By Judy Woodward

It used to be a mattress factory, so you might say that the building at 550 Vandalia St. at the edge of south St. Anthony Park has always been in the dream business. These days, though, the old King Koil factory is fostering the kind of dreams that emerge when young entrepreneurs and artists stay wide awake.

Under the leadership of the First & First Developers of Minneapolis, the renamed Vandalia Tower campus is becoming a hive of activity for arts-related and creative businesses in the area’s burgeoning Creative Enterprise Zone. Vandalia Tower already numbers more than 40 tenants, and the presence of the Green Line Light Rail continues to provide impetus for further development.

Two of the anchor tenants in the Tower are Lake Monster Brewing and the Independent Filmmaker Project Minnesota (IFP MN). Matt Zanetti, director of operations at Lake Monster, which opened its taproom to the public in December, says they looked at “maybe 50 different sites” before he and his partners settled on Vandalia Tower.

“Thi...
Music Under Glass offers music Sundays through February. Come to Falcon Heights Conservatory or Falcon Heights’ Marjorie McNeeley Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Contact 651-792-7650 or www.falconheights.org.

The City of Falcon Heights annual Music Under Glass offers music February 7, 2022, through March 2023. The concerts are free. February’s schedule is as follows:

Feb. 7: Katy Vernon Trio
Feb. 28: The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank

Falcon Heights

The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. to hear Good Acre executive director Rhys Williams and CSA director Sarah Libertus talk about the Good Acre’s mission and how you can participate through its CSAs, farmers markets, and cooking classes.

St. Anthony Park

The St. Anthony Park Community Council is meeting moving out of South St. Anthony Recreation Center at 890 Cromwell Ave to an office space above WorldStone Coffee Bar on the third floor of 2395 University Ave., Suite 300 E. The council will be in the new offices on Monday, Feb. 1.

The 30th annual St. Anthony Park progressive dinner will be held Saturday, Feb. 27.

SAP progressive dinner is Feb. 27. The 30th annual St. Anthony Park 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 Hillside Ave. Then dinners will fan out across the neighborhood to partake in a series of salad, dinner and dessert courses hosted at the homes of progressive dinner participants.

For more information and participant registration, go to www.sapcc.org/event/sap-progressive-dinner or send an email to progressiveeventrep@gmail.com.

New board members

Charlie Christopherson and Max Herzberg have joined the community council. Christopherson will represent the north side of the neighborhood and Herzberg will represent the south.

Black Lives Matter topic of series at Roseville Library

It’s been called one of the most vibrant protest movements in recent history, and it’s attracted its share of cities as well. Join Macalester professor Duchess Harris as she talks about the historical roots of the Black Lives Matter movement in the three-part series, Black Lives Matter: A Movement in Context, at Roseville Methodist Church, 2210 N. Hamline Ave., in February.

The series will be held on three consecutive Tuesdays, Feb. 2, 9 and 16, at 12:30 p.m. The series is free and no registration is required.

The schedule is listed below:

Feb. 2—Part I: Reconstruction to Brown v. Board of Education.
Feb. 9—Part II: Civil Rights to the Clinton Administration
Feb. 16—Part III: Black Lives Matter in the Age of Obama

A compelling speaker as well as a groundbreaking scholar, Harris is the author of the new book, Black Lives Matter, published by Essential Library. The series is co-sponsored by the Other Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Minnesota with financial support from the St. Anthony Park Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Call for artists

The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival is accepting artist applications for the 47th annual event, to be held Saturday, June 4, at the corner of Como and Carter avenues in St. Paul.

The festival includes more than 70 juried artists, music, food, activities, a plant sale and a used book sale. All proceeds support programming at the St. Anthony Park Library.

Applications will close March 4. Artists can apply at www.sapfest.org.

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Falcon Heights park flood-mitigation project awarded

By Roger Byergen

The City of Falcon Heights recently received a 2015 Watershed Steward Award for its efforts to mitigate flooding in Curtiss Field park.

The recognition came from the Capitol Region Watershed District, which also collaborated on the work in the park, located southeast of the intersection of Larpenteur and Snelling avenues.

“It was truly an honor to be named Partner of the Year by the Watershed District,” said Falcon Heights Mayor Peter Lindstrom. “This was an excellent example of two agencies working well together for the benefit of the public.”

The Watershed District is a unit of local government with the mission of managing and protecting the Mississippi River Basin, as well as the bodies of water within its jurisdiction that drain into it. That includes trying to retain a portion of the natural hydrological cycle as possible, getting rainwater into the ground rather than running off.

“There is never an absolute solution to flooding,” said Bob Fossum, engineer with the Watershed District and manager of the Curtiss Field project. “We can’t totally eliminate it, but we can greatly reduce the likelihood, the area of inundation and the duration of the event.”

Curtiss Field gets its name from Curtiss Northwest Airport, the flying field that operated on the site in the 1920s. At that time, the airport’s manager described the field as level, and an aerial photo from 1919 confirms that assessment.

By the 1950s, however, there had been dredging to handle rain runoff as Snelling was widened and residential and commercial development boomed. The lowest area on the site became known as “The Hole,” an informal recreation spot that included a pond that collected storm water. Without an outlet, the pond could lose water only through evaporation or seepage into the ground.

In 1991, a grant from the State of Minnesota was used to create a formal park and enlarge the pond in an effort to deal with the flooding that was becoming increasingly common.

It was the first of several such attempts, none of which were successful. After one particularly heavy storm, two homes on the south side of the park came close to being inundated, a city building in the park was flooded and there was no safety issue, because the unfenced area remained under water for many hours.

Falcon Heights officials already had worked successfully with the Watershed District and asked for its help again.

A feasibility study was conducted and the solution chosen was installing 390 feet of 10-foot perforated pipe beneath the surface of the parkland. Overflow from the pond and storm water feeds into the pipes and subsequently percolates into the ground. A computerized control system monitors National Weather Service data and, when heavy rain is predicted, lowers the pond level to create more room for storm water.

The main portion of the work was completed in 2014, the remainder in 2015. All told, the project cost about $550,000, with the city contributing about one-third and the Watershed District the rest.

The Watershed District is a unit of local government with the mission of managing and protecting the Mississippi River Basin, as well as the bodies of water within its jurisdiction that drain into it. That includes trying to retain a portion of the natural hydrological cycle as possible, getting rainwater into the ground rather than running off.

“The project is expected to be completed in late 2017,” Michael Morrow, Luther Seminary’s vice president of finance and development, said HealthPartners approached the seminary last fall with interest in the property.

HealthPartners to purchase land from seminary for new clinic

The site at corner of Eustis Street and Como Avenue will be home of to a new HealthPartners Como Clinic across from the current clinic.

By Kris Leebrock

HealthPartners announced Jan. 20 that it has reached an agreement to purchase land from Luther Seminary. The land, which is across the street and on the north side of HealthPartners Como Clinic, will be the new location for a new clinic.

That is the same tract of land on which nonprofit developer Ecumen had proposed in September to build a 121-unit apartment building and 112-unit memory-care facility.

HealthPartners land purchase is the first step in a multi-year process that will start with an extensive community engagement and design phase, according to a press release. Groundbreaking is expected to take four years and construction would take an estimated 18 months. The current clinic will continue to offer all services until the new facility opens.

The new building is expected to be roughly the same size as the current clinic and will offer similar services, including primary, specialty and urgent care, dental and pharmacy.

The land purchase is part of Luther Seminary’s plan for long-term development. These plans include a senior housing project with 49 units that will be built by Ecumen and other renovations to the campus.

Ecumen had purchased land to build a three-story senior cooperative on 1.6 acres at the southeast edge of the seminary’s campus just north of the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place. Sales for the cooperative will begin this spring.

The project is expected to be completed in late 2017.

Michael Morrow, Luther Seminary’s vice president of finance and development, said HealthPartners approached the seminary last fall with interest in the property.
Subscriptions are $30 for one year.

Landree, Gabrielle Lawrence, Bob Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamson, Ted organization guided by an elected board of directors.

not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor, writers and contributors do.

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Grieving Members. St. Anthony Park is a community that has a rich mix of what are called family, friends, companion animals and neighbors.

A blend of formal and informal support can be found in support groups, especially those that are linked with community organizations. In 2008, a Council Group was launched at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, started by its then new minister, Victoria Wilgocki, for member caregivers, the Council Group soon had other people from the neighborhood beyond asking if they could attend.

Over time, the group gathered additional sponsors: St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors. Recently, Peace Lutheran Church in Lauderdale and the Church of St. Cecilia added their support.

Caregivers can be defined as family members or close friends who care for someone who has lost abilities to the degree that they are compromised in their daily living. They need care. That care may occur in the care-receiver’s home, a family member’s home (often daughter, son or sibling), or in a group-living facility, such as St. Anthony Park Home. In most cases, the caregiver and care-receiver are in proximity, but there are those who care from a long distance. The caregiver may live here, while the care-receiver may be with a brother in New Jersey or Iowa.

Whatever the case, the caregiver lives day-by-day with stress and concern for another person. Mild to major impairment can be occurring with the care-receiver. Common adult conditions are Parkinson’s, dementia (especially Alzheimer’s), some cancers or congestive heart conditions.

Consider this definition of loss: loss refers to being deprived of or having to cease something that one formerly possessed or to which one was attached. Caregivers, by this definition, can lose conversation, touch, normalcy, a role, friends, future plans and energy given the demands of caregiving. Hence, a support group, skillfully led and linked to community resources, can be a place for support, awareness of resources, off-loading and moving from isolation to community.

