First signs of spring?

Road projects will shut down Hwy 280 and Raymond Ave. (again.)

By Roger Bergerson

Two major north-south thoroughfares in the Park Bugle readership area will be affected during the upcoming road construction season, Raymond Avenue and Highway 280. Here's a rundown of both projects.

Raymond Avenue

The third and final phase of rebuilding Raymond Avenue—from Energy Park Drive north to Como Avenue—will begin in May and finish in late November, with a break during the Minnesota State Fair, according to Barb Mundahl, project engineer with the City of St. Paul's Street Engineering Department.

Besides new pavement, the project will include new concrete curb, gutter and driveway aprons, new street lighting, sodded boulevards, tree planting and utility upgrades. There will also be Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pedestrian ramps and sidewalk repairs as needed.

From Blake Avenue to Brewster Street, the street will remain 42 feet wide, with one vehicle lane and one bike lane in each direction and parking, allowed on the west side of the street.

From Energy Park Drive to Blake, the street width will vary to accommodate turn lanes at Energy Park Drive, then narrow under the railroad and University of Minnesota Transitway bridges. The pedestrian walkways under the bridges, currently elevated, will be lowered to street level.

The grass medians at Gordon Avenue will be removed, and bump-outs and a flashing pedestrian beacon will be installed at the school crossing.

The Raymond and Como intersection is not included in the upcoming work, but will be reconstructed as part of Como repaving in 2017.

Once the project begins, updates can be obtained on the city's website.

Peace Train, HOLY MOLY!

The folks at Peace Lutheran Church of Lauderdale took a train to White Bear Lake in February to participate in the 2016 Art Shanty Project. Congregants spent January building their Peace Train Shanty in the church sanctuary and moved the structure to White Bear Lake for the project's opening day Feb. 6.

The Art Shanty Project is a biannual month-long “artist-driven temporary community in the tradition of ice-fishing communities but with arts-based programming,” according to the project’s website. It’s a sculpture park, art gallery and community on ice. Each shanty has a theme and involves a lot of audience participation.

This is the second year Peace Lutheran has participated. Congregants built Noah’s Art Train for the 2014 Art Shanty Project. Above, Joe Slinar of St. Anthony Park plays conductor and guides visitors through making their own train tickets using stamps depicting flowers, peace signs and various other “peace” symbols. The event’s last weekend is Feb. 27 and 28. You can find out more at artshantyprojects.org. Train photo by Becky Kapell; interior photo by Kristal Leebrick.

Want a voice in the upcoming election?

Attend your precinct caucus on Tuesday March 1.

By Roger Bergerson

The precinct caucuses to be held Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. will present voters with the opportunity to gather with members of their respective political parties to discuss and debate issues, pass resolutions and select delegates to the national nominating conventions.

You can determine your caucus location by going to the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website, mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us. Click on the ‘precinct caucuses’ box and then use the online caucus finder.

If you aren’t sure which legislative district you are in, you can find a map at the Minnesota Legislative website, www.leg.mn/legisdata.htm.

Here are the caucuses relating to the Park Bugle readership area:

Legislative District 66A

(Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, portions of Roseville, St. Anthony Park and Como Park)

• Democrat will convene at the Roseville Area High School, 1261 W. County Road B2.

• Republicans will meet at the Roseville Area Middle School, 15 E. County Road B2.

Legislative District 66B

(Portions of Wards 1, 4, 5 and 6, St. Paul)

• Democrats will convene at Como Park Senior High School, 740 W. Rose Ave.

• Republicans will gather at Como Park Elementary School, 780 W. Wheelock Parkway.

Legislative District 66A

(The area of St. Anthony Park south of Como Avenue is in this district.)

• Democrats meet at St. Paul Central High School, Room 2307, 275 N. Lexington Parkway.

• Republicans convene at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, 550 N. Albert St.
Park Bugle - March 2016

Como Park

The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Stretten Building, 1224 N. Lexiton Parkway. Contact 651-644-3869 or www.district10como.org.

Sunday Series answers questions you didn’t even know you had

Interested in learning how come, how to, what if or what’s next? Como Council. The free presentations and discussions tackle different topics—some fun, some serious, some a little of both. Here’s the Sunday Series schedule:

Gardening for the Birds and the Bees—tackle different topics—some fun, sometimes serious, often less congested than the main

The Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club is sponsoring two $1,000 college scholarships for one female and one male 2016 graduating senior from Roseville Area High School. The only selection criterion is that the recipients be residents of either Lauderdale or Falcon Heights. The scholarship application can be found on Naviance or by contacting a Roseville guidance counselor.

Lions Club offers scholarships

St. Anthony Park

The Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club meets every Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Lauderdale City Hall, 1893 Walnut St. Contact www.chs.lauderdale.mn.us or 651-792-7650.

The Lauderdale City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Lauderdale City Hall, 1376 W. Hoyt Ave. Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 W. Hoyt Ave.

Interested in joining the District 10 Como Community Council?

