Coming to America: A refugee story

Bhutanese family thought they were heading from Nepal to Georgia, but ended up in Minnesota

By Judy Woodward

We read about them in passing, or see their weary faces trapped momentarily in the lens of a news camera. Annies of political refugees are on the march across the map of Europe this year. Their numbers are greater than at any time since the end of the Second World War. Far away in Minnesota, many of us react with a quick pang of sympathy and perhaps a resolution to send a check.

For Ram Rana and his wife, Devi, of St. Anthony Park, however, the understanding goes much deeper. The Ranas are Lhotshampas, ethnics from Nepal whose families had lived for generations in villages as minority inhabitants of the neighboring country of Bhutan. As children, Devi and Ram fled into exile with their families when the Bhutanese government attempted to suppress their language, their national dress and their culture.

“I was 9 years old when I left,” says Ram, 34, speaking in the hard-won tones of American-style English that he picked up after he arrived in the United States. “Our parents want democracy in our country. We love our national identity.”

They spent the next 19 years in refugee camps in Nepal. “Refugee life is miserable,” says Ram. Although they lived in relative safety in Nepal and attended school in the camps, they were not allowed to begin new lives. As stateless people, they lived in a state of suspended animation,quested in the refugee camps, while many among the older generation hoped someday to be allowed to return to their native villages.

For Ram and Devi, who had met and married in the camps, it was different. Especially after their son, Nitesh, was born in 2005, they became increasingly interested in the possibility of resettlement in a third country. The option was made possible through the bureaucratic machinery of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; but there was one huge

A refugee story to 6

Neighbors weigh in on Luther senior housing

Developer hosts series of workshops to get community feedback on project at Luther Place and Como Ave.

By Kristal Leebrock

Senior housing developer Ecumen is asking anyone who viewed the preliminary site plans for a senior housing co-op at Luther Place and Como Avenue to attend discussions at open houses this month.

The nonprofit developer who is negotiating with Luther Seminary to buy two tracts of land on the seminary campus, presented plans and renderings for three developments at an open house on Sept. 24 and at the District 12 Land Use Committee meeting on Oct. 5. Those plans included a 60-unit owners-occupied senior housing co-op at the 1.1-acre site on the southeast border of the seminary and two developments at Eastin Street and Como across from HealthPartners.

The Eastin developments would include a 121-unit apartment building with some assisted-living components and 20 percent affordable units, and a 112-unit memory-care facility.

Neighbors packed the Oct. 1 District 12 meeting and raised concerns about the scale of the building, the impact it would have on parking and traffic along Luther Place, the loss of the green space that is used by the community for a spring ice cream social and other events, the loss of the oak trees on the lot, and the impact the development would have on St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church just across the street. The church has had a longstanding agreement with the seminary to share its parking lot at Luther Place.

In reaction to neighborhood concerns, Ecumen planned a series of three interactive workshops with developers and architects working on the projects and the community to gain feedback on development plans at the Luther Place and Como site. The first, held Oct. 13 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, had the more than 60 attendees break into four groups to discuss concerns and desires for a development on that site.

“What we heard at the Land Use meeting was that this community has a strong desire to have a deeper discussion about the end result,” said Tim Nichols, who is part of the development team. Ecumen has stopped all design processes, he told the Oct. 13 meeting attendees, and is taking “steps backward” to listen, then study new ideas, then integrate those ideas into a new design.

The second meeting, held Oct. 28 at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church after the Bugle went to press, was a “distillation of those ideas” and discussion of the historic roots of the neighborhood and the vision for the area.

Luther project to 6

Show your support
It’s that time of year. Please give to the Bugle fund drive and support your friendly neighborhood newspaper. Learn more about the cost of publishing the Bugle on page 4.
Holiday Shopping Guide 2015

Merchants:
Use the Park Bugle’s four-color Holiday Shopping Guide to help you select your wares this season. The shopping guide is published in the December Bugle, which will hit the streets on Nov. 17, right before Thanksgiving.

Ad blocks are sold first-come, first-serve, so contact your sales representative now.

Contact Bradley Wolfe if you are a business on the north side of Como Avenue: 952-393-6614 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org.

Contact Clare Caffrey if you are a business on the south side of Como Avenue: 651-276-5908 or clarecaffrey@parkbugle.org.

The space reservation deadline for the Shopping Guide is Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Como Park
The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Stinson Station, 1224 N. Loring Parkway. Contact 651-444-3889 or district10comopark.org.

Pancake breakfast
The District 10 Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30-11 a.m., at the Jeff Corps Center cafeteria on Ashling Avenue between Snelling Avenue and Amana Street.

The annual district fundraiser will include a kids’ costume parade with prizes at 10 a.m. and all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Tickets are $7 for adults, $4 for children 5-12 and free for those under 5. Save $1 by buying tickets in advance online at www.district10comopark.org. Tickets will be available at the door.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Contact 651-792-7600 or www.falconheights.org.

Sustainability fair
The Falcon Heights City Council will host a sustainability fair on Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30-8 p.m. at Larpenteur Park, 2500 W. County Road E, St. Anthony. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more at tinyurl.com/sustain.

Lauderdale
The Lauderdale City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St. Contact www.ci.lauderdale mn.us or 651-792-7600.

Trick or treat
The City of Lauderdale’s annual Halloween Party will be held Saturday, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. at City Hall. Games, fun and food will be provided for all ages.

You don’t need to be a kid to dress up. All ages are encouraged to join in. Donations make this event possible, so please consider dropping off cash or candy at City Hall. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, Oct. 25, noon-4 p.m. and at the event, 5-7 p.m.

Sustainability fair
The cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Village will host a sustainability fair on Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30-8 p.m. at Silberwood Park, 2500 W. County Road E, St. Anthony. Learn more at tinyurl.com/sustain.

Public hearing
Lauderdale. A Truth-in-Taxation public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Election is Nov. 3
Lauderdale residents will vote at Lauderdale City Hall for the Roseville Area School board election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Find out more about the candidates on page 15.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in Roseville Community Learning Center, 2455 W. University Ave. To find out when council members meet, go to www.upac.org or call 651-649-3592.

Board candidates sought
District 12 board elections will be held Nov. 4-8 and the council is seeking candidates. Candidate questionnaires are on the St. Anthony Park Community Council website at www.upac.org/new-open-board-candidate-questionnaire. The questionnaires are due on Saturday, Oct. 31. Information about candidates will be posted on the council website and on the neighborhood listing before the election.

District 12 meetings to move to Jennings Community school
The District 12 Community Council will begin holding its board meetings and Land Use Committee meetings at Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 W. University Ave., in November. There is parking in the back of the building and easy access to public transportation.

Como Avenue post office to close Nov. 13
The U.S. Postal Service’s lease at 2286 Como Ave. is up and the Como Station post office that has been in that building since 1970 is closing on Friday, Nov. 13.

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) says in more from the neighborhood is “temporary” and all post office hours at that location will move to the Roseville Branch at 2000 W. County Road B2.

“We are looking for something in the neighborhood,” said USPS spokesperson Lisa Sunderland. “The search is ‘ongoing,’ she said. ‘At the moment, we are trying to stay in north St. Anthony Park’.

Sunderland is the contact person for community members who have questions about the closing. Her phone number is 651-225-6175.

News that the post office may close hit the neighborhood a year ago, when the building went on the market. In February, Frattalone’s Ace Hardware made a bid for the property. In June, co-owner Tom Frattalone said the company had planned to open a store in late February 2016. The Bugle was unable to get an update on the store’s plans before the paper went to press.

Other area post office branches and stations are listed below:
- Roseville station, 2000 W. County Road B2. Retail hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The lobby is open 24 hours a day.
- Minnesota Transfer Station, 2354 W. University Ave. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:30-9 p.m.
- University Station, 2811 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Retail hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Bufford Ave., has a postal station at the center’s information desk on the lower level. That station is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. -Kecia Ludick
Tilden School grew with Como

By Roger Bergerson

In 1890, a young woman named Gertrude Walk was pleased to find a teaching position at a brand-new school near Lake Como.

Her parents, however, were distressed at the prospect of their daughter working “out in the wilderness,” beyond St. Paul’s western border, populated at the time by a few scattered farm families.

Horace’s place of employment was Tilden School, located just east of the state fairgrounds. Today a small neighborhood park occupies the former site at Arona Street and Albany Avenue.

For nearly a century, Tilden was where generations of Como-area children received their first exposure to formal education.

Horace lived in a boarding house in downtown St. Paul and commuted by train to her job, disembarking at the Snelling Avenue station and walking north to the school.

Tilden, named for a presidential candidate of 1876, was built in anticipation of population growth in the area, expected to be fueled by housing at the new Northern Pacific Railroad repair shop nearby. However, the real estate boom ended abruptly with a depression that became known as the Panic of 1893.

The eight-room school was built to accommodate 325 students, but it opened with only 15 pupils in grades 1 through 4. Older children attended Logan School near Lexington and Hoyt avenues.

Enrollment stalled and the school district closed Tilden for the A kindergarten class in spring 1951. The writer is in the third row, second from left.

Raymond Ave. construction, again

By Kristal Leebrock

Raymond Avenue from Energy Park Drive north to Como Avenue will be under construction in 2016. But the schedule for the project and the details are still in the planning stage.

Barb Mundahl, project engineer for the city of St. Paul, met with the District 12 Transportation Committee and St. Anthony Park residents on Oct. 12 to gather feedback for the project. Most of the nearly 20 residents who came to the meeting live on or near section of Raymond.

The 2016 construction is the third phase of a project aimed at making Raymond Avenue more pedestrian-friendly and slowing traffic on the avenue.

The city is looking at two options for the redesign of the 42-foot-wide street, both of which would have one lane of traffic going in each direction and bike lanes on both sides of the street. Mundahl said.

One option is to have no parking on either side of Raymond, which would allow a 34-foot-wide street with two 11-foot-wide travel lanes and two 6-foot-wide bike lanes on each side. This option would also allow wide boulevards. The other option is to allow parking on the street, leaving the street at the same width it is now, but banning parking and narrowing the street at the school crossing, the location of which has not been decided.

Currently Raymond is posted as no parking from just south of Gordon Avenue to Como. There is currently a school crossing at Gordon. Mundahl said that she has heard from some residents that the crossing is on the street rather than the sidewalk.