Such care is available monthly at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. (See times and dates below.)

Newly launched in January, the Bereavement Group is being offered to anyone grieving a death or deaths. The group is sponsored by the same organizations named above and is open to anyone grieving a death. You do not need to have been part of the Caregiver Group, too.

It’s important to emphasize that the bereavement process may occur soon after a death or occur and continue long after a death. Grief losses or deaths can escape previous deaths. Hence, bereavement care may be for a death long past.

While there is overlap in caregiver and bereavement groups, the differences are major. Caregivers are caring for a living person and all that entails. Those who are bereft are grieving a death and all that entails.

Support for caregivers and those dealing with a death should also be part of what neighbors can provide. Here are some ideas that individuals or households can initiate and provide:

• Cook a hot meal and deliver it.
• Offer to run errands (pick up a prescription, get groceries).
• Find a caregiving colleague at work and offer some of your vacation days.
• Offer to sit with, play games with or go for a walk with the care-receiver.
• Help your neighbor get their technology working well.
• Shovel snow or be a handyman/woman.
• Affirm your congregation’s sponsorship of the caregiver and bereavement groups.

The Caregivers and the Bereavement Groups both meet the first Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Anthony Park UCC, located at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Chelmfield Street. Informational and supportive sessions will also be offered in spring and autumn on Saturday mornings for any caregiver or those grieving deaths. Watch the Bugle for announcements of dates and topics. Questions or comments can be directed to Ted Bowman, one of the coordinators for these groups, at tedbowman71@gmail.com or at 651-645-1836.

Ted Bowman is a member of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Caring is contagious—and empowering

A little bulb-planting advice

Barry Buckley takes aim at the squirrel (“Vet another problem, St. Anthony Park: squirrels,” January 2016), apparently in dismay at the little critters digging up his bulbs. Despair not. Plant your bulbs as deeply as possible. Bulbs usually have a planting depth, so aim for 4 to 6 times the bulb’s thickness above the soil. Leave the soil around the bulb completely, sit back and enjoy.

Jeanne Wegman, manager Great Plains Landscape Architects Minneapolis, S.D.

District 12’s ADU task force members worked hard and deserve praise

I want to take this opportunity to thank a select few of my neighbors. Over the past couple of years, this neighborhood has had a discussion about accessory dwelling units (ADUs). This topic has occasionally been of controversy. We still have neighbors who feel strongly about this issue and disagree.

One thing that is not in dispute is the tremendous effort that was done recently by some of our neighbors, the members of the ADU task force. Our neighborhood task force was appointed by our local St. Paul planning district, the St. Anthony Park Community Council. Specifically, it was appointed by the members of the council's Land Use Committee. I was on the committee and the council board of directors at the time of their appointment. I know that the task force members met many times and sacrificed a great deal of their time in volunteering their best for all of us, to serve all of our interests.

The scope of their task was deliberately left vague: what is the appropriateness of ADUs in St. Anthony Park—all of St. Anthony Park. The discussion of ADUs can be complex, with many variables in terms of how they can be constructed, which types of ADUs, and it involves zoning jargon I will not get into here. What I mean to say is this: it was not an easy task, even if it were not controversial. They had much to consider.

But of course, it was controversial. Prior to the task force being appointed, the community council hosted a few meetings and these were well-attended and included some spirited discussions among neighbors. Even before their work began, I greatly appreciated those who applied for the task force. Some might wonder, who would be willing to do this?

Thank you to the members of our ADU task force. I appreciate you. I appreciate all the time you took to meet, to research, to hold your public meetings, taking of notes, everything. Thank you for stepping up during a time of need. Thank you also for setting a great example in your public comments, both in front of the Land Use committee while I served and at your own public meetings. You rose above controversy and showed how St. Anthony Park works together.

Brad Engelmann St. Anthony Park

Hats off to the City Council for restricting flavored tobacco

I am proud that the St. Paul City Council adopted an ordinance restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products. As a public health professor who has spent years researching prevention of commercial tobacco use, I know this policy will reduce youth tobacco use. When this ordinance takes effect in April, fruity and candy-flavored tobacco products will not be sold in stores where kids can enter. Research shows reducing access to tobacco products decreases youth tobacco use.

The tobacco industry has a long history of promoting their products to young people. About nine in ten adult smokers began smoking before they were 18 years old. The tobacco industry knows it needs to attract young people in order to remain profitable. Strawberry-kwi- and mango-flavored cigarrillos and electronic cigarettes are one way the tobacco industry attempts to add young people and attract a lifelong customer. Unfortunately, the consequences are not realized until after the person is fully addicted.

I am thankful the City of St. Paul took bold action to reduce the tobacco industry’s influence on our young people. Reducing access to these candy-flavored products is the next step in preventing kids from beginning a dangerous addiction.

Joan L. Forzar

Comy Park

4 P A R K  B U G L E  ■  F E B R U A R Y  2 0 1 6

COMMENTARY

Welcome to the Bugle editorial page, the place where we exchange ideas and opinions. The views reflected in the comments in this paper are those of the individual writers. We encourage community participation on this page. Bugle contact information is in the box at left.
Pinball geezer (how do you think he does it?)

By Adam Groanger

Throughout my adult male life, I’ve entertained the notion of owning a pinball machine, but there have always been impediments against getting one—purchase cost, space needed and expense of maintenance paramount among them. Thus did the pinball-acquisition dream languish on my bucket list (the other two items include my plan to run for Congress and my dream of opening a mambo studio). No pinball machine for Adam.

Until, that is, one August evening, when I returned home to find my 38-year-old son, Ben, playing pinball in my garage. Happy birthday, Dad! He had bought me a “pin” (as aficionados call it) and, mind you, not some Smurf-themed tabletop battery-operated toy, but a real, 6-foot-tall, 300-pound pinball machine. And not just any pinball machine, but my favorite of all time (a fact which I apparently had revealed to Ben in a prior conversation).

My son buying me this machine—a 1977 Mata Hari made by the Bally Manufacturing Co. of Chicago—int’s quite the random act of kindness it seems. He’s a tournament pinball player who has been ranked first in Minnesota for most of the last two years. He and his girlfriend, Jackie, travel to compete in tournaments. (I’m jealous; they own 12 machines. (When I first met Jackie, I asked if she was into pinball as Ben was. She held up her arms to reveal flippers tattooed on the undersides of her wrists.)

Pinball reached to peak of popularity in the three decades preceding the proliferation of video games in the mid-’70s, after which it ebbed but never quite disappeared. There are currently only two companies making pins, but there are, of course, hundreds of thousands of machines still in good nick out there. One of the larger agglomerations in the Twin Cities can be found at Blaisdell Bowl, in Blaine, which hosts regular tournaments played on some 50 machines. Private holdings dwarf that figure, with hundreds of pin owners scattering through the metro area alone. One collector in a western Twin Cities suburb owns more than 100 machines, all in working order. Closer to home, several St. Anthony Park residents own pins, including my neighbor, who has a Bally Eight Ball Deluxe.

So there was Mata Hari, sitting in my garage. Acquisition realized. For the nonce, it was fine which it was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was looming, and I didn’t need to be Enrico Fermi to have a good sense that pinball machines and subzero temperatures don’t mix. Miraculously, the 21-square-foot space needed was created by reconfiguring one of our upstairs areas needed as created by temperates don’t mix.

Enrico Fermi to have a good sense of keeping cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?), but winter was as (and who uses their garage to keep cars in, anyway?)
We love you, Bugle readers

We are so grateful to our supporters. You’ve helped us raise more than $4,000 above our $3,000 goal for the Park Bugle’s 2015-16 fund drive.

We thank all of you who have contributed, including the following people and businesses who gave between Dec. 1 and Jan. 13. The nonprofit Bugle would not be here without your contributions. We rely on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper’s annual operating costs. And, of course, we are always happy to accept more contributions. 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.

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Sixth annual Bugle poetry contest deadlines on Friday, March 4

P Owed: It’s time to sharpen your pencils and start thinking about the sixth annual Park Bugle poetry contest.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 4. The top three winning entries will be published in the April issue of the Bugle in honor of National Poetry Month. All submissions will be pooled on the Bugle website. This year’s prompt is privilege.

Here are the contest particulars:

• Poems can take any form you choose.
• The contest is limited to one submission per person and it must be received by March 4.
• The word privilege does not have to appear in your poem. Use the word as inspiration to go in any direction it takes you.

The contest is open to all Bugle readers. Current Bugle employees and Park Press board members and their families are not eligible to enter. Send poems to Editor, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or to editor@parkbugle.org.

The poems will be judged anonymously by a local poet. First place wins a gift certificate to a local business.
Neighborhood Honor Roll named in St. Paul Districts 10 and 12

Five Como Park and St. Anthony Park residents were placed on the City of St. Paul’s Neighborhood Honor Roll in January. Each year, residents of all 17 districts in the city are encouraged to nominate neighbors who make their neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play. The award recipients will be honored at a celebration at the University of St. Thomas on Jan. 29. District 10 honorees are Roger Bergerson, Frank Dolejsi and Teri Heyer. The District 12 honorees are Daniel Sarasti and Betty Wheeler. Learn more about each honoree below.

Roger Bergerson is a historian and former Pioneer Press reporter who grew up in Como and is now “an exemplary resident of and ambassador for our neighborhood,” his supporters say.

