatives; and Mary Michalski and Tedd James, at-large members.

The council is still in need of a treasurer and three at-large members. As a board member of the District 10 Como Community Council you have the opportunity to be a leader in your community and make a lasting impact on Como Park.

The District 10 Como Community Council is now accepting applications for these positions.

Find the application at www.district10comopark.org.

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. Contact 651-792-7600 or www.falconheights.org.

Curtiss Field playground will be rebuilt Wednesday, June 3

More than 200 volunteers from the Minnesota Vikings, the Toro Company, the City of Falcon Heights, organizers from KaBOOM! and residents of the Falcon Heights community will join forces on Wednesday, June 3, to help build a new playground at Curtiss Field. The design is based on children's drawings created at a special design event in April.

The existing playground at the park, located at 1555 Iowa St., is at the end of its 15-year lifecycle and is in need of replacement.

The city's three goals for a brand new playground are to provide residents with a playground tailored to the children who will use it, improve the aesthetics of the park and build a strong sense of community.

The Toro Company and the Minnesota Vikings have donated more than \$692,000 to build 10 playgrounds in the Twin Cities area with KaBOOM!, a national

nonprofit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all kids, particularly those growing up in poverty in America.

The event will begin with a kick-off ceremony at 8:30 a.m. on June 3.

Best viewing of the playground construction will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held between 2:30 and 3 p.m.

You can find out more about KaBOOM! at kaboom.org.

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. To find when council committees meet, go to www.sapcc.org or call 651-649-5992.

Kasota Ponds cleanup

The annual community-wide Kasota Ponds cleanup was held on April 25 and made a huge amount of progress. About 30 people volunteered, and then two days later 60 Avalon School middle-schoolers went to the north pond to clean up. They did a great job and got to learn a lot about wetlands and the importance of recycling.

New intern at District 12

District 12 has a new member in the office. Amanda Yang, who has a master's degree in urban planning, will be helping the council learn more about environmental degradation in St. Anthony Park and then map it. District 12 has been working with the Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) in Minneapolis, which is working on a similar project. The council would like to hear from residents about any history they have about their property or other parts of the neighborhood. This project will be confined by what's available in public records, but if residents have more information, contact District 12.

School gets garden plot

Jennings Community Learning, a charter school on University Avenue that serves 80 percent students of color, has a garden plot in the St. Anthony Park Community Gardens. The school plans to use it to teach students about nutrition, local foods and health.

Learn about Como reconstruction

The Como Avenue reconstruction project will happen in 2017. Look for the District 12 table at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on June 6 to learn more about it and to give feedback on the project.

Food hub sprouts on former Hermes site

By Roger Bergerson

A Falcon Heights project several years in the making took a step closer to reality in mid-May when ground was broken for the Good Acre food hub on the old Hermes greenhouse site.

Scheduled to open this fall on Larpenteur Avenue, just west of Snelling Avenue, the Good Acre will be an example of a new distribution model designed to make locally grown, healthful food more available to consumers.

The food hub will help local growers find markets for their produce with restaurant, co-op and institutional buyers.

The Pohlads Family Foundation of Minneapolis is the project's developer and three members of the

family, Allie, Lindsay and Sara Pohlads, are credited with "getting the ball rolling," said Terry Egge, senior program director with the foundation.

"All have a passion for creating greater support for local small to midsize farmers and making sure healthy food is affordable and accessible, especially in areas where scarcity exists," Egge added.

As originally envisioned, the 3.4-acre site was to include affordable housing in the form of an apartment building, but that developer ran into financing difficulties and backed out. Egge said the foundation is still exploring relationships with housing partners, but she added that a local food co-op also has expressed interest in operating a grocery store on that portion of the site.

The Good Acre will include an

aggregation and distribution center, training and education facility and a limited retail operation.

Rhys Williams has been named general manager of the Good Acre. Williams has nearly 30 years of experience in the food growing and distribution business, most recently with the Co-op Partners Warehouse in St. Paul.

"I wish them the best," Falcon Heights Mayor Peter Lindstrom said of the endeavor. "It's clear that there is a growing and committed constituency for local food. Their location will help bring synergies with University of Minnesota researchers and students."

Roger Bergerson writes about community news and history regularly in the Park Bugle.

Forum to address hazardous chemicals and rail safety

Learn about hazardous chemicals and rail safety in a community conversation with Dr. Bill Toscano, professor of environmental health science at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

The event, Chemical Awareness Training: Hazardous Chemicals and Rail Safety, will be held Wednesday, May 20, 7-8:30 p.m. at North Dale Rec Center, 1414 N. St. Albans St., St. Paul.

Toscano will lead an informal discussion and answer questions related to hazardous chemicals being transported by rail through the Twin Cities.

This event is sponsored Twin Cities Citizens Acting for Rail Safety, Como Community Council District 10 and Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman.



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Local author's summer serial tells story of Iron Range labor history

"There once was a union maid, she never was afraid / Of goons and ginks and company finks . . ." Woody Guthrie, "The Union Maid"

By Judy Woodward

Union membership is down, and many Americans don't remember much about the great strikes of the past, but St. Anthony Park author Megan Marsnik is out to change that.

In the pages of Marsnik's new historical novel, *Under Ground*, the battle cry is "Organize!" and the Union Maid—fearless, resolute and tough as nails—is once more ready to take her place in the frontlines of the struggle.

Starting Memorial Day, Star Tribune readers will get a chance to learn more about a chapter of Minnesota history that is rarely heard about these days. *Under Ground* won the newspaper's summer serial contest this year, and readers will be able to follow daily the adventures of 16-year-old Katya, a Slovenian immigrant, who falls in love with a union man and arrives on Minnesota's Iron Range just in time for the great Miners' Strike of 1916.

Based on a real incident from a once-famous Minnesota strike, *Under Ground* has its share of strong female characters.

"I look for strong female characters who aren't victims," says



Megan Marsnik Photo by Marina Lang

Marsnik, "and the women of the Range are the strongest women I know."

Marsnik was especially interested in portraying the women married to the strikers, she says, women who were able to keep the family together when the money wasn't coming in, and who were even prepared to take their husbands' places on the picket lines when the men were overcome by the company's private police force of strikebreakers and hired thugs.

Marsnik grew up in Biwabik, the granddaughter of an immigrant miner and his indomitable wife. Her grandfather was once blacklisted for his union activities, and Marsnik

says, "Tales of the [1916] strike were as common to me as bedtime stories."

It wasn't until she came down to the Twin Cities for college that Marsnik, 45, realized that not everyone thought residents of the Range were fashioned from a heroic mold.

"Some people think the people from the Iron Range are narrow-minded or simple," she says, and then she tells a story about one of her professors. When she asked him for a letter of recommendation, he was happy to comply, but he remarked that he "had never expected anyone

Summer serial to 18

Meet Nancy Koester: Minnesota Book Award nonfiction winner

By Michelle Christianson

When former curator of the University of Minnesota's prestigious Kerlan Collection, Karen Hoyle, insisted that Nancy Koester submit her book, *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life*, as a candidate for the Minnesota Book Award for general nonfiction, Koester found the idea intriguing. So she submitted it. And she won.

Nominations for the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library's annual awards may be submitted online by authors, publishers or agents and must be accompanied by a fee and five copies of the book. The books must be written by Minnesota full-time residents and be published within the award year.

Koester, a Como Park resident and former associate pastor at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church and Como Park Lutheran Church, nominated herself but didn't tell anyone except her husband, Craig.

"I didn't want to be set on winning, and I didn't want to jinx it," she said.

In the lead-up to the awards ceremony, the award finalists attended promotional events at area libraries sponsored and arranged by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. Koester attended two in March, one with authors nominated



Nancy Koester

in all categories and one with authors in her category.

The April 14 Minnesota Book Awards Gala drew 1,000 people to the Union Depot.

(Koester had been scheduled for knee-replacement surgery just a few days before the awards gala; the surgery was

rescheduled.)

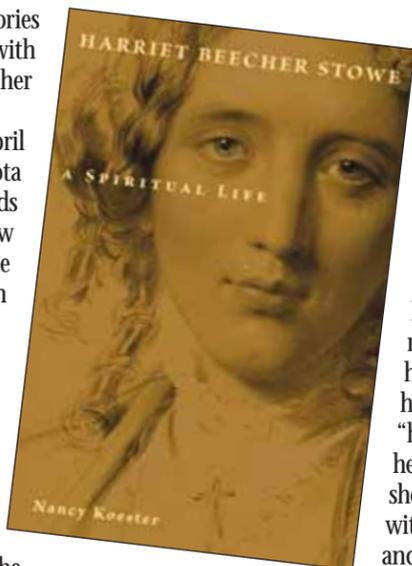
Before the ceremony, authors sold and signed books and complimentary wine was served. During the ceremony, authors were spread around at different tables, with Koester in the middle of the room. She didn't have a speech prepared, because she didn't want to believe that she would win, she said. The names of all the authors and their books were read before a sealed paper was opened and the winner was announced in each category by a winner from a previous year.

"There was a pregnant pause and then Jack El-

Hai read my name," Koester said.

She was shocked, she said, and thought about what she could say in her acceptance speech. But then she remembered how her dog, Livie, a herding dog, had "herded" her up to her writing room. So she included her dog with the other thanks and said that it was

Book award to 19



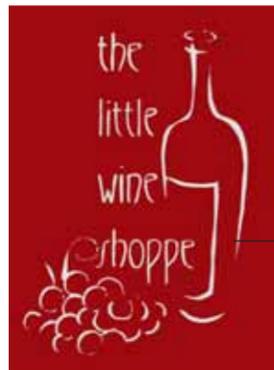
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GUEST EDITORIAL

The MCAs inadequately serve those it aims to help

According to the counseling department at Como Park Senior High School 29 of the 276 juniors at the school opted-out of the state-administered Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments math test in May. Most of these students were preparing for an AP exam, or multiple AP exams. Other high schools throughout the Twin Cities also reported students opting out of the test. Here's one Como student's thoughts on why he chose not to take it.

By Keith Eicher

My elementary school memories of standardized test-taking were not exactly fun, nor were they very scholarly. But they were tolerable in the sense that for a week each year I enjoyed a few hours a day to myself, contentedly waiting for the allotted time to be expire.

After I finished the test I had the opportunity to eat a snack, look out the window and try to make the Lifesavers my teachers passed out (to help us focus) make sparks in my mouth when I bit down on them—all of these being pastimes that my first-grade self, if interviewed, would most likely call enjoyable. Unfortunately, this ritual was repeated, year after year, for what now has been a decade of my academic life.

From a student's perspective, there are a host of reasons not to take a state standardized test. (Minnesotans take the MCAs, or Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.)

First, it's a waste of time. Not in the "I wish I was at home watching Netflix sense," but in the "I have six AP tests to take in the span of just over a week and I sure would

appreciate either a break from studying or more time to study." Furthermore, if you're like the vast majority of my grade, you will be taking the ACT college entrance exam literally one week following your MCA, another several-hour-long test that actually is a graduation requirement.

Oh, did I not mention that sitting through an MCA test is not a requirement to graduate from high school? That's correct; students actually have the ability to opt out of the test. Sounds like a happy medium right? Not quite.

Schools and teachers are judged on the results of these (essentially) optional MCAs; they are trusted by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to be accurate and "standardized" metrics of any given educational institution's ability to teach students. The MDE trusts these results to help make decisions concerning the allocation of funds to schools and, furthermore, make judgments on how effectively the educators within those schools are teaching their students.

However, in a Freakonomics-esque correlation, parents who are active enough in their child's school career to allow them to opt out of tests have also raised children who are best at taking said tests, artificially lowering the observed school's score when those kids do opt out.

Bearing in mind that those with less money have less educational opportunities in childhood—for low-income parents often cannot afford to send their children to as many extracurricular activities as those with higher incomes—how



Keith Eicher

can Como Park Senior High's test scores (with a free-and-reduced-lunch rate of 72.4 percent) be compared to Minnetonka's (with a free-and-reduced lunch rate of just 6.9 percent) without taking into consideration the disparity in average educational opportunity outside of school? (Statistics were taken from each school's respective website.)

Additionally, the fact of the matter is that some teachers' and schools' efficacy simply cannot be measured against others. Case in point: schools like mine, with high numbers (26.5 percent here at

Como) of English Language Learner students Levels 1 and 2 (those who know either little or no English) whose ability to discern simply what a question is asking for is their primary concern.

How do the MCAs compensate for the difference in childhood education between a refugee and a native-born English speaker? Why, then, is money being spent producing these tests that do not accomplish the task of providing a reliable metric by which to measure educational efficiency?