Mundahl described two We support the Bugle and here’s why

“Dr. Grossmann and I have supported the Bugle for decades of years—both with business donations and as advertisers—because the Bugle plays such a big role in the lives of our patients. We enjoy staying abreast with all the community activities that the Bugle covers and have truly loved the stories that all the independent writers contribute. Those of us who financially support this wonderful community effort really want our friends and families to enjoy the Bugle for years to come.”

Dr. Paul Kirkegaard St. Anthony Park Dental Care

“I have lived in my Lauderdale home for over 35 years and love the location, so close to both city centers of St. Paul and Minneapolis. I treasure the diverse mix of great people in SAP, Como, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. I have supported the Bugle for as long as I can remember because I truly find it to be a valuable news channel for what is happening in my neighborhood. When I was working long hours as a hospital CEO, I still took time to read the Bugle to ground me to my surroundings.”

Lynn Abrahamsen Lauderdale

“I don’t donate because I have to; I donate because I want to. I’m proud to say I live in Como Park and I’m fully invested in making it a better place. By giving $100 each year, I feel I can help the Park Bugle connect to and promote this unique place I’m privileged to call home.”

Matt Vierling Two-year Como Park resident

Give to the Bugle this year and help this 41-year-old community resource keep on keeping on. Go to www.parkbugle.org and click on the green GiveMN button on the right.
When the election 2015 campaign signs come down after Nov 3, we hope to see a number of bright yellow signs still standing in yards that say, “I Support the Bugle.” We ask that you to join those neighbors in supporting this community gem.

The Bugle that lands on your doorstep each month is more than the culmination of a month’s worth of work. It is the legacy of a commitment made nearly 42 years ago to tell and share the stories of our community—Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park. You are a critical part of our legacy.

Though the Bugle is delivered free to your home every month, it is not “free.” The Bugle is a nonprofit organization that relies on the financial support of our neighbors. There are advertising revenue from some costs, donations from our readers form an important part of the funding needed to produce, publish and deliver the paper to 14,500 homes and to help keep beef up our online presence.

Many neighborhoods have lost their community newspapers in recent years, so it’s more important than ever for each of us to help sustain this important resource.

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COMMENTS
St. Paul's schools of democracy

By Melissa Matthews

The intersection between civic engagement and democracy has inspired debate since Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America with voluntary associations described as schools of democracy.

Since 1975, a rich tradition of participatory democracy through St. Paul’s district councils has flourished. How? Ask one of the 2,100 devoted volunteers or speak with the hard-working staff members who leverage limited resources.

As a former executive director of St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council, I offer a few observations concerning the district councils as schools of democracy.

First, the district councils create public spaces for diverse voices, in turn engaging a more active populace who become familiar with electoral and municipal processes. Second, through deliberation, the district councils display democracy in action by organizing participation in the public sector. The relationships forged at neighborhood forums also stimulate tolerance, which improves the civic health of St. Paul.

These pioneering approaches resulted in block nurse programs, community gardens, crime-prevention initiatives, neighborhood cleanups and senior chore services. While facilitating hundreds of issues, district councils continue to innovate through cross-cultural dialogues, food-access programs, organics recycling, transit partnerships and a local radio station.

These examples suggest that diverse tactics, rather than a homogeneous approach, successfully serve unique community contents.

And, critics seem concerned about their continued relevance and there might be reason to believe an overall decline of civic participation.

I disagree and advocate that, as part of renewed investment in democracy, we explore how to enrich our strategies while reflecting upon what it means to have an active citizenry. Fortunately, we already have a widely supported system in place for neighborhood-level revitalization.

Conversations related to the talented and tireless activists who commit to St. Paul’s schools of democracy are now celebrated the 40th anniversary of the district council system. At this time, I also reflect with gratitude on those who guided my own schooling, including board members, city staff, colleagues, elected officials and volunteers.

Melissa Matthews served as executive director of the District 12 Community Council from April, 2000 to April, 2005. She lives in St. Anthony Park and is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

LETTERS
Luther Seminary should not develop green space at Luther Place and Como Avenue

On Oct. 31, we attended a third disappointing open house with E cânem, the developers for Luther Seminary who wish to build a co-op apartment complex at Como Avenue and Luther Place.

Our group is not with the idea of more senior housing for St. Anthony Park but rather, with the proposed site. Holding more meetings with E cânem will not resolve the fundamental issues involved.

The controversy will not be resolved until President Robin Steinké, Vice President Michael Morrison or members of the seminary board agree to meet and listen directly to the concerns of the St. Anthony Park community.

The seminary has 26 acres of land and a number of other possible building sites; they should not be offering the wonderful open “green space” at the corner of Como and Luther Place, and they should show some basic concern for the community at St. Anthony Park Lutheran before they close off access to the parking lot, which has been shared by the seminary and the church for over 50 years.

Joe and Sue Ečovern Luther Place, St. Anthony Park

Letter writers support Jan Schumacher for SPPS board

This Nov. 3 we have an opportunity to vote for and elect our fabulous neighborhood leader Jan Schumacher to the St. Paul Public Schools Board. I have known Jan for years as a dear friend and as a colleague when I was chair of the board of St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. He is thoughtful, strategic, enthusiastic and deeply committed to the success of our kids and schools.

Because it’s an off-election year, voter turnout may be small. That means we all need to vote.

Our district needs Jan's leadership and do so our kids’

Judy Canon St. Anthony Park

We write in support of Jan Schumacher for the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education. Jan listens, and hearts, and works to make every part of our neighborhood and wider community better. He has been a constant presence in and stalwart supporter of our schools, working with students, parents and teachers to meet the challenges before us. He is both deliberate and decisive.

This is a critical time for public schools, and we need a strong school board that is responsive and effective. We need board members who put our students first, who respect our teachers and who hold administrators accountable. We urge you to vote for Jan Schumacher to carry his dedication and vision forward positive change.

Janet Hey and Roger Puthy St. Anthony Park

New housing developments could affect seniors’ market

North St. Anthony Park is about to experience more new residential construction in the next two or three years than it has in the 35 years that I have been working in the real estate business in the neighborhood. Almost 800 new housing units could be built in the next few years, starting with the 24-unit apartment building being built on the Holy Building site next to the gas station on Como Avenue, and continuing with a 50-60 unit senior co-op proposed to be built on the Luther Seminary grounds.

Already the phone calls have started coming in, and the same question seems to be on everyone’s mind: “How will all of this affect my property value?” Most often, a home’s value is determined by supply and demand. I don’t believe demand will fall off, but supply may increase.

The last major housing development in St. Anthony Park was the 19-unit Luther Place condo building in 1984. Many of the folks buying into Luther Place were trying to sell their homes, and there were other folks trying to sell at the same time for different reasons. At one point in 1984, there were 44 housing units on the market. It took over two years for the number of homes for sale to fall back to normal levels. To put that in perspective, normally north St. Anthony Park experiences about 35 sales per year.

So, even if just half of the first new units being built are rented or purchased by current north St. Anthony Park residents eager to grasp a new housing opportunity for themselves, there could be a surplus of homes for sale for the next couple years.

Homeowners in north St. Anthony Park are likely to experience some short-term ups and downs in their property value over the next few years and some careful planning is advisable.

Home values could be affected by several factors over the next few years:

• First will be the anticipation of the changes inherent with new construction as people wonder about how the buildings will fit into our community. Selling during this time of uncertainty, especially in the immediate vicinity of the new building, may be difficult. The unknown is always a bit frightening.

• Next will be the construction phase, when trucks start coming in and out of the neighborhood, the dust starts flying, the roads get torn up for utility purposes and the building begins to take shape. Less uncertainty, but kind of messy.

Again, selling a home in the immediate vicinity may be problematic. No one should be affected.

• Finally, the impending completion of the first building (probably the 24-unit rental) will mark the time when residents start making plans for moving into their new homes and begin to attempt to sell their current homes. That is likely to occur next spring, when timing of the completion of the building can be more precisely determined and moving plans can be made.

Next spring might see an increase in the number of homes for sale in the neighborhood, and smart sellers will need to sell next spring should plan for this. Good things to do:

• Get your home freshened up, repaired, repainted and uncluttered right now.

• Take photos now of your home with a green lawn and beautiful trees. The photos may be helpful in marketing homes early next spring before the snow is all gone.

• Seek the advice of a local realtor.

The timing of the 50- to 60-unit senior co-op will be a repeat of the same process, but because of its size, the impact on the supply of homes for sale in the neighborhood may be even more dramatic.

It should also be interesting to see if there is increased demand for commercial spaces within the neighborhood. All of these new residents will probably demand more places to date and shop for food, pharmaceuticals, hardware, gifts, toys and other essentials. These folks will also be looking for services such as health and dental care, eye care, wellness services and auto repair.

I am guessing that our little commercial district will thrive in the future, as there may be as many as 300 to 400 new residents (shopper?) with walking distance of the commercial center.

There is no reason to panic, but there may well be reason to plan. And if you don’t need to sell in the next couple years, don’t worry. All of this looks well for the long-term future of St. Anthony Park.

Steve Trowdy and Chris Davion St. Anthony Park

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A refugee story from 1

obstacle: “We have to go by ourselves. I never left my family til now,” explains Ram. He had learned rudimentary British-style English in school in the refugee camps, but, he says, “Our parents knew no English.

Ram and Devi were encouraged by the example of Devi’s adult niece and her husband who had already gone ahead to Atlanta. GA., where the husband had a job. Finally, in 2009, the couple and Nikesh said goodbye to 15 relatives in the Nepali refugee camp and boarded a plane for what they thought would be a new life in the American South.

Worse was to come, says Ram.

“One caretaker wasn’t there. We didn’t know where to get our bag...” he said. In his far-from-fluent English, Ram asked an airport security guard for help.

Several phone calls later, a pair of volunteers showed up and drove the little family to what they believed was their new Atlanta home. It was late at night, they were exhausted, and their ignorance was total.

“It was first time we ever saw a refrigerator, electricity, American food,” says Devi. “The volunteers said, ‘This is good for one week. She gave us bus cards, but where is bus? How to use card?”

Ram takes up the story. “They left and said, ‘We’ll be back after a week. But my son is hungry’.

A third meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, will "integrate the input from the previous two workshops and discuss a comprehensive design solution for the proposed building and site," McNell said. That meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 2200 Hillade Ave.

Ecumen is also planning to distribute an electronic survey to gather neighborhood feedback. The survey will be disseminated on the neighborhood listserv through District 12. You can also submit your thoughts and ideas about the project to Ecumen at 626@ecumen.org.

