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2015



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Your award-winning, nonprofit community resource

Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Falcon Heights
Lauderdale / Como Park

www.parkbugle.org
November 2015

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. Armies 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, ethnic Nepalese 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 lose our national identity."

They spent the next 19 years in refugee camps in Nepal. "Refugee life

is miserable life," 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, sequestered 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, Nidesh, 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



Ram, Nidesh and Devi Rana and neighbor Carol Mulroy have formed close relationships since the Ranas came to Minnesota in 2009. Photo by Lori Hamilton

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 Leebreck

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 at recent neighborhood meetings to do one thing: Forget about them.

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. 1.

Those plans included a 60-unit owner-occupied senior housing co-op at the 1.3-acre site on the southeast border of the seminary and two developments at Eustis Street and Como across from HealthPartners. The Eustis developments would include a 121-unit apartment building with some assisted-living

components and 20 percent affordable rates, 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's 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. 20 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 outlined

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 nonprofit newspaper. Learn more about the costs of publishing the Bugle on page 4.

CITY FILES

Holiday Shopping Guide 2015

Merchants:

Use the Park Bugle's four-color Holiday Shopping Guide to help you sell 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: 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org.

Contact Clare Caffrey if you are a business on the south side of Como Avenue: 651-270-5988 or clare.caffrey@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 Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Contact 651-644-3889 or www.district10comopark.org.

Pancake breakfast

The District 10 Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30-11 a.m., at the Job Corps Center cafeteria on Arlington Avenue between Snelling Avenue and Arona 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 3-12 and free for those under 3. 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. Larpen Avenue. Contact 651-792-7600 or www.falconheights.org.

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 Silverwood Park, 2500 W. County Road E, St. Anthony. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more at tinyurl.com/sustfair.

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 651-792-7650.

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 Silverwood Park, 2500 W. County Road E, St. Anthony. Learn more at tinyurl.com/sustfair.

Public hearing

Lauderdale's Truth-in-Taxation public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8, 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 Schools 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. at Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 University Ave. To find when council committees meet, go to www.sapc.org or call 651-649-5992.

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.sapc.org/now-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 listserv 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.



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 LUTHER SEMINARY

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 its move from the neighborhood is "temporary" and all post office boxes 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, Frattallone's Ace Hardware made a bid for the property. In June, co-owner Tom Frattallone 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**, 2334 W. University Ave. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:30-5 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 Buford 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, noon-5 p.m.—Kristal Ledrick



Tilden School at Arona Street and Albany Avenue in the 1960s.

Tilden School grew with Como

By Roger Bergerson

In 1890, a young woman named Gertrude Horan 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.

Horan's place of employment was Tilden School, located just east of the state fairgrounds. Today a small neighborhood park occupies its 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.

Horan 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



A kindergarten class in spring 1951. The writer is in the third row, second from left.

hiring at the new Northern Pacific Railroad's repair shops 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

Tilden School to 8

Raymond Ave. construction, again

By Kristal Leebrick

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 that 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 in 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 is recommending that the grassy medians at Gordon be removed and the street be reduced to 34 feet wide there if the crossing stays there.

Mundahl described two

Raymond to 8

We support the Bugle and here's why

"Dr. Grossmann and I have supported the Bugle for dozens 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.

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The Park Bugle is a nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

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EDITORIAL

The Bugle needs your financial support

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 that 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 to continue to serve our community. While advertising revenues cover 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 businesses and to help 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.

It costs \$12,500 per issue to produce the Bugle. Twenty-five percent of that goes to printing and distribution. Five percent goes to administrative costs, and 70 percent goes to pay the salaries and stipends of our staff, writers and photographers who create the content you love. Advertising sales cover only 70 percent of the Bugle's operating costs.

This year, we hope to raise \$36,000 from the tax-deductible donations of readers like you.

If you've donated to the Bugle in the past, thank you; please consider giving more this year. If you've not given, now is the time. You will make it possible for the Bugle to keep telling our stories for another five, 10 or 35 years.

You can donate in a variety of ways: There is a return envelope inserted in this issue for your donation, or you can visit our website at www.parkbugle.org and click on the "Donate Now" button in the upper right-hand corner to give online. Or simply mail a check to: Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Together, with your financial support, we're confident that the Bugle can continue to be part of our community conversations in the years ahead.
—Park Press Board of Directors, publisher of the Park Bugle

COMMENTARY

Revive and restore

Resist the impulse to 'delete' older homes and honor the houses that survived the 1950s rush to the suburbs

By Tim Fuller

Recently both Minneapolis and St. Paul have been experiencing an influx of "tear downs," smaller, "undervalued" houses in stable neighborhoods being demolished to make way for new homes. These new houses tend to be much larger than their neighbors, often bringing an ungainly, suburban feel to the streetscape.

Much of the controversy that arises in these situations stems from people's often-misguided sense of what role controlling measures like zoning codes play in all of this.

Zoning codes typically rely on a series of dimensional benchmarks to control the size of a structure as well as its location on a lot. More developed and sensitive codes address things like the number and size of windows relative to the overall size of the wall they sit in and attempt to maintain a street presence as a gesture to the public space fronting the buildings. But codes, in and of themselves, do a poor job of protecting established neighborhoods from infill homes that just don't fit the place they invite themselves into.

I am not advocating for more proscriptive codes (codes that dictate toward or establish preferred historical styles) as an antidote, in fact just the opposite. I see those types of codes as a design slippery slope. God forbid well-meaning "design police" pull talented architects to the curb.

Instead, we need to recognize that great design springs from motivational origins that aren't imbedded in superficially imposed design standards but rather originate in an appreciation of and respect for the interwoven fabric and intrinsically ordered structure of "street, lot, land and house" that make up the logic and language of

our older neighborhoods.

Trust me. It's really not about style.

There are many things at play here, but the bottom line is there is a market for bigger (more grand, more modern, more something) homes in neighborhoods that just haven't been structured to receive them. Zoning, regardless of how carefully conceived, can't shoehorn these larger new homes into the layout of streets, roads and open spaces that these older neighborhoods grow from, no matter how hard they try. There needs to be other forces in play to make it work.

In terms of our American housing dream, right now, we are a culture drunk on space (we seem to need more and more of it) and that inebriated building force, enabled by a housing industry looking for any sort of cheap date, is stumbling all over our late 19th- and early 20th-century neighborhoods like a sloppy drunk reeling from a post-recessional binge.