I won't hide the fact that exercising the ability to opt out of a nonessential test has made me feel as though I let down my school and made things worse for my teachers. I will, however, say that it has given me the opportunity to look inside a statewide problem, that, with the best intentions, inadequately serves those it aims to help. Yes, it would be convenient to possess the ability to quantify "amounts of education" that schools produce, but attempting to use that data to prove that some schools or teachers are better or deserve more funding without considering the complex circumstance surrounding each is ludicrous.

The MCAs are a remnant of a time when lawmakers were misled into believing that quantification was the best way to judge so qualitative a system as education.

Keith Eicher is a junior at Como Park Senior High School, president of the Como Student Council and a resident of St. Anthony Park.

COMMENTARY

The Park Bugle welcomes letters and commentaries from our readers. Send your submissions to editor@parkbugle.org or to Editor, Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. The deadline for the July issue is Wednesday, June 10.

Wrist factor

By Adam Granger

At 10:34 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, I slipped on the ice and fractured my left radius at the wrist. I had survived 65 years with no skeletal insult greater than a fractured toe, and now I sat in a hand surgeon's office being told that my left hand would be in a cast for six weeks. As someone who makes most of his living with a guitar in his hands, this was a nightmare at long last realized.

My left hand. The fretting hand. The brains of the outfit. I had spent a lifetime falling on my knees, my shoulders, my butt—especially my butt—all as a means of avoiding injury to an upper limb, and now I had finally gone and done it.

As the doctor talked, I mentally scanned my professional calendar in a panic: a gig that weekend, a dance after that, the Prairie Home Companion Caribbean cruise the week after that, my annual St.

Anthony Park neighborhood concert (already set for April), a seven-country tour of Europe in May, a weekend job in Manitoba in June and, peppered throughout, guitar lessons. I don't mean to sound chauvinistic, but it's safe to say that this fracture was more of a crisis for me than for the average person.

I mean, we all need our hands, but . . .

I returned home sporting a purple fiberglass cast and immediately began damage control: I got subs for the imminent gigs; I went to Prairie Home Companion headquarters and held up my cast and asked if I still got to go on the cruise and was told yes; I changed the date of my concert; I developed lesson plans for my students that didn't involve my playing; and I was assured by my doctor that I would be fine by the time of the European tour. So all in all, amazingly little

harm was done to my livelihood. In fact, on the cruise, I was in a songwriting contest wherein we contestants were to compose songs about our experiences aboard ship. Mine was a blues, accompanied by guitar whiz Dean Magraw, entitled 'Cruisin' with a Bruisin'. I took first place, the award for which was \$500 (which, as I told Garrison Keillor, covered my copay).

Career scheduling taken care of, I was left with the issues with which anyone having an arm in a cast has had to deal. We have two hands because we need two hands. And we tend to be hand-dominant, and I am left-handed. Thus was every waking minute of my day compromised: carrying, lifting, washing, showering, writing, driving, tying used doggie bags, opening cans, unscrewing caps, using a computer and so on. And a smorgasbord of grooming and hygienic activities were affected.

One's spouse will help with some of these tasks, but asking for assistance with certain others will wreck a perfectly good marriage. Let's just say that, as regards these tasks, I developed dexterity hitherto unmastered.

The worst adjustment for me was the cast itself. Not being able to touch the part of my arm that was underneath the elbow-to-hand casing drove me almost insane, and the thought of having it on for six weeks was out of the question. (I call this condition cast-trophobia—with a hyphen to differentiate it from fear of Fidel and Raoul Castro.) My take-home info cautioned against sticking a coat hanger inside the cast, so I used a long screwdriver instead, to scratch itches, yes, but also just to be able to touch the skin. This was, of course, as bad as a coat hanger, and caused sub-cast scratches which, predictably,

Community foundation awards \$52,000 in grants to local groups

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation announced its 2015 annual grant award winners. Through all of its grants, using both dedicated and general funds, the foundation awarded more than \$52,000 this year.

The foundation is able to support these organizations and initiatives because of St. Anthony Park's generosity and commitment to community, said Jon Schumacher, foundation executive director.

The foundation's grants committee chair, Bruce Weber, noted that the foundation is particularly grateful for the additional dedicated donations that are increasing each year to provide support for education.

Both alumni groups and individuals have earmarked gifts to support unique programming that keeps our schools vibrant.

Schumacher broke down the totals by fund: the Boss Undesignated Fund contributed

\$32,853; the Environmental Education Fund contributed \$2,122; the Gerald R. McKay Family Music Fund contributed \$2,347; and the Provisional Fund contributed \$8,100.

Here is a list of the grantees and their awards:

- *Avalon School*: \$1,000 for arts programming
- *Creative Enterprise Zone*: \$950 to upgrade website
- *Keystone*: \$1,500 to support its local Meals on Wheels services
- *Mid-Continental Oceanographic Institute*: \$3,000 to support tutoring at Como Park Senior High School
- *Murray Middle School*: \$750 for band scholarships; \$2,000 for Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center scholarships; \$5,100 for the E2 Program; \$3,000 for a partnership with the University of Minnesota Raptor Center (a gift from the Class of 1965); \$600 to purchase books by a visiting author

• *Park Bugle*: \$2,000 for expanded business and education coverage

• *St. Anthony Park Area Seniors*: \$5,000 for general operating

• *St. Anthony Park Community Council*: \$1,000 for online communications

• *St. Anthony Park Elementary School*: \$5,000 for arts programming; \$1,000 for library books; \$2,122 for environmental learning programming

• *SPPS Foundation*: \$5,000 for New Lens Mentoring Program at Murray

• *Music in the Park Series*: \$3,000 for community outreach through Family Concert Series, school and senior home visits

• *Transition Town*: \$5,000 (second installment of grant challenge award)

• *Community programming support*: \$5,000

• *Spirit of the Park Award*: \$500 to Fourth in the Park Committee

Commentary from 4

wouldn't heal. It wasn't until later in the week that I thought of a thin rubber spatula, which worked and felt great. So, on my one-week visit, I begged the doctor for another option, and was given a wonderful plastic appliance, removable via a zipper, after having sworn I would leave it on 99 percent of the time. It saved what was left of my sanity.

As I write this, I am at the five-week mark in my recovery, and by

the time this sees print I'll be playing the guitar again, and I am thanking my lucky stars. Yes, I could have stepped differently or more carefully and not have slipped, but my injury also could have been much worse. I talked to a fellow who, when he was 12, was run over by the school nurse after getting off of the school bus and was laid up for so long he had to learn to walk again, and I heard from lots of people who have post-fracture hardware in their limbs that makes metal detectors squawk.

In my case, there was no dislocation, I needed no surgery, I have no plates or screws, I got a nice removable cast, and I'll regain 100 percent use of my hand by the time I really need it.

Plus, I got out of doing a bunch of housework and won \$500 to boot.

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

Thanks!

Thank you to our readers who helped us raise \$37,461 in our 2014-15 fund drive. This nonprofit, 41-year-old community resource could not continue publishing without your tax-deductible contributions. Once again, thank you.

It's never too late to contribute. Donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click on the green DONATE NOW button on the right side of the page. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

The list below reflects those who gave through May 8.

- Robert Beck & Mary Carpenter Beck
- Karen Duke & Desiree Kempcke
- Kate Lehmann
- Joan Mason

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St. Anthony Park Area Seniors' Senior Cinema Series

"Unbroken" 2 p.m.
Thursday, June 11, at SAP Library

After a near-fatal plane crash in WWII, Olympian Louis Zamperini spends a harrowing 47 days in a raft with two fellow crewmen before he's caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp. Starring Jack O'Connell, Takamasa Ishihara. Directed by Angelina Jolie. PG-13. 137 min.



St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave.
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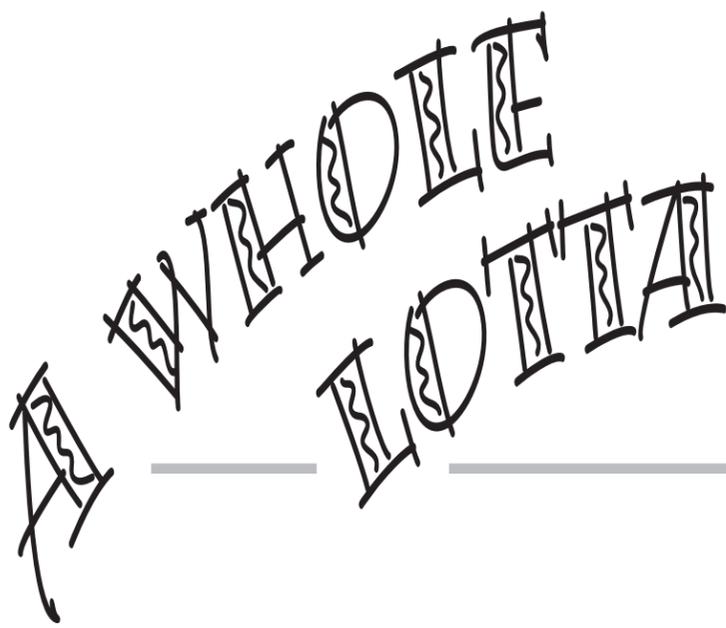
Como Fest: art, camping and more

The Como Park neighborhood will celebrate summer at the sixth annual Como Fest Friday-Sunday, July 10-12. The event will include outdoor games, a family fun run, camping under the stars, creative arts, and budget-friendly vendors and concessions.

FRIDAY, July 10, 6 p.m. until the chickens roost, and stay for breakfast: Camp out with your family at Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 N. Hamline Ave. The event will include a jump castle, climbing tower, a children's craft, bingo, girls and boys baseball and softball games, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, a presentation from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center and an outdoor showing of the 1985 movie "The Goonies."

The night will culminate with a bonfire and family campout at the rec center. Concessions will be sold by the Northwest Como Booster Club. Volunteers are needed for the evening. Call 651-298-5813 if you can help.

Preregister for the campout at



Park B4 Dark, the 4th in the Park and Como Fest return for a season of fun in Bugleland.

apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/Activity_Search/29431 by July 6.

SATURDAY, July 11, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival: Lyngblomsten will host its annual Mid-Summer Festival on on the Lyngblomsten campus at 1415 Almond Ave.

The family-friendly arts festival will include three stages of entertainment featuring a variety of music and dancers from opera and African drumming to jazz and Appalachian clogging. There will also be games, demonstrating artists and wares for purchase, arts activities for all ages, and a host of local restaurant vendors, including Grand Ole

Creamery.

Find all the details at www.lyngblomsten.org/festival.

SUNDAY, July 12, 8:30 a.m.-evening, Como Lakeside Pavilion: Como Fest will conclude with a run, a lake cleanup, an art fair and music at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Parkway.

Como Fest Run! 5 K and 2.5K family walk around Lake Como. The 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the family walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. Registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. Registration includes a Como Fest T-shirt. Register at runsignup.com/Race/MN/SaintPaul/ComoFestRunandWalk.

Proceeds from the run will go toward the cost of Como Fest and to support the block nurse program, a nonprofit organization that helps seniors remain in their homes safely.

Other Sunday activities at the pavilion include *Capitol Region Watershed District's Como Lake Land and Water Cleanup*, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; a free children's "craft make-and-take" session, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and an art fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

A concert with *Stan Bann's Big Bone Band* will be at 3 p.m. at the pavilion.

Artists interested in finding out more about the art fair should contact [AndreaLynn Johnson](mailto:AndreaLynn.Johnson@alpj1448@gmail.com), alpj1448@gmail.com, or go to the District 10 website, www.district10comopark.org.

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❖ **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA**

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www.peacelauderdale.com
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❖ **SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**

3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, 612-378-3602, www.spiritunited.com
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❖ **ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2357 Bayless Place. 651-644-4502
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Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. at the church
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the church

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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www.sapumc.org, 2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como), 651-646-4859
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11 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments
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Mondays: 7 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor
Vacation Bible School: July 14-16, 6-8 p.m. Free.

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Summer Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour follows
Art Fair Open House: Saturday, June 6
VBS: June 22-26

❖ **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector www.stmatthewsmn.org
2136 Carter at Chelmsford. 651-645-3058
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. service with sermon and communion (summer schedule)
The Undercroft Gallery: Children & Youth Art Show through June 26

To add your church to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org

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Fourth in the Park needs you

The Fourth in the Park Committee is looking for volunteers to adhere 1,500, "Donate Now" stickers to the flags the committee will distribute during the Fourth in the Park celebration in St. Anthony Park on Saturday, July 4.

The committee needs 10 to 15 volunteers. If you are interested, come to a meeting at Langford Park Rec Center on Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join your neighbors for a fun-filled evening.

For more information, email 4thinthepark@gmail.com.

Look for a complete schedule of events for the annual Fourth in the Park festival, which will take place in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood on Saturday, July 4. Or go to 4thinthepark.org for more information.