“Ecumen is committed to making sure that everyone who has an interest in the project has the opportunity to be heard and will schedule additional workshops in early November if necessary,” McNell said.

Ram is grateful for the help he received from St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church when he first came here, but he emphasizes, "Carol is a family".

And he’s not the only one. The Rana family in Minnesota has been growing in the six years since they arrived. Devi and Ram have welcomed the arrival of at least 10 members of their extended clan from the refugee camps in Nepal. Other Bhutanese families have also arrived, tilling within a few blocks of the Ranas.

“It’s like Little Bhutan,” says Devi.

When the Ranas arrived, they both found the American language and their own prospects problematic.

“They had to find a job and the children had to go to school,” says Ram, who now works for an office-cleaning company. Things have improved, but Ram is realistic.

“I knew if we go [to America] our life will be OK, but our kids life will be better,” he says.

Nikesh, now a fourth-grader at St. Anthony Park Elementary School, is flourishing.

“His excellent at school, he’s doing well,” says Ram.

But his father hopes he won’t forget where he came from. When asked what he would tell his grandchildren as yet unborn about his long journey to his new life in Minnesota, Ram responds, “I will tell them, ‘I’m American. But I will tell them, Don’t forget Bhutan and your language Nepal.’”

Judy Woodard is a reference librarian at Roswell Library and a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.
Catbird can hold its own against the parasitic cowbird

I was sitting at my breakfast table recently, thinking about what I should write about for my next Birdman column, when the answer came tapping on my window. There was my neighbor Bill with a dead catbird in his hand, knocking on the panes.

I popped up from the table and went out to get the story. Bill had found the bird dead in the street, probably the victim of a car strike.

The grey catbird is a little smaller than our robins and much more slender. It’s slate gray overall with a black cap and tail. Bill turned the bird onto its back and remarked that he’d never noticed the rusty feathers under the catbird’s tail. I told him that we birdbathers call them russet undertail coverts, fancy talk for a rusty patch under the tail.

The catbird flies in its tail as it hops about, yet that rusty patch may be hard to see. Male and female alike.

Bill has had a pair of catbirds nesting in his garden nearly every year for quite some time. In fact, we saw a pair chasing each other around his yard later that same day.

The generic name for the gray catbird is Dumetella, which means “small bird.” And that is indeed the preferred nesting site for these birds, a small thicket, the thicker, the better. They seem to seek out thorny shrubs, maybe for defense against predators. And if the bushes have lots of berries, that’s a bonus.

The nest is described as a bulky, open cup, averaging 6 inches across and 4 inches high. The nest is usually within 6 feet of the ground. The female lays an average of four smooth, turquoise green eggs. Sometimes they may have little red spots on them.

Catbirds eat a wide variety of insects and small fruits. They’re quite shy, so you can often hear them before you see them. They seem to babble to each other or perhaps just to themselves. And, true to their name, they punctuate their chatter with a very catlike “meow.” Most cat owners, however, would not be deceived by the sound.

Catbirds are classified in the mimidae family, a collection of mimics that includes mockingbirds and thrashers. For the process of vocalization, instead of a larynx, birds have what’s called a syrinx. And the catbird has a split, or divided, syrinx. They can vocalize through each side independently. That means they can harmonize with themselves.

Their vocabulary includes 180 different whistles, squeaks and harsh chatters, as well as fragments of the songs of other birds. Their song can last up to 10 minutes with syllables delivered at about 90 a minute.

A birding friend of mine, Ron, told us that several years ago when his kids were much younger, they were camping at a state park. The kids had been exploring the area when suddenly his son came running back, all excited.

“Dad,” he said, “there’s a bird over there and it’s saying my name.” He led Ron over to some nearby bushes and sure enough, there was a bird calling with a whiny, “Eenic! Eenic!” His son was impressed with his introduction to the gray catbird.

It’s difficult to see catbirds when they’re in shubbery. But most of us birders have had success drawing them out by using a soft “pshh” sound. The birds are curious and want to see who’s making that throat sound. It’s best not to bother the bird during the nesting season, but a quick encounter is probably not a problem.

In my research for this column, I consulted the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Birds of North America Online website. There I learned something that I admire greatly about gray catbirds. Many birds get parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird. The cowbird doesn’t build a nest of its own, but lays its eggs in another bird’s nest when it’s temporarily unattended.

But not so fast there, cowbird, if you’re eyeing a catbird nest. According to an article on the website, catbirds have learned how to noll the offending cowbird egg out of their nest. The article says this isn’t an innate behavior, but it seems to be readily learned by catbirds. The theory is that they see the first egg they’ve laid, their own, and recognize the cowbird egg as foreign.

Catbirds range across most of the U.S. and into southern Canada in the summer. They usually winter from southern New England down to Panama. But we’ve had a gray catbird overwinter here in Lauderdale, using our heated birdbaths for water and warmth. It also made use of the next feeder as a source for energy. Brave, and successful, little bird. But, sadly, like many bird species, they haven’t figured out how to survive automobiles.

Family concert, workshops part of WindSync Music in the Park tour

Tilden School from 3
1896-97 school year. But it opened and graduated its first class, consisting of two students, in 1893.

George Robertson, a member of one of the pioneer families, was the Salutatorian and spoke on “Labor Conquers All.”

By 1916, there were 145 students, but conditions for learning may not have been ideal. A scathing report by the State Fire Marshall called St. Paul schools firetraps and Tilden was not spared. “On account of the poor installation of furnaces which are old, the floors are black with coal dust, as well as the walls and furniture,” the report said.

Outbuildings were still being used, although the city was in the process of installing sewer lines by this point. The school had started to fill up with the opening of Thomas Franks new development north of Midway Parkway and by 1924 an addition was needed. By the time the school celebrated its golden jubilee in 1939, there were 441 students enrolled.

The end came abruptly for Tilden in 1974, when it was discovered that the building was infested with bats. After a child was bitten, district officials decided to close the school immediately. The majority of students were sent to Chelsea Height Elementary School to the north.

Following Tilden’s demolition, the school district sold the land to the City of St. Paul for $1 and the 1.6-acre plot was developed as a park.

Roger Bengtson writes about local history and community news from his home in Como Park.

Raymond Ave. from 3

options for the road configuration under the railroad bridge. Leave the walkway elevated (as it is now) or bring it down to street level to eliminate the need for railings. The options for bridges under the bridge are bike lanes on the roadway or a bike path elevated with the sidewalk.

She is also recommending that 24-hour lighting be installed under the railroad bridge between Energy Park Drive and Blake Avenue.

Attendees weighed in on concerns about the speed of vehicles using Raymond, hazards of taking left turns onto Blake, biking under the railroad bridge and the schedule for the project. Mundahl was urged to get the project started early so that it would be finished before the Minnesota State Fair begins at the end of August.

Raymond Avenue is a trunk highway owned by Ramsey County and partially funded by the state. Mundahl explained, and that means that any project involving the street requires approval by the county, the state and the City of St. Paul.

“It’s a very complicated relationship,” she said. She assured the people at the meeting that she would “do everything I can to make it so,” but she couldn’t guarantee the scheduling.

Raymond Avenue Phase 2 construction between Hampden Avenue and Energy Park Drive is expected to be completed by the end of November.

Initiated by District 12 residents and officials, planning for this project began in 2004 with the central aim of calming traffic along the corridor.

Raymond was constructed in 1925 and is the only north-south route in the neighborhood. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2013.
Café 99 celebrates two years

By Alex Louder

Oct. 5 marked two years since Café 99 settled into 1552 Corso Ave., the space formerly occupied by Basacc Brick-Oven. Owner Hong Chen also ran a restaurant in Camarillo, but the commute from her Roseville home became too burdensome.

“The people here are more accepting of multicultural food,” she said. “With all the universities around, this is a great spot for us.”

Chen hired Chef Yang, who is one of few chefs in the country to hold a training certificate from the Chinese government.

“Our chef is professionally trained in the various regions of Chinese cuisine,” Chen explained. “Our menu reflects his extensive training.”

Indeed, the vast menu spans the major culinary regions of China, many of which are rarely represented in the Midwest. The menu is also wisely separated into sections based on how adventurous the diner might be. The Chef’s Recommendation section, as well as the Classics section, tout bold, more unique dishes, while the Classics Favorites sections will appease the more cautious eaters at the table.

Chen is proud to point out that some of the popular choices come from the sections highlighting cuisine that most Americans are less familiar with. Dishes like Mandarin Beef with Chives, as well as the beautifully presented Chrysanthemum Sole Fillet are prevalent in China, but are seldom offered in other Chinese restaurants in Minnesota, according to Chen.

Another popular dish is the Sizzling Steak in Black Pepper Sauce served on a hot plate.

“People see the sizzling steak brought to a table nearby and want to order that,” she said. “They tell us our dishes are better here than in their hometowns in China. That makes my day!”

Café 99 is open for dinner seven days a week and serves lunch Wednesday through Friday. The cafe offers an online ordering system that Chen said cuts down on time and mistakes. Patrons can even pay online, making the process of getting that piping hot order of Sesame Double Cooked Pork in front of your family that much more efficient.

You can find out more about the restaurant at www.cafe99mn.com.

Solar installation a ‘go’ at St. Anthony Park church

By Mary Morgenthaler

When the proposed solar installation on the roof of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church was reported in the Bugle’s August issue, it had not yet been voted on by the congregation.

That vote was taken Sunday, Sept. 20, and the positive response was unanimous.

Punch for the $120,000 project have been ordered and installation could begin as late November or early December. Nearby Innovative Power Systems (IPS), 1413 N. Hunting Valley Road, will be handling the project.

Church members of all ages are enthusiastic about how the project is a good example of the congregation’s concern for the environment.

And the resultant energy savings the congregation will experience added to the members’ motivation to approve it. The congregation had already contributed or pledged enough funds to cover the upcoming cost before the project was voted on.

Watch the southern exposure of the church roof in a month or so. Give thanks to the sun for heating and light—and cutting a local church’s energy bill.

State of the Park

Tuesday November 10
6:00 - 8:30 pm
Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Ave

Presentation and Break-out Sessions

Featuring updates with Q&A on our schools, development, retail, energy & the environment

6:00 pm Non-profit Info Fair
6:30 pm Foundation Report
7:00 pm Break-out Sessions

Come early to find out about our local non-profit community, then join your neighbors to discuss the state of the Park!

childcare available!
ELECTION 2015

Meet the candidates

St. Paul City Council

We asked the Ward 4 and Ward 5 City Council candidates to tell us what they see as the top three challenges facing the City of St. Paul and what they will do to address those challenges if they are elected.