No wonder we have issues. So, what's the answer?

For one, let's sober up and embrace what's already in place. Let's honor the houses and neighborhoods that somehow survived the "Mad Men" rush to the suburbs in 1950s America. We should champion these "old" houses that have outlived the wild flight of millions of Americans looking for a "better life," a migration fueled by a massive buildup of fast roads and cheap gas.

Choose to restore a home as it stands, and it will live with you for another 100 years in active and efficient support of the life that we aspire to live in today's world. Resist the impulse to press delete. It's easy, fast and cheap, but it also erases so much history, utility and design grace, which is almost impossible to replace.

A commitment to revive and restore has worked for many families who have a one-and-a-half-story bungalow with an unfinished attic and need a new bedroom. It has worked for the couples who have always wanted a place to gather informally with their friends and family and couldn't find that space in their old Victorian. And it has worked for empty-nester couples looking to accommodate a need for one-level living and not be forced to liquidate all of their equity and move from the neighborhood where they've lived for 40 years or more.

Alter, transform, restore and revive. It works.

Of course there will always be situations where an older home simply can't be revived. When it comes to that, what can we put up in its place that feels at home in the neighborhood? In my experience, if you start from a point of respect, appreciation and a clear understanding of the forces and cultural history that have combined to create the places you want to build in, it can work.

A careful and sensitive consideration of "scale" is the starting point. Scale is not a unit of measure but rather a balance in the relationship of the parts to the whole.

The houses that surround you have a scale to them that is embedded in the building culture, motivations and methods of its time. If you look closely, you can see it, even if you can't find the words to name it. It feels at home in its own skin. It feels well-grounded but touches the sky in a way that hints at grander ambitions. It is as big as it needs to be, no bigger, no smaller.

Try this: Look up and down your street; imagine that there is a home missing (maybe there already is), a blank space, a dropped stitch in the fabric of the street. Make yourself

squint, focus on the outline of existing buildings as they meet the sky (trees will and should blur this edge), then knit it back together in your mind.

What do you get? What does it say to you?

What you should get is a line with a lift, a bump that picks up on a rhythm of up and down. It is stepped, a bit edgy but natural and in scale. The shape you might imagine filling the void. It's not the alpha but more common to the tribe. It's not a spike or a block, it's a line of repose, an elegant engagement of positive and negative.

It's a roof and also a room; it's winged but willing to nestle into the brood. This elemental line, this edge between the sky and the house, between the building and air, has nothing to do with image, character or style but rather, it is all about scale.

Now that's the seed for a great design conversation, new to old, old to new.

And if that conversation occurs, at whatever level as long as it's respectful, you will have a better outcome.

This is the conversation that will bring enough of what the new American home dweller wants into these settled places while respecting the wonderfully rich scale, building history and honor the culture of craft that created these places not that very long ago.

Try it. Let me know how it comes out.

Cheers, and long live the neighborhood.

Timothy Fuller is a resident of St. Anthony Park and a residential architect with more than 25 years of experience in the Twin Cities.

COMMENTARY

St. Paul's schools of democracy

By Melissa Matheus

The interaction 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 fostered 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 contexts.

Yet, critics seem concerned

about their continued relevance and there might be readers who bemoan 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.

Congratulations to the talented and tireless activists who commit to St. Paul's schools of democracy as we

celebrate 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 Matheus 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. 13, we attended a third disappointing open hearing with Ecumen, the developers for Luther Seminary who wish to build a co-op apartment complex at Como Avenue and Luther Place.

The controversy is not with the idea of more senior housing for St. Anthony Park but rather, with the proposed site.

Holding more meetings with Ecumen will not resolve the fundamental issues involved.

The controversy will not be resolved until President Robin Steinke, Vice President Michael Morrow 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 Everson
Luther Place, St. Anthony Park*

Letter writers support Jon Schumacher for SPPS board

This Nov. 3 we have an opportunity to vote for and elect our fabulous neighborhood leader Jon Schumacher to the St. Paul Public School Board. I have known Jon for years as a dear friend and as a colleague when I was chair of the board of our 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 Jon's

leadership and so do our kids!

*Julie Causey
St. Anthony Park*

We write in support of Jon Schumacher for the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education. Jon listens, and hears, 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 Jon Schumacher to carry his dedication and vision toward positive change.

*Janet Hey and Roger Pandy
St. Anthony Park*

New housing developments could affect sellers' 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 300 new housing units could be built in the next few years, starting with the 24-unit apartment building being built on the Healy 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's 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's value over the next few years and some careful planning is advised.

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 else 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 be planning 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 dine 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'm guessing that our little commercial district will thrive in the future, as there may be as many as 300 to 400 new residents (shoppers!) within 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 bodes well for the long-term future of St. Anthony Park.

*Sieve Townley and Chris Deming
St. Anthony Park realtors*

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors' Senior Cinema Series
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Thursday, November 12th, at SAP Library
 Jim White moves his family after losing his last job as a football coach. He sees that some of the students are worth starting a cross country team and turns 7 students with no hope into one of the best cross country teams. Starring: Kevin Costner, Maria Bello and Ramiro Rodriguez. PG 129 minutes
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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 know zero 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 Nidesh 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.

And that's where their story took a turn for the bizarre. On Oct. 7, 2009, they landed in Miami, Fla., wearing badges printed with the address of their new home. They were told that the connecting flight to Atlanta would be short, but in fact it was three hours before they reached their final destination. Worse was to come, says Ram.

"Our caseworker wasn't there. We didn't know where to get our bag," he says. 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 volunteer] said, 'This is food 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."

Somehow the trio struggled through their first couple of days, making the best of the unfamiliar surroundings and strange food but afraid to leave the apartment. Two days later, there was a knock on the door.

"We feel scared," says Ram, "so we didn't open."

The footsteps retreated but then returned. Only when Devi heard her niece's voice, did they feel confident enough to open the door to the greater world.

And that's when they found out that they hadn't come to sunny Atlanta after all, but to the chilly and unfamiliar land of Minnesota, where winter was rapidly closing in.

Devi's niece explained that her husband had been transferred to Minnesota only days earlier and the authorities had taken special last-minute care to ensure that the extended family could remain together in the United States. But no one had informed the Ranas.

Ram and Devi still don't know exactly where in the Twin Cities they spent their first days, but soon enough the little family relocated to St. Anthony Park, where thanks to a good neighbor, they were able to begin to recreate the warm ties of family that they thought they had left behind. Carol Mulroy lives by herself directly across the street from the Ranas near Alden Park.