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Show your colors with a 4th in the Park t-shirt

When that parade comes down Como Avenue on July 4, you know you're going to want one of those Fourth in the Park t-shirts all the cool kids will be wearing. And you've got until Saturday, June 11, to order one.

The shirts are \$15 each and come in youth and adult sizes. Go to www.booster.com/4th-in-the-park to order.

Park B4 Dark adds family activities to its third-Thursday lineup

Park B4 Dark, a celebration of food, music and shopping in the north St. Anthony Park retail district, returns this summer on the third Thursdays in June, July and August.

The series, sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, Sunrise Banks, MetroIBA and the Como area business community, will take place on June 18, July 16 and Aug. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.

This year Sunrise Banks' parking lot will transform into the Family Fun Zone with kid-friendly crafts, demonstrations and shows at each Park B4 Dark event. The Family Fun Zone will have something for children of all ages.

More details will be announced as the events take shape, but there will be special merchant deals, local musicians and good food.

Mark your calendar, bring the kids, have fun and support this unique business district.



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JUNE

Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, June 10, to be included in the July issue.

1 MONDAY

Adoption information meeting, CHLSS, 6-8 p.m. Register at chsfs.org/adoptioninformation.

2 TUESDAY

Internet Basics for Building Job Skills, St. Anthony Park Library, 10 a.m.-noon. Register at 651-642-0411.

3 WEDNESDAY

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

St. Anthony Park Book Club, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-8 p.m.

5 FRIDAY

Northern Lights 4-H Club annual pie and ice cream social, Luther Seminary lawn at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place, 7-9 p.m. Music by the St. Anthony Park Community Band.

6 SATURDAY

St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, along Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Used book sale, St. Anthony Park Library auditorium, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The final hour will feature a bag sale at \$5 per bag. Resellers: No scanners before noon.

Annual St. Anthony Park Garden Club plant sale, new location: St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Selling proven hardy

perennials, recycled garden books, tools and pots.

Five-hour symposium on Surviving Coming Earth Changes, Spirit United Interfaith Church, 1-6 p.m. Live music by Celtic harpist Bettie Seitzer. Free refreshments and parking in the lot east of the church, located three blocks west of Hwy. 280 on S.E. Como Avenue. Cost is \$35 for adults; \$55 for couples or families; \$30 for students, seniors or Theosophical Society members. Registration at the door.

8 MONDAY

Dr. James Ulness, professor emeritus at Concordia College, Moorhead, will speak on "Developing the Life of the Soul," Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7 p.m. Free refreshments and parking in lot east of the church; \$10 suggested donation.

11 THURSDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese story time, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors Cinema Series, "Unbroken," St. Anthony Park Library, 2-4 p.m.

12 FRIDAY

Microsoft Word class, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 651-642-0411 to register.

13 SATURDAY

Spring Family Craft Hour, geared toward grade-school children, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

St Paul singer/songwriter/guitarist and Prairie Home Companion regular

Adam Granger will present his third annual Neighborhood Concert, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15, payable at the door.

16 TUESDAY

Summer Spark (library summer reading program): Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Minnesota's Waiting Children information session, learn about adopting children who live in foster care, CHLSS, 6-8 p.m. Register at chsfs.org/intro-minnesota-waiting-children.

18 THURSDAY

Learn Chinese Folk Dancing, free and open for adults, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

20 SATURDAY

How Not to Lose Your Stuff: File Management, St. Anthony Park Library, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call 651-642-0411 to register.

22 MONDAY

Two films, "Explorations into Consciousness: An Interview with Deepak Chopka" and "Alan Watts: Art of Meditation" will be shown by the Theosophical Society, Spirit United Church, 7 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested.

23 TUESDAY

Summer Spark: The Brodini Comedy Magic Show, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

25 THURSDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese story time, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

26 FRIDAY

Microsoft Power Point, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 651-642-0411 to register.

Co-ed drum circle, Women's Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to attend. Cost is \$10 at the door. Drums provided.

28 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr, 2:30 p.m.

30 TUESDAY

Summer Spark: Bill the Juggler, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

SENIOR EXERCISE

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:

Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30-3:30 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.

Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Arbor Pointe Senior Apartment, 11 a.m.-noon

FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:

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

Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:

Third Thursdays, Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.

Fourth Thursdays, Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon

VENUE INFORMATION

Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 635 Maryland Ave. W.

CHLSS, Children's Home & Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, 1605 Eustis St., 651-255-2355, chsfs.org

Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpentour Ave., 651-644-5050

Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 1530 W. Larpentour Ave.

Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 651-631-0300

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

Spirit United Church, 3204 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis, 612-378-3602

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

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 651-645-0371

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., 651-646-7173

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

Back to the '50s from 1

"In general, I like looking at the cars," she said. "It's a hobby that people embrace, and I respect that. But it's impossible to sleep with the window-rattling noise."

Back to the '50s is the biggest event the fairgrounds hosts outside of fair week and also generates the most complaints to the District 10 Como Community Council.

"These concerns have been discussed by various District 10 committees and the full board many times," noted former community council administrator Ted Blank. "District 10 raised the issue with each of the players—State Fair, Street Rod Association, St. Paul Police—without a successful resolution."

Blank said that at District 10's request, Russ Stark, Fourth Ward St.

Paul city councilman, convened a meeting of the respective parties late in the summer of 2014 at which it was agreed that changes would be made. A follow-up meeting was held in April.

"No one expressed any doubt that residents were being unfairly disturbed," Stark said. "I left our April meeting satisfied that the parties were willing to come up with a plan that would provide substantial relief to the neighbors along Midway Parkway and surrounding blocks. If the problems persist during this year's event, we will re-assess."

Off-duty police officers paid by the Street Rod Association will enforce the restrictions, said Commander John Bandemer of the St. Paul Police Dept.'s Western District. Temporary signs on Midway Parkway and nearby streets

also will announce the ban.

Harvey, who was president of the Minnesota Street Rod Association for 18 years before taking over management of Back to the '50s, said he felt the parking change was "a good course of action. We've had challenges in the past in terms of making things palatable for the neighborhood, and we've dealt with them successfully, I feel."

The association's website (msrbacktothe50s.com) explains the restrictions and participants will be given a flyer outlining the new rules when they register at the event's headquarters hotel in Shoreview, Harvey said.

The state fair has offered to allow the street-rodgers to queue up in some of its parking lots and participants will be offered that option, Harvey said.



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Neighbors

Tar sands resistance march June 6

A tar sands resistance march and rally at the State Capitol will be held Saturday, June 6, noon-4 p.m. The march to the Capitol will begin at Lampert's Landing, Shepard Road and North Sibley Street at noon.

Music, speakers, food and information booths will be set up at the Capitol for this family-friendly rally. For more information, email abbie@MN350.org or go to www.tarsandsresistance.org.

Free driving workshop for new drivers and their parents June 13

Cox Insurance Associates will offer a Youthful Driving Workshop to new drivers and their parents on Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The workshop is open to families with new (or soon-to-be) drivers in the community. Resources will be provided on driver safety, the impact of a youthful driver on the family and insurability as an independent young adult.

The course includes lunch, a parent breakout session, and a visit with a local law enforcement officer. RSVP to Bronwyn at 651-647-0001 or bronwyn@coxins.net.

Rummage sale at Bethel Lutheran

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Parkway, will hold its annual rummage sale benefiting the Children's Christian Education

Owl babies from 1

On May 11, Kloser sent an email to the Bugle saying, "The Raptor Center orphan owl and our baby owl are now siblings."

Neighbors have reported seeing the chicks together and have sighted the parents watching the humans who are watching the babies.

Eventually the great horned owls will leave, Ponder said, but they will stay in a family group



Information on May burglary sought

Two young men were caught on camera at the scene of a car and garage break-in near the 1400 block of Asbury Street at about 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 3. The incident has been reported to the police. If you have information about this crime or recognize the people in these photos, contact the St. Paul Police Department, 651-291-1111.

Fund on Thursday, June 18 (presale, 6-8pm; \$3 admission); Friday, June 19 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.); and Saturday, June 20 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.). For more information, visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Como musician to play at Dakota

Como resident Paul Peterson will be

playing with the Larry McDonough Quintet in the show "Chet: The Beautiful Music and Traffic Life of Singing Trumpeter Chet Baker" Tuesday, May 26, 7-10 p.m., at the Dakota Jazz Club and Restaurant, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. Cover is \$5. Find out more at dakotacooks.com.

in the area for some time. "They'll start getting a larger and larger range and have less movement in the day," she said. "They will be less visible, but they will still be there for quite a while yet."

"Great horned owls are the earliest nesters but the slowest to get independence."

David Wark, who snapped

the photo of one of the chicks (shown on page 1), said the neighbors refer to the owls as "our babies."

"In the 20 years I've lived here, even though there are owls around here, I have never had anything that close in my yard," Kloser said. "It's an incredible gift."

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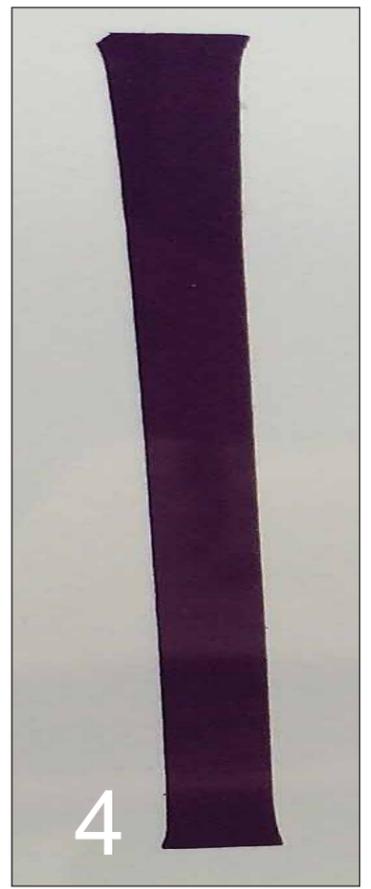
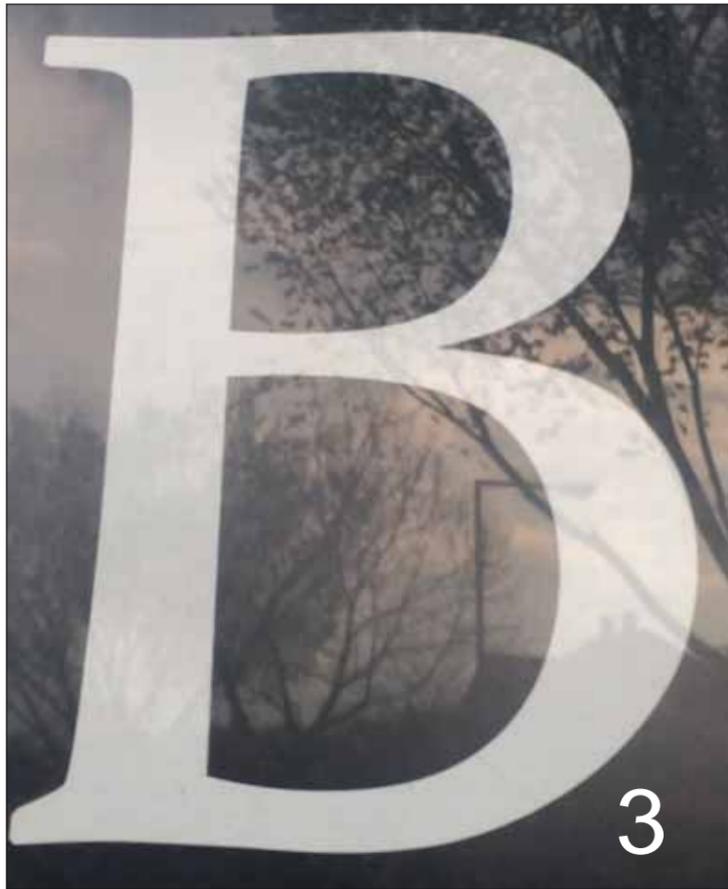
How do you spell community?

B-U-G-L-E

Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt with the Bugle at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival. Find the letters shown in the photos here on signs of businesses or institutions in the Como-Carter Avenue business district.

Fill out the form below and bring it to the Bugle booth at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 7, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The booth will be in the Healy Building parking lot on Como Avenue just west of Park Service (see the festival map on page 13).

We'll draw two winners from the completed and correct forms that day. Prizes are \$50 each. When you complete your contest entry, don't forget to fill out your name and address at the bottom of the page.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Meet the featured artists at the festival

Brenna Busse

Brenna Busse's mixed media figures aren't your typical dolls. They are born of, shaped by and ultimately come to represent the essence and complexities of the human condition, of which we are all a part.

Cultures across the world and throughout history have used the figure to replicate themselves, while probing the depth of timeless questions about identity, transformation and our relation to the mystic.