Nine seats on the Como Community Council Board of Directors will be up for election at District 10’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19. Elections will be held this year for vice chair, treasurer, one director from each of the neighborhood’s four sub-districts and three at-large directors.

Any resident of District 10 who is age 18 or older is eligible to run for the board. So are authorized representatives from a business on non-profit organization located in District 10.

Board members elected this year will serve from April 26, 2016, until April 24, 2018. They are required to attend the monthly Community Council meeting, to serve on at least one committee and to share other duties.

Candidates interested in running for a board position must submit their name and a brief biography by Tuesday, April 5. If interested, submit your information or send your questions to district10@district10como.org.

Working to make tomorrow better

The city is accepting nominations for the 2016 Sustainable St. Paul Awards, which honor work being done to protect and restore the environment in St. Paul. Nominations are due by Tuesday, March 1. Submit them online at bit.ly/K14gfl.

Falcon Heights and Lauderdale

The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Contact 651-792-7690 or www.falconheighthsg.org.

The Lauderdale City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Lauderdale City Hall, 1893 Walnut St. Contact www.cs.lauderdale.mn.us or 651-792-7650.

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St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Foreving Community Learning Center, 2455 University Ave. To find where council committee meetings are held, call 651-644-5992. The council office is on the second floor at 2455 W. University Ave., Suite 300 E.

Community garden plots open

Every year plots open up in the St. Anthony Park Community Garden. Run by Sherri Eagles and Sue Con, the garden offers a way to plant your own food and meet your neighbors. Applications are at spaac.org.

Remember: District 12 moved

The District 12 office moved in February to 2395 W. University Ave., Suite 300 E. A huge thank you to Joy of the People for moving the heaviest items and Langford Park for moving and unloading many of the community council’s storage items.

Committee news

The Land Use Committee appointed Bob Straughn and Fred Foster to be liaisons from the Land Use Committee to the Prospect Park Innovation District, a coalition of community groups seeking to boost economic development in the Prospect Park neighborhood to Highway 280.

The Transportation Committee is engaging in pedestrian safety issues. The Environment Committee (thanks to Betty Wheeler) got an air quality-monitoring station in south St. Anthony Park. The station will monitor the air in the neighborhood for a year and the Environment Committee will report the results when they come in.

The Equity Committee is working on cultural competency training for the organization.

Hausman named ‘Housing Champ’

Rep. Alice Hausman

first decline since 2011. The largest declines were in families with children and veterans. The state is on pace to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2016. Since 2011, Minnesota Housing has awarded $425 million to finish the construction or preservation of nearly 15,000 units of housing across the state.

Hausman will author the 2016 Housing for All bonding bill, which includes $130 million in bonding and expands eligible uses for senior housing.

State Fair to expand north end of grounds

By Alex Ludow

It may be a couple of years away, but Minnesota State Fair general manager Jerry Hammer recently revealed preliminary plans for a new entertainment venue on the north end of the fairgrounds.

At the annual meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, the fair’s governing body, Hammer gave a sneak peek of the expansion, which may include new attractions like an interactive Future of Agriculture exhibit hall and a hall for traveling exhibitors. An outdoor amphitheater for performing arts is also a possibility, although it will likely not be as expansive, or expensive, as the highly successful West End Market.

The Hoyt Avenue entrance is often less congested than the main entrance on Snelling Avenue or the exit off Como Avenue. Hammer says the new attractions shouldn’t change that.

“The facility on the north end should have the same effect on traffic flow of the fairgrounds,” he said in an email to the Bugle. “During the fair, the gate is busy until the north parking lots fill, then slows down to people who either park in the neighborhood or who take a Snelling Avenue bus. The new facility won’t change any of that.”
The eyes and ears of the court

Guardian ad litem advocate for maltreated children who come under the authority of child protection services.

By Judy Woodward

It didn’t take St. Anthony Park resident Sunny Comstock long to figure out what she might encounter as a volunteer guardian ad litem, a court-appointed advocate for children who come under the authority of child protection services because of allegations of abuse or neglect.

“As part of the training, they have you listen to a recording of child’s 9-1-1 call [made] while the father is on a drunken rampage, beating on the mother,” Comstock says. “You can hear the mother scream, ‘Oh, God. He’s got the baby!’”

Comstock, 35, describes herself as someone who spent an “ideal childhood” in a St. Anthony Park home that’s been in her family for three generations. She is not hesitant about acknowledging that she has been “pretty sheltered” and “is sensitive in real life.” The contrast with the situations she may encounter as a guardian ad litem is striking. She has been a volunteer for just a few months, but she will put her training to use in assessing and reporting to the court on the situations of children who may have been failed by every other adult in their lives.

The phrase “guardian ad litem” has the Latin meaning of “guardian for the [legal] proceedings.” Or, as Comstock says, “We’re observers, the eyes and ears of the court. For some of these kids, the only constant in his life is the guardian ad litem.” Some of the cases she encounters may be horrific. She can’t discuss the specifics, but she knows she might encounter children who have been sexually trafficked by their own parents or “kids raised in flop houses where people are doing drugs all around them.”