Publicly, he is known for exploring and sharing the neighborhood’s heritage—through articles on Como history that he writes regularly for the Park Bugle, through popular presentations and through his book, Winged A, which tells the story of the airport that used to exist at Snelling and Larpenteur avenues, the state’s first.

Privately, Bergerson’s activities include helping to take care of an elderly neighbor. “For the last several years, he has been taking this gentleman twice a week on errands to shop, bank and visit the library,” his nominators say. “Even when facing his own health challenges recently, he made sure this man’s needs were being met. Rog demonstrates true neighborhood every day.”

Frank Dolejsi is another one of those retirees who hasn’t slowed down. The 30-year Como resident is a Master Gardener who uses his talents, knowledge and commitment to environmental stewardship not only at home but in the community as well.

He is a member of the District 10 board who has served on the Land Use Capital Improvement Budget committee. Dolejsi now chairs the district’s Environment Committee. As chair, he oversees a wide range of citizen initiatives, including several designed to protect and ultimately improve the water quality of Lake Como. Most recently, he is spearheading efforts to increase organic composting by neighborhood residents and to establish a convenient food-waste drop-off site in the neighborhood.

Dolejsi is a frequent volunteer at neighborhood events, whether he’s wearing his “Como Composts” shirt or not.

Betty Wheeler is longtime member of the St. Anthony Park community. She has been an immense asset to District 12. Betty goes above and beyond in her service to the community, especially in regard to environmental and transportation issues. From single-handedly securing an air-quality monitoring station in South St. Anthony Park to spearheading grant proposals, Wheeler offers support and leadership on a wide variety of community projects. She not only leads on community initiatives, she builds community through her both passionate and inclusive attitude.

Daniel Sarasti embodies community engagement. Whenever the neighborhood needs more hands on deck, Sarasti volunteers first. From helping to plant rain gardens and plant medians, to attending all community functions, Sarasti makes sure he stands up to help on any project.

“W e brought Ecumen and HealthPartners together and sat the three parties down,” Morrow said. “As we looked at options, it became clear that the better use of the property was to go with HealthPartners.”

“In the future, HealthPartners is very committed to this area,” he said. Como Clinic opened in 1957 as the first clinic for what was then Group Health. It was a new model that provided both medical care and health care financing. The model focused on prevention and maintaining health as a way to reduce medical expenses and make care more affordable. In 1992, Group Health merged with MedCenters to become HealthPartners.
Como by the Lake residents celebrate complex’s new owners

By Kristal Leebrick

Residents of Como by the Lake apartments packed the social room of the building during a reception Jan. 14 that celebrated their new landlords and the end of fears that they may have to move.

Nonprofit housing developer Aeon closed on the purchase of the building on Jan. 4. This story began last April when residents were informed that the owners of the building, which houses mostly elderly and disabled residents, was selling the building and not renewing the Section 8 contract which gives federal subsidies to help keep rents low.

Fifty-seven of the 99 units in the 30-year-old building are under a Section 8 contract. With the help of the tenants organization, HOMEline, Big Bundroo and other elected officials, and the District 10 Como Community Council, the tenants organized and got their news out in the city and neighborhood press.

“We became important to the community,” Tromsdon-Simmons said.

In August, Aeon announced a purchase agreement had been signed and the organization closed on the property Jan. 4.

“Arthur said he was “impressed by the fortitude of the residents” when they came into his office last spring and said, “We need your help.”

“We are excited to start on this journey together,” he said, “but this isn’t just about Como by the Lake. It’s happening all over the country.”

Section 8 contracts are expiring and residences that had been kept affordable for low-income residents are disappearing.

That has prompted Brendemoen to work with Rep. Betty McCollum to gather a list of all Section 8 contracts in St. Paul and the state that are nearing renewal and work with the owners to keep them in the program, “so we can prevent the alarm that happened here,” she said.

Music in the Park announces 2016 Family Concert schedule

The Schubert Club’s Music in the Park series opens its 26th season of Family Concerts on Friday, March 4, with the Twin Cities-based brass quintet Copper Street Brass. Created for children of all ages and their families, the interactive concerts are held at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., in St. Anthony Park at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Suggested donation is $5. For more information, call 651-292-3268 or go to schubert.org/family.

Here is the concert schedule:

• Friday, March 4, Copper Street Brass, “A Brassy Night at the Movies”
• Friday, April 15, Chiara String Quartet, “Mole Music Live!”
• Friday, May 13, Lau Hawaiian Collective, “Being Aloha: A Musical Journey to Hawai’I”

Cellist Julie Albers to perform at February Music in the Park concert

The Schubert Club’s Music in the Park Series will present cellist Julie Albers with pianist Orion Weiss on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

Albers, who joined the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra this season as principal cello, is recognized for her superlative artistry and charismatic performing style. In addition to solo and orchestral performances, Albers regularly participates in chamber music festivals around the world. Her Twin Cities recital debut in the Music in the Park Series will feature works by Janacek, Poulenc, Beethoven and Grieg.

One of the most sought-after young American pianists, Orion Weiss has performed with major orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Tickets are $30 for adults and $12 for student rush. There is a limited availability. Buy tickets online at schubert.org/musicinthepark or call 651-292-3268.

For more information on the Schubert Club and its programs please visit schubert.org.
Falcon Heights Hollywood Court neighborhood is off beaten path

By Roger Bergerson

It’s likely that many of the motorists who regularly whiz by on Snelling Avenue in Falcon Heights have never noticed a residential enclave on the west side of the busy street.

Tucked in between the TIES Education Technology Collaborative on the north and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds land to the south, Hollywood Court isn’t easy to spot or get to.

“Visitors will say, ‘How neat, I didn’t even know this was here,’” says longtime resident Judy Bailey.

When Jay Axelrod, an architect and builder, put what he initially called Cross Roads Court on the market in 1928, much of the surrounding area was agricultural fields and Snelling was just a two-lane road. That June an estimated 25,000 people made the trek to see the development’s model home in a two-week period.

“Cross Roads” drew on the name of the mansion that stood at the Snelling entrance, Axelrod platted 26 home sites and designated a 40-foot boulevard down the center of the site as green space that all the homes would face. Traffic would follow a roadway encircling the addition and “thus every home will face on a quiet, beautiful park unmired by unsightly automobiles.”

Besides an ornamental gateway at the Snelling entrance, Axelrod planned an arbor at the west end of Hollywood Court and a fountain in the middle. Part of his sales pitch was that only county taxes would apply, since the development was beyond the St. Paul city limits.

Thirty local firms contributed goods and services to the construction of the model home, said to be the first in St. Paul with linoleum floors throughout and textured and tinted plaster walls.

Within weeks, a St. Paul Daily News headline announced “Cross Roads Court Model Dwelling Is Bought by Woman.” It turned out that Mrs. Dagmar Hoffsbeck, Axelrod’s most ambitious undertaking up to that point. The land had been part of “the beautiful Snyder estate” to the north and was directly across Snelling from an airport, Curtis Northwest Field, today the site of Curtis Field Park.

Axelrod platted 26 home sites and designated a 40-foot boulevard down the center of the site as green space that all the homes would face. Traffic would follow a roadway encircling the addition and “thus every home will face on a quiet, beautiful park unmired by unsightly delivery trucks and safe for children to play in without risk from automobiles.”

Neighborhood residents, left to right, Judy Bailey, Briana Vogen and Roger Allen shown in front of the one-time model home, now owned by Vogen.
It’s a long street, but not that long

After the Park Bugle published an article about Auguste Larpenteur (“Larpenteur got a street named after him, but not the one he wanted” January 2016 issue) Falcon Heights Mayor Peter Lindstrom told us of a modern-day “French Connection.”

In summer 2011, some 175 Larpenteur relations from the United States and France gathered in St. Paul and one of the reunion events was held at the Ramsey County Historical Society’s Gibbs Farm, Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues.

There, Lindstrom presented the group with a Larpenteur street sign that today adorns a vineyard wall in Thomery, France, the Larpenteur ancestral home.—Roger Bergerson

Calling All Neighbors

We are reaching out to local residents, offering the opportunity to be part of this exceptional lifestyle. As an owner-occupied cooperative community, for ages 62+, the proposed Zegea St. Anthony Park will have 49 homes and be located just off of Como and Luther Place. Construction is anticipated to start late 2016.

Join our interest list as we finalize development plans and details to be announced this spring! 2016

Como Park High School Showcase Night!

Prospective students and families are invited to visit and learn about all the great academic and extra-curricular opportunities at Como!

Thursday, February 4
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Como Park Senior High School
740 W. Rose Ave., St. Paul • 651-293-8800
Theresa Neal, Principal

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MN ADOPT supports families before, during and after adoption

St. Anthony Park-based group is a hub of resources for families dealing with a variety of adoption-based issues.
Vandalia Tower from 1

the Pioneer Press in January. Zanetti’s personal favorite is Untethered Sour Brown Ale, which is riding a popularity boom let of its own.

“People’s palates are evolving,” Zanetti says, “and sour beer is now a big thing.”

For those who want a snack with their beer, the Lake Monster website, lakemonsterbrewing.com, maintains a schedule of the various food trucks that park outside their building daily.

Zanetti and brew master Matt Lange agree that they want the pub to reflect their unpretentious, friendly values. For example, Lange says that they’re looking forward to instituting what they call Acoustic Tuesdays, when they’ll offer live music that’s “relaxed, gentle . . . jazz or folk.”

Lange adds that their customers are a “total mix,” ranging from college students to families to passersby from the neighborhood. Their pub even features a children’s play area where beer-drinkers of the distant future can enjoy toys and games while their parents are having a quiet lunch and conversation.