Working largely with found objects, Busse's dolls often provoke symbolism

that just as easily challenges conceptions as delight the senses. In the same way that twigs and sticks for arms can denote an indelible connection between the human and natural world, scraps of rust plucked from the ground come to represent the riches of aging when incorporated into the body of a figure.

"Metaphorically, as we age, we look at our wisdom and we look at these gems that we've learned over time that we could never learn any other way," Busse says of one figure in particular that features scraps of rust. Like the personal qualities that only come with age and experience, so do scraps of metal come to shine with a patina and rust imparted only by time.

"It's an incredible dance of terror and joy," Busse says of her process. In crafting the hands, feet and face of a doll from clay, she must actively imagine what each figure will come to be and represent. Oftentimes the only way to achieve her vision is to let her materials and found objects dictate the design.

There is a persistent character manifested in the thousands of dolls Busse has produced over nearly 30 years. Every face seems to share a recognizable serenity grounded in some spiritual wisdom or understanding.

Just as each human life starts as female in utero, only developing the requisite Y chromosome to become male weeks after fertilization, each of Busse's dolls begin as female, she explains.

A passionate feminist since the 1980s, Busse says she used to be "pretty rabid" about the gender of her dolls but has since mellowed, coming to understand gender as more of a continuum, while taking a deep interest in what those who encounter her work actually see.

Whether male or female, all her dolls contain imperfect elements that show the human hand in her work—whether it be a frayed thread or slightly distorted proportions.

"Imperfection is essential," she says. "It's back to the human condition. We are imperfect and I think the more we understand our imperfections, the kinder we'll be to ourselves and each other." —*Kyle Mianulli*



Michael Tonder

Reminiscent of the icy forms created during the transitional phases of the seasons when waters turn to ice and back again into liquid form, Michael Tonder's glass sculptures freeze a fleeting elemental transformation in perpetuity.

Influenced by his experience as a forester and park manager, along with his regular excursions into the Boundary Waters, Tonder's work leaves a peaceful, contemplative impression. He employs internal lines and altered surfaces that reflect, refract and diffuse light to create tension and pique curiosity, while bringing a comforting balance to his work.

It might be this effect that has made his work popular with hospitals and health care facilities, which have accounted for a number of larger commissioned projects of late, he said.

The spark that started Tonder's career came while working as a forester near Little Falls, Minn. During the early spring, as he crossed the Mississippi River, he noticed that a long stretch of shallows had caused the ice to pile up as it broke.

"As far as you could see up river, all the ice was jamming and sticking up in the air," he said. "That was a real inspirational view for me. I hadn't even thought of working with glass at the time. It was just stunning."

Like his wife, jewelry maker Jody Freij-Tonder, he uses exclusively reclaimed and recycled glass. Instead of small scraps and shards, though, Tonder needs large sheets of plate glass like those used in office building windows or display shelving to create his substantial pieces.

Working with plate glass requires him to use the same sheet for each project, as different glass reacts differently in the kiln and can lead to unpredictable outcomes when he removes it from the kiln. "We say it's like Christmas every time you open the kiln, but sometimes it's Halloween," he said.

Most plate glass like that Tonder uses in his work is not recyclable. He works with local businesses to reclaim windows and has worked it out so development companies can receive LEED certification credits by donating their old glass rather than discarding it.

"We know that we're not really changing the waste stream very much, but we try to point out to people that there are uses for a lot of material that are getting thrown away," he said. "It points out the potential for reuse." —*Kyle Mianulli*



The Artists

Ceramics

Robert Briscoe
Bridget Donahue
Ann Fendorf
Vanessa Greene
Richard Gruchalla
& Carrin Rosetti
Travis Hinton
Eric Holey
Chris & Sue Holmquist
Wendy Penta
Zac Spates
Amy Von Bargaen

Glass & enamel

Craig Campbell
Steve Claypatch
Mary Ila Duntemann
Rachel Masica
Mike Tonder
& Jody Freij-Tonder

Fiber & wearable

Marcia Almquist
Patti Berg
Sharon Cherney
Dawnette Davis
Mary Descombaz
Nancy Hovland
Laura Lund
Marlene Meyer
William & Linda Sumner
Colleen Tabaika
Kathleen Withers
Bao Yang
Kim Zaylskie

Jewelry

Ann Aas
Mary Best
Terry Chism
Robert Hale
Barbara Hale
Judith Hurd
Julie Johnson
Aaron Kahmann
Brenna Klassen-Glanzer
Leo & Dina Lisovskis

Mark Nuebel
Sue Peoples
Susan Spiller
Candyce Westfield
Rebecca Wicklund

Mixed media

Brenna Busse
Emily Donovan
Judith Hurd
Edward Lefto
Sharon Miller-Thompson
Jan Vaughan

Painting/drawing

Helen Bond
Julia Crozier
Marilyn Cuellar
Russel Dittmar
Dan Mackerman
Megan Moore
Sarah Thornton
Kathryn Weese

Photography

David Barthel

Rachel Cain
Jim Gindorff
Dan Leisen
Neil Johnson

Printmaking

Kendra Baillie
Cody Bartz
Emily Koehler
Dan & Lee Ross

Sculpture

Rebecca Bruzek
Bud Bullivant
David DeMattia
Sandra Haff
Dan & Lee Ross
Jennifer Wolcott

Wood

Ted Golbuff
Andrew Kringen
Paul Lambrecht
Dave & Kathy Towley

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Music on the Library Lawn

9:30-10 a.m.: Phillip Rukavina, Renaissance lute
10-10:45 a.m.: Phillip Rukavina and Thomas Walker Jr., Renaissance lute duets
11-11:45 a.m.: Carl Street Mandolin Quartet
Noon-12:45 p.m.: Stephanie Claussen, harpist
1-1:45 p.m.: Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra
2-2:45 p.m.: Richard Griffith, songster
3-3:45 p.m.: Ladyslipper Baroque Ensemble
4-4:45 p.m.: Miss Becky Kapell, songster

Your arts festival to-do list

- Children: Make art at the Kids Art Tent.
- Check out the used book sale in the library's lower level.
- Find a favorite perennial at the St. Anthony Park Garden Club plant sale (in its new location at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church)
- Visit your neighborhood nonprofit groups, including the Park Bugle.
- Try your hand at the Bugle's photo scavenger contest on page 10 and deliver it to the Bugle booth on the east side of Como Avenue. (We'll be in the Healy Building parking lot with other community groups; see the map at right.)
- Go climb the Boy Scouts' rope bridge on Luther Seminary Lawn.
- Listen to music at Speedy Market and the library lawn.
- Eat, buy art and shop at the wonderful businesses in St. Anthony Park.

Looking for the plant sale?

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club's annual plant sale has moved indoors.

You'll find the sale at the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., during the arts festival. Follow the plant sale signs to the side entrance on Luther Place.

Plant sale hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., but come early for the best choice of annuals and perennials for sun or shade and houseplants. Enjoy shopping away from the hot sun or torrential rain (remember last year?).

Garden club members will be on hand to answer your questions about their proven-hardy perennials and plant culture. Recycled gardening books and journals will also be on sale as a new feature.

Tickets for the 2015 St. Anthony Park Garden Tour will also be on sale at the pre-tour discounted price of \$12. Tickets will be \$15 the day of the tour, Saturday, July 11.

VISIT THE KIDS ART TENT FOR CRAFTS & FUN!

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St. Anthony Park Arts Festival

Como Avenue Activities:

- Food
- Community Groups
- Water Wars
- Music at Tim and Tom's Speedy Market
- Boy Scout Bridge (Luther Lawn)

Artists: 10-25, 30-45, 50-64, 65-75, 76-85, 85-90, 91-99

Other Activities: Garden Club Plant Sale, SAP Lutheran Church, Kids' Art Tent, Used Book Sale (10-4:30), SAP Branch Library, Pottery Wheel, Henna

Location: Como Avenue (to 280, to Snelling), Luther Place

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10 - 5

Coordination: The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival is coordinated by the St. Anthony Park Library Association and provides funding for summer reading programs.

Primary Sponsors: Renewal by Andersen, The Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts

Activity Sponsors: The Bibelot Shops, Carter Avenue Frame Shop, St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, Tim and Tom's Speedy Market, Steve Townley Realty

Music on the library lawn: 9:30 am - 4:45 pm

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- Visit the Annual SAP Plant Sale in the Fellowship Hall
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We look forward to seeing you at the Art Festival!
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Avenue
(Como and Luther Place)

Jody Freij-Tonder

The handcrafted glass jewelry of Jody Freij-Tonder is born of her dual passions for creating colorful, wearable glass art and an unwavering environmental mindfulness that fires both her work and life.

Working entirely with recycled and reclaimed glass, she achieves a wide aesthetic range that uses an array of techniques, including stained glass, iridized, frit, confetti and etched.

Working from her home studio on the North Shore with husband and fellow glass artist, Mike Tonder, Freij-Tonder's materials primarily come from recycling centers—with which the couple has developed a close relationship—as well as scraps from other stained glass artists in the area. She says that sifting through boxes of glass scraps is one of the most enjoyable parts of her process.

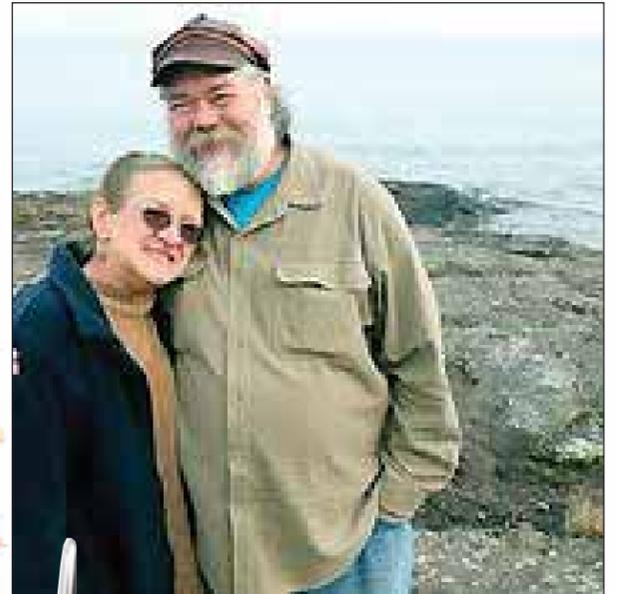
Working with glass in the ways she does provides unique challenges, but it is ultimately what allows her to achieve the elegantly playful shapes, colors and textures that define her work. Every piece of glass reacts differently in the kiln and frequently yields surprising—and sometimes frustrating—results, she says.

“The glass itself is not designed for kiln firing, so over the year's I've ended up with surprises when I open the kiln and it has not done what I expected,” she said.

Not one to waste a single scrap, Freij-Tonder also collects all the leftover shards and pieces from her work, tumbles them in a rock tumbler, then fills recycled mason jars partway full and affixes a solar powered LED light, creating unique and enchanting dock or patio lanterns.

The recent craft beer boom has also been a boon for Freij-Tonder, who produces signature “Beerings,” using empty beer bottles collected from the local recycling center. She hand-cuts earrings and pendants from the bottles and necks to create different shapes in brown, green, blue and clear glass.

She has been making “beerings” since the 1990s, but the hoard of craft breweries popping up in Duluth and across the state are jumping at the chance to carry branded glass jewelry, opening up a whole new market.—*Kyle Mianulli*



Jody Freij-Tonder and Michael Tonder



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A giant mastadon, a blue toad and a few natural disasters

Can Can Wonderland 18-hole mini golf designs have been selected and the build begins at former can factory on Prior Avenue

By Kristal Leebrick

It was pure serendipity that St. Louis Park Middle School offered a math elective called Mini Golf Madness at the same time Can Can Wonderland put out a call for artists to submit design proposals for an 18-hole mini golf course in St. Paul.

"It's the first year we've offered it," said Randi Graves, the teacher who leads the seventh-grade math class that, incidentally, has 32 boys enrolled in it.

Three of those boys will have their designs built as part of Can Can Wonderland's "arts-immersive" course, which should open sometime this fall in a former can factory at 755 N. Prior Ave., just four blocks north of University Avenue in St. Paul.

Can Can Wonderland is the brainchild of Jennifer and Chris Pennington, Christi Atkinson and Rob Clapp. Their goal is to create a multi-purpose art space that includes the golf course and a food and drink venue, said Jennifer Pennington.

The group put out a call for proposals in January with \$5,000 stipends offered to design-and-build plans and \$1,000 stipends to selected design-only proposals. Can Can introduced the 18 accepted designs and their creators at a meet-and-greet April 25 at Forecast Public Art, 2300 Myrtle St., St. Anthony Park.

Dusty Thune, a special education teacher in St. Paul Public Schools, submitted Hot Tub Time Machine, which features a 20-foot-tall mastadon in a hot tub full of tar.