Ward 4

Tom Goldstein

Tom Goldstein has had a varied career and more recently has been a magazine publisher and editor, as well as an affordable housing advocate, job-placement coordinator, St. Paul Public Schools board member, legislative aide, labor organizer and neighborhood activist. He is a co-founder of the Concern Saint Paul broadside campaign and Heroes Hamline Village.

"The quickest way to build wealth and prosperity in a community is through job creation, which must be the city’s main focus," says Goldstein.

"We also need to leverage city resources that maximize educational outcomes for children, including a citywide mentoring program and meaningful opportunities to gain ‘on-the-job’ exposure to the business world and nonprofit community; put people to work rebuilding the city’s neglected infrastructure—not stadiums; reform our zoning code so that neighborhoods are protected against senseless teardowns; and develop a community-owned broadband network—the only way we can close the digital divide and ensure affordable, high-speed internet for all.”

Russ Stark

Russ Stark is completing his second term representing Ward 4 on the St. Paul City Council and currently serves as council president. Prior to being elected, Stark worked in the nonprofit sector with a focus on community-based development and sustainable transportation.

"The top three issues facing the City of St. Paul, according to Stark are:

1. "Continuing development along the Green Line and working toward additional transit investments in St. Paul, which will in turn attract additional investment and grow the tax base, and improve mobility, livability and sustainability of our great city."

2. "Moving to organize trash collection in the City of St. Paul, as well as collection of household organics and wheeled recycling carts in the alleys."

3. "Ensuring that our residents of color have more pathways to prosperity in St. Paul. This includes ensuring that the City’s workforce is more reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of our residents.”

Ward 5

Amy Brendemoen

Amy Brendemoen is seeking her second term on the St. Paul City Council. She has lived in St. Paul for 19 years and resides in SouthGate with her three school-aged sons. She has a B.A. in political science from the University of Wis-

To find out how to register to vote, how to vote early or to see a sample ballot for your area, go to the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website, mvoteline.2016.elections.mn.gov or call 651-296-2803 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you need to find where to vote, go to the site’s poll finder, http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us, or call or email the Ramsey County election office, 651-326-2711 or elections@co.aisle.mn.us.

Meet your candidates below:

This guide was compiled by Roger Bergstrom and Kristal Lutzbach

David Glass

David Glass describes himself as "an American Indian and Irish kid who grew up on the East Side of St. Paul." He graduated from Johnson High School and received degrees in business and counseling from Metro State University after leaving SMU, where he was employed as a marketing manager, his wife, Pam, and he moved into the Como Park neighborhood in 1999. They managed Black Bear Cussings at Como Lakeside Pavilions for nearly 20 years. Glass currently sits on boards for the Minnesota Housing Partnership, Aria Dabar Yang Youth Service Center, Joel Farahough, a chemical dependency treatment facility, National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media, and the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

The top issues facing the city over, according to Glass are:

“Providing better basic services for neighborhoods is a priority for me. Ward 5 has some of the highest crime areas in the city. Sylvis and Front Row centers were torn down and replaced with rowhouses. Safety, street repair, snow plowing and nic centers should be funded first,” he says.

St. Paul council to 11

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St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education

Eight candidates are vying for four seats on the St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Board of Education. Keith Hardy is the one incumbent seeking re-election. We asked Hardy, Greg Copeland, Zuki Ellis, Linda Freeman, Steve Marchese, Scott Radzewicz, Jon Schumacher, and Mary Vanderwert to answer these questions: What do you see as the top challenges facing SPPS today and how would you address these challenges? If you could change the direction of one thing in SPPS, what would it be?

Here are their answers:

Greg Copeland

Copeland has lived in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood since 1992 and has been on the board since 2008. Copeland ran his wife’s campaign for 16 years after she became disabled due to a 1992 auto accident. He worked as a city manager for the City of Maplewood and as a public administrator consultant. Copeland recently was named to the Minnesota Department of Education’s Committee of Practitioners that advises the commissioner on the federal Title I Program, which manages funding for low-income children’s education to help close the achievement gap.

Copeland’s list of top three challenges are:

1. Equal representation for all citizens. He wants to work on behalf of the 21,000 voters to ensure that students are represented in the board and that all the issues are represented.
2. Transparency demands all public meetings are broadcast. He wants the board to meet twice a month in public, cable TV broadcast sessions in the district’s boardroom and in the community at school auditoriums “to hear directly from parents, students, teachers, support staff and taxpayers.” The current “Committee of the Board meeting held prior to the one regular monthly board meeting is not broadcast and is not held in the board room with the general public but in an upstairs meeting area with the board members and staff.”
3. Board members should not receive pay or reimbursement for attending board meetings.

Zuki Ellis

Ellis is a parent of three boys and attended William Magnet Elementary and Highland Park Senior High. She received her bachelor’s degree from Metropolitan State University in 2011 with a double major in ethnic studies and social science. She is the mother of three St. Paul Public School students, the youngest of whom is a first grader at J.J. Hill Montessori. Ellis has been involved in SPPS for more than a decade as a member of SPPS students, as a volunteer for PTAs and site councils, and as a parent volunteer for the district’s Parent Teacher Home Visit project, the job she now holds.

If elected, Ellis “top three priorities are staffing levels, special education and improving the district’s communication with the community,” she says. “We need to...”
make sure we have enough support staff (EAs, DAs, ESL/special education staff, social workers, librarians, media specialists) in our schools so all of our children have the resources they need to succeed. What are we telling our special needs students when their supports are the first to be cut every time there are budget troubles? We also need to be better about seeking community input on major decisions like mainstreaming, and the iPad rollout. We make our best decisions as a district when everyone feels engaged. Look to the later high school start times as a strong example of community engagement at work.

If I could fix one issue in SPS, it would be the opportunity gap. The opportunity gap is a tremendously difficult problem to solve, rooted in many centuries of discrimination. Addressing it fully will take decades of work, but staffing our schools to support all of our students and communicate better are places we need to start.

Support staff are critical to schools that work for all of our students. Better communication from the district can rebuild trust and relationships between schools and parents, so that we better understand the challenges our students are facing, and so that we can work hand in hand with community members to build strong schools we need for our kids.

Linda Freeman
Linda Freeman is a licensed teacher and has worked in schools, including St. Paul Public Schools, since 1998. Her education interests have been with alternative to traditional education, particularly Montessori, with a focus on children who are not achieving. Before entering her career, she was an intern and operated a licensed home preschool and daycare for 10 years. Freeman has helped develop Montessori programs on a remote Lakota reservation in South Dakota, Montessori non-profit preschools and charter elementary school in North Minneapolis and St. Paul’s East Side, a Christian home school academy and a Montessori preschool in Idaho.

The top three challenges Freeman sees SPS facing are:

- Understanding the needs and desires of our diverse St. Paul populations and communities, and providing them with developmentally and academically rigorous programs and programs.
- It is important that the board extends itself to the community, to make its presence felt, to listen, and remain in touch to monitor and adjust.
- Ensuring that the budget reaches the children. Collaborative understanding of spending at each site.

Keith Hardy
Keith Hardy was first elected to the SPS Board of Education in 2007 and has served two terms. He was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and has lived in South Carolina and Texas. He resides in the Payne-Plaisance neighborhood of St. Paul. His 15-year-old son is a freshman at Champlin Park High School. Hardy has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Texas-Arlington and is working on a master’s degree in technical communication at the University of Minnesota. He is a project manager at U.S. Bank.

Hardy lists the following as the top three challenges facing SPS today:

- Having all students read at grade level.
- Hardy wants the district budget to accommodate more reading-support programs and services and bring in more partners who can provide volunteer reading.
- Hardy wants the personalized learning through technology to ensure student reading comprehension is supported and heightened.

- Providing increased academic choices and programs with reduced state and federal funding is another challenge. He will continue to advocate with Congress members to increase the federal funding for special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,” he says. “I will continue to advocate with state legislators to not reduce integration funding and other funds that large urban school districts need to support our diverse student population.”

- And, “continuing to dismantle the institutional racism and racially predictable barriers to academic and life success for students of color. I will continue to be an ardent advocate for racial equity in our instructional, leadership, and administrative practices for students and employees.

- A policy that he would change in the district is “to have more students reading at grade level so they have the competence and confidence to excel in other content areas such as math, science, social sciences, etc.”

Linda Freeman

Steve Marchese
Steve Marchese has lived in St. Paul since 2007 and is the father of two sons who attend St. Paul schools, a 10th-grader at Central High School and a seventh-grader at Hill. He lives with his wife, Jodi Sofer, and sons in the Summit-University neighborhood. Marchese has been an attorney for more than 20 years and now serves as a pro bono director for the Minnesota State Bar Association. He serves on the Minneapolis Early Childhood Center board in Minneapolis and served for three years on the St. Anthony Park Elementary School Site Council. He grew up the son of a Teamster truck driver in New York City and is the first child to go to college.

Marchese lists the following as the top three challenges facing SPS today:

- We need a more independent, active school board committed to representing the public’s interest and holding district administrators accountable for results.

- The district needs to do a much better job of engaging all stakeholders in the work of our schools. Parents, educators, staff and community members all have a stake in the St. Paul Public Schools. We need district leadership committed to transparency and open input as part of all major decisions.

- The district needs to address inequities within our schools, as well as develop a focused commitment to excellence for all students. Every family should be able to believe their children can receive a top-notch education in a St. Paul school regardless of location. Unfortunately, that is not today.

- The one thing he would change: “Addressing systemic inequities in achievement and resource allocation. Gaps in achievement persist between white students and students of color. The district has attempted to address it, in part, in their racial equity policy; however, this is only an imperfect start. There needs to be more attention paid to providing teachers with concrete strategies and support to work with students.

- We need to enable more decision-making at the building level to allow educators, staff and families to work together to improve achievement in each building,” he says.

- “We need more experimentation with curriculum and building organizations. The district’s Strong Schools, Strong Communities plan needs to be evaluated to ensure that all families have equal opportunities for their children and to ensure that schools do not become more segregated by race, class and ability status. Finally, the district needs to look at how it can support learning with arts education and technical courses.”

Scott Raskiewicz
Scott Raskiewicz has worked as a community outreach, social worker, trainer, networker and struc...
ELECTION 2015

SPPS from 12 environments. In addition, we need to take more responsibility for preparing our graduating seniors for post-secondary success, and that includes a renewed focus on career and technical education.