Comstock, the mother of two school-age children, is determined not to let her emotions overpower her effectiveness. “This is the kids’ reality,” she says. “If they can handle it, I can find some way to do the job [of assisting them].”

It’s this kind of resolute spirit, among other characteristics, that makes guardians ad litem so highly valued by the courts systems they serve. Dana Ahlness, manager for the Guardian ad Litem Program of the Second District Court in Ramsey County, says volunteers like Comstock are “sharpened by the court”.

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Comstock is expected to meet at least once a month with the child, in addition to investigating allegations of abuse and interviewing persons connected to case. In the most wrenching cases, she may have to recommend that children be removed from their homes.

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Humor us: Enter the Bugle poetry contest

In 2011, the Park Bugle launched its first-ever poetry contest. It came at the heels of a particularly trying winter with a relentless amount of snow. When we went to press for our March issue five years ago, the Twin Cities had recorded 74.5 inches of snow and we knew it wasn’t over yet. So, stealing from the playbook of a local daily news columnist (who ran a poetry contest asking people to write about ice dams), we asked readers to send poems that explored the subject of surviving that particularly harsh winter. It’s 2016 and the winter hasn’t been that bad, but April is National Poetry Month and it’s looming. Once again, dear readers (and writers), we ask that you sharpen your pencils and get writing. This year, we are throwing in a $50 prize for first place. The prompt is: Poems can take any form you choose. • 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 limited to one submission per person and it must be received by Friday, March 4. The three winning entries will be published in the April issue of the Bugle. All submissions will be posted on the Bugle website. 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, PO. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or to editor@parkbugle.org. The poems will be judged anonymously by a local poet.

Bernie Sanders: A teen’s perspective

By Jackson Kerr

The American political system is a perverted, sickly, antiquated institution that is undermined by profound and putrid greed. This has only emboldened the rich and their political clientele to gaze further into the swirling kaleidoscope of money and power that first captivated them an age ago. American people, whose collective voice once commanded the Democratic process, elect to remain quiet, not their public officials. Yet the ears of the people remain acute, and they eagerly train toward a raucy clarion call of vindication from the depths of a worn chassis, tinged with that wonderful piece of Jewish-Brooklyn. Bernie Sanders has arrived. Such a glorious introduction to the senator from Vermont who would be president is not unfeasible, as local campaign supporters resonantly attest. That Minnesota, long considered steadfast in their commitment to the respected yet antiquated DFL, would so much as give an eyebrow Sanders’ way acknowledges not only a flurrying wave with populist candidates, but to an impermeable state of affairs gripping the Land of 10,000 Lakes:

• Minnesota hardly caters a sampling of corporate America’s “finest,” having assembled a bustling plantation of 17 Fortune 500 companies, all of whom, according to the board of directors, The Park Bugle is a nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the neighborhoods and encourage community participation.

Opinions expressed in the Bugle by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinion of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by an elected board of directors.

Center writing on the board are: Grant Abben, Tom Blank, Emily Blodgett, Beny Carne, Deborah Cushing, Paul Dahlke, Michael Goffin, John Landers, Gabrielle Lawrence, Bob Milligan, P. Polk, Amy Schulz, Glen Sheehan, Mark Vierling, and Kathy Wellington.
The death of a St. Anthony Park/Langford tradition
For 55 years our little rec center
memories.
down in Langford Park has hosted a
annual basketball tournament and
spending basically the entire weekend
Winter Classic weekend filled with
basketball tournaments.

As someone who grew up here
loves the traditions that we
celebrate, I can honestly and very
sadly say that these kids have been
robbed of a glorious experience.
Whatever the word is for
this is its definition.

Let’s divert organic waste with
curbide composting in St. Paul
Over 30 percent of the waste we
generate in each household
incur the City of St. Paul is
organic material like fruit, vegetables,
meat, dairy products and even non-
recyclable paper products such as
pizza boxes.
Our landlords are
commissioning and the decomposing
trash is creating greenhouse gases.
If we divert the waste by composting,
it would make less of an impact on
the environment. Curbide composting
could drastically help
reduce St. Paul’s environmental
footprint.

Curbide composting, or collection of organic waste, is a
program where city residents could receive a bucket or tub to be filled
with organic materials. It would be
left on the curbide for pick up on a
regular basis, much like we already
do with trash and recycling.
According to the “Recycle It
Forward” survey taken in 2013,
three-quarters of St. Paul residents
want curbide composting. If that
organic material is not sorted out,
then it is piling up in our landfills
and increasing our environmental
impact.

Minneapolis has already begun
in curbside composting program
in August 2015 on a sign-up basis.
There are several sources online
that have stated different timelines of
when it could foreseeably come to St.
Paul, the “Compost It” website
claims that we could see it mid-
2017, and the “Recycle It Forward”
survey says that our current contract
for curbside composting in our
neighborhood is ready for
this. Let’s make our city a better place
while we still can.