Sarah Stone's That '70s Hole was inspired by her grandmothers' living rooms. It will feature shag carpet, a poodle knickknack collection, crocheted afghans, a liquor cabinet and old television shows running on a TV.

Than Tibbetts' proposal is simple: the Longest Miniature Golf Hole in the World. In order to beat the current longest hole in the world at Chuckster's Family Fun Park in Vestal, N.Y., Tibbetts will build a 201-foot-long green to the hole. If Chuckster's decides to up its game after it learns about its new competition, Tibbetts said his hole could be easily extended once Can Can Wonderland develops the roof of the building.

Seventh-graders Ame Caldwell-Dass and Bryce Bonine will share the \$1,000 stipend for their design submission, Natural Disaster. Their classmate Colin Weingart worked on his own when he designed Loopty-Loop Madness.

Natural Disaster will incorporate an earthquake, tornado and tsunami, explained Caldwell-Dass. The earthquake will move the green up and down as a golfer tries to hit the ball into an elevator that will take the ball up to a track and then send the ball down a spiral—the tornado—before going into the hole, said Bonine.

The boys designed their holes using an online interactive design program from MIT.

So what are the boys going to do with their money? Caldwell-Dass laughed, said he was going to buy some new shoes and wasn't sure what else he would do with his half of the \$1,000. Bonine plans to buy equipment to build his own computer. Weingart is socking \$750 away for college and the rest is his to spend as he pleases.

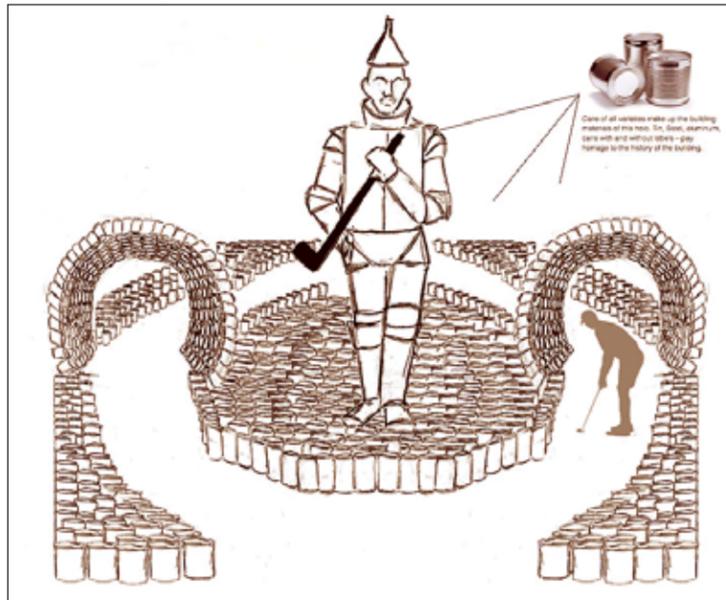
Can Can Wonderland launched a crowd-funding campaign on Indiegogo on May 19. Unfortunately, the Bugle went to print before the group had a link to the site.

Can Can Wonderland won't open until late fall, but you can get a taste of the group's work during Northern Spark on Friday, June 19. The group will have a human foosball court set up at Peavey Plaza in downtown Minneapolis.

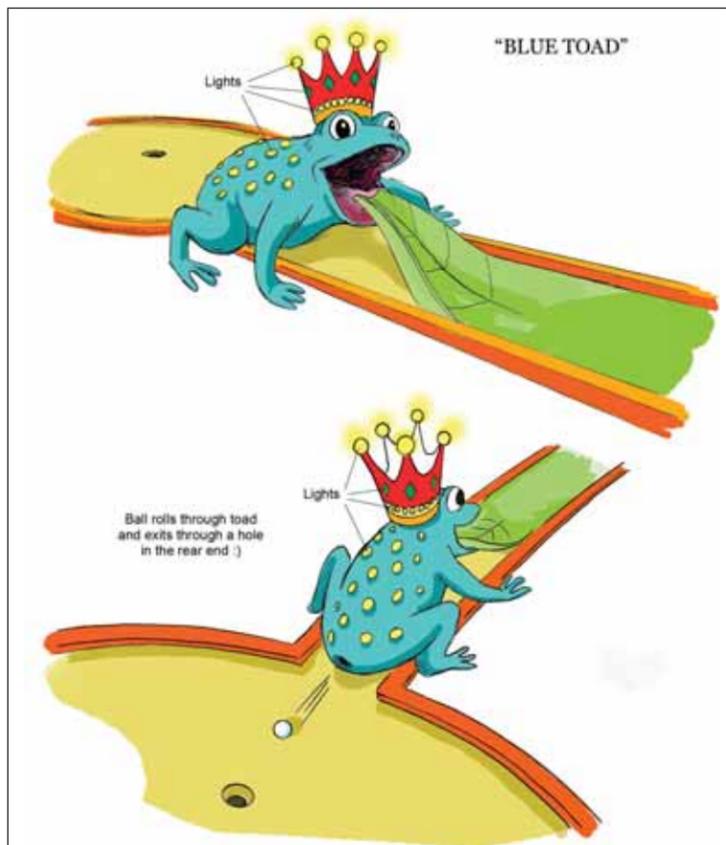
Keep up with Can Can Wonderland at its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cancanwonderland.



Seventh-graders Ame Caldwell-Dass, Bryce Bonine and Colin Weingart had their mini golf design proposals accepted by Can Can Wonderland. Photo by Kristal Leebrick



You Gotta Have a Heart by Eric Fetrow will use cans of all varieties, in homage to the building's original purpose: a can factory.



Blue Toad by Andrée Tracey was inspired by Tracey's childhood. She grew up on a miniature golf course in Sioux City, Iowa, her father's brainchild.

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Business News

Snelling and Como: a charming little corner of St. Paul

By Kyle Mianulli

Nestled in the shadow of the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and tucked beneath the Snelling Avenue overpass, many of the businesses at the corner of Como and Snelling avenues are thriving in an unlikely nook of St. Paul.

With Como Park directly to the east, train yards to the south and the fairgrounds to the north, the Snelling-Como business district sits in a pocket that leaves little room for new large-scale developments or expansion.

"I think because it's so landlocked here, there's really not a lot of room for development. I don't see a lot of changes coming to it," says Jim Thompson, the second-generation proprietor of J.O. Thompson Inc.

The flooring business at 1558 Como Ave. is the longest standing business on the block, having relocated to the corner in 1965. A St. Paul native, Thompson has watched the area evolve over the last 40 years and owns much of the real estate on the block.

While the Green Line Light Rail continues to draw investments and major development projects to the Central Corridor along University Avenue, there is a subtle insouciance a mile and a half north, where business owners are content with the present and hopeful for the future

but have no notions of becoming the next Grand Avenue or Selby-Snelling business area, either.

Lots of community support

After 35 years at its current location, Nelson Cheese and Deli, 1562 Como Ave., tallied its most successful year to date in 2014, according to longtime owner and familiar neighborhood hat Mike Greenheck.

"I don't know if by luck or by chance, but we moved here in 1980 and had a successful business ever since," Greenheck says. "We've been here a long time and even today we still get new customers."

When he's not busy on the line crafting one of Nelson's signature fresh sandwiches or salads, Greenheck posts up near the register at the front entrance during busy lunch rushes where he greets an astonishing number of customers by name.

"I have a system where we know everybody by first name," he says.

"I just love what I do. I enjoy coming to work, I love our customers, it's fun sitting there," he says. "I could tell you exactly what's going on in this neighborhood really easily just by talking to all the customers, neighbors and local businesses."

A majority of the young employees at Nelson's live in the neighborhood and walk to work, and that's the way Greenheck prefers it.



The business corner at Como and Snelling avenues has variety: from a flooring business that has anchored the corner for 50 years, an Asian market and a Chinese restaurant on the southside to a tattoo business, yoga studio and several holistic health businesses on the north side of Como. Photo by Kyle Mianulli

One current employee is the third sibling in their family to work at Nelson's, he says.

Across the street, Beloved Tattoo, 1563 Como Ave., is going on nine years and two expansions during the same time period. Owner Brandon Heffron runs the shop with his wife, Karis, who heads the tattoo-removal business connected to the shop.

"People think it's funny they are connected, but if you're in the industry, it makes sense," Heffron says.

Many of the artists at the shop are booked as far as a year in advance, and it's not uncommon for clients to fly in from across the country to get inked by some of the shop's nationally recognized talent.

Heffron has witnessed the ongoing "mainstreaming" of tattoo culture firsthand over the last two decades. He continues to work to overcome the stigma of tattooing and sees the gap between the art world and the tattoo world narrowing.

"I'd like people to recognize it as an art form, rather than just tattooing," he says.

To that end, Beloved Studios has become more than just another tattoo shop. Work from local artists is frequently displayed in the shop and a new gallery space allows them to host more formal art showings, Heffron says. There is a community art night the last Thursday of each month, and the shop hosts a block party with live music, local food and lots of art every year.

One person who admits to Beloved changing her perception of tattoos is right next door.

"They are fabulous people," says Sheila Burns, who owns Bliss Yoga Studio, 1565 Como Ave. "They changed my mind about what I thought tattoos and tattoo artists

were about."

Health-and-wellness hub sprouts

Bliss was the first of the four current health-and-wellness businesses on the block. Since opening the studio in 2007 at an adjacent space in the same property, Burns has seen a steady increase in business.

"I taught restorative yoga and remember being thrilled by the idea of having 18 students in one week," she says. Today, she is one of 11 instructors teaching a variety of styles of yoga for every age and ability at Bliss. It's not unusual for as many as 28 students to attend a single class, she says.

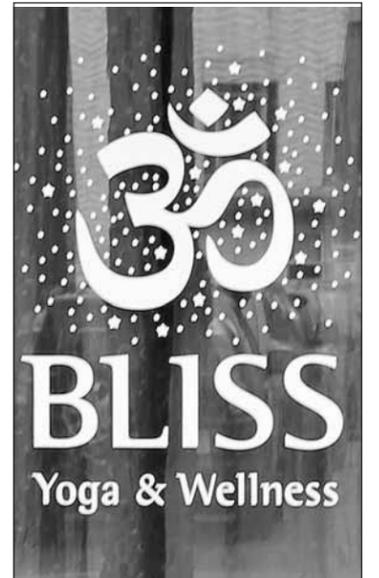
She attributes much of this success to the support of the community in Como Park and surrounding area. "There are people in this neighborhood that have been coming to Bliss Studio since the beginning and they're still here," she says. "We're friends and we're a community."

Burns is happy to have some new neighbors also focused on health and wellness. "I love that it's an expanding wellness corner," she says. "[As a society], we've really looked at what it means to be healthy and there are a lot of alternative therapies that are being recognized medically."

Each of the four health-oriented businesses on the block offers distinct services and practice unique holistic health modalities.

Around the corner from Bliss, Andrej Peterka offers acupuncture and oriental medicine in a calming, cozy space at 1563 Como Ave.

"After two decades of experience in a variety of clinical and private settings, I came to realize that I have a deeper calling to go beyond symptom management and work with deep transformation," Peterka says on his website.



Bliss Yoga & Wellness was the first of four current health-and-wellness businesses to move into the block.

On the other side of the health-and-wellness spectrum, FIT Lab, 1565 Como Ave., takes an innovative approach to physical fitness and training. Owner Tyrone Minor is a certified personal trainer and licensed physical education teacher. He is also a three-time state high school track and field champion and Olympic trials qualifier.

He started FIT Lab, which stands for Fitness Innovation Transformation, as a center for people of all fitness levels to achieve significant and lasting changes in their health.

Though the space features a fully outfitted gym with weights, benches and racks, Minor says, "we don't really consider ourselves a gym; we try to create more of a family-type atmosphere."

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Nonprofit trains dogs and people to help others

By Alex Lodner

Danielle Graczyk believes in the good in people, and dogs. Through her nonprofit organization, Canine Inspired Change (CIC), she sees that philosophy come to life every day.

Graczyk has been a dog trainer for more than 15 years, first at Twin Cities Obedience Training Club in Minneapolis and then at the Canine Coach on Front Street in St. Paul. While coaching at the Canine Coach, she received an email looking for trainers who would be willing to introduce their dogs to at-risk students. She jumped at the chance to help.

The school brought students into the Canine Coach to visit with the dogs, and KARE 11 television station did a story on the visit. The overwhelmingly positive feedback was immediate, and a new passion was ignited in Graczyk.

"I am proud to say I am four years sober," Graczyk explained. "Dog training brought me to sobriety and sobriety brought me to service. Working with therapy dogs was the perfect marriage of the two. I realized I could effect positive

change in my community through the thing I loved most—working with dogs."

CIC was born.