"One lucky day we met Carol," Ram says. "She is my gift of God. We were new here like a baby and Carol knows [how to do] everything!"

For her part, Carol says, "[They] help me with anything I need help with. Ram is muscle and brains. His boy plays with my nephews; it's just like a family."

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

And she'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, all settling within a few blocks of the Ranas.

"It's like Little Bhutan," says Devi.

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

"It's very hard to find job in the beginning," 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 kid's life will be better," he says.

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

"He exceeds all expectations," interjects Mulroy proudly. And his father says, "He's all American."

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

Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Roseville Library and a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Luther project from 1

in the City of St. Paul's St. Anthony Park Como 2030 comprehensive plan, said Matt McNeill, Ecumen's director of business development.

The Como 2030 plan facilitated zoning changes along Como Avenue to allow more mixed-use development and increase housing options along the corridor. The study for that plan was commissioned by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and was approved by the St. Paul City Council in 2012.

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," McNeill said. That meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside 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 email your thoughts and ideas about the project to Ecumen at sap@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," McNeill said.

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The Birdman of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

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 glass.

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 gray catbird is a little smaller than our robin 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 birdwatchers call them rufous undertail coverts, fancy talk for a rusty patch under the tail.

The catbird flips its tail as it hops about, yet that rusty patch may be hard to see. Male and female look 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 genus name for the gray catbird is *Dumetella*, which means "small thicket." 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 chatty, 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 some 100 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, "Eric! Eric!" His son was impressed with his introduction to the gray catbird.

It's difficult to see catbirds when they're in shrubbery. But most of us birders have had success drawing them out by using a soft "pish" sound. The birds are curious and want to see who's making that threat 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 roll 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 birdbath for water and warmth. It also made use of the suet feeder as a source for energy. Brave, and resourceful, little bird. But, sadly, like many bird species, they haven't figured out how to survive automobiles.

Clay Christensen lives and writes in Lauderdale. His book, The Birdman of Lauderdale, is available in local bird and bookstores and at BirdmanBook.com.



A catbird at a feeder. Photo by Linda Krueger

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Red-headed woodpeckers topic at next Audubon meeting

Brittney Yohannes, a master's candidate in the conservation biology program at the University of Minnesota, will give a presentation on her two-year research study on nesting red-headed woodpeckers at the St. Paul Audubon Society program Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. at Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, Roseville.

The event is free and open to the public. A social time with refreshments will begin at 6:45 p.m.

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

Invited back after their stunning debut on the Schubert Club's Music in the Park Series in the 2013-14 season, the young, energetic wind quintet WindSync will return to St. Anthony Park for a Music in the Park Series concert and a number of special performances and outreach activities in November.

Playing exclusively from memory, the Houston-based ensemble engages audience of all ages with creative and interactive concerts that incorporate elements of theater. WindSync musicians are Garrett Hudson, flute; Emily Tsai, oboe; Jack Marquardt, clarinet; Tracy Jacobson, bassoon; and Anni Hochhalter, horn.

The Music in the Park Series concert, on Sunday, Nov. 22, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., will begin at 4 p.m., with a preconcert

discussion at 3 p.m. The program will feature music inspired by Shakespeare, including WindSync's own arrangement of Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," music from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Mendelssohn and Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story."

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$12 for student rush. Order tickets at schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

WindSync will also perform a special family concert for children of all ages and their families on Friday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. The quintet will take the audience on an exciting musical journey with their program titled "Oh, the Places You'll Go," inspired by the writing of Dr. Seuss. The Schubert Club/Music in the Park

Series family concert is co-sponsored by St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. There will be a free-will offering at the performance.

In addition to their concerts, WindSync will perform at St. Anthony Park Elementary School and St. Anthony Park Home and conduct a workshop at Murray Middle School. The group will also perform a Schubert Club Courtroom Concert at the Landmark Center, a Kidsjam workshop and a special performance for families touched by autism.

WindSync's residency is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest, and by Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, Trillium Foundation, Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation, and Boss Foundation.

Tilden School from 3

1896-97 school year. But it reopened and graduated its first class, consisting of two students, in 1903. 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.

Outhouses 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 Frankson's 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 Heights 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 Bergerson 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 bikes 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 1923 and is the only north-to-south route in the neighborhood. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2013.

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the eat beat

Café 99 celebrates two years

By Alex Lodner

Oct. 5 marked two years since Café 99 settled into 1552 Como Ave., the space formerly occupied by Bascali's Brick Oven. Owner Hong Chen also ran a restaurant in Chanhassen, 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 diners might be. The Chef's Recommendation section, as well as the More Authentic Favorites section, tout bolder, more unique dishes, while the Classic Favorites section will appease the more cautious eater 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 Golden Garlic, 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 café 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 Szechuan 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 Mergenthal

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.

Panels for the \$120,000 project have been ordered and installation could begin as in 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 enthused 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.



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ELECTION 2015



Meet the candidates

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, Falcon Heights residents will vote for one of two candidates for mayor and will vote to fill three seats on the city's council. Voters in Falcon Heights and Lauderdale will cast ballots to fill seats on the Roseville Area Schools Board of Education. Voters in St. Paul will head to the polls to cast ballots for St. Paul City Council members and to fill four seats on the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Directors. Sr. Anthony Park residents and Como Park residents who live west of Lexington Parkway will vote in Ward 4. Como residents east of Lexington and just north of Como Regional Park will vote in Ward 5.

We've got your elections covered here.

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, mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us 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, 651-266-2171 or elections@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Meet your candidates below:

This guide was compiled by Roger Bergerson and Kristal Leebick

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 most recently has been a magazine publisher and editor, as well as an affordable-housing advocate, job-placement co-ordinator, St. Paul Public Schools board member, legislative aide, labor organizer and neighborhood activist. He is a co-founder of the Connect Saint Paul broadband campaign and Historic 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 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:



Russ Stark

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 organized 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."

consin. Before being elected, she served as a mediator and spokesperson for the Minnesota attorney general, as an account executive for a local ad agency and as marketing director for Children's Home Society. She currently serves as chair of the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

What are the top challenges facing Saint Paul?