“The achievement, or opportunity, gap” and school climate are areas that need to be addressed, he says. “The first step to overcoming the achievement gap is to acknowledge that the teacher-student relationship is the heart and soul of any successful learning experience. Teachers must be supplied with adequate training and support, as well as practical and implementable tools for the classroom. In addition, we need to recognize that parents of caregivers are the students’ first educators and we need to welcome them into our schools and engage them as true partners in the education of their children.”

“We also need to ensure our curriculum includes an accurate and balanced reflection of all cultures and that every school has a full complement of special education, mental and physical health, behavioral and library specialists, as well as regular access to art, music and physical activity. And we need more career and technical education opportunities provided so our students have multiple pathways to succeed.”

The state’s Department of Education should “find ways to better align our large standardized tests with our evolving understanding of what constitutes achievement. Our district’s vision for racial equity calls for culturally responsive assessment and I believe there is a sound case to be made that the MCAS contain content that might be unfamiliar or unfair to students of color, recent immigrant or students with learning disabilities.”

The one thing he would most like to change is the Saint Paul school district is the climate of our school communities, which gets back to my second priority. We can’t move forward together until we build a culture of trust and respect. That means better communication between all groups, more effective ways to gain feedback from all members of our school community and more inclusive collaboration on strategies for success.”

Mary Vanderwent

Mary Vanderwent has lived in St. Paul for 25 years. She raised three children as a single parent, an experience she says gave her an understanding of “how decisions are made in families where there is limited income and even more limited resources and how important schools are to families in raising their goals and dreams.” Vanderwent is a master gardener and has used her back yard to host fundraisers for the Family Place to support families experiencing homelessness. Vanderwent has a background in early childhood education and has worked with Head Start, served as director of childcare at Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, was the Minnesota Head Start state collaboration director for the Minnesota Department of Education, and served on the Governor’s Early Learning Council.

Vanderwent describes the top three challenges facing SPPS:

“We need to improve the culture of the schools to one that is collaborative, creative, supportive and exciting. We need a culture that values the contributions of staff and provides them a voice in decision-making.”

“I believe learning happens within the context of relationships. When teachers know their students and families, they can adapt their classroom environment and instructional practices to fit their students’ needs, and children will perform better. The systems in the schools need to support developing relationships. We need to shift the focus from testing children to ensuring that teachers have what they need to get to know their children to gain their trust and be as effective as possible.”

“Parents are critical to their children’s success. By providing a greater focus on support and family engagement our schools will be more successful. They need to be authentic partners in the decision-making for their children and their schools.”

“The thing she would change in the district is the ‘organizational culture.’

“We need a school board, staff, parents and administration that have a common vision for the direction of the schools and are willing to work together toward those goals,” she says. “While some school sites have really effective, positive cultures, it is inconsistent across the city. Culture comes from the leadership of an organization and we want one that is collaborative, creative, supportive and exciting. We need a culture that values the contributions of staff and provides them a voice in decision-making. With a healthy culture focused on the mission and with effective leadership, we can make SPPS the best school district in this country.”

Falcon Heights

We asked the Falcon Heights mayor and City Council candidates about their backgrounds and what they see as the greatest challenges in the city today and how they would address those challenges. Meet the candidates below.

Mayor

Peter Lindstrom is working a third term as mayor, having first been elected to the Falcon Heights City Council in 2006. He is local government outreach coordinator for the state’s Clean Energy Resource Teams, working with cities, counties and schools on improvement programs. Also a year-round bicyclist, Lindstrom likes to ride, exuding patience and incalculable wisdom.

He says: “Our quality of life is our greatest asset. To that end, I have a strong record of improving the city’s assets, however, the city will be financially challenged in the years ahead to improve our public spaces. Some streets haven’t had significant improvements completed in two decades, clay sewer pipes are 70 years old, and the city has identified over $4 million in improvements to our parks.

“Ignoring these needs will only lead to more costly improvements in the future. I’m optimistic that we can keep our property tax reasonable and prioritize these investments.”

Lisa McDonald

Lisa McDonald has been a resident of Falcon Heights for nearly 15 years, born as a homemaker and nurse. She has held a variety of employment positions in both the private and public sectors, particularly in education. Currently, McDonald is self-employed as a nurse for children and adults.

“A great challenge for Falcon Heights will be keeping property taxes under control,” McDonald says. “In comparison to other north metro suburbs, the city of Falcon Heights has historically done a fairly good job keeping a reign on property taxes.

“To address the tax issue, I plan to continue to develop as many partnerships as possible among our nearby cities (Lauderdale, St. Anthony, Roseville). We currently share police services. There are other ways we can share services or facilities by partnering with school districts and parks and recreation departments. I have a background in business and math, and am well aware that every part of the budget is worth reviewing and scrutinizing.”

Support seniors

Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program

Park Perks raised $454 for Murray Intermediate School Hope for Tomorrow in September.

During the month of November we are raising money for Park Bugle.

Support seniors

Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program

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Falcon Heights from 13

City Council
(Two at-large seats)

Tom Brace

Randy Gustafson

Gordon Strom

Joe Brown Thunder

Michael Tracy

Tom Brace was state fire marshal for more than 15 years and later served as executive director of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association. He is also past president of the International Association of Arson Investigators. A classic car enthusiast, Brace has served on the board of the Classic Car Club of America, as well as the Rockford Automobile Classic.

“One of the challenges that impacts the present City Council,” he says, “is a lack of balance. Three of the four members are attorneys. I would feel the same if there were accountants, engineers, or whatever. A major part of the Falcon Heights budget deals with public safety and I do not see any particular expertise on the present council.

“My election would fill several voids. As the former fire marshal of Minnesota and Washington state, my election would go a long way toward bringing a lifetime’s work to the issues of fire and police administration as well as adding a senior citizen to the city council ranks.”

Randy Gustafson is chair of the Ramsey County Charter Commission and has served two terms on the Falcon Heights Planning Commission. He is employed as public communication and crime-prevention coordinator with the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office. He is also past president of the Brooklyn Elementary School Parent-Teacher-Student Association and a board member with the Roseville Area Little League and Roseville Ducks Unlimited.

Gustafson says, “Falcon Heights, as a first-tier fully developed suburban city, faces the challenge of continuing the legacy as a community that is safe and affordable to live in, welcoming to young families and older residents, friendly to business and encouraging civic engagement. I believe our public services need to be delivered in the most effective and efficient methods that we can—whether those in need be individuals, families or organizations.

“Together, we must respect each individual while working for the common good. If elected, I will bring thoughtful, respectful and community-focused leadership to my service as a council member.”

Gordon Strom is a registered architect and senior project manager with a large commercial architecture firm in Minneapolis. He is currently serving as chairman of the Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation Commission.

“The past few years we have developed a long-range planning guide for the parks system and working with the city staff, were able to secure an $85,000 grant to build a new playground for Curtis Field and new improvements for the Falcon Heights Elementary School play area,” he said. “Maintaining and improving the city’s infrastructure while continuing to be fiscally conservative will be the biggest challenge ahead for the city.

“As an experienced architect, managing complex and high-value projects, I will work diligently with the city finance director to maintain our AAA bond rating, seek additional county and state aid, and increase our commercial tax base,” adds Strom.

Joe Brown Thunder was appointed to a vacant council seat in 2014 and is seeking election to a full term.

“I have been an entrepreneur for the past 14 years and am confident that my experience and skills in government, corporate and nonprofits have prepared me for the challenges the city faces,” he says. “I am a seven-year resident and look forward to continuing to work for our great city.

“The most important issue for Falcon Heights continues to be the challenge of maintaining our excellent city services while balancing the budget,” says Brown Thunder. “Our changing demographics require us to reexamine our approach to programming and needs for families and seniors. We need to better understand the true cost of government, so we are better able to properly fund current programs and future initiatives. Technology is a huge opportunity in government. We need to focus on how we can use it to benefit our city and provide cost savings.”

(One seat to fill vacancy that ends Jan. 1, 2018)

Tony Fischer holds a master’s degree in applied economics from the University of Minnesota and is employed at metro district freeways analysis supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He volunteers with Cub Scout Pack 297 and at Falcon Heights Elementary.

“The biggest challenge ahead for the city of Falcon Heights is the constant social, technological and economic changes our city and larger society face,” says Fischer. “This most often comes in the form of nearly infinite small changes, but over time this will reshape the world we live in. This will present many challenges and opportunities. If I am elected to the Falcon Heights City Council I will continually ask questions. I will look for solutions to problems the city faces and opportunities in our changing environment for the benefit of our community.”

Michael Tracy is a real estate agent in the Brooklyn area who has lived in Falcon Heights for more than 20 years. He has served on the Falcon Heights planning commission, as well as the Roseville Housing and Redevelopment Authority. He has been involved in civic affairs through the “Kopach Connection” group that Falcon Heights established in the 1990s to strengthen neighborhoods.

Tracy believes the top challenges are keeping Falcon Heights’ current, well-managed city services, while maintaining fair and reasonable city property taxes. “If elected, I will keep close and frugal watch on city spending and would also like to find more ways to improve our parks and pathways, to make our city more walking, running and biking friendly,” he says.

“I would also like to see Falcon Heights look into allowing our home and apartment owners to install small windmills, to reduce global warming, and help to make Falcon Heights to become the cleanest city in the United States.”
Independent School District 623 (Roseville Area Schools)

Four candidates are competing for three openings on the Independent School District 623 Board of Education. We asked the candidates about themselves and what they see as the greatest challenge facing Roseville Area Schools.

“This school district has aging facilities that have served us well but clearly need a face lift and/or renovation,” says Anderson. “We also have buildings that are packed tightly and lacking space. If elected, one of my priorities will be to work closely with fellow board members and school district staff to come up with a physical infrastructure plan to address the needs of our school district facilities.”

Erin Azar

“Another challenge in District 623 is our aging facilities. A facility review and plan will be essential in the near future.”

Mike Boguszewski

“Boguszewski is a resident with the HealthWorx Care Systems. “We must work innovatively to close the ‘achievement gap in our Roseville schools to 15.”

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1790 Larpenteur Avenue West
Falcon Heights, MN

On behalf of The Good Acre board and staff, the Pohlad family and the Pohlad Foundation, you are invited to celebrate the grand opening of The Good Acre food hub and education/training center.