Katie Kramer, field representative for Sen. Al Franken, was taking therapy-training classes with her dog at the Canine Coach when she decided to help Graczyk. She created a business plan and filed all the proper paperwork.

"She took care of everything," Graczyk said. "I could focus on the mission." Kramer is one of more than 200 volunteers in Graczyk's database, folks who have had their dogs certified with Therapy Dogs International and can be called upon when a need arises.

At CIC, Graczyk has created a curriculum-based program that "empowers and nurtures participants in a fun and nonthreatening way," according to its website, www.canineinspiredchange.org.

Volunteers can participate on one of Graczyk's teams or visit community partners such as the Courage Center in Golden Valley or St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul on their own.

CIC's structured courses were

designed by Graczyk. A 10- to 15-week course meets once a week and is typically made up of five therapy-dog teams and 10 participants, such as students or patients. Each therapy-dog team—a certified therapy dog and its human—is paired with a student who is led through a rally or agility course at each session.

Graczyk believes that the courses inspire self-confidence, trust, teamwork and empathy for the students, many of which are at-risk youth or developmentally challenged adults.

"This time with the dogs help elicit social and emotional connection for these people who may otherwise feel disengaged or alienated in some way," she said. "They see that people are showing up for them, asking for nothing in return, week after week. There is consistency and reliability in the length of the course. Over the 10 weeks they see that they matter."

The course also helps participants build confidence as they work through frustration in a safe and supportive environment and learn to work with another vulnerable being, the dog. "They get to be there for someone else, too," Graczyk said. "Maybe it even builds a desire for volunteerism in them."

So does your dog have what it takes to be a therapy dog? The key is a love for all people, Graczyk noted. Behavior issues such as jumping can be trained out of most dogs, she said, but a comfort level with people has to pre-exist. Dogs need to be at least 1 year old to go through the training.



Danielle Graczyk with two of her therapy dogs. Photo courtesy of Canine Inspired Change

And there is a lot in it for Fido, too, according to Graczyk. "They get a sense of purpose and quality one-on-one time with their humans and others," she said. "Dogs need to be a part of a community, just like we all do. They need to belong."

Funds for the nonprofit are raised through several fundraisers, including a partnership with the Midwest Firefighters Calendar (www.midwestfirefighters.com), whose 2015 calendar benefited CIC.

"Some schools and organizations can pay, some look for funding through grants," Graczyk explained. "Some people see the

good we are doing and donate. I don't want to turn anyone down."

The volunteers and their dogs seem to get as much out of the experience as those they serve.

"You show up with your dog, not expecting anything, and your dog becomes the bridge to the community," Graczyk beamed. "You do it selflessly, but my volunteers tell me how much it changed them. Being of service is good for everyone."

Alex Lodner lives in Como Park and is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.



Steve Rettler of All Seasons Cleaners Photo by Kristal Leebrick

All Seasons Cleaners completes remodel

All Seasons Cleaners, 2234 Carter Ave., finished up its remodel at the end of April and the new space has been "well-received" by customers, said owner Steve Rettler.

"It's much brighter and more cheerful, and it looks larger because it's brighter," he said.

For two months the dry cleaning, laundry and alterations business worked out of the lower level of Milton Square, in a temporary space while builders tore out carpet and took the shop walls down to the studs.

"It was in desperate need of a full renovation," Rettler said.

Rettler has owned the shop at Milton Square for more than 20

years. He got into the business working with his father-in-law.

"I spent 10 years working with him. He trained me, showed me the ropes," he said.

Eventually, Rettler bought the business and since then has expanded to six locations in the Twin Cities: St. Anthony Park, Minneapolis North Loop, Maple Grove, Deephaven, Minnetonka and Crystal. The Crystal facility is where the cleaning and alterations work is done.

Rettler also has a wedding gown business in New Hope that offers alterations work on gowns and the after-wedding work of cleaning and preserving them.—Kristal Leebrick

St. Anthony Park resident named VP at BioSig Technologies in Minneapolis

St. Anthony Park resident Michele Chin-Purcell has been named vice president of quality and regulatory affairs at BioSig Technologies.

BioSig is a medical device company with headquarters in Los Angeles and Minneapolis that develops PURE EP, an electrocardiogram and intracardiac multichannel recording and analysis system.

Chin-Purcell has more than 20 years of experience in research, quality and regulatory affairs in the life sciences.

Most recently, she served as senior director of regulatory affairs at Spinal Modulation in Menlo Park, Calif. Prior to joining Spinal Modulation, Chin-Purcell served as senior director of regulatory affairs for the atrial fibrillation division of St.

Jude Medical in St. Paul. From 2008 to 2010, she was executive director of the Department of Research Integrity and Oversight at the University of Minnesota.

Chin-Purcell received her Ph.D. and master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota and her bachelor's in the same discipline from the University of California, Berkeley.

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- Gabe's By the Park - 991 Lexington
- Sharrett's Liquor - 2389 University
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Como/Snelling from 16

programming revolves around a 10-week transformational challenge called Insight 2 Health. Participants work out with a different trainer every day, covering weightlifting to yoga, kettle bells and more.

In addition to the physical training, participants also work with a certified nutritionist who will take them grocery shopping, lead cooking classes and cover a wide range of healthy eating practices. The third component of the fitness challenge includes working with a mental health therapist to address the underlying causes of weight gain and unhealthy habits.

The newest business on the block seeks to address the health of people and computers in the same business. Psinergy and Tech Warrior St. Paul opened at 1553 Como Ave.

in May 2014. While some might be initially confounded by a holistic health and computer repair businesses housed under the same roof, partners SchaOn Blodgett and Andre Thomas insist it's a more natural partnership than it may at first appear.

"The human body is basically an organic computer, just way faster and more complex," Blodgett says. He handles the human health side of the business, while Thomas acts as the lead "computer therapist," as they call them.

Blodgett's primary modality is Esogetics, and he incorporates crystal therapies, light therapies and "color puncture," to name just a few of the many therapies he has studied.

The computer and human health team has received Angie's List Super Service Awards for the last four years and are already looking to

expand their business to include group therapy and workshops.

While some might view the location of the Snelling-Como business area as an obstacle to growth and prosperity, Blodgett has his own explanation for the continued success of the area.

The elemental alignment of the fairgrounds to the west (the element of metal), the water tower to the north (water), Como Regional Park to the east (wood), and the restaurants, which he says represent fire, including Nelson's Cheese and Deli, Shanghai Market and Café 99, to the south, creates a harmony with beneficial feng shui, he says.

And that may explain the charm of this unassuming corner in St. Paul.

Kyle Mianulli is a Twin Cities freelance writer and frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.

Summer serial from 3

who came from the Range to be that smart." He meant no personal offense, says Marsnik, but the words stung.

What might have hurt more was an incident at her 20th high school reunion in Biwabik. "There were people there who were union bashing," says Marsnik. "People who didn't understand how much blood had been shed and the importance unions had in establishing human dignity."

Marsnik decided to set the record straight about the Range. It's a place "where people are readers with a huge passion for education" and "have the highest voting record in the state" but also "a place where people stay connected really strongly to family and community. [Iron

Rangers] were living off the land before it was cool," says Marsnik. In 1916, it was more diverse than anywhere else in the state, where immigrants speaking 37 languages were working at "these terrible jobs. Discriminated against and dehumanized in the [taconite] mines."

Worried that the stalwart immigrant identity of the Range is fading, Marsnik wanted to write a book to remind the area of its heritage.

She began writing the novel nearly six years ago, working on it in early morning before leaving for her job as a high school English teacher in Minneapolis. Summer vacations and a sabbatical year gave her additional time to write. Walking was a critical part of the creative process. Marsnik's routine involved walking her daughters to school at St. Anthony Park Elementary School and then taking the long way home, "letting the characters talk" to her.

Her daughters, who were 9 and 11 when she started the book, also wanted their say. They advised their mother to add a "wizard or a dragon" to the storyline. The girls are now in their teens, and Marsnik reports that the book remains "proudly dragon-free."

She entered the Star Tribune contest "on a lark," she says. "My mother-in-law told me to send it in."

"About a minute later" she sent off a 22-page excerpt to the newspaper and a week after that, she learned that she was one of three finalists.

Noting that the book hadn't been written with a newspaper in mind, Marsnik says that one of her

first editorial tasks was to take out "all the saucy parts that wouldn't fit in a family newspaper."

Happily, plenty of engaging material remained, and a few months later Marsnik got word that she had won.

"I've always been interested in history," says Marsnik, "particularly from the Iron Range." She put in months of research on *Under Ground*, but her interest was initially sparked during summers she spent working at the Iron Range Research Center in Chisholm, collecting oral histories of women of the Range. Still, she was never tempted to write a straight history of the 1916 strike.

"I love history," she says, "but I love stories more. I love to get an introduction to history through a story."

She is also aware that historical fiction can inspire the present as well as portray the past. As a teacher, she reinvented her curriculum in fall 2014, after the controversial police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

"My students knew it was a horrible injustice, but they didn't know if their protest would matter," she says.

"But that's just what my book is about: We live in a society where people wonder what the little guy can do. The people who sacrifice for change rarely reap the benefits. The 1916 strike changed labor, even though they lost."

Her book, Marsnik says, tries to relate the strikers' vision of "how to make the world a better and more dignified place. The Rangers' fight was always for dignity."

Urban Tennis begins June 15

The St. Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT) youth summer program will begin Monday, June 15, with classes Monday-Thursday each week, culminating with the season-ending all-city tournament, picnic and carnival games at Harding High School on July 31.

To kick off SPUT's 25th summer, there will be free family nights on Friday, June 12, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at all 30 city park sites (visit www.urbantennis.org for a list of the

sites and to register for all SPUT programs).

Fees for the summer program are \$70 for youth 5-8 and \$95 for ages of 9-18. There are also four-day camps, which cost \$40.

Adult programming starts May 30. Adult fees for once-a-week sessions are \$55-65 for five weeks.

For more information, visit www.urbantennis.org or call the SPUT office at 612-222-2879.

LIVES LIVED

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.

Dr. George Hansler

Dr. George E. Hansler, 93, of Tampa, Fla., died April 26 in St. Paul.

George lived most of his adult life in the Chelsea area of New York City, taught music and conducted various acclaimed musical groups for more than 40 years at New Jersey City University, Jersey City, N.J.

He was preceded in death by his partner of 65 years, Gregory Martinez. He is survived by a sister, Elsie Trapp, and a brother, Dr. Richard (Wanda) Hansler.

His funeral Service was held May 5 at Como Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Centro Español Memorial Park Tampa, Fla.

John Isaacson

John E. Isaacson, 86, formerly of Lauderdale, died April 24.

A longtime employee of Interstate Companies, John made many friends throughout his career there. He loved to tinker in his garage and to build and repair things for friends and family. He enjoyed fishing at his lake home in Grantsburg, Wis., and spending the winter months in Sun City, Ariz.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Carol, and siblings, Louise, Bert, James and Lola. He is survived by daughter, Mindy (Dave) Quade; son, Jeff Isaacson; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

His funeral service was held

Book award from 3

"humbling and amazing" to win when it could easily have been any one of the other books nominated. She thanked her husband and all the librarians who had taken such pleasure in helping her with her research and said what a privilege it had been to get to know Harriet Beecher Stowe, the subject of her book, so well.

The rest of the evening included champagne and desserts, toasts to the winners and finalists, and live New Orleans-style jazz by the King Baron Quartet.

Koester was delighted with all the congratulatory emails, cards and notices on Facebook that she received after winning this award. The win also precipitated an invitation to a book festival in Mankato this summer and an uptick in book sales.

"It's very encouraging to win and gives me added incentive to work on my next book," she said.

Koester has other books on the horizon. She has a second edition of her textbook *Introduction to the History of Christianity in the United States* coming out in August from Fortress Press and has made trips to the Library of Congress and to upstate New York to begin research on her next biography, of Sojourner Truth, a 19th-century African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist.

Koester encourages anyone with

May 9 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville. Interment will be at a later date.

Barbara Jarl

Barbara Grace (Gleason) Jarl, 91, Falcon Heights, died April 30. She was born Sept. 20, 1923, in Spencer, Iowa. She attended grade school and high school in Litchfield, Minn.

She graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota with a degree in medical technology. She later received a certificate in interior design from the U.

She worked at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital, University of Minnesota Veterinary Hospital, and the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic.

Barbara had many talents, including music, sewing and needlepoint.

She was preceded in death by her husband LeRoy; sister, Dortha Gleason; and brother, Dr. Donald Gleason. Survivors include sons, Fred (Mary) and Daniel Jarl; and daughter, Margaret Johnson.

Her funeral service was held May 7 at the Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Joan Lawler

Joan Elaine Lawler, (née Hayden) 85, of Foley, Minn., died April 22 at the Foley Nursing Center.