We want to be part of the community,” says Zanetti. “We’re welcoming to everybody. You don’t have to be a craft beer enthusiast when you come. There’s always time to become one once you taste our beer.”

Across the parking lot from the brewery, IFP MN deputy director Reilly Tillman says their organization is also looking to welcome the community.

“There’s something here for everyone,” says Tillman, even if you don’t want to make movies.”

Although the organization does house a photography gallery, most of its members do, in fact, aspire to some sort of role in film-making. IFP MN offers a wide range of classes and technical support for those who want to learn the craft.

“One of our primary goals,” says Tillman, “is to educate people in the tools of film-making with a focus on storytelling.” IFP MN also offers a computer-editing lab and equipment rental to its members.

“We serve everyone from hobbyists to beginning professionals,” says Tillman.

Many of the students do go on to professional careers, and the IFP MN offices are decorated with posters of movies on which former students have worked. Although Minnesota’s pre-eminent film-makers, brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, have never belonged to IFP MN, several members of the organization worked on A Serious Man, the locally made film about St. Louis Park in the 1960s that Tillman calls his favorite Coen Brothers production. Tillman points with pride to posters for the 2005 film Sweet Land (directed by long time IFP MN member Ali Selim from a short story by Minnesota author Will Weaver) and the award-winning Dear White People (filmed in Minnesota and edited at IFP MN).

More recently, IFP MN helped jury and organize the 2016 MNTV series of short works by Minnesota filmmakers. Although Tillman wasn’t part of the selection committee, he’s eager to put in a word for one of the winning films, IFP MN veteran Michael Forstein’s Meat, a “quirky film about a college grad who takes a job selling meat door-to-door.”

Filmed under harsh Minnesota winter conditions, Meat is not only a technical tour-de-force where “snow adds to the impact of the film,” says Tillman, but it’s also a “plug for making movies in Minnesota.”

IFP MN, which grew out of the 1970s Twin Cities film society, has been a fixture of the Twin Cities art scene for many years. It moved from its previous location at University Avenue and Pelham Boulevard to the Vandalia Tower complex in June 2015.

“It’s night and day being here in terms of our relationship to First & First,” Tillman says. “They love artists and arts organizations.” [Vandalia Tower] is becoming a hub for artists of all disciplines.

That hub of artists includes nearly 40 creative industries ranging from small marketing groups, a recording studio, a coffee roaster, a theater group and Adventures in Cardboard, a group that leads play-focused arts workshops for kids using, of course, cardboard.

That suits Dee Horwitz. She’s the 89-year-old author of Who Made My Bed? (Universe, 2010), a history of the U.S. Bedding Company, the mattress maker who occupied the Vandalia premises from 1928 until the company was sold in the mid-1980s. Horwitz is the widow of one of the grandchildren of Samuel Bronstein, the Russian-Jewish immigrant founder of the company. Like all male members of the family, Horwitz’s husband, Don, worked in the business, and Horwitz had a ringside seat on the inner workings of the company made famous by their trademark King Koil logo—an anthropomorphic bedspring bearing a scepter and wearing a jaunty crown. (See the accompanying sidebar.)

Horwitz remembers that in her day the factory atmosphere was “unpretentious, with no special offices” for the Bronstein men who ran the place.

“They were a nice family . . . interested in the arts,” she says. Asked what the Bronstiens would think of the latest transformation of the building, Horwitz says, “They’d be delighted that great things are happening there again.”

When she’s not writing about community news, Judy Woodard spends her time as a reference librarian at the Roseville Library.

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The water tower outside the complex serves as a beacon at night. Photo by Becky Kapell

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The King Koil trademark now belongs to others, but the faded logo can still be seen on an old sign at the entrance to the Vandalia Tower complex. It’s a name that has sold mattresses for close to 80 years, but the story of its origins is as memorable as anything brought to the screen at IFP MN.

According to Dee Horwitz’s account in the company history “Who Made My Bed?”, it was during the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s when the owners of the not-very-memorably-named U.S. Bedding Company decided they needed a catchy new brand name for their redesigned mattress. The Bronstien family hit on the idea of sponsoring a public naming contest with a $25 grand prize.

Hundreds of entries poured in from all around the Midwest, and the judges soon settled on a winner. Miss Erla Bell Thompson of North Dakota was summoned to St. Paul to collect her prize. When her train pulled into the St. Paul depot, company officers plus photographers and advertising representatives were all there to meet her. It was a middle-aged, all-male, all-white welcome committee, and when train doors slid open, out stepped a 13-year-old African-American girl.

The shock was palpable. In those distant days, diversity wasn’t exactly high on the public agenda, and no one knew that better than the family of an immigrant Jewish businessman who was never completely sure of his welcome in Scandinavian Minnesota. The plans for a publicity campaign were quietly shelved, and young Miss Thompson was sent home with her $25 prize. But the name of her winning entry, King Koil, caught on, and the rest is mattress history.

The story does not end there, however. Many years later, one of the men who had been at the train station that day was now president of the company. One day Edward Bronstien happened to flip through an issue of Ebony magazine in a doctor’s waiting room. On the masthead he saw the name of the journal’s international editor—Erla Bell Thompson. Recognizing her name at once, he sent her a note—although the account doesn’t record whether it contained an apology. Thompson responded, in Horwitz’s words, with “a warm and gracious reply” in which she “explained that the money had gone to further her education.”
Events

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

1 MONDAY
Old-Line 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. Extra spindles will be available for beginners.

2 TUESDAY
Baby/toddler story time, infants to 2 years old, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30-noon.

3 WEDNESDAY
English Conversation Circles, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m. St. Anthony Park Book Club, “Station Eleven,” by Emily St. John Mandel, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:45 p.m. All interested spinners are encouraged to bring their wheels and spindles. Extra spindles will be available for beginners.

4 THURSDAY
Craftive Support Group, First Lutheran of each month, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10-11:30 a.m.
Busuness Support Group, First Lutheran of each month, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10-11:30 a.m.
Parishioner story time in Macedonian, Chinese, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Dilegno Tommaturi meets every Thursday, Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

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

19 FRIDAY
Parishioner story time, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Game Day with St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m. and 11:30-noon.
Women’s Travel is for Travelers, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-4 p.m. All welcome. Free.
Women’s Human Rights Film Series: “Llévate Mis Amores (All of Me),” by Emily St. John Mandel, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

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

29 MONDAY
Old-Line 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. Extra spindles will be available for beginners.

VENUE INFORMATION
Author Event Senior Apartments, 675 Mendota Ave. W.
Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 1570 W. Larpenteur Ave.
Lindenwood City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 651-645-0300
McKale’s Books, 2235 Carter Ave., 651-646-7306
Oxley Commons Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Follow St.
St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2245 Carter Ave., 651-642-0411
St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m.

FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors: Wednesdays, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 11:30 a.m.-noon
Como Park/Falken Heights Block Nurse Program: Third Thursdays, Avalon Point Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.
Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon

SUNDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE
11:00 a.m.

The Community Art Show will be a juried show this year. Prizes will be awarded as follows: $150, Best of Show; $150, First place; $75, second place; and $50, third place.
In addition, awards sponsored by local businesses will be given for the best work in each of the following categories: photography, oil or acrylic, watercolor and other (print, textile, pottery, paper, 3-D, etc.).
These will be awarded at the opening reception Sunday, Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m. For more information, contact Janet Murphy, at janmurphywdc.com.
Pastor Glenn Berg-Moberg celebrates 30 years in ministry

The congregation at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of Pastor Glenn Berg-Moberg’s ordination into the ministry Dec. 13. His ministry has been characterized by excellence in preaching and music, among many other strengths.

He has been senior pastor of the congregation since he arrived in 2001. That means he has done the majority of the preaching when there was no associate pastor, and he still shares that responsibility with Jill Rode, the current associate pastor.

When Berg-Moberg was asked what parts of ministry bring him the most joy, he replied: “Preaching, particularly when I find out what people have done or decided when they have been influenced by a sermon. When that happens, I can sense the Holy Spirit is moving through the congregation as the word is proclaimed. I don’t take personal credit for this. I always remember that Jonah’s sermon to the people of Nineveh was possibly the worst sermon ever delivered in the history of preaching, but God still used it for good.”

“What gives me joy is seeing and hearing about the ways congregation members care for one another,” he continued. “What gives me joy is singing in a crowd of worshippers who are united both in the singing and in service to the world that grows out of hearing the Good News at worship. Baptisms. Potlucks. Kids who brighten up the congregation with their beauty and innocence.”

As senior pastor, Berg-Moberg does the majority of hospital and home visits, handles a variety of counseling requests, oversees a staff of 10, meets with the church cabinet monthly and serves on synod committees. He also handles most of the funerals in the parish.

The more I’m around Pastor Glenn the more I appreciate his sublevy,” said Andy Sackreiter, congregation president. “He’s thoughtful in his messages without necessarily delivering a black or white outcome. He guides and nudges and leaves space for people to draw their own conclusions. In this complex world I appreciate feeling like I have a partner who can help with navigating tough questions, not by giving me the answer but by giving me tools to find the answer myself.”

“Also, Glenn is a great songwriter and can remember an absurd number of song lyrics.”

In 2011, Berg-Moberg was awarded a Lily Endowment sabbatical leave to follow the missionary journeys of Paul, sailing the Aegean Sea. The pastor’s teaching and preaching were greatly enriched by this experience, plus it just so nicely with his great love of sailing.