Guided Tours, Cooking Demonstrations, Family Activities
More event details available at www.thegoodacre.org/events
Roseville from 15
increasingly diverse communities,” Boguszewski says. “We must deal
with facilities that are becoming
coulder, or are at capacity and
overcrowded. We must give our
students the support they need to
reach and teach kids as individuals,
in a system that emphasizes
standardized tests and Common
Core approaches. In today’s
uncertain funding climate, we must
fight to influence legislators when
possible, and promote initiatives that
use dollars wisely both in the
classroom and that foster parent/family engagement.”

Bob Murray served in the U.S. military,
then worked in the missionary field be-
fore starting a commercial and residen-
tial cleaning business that he ran for
nearly 20 years. He is an active supporter of the Laus Family of Minnesota and has
participated in the Housing Freedom
Celebration and International Sport
Festival for many years.

“We need to unlock the doors of success with the key of proficiency in
English, grammar, and composition,” says Murray. “We first
teach our children how to speak
orally phonetically, not with an iPad.

Verbal communication skills are
appearing to be a lost art.

“Stop relying on technology as
the magical cure for everything.
There is nothing wrong with
reading techniques such as phonics
or composition skills. The main
point is to encourage and to
communicate this with parents as
partners in the education process
along with our excellent teaching
staff,” Murray says.

Ward 4 candidates
to debate

St. Paul City Council Ward 4 incumbent Russ Stark and challenger
Tom Goldstein will debate on
Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6:30 p.m.
at the University of St. Thomas.

The hour-long debate will be
held in 3M Auditorium in Owens
Science Hall on the south campus
and will be moderated by former

Free parking will be available
in south campus lots M, N, V and O,
and paid parking will be in the
Anderson ramp at Grand and Cermak
avenues. A reception will follow the
debate.
Bishara Allibouni

Bishara Allibouni, 64, died Oct. 12. Bishara and her wife, Israel, owned and operated the Middle Eastern Deli on 76th Avenue in St. Anthony Park for many years. Bishara is survived by her husband, sons, Nader (Nikolet) and Nabeel (Hannan); four grandchildren; two brothers; five sisters; and nieces and nephews. Services preceded in death by one brother.

His funeral service was held on Oct. 17 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church with interment at Rosewood Cemetery.

David Anderson

David Arthur Anderson, 73, of Oakdale, formerly of Falcon Heights, died Sept. 11.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Carol; two sons, two grandchildren; and one sister, Jean Wall (Richard).

His funeral was held Oct. 2 at Calvary Church in Roseville, with interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

The Rev. Marjorie Aurelius

The Rev. Marjorie (Bobbi) Auerius, 60, died at the Whiting Hospice in Stillwater on Sept. 11.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, three brothers-in-law and beloved husband, Paul.

Marjorie lived in St. Paul most of her life. She attended University High School, the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College in Sioux Falls before graduating from St. John State University in 1975.

Marjorie attended Luther Seminary from 1975 to 1980. She was ordained to the ministry of the Lutheran Church of America in 1980. Marjorie met Paul Auerius in their 20s, going on a first date with him at a park. They married Aug. 17, 1985.

Marjorie is survived by a sister, Imogene (Pudge) Christian; daughter, Ann; sons, John (Maureen Thentmeier) and David (Jean); eight grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

A celebration of her well-lived life was held Oct. 2 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Como Park.

Eleanor Benhoff

Eleanor Benhoff (Ellie) Benhoff, 85, died peacefully Sept. 30 at St. Anthony Park Home surrounded by her loving family.

Ellie was born in St. Paul in 1929. She was the daughter of the late Paul and Hilda Benhoff. After graduation from South St. Paul High School in June 1947, she began working at Swift and Company. She met her future husband, David, at a Bible study group and they married in 1949. Ellie and David lived in Butterfield, Minn., moved to Jackson, Minn., and finally settled in St. Anthony Park. David ran an insurance agency out of their home, and Ellie raised their four children.

A committed Christian and an active part in church life at both Central Baptist Church in St. Paul and University Baptist Church in Minneapolis. Ellie was a lifelong learner, avid reader and music lover. She also loved to travel.

Ellie’s warm, loving personality endeared her to all who knew her. She embraced many causes and was an ardent feminist and volunteer.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, beloved children, Paul (Allison), Lisa (John) and Estelle, granddaughters, Alena (Lacey) and Megan (Scott) and grandson, Calum. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Jan.

A memorial service was held at University Baptist Church on Oct. 5.

Michael Binney

Michael T. Binney, 61, died peacefully surrounded by family on Sept. 23. He was preceded in death by his father, Lyle, and brothers Joe and Jim. He is survived by his brother, Betty; sister-in-law, Sue Binney; sisters, Patricia Knuth and brothers John Thomas (Carly), Terry (Judy) and Dan (Michelle).

Services were held Oct. 2 at St. Cecilia’s Catholic Church in St. Anthony Park.

Alvin Claessman

Alvin J. Claessman, 96, died Sept. 24.

Alvin is survived by his children, Audrey, Gaylina, Myron and Mary Ellen; siblings, Genevieve Schenk, Elizabeth (Donald) Tinkler, Joseph (Lila) Claeseman, Alina (Anneli) Claeseman, and Wilfred (Gladys) Claeseman.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 29 at Church of the Holy Childhood in Como Park, with interment at Rosewood Cemetery.

Carol Coleman

Carol Janet Nelson Coleman, 72, died Sept. 8.

She was born Dec. 17, 1942, and was raised in Falcon Heights. She is survived by her four children, Charlotte, David Bergstrom, Cheryl Mikel, Linda Chapman and Greg Coleman; three grandchildren; and great-grandson-readable by Christian. Her memorial service was held Sept. 19 at Holcomb-Henry-Booher-Purl Funeral Home in Sunset Hills.

Esther Hanson

Esther Hanson, 90, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died Sept. 15.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rolf, who served St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church as senior pastor for more than 20 years. She is well-remembered for her gracious hospitality.

Esther is survived by her six children, Rolf (Linda), Kristine (Gerard) Larson, Elie (James) Carruth, Karen (David) Benson, Peter (Kay) and Grote (Charles) Hanson; 18 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Ann (David) Penn.

Her memorial service was held Oct. 23 at Cross Lutheran Church in Maplewood, preceded by a September burial at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Spring Grove, Minn.

Marguerite Held

Marguerite L. Held, 95, died Sept. 9.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Norbert, one son, Jim (Carol) one sister, Ruth Lothius; and one brother-in-law, Velvin (Maryd) Held.

Her funeral was held Sept. 17 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

John Tallaksen

John Tallaksen, 69, St. Anthony Park, died Sept. 27 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

John passed away in the excellent and compassionate care of the staff at Regions Hospital and his oncology team. John was born in St. Paul on May 27, 1946. He spent his early years in South St. Paul and Brooklyn, N. Y. He graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead.

John retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Minneapolis after 27 years. He published Cajun Spotlight News & Steps, a monthly newsletter, for more than 22 years. He was a great man of romance. A philosopher, poet, musician, who enjoyed time with family, friends, playing accordion, guitar, travel and genealogy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernhard and Lillian, and his brother, William. He is survived by his son, Jeff, sister, Lillian; sister-in-law, Linda; and soulmate, Linda Olson. He was a second father and grandfather to Linda’s children, Eva Frank (Matt), Karie Neuman (Luke), Reed Olson (Kate), Ryan Olson (Chase), and their many wonderful children.

A memorial service was held Oct. 2 at Wicks-McReary Funeral Chapel in Minneapolis.

L I V I N G  L I V E D

The Park Bugle prays sincerely free of charge as a service to our community.

Send information about area deaths to Mary Margraf at mary.margraf@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.

Community Worship Directory

LIVING WORD ANTOIC CHURCH
A multicultural Jesus-centered Church meeting at Falcon Heights City Hall.

At the intersection of Cleveland and Larpenteur
7:30 am: Sunday School, 10:30 am: Worship 5:00 pm: adult Bible study fellowship Affiliated LCMS/NALC;

Perry Tows, Pastor
Benson Mahatian Fellowship Companion

EDIYA PLACE COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES ELCA
Rev. Scott Simonsen, Pastor 612-895-5134elpentacles.com
Hymnbook hear and become. First Monday of each month 7 pm Duluth Pub, 2162 University Ave. W. 55114 Sunday Worship: 7 pm, Dance Art Gallery 2242 University Ave. W. In Paul, MN 55114

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
1748 Wold St. (at kline), L Vadnais 651-644-5640
www.paulshaddle.org
Sunday worship: 10 am: Reconciliation of Sin Christ Congregation All are welcome. Come as u are.

SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH
2036 Como Ave. S., Minneapolis 612-378-5602, www.piscirunited.org
Sunday 10:30 am: Menage and More Kids With Spirit Sunday School Fall Family Fun Banquet—Sunday, Nov. 13, noon – 4:00 pm Lunchtime,大批_Take, Eatclean, Readers, Mason Auctions, Vendor for early holiday shopping. Come as a group: Handiapped accessible. All are welcome.

A leading-edge spiritual community emphasizing the Unity of Spirit— one Source in all.

ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
2597 Berkeley Plac, 651-444-6402
Website: www.wccdiap.org
Handicap accessible: Sunday Mass 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at the church.

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2320 Commonwealth Ave. (corner of Commonwealth and Chanhassen) www.sacrax.org
9:15 am: Children’s education for all ages. 10:30 am: worship Pastor Victoria Winkala Christian traditions Program faith All are welcome

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A flourishing Congregation. 60+ are welcome www.sacrax.org, 2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como) 651-444-4859
Dana, Rev. Deb Delker Sunday 11:00 am: Worship address the needs of the body 11:00 am: Fellowship and coffee hour 6:30 pm: Free young adult dinner in galor Monday 7:30 pm: Community Bible study in person

ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
2323 Como Avenue West 651-644-5031
Staffed nursery available—Handiapped accessible
Dan Green Berg Mulberg and Pastor Pam Cook
Web: Facebook & Twitter: SACPLC
Sunday Worship: 8:30, 11:00, 1:00 pm with education hour for all 9:45 am. Wednesday Community Dinner—5-6:30 pm (free-will offering) Christ School every Wednesday/Bible through Grade 6 call for memo Youth Choir (grade 7-12) 5-6:30-7:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:00-9:00 pm

ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev. Blue Pugs, Racine, 2136 Center at Chanhassen, www.stmatthews.org
Sunday 9:15 am: Education for all ages. 10:30 am: Service with communion, sermon and full choir Nursery care provided 9:00-11:20 am 5:30 pm: Night Prayer with Dinner at 6:30 pm Nov. 1: All Saints Day Celebration with Dinner & Service 8:00 p.m. service Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Eucharist 10:30 am. followed by a Community Dinner at noon
In the Underground Gallery: Elixir & Flow: Exploring the Rhythms of Life— partnering with Both Andrews, Nov 1 - Dec 15

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

2 MONDAY
The Old Time Music Series presents A Thousand Years of Singing, Mondays in November, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

3 TUESDAY
Baby/Toddler story time, Tuesdays in November, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11-12 noon.

Ana Hribar will present “Monsoons in the Himalayas” in a Multiversity Science Club, St. Anthony Park Community Club, 7 p.m. social time, program 7:30-8 p.m.