"Developing affordable and dignified housing options to accommodate our growth, as well as improving the housing stock we already have," Brendmoen says. "As our population ages, the need for secure, affordable housing and options for aging in place is a huge challenge facing our city. Just recently at the senior apartment building, Como by the Lake, over 80 elderly and disabled people were faced with the possibility of losing their apartments to a market-rate condo development. Combining the forces of the residents, the community and city leadership, we were able to achieve a positive outcome there."

"Our rich immigrant community is an asset and at the same time presents unique challenges for both integration and delivery of city services. We need to work harder to overcome cultural and language barriers to ensure that all families feel empowered to join in civic life."

Brendmoen says she's concerned with how the city delivers services to residents.

"So much of our work is driven by complaints made directly by residents," she says, which works better for people and neighborhoods that actively report problems. "In areas where neighbors are struggling just managing their own daily lives or where residents may not speak English as their first language, I can see a visible difference in how that area is served."

Brendmoen wants to see "a more organized system of scheduled service-delivery (tree trimming, street repair, dumping removal, sidewalk infill, landlord certification)."

Though she feels the city is "going in the right direction," it is handicapped by inadequate state funding under Local Government

Aid, the lack of a transportation plan that recognizes the state's responsibility to "equitably fund heavily utilized inner city street and bridge infrastructure" and the fact that one-third of the city's parcels are "off of the tax rolls," which includes churches, parks, schools, hospitals, nonprofits, private colleges and, as the capital city, a large number of government buildings.



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 3M, where he was employed as a marketing manager, his wife, Pam, and he moved into the Como Park neighborhood in 1995. They managed Black Bear Crossings at Como Lakeside Pavilion for nearly 20 years. Glass currently sits on boards for the Minnesota Housing Partnership; Ain Dah Yung Youth Services Center; Juel Fairbanks, 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. Sylvan and Front Rec centers were torn down and replaced with restrooms. Safety, street repair, snow plowing and rec centers should be funded first," he says.

St. Paul council to 11

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Ward 5



Amy Brendmoen

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

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ELECTION 2015



St. Paul council from 10

"Seventh Street, Selby, Payne Avenue, all have experienced a renaissance and renewed prosperity due to efforts by their councilmembers. In Ward 5, boundary-to-boundary, we have the greatest disparities regarding household incomes and cost burdened households in the city. We need to address efforts to help lift up our neighbors. I'll lead the charge to bring a renaissance to the North End and Rice Street. We will work to shrink the achievement gap for our communities in the North End and Payne Phalen.

"Finding new dollars and collaborating with others to provide rec centers for our kids for after-

school and supervised activities will be a priority."

If elected, Glass said he would provide mentoring to help local start-up businesses and guidance "through the myriad of city-rules processes."

"Promoting local businesses and cultural events is on my to-do list. The city should better manage problem rental homes and promote home ownership."

"Better city decisions will happen with more neighborhood involvement and listening, better planning and better project management."

David Sullivan-Nightengale grew up on the West Side of St. Paul. He graduated from South St. Paul High School



David Sullivan-Nightengale

and enlisted in the Army Reserves with the plan to become an FAA air traffic controller. The Army had different plans, he says, and he was sent to the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and

then graduated from West Point in 1998 after completing an electrical engineering field of study.

He was partially paralyzed in a parachuting accident while in the Army and came back to Minnesota with an honorable discharge. Since then, he has worked as a safety engineer for Honeywell, Lockheed Martin and at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Currently, he works for Det-Tronics engineering fire and hazardous detection systems. He's an organic gardener and makes his own wine and mead.

Sullivan-Nightengale describes the challenges facing St. Paul below: "Changing government to better represent our diverse population," he says. "On average, we have a ratio of 42,000 citizens for

each council member—the highest of Minnesota's largest cities. We need to change the charter to increase representation, and I would also like to add at-large members back onto the council and recruit more minorities for the district councils.

"We must fill empty houses and businesses to improve our standard of living for all people."

"We need to ordain a quality-assurance program for all city products and services that will improve safety and save money for important public projects."

"As an engineer, I can help design our government to meet the needs of all our people consistently, justly and economically."

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 Raskiewicz, 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 those challenges? If you could change the direction of one thing in SPPS, what would it be?

Here are their answers.



Greg Copeland

Greg Copeland has lived in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood since 1992. A

widower since 2008, Copeland was his wife's caregiver for 16 years after she became disabled due to a 1992 auto accident. He worked as city manager for the City of Maplewood and as a public administration consultant. Copeland recently was named to the Minnesota Department of Education 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:

"Equal representation for all citizens": He wants to do away with the at-large city-wide election of SPPS board members and instead elect representatives from geographic areas in the city, as with the St. Paul City Council. This would give fair geographic representation from all parts of the city, he says. Currently, the East Side is underrepresented and the West Side is not represented at all on the board, he says.

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 or 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."

Hiring a new superintendent is job No. 1 for the school board: Copeland says Superintendent Valeria Silva's Strong Schools, Strong Communities initiative has failed. He cites the academic gap in scores between white students and black students on the 2015 Minnesota MCA test results and says that gap has widened since 2010. School order, safety and student discipline needs to be prioritized.

"Silva has prioritized staff race-training and salary bonuses to principals not suspending students," he says. "This discipline model has failed, as teachers have left their jobs at schools where principals have routinely returned to the classroom those misbehaving without taking disciplinary action."

The attendance zones established in the Strong Schools plan is a disadvantage for parents in low-income neighborhoods who

want their children to attend schools outside of their area "because they lack the ability provide transportation across the city. The attendance zones need to go to restore equity of educational choice and respect for all parents to get their children the education they want."

If elected, his goals are to work on the items mentioned above and increase the number of guidance counselors in schools, cut administrative funding and reallocate it to student instructional services, eliminate race-training contracts and reprioritize the levy money that was allocated to give each student an iPad.

Zuki Ellis is a native of St. Paul. She grew up in Rondo and attended Webster 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-



Zuki Ellis

grader at J.J. Hill Montessori. Ellis has been involved in SPPS for more than a decade as a mother of SPPS students, as a volunteer with PTOs and site councils, and as a parent trainer with 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

SPPS to 12

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SPPS from 11

make sure we have enough support staff (EAs, TAs, ELL/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 SPPS, it would be the opportunity gap. The opportunity gap is a tremendously difficult problem to solve, rooted in many centuries of disenfranchisement. Addressing it fully will take decades of work, but staffing our schools to support all of our students and communicating 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 the 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 alternatives to traditional education, particularly Montessori, with a focus on children who are not achieving. Before attaining her licensure, she owned 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 nonprofit preschools and charter elementary schools in North Minneapolis and St. Paul's East Side, a Christian home school academy and a Montessori preschool in Duluth.