Before coming to St. Anthony Park in 2001, Berg-Moberg served St. John Lutheran Church in Janesville, Wis., and First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam, Wis.

At the celebration service in December, Berg-Moberg was pleased that Dr. Fred Gaiser (a congregation member and former professor at Luther Seminary) was able to preach. Gaiser used the Old Testament text chosen by Berg-Moberg for his ordination Dec. 8, 1985. At that service, the late Dr. Loren Halvorson, also a seminary professor, had preached.

To celebrate this timely anniversary in a more relaxed way, the congregation hosted an open house at the Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott in St. Anthony Park, that afternoon.—Mary Megensahl

Bow Art Gallery to host artist talk by Robert Dulvri Jan. 28

Bow Art Gallery will host an artist’s talk by Robert Dulvri Thursday, Jan. 28, 6-9 p.m. at the gallery, located at 2242 W. University Ave. Dulvri will introduce new insights and “results” from his Theoretical Aesthetic Research.

Dulvri will also provide details and insights into his fundraising public art of politics, fantasy politics project, “The End of Hope and Change in America,” and related Kickstarter campaign, both of which are in progress. The project involves

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Se minary Sampler
Saturday, Feb. 20

Carla Dahl, Professor of Congregational and Community Care Leadership—“Purity,Disagreement, and Love: Welcoming the Other”

Paul Daniels, Archivist/Curator—“Preserve the Reformation: Luther, Cranach and the Power of the Visual”

Dirc Langle, Associate Dean, CTE, Associate Professor of Worship, Chair of History/Theology Division—“Sacramental Disruption: Liturgy and Life in Nineteenth Century Lutheran”

Luther Seminary, Olson Campus Center 1400 Dulham St., St. Paul, Minnesota

Please register by Monday, Feb. 15
“The O.T. Is Life and Literature”

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Morris at 651-646-3847 or lmorris@lutherseminary.edu
Neighbours from 15

sending 44, social media–exhibited works of “Art as Research,” i.e. POTUS 44 to President Obama at the White House during his final year in office. The project is intended as a catalyst for an energized public art conversation.

There will be a drawing for a piece of original work by the artist and, depending on the turnout, Delart will also engage the attendees in creating a participatory work of art during the talk.

Contact Khanh Tran, 612-607-9205, for details.

Garden plots open at Merrian Station Community Garden

It’s time to apply for a community garden plot at Merrian Station Community Garden. Email mscg@unioneastparkdc.org to find out how to apply.

Mothers First program seeks childcare, driving volunteers

The Mothers First program provides prevention and intervention services for pregnant women who are abusing chemicals. The goal is to produce healthy infants through drug-free births and healthy families by reducing the chemical usage of pregnant women through intensive in-home involvement. The project has been in existence since 1990 and has had a success rate of 85 to 87 percent as measured by the total number of births and babies born drug-free.

Mothers First is seeking a child care assistant volunteer to help agency staff in providing care for children while mothers attend counseling sessions. Volunteer drivers are also needed to provide transportation to mothers in recovery to and from item s to the lending collection of the organization, visit One Bright Star online or go to www.rclfriends.org, call 651-645-2948 or go to namihelp.org.

Valentine’s at Marjorie

This Valentine’s Day, enjoy a candlelit dinner in the warm confines of Como Park’s Marjorie McNeely Conservatory’s indoor gardens. String musicians will play while guests enjoy a dinner that includes salad, a hearty double entree, dessert, and two glasses of wine or beer. 

Reservations are being accepted for the event, which will take place on Friday, Feb. 12; Saturday, Feb. 13; and Sunday, Feb. 14. The cost is $170 per couple. For more information, to make a reservation or to view the menu, visit www.comoconservatory.org.

Irish music center hosts Eigse

The Center for Irish Music (CIM), Peter Killen of Cara Irish Pubs and Claire Killen of Emerald Real Estate will celebrate Minnesota’s Irish music roots at Eigse CIM, a Gaelic Event, Saturday, Feb. 20, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave., St. Paul. Eigse (pronounced “eg-shuh”) is an Irish word for a celebration of traditional Irish music and culture. The semi-annual fundraiser includes dinner provided by Cara Irish Pubs, a silent auction, a raffle, and traditional Irish music concert, featuring the acclaimed musicianship of Center of Irish Music instructors. Guests have two ticket options: a sit-down dinner beginning at 7 p.m. ($60) or silent auction reception and concert beginning at 7 p.m. ($25).

Tickets, $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Buy tickets at thecelticjunction.com or call 612-874-8892. A student discount is available.

Learn about pollinators March 8

The Pollinator Friendly Alliance and Pollinate Minnesota will hold People for Pollinators symposium Tuesday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at D’Jazdza Lodge, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul.

Attendees will learn about pollinators and their relationship to birds, wildlife, crops, and farm and urban habitat, pesticides and advocacy issues. Presenters will include global pollinator and organic advocate Jared Riddle; Sarah Joltz, pollinator conservation specialist for the Xerces Society; Dan Arnoldi, conservation program director for Isaac Walton League; Lex Horan, Midwest organizer with Pesticide Action Network; Dr. Vera Krischik, director of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability; and Robert Engstrom of the Urban Land Institute and the Sensible Land Use Coalition.

Lunch will be provided by Birchwood Café, the Lone Grazer Creamery and Red Table Meats. Register and learn more at www.pollinatorfriendly.org.

Spending Valentine’s Day with Ten Strings and a Goat Skin

A bilingual traditional folk fusion trio from Prince Edward Island will perform on Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave., St. Paul. The band weaves the music of the Irish, Scottish, Acadian, Francophone and Maritime cultures and their original creations with modern and world rhythms.

February 14, Music will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 advanced or $20 at the door. Buy tickets at thecelticjunction.com or call 612-874-8892. A student discount is available.

Alan Kelly Gang kicks off American tour St. Paul

The Alan Kelly Gang will kick off its nine-city American tour in St. Paul, Friday, March 4, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The band’s 11th album, “Turn for the Light,” is out and advance in $20 at the door. Buy tickets at thecelticjunction.com or call 612-874-8892.

PARK BUGLE ■ FEBRUARY 2016

16

Neighbours from 15

Packard, Naoimi Kempcke and Sadie March.

Station Community Garden.

childcare, driving volunteers

Langford Park took second place in December in the MYAS Brooklyn Center Basketball Tournament, Fourth Grade Girls Division. Pictured here are coach David Blank, Alan Patterson, Alice Wagner-Hemstad, Ellery Tennison and Mairin Blank. Two members missing from the photo are coach Nat Hemstad, Ashley Hartl, Naomi Kempcke and Sadie March.

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Richard Brust
Richard Waldo Brust, 93, formerly of Falcon Heights, died peacefully Jan. 5 with his family around him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Waldo Brust, and sister, Virginia Peison. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Joan; five children, John, Nancy (Shepard), Rick, Nan Michaud (Mike) and Barbra; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

As a 40-year employee of 3M, Dick started and became corporate vice president of the Tax Division. He grew up in New Richmond, Wis., earned an accounting degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a JD from William Mitchell. He was a golfer, hunter and avid collector of duck decoys, a Shitter and president of the National Tax Association in 1986-87. He made connections with people wherever he went. He loved leading his family in multi-part harmonies, and led a full and wonderful life.

The family thanks his Allina Hospice team and caregivers at the Episcopal Homes. A celebration of Dick’s life will be held June 4 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.

Dennis Grebner
Dennis William Grebner, FAIA, was born in Faribault, Minn., on Dec. 19, 1932. He lived in St. Anthony Park for many years. He died at Rochester Mayo on Dec. 16 after battling an aggressive form of acute myeloid leukemia.

He found a passion for architecture early in life. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1955 and continued onto Harvard Graduate School of Design with a full scholarship and received a master’s degree. He became a member of the American Institute of Architects, Twin Cities Chapter, and later held office. In 1988, he became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, of which he was extremely proud.

Dennis was a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture for 32 years. He helped course revisions, development, curriculum design, as well as Extension classes for the U. While at the U, he taught in France with English architect Gordon Cullen and produced both academic and professional publications.

He was a guest lecturer for workshops in many locations, including Johns State College of Design, the American Institute of Architecture, the Walker Art Center, Rhode Island School of Design and MIT. He held many professional jobs, working a short time with Harry Weese in Chicago and with I.M. Pei in New York before he founded Community Planning and Design Associates in 1959. After the company closed, he opened Grebner Associates in 1978.

He received various awards, including the MS/VAIA Design Award and National Schools Design Award, for his progressive architecture on projects such as the Control Data headquarters in Bloomington, Adams Elementary School in St. Paul and West Saint Paul shopping center.

After his retirement from the U, he and his wife moved to their farm in the Maiden Rock Township in Wisconsin. He saw that his yard was manicured and his vegetable garden was planted. He found joy in many things: classical music, reading, traveling, gardening, wood working, drawing, water coloring and volunteering for the Habitat for Humanity in St. Paul and Guatemala. He dedicated much of his time to these passions.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; sons, Kurt, Erich and Peter; daughter, Michelle; daughter-in-law, Karry; and five grandchildren, Bryan, Greg, Jeffrey, Will and Berta.

Lisa Griffin
Lisa Carlson Griffin, 62, died from complications of multiple myeloma on Dec. 22. Lisa was born March 23, 1953, in Sidney, Mont., to Joyce and Harley Carlson and lived there until age 5. Lisa spent her early years on the plains of eastern Montana growing time with her maternal grandparents on the farm where her mother had been raised.