4 WEDNESDAY
English Conversation Circle, every Wednesday, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Book Club, “Stokes House the Country” by William Styron, St. Anthony Park Library, 6-6:30 p.m.

5 THURSDAY
AARP Senior Dance Course—Tuition includes, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Students and partners are required. $19 for AARP members, $23 for nonmembers. Call 651-646-9072 to secure your spot.
Comings and Goings, for Hunter Minnesotans, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

6 FRIDAY
Pancake breakfast, Fridays in November, St. Anthony Park Library, 9:30-10 a.m. and 11:30-12 p.m.

7 SATURDAY
Holiday and new year’s day workouts to help your adopted child transition the upcoming holidays. Tours some stars club canc pop-up workshops, CHES, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Saturday fun feature, for Hunter Minnesotans, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

9 MONDAY
Join members of the St. Anthony Park Community Club. St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.
Downtown walkers meet every Tuesday of the month, 5th Street and Nicollet Boulevard, 1992 Foshay Tower, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Adoption information meeting, CHES, 6-8:30 p.m. at Reception at club.org/adoptioninformation.

14 SATURDAY
Minneapolis Winter Children’s Learn about adopting children classes also in Iowa. Iowa, CHES, 10 a.m.-12 Noon.
Do It! For Downs, set annual, 2242 W University Ave., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

16 MONDAY
Community Sing, Olson Center, 3rd Floor at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, 6:30 p.m. sing, the music is free, but a food will be passed for our music lessons and to make the space possible.

19 THURSDAY
Learn Chinese Folk Dancing, learn fun basics, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Downtown walkers meet every Tuesday of the month, 5th Street and Nicollet Boulevard, 1992 Foshay Tower, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY
Adoption information meeting, an overview of adoption programs, CHES, 9:30-11 a.m. at Reception at club.org/adoptioninformation.

22 SUNDAY
Soupy Alvarado Book Club, “Wild” by Brian Doyle, Minneapolis, 2-3 p.m.

23 MONDAY
Rev. Ana Hribar will speak on adapting in an open public meeting of the Minneapolis Society, Star United Church, 7 p.m. $10 per person.

27 FRIDAY
Co-Ed salon circle, Women’s Dinner Center, 2242 University Ave., 6-9 p.m. www.salon.org.

29 THURSDAY
Downtown walkers meet every Tuesday of the month, 5th Street and Nicollet Boulevard, 1992 Foshay Tower, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Food from flavorful benefits for Central High School, Downtown Book & Grill, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. A night of music, spoken word, art, and more. Tickets available at ticketfly.com.960315

31 SATURDAY
Gibbs Farm Holiday, Information days and Christmas season, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $5 adults, $3 children 5-12, $3 children 3 and up.

SENIOR EXERCISE
St. Anthony Park Area Sessions
Tuesdays and Thursdays, St. Anthony Park, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m. and 11:30-12 p.m.
Mondays and Thursdays, Lutherdale City Hall, 1-3 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 Anchor Prime Senior Apartment, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS:
St. Anthony Park Area Sessions:
Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 11 a.m. and 12 noon.
Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:
Third Thursdays, Anchor Prime Senior Apartments, 10 a.m.
Fourth Thursdays, Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-12 noon.

VENUE INFORMATION:
Anita’s Red Rooster, 1510 W. Lyndale Ave. W
CHES Children’s Home Society & Lutheran Social Services, 1605 S. 6th St., 612-225-2255
Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 1510 W. Lyndale Ave. W
Lyndale City Hall, 1819 W. Lyndale Ave., 612-631-0900
Mundelein Books, 2238 Center Ave., 612-954-1675
Olson Center, Lutherdale, 5900 Lovell St.
St. Anthony Park Church, 3205 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis, 612-284-6435

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-646-0411
St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hiawatha Ave., 651-403-4956
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2236 Como Ave., 651-645-3058

18 P A R K B U G L E   ■ NOV E M B E R 2 0 1 5

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Monarchs are topic of next St. Anthony Park garden club talk
Anne Hubler of the Monarch Butterfly Lab at the University of Minnesota will talk about “Monarchs in the Balance: Conserving a Migratory Species” at the St. Anthony Park Garden Club meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2156 Carter Ave.

The monarch butterfly is a unique and fascinating insect with a distinct individual and migratory life cycle that brings many conservation implications across their migratory flyway. Hear about their biology, migration and the pressures on their current populations and learn ways the public can support their recovery.

The public is welcome.

Project to highlight creative enterprises in the CEZ
Creative Enterprise Zone: We Make It Here is taking applications from local enterprises and visual display makers to be part of a project that will team enterprises with artists to create on-the-street depositions of the enterprise’s work. Applications are due by Friday, Oct. 30.

Featured enterprises can be individuals, businesses or nonprofits that create products, ideas, services or solutions creatively with a primary address in the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ). Visual Display Makers are artists inside or outside of the CEZ.

CEZ boundaries are Park Avenue on the east, 1-94 on the south, the City of Minneapolis boundary on the west and Energy Park Drive on the north.

Once enterprises and artists are selected, a writer will help tell the story to audiences across the region and a pop-up mixer will celebrate the enterprise’s place in the CEZ.

Creative Enterprise Zone: We Make It Here is a project designed to celebrate and promote economic development in the CEZ. Featured enterprises will be announced in mid-November 2015 and highlighted in the CEZ January through August 2016. A stipend of $500 is available to visual display makers for each project.

Find out more at creativeenterprisezone.org/blog/we-want-to-feature-your-work, or contact Jen Krava at Jen@CreativeEnterpriseZone.org.

Public reception for textile show at Dow Art Gallery Oct. 29
The Dow Art Gallery, 2242 University Ave., shows the work of six members of the Minneapolis Textile Center on an ongoing basis: Carolyn Golberg, Joan Kliber, Dorthi Mayer, Karen Searle, Linda Stoffer and Peggy Wright. In conjunction with the Textile Center, the artists invite the public to a reception at the gallery on Thursday, Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m.

The gallery is on the south side of the street at University and Hampden avenues. Parking is available in the lots of the building across the street and the mall next to the gallery and on Hampden.

Yunomi Invitational at Raymond Avenue Gallery
The second annual Yunomi Invitational will be held at Raymond Avenue Gallery Nov. 6-Dec. 19. The opening reception for the show will be Friday, Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m.

This exhibition will examine the myriad directions that the work of the Minge-sota group of potters has taken in the creation of the yunomi, a teacup without a handle.

Warren MacKenzie, who was strongly influenced by Soetsu Yanagi and Shoji Hamada, brought Japanese techniques and ideas home to Minnesota. The potters in this exhibition have been influenced to varying degrees by the “Minge-sota” movement (Minge is a reference to the Japanese folk art movement created by Yanagi) initiated by Warren MacKenzie.

Gallery hours during this exhibition are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

Do the Dow in November
Catch some fall color in November at the Do the Dow art crawl in the Dow Building, 2242 University Ave. Artist studios will be open 5-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. Enter the building through the Dow Art Gallery entrance on University Avenue.
Depth drives Como girls soccer success

Every season, in every sport, high school varsity coaches face the challenge of trying to replace the senior leaders who graduated. For Como girls soccer coach Steve Cox, the challenge was significant as he entered the 2015 season, his 24th leading the Lady Cougars.

Cox had to replace Grace Maruska, a three-time, all-conference goalie from the 2014 team, who graduated and is now studying at St. Thomas University and playing goalie on their women’s team. He replaced a two-time all-conference defender, Ellen Pardy, who is now studying at the University of Chicago.

Three other dedicated seniors, with soccer skills and smarts, also entered college this fall, leaving big shoes to fill. While daunting, this situation is common to successful and balanced programs.

What was unexpected for the Lady Cougars, was losing the 2015 team’s co-captain, senior Vanessa Acosta. As a junior, Acosta led the 2014 team in scoring with 12 goals and 6 assists. In her first game as co-captain, Acosta tore her ACL, requiring surgery and abruptly ending her senior season.

The loss of Acosta was heartbreaking, Cox conceded, both for her and for her teammates. Acosta’s friend and fellow co-captain, Brianna Menssen, said, “Losing her as a teammate was terrible. Everyone was incredibly sad when we found out she was out for the season.”

So where does the story of the 2015 Como girls soccer team go from that point?

It goes through highs and lows, more injuries and obstacles, life lessons, and a memorable journey yielding 8 wins, 5 losses and 2 ties as the Bugele went on press.

Given the backstory, the record of 8-5-2 seems remarkable. Cox is proud of his girls, who stepped into new roles and worked so hard.

The team is a mixture of returning varsity athletes, improved junior varsity athletes and incoming ninth-graders,” he said. "Each game, another player steps up to play her best game of the season.”

The diversity of the team exists on a couple of levels, including age. Depth was not something the Cougars were certain of, but a talented freshman class that played together at Murray Middle School has made an impact with three players in the starting line-up and a fourth splitting time as the goalkeeper.

Combining the freshmen with the even split of sophomores and juniors in the back line and midfield, led to an organized defense. Menssen’s 14 goals, and fellow senior Angie Martin’s six goals and six assists spearheaded the offense. Joining the attack from left midfield was freshman Anna Erickson, who also tallied six goals and six assists. Freshman Gigi Gabrielli played right midfield, and junior Tai Lu Elh Pho held down the center.

Freshman Celia Olson was solid as the team’s sweeper, anchoring the defense, with excellent marking and smart clearance from junior Marie Wolff, Josie Scherthorn and Dash Dah.

Freshman reserve Lay Lu Tho, and Liita Patzec added energy. Sophomore Emily Forriston fiercely worked the left side, and Maria Meggitt and Alice Lightfoot were versatile sophomore substitutes.

Juniors On MeH, pavous Kauu and Hannah Rhie gave the Cougars even more options off the bench, as did Katie Myster and Alaina Carraro, who filled in expertly at sweeper when injuries struck again.