The top three challenges Freeman sees SPPS facing are:

"Understanding the needs and desires of our diverse St. Paul populations and communities, and providing them with

developmentally and academically rigorous goals and programs. It will be 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.

"Closing the achievement gap, not just through budgetary means, but also through changes in attitude throughout the district about the disparities, and creating opportunities to enter into the way we approach equitable education and making choices to become part of it.

A change Freeman would like to see is to "reduce the excessive standardized testing and place more emphasis on informed, individualized, instruction and support."



Keith Hardy

Keith Hardy was first elected to the SPPS 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-Phalen 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 the district:

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

Providing increased academic choices and programs with reduced state and federal funding is another challenge. "I 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 last, "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."

The one thing 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."



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 Capitol Hill. He lives with his wife, Jodi Sandford, and sons in the Summit-University neighborhood. Marchese has been an attorney for more than 20 years and works now as pro bono director for the Minnesota State Bar Association. He serves on the Mayflower 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 Teamsters truck driver in New York City and is the first child in his family to go to college.

He lists the following as the top three challenges facing SPPS 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 so 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 them, in part, with its racial equity initiative; 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 organization. The district's Strong Schools, Strong Communities plan needs to be evaluated to ensure that all families have excellent options 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, physical education and technical courses."



Scott Raskiewicz

Scott Raskiewicz has worked as a counselor, coach, social worker, tennis instructor and, for 17 years, as a substitute teacher in St. Paul schools. He has worked with youth for more than 40 years. He is also a writer and philosopher and the author of the book *Economic Democracy: Ending the Corporate Domination of Our Lives. The oldest (and the only boy) in a family of seven children, he grew up in Grand Haven, Mich. Raskiewicz has lived in St. Paul for more than 20 years.*

Raskiewicz believes there is only one challenge facing schools: "It is the same problem plaguing our nation: We have profoundly inhumane and antidemocratic economic and political systems supported by a corporate cartel that controls all major media.

"These systems concentrate wealth and power into the hands of the corporate and economic elite and their collaborators while harming poor, working and middle class American."

He lists the school-achievement gap, overcrowded classrooms and "the obsession with standardized testing and technology," the scapegoating of teachers, the lack of daily physical fitness and the arts in schools, declining levels of fitness and health among students and other problems as the result of an elite that

doesn't care about the majority of Americans.

"The first step in addressing this challenge is to recognize it. Then we must create a society that works for everyone," he says. That would include full employment based on "cooperative and public utility economics," a reduction of the work week to strengthen families and a Medicare-for-all health care system.

If elected, he would work to change the purpose of education "to prepare students to create and cooperate in a global community that lives in harmony with the natural world, a community where all people are valued and all human needs met."



Jon Schumacher

Jon Schumacher is married and the father of two SPPS graduates. He has lived in St. Paul since 1981 and resides in St. Anthony Park, District 12, where he works as executive director of the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, a position he has held since 1999. For the past 23 years, he has served on school site councils and committees and helped to develop and fund a variety of programs for area elementary, middle and senior high schools. Schumacher first moved to the Twin Cities to be an actor and spent a number of years working at various theaters, including a two-year stint at the Brave New Workshop. He also made television and radio commercials as well as many corporate training videos.

His top three priorities if elected are:

"First, we need a process of disciplined inquiry to drive improvement." The district needs to "find out what's working and reprioritize our budget to support success starting at the classroom level," he says.

"Second, we have to re-engage and rebuild trust among our school community," he says. The school board needs "to actively engage families, students, educators and the broader community. It starts by developing a more open process for decision-making with timely presentation of pertinent data and details."

Last, Schumacher lists adequate classroom support for students and teachers. "Having the necessary staff in place to meet all student needs is critical to creating successful and racially equitable learning

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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 or 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 in the St. Paul school district is "the climate of our school communities, which goes 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 Vanderwert

Mary Vanderwert has lived in St. Paul for 25 years. She raised three children as a single parent, an experience she says gives her an understanding of "how decisions are made in families when there is limited time and even more limited resources and how important schools are to families in reaching their goals and dreams." Vanderwert is a master gardener and has used her back yard to host fundraisers for the Family Place to support families experiencing homelessness. Vanderwert 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.

Vanderwert 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 relationship. 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 saw as the greatest challenges in the city today and how they would address those challenges. Meet the candidates below.

Mayor

Peter Lindstrom is seeking a third term as mayor, having first been elected to the Falcon Heights City Council in 2000. 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 looks for any excuse to get out on the area's roads and trails.

He says: "Our quality of life is



Peter Lindstrom

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 has been a resident of Falcon Heights for nearly 15 years, both as a homeowner and renter. She has held a variety of employment positions in both the private and public sector, particularly in education. Currently, McDonald is self-employed as a tutor for children and adults.

"A great challenge for Falcon Heights will be keeping property taxes under control," McDonald




Lisa 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."

Falcon Heights to 14



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Falcon Heights from 13

City Council (Two at-large seats)



Tom Brace

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 Packard Automobile Classics.

"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 three 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

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 past co-president of the Brimhall 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 of civic engagement. I believe our public services need to be delivered in the most effective and cost-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

Gordon Strom is a registered architect and senior project manager with a large commercial architecture firm in Minneapolis. He is currently serving as chair-

man of the Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation Commission.

"Over 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 Curtiss 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

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 reassess our approach to programming and needs for new 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 as metro districts freeway



Tony Fischer

analysis supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He volunteers with Cub Scouts 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

Michael Tracy is a real estate agent in the Roseville 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 first got involved in civic affairs through the "Keeping Connected" group that Falcon Heights established in the mid-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 a 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 greenest city in the United States."

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ELECTION 2015



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.



Todd Anderson

Todd Anderson is a 15-year resident of Roseville. He has served as president of the Parent Teacher Association at Brimhall Elementary School and as a member of the school district advisory committee and is currently vice chair of the Roseville Area Schools Foundation. He also is a member of the Roseville Ethics Commission.

"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 Azur

Erin Azur is seeking re-election to the school board, which she currently chairs. She is a gubernatorial appointee to the State Board of Teaching and a

member of the Falcon Heights Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. She also served as a Roseville Parks commissioner from 2010 to 2014. Azur teaches eighth-grade language arts at Skyview Middle School.