The Carlson family moved to Rochester, Minn., in 1958. Lisa spent her formative years there, graduating from John Marshall High School in 1971. After high school she graduated started college at St. Olaf in Northfield, Minn., and after two years, transferred to the University of Montana and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology.

Following graduation she moved to Columbia, Mo., for graduate studies and obtained her master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Missouri. During her graduate studies Lisa participated in archaeological surveys and excavations in the Midwest and Northern Plains. She also served as an archivist at the Missouri State Historical Society and the Western Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri.

While in graduate school, Lisa met her future husband, David. They were married in 1979 in Rochester, Minn. Their first daughter, Betti, was born in Columbia in 1982, and their second daughter, Kirsten, was born in Rochester in 1983.

In 1983 the Griffin family moved to St. Paul and raised their daughters in St. Anthony Park.

Lisa taught in the St. Paul Public Schools for many years, principally in high schools. At the end of her career, she taught at Como Park Senior High School, where her children had been students. Lisa loved her students and she enjoyed her job immensely.

She was an excellent teacher, encouraging students to excel and giving them the time and support to do so.

Lisa was an active volunteer both in the St. Paul schools and at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. She was loved by all who came into contact with her. She enjoyed time with all of her family, particularly in the mountains of Montana at the family cabin.

She was an avid gardener and reader and a friend to all. The home she created for her immediate family served as a second home to her large extended family and network of friends.

Lisa was a bright light to her family and friends, and her absence will be keenly felt for a long time.

She was preceded in death by her father; mother-in-law, Isabelle Griffin; and father-in-law, David Griffin Sr. She is survived by her husband and daughters; mother, Joyce Carlson; and siblings, Hans (Carol) Carlson, Janina (Paul) Carlson-Dohmen, Leif (Jesse) Carlson and Bette (Peter) Androne.

Her memorial service was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on Jan. 9.

Stacey Hunter Hecdt
Stacey Hunter Hecdt, 47, of Falcon Heights, died Dec. 9.

Stacey was an associate professor of political science and chair of the political science department at Bethel University. She was the author of articles and book chapters on religion, politics and social policy and state politics.

She was a regular commentator for the local media (TPT’s Almanac). She was a generous and valuable member of the local Twin Cities Chinese Community and an active member of Como Park Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her husband, Sherph; daughter, Rosalind; mother, Sherry (Donald) Peters; and sister, Amy (Daniel) Ziegler; mother- and father-in-law, Janet and Charles Hecht; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Edward Hecdt, John and Julie Hecdt, and Katie and Paul Koch.

A gathering to remember Stacey was held Dec. 16 at Hocobey Henry-Boom-Park Funeral Home in Shoreview.

Her memorial service was held Dec. 17 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

Theresa Solheid
Theresa A. “Terry” Solheid, 54, died Dec. 29 with her husband, Rick, by her side. She was well-known to many in the Como/Falcon Heights area because of the many years of friendly service she provided while working at Blomberg Pharmacy in Falcon Heights.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Patricia Walka.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Rick; children, Matt (Christina) and Joe (Melody); grandchildren, April and Parker; and siblings, James, Mary, Party, Tammy and Tom.

Her funeral service was held Jan. 5 at Roseville Memorial Chapel, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Greg Ustruck
Greg Ustruck, 64, of White Bear Lake, died Jan. 2.

He died in the home he and his wife, Kim, built together more than 30 years ago, surrounded by his family. The laughter, wisdom, strength and love he shared with his family will never be forgotten.

He is survived by his wife, Kim; daughters, Jackie (Ted) Kellner and Danielle Ustruck (fiancé Chase Heraght); and three grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers, Gary and Tom Ustruck, and sisters, Sandy (James) Olsen and Judy (Kevin) Simon.

A celebration of life service was held Jan. 9 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Carol Wetherby
Carol Jazine Wetherby, 64, a lifelong resident of St. Paul, died Dec. 17. She was the daughter of Clyde and Leona Wetherby and grew up in St. Anthony Park.

She graduated from Murray High School and attended the University of Minnesota before moving to Iowa to live a life in service to the Lord.

She is survived by her brothers, Bruce and Duane, and sister, Donna Grue, Intern to be at Ascension Park Cemetery in Mendota Heights, with a memorial service to be held at a future date.

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

The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge as a service to our communities.
Clinical Excellence for over 40 years!

Dr. Todd Grossmann, DDS
651-644-3685 tagdds.com

Dr. Paul Kirkegaard, DDS
651-644-9216 www.pkdds.com

Dr. Nate Cogswell, DDS

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

Getting fit at Como Park Lakeside Pavilion

By Alex Luderer

Melissa Malen is a spunky woman with many passions. She believes that exercise should be fun, that community is vital to our well being, and that adults and children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) can be helped by incorporating fitness into their therapeutic roster.

In May, Malen started Studio M Spinning & Fitness in hopes of building a community around fitness. She rents one of the sun-streaked community rooms on the lower level of the Como Lakeside Pavilion and runs classes in spinning, strength and flexibility at all hours of the day, including 5:45 a.m. for those who like a little sunrise with their sweat sessions.

Malen’s classes include spinning with strength, which combines 20 minutes of spinning followed by 20 minutes of strength-building exercises off the bike for all ability levels. Malen also sees personal training clients in the space, as well as ADHD clients.

“Combining fitness with attention coaching is really one of my great passions,” Malen said. “We use the bikes or do other high interval training, then we talk about skills development for focus and attention persistence.”

Additionally, Malen, who has a background in counseling, offers classes for students that combine exercise and tutoring targeted at increasing achievement in school. Workshops are also offered for parents and educators that cover individual education plans (IEP) and 504 plans (an educational plan that gives students with disabilities individualized help) and developing accommodations for students.

This spring, Malen, who lived in the Como neighborhood for 17 years, partnered with Meegan Hall of Como Park Yoga and Wellness to offer a larger variety of ways to stay fit in 2016.

Hall and Malen share the space and many clients who enjoy the ability to take a heart-pounding spinning class one morning and a stress-relieving yoga session the next. Clients can purchase a punch card from either instructor and use it for both yoga and spinning classes.

Hall recently left the corporate background in counseling, offers classes for students that combine exercise and tutoring targeted at increasing achievement in school. Workshops are also offered for parents and educators that cover individual education plans (IEP) and 504 plans (an educational plan that gives students with disabilities individualized help) and developing accommodations for students.

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Hall recently left the corporate world to follow her passion: yoga.

“I loved my job,” she said in the studio overlooking the docks at the pavilion. “But I thought, ‘I don’t want to be at this desk when I’m 50.’ It was time to follow my dream.”

One of Hall’s most popular offerings is Yin Yoga, which focuses on connective tissues of the body by holding poses for extended lengths of time to increase circulation and improve flexibility.

Hall has had extensive training in teaching yoga and is continuing to take additional training in hopes of increasing the offerings at Como Park Yoga.

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

Promote your summer camp

Fill your summer camp openings early this year by advertising in the Park Bugle’s 2016 Summer Camp Guide.

Whether it’s sports, the arts, education or just fun, your ad will reach families by Feb. 23, right when parents are clamoring to organize their children’s summer.

The deadline to put an ad in the Summer Camp Guide is Wednesday, Feb. 10. Contact Clare Caffrey at 651-270-5988 or clare.caffrey@parkbugle.org for details.

Camp Listing: If you’d like your camp in our free camp listing, send the name and location of the camp, the dates of the camp and contact information by Wednesday, Feb. 10, to editor@parkbugle.org.

Meegan Hall of Como Park Yoga and Wellness and Melissa Malen of Studio M Spinning & Fitness offer a variety of classes at Como Lakeside Pavilion. At top, Malen takes a class through some spinning exercises. Photos by Kristal Leebrick

Business News

By Kristal Leebrick

A wellness center offering yoga and meditation classes, holistic healing services and a retail shop that will sell bulk herbs, tea, essential oils, and natural and organic health supplements is moving into the former Peapods/Mischief space at 2290 Como Ave.

Samantha Huert, owner of Healing Elements in northeast Minneapolis, said her business has outgrown its current location on Stinson Boulevard. She will begin renovation of the Como Avenue shop in late January and expects to open in St. Anthony Park in April.

“It is a humbling, beautiful reality that our healing center is able to grow and expand at this time,” Huert said.

Dan Marshall and Millie Adelsheim had operated Peapods in the 3,000-square-foot space for four years before announcing last June that Peapods would close and the building was for sale. They opened Mischief last fall. Their new store, which is aimed at older kids, teens and young adults, is moving to 818 Grand Ave., a half block east of Café Latte. Mischief’s last day on Como Avenue was Jan. 23.


Wellness center to move into former Peapods/Mischief building
St. Anthony Park Dental Care welcomes Dr. Nate Cogswell

Dr. Nate Cogswell has purchased the dental practice of Dr. Todd Grossman at St. Anthony Park Dental Care, 2278 Como Ave. Grossman retired in January but may return after some time off to work part-time.

Cogswell is a familiar face at St. Anthony Park Dental Care. He started shadowing and observing the practice in spring 2012 while in dental school. He graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2014 and began working at the Como Avenue practice in July 2015. He purchased Grossman’s side of the practice on Jan. 4.

A native of Rockford, Ill., Cogswell attended college in Lincoln, Neb., and came to the U of M because of its focus on “patient care and comfort.” He did a residency at a hospital in Kansas City where he worked in emergency medicine. He is trained in sedation and emergency care and will bring surgical services such as wisdom teeth extraction and anesthesia to the practice.

Cogswell says he and his wife, Daniella, a native of Honduras, are embracing their lives as Minnesotans. He is an avid bicyclist, recently tried snow shoeing for the first time and was sad to see the Vikings lose to the Seahawks on Jan. 10 (but was happy to see the Green Bay Packers win their game a few hours later). —Kristal Leebrick

New owner at Underground Music Café on Hamline Ave.

By Alex Ludner

It has only been a couple of years since Tim Cheesebrow and his parents purchased Coffee Grounds at 1579 N. Hamline Ave., Falcon Heights, and renamed it Underground Music Café.

While Cheesebrow invested time, money and heart into the coffee shop, tweaking the interior to be more conducive to live music and adding an extensive menu, he recently sold the café to Ursula Shute.

“It was a tough but necessary decision. Dennis and Bonnie (Cheesebrow) moved up to Pine City, and it’s hard to manage a café from that distance,” Cheesebrow explained. “I have seen so much growth with my nonprofit that I had to choose what I was more passionate about, which is music education. But you’re in good hands with Ursula.”

Shute, for her part, doesn’t plan on any drastic changes any time soon. It was the music that attracted her to Underground Music Café in the first place, so she plans to keep the program strong while hoping to diversify the musical offerings. The menu will eventually see a bit of tweaking—mainstreaming the dishes toward more familiar coffee house fare like sandwiches and soups. Shute would like to see more families using the space, especially stay-at-home parents and their little ones looking for a place to relax and play.

“I’ve talked to a lot of customers, some have been coming here for years through several owners,” Shute explained. “I want to maintain and strengthen the community feel here.”

St. Anthony Park Co-op Preschool
2129 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul MN
Located in the SAP United Church of Christ

Exploring who we are and what we can do together!

FAMILY FUNDAY!
Sunday, February 21, 3-5pm, Langford Park
Houey house, fish pond, mini golf, face-painting, refreshments, silent auction & more! $10/family, JOIN US!

COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!
FRI DAY, JANUARY 29, 9-11 AM
Te schedule a visit, call Barbara Bark: 651-645-2928
For more info, visit our website: sapcpc.org

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An eye on the caucuses
AP Government students will take a road trip to Iowa on Monday, Feb. 1, to be political observers of the Iowa Caucus. After studying presidential politics and the significance of the early caucuses and primaries, students will get a first-hand view of the democratic process by attending both the Republican and Democrat caucuses in Mason City. Students will return from the Monday and political adventure late Monday night and have a unique experience to share during the presidential campaign and beyond.

Music to our ears
Over the last month, the Como Park choirs sang for more than 2,000 students at the five Area A elementary schools: Chelsea Heights, St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Galster, Hamline and Jeffery Ming elementary schools. Students returned from the choirs and orchestra performing for the young and attentive audiences, and the grade-school students and staff enjoyed the music and performances.

The Como Park bands and orchestra performed a concert in the Como Auditorium on Jan. 25. The concert featured the intermediate band, concert band, jazz band and the orchestra.

Musical selections included Mozart’s Symphony No. 6, arrangements from Vivaldi’s Spring, famous marches and an improvising ensemble.

Quick bowl set for Feb. 3
Two houses of Como students will participate in the annual Academic WorldQuest quick bowl competition Wednesday, Feb. 3. The statewide event is sponsored by the Minnesota International Center and tests student knowledge of global affairs in a wide range of topics. The competition will take place at the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center and will be emceed by the Current’s Mark Wheat.

Prospective students can shadow
Prospective students interested in experiencing a day of Como Park Senior High School are invited to shadow a current student. Opportunities for shadowing are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact the Como Park coordinator to register online at commeaux.org by clicking “Prospective Students and Parents.” The “Get Started” section is available upon request each Thursday through the end of the school year.

Tours
Tours of Como Park Middle School will be held at 12:14 p.m., 12:18 p.m. and 12:22 p.m., or by appointment, through the end of the school year.

Raptor Center partnership
Murray Middle School’s annual science fair held Jan. 13 and 14 included 200 projects and 80 judges. According to science teacher Tim Chase, the judges were impressed with the quality of the projects, “but the comments on how creative the students are with their approach to the process of science were the comments I was most proud to hear.”

The Twin Cities Regional Science Fair will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27. Those who qualified to go on to the regional fair include Will Atran, Lily Gordon and Olivia Barnes, animal science;

Chelsea Heights Elementary
1557 Harvard St., 651-293-8790 www.chelseaps.org

I Love to Read Month
In celebration of I Love to Read Month, Chelsea Heights will hold its annual Literacy Night on Friday, Feb. 19, 6-8 p.m. There will be many fun games, including storytelling, a book walk, pizza dinner and more. Back by popular demand, Brian the Story Man from England will be joining the fun again. This is a great event for the whole family.

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

Robotics Team has 46 members
The Como Robotics Team is 46 members strong this season under the leadership of teachers Donna Norberg and Mike Fisher, with assistance from community experts and dedicated parents. The team is working on developing its robot in preparation for the FIRST Robotics Competition (FIRST is the acronym for “For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology”) in mid-February, followed by the regional competition at Williams Arena in early April. Eligible captains are seniors Evan Hulick and senior Marie Wulff. Safety captains are seniors Chanye Sowards and Garrett Yagaitte.

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

Murray to perform Lion King Jr.
Murray Middle School will present The Lion King Jr. March 11-13 in the school auditorium. Students will be producing and performing additional “back-story” skin based on the play. It promises to be familiar for fans of the original movie and, in many ways, a fresh take on this Disney classic.

Tickets will be $10 adults, $5 for children under 10 at the door. Reduced-price advance tickets will be available online at paypps.org through March 8.

More information about the show times will be available in the next issue of the Bugle.

Pilot One-on-One needs tutors
Murray Middle School’s program coordinator, Cindy Thrasher, invites tutors to provide support to seventh- and eighth-grade students in English, math, science or social studies.

Tutoring is needed during the following hours: 11:25 a.m.-12:14 p.m., 12:18-1:07 p.m. and 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. Students work with a tutor/mentor individually each day.

Students work on developing the tools they need to improve their study skills.

Studies show that developing a caring relationship is critical to academic success in school. Volunteers get to know the student because they see each other every week.

Contact Cindy Thrasher, program coordinator, at 651-744-5323 or cindy.thrasher@pps.org.

SUNIVA Berg, BRIDGET LEE AND OLIVIA BARNES, ANIMAL SCIENCE; AMELIA SCHUCKER, SAMI BANAT AND ETHAN MILLS, MEDICINE AND HEALTH; ALENA ALIMAIZA, JONAS LANDQUIST AND RONALD SPIEGELBERG, MICROBIOLOGY; JAMES CARLSON, CLAIRE OLSON AND PETER FORTIER, PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY; TATI OSSOLO, IAN MCKENNA AND ALEJANDRO NAJERA-WOLCOTT, PLANT SCIENCES; AND ANNA GAUDIO, HEDGES GREGORY AND MADELINE THOMPSON, PRODUCT COMPARISON.

St. Anthony Park Elementary
2180 Knopp St., 651-293-8755 www.saneparks.org

Raise a glass and support SAP
Visit with friends and neighbors, raise a glass and support the students at St. Anthony Park Elementary School at a fundraiser Feb. 5 at the Urban Caterer’s brewing Co., 2325 Endicott St.

The St. Anthony Park Association (SAPA) invites our seventh-grade students to attend the event, which will be held Friday, Feb. 5, 6-11 p.m.

Money raised by SAPA goes to support arts- and environmental-education programs, defray costs of classroom supplies and subsidize field trips.

This year SAPA has contributed an additional $13,000 to support the tutoring program at the school, but help is needed to close the gap.

If you would like to co-host the event by providing a donation before the event, please contact Anita Severt, akoerd@comcast.net, or sign up online at http://bit.ly/1NcZKCB.

School will undergo redesign
St. Anthony Park Elementary has been selected as one of eight St. Paul public schools to receive money to begin the design process for major building improvements.

The school board set aside $6 million for the initial design work. Funding for construction is likely to be secured in 2016.

For more information on the district’s Facilities Master Plan, visit http://facilities.stps.org/ftp.
By Mike Smith and Nick Jacobsen

This is the third and final article marking the centennial of Troop 17, Boy Scouts of America.

The December 2015 Bugle article covered the beginning through the 1940s. The January 2016 Bugle article covered the time period of the 1950s through the 1980s. This article takes us from the 1990s to today.

Troop 17 is the second oldest continuously chartered troop in Minnesota, and the oldest troop in Minnesota continuously chartered by one organization, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ (founded in the year Anthony Park Congregational Church) and meeting in the same building—2129 Commonwealth Ave.—since in beginnings in March 1916.

A brief recap: The troop began when a group of St. Anthony Park boys decided to start a Boy Scout troop. They sought out James “Dad” Drew, a professor at the University Farm School. They knew of him from a previous position from the church building and began meeting on Tuesday nights. Troop 17 has been meeting almost weekly ever since.

Part 3: The 1990s to the present

The 75th anniversary of Troop 17 was held on Feb. 9, 1991. A historical video celebrating the anniversary was created and produced by Michelle Christianson and Philip Kibira. This video is now included in “A Digital Time Capsule,” the accompanying DVD to History Bugle: A Century of Scouting in Northern Star Council, written and compiled by Dave Kenny in 1991 for the Northern Star Council Centennial. Several pictures, materials and stories of Troop 17 are included.

In 1998, the troop won a grand prize at the State Fair Scout Exposition for its pioneering display that featured several signal towers and a tugboat. The tugboat exhibit continues to appear annually at the St. Anthony Park Fourth of July parade and picnic.

Another annual event began in 2004 with camps in late October and early November to cut down evergreens for Christmas wreaths made by a troop fundraiser for Troop 17 and Pack 22. Scouts can earn their way to Tomahawk Scout Camp through wreath sales. The troop regularly grows peppers, wreaths, Garland, treetops and large trees for the Advent and Christmas seasons at the St. Anthony Park churches and community.

Troop 17 celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2006 with a canoe trip and dinner at Fred C. Andersen Scout Reservation on the St. Croix River in Wisconsin, with historical displays created by Steve Granger. Many former Scouts, families and friends attended.

In 2007, Scoutmaster Mark Hansen was awarded the Silver Beaver, the highest award that can be bestowed by a council to a volunteer Scoutmaster. In 2009, Troop 17 and St. Anthony Park UCC together joined the Northern Star Council’s Centennial Commission, which provided leadership and funding for the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Scoutmaster Jerry Wallace was awarded both the North Star Award and the Scoutmaster Award of Merit in the same year.

In 2010, John Wolf became Troop 17’s 79th Eagle Scout in Boy Scouting’s American centennial year. In 2011, the troop celebrated its 90th year, along with St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ’s 125th anniversary. Also in 2011, Scoutmaster Mike Smith was awarded the Silver Beaver.

In addition to the usual troop camping, recent High Adventure trips have included backpacking trips in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park in Montana and the Iroquois National Park in Lake Superior. There have been Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness trips. There have been several bike trips: from western Wisconsin to Duluth; from Duluth through Dublath and connecting to the Mungar Trail to Pine City; and from Duluth to Ashland, Wis., by the south shore of Lake Superior with some kayaking and sailing around Bayfield and Madeline Island.

Also currently in progress since 2013 is a five-plus-year project to section canoe the Mississippi River from Icasa to St. Paul. Are you busy Scoutin’?

What do our current Scouts say about Troop 17 and Scouting?

Ethan Helmer: “Some of my favorite things about Boy Scouting is getting leadership opportunities in a scout-led trip. I also love how Boy Scouts provides me with knowledge that can be useful in all sorts of situations.”

Ben Schafer: “My favorite part is the camping, since so often it’s a great chance to unplug and get away from technology.”

Brian Pulaski: “I think the biggest thing I’ve gotten out of Boy Scouts is the leadership opportunities of the troop. Lack of teamwork and the outdoor skills.”

Elliot Helmer: “The knowledge you get from Boy Scouts is great because it can prepare you for the future and help with everyday life.”

Aiden Batchelor: “I think Boy Scouts is great because it’s a chance to get together with your peers.”

Award-winning authors Dave Eggers and Marlon James will join forces in conversation to raise money for creative writing nonprofit, Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI), the tutoring hub located at 2388 W. University Ave.

The authors will discuss topics related to recent books, MOI and 826 National, a nonprofit network founded by Eggers. The event will be held at Hamline University United Methodist, 1314 Eau Claire Ave. Doors for the event open at 7:30 p.m. and the event begins at 8 p.m. Eggers is author of The Circle, The Wild Things, A Hologram for the King, Zeitoun, and A Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius. James is author of A Brief History of Seven Killings and The Book of Night Women and the 2015 winner of the Man Booker Prize. James serves on the board of MOI and is the guest author for this year’s Young Authors Book Project. MOI is currently a chapter-in-development with Eggers’ 826National, 826 National chapter work with under-resourced students in seven cities across the country on exploring creativity and improving writing skills.

All proceeds from the event will support MOI’s creative writing and academic programs. Eggers and James are helping MOI reach their 2015-16 school year goal of providing more than 1,200 Twin Cities students with a variety of free programming.

Go to www.moi-msp.org to find out how to purchase tickets. Tickets for a VIP Pre-Party Event and Post-Party at the Turf Club are also available. Eggers and James will be available for book signing at the Post-Party.

League to host new superintendents from Roseville, N. St. Paul

Public Schools, where she held various roles, from bilingual teacher to chief academic officer. Skoł was superintendent in Robbinsdale Area Schools for six years before coming to Roseville. She also served in other Minnesota and Nebraska school districts.

The meeting will be recorded for review at a meeting Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 9:30 a.m., at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3100 County Road D, Roseville. Both events are free and open to the public.

Authors Dave Eggers and Marlon James will talk about books Feb 4

The event is a fundraiser for University and Raymond tutoring center, Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute

For information, contact Mike Smith, Troop 17 Centennial Celebration Committee, 651-988-5552 or johnmichaelsmith@comcast.net.

Scouts pose for a photo during Troop 17’s 90th anniversary celebration in June 2006 at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp.
A multitude of voices echoed through the gym. Fans screamed for the dueling wrestlers, teammates shouted encouraging words, coaches communicated instruction, and Tjil Van der Wege knew his plan.

When the final whistle blew, the 15-year-old Como Park sophomore (with previous education at St. Anthony Park Elementary and Murray Middle schools) had qualified for the state wrestling tournament. He competed in two more state tourneys at the Xcel Energy Center, placing fourth in his senior year, before becoming a Como Park graduate in 2002.

Fast-forward to the 2016 high school wrestling season, and Van der Wege is back at Como serving as the program’s new head coach. While studying and playing baseball at the University of Minnesota, and around employment, his connection to Como continued as he volunteered and assisted the program as much as possible.

The tradition of Como Park wrestling includes 10 St. Paul City titles and more than 70 wrestlers who have participated in state tournaments as individual qualifiers. Many of them revisited the Como gym on Jan. 14 for alumni night when “Como Pride” was out in full force.

Handshakes and hugs were abundant. Storytelling and reminiscing produced smiles and laughs. Helping Van der Wege orchestrate the activity was Roy Magnuson, who coached wrestling at Langford Park, Murray and Como for nearly 40 years.

Magnuson stepped down from his wrestling responsibilities in 2015. Greg Pettie, another longtime Como teacher and coach ran the Cougars program with Magnuson for more than 20 years. Together, they created a culture of hard work accompanied by humor. Van der Wege credits his coaches for the success and tight friendships he and his teammates experienced.

In turn, Magnuson credits Van der Wege and all of the wrestling alumni for their drive and leadership that helped create the right mindset for the unique individual battles that the sport requires.

“You can’t get better without each other,” explained Magnuson. “The best teams won and lost with each other. One kid won, everybody was happy. One kid lost, people were down.”

A high school wrestling meet is a series of individual matches with potential points being earned by the team’s representative from each of 14 weight classes, progressing from 106 pounds up to the heavyweight.

With this format each team member is the center of attention for a few moments of the meet, representing his team and school alone against one opponent.

As results are accumulated, emotions can be mixed. While some may feel satisfaction for a well-executed victory, some may feel the mental pain of being pinned. Successful programs help kids realize they’re not ever really alone out there on the mat. The solidarity of Como wrestling is a fundamental component Magnuson and Pettie clearly passed on to Van der Wege.

That solidarity is passed on to the current wrestlers through other alumni as well. Van der Wege has assembled help in the form of assistant coaches J Frasl (2008) and Lah Htoo (2014). Together, they have a plan, and they’re working on implementing it for this next generation of Cougar wrestlers.

The current version of the Cougars is young. Some are raw athletes with limited wrestling experience. Because of this, Van der Wege is teaching them how to use their basic techniques and plan their strategy.

“Have a plan” is a soundbite Van der Wege still lives by today. He remembers Magnuson saying it, to the point where it replayed in his head. It helped Van der Wege win matches as a wrestler and now helps him coach the freshmen, sophomores and juniors that form the core of his team.

Junior Tha Dah is an extremely quick athlete wrestling at 152 pounds. A soccer player the rest of the year when he’s not wrestling, assistant coach J Frasl marvelled at the fitness level Tha Dah has brought to the first day of practice every season. It sets a high bar for the team and their conditioning expectations.

Juniors John Barton and Kayode Ajaio are also veterans who know how the program works. They demonstrate commitment to less experienced teammates, and they have grown into the role of reliable point producers.

A talented sophomore class is headed by returning letter-winner Drew Barnard at 145 pounds and heavyweight Corey Guntner. During the winter break, Como participated in the Andover Holiday Tournament, which featured 12 teams, including some suburban and exurban powers.

Guntner took second place in the heavyweight class, and had a 12-3 record as the Bugle went to press. He was an all-district football player in the fall, and his wrestling future looks quite promising too.

Going forward, there is a plan for Como wrestling. It’s not to achieve a certain record. It’s not directly tied into the team winning city titles. It’s not necessarily to qualify individuals for state.

The team will learn to appreciate accomplishments when they happen, but the focus is on getting better. “I am most concerned about our level of improvement,” Van der Wege said. “I feel a true measure of a high school coach is how much improvement you are able to get out of your kids.”

Spoken like an experienced educator, and true to the traditions of Como wrestling, Coach Van der Wege has a plan.

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

C-Park Wrestling Coach Tijl Van der Wege provides instruction to freshman Morris Walker as the varsity team views the 170-pound match in the Jan. 7 meet at Harding. Photo by Mike Krivit, www.krivit.com
FREE FIX-IT CLINICS

Saturday, January 30
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Lauderdale City Hall
1891 Walnut Street, Lauderdale

Find more dates at RamseyRecycles.com

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

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

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

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

Volunteers Needed!

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

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

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