The Bugle seeks board candidates
The Park Bugle is seeking candidates to fill openings on its board of directors. The board consists of residents and
business owners from the communities served by the newspaper.
Skills and background desired include organizational or management skills, especially with nonprofits, including
board service; fundraising and grant-writing experience; a strong connection to the community and the ability to
comfortably approach potential donors; advertising experience, specifically sales, to support our sales representatives;
and legal expertise.

If you want to help shape the strategic direction of your local, award-winning, nonprofit newspaper, send a
short note and biography to editor@parkbugle.org, with DIRECTORS in the subject line. Or send a letter to Park
Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, Attn: Directors.

Thanks again, and again,
Bugle readers
We are so grateful to our supporters. You’ve helped us raise $40,512
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 Jan. 13 and Feb. 10.
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. We’ve reached our
fundraising goal, but we are always happy to accept more contributions. If you would like to contribute, you can do it online
at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE button
on the right side of the page. Or send a check to Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.
Thank you!

Gerdan Blau
Gary & Mary Nelsen
Gary & Sally Cagle
George & Jean Albrecht
Granger Family

Catalin Blau
Henry & Betty Ernst
Jerry Jefrensted
John & Laura Oyen
Robert Holloway
Sherman Eagles & Sue Connors

Dramatic stairway and center hall are the anchors that will make
this a house that you will want to make your home.
Designed for entertaining and active family life.
4-bedroom, screen porch, 4-season glass atrium,
professionally designed established gardens,
super-sized attached garage, plus much more

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Dubliner’s pub quiz may be the Twin Cities’ most unique

By Bill Lindeke

Dubliner’s pub quiz may be the Twin Cities’ most unique. Each week, a recording of an old-fashioned brass procession announces the beginning of Tom Mays’ pub quiz. The fanfare is an often futile attempt to quiet the bubbling chatter at the Dubliner bar at the corner of University Avenue and Vandalia Street. It’s usually full of live-music fans who have come for the Sunday shows.

But then the trivia audience settles in, groups of three to five people clumped around the low wooden tables, quietly chatting. Mays gets right down to business, organized alphabetically and the questions are displayed with an intricate PowerPoint presentation full of hidden and visible themes that last from the 70s to the present, quizzes like Mays are aimed at a slightly older generation, and more of the cultural lore is from the 70s or 80s.

“We’ve been a big fan of trivia for a long time,” said Mays, the trivia host who works his day job doing lighting design for the Guthrie. “I seem to have a mind that captures details and holds on to them, usually things that are not relevant to normally functioning life.”

Mays began his trivia half-accidentally. There had been a pub quiz hosted at the Dubliner for years, he said, a repeat of the UK-themed trivia from Merlins Rest (run by a Brit named Bill Watkins). But around five years ago, when the quiz fell through, a vacancy opened up at the Dubliner and Mays agreed to give it a try. The rest is history.

“The way I do the quiz is that I sit around and wait,” Mays told me. “Usually inspiration hits me during the week. I pick a theme and deconstruct it, a theme and a subtopic of the theme that makes sense, and I add one with a twist on the theme for people with different knowledge and skill sets.”

Tips for beginners: Pay attention to the themes. Mays announces them at the beginning of the quiz. There are almost always clues embedded in the PowerPoint slides, little sublets to give you hints at the answers. Bring a team of folks with diverse interests, for example, people who like history, literature and pop music. And keep track of the “alphabet” using the letters on the side of the score sheet; you can cross them off as you go. Each answer will begin with a unique letter of the alphabet.

“I always try and give at least one or two ins and put a clue into something that’s difficult,” Mays told me. Each quiz takes him about four hours to put together, though it might take longer if there’s a lot of multimedia.

“There are some questions that, unless you are an absolute fanatic about the topic, you won’t know the answer. I try and limit this, but I occasionally get people who get perfect scores,” Mays explained.

The Dubliner itself mirrors the old-school approach. The big neon sign from the old days when this place was known as the “Ace Box Bar” hangs over the popcorn machine, and the wooden floors, old wooden chairs (salvaged from a defunct Funderdome Steakhouse) and smell of Heggie’s Pizza create a cozy atmosphere in which to ponder the trivia. And there are no TVs at the Dubliner. The only screen you’ll find is a TV on a tile wall in the bar, old-fashioned and决心.

“At about the time that this place was known as the Ace Box Bar, the only screen you’ll find is a TV in the bar, old-fashioned and决心.”

It happens almost every week: Sundays at 8 p.m. at the Dubliner, 2162 University Ave.

Bill Lindeke is an urban geographer and writer living in St. Paul.

Workshops to address end-of-life planning

Honoring Choices MN, an initiative of the Twin Cities Medical Society working to support community-based conversations regarding end-of-life care planning, is collaborating with groups in the City of Roseville to promote advanced care planning (ACP) and host a informational activities in the community during the month of April.

A list of trained healthcare providers that can help with ACP can be found at the Roseville website, cityofroseville.com/ACP_Austin. Many of these services are free.

A schedule of the April ACP events is available online at cityofroseville.com/ACP_Austin. Residents of surrounding communities are welcome to attend these events.