"It is imperative that we differentiate instruction to the strengths of all students and provide opportunities where those strengths can flourish," Azur says. "Additionally, the schools need to continue to make strides in recruiting, hiring and retaining teachers of color. Finally we need to offer meaningful staff development, training and support so our teachers and building staff can inspire, challenge, connect and elevate the learning of all students."

"Another challenge in District 623 is our aging facilities. A facility

review and plan will be essential in the near future."



Mike Boguszewski

Mike Boguszewski says the Roseville school district has a deserved reputation for quality education and educational options. He was one of a group of parents who helped transfer Hamabee Elementary School into the district. He chairs the Roseville Planning Commission and serves on the long-range planning committee of the Minnesota Make-A-Wish Foundation. Boguszewski is a director with the HealthPartners Care System.

"We must work innovatively to close the 'achievement gap' in our

Roseville schools to 16



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ELECTION 2015 ★★★★★

Roseville from 15

increasingly diverse communities," Boguszewski says. "We must deal with facilities that are becoming older, or are at capacity and overcrowded. We must give our teachers 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 before starting a commercial and residential cleaning business that he ran for nearly 20 years. He is an active supporter of the Lao Family of Minnesota and has



Bob Murray

participated in the *Hmong Freedom Celebration and International Sports 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 teaching 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 state Rep. Kathleen Vellenga.

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 Cretin avenues. A reception will follow the debate.

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

Bishara Ailabouni

Bishara Ailabouni, 64, died Oct. 12. Bishara and his wife, Isabelle, owned and operated the Middle Eastern Deli Abu Nader on Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park for many years.

Bishara is survived by his wife; sons, Nader (Nicole) and Nabeel (Hanin); four grandchildren; two brothers; five sisters; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one brother.

His funeral service was held on Oct. 17 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church with interment at Roselawn 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, Carole; two sons; two grandsons; 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 (Boberg) Aurelius, 90, died at the Gathering 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 Metro State University in 1975.

Marge attended Luther Seminary from 1975 to 1980. She was ordained to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 1980. Marge met Paul Aurelius in their teen years, going on a first date with him at 15. They married Aug. 17, 1945.

Marge is survived by a sister, Imogene (Pudge) Christian; daughter, Ann; sons, John (Maureen Thesenwitz) and David (Jeanne); 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 Bienhoff

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

Elli was born in St. Paul in 1929. She was the daughter of the late Paul and Hedwig Fredrick. 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. Elli 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 Elli raised their four children.

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

Elli'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 (Alisoun), 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 Bitney

Michael T. Bitney, 61, died peacefully surrounded by family on Sept. 23.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lisle, and brothers Joe and Jim. He is survived by his mother,

Betty; sister-in-law, Sue Bitney; sister, Patricia Kough; and brothers John, Thomas (Cathy), Terry (Judy) and Dan (Michelle).

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

Alvin Clasemann

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

Alvin is survived by his children, Audrey, GERALYN, Myron and Mary Ellen; siblings, Genevieve Schrenk, Elizabeth (Donald) Tinker, Joseph (Lila) Claseman, Alois (Annella) Clasemann, and Wilfred (Gladys) Clasemann.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 29 at Church of the Holy Childhood in Como Park, with interment at Roselawn 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, Charlene (Dave) Bergstrom, Cheryl Mikel, Linda Chapman and Greg Coleman; three grandchildren; and great-grandson, Christian. Her memorial service was held Sept. 19 at Holcomb-Henry-

Boom-Purcell Funeral Home in Shoreview.

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 (Gerald) Larson; Else (James) Carlson; Karen (David) Benton; Peter (Kay) and Grete (Charles) Hanson; 18 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Ann (David) Preus.

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 Heldt

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

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Norbert; one son, Jim (Carol); one sister, Ruth Lofthus; and one brother-in-law, Verlyn (Marlys) Heldt.

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 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 Notes & Steps*, a monthly newsletter, for more than 22 years. John was a gentle renaissance man. 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, Joel; sister, Lillian; sister-in-law, Linda; and soulmate, Linda Olson. He was a second father and grandfather to Linda's children, Eva Frank (Matt), Katie Neuman (Luke), Reed Olson (Katie), Ryan Olson (Claire), and their many wonderful children.

A memorial service was held Oct. 2 at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel in Minneapolis.

Community Worship Directory

♦ LIVING WORD ANTIOCH CHURCH

A multicultural conservative Lutheran church
Meeting at Falcon Heights City Hall
At the intersection of Cleveland and Larpeteur
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. adult Bible study fellowship
Affiliated LCMC/NALC
Perry Toso, Pastor
Barson Mahafaly, Associate Pastor

♦ LYDIA PLACE COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES ELCA

Rev Scott Simmons, Pastor 612-859-1134 lydiaplace.com
Hymntap beer and hymns, first Monday of each month
7 p.m. Dubliner Pub, 2162 University Ave. W. 55114
Sunday Worship, 7 p.m., Dow Art Gallery,
2242 University Ave. W., St Paul, MN 55114

♦ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

1744 Walnut St. (at Ione), Lauderdale 651-644-5440
www.peacechurchlutheran.com
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
All are welcome. Come as you are.

♦ SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH

3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, 612-378-3602, www.spiritunited.com
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Message and Music. Kids With Spirit Sunday School.
Fall Festival Fund Raiser—Sunday, Nov. 15, noon - 4:00 p.m. Luncheon, Bake Sale, Healers, Readers, Silent Auction, Vendors for early holiday shopping.
Come as you are. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome.
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♦ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502
Website: www.stceciliasmn.org
Handicapped accessible
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m. at the church
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the church

♦ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth Ave. (corner of Commonwealth and Chelmsford)
651-646-7173 www.sapucc.org
9:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages; 10:30 a.m. worship
Pastor: Victoria Wilgocki
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♦ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation. All are welcome!
www.sapumc.org, 2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como), 651-646-4859
Pastor: Rev. Pat Hinker
Sundays: 10:00 a.m. Worship celebration and Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
Mondays: 7:00 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor

♦ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Community Dinner—5-6:30 p.m. (free-will offering)
Choir School every Wednesday (Babies through Grade 6) call for times
Youth Choir (Grade 7-12) 5:30-6:15 p.m.
Adult Choir 7:30-9:00 p.m.

♦ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair Pogue, Rector, 2136 Carter at Chelmsford.
www.stmatthewsmn.org
Sundays 9:15 a.m. Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Service with communion, sermon and full choir
Nursery care provided 9:00-11:20 a.m.
5:30 p.m. Night Prayer with Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 1: All Saints Day Celebration with Dixieland Jazz, 10:30 a.m. service
Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Eucharist 10:30 a.m., followed by a
Community Dinner at noon.
In the Undercroft Gallery: Ebb & Flow: Exploring the Rhythms of Life —
paintings by Beth Andrews, Nov. 1 - Dec. 15

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

NOVEMBER

Events

VENUE INFORMATION IS LISTED AT THE END OF THE CALENDAR. SEND YOUR EVENTS TO calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, Nov. 4, to be included in the December calendar.

2 MONDAY

The Old-Time Maker Series presents A Thousand Years of Spinning, Mondays in November, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

3 TUESDAY

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

Ann Hobbie will present "Monarchs in the Balance: Conserving a Migratory Species," St. Anthony Park Garden Club, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 7 p.m. social time, program 7:30-8:30 p.m.

4 WEDNESDAY

English Conversation Circles, every

Wednesday, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Book Club, "Stolen from the Garden: The Kidnapping of Virginia Piper" by William Swanson, St. Anthony Park Library, 6-8 p.m.

5 THURSDAY

AARP Smart Driver Course: four-hour refresher, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration and prepayment required: \$19 for AARP members, \$24 for nonmembers. Call 651-642-9052 to reserve your spot.

Caregiver Support Group, first Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m.

Dialoggers Toastmasters meets every Thursday of the month, U of M Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Adoption information meeting, CHLSS, 6-8:30 p.m. Register at

chls.org/adoptioninformation.

6 FRIDAY

Preschool story time, Fridays in November, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

7 SATURDAY

Holidays and traditions workshop: Learn to help your adopted child navigate the upcoming holidays. Learn more at chls.org/pop-up-workshops, CHLSS, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday Live featuring the Hunter Marionettes, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

9 MONDAY

Join members of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club at Micawber's, 5-6:30 p.m. Musician and neighbor Adam Granger will be playing guitar, so join us for music, snacking, wine and good conversation—and don't forget a little holiday shopping!

Dr. Reenah McGill and author Von Braschler will lead a mini-workshop on psychometry in a public meeting of the Theosophical Society, Spirit United Church, 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.

10 TUESDAY

Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation annual State of the Park and nonprofit fair, Murray Middle School cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

11 WEDNESDAY

St. Paul Public Libraries are closed for Veterans Day.

12 THURSDAY

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

Dialoggers Toastmasters, U of M St. Paul Campus, Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

13 FRIDAY

Do the Dow, Art crawl, 2242 W. University Ave., 5-10 p.m.

14 SATURDAY

Minnesota's Waiting Children: Learn about adopting children who live in foster care, CHLSS, 10 a.m.-noon.

Do the Dow, Art crawl, 2242 W. University Ave., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

16 MONDAY

Community Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. gathering, 7-8:30 p.m. sing. The event is free, but a hat will be passed for our music leaders and to make the sings possible.

19 THURSDAY

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

Dialoggers Toastmasters, U of M Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

Adoption information meeting: An overview of adoption programs, CHLSS, 9-11:30 a.m. Register at chls.org/adoptioninformation.

22 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Mink River" by Brian Doyle, Micawber's, 2:30 p.m.

23 MONDAY

Rev. Jean Kellett will speak on telepathy in an open public meeting of the Theosophical Society, Spirit United Church, 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.

27 FRIDAY

Co-ed drum circle, Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. 6:30 p.m. www.womensdrumcenter.org

29 THURSDAY

Dialoggers Toastmasters, U of M Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Winds of Change benefit for Central High School, Amsterdam Bar & Grill, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. An evening of music, spoken word, silent auction & more. Tickets available at TicketFly.com/event/960215.

31 SATURDAY

Gibbs Farm Halloween, Larpenteur and Cleveland Avenues, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$8 adults, \$7 seniors 55+, \$5 children 5 and up.

SENIOR EXERCISE

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

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

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

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

Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program

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

FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:

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

Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:

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

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

VENUE INFORMATION

Amsterdam Bar & Grill, Sixth and Wabasha streets, downtown St. Paul
Arbor Pointe Senior Apts., 635 W. Maryland Ave. W.

CHLSS: Children's Home Society & Lutheran Social Services, 1605 Eustis St., 651-255-2555

Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apts., 1530 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 651-671-0300

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

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fullam St.

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

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

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

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 651-603-8946

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carver Ave., 651-645-3058

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Neighbors

Monarchs are topic of next St. Anthony Park garden club talk
Ann Hobbie 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, 2136 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 depictions 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 Prior Avenue on the east, I-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/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 Kloiber, Doroth Mayer, Karen Searle, Linda Snouffer 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 creating 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 (Mingei 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.



Business News

Mischief grand opening is Oct. 24

Mischief Toys will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will include a costume contest and prizes.

Mischief, which is in the former Peapods space, opened on Oct. 1. Proprietors Dan Marshall and Millie Adelsheim have moved on from the

baby and toddler toys and wares they sold at Peapods and are focusing on toys, gear, games and kits for older kids, teens and adults.

Healy Building businesses relocate

Businesses that were in the Healy building at the corner of Como and Doswell avenues in St. Anthony Park have moved out and the building awaits demolition to make way for a three-and-a-half-story, 24-unit market-rate apartment building. The complex, dubbed Park 24 by owner Ned Wessenberg, is slated to open sometime in 2016.

Como Rose Travel has relocated to realtor Steve Townley's building at 2190 Como Ave. Acupuncture by Cadance has moved into the Lakes& Plains Office Building, 842 Raymond Ave., Suite 102 (AcupunctureWithCadance.com).

Dr. Frank Steen has closed his Como Avenue dental practice and transferred patient records to Park Dental-Como, across the street at 2282 Como Ave. Steen, who had practiced in St. Anthony Park for 16 years, will be working with a small group practice elsewhere in the Twin Cities.

Above right, Como Rose agents Colette Maciejewski and David Swedlund pose in their new digs. The business is owned by Marsha Boie. At bottom, Dr. Frank Steen poses with fourth-generation patient, Eliana, whose parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were patients at his practice.—Kristal Leebrick



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CPHS Cougar Sports by Eric Erickson

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

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 Purdy, 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 Bugle went to 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.



Coach Steve Cox snapped this photo of his Lady Cougars' Soccer team during their "victory run" after defeating Highland Park 2-1 at Como on Oct. 2.

"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 having, 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 an 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 Tu Lor Eh Paw held down the center.

Freshman Celia Olson was solid as the team's sweeper, anchoring the defense, with excellent marking and smart clearance from juniors Marie Wulff, Josie Schermerhorn and Dah Dah.

Freshman reserves Lay Lay Thoo and Liza Pirjevec added energy. Sophomore Emily Forstrom fiercely worked the left side, and Maria Meggitt and Alice Lightfoot were versatile sophomore substitutes. Juniors Oo Meh, Psawpaw Kasuh and Hannah Rhee gave the Cougars even more options off the bench, as did Katie Myster and Alayna Carrier, 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 where the team has needed them and excelled," he said.

Two players who helped fill the greatest need were freshman Cece Wulff and sophomore Alexa Walters.

Together, they shared goalkeeping responsibilities, after training together in the off-season. Both are still developing technique, but as selfless athletes, they came through with big saves 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 jog 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.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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School News

The Bugle welcomes news about students and schools in the area. The deadline for the December issue is Wednesday, Nov. 4. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.

Central High School

275 N. Lexington Parkway,
651-632-6000, central.spps.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. 29, at Amsterdam Bar and Hall, Sixth and Wabasha 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.

Advanced tickets are available at TicketFly.com/event/960215 for \$15 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.comar.spps.org

National Merit semi-finalists

Seniors Keith Eicher and Tuomas Sivula have been named National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists. This achievement recognizes students in the top 1 percent of students nationwide. Ellie Thorsgaard has been named a National Merit Commended Student. Finalists in the program will be announced in February 2016.

Veteran French teacher honored

Como's longtime French teacher Nancy Solo-Taylor, who retired last spring 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 AP Government students were on WCCO TV on Sept. 22, as the station reported Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon's 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' 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 Carole Whitney and English teacher Allison Hartzell.

Athletes make news

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

Cross country runner Innocent Murwanashyaka took first place at the Roy Griak Invitational at the University of Minnesota Sept. 26 with 485 runners from across the state and neighboring states in the Maroon Division of the run.

His time of 16:13 in the 5K run was impressive. Both the Pioneer Press and the StarTribune ran stories on him.

Festive fun

Homecoming week events at Como were festive and fun with dress up days 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 the Como Park Booster Club for its support and behind-the-scenes work.

Murray Middle School

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

Catch some fall sports games

There is still time to catch some of Murray's fall sports games. More than 140 student athletes are currently playing on fall teams.

The boys and girls soccer teams play at the Murray Fields, located at Highway 280 and Como Avenue. The co-ed flag 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.spps.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, 4:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27:** home game vs. Humboldt Middle School, girls soccer and volleyball, 3 p.m. Away game vs. Humboldt, boys soccer and flag football, 3 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29:** home game vs. Capitol Hill, girls soccer and volleyball, 3:30 p.m. Away game vs. Capitol Hill, boys soccer and flag

football, 3:30 p.m.

• **Saturday, Oct. 31:** volleyball play-offs at Washington Middle School. Time has not been determined.

Thanks to the school community
Murray Middle School extends a special thanks to the dedicated school community.

More than 90 people have contributed toward the school's Pilot One-on-One tutoring program, saving it from being cut as a result of a reduced budget. Dozens of adult volunteers support Murray learners each week through tutoring.

The alumni from Murray High School's class of 1965 donated \$20,000 toward Murray's partnership with the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. This program connects students to learning about wildlife and conservation.

Foundations class eases transitions

To strengthen the transition from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school, an every-other-day advisory course titled "Foundations" is part of every Murray student's curriculum.

The two-week course includes two academic days, two character education days and one team-building day.

The program aligns with Murray's Core Values program and school-wide activities.

Congrats, History Day winner

As a participant in History Day Nationals, eighth-grader Jillian Brenner was chosen for the Salute to Courage Award and won a trip to the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

The museum is planning an opening of the Campaigns of Courage, which features two exhibits entitled the Road to Berlin and Road to Tokyo. Brenner will research a Minnesotan who served in the Pacific campaign for one of the exhibits, similar to the men of the Torpedo Squadron Eight, which was the topic

for her history project that sent her to the national competition.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

2180 Knapp St., 651-293-8735
www.stanthony.spps.org

Annual Fall Festival Oct. 23

Mark your calendar for Friday, Oct. 23, for the annual St. Anthony Park Elementary School Fall Festival. There will be dancing, food, fun activities and crafts, a Scholastic Book Fair and the hugely popular Silent Auction.

The community is invited to join the students, families and staff to celebrate back-to-school autumn traditions. All proceeds support programs at the school.

Bike to School Day

More than two-thirds of St. Anthony Park Elementary School students participated in Walk or Bike to School Day on Oct. 7. It was part of an event to highlight safe routes to school and to have a bit of fun.

Music to our ears

Through the generosity of Music in the Park and the Schubert Club, St. Anthony Park Elementary School students experience music of the great composers played by internationally acclaimed musicians.

The Borromeo Quartet performed in September, and the WindSync Quartet will perform for the students in November.

Chinook Books for sale

Save money at local merchants and help St. Anthony Park Elementary School students at the same time. Students are selling Chinook Books for a fundraiser. The books (available in print and digital app form) contain more than 400 coupons.

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

The deadline to order is Oct. 23.

Twin Cities German Immersion

1031 Como Ave., 651-492-7106
www.tcgis.org

Student plays lead role at Guthrie

Eighth-grader Isadora Swann is one of two actors who played the role of Scout in the Guthrie Theater's adaption of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The production, which ended Oct. 18, included three sets of two young actors to play 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 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 schoolmates 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, Beki 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.

AARP Smart Driver Course: 4-hour refresher course

Thursday, November 5th / 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Wood benches built by Murray alum Philip Chervenak and his fellow Boy Scouts are used in outdoor classrooms at Murray Middle School and College Park.

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College Park bench mystery solved

A few strollers and dog walkers who trekked through College Park in St. Anthony Park early in the morning of Sept. 30 left scratching their heads after spotting an array of wooden benches scattered through the park. Each bench sat facing a tree.

Was it some arboreal 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 Chase'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 unmowed 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 Chase 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.—Kristal Leebick

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