She was born in St. Paul to George and Dorothy (Roberts) Hayden at the home of her paternal grandmother, Mary Vogele Hayden.

She attended Lauderdale Grade School, Murray High School and the University of Minnesota, where she studied to become a medical technologist, graduating in 1952.

She married Val Lawler on Sept. 20, 1952, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in St. Paul. They had one child, Mark Stephen, born June 28, 1953. He preceded her in death due to cancer at age 41.

Joan worked at various hospitals in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area during the polio epidemic. In later years she worked as a veterinary technologist, volunteered on numerous blood drives, farmed, owned her own veterinary supply business and raised sheep. She was a Cub Scout and 4-H Club leader for many years and volunteered at her church.

She is survived by her grandson; two great-grandsons; and siblings, Dorothy (Robert) McCarthy of Roseville and Mary (Robert) Carlson of Foley; and daughter-in-law, Laurie (Mark) Lawler, Annandale.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 30 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Annandale.

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

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The Centurions of St. Anthony Park Elementary School

By Kristal Leebrick

When Colleen Osterbauer met with her third-grade teaching colleagues at St. Anthony Park Elementary School a couple of years ago to plan the upcoming year, the three veteran teachers realized that their combined years in education amounted to more than a century.

“I joked about how this could seem like some doddering old women were responsible for the education of the students,” she said. Instead of worrying about their image to young parents, they decided to embrace their long careers, she said, and dubbed themselves the “Centurions of St. Anthony Park.”

Those teachers—Osterbauer, Kathleen Maguire and Judy Roe—along with fourth-grade teacher Linnae Blevins are retiring in June. They’ve taught at the neighborhood school (known to most everyone as “SAP”) for more than two decades. Blevins began her career there nearly 40 years ago.

They’ve seen changes in technology and district mandates in those years, but one thing that hasn’t changed are the students.

“They are still curious, energetic and engaged,” said Roe. “I don’t think I have had a day that has not had at least one good laugh along with one problem to solve.”

The Bugle asked the teachers to share their thoughts about their careers and plans ahead.

Tell us about your career. What made you pursue a career in teaching?

Linnae Blevins: I began my teaching career on Feb. 6, 1978. I was hired as Tom Foster’s replacement in fourth grade. Teaching seemed a natural choice for me because of my love for theater, performance and, of course, being a people person.

Over the years at SAP, I taught grades 4, 5 and 6. I also spent two years as a Title 1 coordinator where I worked with small groups of children in all grades. I’ve enjoyed all my experiences at SAP, but my favorite place is being a classroom teacher.

Kathleen Maguire: I never imagined that when I graduated from St. Catherine’s University in 1973 that I would have such a fulfilling, enjoyable, enriching career for 42 years.

I think our third-grade theme this year, “Ask, Imagine and Create,” explains the reason I wanted to become a teacher. I envisioned learning with and teaching students as an opportunity to facilitate how questions generate ideas and what could be created and learned from using those ideas. Children—no matter what age and what decade—have such an energy and a positive spirit that propels excitement in the classroom.

Being at St. Anthony Park Elementary School for 22 years has been a pleasure and a gift. It is a welcoming, supportive and caring community.

Colleen Osterbauer: My first position was in a nursery school called Stepping Stones in St. Louis Park in 1979. I did a lot of babysitting growing up and always liked playing school. Some elementary teachers were very powerful influences on me, too. Working with children seemed a natural fit for me.

I began at St. Anthony Park in 1986 as a learning-disabilities teacher in a Level 4 program and worked with intermediate-grade students. I have worn a number of hats. My classroom experiences have included teaching grades 1, 3, 4 and 6. For many summer school sessions I taught special needs kindergarten at Como Elementary and special education at Washington Junior High for two years just before coming to SAP.

There are positives about each grade, but my two favorite years are third and fourth grade. There are many *firsts* in grade 3 for the children, and it is fun as well as rewarding to see the growth, accomplishments and changes in the children.

Judy Roe: I began at SAP in 1986 in the fourth grade. I was there about 14 years. Fourth grade is a place you can really see growth, both academically and socially. I loved fourth grade, but when I had an opportunity to try sixth grade, I was ready for a change.

I remained [teaching sixth grade] for about 10 years. Sixth grade had a whole different set of challenges. I loved the academic content and the projects we could do with kids this age. I loved the trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the friendships with parents and families that began while working on this.

When sixth grade moved to middle school, I was offered an opportunity to work in third grade with two of the finest teachers in our district, Colleen Osterbauer and Kathy Maguire. I had worked with Colleen both in fourth grade and sixth grade and our friendship made my job a joy. I found that Kathy was also a super teacher and these folks have made the last two years of my career a dream. So I guess it is not the grade level, but the people you work with that really matters, and I have been blessed to meet and enjoy working with many good people.

Any thoughts about your work at St. Anthony Park or any favorite traditions you’d like to share?

Blevins: The St. Anthony Park community is truly one of a kind. Everyone, including staff, parents, organizations within the school and in the larger community, come together to support student learning.

There are so many wonderful traditions at SAP, like the carnival, the Fall Festival, staff dinners at conference time (so incredible) the Read-A-Thon, Running Club, the talent show and so many more. My absolute favorite is the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center trip.



St. Anthony Park Elementary School third-grade teachers Kathleen Maguire, Colleen Osterbauer and Judy Roe. Photos by Kristal Leebrick

I went for many years with kids to Wolf Ridge for a week. What an amazing experience for building community in your classroom and grade. Kids challenged themselves by completing the ropes course and hiking the beautiful grounds. Fun was had on the night hikes, planning skits and, of course, the big bonfire. Not to mention the many pranks, jokes and silliness.

Maguire: Putting on the musicals with my [former] colleague, Lena [Mayer] Christiansen, for five years was terrific. Parents, caregivers, students and staff rallied together to make it work, and, boy, did it work. I still have the giant heart made from the first musical in our classroom. Winter Wonderland at Langford Park both in fifth and third grade was like a Norman Rockwell scene with children and families skating or helping the first-time skaters or kids playing hockey. Going to Camp St. Croix for three days when I was teaching fifth grade was a highlight.

Osterbauer: Being in a community for a number of years has allowed me to make connections to terrific students and families, and I have had the privilege of working with wonderful teachers, principals and staff. My teammates are among the best anywhere and I have learned a lot and had many laughs along the way. I consider the friendships formed to be among the highlights of my career.

Roe: People here care about education and want to help not just their own child but others. Volunteers are plentiful.

Being in the same community for so long, I feel a part of this neighborhood even though I have never lived here. I have gotten to know entire families. We are now starting to see children of former students in our classes.

My favorite project, both in sixth grade and fourth, was putting on a play as a reading project. We made props, gathered costumes and had a great time. I think we put on 25 productions over the years. There is still one of the backdrops on display on the stage. [Art teacher]



Fourth-grade teacher Linnae Blevins

Courtney Oleen worked with the kids to make that for “Robin Hood” originally and then it also served for other plays.

What has changed in education since you began teaching? How has technology affected education over the years?

Blevins: The elements that have remained constant in my teaching career are the bright creative students, continual parent support and a competent, dedicated staff. The challenge for teachers in the future are the increased emphasis on testing and the focus on literacy and math, which diminishes time for other important curriculum.

Maguire: When standardized testing came into the scene more and more in the ‘90s, I needed a mantra to get me through these changing times in education, as I knew the tests were not going away. It is, “I will teach students how to think, not what to think.”

[There are] too many tests. Data is good to a point, but it is not the end all. Let us discover through activities, words, discussions and students’ self-evaluations how they learn, so we can guide them on their journey. Encourage students to “Ask, Imagine and Create.”

Osterbauer: A lot has changed over the years in terms of district directives. Teachers are given more

directions in the pacing of instruction, pretesting, achievement tests and recording student achievement. The district has promoted “Professional Learning Communities” in the last few years, but St. Anthony Park teachers have always worked collaboratively in grade-level teams. This practice of working together existed when I first came to SAP in 1986.

The technology changes have added excitement and have augmented learning. Teachers are learning right along with the students. It will be interesting to see how tech is balanced in the years to come.

Roe: When I first started teaching, the role of the teacher was much more collaborative and creative. We had the most fun team meetings where we solved problems, created interesting curriculum and did a lot of laughing. The teachers really had a say in what and how we taught. Now there is a much more top-down style and following district mandates. There are many more tasks assigned to us by the district that drain our time and energy. The never-ending data mining and testing takes up valuable student time and attention. The style and feel of being a teacher has changed.

If you were granted one wish to fix one thing in public education today, what would that be?



School News

The Bugle welcomes news about students and schools in the area. The deadline for the June issue is Wednesday, June 10. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

Como Park Senior High

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

Presidential Scholar!

Senior Ellen Purdy is a 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program semifinalist. The elite recognition program, established in 1964, includes 500 semifinalists from across the country. The 140 finalists will be recognized at the White House in June.

Purdy's perfect ACT score, AP coursework, leadership and community service have led to several other prestigious honors and awards, including the National Merit Scholarship. She will attend the University of Chicago next fall.



Ellen Purdy

College Possible

Como's College Possible students have earned more than \$58,000 in private scholarships. College Possible helps first-generation college students navigate the college application process, from SAT and ACT prep through admission. Ninety-eight percent of Como's 2015 College Possible class has been accepted into at least one college. Schools range from the University of Minnesota to Vassar College in New York, where senior Sundus Hassan will attend.

Superior singers

The Como Chamber Singers and Concert Choir earned a Superior rating—the highest rating of the Minnesota State High School League—at the Region 4AA Large Group Contest at Stillwater High School April 16. The choirs sang three contrasting pieces of music and were judged by three experts in the field.

Ordway Honors Concert

The annual St. Paul Public Schools Ordway Honors Concert on April 14 featured Como singers and musicians. The singers were Anna Blaine, Hannah Cornish, Margaret

Coyne, Raphael Forrest, Anna Fryxell, Emily LaCroix-Dalluhn, Jimmy Chimeng Lor, Stella Quale, Nathan Stover, Adam Swanson, Divine Uchegbu, Chang Vang, Esther Vang, Peter Vue and Zaci Wells.

Orchestral musicians were Nate Parsons (who served as the orchestra's concertmaster), with Rachel Tetlie, Christian Berger, Arturo Digirolamo, Martin-Malik Williams, Kaitlyn Thomas, Jacob Heiberger and Justin Rogers.

The concert band featured Madeline Karan, Joe McCune-Zierath, Ellie Thorsgaard, Emmet O'Connell, Kathryn Proper, Madeline Kara, Stacy Yang, Evan Pauly, Tuomas Sivula, Nate Jackson, Noah Frese, Tyrin Anderson and Emily Devaney.

Senior's composition to be performed by Como band

Senior John Paul Proper has composed and will conduct "Overture in Eb for Band" when the Como Park band premieres the piece at the Gala Concert Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the Como Auditorium. The work features many solos by individual seniors.

Speaking French

More than 50 French students participated in the annual A Vous la Parole language competition on April 21 at the University of Minnesota and came away with awards in contests that ranged from prose and poetry to song and original skits.

Other news

Como Park Asian American Club (CPAAC) members and some fellow Como students spoke eloquently at the **St. Paul Youth Forum** April 11 at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center in St. Paul. Students shared insight on school environment, safety issues, health and equity at the event hosted by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers and the NAACP.

Academy of Finance activities included 14 girls attending the Girls Going Places conference, where they met with more than 30 female entrepreneurs; freshmen attending Junior Achievement's "Finance Park," where students were charged with completing a budget simulation; and 10 students attending Wells Fargo bank's lecture on "Opportunists for our Next Generation."

Twenty-five **Como Karen students** staged an original performance on April 23, expressing the obstacles, struggles and triumphs of their journey from Burma to St. Paul. Dangerous Productions, in collaboration with the Karen Organization of Minnesota, and Fight or Flight Academy, spent a month working with students in writing the play and learning advanced acrobatic skills to dramatize the action. It was a powerful and unique show for both the students and community.

More than 70 Marine Corps



Murray science teacher Tim Chase and students accept the Sustainable St. Paul Award.

JROTC cadets attended **Mess Night Dinner** on May 1, an event coordinated by the 18 Cadets of the school's junior class. The annual dinner is a time to bid farewell to the senior cadets. The new cadet commanding officer, Kaitlyn Thomas, and sergeant major, Eddy Vue, were also announced that evening.

Murray Middle School

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

E2 program awarded

On April 22, Murray science teacher Tim Chase and 10 current and

former Murray students accepted the Sustainable St. Paul Award for their work as part of the eighth-grade Environmental Inquiry Immersion Class created by Chase. Each year, Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council recognize organizations that work to create a more sustainable city. The awards go to "individuals, businesses and organizations that work to protect and restore the environment in St. Paul."

The environmental course is made possible through partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and Wolf Ridge Environmental Education Center.