MARKETING PARTNER

Traffic and potential customers are waiting for you on the web.

Visit 10,300 local residential websites.

Traffic and potential customers are waiting for you on the web.

Visit 10,300 local residential websites.

Traffic and potential customers are waiting for you on the web.

Visit 10,300 local residential websites.
American Grass Twine acquired thousands of acres of that marshland and set up a dozen harvest camps that operated from midsummer well into the fall. St. Paul was chosen as the principal manufacturing site for the twine because it was a railroad hub in close proximity to both the wheat-growing region and the bogs.

The grass was cut and dried in the fields before being bailed and shipped to St. Paul. There it was combed, spun and twisted into rope or twine.

Nearly 900 workers were employed in the Front Avenue plant at the peak of business, more than half of them women, many living within walking distance of the plant.

There was, however, a sharp decline in demand for grass twine starting in 1903, and it dried up completely within a couple of years.

To survive, the company pursued several new business avenues, one of which was the manufacture of wicker furniture using fiber from the Front Avenue plant. And it put renewed emphasis on marketing its grass floor coverings—rugs that were lighter and less expensive than conventional ones.

"Nature’s Carpet of Health—from the fragrant green fields to your home," was the fanciful imagery of one advertisement.

A Minneapolis furniture and carpet store advertised a sale on Crex carpets with a loom operator on the premises to show how they were made.

"All interested in the development of our Minnesota industries, as well as those looking for a most meritorious floor covering, should attend this demonstration," the ad suggested.

American Grass Twine was renamed the Crex Carpet Company in 1908, "Crex" being derived from carex stricta, the botanical name for wire grass, which the company sometimes referred to as "prairie grass."

The company enjoyed nearly 20 profitable years, but once again competitive forces began working to its disadvantage.

The wicker business had gone bust by 1920 and by mid-decade cheap Japanese imports were taking more and more of the Crex carpet market share. The last wire grass harvest took place in 1931; the St. Paul factory closed in 1934. The company filed for bankruptcy the following year.

Today, the Front Avenue plant site is home to Croosroads Elementary, a St. Paul public school. While all traces of the company vanished long ago, the name lives on at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg, Wis. There, 23,000 acres of habitat were once owned by the carpet company, as were 8,000 acres of the Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area near Forest Lake.

Roger Bergerson writes about history and community news regularly in the Park Bugle.
Who’s clearing the sidewalk along the Les Bolstad Golf Course? 

By Bill Lindela

For many folks in Lauderdale and surrounding communities, the sidewalk along Larpenteur Avenue’s Les Bolstad Golf Course, owned by the University of Minnesota, is the only way to get around. It’s a key east-west connection for anyone on foot or bicycle trying to navigate the neighborhood.

But this winter it’s often been an icy mess, as the rules about who’s responsible for the sidewalk have recently changed.

“Larpenteur is the way through the neighborhood,” said Steven Lang, an artist and photographer who lives in Lauderdale and rides his bike on Larpenteur to get around in the winter. The ice has made it extremely difficult.

“Trying to get back and forth from St. Paul, there’s only one sidewalk on one side of the street and that’s the one. Earlier this winter, it was so much worse than it is right now. It was ridiculous.”

In an email to the Bugle, Bernard Belanger, the superintendent for the golf course, explained the situation: “The City of Falcon Heights took care of the sidewalk until this year. They told us right before Thanksgiving that we would now be in charge of the task. We did not have it in our budget to buy the proper equipment to perform the task at hand. I was told by the university to hold off in the hopes of having them take care of it for one more year.”

That didn’t happen, and now the U of M Grounds Department is clearing the walkways along Larpenteur, Belanger said.

Just before the Feb. 2 snowstorm that dumped nearly 10 inches of snow here, the U put down brine and began clearing the walk to prepare for the snow. And next year, Bolstad officials insist they’ll have their own sidewalk-clearance equipment on site to improve the situation.

“The road is used often enough by pedestrians, runners and bikers that it should be cleared,” Lang said.

“I saw people struggling to get through there. They have no choice but to walk on the street.”

At right, it took a good part of the winter for the U of M Grounds Department to take over clearing the walkways on Larpenteur Avenue adjacent to the Les M golfl course. 

Guardians ad litem from 3

Comstock are “well-respected by judges because they have no interest except the best interest of the child. They’re not swayed by political influences, and they’re unbiased and neutral.”

There is a “never-ending demand” for volunteers for the guardian ad litem program, Ahlness says, especially since case numbers have spiked in recent months. Successful volunteer applicants can expect to put in 5 to 10 hours a week, including a criminal background investigation.

Successful volunteer applicants can expect to put in 5 to 10 hours a week, including a criminal background investigation. Comstock are “well-respected by judges because they have no interest except the best interest of the child. They’re not swayed by political influences, and they’re unbiased and neutral.”

“Volunteering as a guardian ad litem allows Comstock says that the most part of the strategy includes targeting ethnic and minority media outlets to advertise the positions. She’s also striving to correct a gender imbalance in a volunteer force that skew heavily female. And she explains, “We have cultural specialist employees and translators who can advise volunteers on how to understand community attitudes and issues with which the volunteer may be unfamiliar.”

“That’s why it’s worth doing this hard work.”

The next training session for the Ramsey County volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program is expected to begin in early April.

For more information, visit www.csamn.org or call Dana Ahlness at 651-266-5270.

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

Road projects from 1

For more information or to sign up for e-mail updates, visit www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy280.

Highway 280, built in the mid-1950s, was last repaired and resurfaced in 2009. It is estimated that up to 69,000 cars use the roadway daily.

Roger Bergstrom writes about history and community news regularly in the Park Bugle.
How to identify wintering sparrows

On my first birding field trip, years ago, the leader pointed toward the weeping grasses and said, “There’s a sparrow over there.” My first reaction was a bit of disdain. “A sparrow? I’ve seen sparrows. What’s the big deal?”

He then identified it as a field sparrow and pointed out some distinguishing features to look for: pink beak, russet cap, narrow white eye ring, and a weak song that rises in pitch. How could there be so many things to look for in a sparrow?

Later, I went through my field guide and realized how many different sparrows we could see in Minnesota. In fact, the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union has a checklist that lists 19 sparrow species that occur with some regularity in Minnesota.

I’d like to describe some of the wintering sparrows you might see in your yard, at your feeders, or when you’re out in “birdy” habitat. These sparrows range in length from 5 to 7 inches.

The American tree sparrow is a winter visitor from the Arctic tundra. It takes a little concentration to identify but usually can be spotted by its rather twitchy behavior. It’s a ground feeder and seems to flick its tail and wings with every step it takes. When I see that, I get the binoculars and look a little more closely.

The tree sparrow has a russet cap, known in the bird biz as a rufous crown. But perhaps most distinctive is the black dot in the middle of its otherwise unmarked breast. I call that a tick, for those of us who remember neckties. You can usually see that dot without binoculars.

As a clincher for identification, it has a shaggy beak, dusky cap, brown, russet underparts, yellow lower mandible. I’ve seen tree sparrows jump up on weed stalks and then drop down to the snow to pick up the seeds they’ve knocked off. Very resourceful.

The white-throated sparrow is most often seen during spring and fall migration, but there seem to be a few rugged individuals that stick around well into winter.

There are two morphs of the white-throated sparrow: one has a black crown with a white central stripe and white eyebrows; the other has a brown crown with a tan central stripe and eyestripe. Both versions have brown streaked backs, white wings and a distinctive yellow spot between the eye and the beak.

They often scratch at the ground with both feet at once, causing them to hop backward a bit with each strike. Their song is “Thrre Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody.” At least that’s how I learned it. I have no idea what they’re actually singing.

By far the most easily recognized wintering sparrow is the dark-eyed junco. A bird that’s dark gray on the top and white underneath. It shows white outer tail feathers in flight. This sparrow breeds in Canada and seems to come south just as winter is on our doorstep.

Many folks call it the “Snowbird,” since the snow seems to follow close behind the junco. One of our birding buddies, Ben, asks us not to tell him if we see a junco on our fall bird walks. He’s in denial about the approach of winter.

Another less common wintering sparrow, at least in our yard, is the song sparrow. This bird has a heavily streaked breast that often aggregates into a central breast spot. Its sides also have thick brown streaks. I find one or two song sparrows hanging around into December but seldom beyond that.

The song sparrow has a long, rounded tail that it pumps in flight. It seems to use it to help navigate its way through the cattail marshes it favors.

Now to the villain. When you mention sparrows to most people, they think of the ubiquitous English house sparrow. That’s the one we see nesting in our eaves, in traffic light poles, any cavity they can find and claim.

The English house sparrow is not a native North American bird. It was imported to the United States in the 17th century by some misguided guy who thought it would be great to bring to America all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare’s plays.

The English house sparrow is aggressive, brutually attacking native birds to take over their nest cavities. They’ve been known to kill blue birds as they sit on their nest, puncture eggs of rivals and peck nestlings to death. Real gang-like behavior. We refer to non-natives as “exotic,” but there’s nothing exotic about these villains.

Most of the wintering sparrows are ground feeders and are drawn to millet and shelled sunflower seed. They come to my platform feeder, too.

I encourage you to watch for our true native sparrows and learn to identify these hardy wintering survivors. For me, they brighten a winter day.

Summer Camp Guide

ACADEMICS

Camp Invention
Students take apart appliances, design a magnet-powered city and explore the intersection of art and math during the four-to-five-day session at St. Anthony Park Elementary School.
Where: Entering grades 1-6
When: July 11-15
Cost: $215-$235
Contact: 800-968-4332 or campinvention@invent.org
 Website: www.campinvention.org

School Chess Association
Four-day sessions include all levels of chess instruction. Other activities include swimming, soccer, fishing and tennis. Half- or all-day options. Located at 2613 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis.
Who: Pre-K-grade 6
When: June-August
Contact: 612-729-5151 or info@artculture.org
 Website: www.artculture.org

Artstart Passport to Places Less Traveled
Who: Ages 4-12
When: July 11-15 & July 18-22
Cost: $145-$280
Contact: 651-698-2787
Website: artstart.org/signatures

IFP Film & Photography Camps
Weeklong film and photography summer camps for youth ages 11-17 are offered June through August. Subjects include screenwriting, music video, narrative and documentary film production, animation, fashion photography and more. Located at 550 Vandalia St., Saint Paul.
Who: Ages 11-17
When: June-August
Contact: 651-644-1912
Website: www.ifpnn.org

Northern Clay: Summer Clay
Half-day and full-day camps in a variety of themes with plenty of room for exploration and decoration. Located at 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis.
Who: Ages 6 and older
When: June-August
Cost: $170-$305 (discounts for members)
Contact: 612-339-8007
 Website: northernclaycenter.org

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE
Take intergalactic adventures in five different materials at the 5 Centers for Art in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Whether you’re inspired by constellations and myths or science fiction and fantasy, let our teaching artists awaken the force in you during this all-day camp.
Who: Ages 9+
When: July 18–22
Cost: $305 ($285 for members of any of the five participating organizations)
Contact: northernclaycenter.org or 612-339-8007

HISTORIC

Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life
Gibbs has created the perfect mix of camps. Family-friendly pricing, fun for kids ages 3-13. Choose Pioneer PeeWees for ages 4-5, or one of a number of three-day camps for ages 6-13. Gibbs is located at 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., Falcon Heights.
Who: Ages 4-13
When: June 21-Sept. 14
Contact: 612-646-8029
Website: www.rchhs.com

MUSIC

Stevebitrary Orchestra Camp
Budding young string students play in a string orchestra during this fun, week-long day camp where they’ll learn through energizing rehearsals, sectional with professional coaches, fun social opportunities, field trips, and special music activities.
Who: Ages 8-13 with two years of playing and reading music experience
When: July 11-15
Cost: $339 plus $20 registration fee (scholarships available)
Contact: 612-371-5656 or mail@gtsycs.org
Website: www.gtsycs.org

NATURE

Bell Museum Science Discovery Summer Camps
Location: Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota
Address: 10 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Who: Grades pre-K-6th
When: June 13-Sept. 2
Contact: 612-624-2345
 Website: x.umn.edu/bellcamp

OUTDOOR

Camp Voyager
Wilderness camping, hiking, and land and water sports, including archery, basketball and more. Two-, four-, six- and eight-week overnight camps in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
Who: Boys 9-18
When: Starting in June
Contact: 800-950-7291
Website: www.campvoyager.com

SPECIALTY

Autism Society of Minnesota
Summertime Day Camps and residential camps specifically for children with autism.
Day camps are at Lake Barwin in Eagan; residential camps are held at Camp Kreston, Crookdale, and True Friends/Courage North, Lake George.
Who: Ages 6-12
When: June 26-Aug. 19
Cost: $725-$5,140 (scholarships available)
Contact: 651-647-1083
Website: www.ausm.org

FACING CANCER TOGETHER SUMMER KIDS CAMP
The Angel Foundation will host Camp Angel, two three-day camps of therapeutic activities for children and teens (K-18) with a parent or caregiver living with cancer.
Camp provides a unique opportunity for children and teens to have fun, enjoy camp activities, along with intentional and meaningful activities led by trained volunteers and staff. Teens (13-18) stay overnight and challenge themselves to foster camaraderie and a willingness to work together. Held at Eden Wood Center in Eden Prairie.
Who: Ages 5-18
When: June 16-18 & Aug. 16-18
Cost: Free
Contact: 612-627-9000 or info@mnangel.org
Website: www.mnangel.org
W RITIN G

SPORTS

Joy of the People Soccer Camps
Fun, happiness and joy. JOTP camps hold the love of the game playing with friends, understanding the joy of play, social connections and health. Joy of the People offers a one of a kind, safe and fun learning and play environment. All skill levels welcome; 890 Cronwell Ave., St. Paul.

Who: Ages 5-15
When: June-August
Cost: $110-$139 per week
Contact: admin@joyofthepeople.org
Website: www.joyofthepeople.org

Minnesota Sword Club
Beginners will learn basic concepts of fencing; veterans will partake in intensive training sessions, emphasizing technique and strategy; Equipment: Provided. Located at 4744 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis.

Who: Ages 8-16
When: June-August
Cost: $139 ($19 for members)
Contact: 612-825-9935
Website: mntword.com/summer-camps.html

WRITING

Do YOU Want to be a Writer?
In this class, instructor Peter Blau will give you the tools to shake your creativity loose and let that writer out to play. If you write, you are a writer. If you want to be a better writer, you should write more, and that's exactly what this class will be about. Class will be at the Loft Literary Center, 1011 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis.

Who: Ages 9-11
When: Aug. 1-5
Contact: 612-379-8999
Website: www.loft.org

Words Can Create Magic
Writers create magic with words and spin stories from their imaginations. Beginning in your journal, you will find your writing voice and watch your words bloom into stories and poems. Instructor Peter Blau, Loft Literary Center, 1011 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis.

Who: Ages 12-14
When: Aug. 8-12
Contact: 612-379-8999
Website: www.loft.org

MISCELLANEOUS

Kinderberrry Hill’s Summer Klimbers Program
Kinderberrry Hill’s Summer Klimbers Program includes field trips (Crystal Cave, boat cruises, Campion’s Art Park and more) plus fun, onsite opportunities for exploration and personal growth including ceramics, science experiments, dramatic productions, sports clinics and more. Optional academic tutoring is available. Enroll for the entire summer or for just a few select weeks. Klimbers is designed for children entering first through fifth grade. Full-time, part-time and flexible schedules. Kinderberrry Hill is located at 2360 Lexington (Highway 36 and Lexington) in Roseville.

Who: First-fifth grade
When: June-August
Cost: Inquire for prices
Contact: 651-646-3832
Website: camppillbury.com

Camp Pillsbury
A deep-away camp near Owatonna, Minn., that features more than 140 activities, including circus, theater, dance, music, sports, digital arts, water sports and more. Who: Boys and girls, ages 6-17

Who: All summer

School Chess Association
Professional Educators
All levels of instruction by professional educators!

GO TO WWW.SCHOOLCHESS.ORG / CALL LORENE 763-593-1168

32 NEW students have enrolled this year – tour now!

Kindergartners Round-Up: April 5, 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Info Night: April 5, 7:00 p.m.
PreKindergarten Info Night: April 7, 6:30 p.m.
Summer care available to registered Kindergartners!

Call 651-646-3832

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Call 651-481-8869

www.jotplumberpeople.com
**1 TUESDAY**
Baby/Toddler Story Time, Tuesdays in March, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30-noon.

**2 WEDNESDAY**
SAPAS Nimnana Group, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 12:45-1:30 p.m. No charge or registration required.

**3 THURSDAY**
Caregiver Support Group, first Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.

**4 FRIDAY**
Preschool story time, every Friday in March, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**5 MONDAY**
SAPAS wines and cards, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. Call 651-642-9052 to register.

**7 MONDAY**
SAPAS wines and cards, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. Call 651-642-9052 to register.

**9 WEDNESDAY**
SAPAS spring and estate card-selling, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9:30-11 a.m. No charge or registration required.

**10 THURSDAY**
Holy Childhood Church Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**11 FRIDAY**
Holy Childhood Church Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**12 SATURDAY**
Holy Childhood Church Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**14 MONDAY**
SAPAS A&M & Cards, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10 AM-Noon, Cost is $5. Call 651-642-9052 to register.

**15 TUESDAY**
Youth student music recital, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 1-2 p.m. Free-will donation.

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

**18 FRIDAY**
SAPAS Card Day, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon. Free.

**20 SUNDAY**
Sunday Afternoon Book Club, “The Children Act” by Ian McEwan. McMenamins, 2:30 p.m.

**24 THURSDAY**
Chinese Folk Dancing, lasts and opens for Suzuki, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**25 FRIDAY**
Teller/Choreograph Help Clinic, St. Anthony Park Library, noon-2 p.m. No registration required.

**26 SATURDAY**
Roell FootOggs will discuss his book “The Making of A Healer” and the use of orphaned seeds. Spirit United Church, 2-6 p.m., $35. Call 651-650-0655 for more information.

**28 MONDAY**
AARP Refresher Driver Course, 9 AM-1 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church. Paid examinations required. Call 651-642-9052 for more information.

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

**SUNRISE EXERCISE**
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

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

**30 CONO PARK/FALCON HEIGHTS BLOCK NURSE PROGRAM**
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Arbor Pointe Senior Apartment, 11 a.m.-noon.

**FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS**
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:

**FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS**
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:

**VENUE INFORMATION**

**St. Anthony Park Area Seniors Senior Cinema Series**

**“Eve” 2 p.m.**
Thursday, March 10th, at SAP Library

A climbing expedition on Mt. Everest is devastated by a severe snow storm. Starring Jack O’Connell, Emily Blunt and Josh Brolin.

**WINE BEER SPIRITS**

The best little wine shop you’ve never heard of...

—Twin Cities Metro magazine, 2236 Carter Ave., St. Paul 55108
651-645-5178

M-Th 10 a.m.-8 p.m., F-Sa 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

www.thelittlewineshoppe.com
When Falcon Heights resident Susan Thurston read the epic poem of Beowulf in her college medieval literature class years ago, she connected more to Grendel, the envious and resentful ogre, than to the story's hero, Beowulf, who defeats Grendel (and his mother) when Grendel attacks the hall of the Danes before the prince was raised in the monster's Scandinavian homeland.

"If a bunch of Danes moved into my county I'd be angry too," she says. That reaction to the ancient story is something that stayed with Thurston for years. Seventeen years ago, when Thurston's son, