By Anne Holzman

As with many Minnesotans, Pinar Karaca-Mandic has been watching the Syrian refugee crisis unfold and wondering if there’s anything she can do to help. She has kept her eye on it longer and more steadily than most, however, because the interest is personal.

Karaca-Mandic, a University of Minnesota public health professor, was born in Turkey.

“The beach where the little boy Aylan Kurdi’s body was found is where I went swimming with my family almost every summer,” she said, recalling the September news photo of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi.

She turned her research capabilities to finding a way to help. “I have been observing this crisis longer and more steadily than most, however,” she continued. “The situation of the children has been saddening me the most. They lost everything, and yet they need everything. They need to continue their education, and we can help.”

The Bridge to Turkiye Fund, founded in North Carolina in 2003, supports nongovernmental organizations in Turkey, many of which first formed in response to the 1999 earthquake that devastated the country.

“Their main mission is health care and education for children in underserved areas,” Karaca-Mandic said. Impressed by Bridge’s established networks and its focus on children, she and a team of colleagues from around the United States approached Bridges about serving a new population: the Arabic-speaking refugees flooding the country from Syria.

Because she speaks Turkish and English, Karaca-Mandic was able to help find organizations that were already on the ground in Turkey and in a position to make good use of donations from Bridges.

She recounted discovering an Australian couple running an independent bookstore in Istanbul, Pages Bookstore Cafe. They specialize in stocking Arabic-language books and wanted to help get books into the hands of Syrian refugee children, Karaca-Mandic said.

Other key contacts include school principals, who often are running something along the lines of charter schools in order to provide Arabic-language education.

“Considered historic tensions between Turkey and Syria, Karaca-Mandic said, “the level of commitment and passion was eye-opening.”

The project has been drawing grants as well as individual donations. Bridges recently sent funds to provide 3,000 books and 1,000 school bags filled with educational supplies to Syrian children living in underserved areas.

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Com o Park
The District 10 Com o Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lebanon Parkway.
Learn more: 651-644-3889 or www.district10comopark.org.

Congratulations to D10's environmental activists
District 10’s Environmental Commission to host get-together
The Community Engagement Commission will host a get-together Monday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.
Kevin Lindsey, Minnesota Department of Human Rights commissioner, will be there to discuss his office’s work and opportunities for the city and its residents.

SAP progressive dinner is Feb. 27
The 30th annual St. Anthony Park Community Council progressive dinner will be held Saturday, Feb. 27.
The fun, food and neighborliness will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillsdale Ave. From there, diners will fan out across the neighborhood to partake in a series of salads, dinner and dessert courses hosted at the homes of progressive dinner participants.
For more information and participant registration, visit www.sapcc.org/event/sap-progressive-dinner or send an email to progressivedinneremail@gmail.com.

District 12 meetings now held at Jennings Community school
The St. Anthony Park Community Council is now holding its board and Land Use Committee meetings at Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 W. University Ave.
Jennings is a local charter school that has offered the council to use the space for free. There is parking in the back of the building and easy access to public transportation in the front.
The Community Council board meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The Land Use Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Lion’s Club tree sale
The Lion’s Club of Falcon Heights/Lauderdale is celebrating its 29th year of selling Christmas trees. Visit the club at Community Park on the corner of Rosalawn and Cleveland avenues if you are shopping for a tree. The lot is open evenings and this weekend.
Purchases go toward the Lion’s Club support of organizations in the community.

Falcon Heights Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.
Learn more: 651-792-7600 or www.falconheighsgo.org.

Music in the Park Series
Julie Albers, cello
Orion Weiss, piano
Sunday, February 7, 2016
4 PM Pre-concert talk at 3 PM
Music of Janaeck, Poulenc, Beethoven, and Grie.
Saint Anthony Park UCC (at Commonwealth & Chelmsford)
651.292.3268
schubert.org

Frattonlone’s Hardware begins remodel of post office building
The purchase of the former post office building at 2286 Como Ave. in St. Anthony Park is complete, and Frattonlone’s Hardware and Garden plans to open a hardware store in the building by mid-March, according to Tom Frattalone.
Work on the project began on Nov. 30. Frattonlone didn’t have drawings of the façade of the building at press time, but said the company plans to “cover” the gray concrete on the outside of the building with brick veneer and much-like detailing that will make “the building fit into the neighborhood much better.”
“It is going to be a great-looking addition to the neighborhood,” he said.
The U.S. Postal Service’s lease on the building ended in November and USPS is looking to rent a new location in the same area. A public meeting to gather community input on the post office location was held on Dec. 8 at Luther Seminary’s Olson Campus Center. Postal service representatives have been meeting with building owners along Como Avenue to find a storefront to fit their needs.
Comments may be submitted through Jan. 7 to Greg Shelton, real estate specialist, USPS, 200 E. Kennedy Ave., Denver, CO 80205-9950. USPS will post its decision at the Roseville post office, 2000 W. County Blvd. after Jan. 7.
The building went on the market in September 2014. It was owned by Lorraine McCann, whose late husband, Harold “Buzz” McCann, had operated Seaswede Engine Rebuilders there through the 1960s. The building had been home to auto-repair and servicing businesses since at least 1933 until the post office moved in 1970. For the previous 40 years, the Como branch post office had been located around the corner at 2238 Carter Ave., today the site of Micolawer’s Books.
The Frattonlone family owns 20 hardware stores in the metro area, including two on Grand Avenue in St. Paul.—Kristal Leebrick
Holiday tea marks 25th year at St. Anthony Park Home

By Kristal Leebrick

For 25 years, residents and guests at St. Anthony Park Home have been treated to a rich program of classical music and Christmas carols at its annual Holiday Tea.

The program for the silver anniversary of the tea on Dec. 5 this year was no different. In addition to traditional Christmas songs, bassist John Barker, the home’s proprietor and administrator, and pianist Lisa Amstler, the home’s activity director, included “Burgundian Carol” (a French carol), “Air on the G Strings” by Bach, “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen, “Cannon in D” by Pachelbel, and “Arioso” and “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring” by Bach.

Music is a frequent offering at the home throughout the year, but especially around the holidays. Festivities begin Thanksgiving Day, says Amstler. “Turkeys are purchased from Speedy Market [135 pounds of turkey]. They’re roasted on each of the three floors, giving off the wonderful aroma of Thanksgiving dinner soon to be served.”

As residents and guests sit down to tables draped with white linen, wine is served and Barker—a

Seminary signs land deal with Ecumen for senior housing

By Kristal Leebrick

Luther Seminary signed a land purchase agreement with Ecumen, a Lutheran-affiliated nonprofit developer of senior housing, headquartered in the Twin Cities, on Dec. 7.

Ecumen plans to build a 49-unit senior cooperative on 1.6 acres at the southeast edge of the seminary’s campus. The area is just north of the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place.

The three-story building will include underground parking for 70 vehicles and surface parking for 58 vehicles. The one- or two-bedroom units will range from 952 to 1,953 square feet.

Sales for the cooperative will begin in spring 2016. The project is expected to be completed in late 2017.

The project was first introduced to the neighborhood in September. Ecumen presented plans and renderings for the co-op and two other developments on land across from Health Partners at Como and Eustis Street at an open house on Sept. 24 and at the District 12 Land Use Committee meeting on Oct. 1.

Neighborhood opposition to the proposed 60-unit co-op prompted Ecumen to hold a series of community workshops in October to gather input from area residents.

Ecumen then revised its site plan for the co-op and formed a small community workgroup to discuss design issues.

The new site plan moved the building to the property just behind the current parking lot, where three seminary houses now stand.

The number of units in the building was decreased and the new plan preserves green space at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place, preserves St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church’s access to a parking lot at the site, preserves views to and from Buckman Hall on the campus, and removes a proposed parking lot entrance on Como at Valentine Avenue.

The proposed Eustis developments included a 121-unit apartment building with some assisted-living components and 20 percent affordable rates and a 112-unit memory-care facility. That project has been put on hold, according to Matt McNeill, Ecumen’s director of business development.

“To fulfill our primary mission to educate Christian leaders, we need to invest in our core campus and better utilize our buildings and land,” said Luther President Robin Steinke in a press release from the seminary. The press release went on to say that Ecumen had

In 2012, the seminary reported a $4 million budget deficit. Since then, Luther has cut staff, sold the Sandgren and Burntvedt apartment buildings on Eustis and has recently rented space to Augsburg College to house Augsburg’s physician assistant studies program. Proceeds from the sale of the land will help fund deferred maintenance, student housing needs and renovations to historic buildings on the seminary campus.

Established in 1869, Luther is the largest of the eight seminaries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Ecumen, founded nearly 150 years ago, is a nonprofit provider of senior housing and services with deep roots in the Lutheran church. It is governed by a 15-member board of trustees elected by representatives from each of the six Minnesota synods of the ELCA.
Yet another problem, St. Anthony Park: squirrels

By Barry Buckley

If they can break into the TCF Bank Stadium during a Vikings game and we’ve got big trouble. I would think that a bank who paid for a fancy stadium label would tighten up security or at least lock the doors. Maybe they’re focused on better lending practices. I hope the new Vikings stadium with the 60-foot US Bank logo and the crooked roof has no squirrel encroachment. Those are pricey seats.

The squirrels here in St. Anthony Park have evolved to the point of having no natural predators. Decades ago it was an Oldsmobile with bad brakes or a good Humor man who flattened Bullwinkle’s sidekick. With natural selection, the early street survivors learned by looking, both before crossing four lanes of Snelling Avenue, shared that key information with their offspring.

Squirrels rank in the food chain somewhere below hawks and owls. Unfortunately, those winged predators are less than interested in our city squirrel pack. Hawks and owls much prefer a point of having no natural predators.

What to do with the upper campus that will provide income for Luther Seminary? When doing our research to preserved green space, we called the Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. The kind staff person there pulled up a topical map of St. Anthony Park. She noted that the upper campus has two buildings on historic registries: Bockman with its great lawn and Muskego Church. The heritage era homes were also noted. Taking it all in, she described the upper campus of Luther Seminary as a historic district within greater St. Anthony Park. Her suggestion was that the property be made to the Minnesota Legacy Fund to have those homes updated and preserved.

Then what?

Just as national parks write contracts with concessionaires, Luther Seminary could enjoy lasting annual income from a vendor who would create a bed and breakfast business using all four homes. Priced well for a nightly rate, the business income generated over a year would be quite reasonable. Who would stay in these guest houses? People attending conferences at the seminary and the University of Minnesota. Well marketed to graduates of Luther Seminary who want to visit Minneapolis and St. Paul, added income is assured. Imagine the wedding party weekends of all the churches in St. Anthony Park and the greater area who would love to have their families and friends stay right in the village. Out-of-towners, once they know of this resource, would come for state fair, ballgames, arts and entertainment and more. Price it right, and they will come.

Luther Park, may we honor your generosity so freely given to St. Anthony Park and protect you from being pushed beyond your limits. We ask like-minded neighbors to raise their voices in support of redirecting both the board of directors of Luther Seminary and Ecumen to a master plan for senior housing on their lower campus that is striking to the eye and award winning. Please, leave the upper campus as a unique historic district for generations yet to come.

Tolerance?

I feel compelled to stick up for the woman who offered up her home to the author [Guess Who’s Coming to Thanksgiving Dinner? Park Bugle, December 2015]. The author was agreeable in taking advantage of the person’s willingness to open her home at below market prices but not very tolerant when confronted with values different than his.

The author points out that most of us have gay relatives and that we are forced into either accepting the gynmas of loved ones or disowning them. There is another choice that we have and that is to tolerate people, loved ones or not, that have a different set of beliefs or sexual orientation.

I certainly don’t know this woman’s heart, and I think that it wasn’t nice or fair to impugn her character and call her clandestine names in an opinion article without giving her the opportunity to rebut in her defense.

Paul Kiergaard, DDS
St. Anthony Park

Progressive dinner celebrates 30 years

Every year since 1986, St. Anthony Park neighbors have enjoyed a progressive dinner that ranges from south St. Anthony Park to University Grove. The year 2016 marks the dinner’s 30th anniversary.

The 2016 event will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, when more than 100 St. Anthony Park residents will celebrate the opportunity to see old friends, meet new neighbors, and enjoy delicious food.

Participation is easy. You only have to make one course: appetizer, salad, main or dessert. You only need to host six to 10 people, including yourself.

A team of neighbors gathered by Kate Mabel and Jane Leonard coordinates the master plan. We sort participants into groups that change for each course. No one eats with anyone else more than once. Accessibility needs and food preferences (vegetarian, food allergies, etc.) are accommodated.

The evening begins at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church for appetizers and punch at 5:30 p.m. When you arrive, you receive your list of destinations for the night and the names of the guests coming to your house. Those who sign up for appetizers “host” at the church and help with set-up and cleanup.

Participants leave the church to arrive for their salad course by 6:30 p.m. and move on from there to the main course at 7:30 p.m. At 8:45 p.m., groups move again and feel for dinner to end the evening.

To participate and join the tradition, go to sapcc.org/event/sap-progressive-dinner and fill out the participation form. If you have questions, send an email message to progressivedinnermap@gmail.com.

The registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 19.

Kate Mabel and Jane Leonard
St. Anthony Park

L E T T E R S

Bunny Squirlxe

Well-designed end units could have the Raptor chain below hawks and owls. Unfortunately, those winged predators are less than interested in our city squirrel pack. Hawks and owls much prefer the Raptor chain below hawks and owls.

The view reflected in the commentaries and letters printed here each month are the opinions of the writers. We encourage community participation on this page. Bugle contact information is in the box at left.

Conondiums will fill those three lots. The parkland it offers. Customer for the Conondiums will fill those three lots.

A team of neighbors gathered by Kate Mabel and Jane Leonard coordinates the master plan. We sort participants into groups that change the master plan for senior housing on their lower campus that is striking to the eye and award winning. Please, leave the upper campus as a unique historic district for generations yet to come.

Don’t build on Luther Seminary’s upper campus

Luther Place is only one block long. It is bordered by a middle school, a seminary, a church, a condominium building and homes. It is lined and draped with mature oaks, maples, lindens and pines. Overflow parking on both sides of the street provide hospitality to all of these neighbors and their guests. The street also welcomes students from the University of Minnesota whose limited budgets can use the free parking it offers. Customers for the businesses at this end of our village also need those parking spots on Luther Place. This one small block parking it offers. Customer for the Conondiums will fill those three lots.

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Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

We've raised $28,893 of our $36,000 goal for the Park Bugle's 2015-16 fund drive. Thanks to the following Park Bugle readers who have contributed. This list reflects those who gave through Nov. 30. We'll publish more donors in the next issue. The nonprofit Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper's annual operating costs.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, you still can by going online at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE NOW button on the right side of the page.

Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Thank you!

Grant Abbott & Elaine Tarone
Ray & Karen Gent
Ann McCormick
Steve & Jeanne Tanamachi
Steve & Rebecca Tietle
Priscilla Thomas
Tim & Muffi Abrahamson
Paul Glaser
Diane McGuire
Glennys Thormodsgard
Astrid Anderson
Julie Glowka
Jane McHattie
Blaine & Cindy Thrasher
Joel & Teresa Anderson
Warren & Kt Gion
Steve McKay
Christopher & Mary Thurn
Jeff & Julie Bahnsen
Robert & Jean Grimes
Eamonn & Alix Mee
Robert & Miriam Titeler
Virginia Barrick
Adam Granger & Renee Bergeron
Mary Mengesha
Chuck Tracy & Anna Sokolofski-Tracey
William & Mary Baker
Robert Guentner & Deborah Kramer
James & Linda Merritt
Skiley Ungar
Joyce Halverson
Larry & Marge Halverson
Mary Nitsch
Diane Vener
Carol Bender
Mary Hamul
Dave Hammer
Cynthia Verhey
Ted Blank
Tim & Kathleen Harding
Christianne Hanks
Justin Drucek
Bruno Bornsztein & Alicia Lacy
Erik Harago
Sarah Hobbie & Jacques Finlay
Theodore Hodstrom
Barb & Art Kidd
Barbara Abrahamson
Bill Hicks
Bill & Nancy Healy
Ellen Healy
Bill & Verna Healy
Robert Craven & Deb Cran
Paradise Lacy
Marilyn Cierzan
Kim & Karen Howland
Thomas & Nancy Houton
Keith & Karen Howland
Robert Cren & Deh Cran
John & Judith Howe
Vernon & Khin Khin Jensen
Esther Hope
Richard Hochkiss
Bill & Laura Koll
Thomas & Nancy Houton
Ann & Jay Weimer
Craig & Linda Koonce
Robert & Barry Kragler
Bill & Janet Lagson
Terry & Claire Caflery
John & Jean Landree
Jeffrey & Gretchen Lang
Bill & Kathy Lerfdal
Diane & Gaye Larson
Diane Abrahamson
Jean Larson
Nancy Abrahamson
Edward & Christie Kohler
Douglas & Jane Koons
Jim & Nancy Hierbert
Russell & Cynthia Hobbie
Sarah Hobbie & Jacques Finlay
Jean O'Connell
Mike & Marie O'Connor
Dennis & Paula Olander
Donald & Krinisl Olsen
Sunny Islam
Loretta Nicela
Cari Nesje
Diane Niemela
Carmen O'Connell
Joe & Ruth Peterson
Bob & Judy Peterson
Devin & Julie Peterson
Gary & Mary-Ann Peterson
Anthony & Kathleen Pfaff
Hans Olaf Pienskus
Michael & Alice Phillips
Janet Fiermaner
Gary & Terry Reiniceps
John Rothenberry & Marlene Zuck
James M. Runley
Tom Scanlan
Amy Schoch
Jay Schrader & Clare Caffrey
Earl Schwartz & Nima Samuel
Bob & Nancy Serfas
Elizabeth Shippee
Mark Simonsen & Pat Thompson
William & Barbara Sippel
Wayne & Ann Suel
Glen & Anna Skoholz
Tom Slaughter & Ann Merrill
Ernest Smith
James & Ellen Snoull
Mike & Julie Stahl
Frank Sten & Lisa Hubeck
Fredric & Joan Steinhauser
Edward Swans & Mary Keitstand
Ronald & Colleen Tabaks
Carol Zalaznik & Margaret Boler
Robert & Miriam Titeler
Chuck Tracy & Anna Sokolofski-Tracey
Skiley Ungar
Diane Vener
Cynthia Verhey
Philip & Julie Vogel
Larry Wacker & Deborah Allan
Timothy & Gretchen Walker
Jay Weiner & Ann Juergens
Sandy & Carol Weisberg
Joe & Mary Wild Gea
Tom Will & Kristen Nelson
Ann Wynia
Gary Yasell & Michele Dunning
Steve & Ann Yeter
Robert Zalaznik & Margaret Boler
Carol Zapfel
Ed & Marge Zimmere

Businesses
Ben Qua & Sons
Como Rose Travel
Front Avenue Pottery & Tile Co.
Message Maren
Sandy's Barber Shop

Goal
$36,000
$30,000
$28,893
$24,000
$12,000
$6,000

Park Perks raises funds for area nonprofits

In November, Sunrise Banks’ charitable coffee bar, Park Perks, raised $500 for the Park Bugle, the nonprofit community newspaper that is provided free to residents in St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. Thanks to Sunrise, for including the Bugle on its charitable giving list.

Each month, Sunrise Banks devotes the profits from its sales at the coffee bar at its Como Avenue branch to designated nonprofit community organizations. December’s Park Perks proceeds will go toward supporting the St. Paul Police Shop With Cops program. Through the program, police officers take children from less fortunate situations holiday shopping.

In January, Park Perks will raise money for the International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave. The institute has been helping refugees and immigrants settle in Minnesota for nearly 100 years. Thanks, Sunrise Banks.
wait till I’m headed for the watering can. When I turned my purpose in my step, I return to a previously cleverly carved pumpkin out on the eaten off.

Halloween, we can’t even leave enough bulbs, seeds or nuts on the yard pack is aptly referred to as squirrel is between 11 to 12 months, History. Despite this brief life cotton ball tuft of fur, hence the title. Coast acorns in about 37 indoor pots. It encroached into our already project superseded ambiance. They

The self-appointed leader of our search for a trowel. Walking back behind my back, set them down next to the barrel and marched off in search of a trowel. Walking back from the garage, my eyes locked on my ziplock with the remaining

squirrels are forever thinking against this arm y. Not thinking, I gave chase and chance against this arm y. We can’t even leave enough bulbs, seeds or nuts on the yard pack is aptly referred to as squirrel is between 11 to 12 months, History. Despite this brief life cotton ball tuft of fur, hence the title. Coast acorns in about 37 indoor pots. It encroached into our already project superseded ambiance. They

Refugee aid from 1 Turkey. Bridges uses an online fundraising tool called Crowdrise. Karaca-Mandic created a Minnesota "team" on the Crowdrise page for the Rising for Syrian Refugee Children project of Bridge to Turkey. The Spoonbridge with Cherry sculpture from the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden marks the team.

Immigrants, themselves, she and her husband, who is Montenegran, have settled here because they feel welcome, she said. "In our schooling, our attitude toward life, our progressive way of thinking about children," she said, that led her to launch a Minnesota fundraising challenge.

In the midst of her research, Karaca-Mandic’s daughter asked her a "difficult" question: Would she be doing this if not for her personal connection with Turkey? "It is true that horrible things are happening all around the world," Karaca-Mandic said, summarizing her discussion with her child. "Millions of people are struggling in need of housing, food, security and many other basic needs. "In this case," she continued, "I felt that I had a comparative advantage. Being from Turkey, speaking Turkish, I was able to reach out to friends, and friends of friends, and to other individuals whom I was referred to as people who would care.

I was able to interview and discuss the needs and projects with local NGOs in Turkish. I could do more, and that is why I chose to take an active role." Karaca-Mandic said she would be happy to provide further information via email, at pkmandic@umn.edu. Contributions may be made via the Crowdrise website, www.crowdrise.com/RisingforSyrianRefugeeChildren, or directly to Bridge to Turkey, www.bridgetoturkiye.org, which is a 501(c)(3) U.S. nonprofit.

Anna Holzman is a former resident of St. Anthony Park who visits frequently from Bloomington.

To add your church to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org
Larpenteur got a street named after him, but not the one he’d wanted

By Roger Bergerson

In 1904, Auguste Larpenteur, 80, wrote to the St. Paul City Council with a forthright request: He wanted a street named after him.

The last of the city’s founders—often referred to as the Grandfather of St. Paul—he pointed out that his friends Henry Sibley and Louis Robert, gone by then, had their streets and it was high time he did, too.

Further, he suggested it would be appropriate to rename the street known as Lake Como and Phalen Avenue (now Arlington Avenue) in recognition of the role he had played in developing the land between Lakes Como and Phalen.

Larpenteur got his street, but instead of the one he wanted, it was a dusty country road, previously known as Minneapolis Avenue, that formed part of the northern boundary of the city.

If he were around today, Larpenteur would find the transformation of his street as amazing as the changes he had witnessed in St. Paul in the 19th century.

Larpenteur was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1825 and set out to seek his fortune to the west at the age of 18, arriving in St. Paul in 1843. He spent time in St. Louis, Mo., and there met Mary Josephine Pelsey, who later followed him to St. Paul and became his wife.

St. Paul at that time was a collection of hovels scarcely big enough to be called a hamlet, much less town, and was part of St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory.

He worked for a firm of Indian traders as a clerk and interpreter and in 1846 built the first frame house in St. Paul at Third and Jackson streets.

After Wisconsin was granted statehood, Larpenteur was among the pioneers who met in convention at Stillwater in 1848. They successfully petitioned the Wisconsin governor to allow the election of a delegate to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the establishment of the Minnesota Territory, which was accomplished in 1849.

Larpenteur supported his growing family—he and his wife ultimately had 10 children—by fur trading, dealing in wholesale groceries and speculating in real estate. He served on the city council and also was treasurer of Ramsey County.

In 1860, he built his stone mansion, the Anchorage, just across the city’s western borde, Dale Street, about where I-94 crosses it today. He lived there for more than 50 years.

Writings in 1885, when Larpenteur was in his early 60s, one newspaperman described him this way: “Mr. Larpenteur is of French descent and consequently is all life and animation. He has a nervous, sanguine temperament; possesses a black, piercing eye; is of medium size; always pleasant, very quick; talks quickly, acts quickly, figures quickly. Judging from what he now is, one would think he must have been ‘chain lightning’ when young.”

Following trips to France and California, Larpenteur retired from business, but remained active in public affairs, serving on the committee planning the new Cathedral of St. Paul at the start of the 20th century.

He also was faithful in attendance at the annual meetings of the Old Settlers Association and the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, and during the Minnesota State Fair he held court at the latter organization’s log cabin exhibit. Larpenteur was familiar to the readers of St. Paul newspapers because he was invariably consulted by reporters concerning the passing of an old-timer or other historical milestones.

According to one newspaper account, “Mr. Larpenteur delighted in making one of a friendly circle in his home and his pleasure was without alloy when he could join a little company of pioneers and talk over the days when the Indian tepee was conspicuous on the hills now included in the city limits.”

His beloved wife, Mary, passed away and with his own health beginning to decline, Larpenteur moved in with one of his daughters in 1917, dying two years later at the age of 95.

Roger Bergerson writes about local history.

Auguste Larpenteur still cut a fine figure at 87 as he posed at the Anchorage in 1910. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society
Our neighbor Jim lives right across the street from us. He's a rather large man, who recently retired after a long career with a Twin Cities-based aerospace company. He was an inspector in their quality-control department. He said they paid him big bucks to solve problems and come up with solutions to technical issues. We seldom vent into political topics. And we wait for an energetic jogger to brighten our afternoons. Since all our bird feeders are also set up in the front yard, we often have a bird zip in to grab a seed or a peanut. Jim usually asks me to identify each bird. He's gotten so that he knows his downy woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches, chickadees and cardinals.

The mourning doves come in to the platform feeder, usually in pairs, but sometimes just one will be there. Jim said that's a female wondering where in the heck her mate's gone off to. "Can't leave that guy alone for one minute without him wandering away."

The blue jays always surprise Jim. "They're huge!" he said. And we can see how they dominate the feeders.

In the spring, Jim was watching a small, rusty-capped sparrow hopping along on the sidewalk. "You're not going to tell me that's an ordinary sparrow," he said. "I can tell it's different." I told him it was a chipping sparrow and that we see them in the summer. So he was really wondering about the difference between that bird and the 'ordinary' English house sparrows.

A rather noisy male red-bellied woodpecker comes sailing in to the platform feeder fairly regularly. Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America describes its call as a kwurr or churr. Jim said it's trying to attract a mate, proving how virile it is by its loud calls. And he may be right; I can't prove him wrong.

"We've had some memorable sightings. One day we heard some loud squawking from a tree down the block. There was a pileated woodpecker working the trunk. As we watched, it launched itself in our direction and took up a position on our next door neighbor's maple tree. Big as a crow! We had good looks as it pried chunks of bark off the tree looking for insect life.

Not long ago, a large bird was zooming down the middle of the street, just above eye level. It was moving on very strong wingbeats. An awesome sight. It was a Cooper's hawk, one of the hazards that neighborhood birds have to watch for, since Cooper's feed on other birds.

Fall is when flocks of warblers come through the metro area on their way south. They're difficult to identify in the fall. Their colors are muted, and they're not singing. They're basically just flitting from bush to shrub, stoking up their little flight engines for their long migrations, some as far as Central and South America.

But by sitting relatively quietly there in the front yard, we get a chance to get a few good glances at some warblers from time to time. We had yellow-rumped warblers, as well as Nashville and Tennessee warblers, which were all new to Jim.

Another late fall visitor is the white-throated sparrow. Its song reminds me of "Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody." The first time Jim saw a white-throated sparrow, he was pretty stunned by its snow-white throat. It was in one of the bushes close to our patio table. "I've never seen one of those before," he said. Not long afterward, Jim had Gary, another neighbor, in his kitchen. They looked out over his back yard and Jim said, "Look at all the white-throats out there!" Gary had never seen them before, either.

As winter approached, Jim learned the white tail flash that identifies the dark-eyed junco. We'll have them with us all winter. They're known as the snow bird, so once they appear, can snow be far behind?

I was delighted to hear that Jim had shown Gary what a white-throated sparrow looks like. In a sense, the pupil has become the teacher. I feel I've recruited another bird lover in the neighborhood, and much-needed concern for nature, the environment and all living things.

Clay Christiansen lives and writes in Lauderdale. His book, The Birdman of Lauderdale, is available in local bird stores and bookstores and at Birdman-Book.com
Tutoring center creates a ‘safe place for the craziest ideas’

By Kristal Leebrick

The man who inspired Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI)—a quirky tutoring and writing center for school kids at the corner of Raymond and University avenues—stopped into the shop on Nov. 22 to lend his star power to the nonprofit’s fundraising efforts.

Dave Eggers—a National Book Award finalist and author of numerous books, including The Circle, A Hologram for the King and A Staggering Work of a Heartbreaking Genius—was in town to speak at the National Council of Teachers of English convention in Minneapolis that weekend. Eggers is also the co-founder of 826 National, a network of eight tutoring centers around the country. MOI is under chapter development with 826.

Eggers told the packed crowd of supporters and students who use the services that when he first walked into 2388 University Ave. he “felt the right spirit.” The aim of 826 National is “to create a safe place to learn, a safe place for the craziest ideas, the pure unadulterated wanderings of all kids,” he said.

Polly Norrie, a fifth-grade teacher at Farnsworth Aerospace school on St. Paul’s Eastside, knows just what he’s talking about. She and her class of 27 came to MOI on Nov. 11 for a two-hour field trip that resulted in the publishing of Devin the Rainbow Unicorn’s Sugar Jungle Home, a group effort and a signature piece to what MOI offers; a class comes in for two hours and brainstorm characters as an artist illustrates. In the end the class develops a book and each child leaves with a skinny paperback, the last part of which is left blank so each student can come up with his or her own ending.

The fifth-grade classes of Norrie and her colleague, Joachim Huber, stumbled into an extended writing workshop after visiting MOI. The nearly 50 students are spending the next few months with volunteers from MOI and MOI board member Marlon James to create the center’s first ISBN-numbered, copyrighted, published book of short stories, poetry and other writings—all written by the Farnsworth kids.

“Wait. Did we say Marlon James? The 2015 Man Booker Prize winner Marlon James! Author of A Brief History of Seven Killings Marlon James!”

The award-winning Macalester College professor will spend three sessions with Huber, Norrie and their students to help them develop their book. That work will be published in March.

MOI opened in 2013 as Rock Star Supply Co. The organization changed names in the last year. The number of students reached through tutoring both at MOI and at Como Park Senior High School, where MOI volunteers help out each week, has grown to 1,300 and 50 classes have participated in the book-making field trips to MOI.

“The students don’t always come here with a love of writing,” says Chad Kampe, MOI executive director, “but they leave with a love of writing.”
Julliard-trained musician—brings his bass to each floor to play for the nearly 250 people who attend the Thanksgiving dinner.

The Holiday Tea is held a week later. The tea began shortly after Barker took ownership of the home in 1991. For 25 years, he’s played bass accompanied by a variety of pianists. Amsler, who studied music at North Central University in Minneapolis and Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan., has played with him for the last 11 years.

December celebrations don’t end with the tea. Santa (aka Barker) shows up just after breakfast on Christmas Eve, visits with residents and delivers gifts. Later, Barker and Amsler play music for another hour or so.

The home is not silent on Christmas Day, as a number of St. Anthony Park neighbors come to the home to play music for the residents. “Carolers from the Park,” organized by Kathy Magnuson, co-publisher of the Minnesota Women’s Press, show up in the lobby about 11 a.m. and walk up and down the halls singing. Sometimes, residents join them as they crawl through the building, Magnuson says.

Magnuson has lost track of how long she and her friends have been doing it. “It’s very informal,” she says. “We’re more about the enthusiasm rather than super high-level quality of singing—though we have some very good singers in our group.”

Some families of residents have made the Christmas caroling a tradition, she said. “They plan around it.”

Christmas cheer from 3

St. Anthony Park Home’s dietary staff “pulls out the stops” in creating a spread of treats for the tea, says activity director Lisa Amsler. Photo by Lori Hamilton
minimalist, but even she can't completely escape the hoarding instinct.”

David can't exactly remember when his own fascination with monsters got its start, but it may have been the day he suggested to his dad that the two of them give his mother the Creature from the Black Lagoon for Christmas. He thinks he was about 3 at the time, but before long, Gilbert and David had moved to the hands-on phase. Where other fathers and sons of the era might have gathered round the dining room table to build model airplanes, the Barnhills put together Aurora plastic monster model kits.

“Dad painted the models,” recalls his son, and the senior Barnhill wasn't above adopting a signature decorative style. How else to explain the 10-inch-high plastic Frankenstein with the dark purple face or the Phantom of the Opera with distinctive aquamarine features?

Then there were the film compilations. “Dad worked as a film editor at Channel 11 WT CN in those days, and I was this crazy obsessive kid about toys. Each year he would give me a 10-minute reel of all the greatest monster TV ads.”

All are currently on display at the Goldstein Museum show, along with David’s other favorites. “There was Horrible Hamilton, a bug with a pull string, and the Thing-Maker, a plastic mold for the “lead soldiers’ for my generation.”

David, who still lives in his childhood home, remembers his youth as “a Golden Age of toys. . . . [You] could play in the dirt with those plastic monsters from the ’60s.” He describes how he and his friends would use a hose to create the “Lagoon”—a small pond next to his house. “We'd build castles and stock them with plastic monsters, and then we'd create high drama—monster opera!”

While young David was happily slaying monsters by the Lagoon, his father was already devoting himself to the curatorial tasks of maintaining the burgeoning collection. “Father would sort and label everything,” says David, who estimates that by 1970, when he was 12, the collection already numbered 50,000 items.

And there was more to come. Much more. After David grew up, he wandered the world, traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and beyond. Everywhere he went, he collected “spooky” items like leather masks, silver-inlaid ram skulls and a genuine baboon skull, all of which he shipped home to Prospect Park. His parents were unfazed and “the boxes would just accumulate unopened by my [bedroom] door.”

In fact, his mother was more than tolerant. “My mother was still giving me toys into my 40s,” says David. “She was always going to Toys R Us, right up until she died.”

Aided by his parents and his own connoisseur's enthusiasm, David broadened his collection to “comic books, posters, books, CDs and DVDs—all on the theme of toy good guys and bad guys.”

Gilbert carefully filed and stored the many parts of the collection, while David occupied himself with starting a business devoted to—what else?—the creation of haunted houses for entertainment purposes. The toy collection stayed strictly on the sidelines until David “got burnt out” on the haunted house business and came up with the idea of sharing his collection with a new generation. After the show at the Goldstein Museum closes in January, David hopes to take the collection on the road, creating new exhibits and finding new venues for the Barnhill family’s ruling passion.

“Dad painted the models,” recalls his son, and the senior Barnhill wasn't above adopting a signature decorative style. How else to explain the 10-inch-high plastic Frankenstein with the dark purple face or the Phantom of the Opera with distinctive aquamarine features?

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David Barnhill, shown above with his father, Gilbert, doesn’t recall when his own fascination with monsters got its start, but it may have been the day he suggested to his dad that the two of them give his mother the Creature from the Black Lagoon for Christmas. Park Bugle photo by Lori Hamilton

J A N U A R Y  2 0 1 6  ■  P A R K  B U G L E  1 1

Toys from 1

These plastic monster figurines are part of the Monsters, Superheroes and Villains toy exhibit at the Goldstein. Photo by Mike Zerby

Where other fathers and sons of the 1960s and ’70s might have gathered round the dining room table to build model airplanes, Gilbert and David Barnhill put together plastic monster model kits, like the ones shown here. Photo by Mike Zerby

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January Events

Voice information is noted at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, Jan. 13, to be included in the February issue.

1 FRIDAY
New Year’s Day, public libraries closed.

4 MONDAY
Old-Time Maker Series: A Thousand Years of Spinning, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:45 p.m. All interested spinners are encouraged to bring their wheels and spindles. This is not a formal class. Extra spindles will be available for beginners to try.

5 TUESDAY
Baby/toddler story time, infants to 2 years old (siblings welcome), Tuesdays, in January, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:50-noon.

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

St. Anthony Park Book Club, “Go Set the Man on Fire” by Hephzibah Litt, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-p.m.

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

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

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

Dialogues Tommies meets every Thursday of the month, U of M St. Paul Campus, Northrop Research Studios, 1992 Fedale Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

9 SATURDAY
St. Paul Public Schools Pre-K and Kindergarten School Choice Fair, Washington Technology Magnet School, 1495 N. Rice St., 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

11 MONDAY
Old-Time Maker Series: A Thousand Years of Spinning, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:45 p.m. All interested spinners are encouraged to bring their wheels and spindles. This is not a formal class. Extra spindles will be available for beginners to try.

12 TUESDAY
Baby/toddler story time, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:50-noon.

14 THURSDAY
Learn Chinese Folk Dancing, morning exercise line and open for adults, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Dialogues Tommies meets every Thursday of the month, U of M St. Paul Campus, Northrop Research Studios, 1992 Fedale Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

18 MONDAY
Mums, Luton King Day, public libraries closed.

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 those who would like to make the sing possible. Co-sponsored by the District 12 Community Council.

Co-sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

19 TUESDAY
Baby/toddler story time, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:50-noon.

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

Dialogues Tommies meets every Thursday of the month, U of M St. Paul Campus, Northrop Research Studios, 1992 Fedale Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

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

23 SATURDAY
St. Paul Cinema School Parent Information Fair, St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave., 9 a.m.-noon. All 35 St. Paul charter schools, pre-K-grade 12 will be represented.

25 MONDAY
Old-Time Maker Series: A Thousand Years of Spinning, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:45 p.m. All interested spinners are encouraged to bring their wheels and spindles. This is not a formal class. Extra spindles will be available for beginners to try.

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

Tablet and Smartphone Clinic, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-4 p.m. All welcome. Free.

No reservations required.

31 SUNDAY
Soby’s Atmosphere Book Club, “Some Luck” by Jane Smiley, Meuweditz, 2:30 p.m.

S E N I O R E X C I S E
St. Anthony Park Area Sessions
Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

There will be no exercise class on Friday, Jan. 1.

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

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

Conso Palk/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon.

F R E E S E N I O R B L O O D P R E S S U R E C L I N I C S
St. Anthony Park Area Sessions
Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Conso Palk/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.

V E N U E I N F O R M A T I O N
Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 653 Marwood Ave. W.

Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 1535 W. Winton Street Ave.

Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Waldo St., 651-651-0300

Microwave Books, 2238 Cramer Ave., 651-646-7506

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Folwell St.

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Cramer 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., 651-603-8746

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Cramer Ave., 651-665-3056

Women’s Dress Closet, 2242 W. University Ave., www.womensdresscloset.org

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors’ Senior Cinema Series
“Nebraska” 2 p.m.

Thursday, January 14th, at SAP Library

A man is chosen by the world’s creators to undertake a momentous mission before an apocalyptic flood cleanses the world. Russell Crowe stars as Noah in this film inspired by the epic story of courage, sacrifice and hope. Also starring Emma Watson and Jennifer Connelly.

Tickets available at the door.

VENUE INFORMATION

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors’ Senior Cinema Series

12 PARK BUGLE ■ JANUARY 2016
Crochet your way into the Smallest Museum in St. Paul

By Alex Ludue

Artist Anne Jin Soo Preston’s upcoming exhibit in the Smallest Museum in St. Paul, recessed into the wall just outside WORKHORSE COFFEE BAR, 2399 University Ave., will feature a tiny tin crocheted replica of the coffee shop.

Preston was inspired by the Minneapolis Satellite Reef, part of the Crochet Coral Reef project on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts this fall, which was billed as “the world's largest participatory art and science project” and combined work from more than 7,000 crafters from around the world.

Preston hopes to engage the local textile artist community and neighbors in creating the WORKHORSE exhibit. Preston is hard at work creating the coffee shop replica, including walls, chairs and tables. Contributions from the community will be displayed within the petite shop and will focus on a different functionality each week in February. The themes will include Regular Coffee Shop, Sci-Fi, Beach and Prehistoric.

Preston is also holding workshops at WORKHORSE on Guerilla Yarn Art on two Saturdays, Feb. 6 and 20, 2-4 p.m., as well as casual yarn gatherings on two Sundays, Feb. 14 and 28, 2-4 p.m. Yarn makers are invited to work on their own projects as a community, connect with other yarn enthusiasts, share their skills and experience and maybe even learn something new. Contact WORKHORSE for more details and exact dates, 651-348-7561 or worldhorsecoffee.com/index.html.

We support the Bugle and here’s why

“I was born in 1927 at 2227 Hillside Ave. in St. Anthony Park, graduated from Murray High in 1944 and moved away in 1954 with my wife, Susan, to live in Iowa City. I have subscribed and contributed to the Bugle every year for the last 20 and love seeing pictures of the houses I knew and remember the wonderful people who lived in them, as well as reading the “Lives Lived” section. “I am a retired University of Iowa law professor who ran the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center until last June. I would remind students when I taught that even in a globalized economy we live our lives locally, together, with help from community organizations—like the Bugle. “I support the Bugle because I value history and community and love reading every month about the extraordinary community where I grew up.”

Willard (Sandy) Boyd
Iowa City, Iowa

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We support the Bugle because I value history and community and love reading every month about the extraordinary community where I grew up.
Dorothy Belgum Knight

Dorothy was proud of her Norwegian heritage and enjoyed volunteering at Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Above all, Dorothy loved her family. Staying connected with her friends and family, regardless of location, was her overwhelming focus. Dorothy was a spirited, smart, quick-witted woman with a deep faith and commitment to community. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anton and Selma Belgum, and brothers, Harold, Joseph and David. She is survived by her son, Joseph (Kelly).

Her funeral service was held Nov. 14 at Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Betty Haugen

Betty Mae Irene Haugen, 85, died Nov. 10. She was survived by her children, Debbie (Tim) Kurth, Cindy (Tim) Anderson, Debra (Jeff) Zappo; granddaughter, Kristina; and 15 grandchildren. Her funeral service will be held Nov. 13 at Como Park Lutheran, with interment at Elmhus Cemetery.

Rachel Larson

Rachel Frenich Larson, 61, of St. Anthony Park, died Nov. 8. Rachel was born in Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 18, 1954. As a youth, she lived in Basel, Switzerland, and Oxford, England, before the family moved to St. Anthony Park, where her father, President Speidel, was a longtime professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. She was a graduate of Murray Senior High School, class of 1972. Her early work experience was at Miller’s Drugstore in St. Anthony Park, and as a junior in college she worked at the Minnesota Highway Department, the Park Bugle, Dayton’s Warehouse, the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, and for 25 years she worked closely with her husband, Jim, in the family business, Larson Decorating.

She was described as a “homebody.” She liked to sew, quilt, garden and cook. She is especially remembered by her family for combining the family’s Norwegian and Swedish traditions in cooking and in holiday celebrations. Remembrances about her: “Rachel had an amazing group of friends. In her short 61 years she touched more hearts than many do in a longer lifetime.” “She was kindhearted, patient, talented and sweet.” She was preceded in death by her father and is survived by her husband, Jim, and their children, Ingrid Hills (Jeremy), St. Paul; Andrew (Heidi), Arden Hills; and Siri (Bent-Arne), Norway. Their grandchildren are Freya, Lasse, Sigurd and August. She also has two younger sisters; one sister; two step-sons; two step-daughters; 10 step-grandchildren; 21 step-great-grandchildren; and two step-great-great-grandchildren.

Her funeral service was held Dec. 11 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

**E. Wayne Garfield**

E. Wayne Garfield, 92, died peacefully at home on Dec. 1.

He was a World War II vet and served in the European Theater. He worked in the finance business until he purchased Noll Hardware Co. in St. Anthony Park, which he operated until he retired.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Rosanne; sons, Gary (Mary), Michael, Steven (Bonnice), Patrick (Kristina), Mark (Iancete, Katherine McGraw); and 15 grandchildren. A gathering was held on Dec. 9 at Holcomb-Bennitt-Purcell Funeral Home in Shoreview.

**Esther Gredivg-Wolf**

Esther Bernice Gredivg-Wolf, 96, formerly of Como Park, died peacefully on Dec. 7.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Arnold Gredivg and Raymond Wolf; daughter Sharon Wolf; brother John Hellerud; and sister Hael Carlson. She is survived by four daughters; five grandchildren; two step-daughters; 10 step-grandchildren; 21 step-great-grandchildren; and 21 step-great-great-grandchildren.

Her funeral service was held Dec. 11 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

**Dorothy Belgum Knight**

Dorothy Belgum Knight, St. Anthony Park, died suddenly Nov. 4 at age 85.

Dorothy was born in Chippewa Falls Township, Minn. As the daughter of an interrim Lutheran pastor, the girl grew up in small towns across Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in teaching from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and a master’s degree from the University of Minnesota. She spent 45 years teaching special education in St. Paul Public Schools.

She enjoyed bird watching, travel, music and walking at Lake Como.

**Joann Toso**

Joann Toso was born in 1951 in Brooklyn, N.Y., of missionary parents. She grew up in Madagascar to serve the Lutheran church. She and her future husband grew up together in Madagascar as “missionary kids.” She and John returned to serve at the Manambaro Lutheran Hospital in southern Madagascar from 1983 to 1988. They then moved to Austin, Minn., where her husband served as a physician. During this time Joann became a leader in Moms in Touch, International, a Christian organization of mothers who pray for their children in school.

From 2003 to 2007, she joined her husband, who served as project director for developing the Dodoma Christian Medical Center, Dodoma, Tanzania. Joann has bequeathed her body to the University of Minnesota and will later be cremated. The family thanks the Health Partners Hospice team who so expertly and compassionately assisted Joann in her last days. Memorials are preferred to Global Health Ministries of Fridley, Minn.

A memorial service was held at Roseville Lutheran Church Dec. 12.

**Cornelia Warkentin**

Cornelia “Corky” Warkentin, 97, of Falcon Heights, died Dec. 3. Corky was a retired North St. Paul school teacher and author.

She was preceded in death by husbands, Earl Manville and Wally Warkentin. She is survived by daughters, Shirley Spector and Tella (Van) Hunstley; sons, Bruce (Cheryl) and Mike (Kay) Warkentin; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Anna (Herb) Huesman; brothers, Robert (Sharon) and Victor (Ola) Brauneschwig; and special friends, Jan Hanson and Kirstianna.

A memorial service was held Dec. 8 at Holcomb-Bennitt-Purcell Funeral Home in Shoreview.

**Herbert Wright Jr.**

Herbert E. Wright Jr., 98, died Nov. 12 at home in St. Anthony Park.

He was a Regents’ Professor of Geology, Ecology and Botany, founder of the Limnological Research Center at the University of Minnesota. He will be remembered by many students and colleagues as a mentor and intrepid leader of field trips.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rhea, and sons, Peter and Rex. He is survived by sons Dick (Vibekas), John (Christa), Andy and Jeffrey (Maria); daughters-in-law, Sylvis; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He also survived by and was lovingly cared for by his dear friend and colleague, Vania Stefanoff.

A memorial ceremony was held Dec. 5 at the Cargill Building on the St. Paul Campus.
Troop 17 centennial:
1950s to 1980s

This is the second of three articles marking the centennial of Troop 17, Boy Scouts of America. Troop 17 is the second-oldest continuously chartered troop in Minnesota, and the oldest troop in Minnesota continuously chartered by one organization and meeting in the same building as when it began.

By Mike Smith

The 1950s
In 1950, eight scouts from Troop 17 attended the National Jamboree held at Valley Forge, Pa. It was the first Boy Scout Jamboree held since 1937. Troop member Bob Wall recalled that Troop 17 scout Dave Turford won the log chopping contest by using a real sharp cutting axe and taking short, quick strokes, while all the other competitors were taking huge, long swings with their axes.

The troop served as an honor guard at the wedding of scout leader Ken Bucheller and his bride, Gwen, who were also members of St. Anthony Park Congregational Church. In 1951, they again attended a wedding, this time for Scoutmaster Herb Putnam.

In 1953, for the fourth year in a row, Troop 17 took first place at the Scout Roundup competition sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Association. Three other St. Anthony Park troops also participated.

Four Troop 17 scouts made the rank of Eagle in 1956. That was followed in 1957 with three more scouts making the rank of Eagle.

The 1960s
In 1961, Troop 17 reached its largest size ever—50 scouts! Those numbers were short-lived, however, and by 1965 the troop had dwindled to a mere handful. The troop hung in there and remained active, including putting on a 50th anniversary celebration in 1966.

Troop 22 at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church did not survive this Scouting decline and folded in 1967. By 1968, Troop 17 was on the rebound with more scouts added to the roster.

The 1970s
In 1970, Troop 17 created a Rube Goldberg–type “Can Crusher,” an ingenious pioneering project, for a Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

In 1979, Troop 17 celebrated six Eagle Scouts in one year, and most of them celebrated their Court of Honor together. Three years later, in 1982, Eagle Scout Bill Healy earned the Silver Eagle Palm, earning an additional 15 merit badges beyond earning the rank of Eagle.

Centennial celebration
The Troop 17 centennial celebration will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, 9-8 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. If you or someone you know is a former troop member or a family member of a former Troop 17 Scout, you are invited to attend. There will be a dinner and program, as well as historical displays of troop memorabilia.

Contact Mike Smith, Troop 17 Centennial Celebration Committee, Troop 17 Centennial, c/o St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, or contact him by phone, 651-398-5552, or email, johnmichael.smith@comcast.net.

You can also find information at the troop 17 website, troop17.us.org, and Facebook page, St. Anthony Park Troop 17.
Avalon School
700 Glendale St., 651-649-5495
www.avalonschool.org

Two open houses in January
Avalon School, a 16+ charter school located in South St. Anthony Park by Raymond Station on the Green Line, is hosting two open houses in January: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 30, 10-11:30 a.m.

Families are invited to take tours, ask questions and learn about what a day at Avalon looks like. Avalon’s focus is helping students learn through independent projects designed by students.

Questions? Contact Kevin Ward at 651-649-5495, ext. 211, or kevin@avalonschool.org.

Chelsea Heights Elementary
1357 Haroon St., 651-293-8790
www.chelseaes.org

Get fit at Chelsea Heights PTO is hosting its popular Family Fitness Night on Friday, Jan. 8, 6-8 p.m. The event features activity stations where participants can challenge themselves with cardio, strength, agility, dancing and yoga. All ages are welcome. This is a fun event for the entire family.

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

National Honor Society inducts 30
The National Honor Society (NHS) held its induction ceremony for the Class of 2017 on Nov. 18 in the Como cafeteria. A potluck dinner was served and hosted by NHS members from the class of 2016. A formal candle-lighting ceremony followed with a pledge and recognition of the new members.

Congratulations to the 30 inductees of the Como Park National Honor Society.

Como Park Night highlights school’s academic rigor
Como’s Nov. 12 Advanced Placement (AP) Night was a fun and informational event. Prospective students and their parents learned more about Como’s extensive AP course offerings and curriculum. The school has a deeply embedded culture of AP success, preparing students for college with rigorous coursework. A majority of students test at levels that earn multiple college credits while in high school. College in the Schools (CIS) classes in conjunction with the University of Minnesota are also taught for college credit at Como, and post-secondary educational options are also available.

A student panel spoke of their experiences with Como’s advanced curriculum. The students and Como teachers and administrators answered questions from parents and visiting students.

AOF students are busy
Ninety-fifth Academy of Finance (AOF) students participated in an all-day field trip on Nov. 12 to Junior Achievement in Maplewood for JA Finance Park. Students engaged in a budget simulation with professionals from the finance sector who volunteered their time. On Nov. 17 and 18, 60 AOF freshmen visited AT&T Xerus in Bloomington. They learned about careers at AT&T and the history of cell phones, and they participated in a simulation to help understand the dangers of texting while driving. On Nov. 19, 30 AOF sophomore visited AT&T Marquette in downtown Minneapolis. Students toured the facility, received information about AT&T careers and completed a small group, problem-solving activity. Students also job shadowed employees for part of their workday.

Close Up students will bag groceries at Cub this month
AP Government students participating in the national Close Up/Washington, D.C., program will bag groceries for customers at the Rosville Cub Foods on Larpenteur Avenue for three days in late December. Donations from customers will help defray the cost of the D.C. trip. Students will be working 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19; Wednesday, Dec. 23; and Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Choirs perform pops concert
The Como choirs presented the annual pops concert on Dec. 14 in the auditorium. The Women’s Choir, Men’s Choir, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers all performed music from movies of the students’ birth years. The Concert Choir and Chamber Singers are currently participating in multiple fundraising efforts to help pay for their trip to New York City and a performance in Carnegie Hall.

Shadow a student at Como
Prospective students who are interested in experiencing a day at Como Park Senior High School are invited to shadow a current student. Opportunities for shadowing are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in December, January and February. You can register online at comoees.org. Click “Prospective Students and Parents” under Popular Links. Tours are also available upon request through parent coordinator Sandy Kemper, 651-744-3997.

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

Pilot One-on-One needs tutors
Murray Middle School is looking for tutoring support beginning in December and January.

Tutoring is offered Monday through Friday, during the following hours: Period 5, 11:03 a.m.-12:14 p.m.; Period 6, 12:18-1:07 p.m.; and Period 7, 1:11-2 p.m.

Tutors choose the day(s) and time(s) that work best with their schedule. All volunteers are asked to participate in a 90-minute training and orientation session prior to tutoring.

Contact Cindy Thraher, program coordinator, at 651-744-5232 or cindy.thraher@murraympp.org.

Wolf Ridge Leadership Retreat
Seventy-plus learners, parents and community members went up north in November to attend the annual Wolf Ridge Environmental, Culture and Leadership Retreat. Thank you to teachers Tim Chase and Carrie Bitter for putting in endless hours organizing the event. A big shout out goes to St. Paul Public Schools board member elect Jon Schumacher. He has been supporting this experience for our Murray Pions for years through donations from the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation and as a member of the charmeroone team. Schumacher is the executive director of the foundation.

Finally, kudos to the Wolf Ridge leaders and student participants. Their leadership, learning and commitment to our school makes what it is: an amazing community.

Congratulations all around
Congratulations to all Murray community members for a successful first quarter. Congratulations to all learners who earned honor roll status. Congratulations to Murray’s volleyball team, whose undefeated season earned them the city championship. Congratulations to all students who participated as a member of a sports team; all of our teams had amazing seasons.

Congratulations to our student leadership groups that have made this a great quarter. Congratulations to the Murray band, as they were again invited to play at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Congratulations to all Murray pilots who took risks to try something new as middle school students.

Science fair needs judges
Murray’s annual science fair takes 90 volunteer judges to score and give feedback to the student participants. The science fair will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6-9 p.m. No experience is necessary. Contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-744-3922 or stefanie.folkema@spps.org to find out more.

Yearbooks for sale
Murray Middle School yearbooks cost $16 each. Students can pick up a file from the school office or at lunch. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at yearbookforever.com.

St. Anthony Park Elementary
2180 Knapp St., 651-293-8735
www.stanthonypark.org

It’s new student enrollment time
You can apply to schools online at apply.spps.org between Monday, Jan. 4, and Tuesday, Feb. 16. There will be a New Student Open House at St. Anthony Park Elementary School Thursday, Jan. 28, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

School choice fair is Jan. 9
The all-new Pre-K and Kindergarten School Choice Fair will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Washington Technology Magnet School, 1495 N. Rice St. This event will focus on early-childhood, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten opportunities for St. Paul families.

All-school reunion
Save the date: The St. Anthony Park School Association (SAPSA) will sponsor an all-school reunion party at Urban Growler Brewing Company, 2325 Eideck St., to raise money for the school. The adults-only, cash bar event will be held Friday, Feb. 5, 5-7:15 p.m. It is by design to be a great way to reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

If you would like to co-host or have questions, contact Anita Sever at akordt@comcast.net, or Beth Commers at bethcommers@donjek.com.

HOBIT is back
St. Anthony Park Elementary fourth- and fifth-graders will work with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre during the month of January. Thank you to all who donated to SAPSA and to the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation for making this exceptional experience possible for our students.

Thanks
The St. Anthony Park School Association thanks everyone who participated in the organization’s direct-donation campaign. The money goes directly to student-enrichment programs at the school, from art education to field trips. If you would like to donate directly to SAPSA, go to sapsablog.com and click the “donate now” button.
Como Park Cougars’ winter season heats up

The winter season heats up as devoted student athletes continue to practice and compete through the end of February, with potential state tournaments in March.

Here is a snapshot of each Como Park winter sports program. For full schedules of all teams and all levels, visit sports.spps.org.

Girls basketball

The Lady Cougars are the defending co-champions of the St. Paul City Conference and are seeking an outright championship this season under first year head coach Alexis Gray-Lawson. Senior guard Andrayah Adams, who committed to the University of St. Thomas in New York, leads a hard-working and youthful team. Adams led the state in scoring last year, but she’s not the Cougars’ only offensive option. Sophomore Mikayla Van Nett is a sharp shooter, and several players are opportunistic scorers as well.

Coach Gray-Lawson loves the all-around work ethic of her team. She says that translates into school success and the girls giving back to the community.

Girls hockey

The St. Paul Blades is a cooperative team with players from Highland, Central, Great River, Nova and many key contributors from Como Park. One of the Blades captains is Como senior Brianna Mensen. First-year head coach Ryan Patrick is counting on Mensen for scoring punch and says she’s aiming to tally 20 plus goals this season.

Patrick was pleased with the girls’ off-season commitment and training and says the team’s goal is to “outwork” their opponents. The team understands if they buy into that concept, they will be successful and competitive throughout the season and peaking at the section playoffs.

Gymnastics

The girls gymnastics team is led by senior co-captain Patsy Thayieng and junior co-captain Josie Schermerhorn. Thayieng is a specialist in the beam and floor exercise. Schermerhorn is planning to compete in the all-around competition, which includes the vault and the uneven bars.

A combination of returning gymnasts and newcomers round out the roster led by new head coach Jill Bachmann. Assistant coach Marv Rouse helps with technical training and skills development.

Nordic skiing

St. Paul Park Elementary, Murray Middle and Como Park Senior High alum who is now leading the Como Park wrestling program. Vanderwege has assisted in the program for several years and has great rapport with his student athletes.

Numbers are strong, and there is a core group of experienced and talented wrestlers that will lead the way. The group includes juniors Tha Dah, Kayode Ajas and John Barton and sophomore Drew Barnard. The team’s goals are not oriented to wins and losses but rather on improvement from start to finish. At
New office building goes up near Raymond Station

A new office building is going up at the corner of LaSalle Street and Wabash Avenue near the Green Line’s Raymond Station. Update Co. demolished the vacant trucking facility at the site and a three-story 22,000-square-foot office building, which should be completed in summer of 2016.

Update Co. is a second-generation family business that has been working in the Midway for more than 35 years. The McCann family started by building three apartment buildings and then renovated or constructed 16 commercial buildings in the west part of the Midway. Update Co.’s buildings house more than 100 businesses.

The opening of the Green Line is helping to ensure the company’s continued success, said property manager Sandy Jacobs. The University/Raymond area has always been a great location to do business, but now with the Raymond Station open, more people will know about the neighborhood, she said.

Anchoring the new building will be the Improve Group, which has leased 7,000 square feet. The Improve Group, which is currently leasing space from Update at 700 Raymond Ave., provides research, evaluation, capacity-building, needs assessment, strategic planning, and policy and systems thinking for local, national and international organizations.

International Institute seeks winter clothing donations

The International Institute of Minnesota is collecting new or clean and gently used winter coats, boots, gloves, hats and scarves. For nearly 100 years, the institute has helped immigrants and refugees resettle in their new community.

You can drop off items at the institute, 1694 Como Ave., between 8:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, or at the Sunrise Banks Como Avenue branch, 2300 Como Ave., during business hours.

During the month of January, Sunrise Banks Como Park Perkins coffee bar will be raising money for the organization to help fund supplies, as well as accepting winter clothing items.

Sunrise helps Newgate School

In November, Sunrise Banks donated $5,000 to Newgate School, a nonprofit automotive technical school located at E. Hennepin Avenue and Highway 28.

Since 1975, the school has offered tuition-free auto body and auto mechanics training for unemployed or under-employed young adults. The school helps low-income students become certified as auto technicians in 18 months and the school has an excellent placement rate.

As part of their training, students refurbish donated cars and vans for Newgate’s “Wheels for Women” transportation assistance program. These vehicles are provided at no cost to promising single working moms to help them transition off welfare.
Boys hockey
The Como Cougars are a cooperative team with players from Como and Central joining forces on the ice. Coach David Bakken says the strength of the team is the defensive core with seniors Jack Freier, Matt Hageman, Kevin Smith, Patrick Kolias and junior Charlie Kray.
Senior goalie Truman Emmings has returned to the nets after three years of high school swimming, bringing more mental toughness to the defensive unit.
Juniors Owen Guernchow and Peter Dalgas bring offensive firepower, senior forward Eliot Berven adds intangible skills, and senior Ian Tully is one of the state’s most dynamic playmakers and tenacious competitors.

Boys basketball
Coach John Robinson built up the Como girls basketball program for the last seven years and is now focused on doing the same for the Cougars boys. Under Coach Robinson, the boys are focused on a disciplined man-to-man defense that requires a high work ethic. Early results include two impressive nonconference victories in the first three games.
Academic accountability is the other key point of emphasis for the team. Senior co-captains Demerice Mitchell and Tommy Fritz “set a great example of what a student athlete is,” said Robinson. The team’s goals are set high, as they expect to compete for the conference championship.

Boys swimming
The Como Pool is an energetic place every day after school, as 17 young swimmers train for their competitive meets. The Cougars have been a reliable third-place team in the St. Paul City the last few seasons. However, there are several reasons why the Cougars might move up in the standings. Co-captains Joe McCune-Zierath, a junior, and Cole Napierala, a sophomore, have increased strength and endurance.
Sophomores Graham Thompson, Jared Czech and Noah Friesen return with more experience. Plus there are promising freshmen, including Joe Miller and Frank McGuire. Coach Steve Conery says this group is fit, eager and encouraging of each teammate.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School and a long-time coach of school and youth sports in St. Paul.