Cox, grateful for every player’s contributions, marveled at the depth he was able to use.

“Our depth has been crucial to our success as players have been asked to fill in as the team has needed them and excelled,” he said.

Two players who helped fill the greatest need were freshmen Case Wolff and sophomore Alex Walz.

Together, they shared goalkeeping responsibilities, after training together in the off-season. Both are still developing technique, but as resilient athletes, they came through with big savings to help the team succeed.

Depth, along with determination, produced significant and historic results. Como has played Section 4A opponent Mounds Park Academy for years. After years of losses to them, a 1-1 tie in the season opener was promising.

The peak moment of the season, when the team’s effort came together with improved skills from all positions and players on the field, was at home against Highland Park. The city rivalry had been in Highland’s favor for a long time. Menssen and the other seniors had never beat Highland in their careers.

That changed after Menssen’s goals propelled Como to a 2-1 win on a Friday evening. “We all went out there with the mentality that we could win, and as a team we all gave it our all to finally beat Highland!” she said.

The tug to cool down after the game had a different feel that day. It was a “victory run,” shared by a special group of girls that competed for Como with pride.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School and a longtime coach of school and youth sports in St. Paul.
Central High School
275 N. Lexington Parkway, 605-632-6000, central.sps.org

Benefit aims to transform Central Winds of Change: a benefit concert to support the Transforming Central project at Central High School, will be held Thursday, Oct. 9, at Amsterdam Bar and Hall, 214th and Walnut streets downtown. St. Paul Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the show will begin at 7 p.m. The event will include an evening of music, spoken word, a silent auction and more.

Advance tickets are available at TicketsByComerseauevent960215 for $11 or you can buy them for $20 at the door. Transforming Central is a project to enhance Central High School's campus.

Como Park Senior High
740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800, www.cornerspps.org

National Merit semi-finalists Seniors Keith Eckler and Thomas Tivina have been named National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists. This achievement recognizes students in the top 1 percent of students nationwide. Elle Thamann has been named National Merit Commended Student. Finalists in the program will be named in February 2016.

Veteran French teacher honored Como's longtime French teacher Nancy Solo-Taylor, who retired last May after 32 years of teaching, was named Minnesota Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Teachers of French.

At Como, Solo-Taylor promoted advanced French studies through her involvement in AP French, her collaboration with the University of Minnesota in teaching College in the Schools (CIS) classes at Como and her biennial student trips to France.

Minnesota's secretary of state visits Como AP Government class Como’s AP Government students were on WCCO TV on Sept. 22, as the station reported Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon visit to the school. Simon and Tammy Patrick, who serves on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, discussed federalism, voter registration and public policy with students. The event was coordinated by Como parent Vicki O’Duffy, the Secretary of State’s office and Patrick.

A Midsummer Night's Dream in the fall The Como Theater Department will perform the William Shakespeare classic “A Midsummer Night's Dream” Thursday, Nov. 5, and Friday, Nov. 6, in the school auditorium. The play has been adapted to a musical and Como's Chamber Singers and Advanced Choir will provide the music. Rehearsals for the actors began in late September under the leadership of music teacher Carol Whitney and English teacher Allison Hartell.

Sports make news Andrea Ayala, Como's All-State Basketball player, verbally committed to play college basketball and study at St. John's University in New York. Ayala was nationally recruited, with multiple high profile Division I schools offering full athletic scholarships.

Cross country runner Innocent Mushunwiyika took first place at the Roy Girk Invitational at the University of Minnesota Sept. 26 with 485 runners from across the state and neighboring states in the Mason Division of the run. His time of 16:13 in the 5K race was impressive. Both the Pioneers Press and the Star Tribune ran stories on him.

Festival fun Homecoming week events at Como were festive and fun with dress ups in school, a pep fest, coronation, and battle of the classes. The week culminated Sept. 19 with a parade, picnic, football victory and dance. Volleyball, girls soccer and boys soccer teams were all victorious in their homecoming games. Special recognition and thanks goes out to the Como Park Booster Club for its support and behind-the-scenes work.

Murray Middle School 2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740, www.murray.sps.org

Catch some fall sports games There is still time in the schedule to catch some of Murray's fall sports games. More than 200 Como athletes are currently playing on fall teams.

The boys and girls soccer teams play Oct. 9 against the Murray Field, located at Highway 280 and Como Avenue. The co-ed fall football team plays at the Luther Seminary field across from HealthPartners on Como. You can see the defending champion girls volleyball team at the Murray gymnasium. To find out more about Murray sports, go to murray.sps.org/athletics.

Here is a list of the remaining fall games:
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20:** home game vs. Roseville, boys soccer, 3:25 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 21:** home games for boys soccer and flag football vs. Farnsworth Middle School, 4:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22:** away game vs. Farnsworth, girls soccer and volleyball, 1:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27:** home game vs. Humboldt Middle School, girls soccer and flag football, 3 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29:** home game vs. Capitol Hill, girls soccer and volleyball, 3:30 p.m.

If you're interested, place an order with a student you know, or contact Angie Pirsch at angie.pirsch@yahoo.com for more information.

The deadline to order is Oct. 23.

Twin Cities German Immersion 1031 Como Ave., 651-492-7106, www.tcgi.org

Student plays lead role at Guthrie Eighth-grader Isadora Swans is one of two actors who played the role of Scout in the Guthrie Theatre’s adaptation of Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

The production, which ended Oct. 18, included three sets of two students, so the roles of Scout, Jem and Dill.

Teaching his peers about autism Third-grader Jackson Cook began the school year introducing himself to his classmates in a speech about autism.

“Raise your hand if you know what autism is,” he said. “Raise your hand if you know that I have autism.”

Cook’s speech was featured in a KARE 11 report in September. He explained to his classmates that “some parts of my brain work really well and some parts of my brain work not very well.” He wanted his new class to understand why he’s easily frustrated or avoids eye contact.

His mom, Jodi Cook, told the TV station that her son feels more empowered to say “that’s because of the autism in my brain.” It was important to her that Jackson and others “are able to see the difference between Jackson and the autism,” she said.

If you’re interested, place an order with a student you know, or contact Angie Pirsch at angie.pirsch@yahoo.com for more information.

The deadline to order is Oct. 23.

AARP Smart Driver Course: 4-hour refresher course Thursday, November 5th / 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

If you are 55 or older, you may be eligible for a discount on your auto or motorcycle insurance. The course teaches proven strategies to help avoid crashes. The AARP Smart Driver Course is designed to help drivers of all ages. To register, call 651-642-9052 to reserve your spot.

Dr. Todd Grossmann, DDS 651-644-3685 tagd DDS
Dr. Paul Kirkegaard, DDS 651-644-9216 www.pkd DDS.com

Your neighbors in St. Anthony Park
2278 Como Avenue / St. Paul

ST. ANTHONY PARK DENTAL CARE

A R T I C L E S

A R T I C L E S

A R T I C L E S
Wood benches built by Murray alumnus Philip Chervenak and his fellow Boy Scouts are used in outdoor classrooms at Murray Middle School and College Park.

College Park bench mystery solved

A few students and dog walkers who trickled through College Park in St. Anthony Park early in the morning of Sept. 50 left scratching their heads after spotting an array of wooden benches scattered through the park. Each bench sat facing a tree.

Was it some aboriginal art installation? A meditation group’s setup for the next meeting? Turns out, the benches came from Murray Middle School and were used during teacher Tim Chace’s environmental science class.

“We were starting our journals for class,” he said. “I had the students take an acorn and throw it into the unmoved areas of the park. They were then asked to write a story of what happens to the seed.”

“It was a writing assignment, but I wanted them to include drawings or pictures to help explain their story.”

The benches were a gift to Murray from Philip Chervenak, who as an eighth-grader last year at the school proposed an Eagle Scout project that supported Murray’s outdoor classroom both at College Park and in the courtyard area at the school. Chervenak worked with school staff and Chace to understand the needs for the outdoor learning space, then raised the funds and received material donations for the project. He and fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 9626 at St. Odilia Catholic Church in Shoreview built the benches and donated them to Murray in May.

Chervenak, now a freshman at Como Park Senior High School, received his Eagle Scout award on Oct. 10.—Arnold Leebok

Support our Seniors!

Support seniors and their caregivers in St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights west of Snelling.

To make a donation, go to www.sapaseniors.org and click on the Give a donation link on the home page.

Saint Anthony Park Area
SENIORS

2200 Hillside Avenue / 651-642-9052

VOTE! Nov. 3rd

Filiu! Pov Npav! Votemos!

Amy is endorsed by chiefs, tribal leaders, veterans, police officers, judges, city councilors, and community leaders, including:

Elders:

Joyce Bleazard,
Sister Mary McDermott,
Dr. Joan Fink,
Janet McCarron,
Donna Olson

Schools:

Shoreview Elementary,
Shoreview Middle School,
Shoreview High School

Businesses:

Shoreview Pharmacy, Shoreview Veterinary Clinic, Shoreview Electric, Shoreview Jewelry, Shoreview Heating & Cooling

Your neighbor. Your advocate.  
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Processed and paid for by Neighbors for Tomorrow 1001 Way, St. Paul, MN 55103

Healthcare Professionals

St. Anthony Park Dental Care, 2278 Como Avenue
Todd Grossman, DDS (651) 644-3685
reg@2278@comcast.net

tgldds.com

Paul Kirkgard, DDS (651) 644-9216
www.pkdlls.com

Eyeslabs EyeCare, P.A.
David Daly, OD
Complete Eye Care for Adults and Children
2409 Como Avenue, 651-644-5102
www.eyeslabs.com

To add your business to this listing, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or Bradleywolfe@parkbugle.org
FREE FIX-IT CLINICS

Have broken stuff lying around?
Don’t trash it — fix it!

Bring things like small household appliances, clothing, electronics and more. Volunteer fixers will help you to disassemble, troubleshoot and repair your item.

Saturday, October 31
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Roseville Library
2180 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville

Find more dates at RamseyRecycles.com

Fix-It Clinics are family-friendly events. First come, first served. Items must be carry-in — no oversized items. Please bring any tools that might be helpful to fix your item.

Visit RamseyRecycles.com for details and a list of upcoming events.

REUSE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have skills in electronics repair, soldering, computer repair, sewing or general tinkering? We need volunteers to help others learn to repair their items.

To volunteer, call 651-266-1199 or email AskEH@co.ramsey.mn.us.