Josh Leonard, Belwin Nature Center's outdoor science education director, nominated Chase and the E2 Program for this award.

Scieszka Palooza a success

Murray Middle School was transformed into a place where students learned about men made of stinky cheese, kids who act like squids, math curses, science verses, time warping and how those characters were often inspired by the antics of author Jon Scieszka and his five brothers. The world-renowned author of *The Stinky Cheese Man* and *Other Stupid Fairy Tales* visited

School News to 22



Jennings Community Learning Center students took home seven plaques and three first-place finishes at the 2015 MAAP STARS conference in Bloomington.

Jennings students win at 2015 MAAP STARS Conference

Eight students from Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 W. University Ave., in St. Anthony Park, participated in the annual Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) STARS Spring Conference in April at the Mall of America Ramada Inn. The students earned seven plaques and three first-place finishes.

STARS is an acronym for success, teamwork, achievement, recognition and self-esteem. Nearly 300 students from more than 30 schools from across Minnesota competed in a number of events related to career and college skills at the conference.

The following students

participated in the MAAP STARS Spring Conference: Asanti Boone, Samaria Burch, Dion Coleman, Karisha Griffin, David McDuffie, R'elle Robinson, Keeara Scarver-Parker and Hannah Schaaf.

Coleman and McDuffie won first-place medals and plaques for the Entrepreneur event, in which students had to write a business plan and present that plan to volunteer judges. Most judges are from private industry.

Boone and Burch took home a first-place award for their audiovisual promotion.

In the category of Career Portfolio, Boone, Coleman, Scarver-Parker and Schaaf placed in the top

eight, out of 48 entrees. Boone won the first-place award.

Jennings CLC student Jessany Williams is an example of how important MAAP STARS is and the opportunities it offers young people. Williams participated in the public-speaking event a number of years ago and impressed the judge so much he suggested she apply to Rotary Club to be a foreign exchange student. With the Rotary Club's assistance, she was able to study in Japan for her senior year in high school. Williams, who will graduate from Hamline University in May and speaks fluent Japanese, has returned to Japan twice since her first trip.

School News from 21

Murray Middle School on April 22. This was made possible through a partnership between Murray and the University of Minnesota's Read and Meet Program.

Scieszka spent the day learning about Murray from the school's student ambassadors—who gave a tour, presented and explained the grade-level projects that were inspired by Scieszka books—and advising students about how to write books. He presented his story to the entire student body and shared tales about his family, inspirations for his books and what a career as a writer means.

Murray has been transformed into a Scieszka-inspired literacy gallery where verse, fables and multiple perspective fairy tales line the walls. Additionally, the U of M selected 30 projects to display in the Anderson Library that exemplified the work done by Murray students.

"You have amazing students who made me feel comfortable and welcome," Scieszka said, "and I hope they learned something from me because I certainly learned from them."

Climate expert visits Murray

Dr. Mark Seeley presented data from the second edition of his book *Minnesota Weather Almanac* at Murray on May 6. Students asked great questions such as "What were the wildest extremes Minnesota has experienced in one year?" and "What can we do to stop climate change?" The students who asked the best questions received a signed copy of his book.

Fly fishing in Minnesota

Science teacher Nick Altringer has been teaching students how to tie flies and how to cast a fly rod in his after-school fly fishing class. He and some of his students went out to Keller Lake after school on May 6 to try their skills. Every student caught a fish, and Altringer said he would bring a ruler on the next trip to see who gets the largest and the smallest fish award.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

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Thanks for the support

The St. Anthony Park School

Association thanks all who supported the annual Spring Carnival fundraiser on May 1. It was a night of food, fun, games and prizes, all in the name of supporting students and the school.

Retirement party

There is going to be a retirement party for the retiring staff at St. Anthony Park Elementary Wednesday, May 27, 6-8 p.m. at the school. All are invited.

Fifth grade goes to Wolf Ridge

Fifth-graders will go to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center from June 1-5. Thank you to Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, SAPSA and parents for the funding help.



Chess champions!

Daniel Walker (left) and Sam Medhane, fifth-graders in Susan Fredrickson's class at St. Anthony Park Elementary School, are the school's chess champs. Walker and Medhane finished at a stalemate in a chess tournament in May and both were declared champions. The boys had been meeting in an after-school chess class for several months. Medhane and Walker say they both learned chess at home, Medhane from his dad and Walker from his mom. Walker says he likes chess because "it's like a sport" in strategizing where players should move. Both students say they plan to keep playing when they move on to middle school in the fall.

Centurions from 20

Maguire: Trust the professionalism of educators.

What's next?

Blevins: I have lots of plans for the future. My daughter is getting married in the fall of 2016 and I am looking forward to the planning. My husband and I are planning a remodel to our home to be able to sell it in the near future. We're also hoping to travel out east to enjoy the fall colors in September.

great.

To the St. Anthony Park School and community I say a heartfelt thanks.

Osterbauer: I hope to do some traveling, volunteering, pursue hobbies I haven't had time for and cultivate some new interests and continue to grow. My parting words: "Thanks to SAP for the memories!"

Osterbauer: Return to the feeling of professionalism and confidence in the actions and abilities of teachers by the district. At times it has felt that teachers are asked to do things that do not always benefit the students and impact teacher time and energy. "One size fits all" seems to be a district attitude and has been frustrating at times for me.

Maguire: I am going to take the "scenic route": different routines and open time, volunteer on a farm once a week, continue to teach and learn with students in a smaller group setting, tap dancing, be with my 98 1/2-year-old father in Wisconsin and start reading the pile of books on my table. My daughters and I have a gadget to keep track of steps, so I foresee many future daily and weekly challenges. Traveling with my husband to national parks (I have a lifetime admission card now!) will be

Roe: My main problem has always been, How do I fit it all in? Leaving SAP is going to be tough for me, so I hope to sub once in a while if I can. Right after school is out, my husband, Andy, and I are going on a hiking trip in Glacier Park, where we also spent our honeymoon 40 years ago. I enjoy riding bike and have at least three trips planned. My grandchildren give me great joy and I savor any time I can spend with them.

Roe: Noticing that there is a big gap between those who create policy and those who implement it, my wish would be to close this gap. I would send all non-classroom teachers back to the classroom. This would reduce class size without any additional cost to the taxpayer. This would reintroduce non-classroom teachers to the arena where education actually happens, thus allowing them to become relevant.



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PARK PERKS

Park Perks raised **\$400** for ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students) in April.

During the month of June we are raising money for the Como Park Block Nurse Program.

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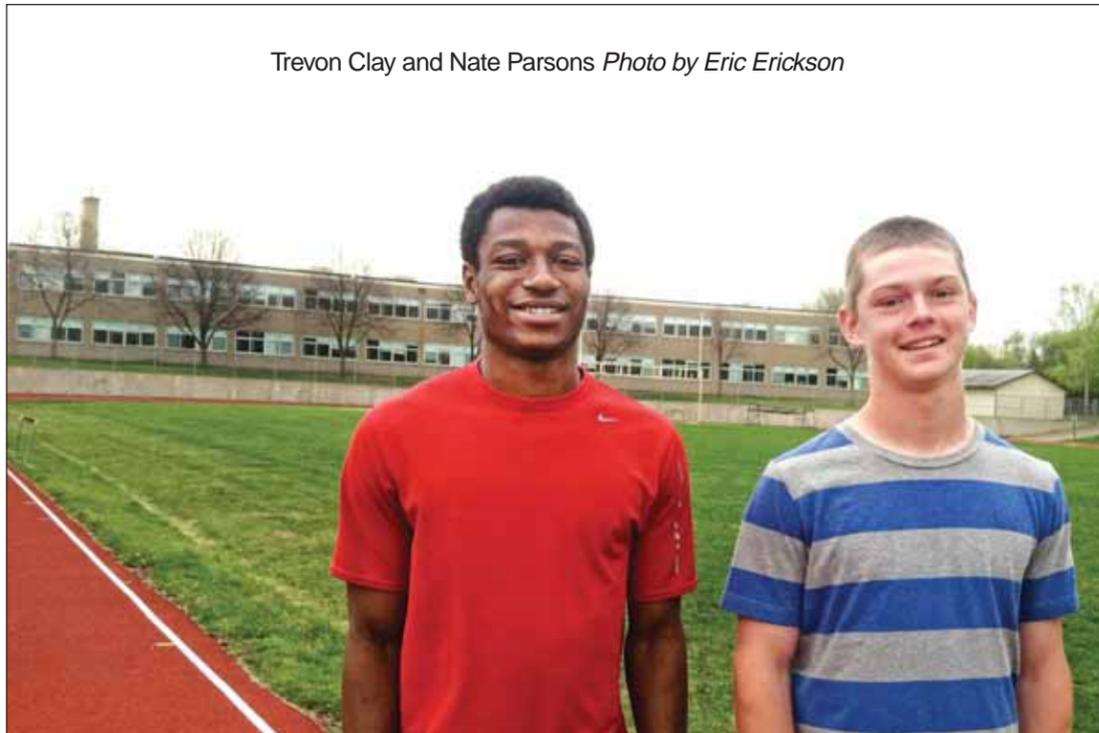
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Eric Erickson highlights Como Park Senior High School athletics each month in the Bugle.

Trevon Clay and Nate Parsons Photo by Eric Erickson



Como track and tennis stars hope to make state tourney this year

Como Park Senior High School junior Trevon Clay and senior Nate Parsons have never had a class together. None of their extra curricular activities overlap. But one thing they understand and appreciate about each other is where they've been and where they want to go again: the state tournament.

Parsons has been to the promised land of Minnesota high school sports in tennis. Clay has done the same in track and field. Both are working hard and producing results that make return trips to their respective state tournaments in June possible.

Neither is overconfident. Both are humble. Their coaches and teammates respect and admire those traits and are witness to the work being put forth in the attempt to repeat history and build upon it.

Clay qualified for state in 2014 as a sophomore in both hurdling events: the 110-meter and the 300-meter. He has learned to love the hurdles and the challenge of mixing speed with mobility.

A two-sport athlete, Clay also excels on the football field. His athleticism has been combined with technique taught to him by legendary Como coach Marv Rouse. Rouse was a hurdler in college, and Clay credits him for improving times, saying, "he's a really smart man."

Clay's times have improved since last year when he qualified for state. He's encouraged by this and was pleased to set all-time track records at Mounds View High School this April in a meet against strong competition. Clay says setting the records "builds confidence and shows the hard work is paying off."

Head track coach Roy Magnuson has worked with thousands of Como athletes in 36 years of coaching in multiple sports. As for track and Clay, Magnuson puts him near the top with other Como runners who have gone on to state and medaled at that level.

"Ultimately, Trevon will want to be a state-place winner to cap his career," Magnuson says. He adds that Como's champion track athletes "were able to perform at their highest level on the biggest stage. I think that Trevon will join them."

In addition to hurdling, Trevon also tops the conference in both the long jump and triple jump. The only other triple jumper close to Clay is teammate Richard Martin, also a junior. "People from other schools know about Tre(von) and his reputation," Martin says. "People know how good he is. Competing against him makes me better."

As a junior Parsons became the first Como tennis player to advance to the state tournament as a singles player. As a sophomore, Parsons was part of the first doubles team to make it to state, when he partnered with then-senior Ian Olesak.

Making it to state for a third consecutive year would be a crowning achievement for Parsons. There is pressure to get there again, but Parsons not letting it get to him. "I've been more relaxed this year, enjoying it all more, and being with my teammates," he says. "We win as a team and lose as a team. I still get nervous before my matches, but experience helps."

He's undefeated this season with a 13-0 record against city and suburban opponents. (The team is also holding its own with a 7-6

record.) Como's tennis coach, Ron Filstrup, credits Parsons with encouraging his teammates and for his leadership in physical conditioning.

Filstrup is in his fifth season leading the Cougars. Prior to that he coached for more than 20 years at Woodbury High School, sending four elite players to the state tournament during that time.

Filstrup notes that Parsons has invested significant time working on the deficient areas of his game. Parsons is aware of the areas needing improvement and has focused on them to become a complete player.

When asked to compare Parsons to his previous state participants, Filstrup says simply: "He's the best player that I've ever coached. He's put in the time to erase any weaknesses."

This spring sports season at Como is typical with a few hundred student athletes having fun with peers in activities they enjoy and working to achieve their personal bests. Trevon Clay and Nate Parsons are two shining examples among many.

They're also two individuals who can relate to each other through their shared experiences of competing at the highest levels of state competition, dealing with high expectations, mental pressures and physical sacrifices. Two different sports, two different kids and one common goal: represent Como with their quest to be the best.

Eric Erickson teaches at Como Park High School and has coached a variety of school and youth sports teams in St. Paul over the last 20 years. Follow twitter @eestp for current school sports news.

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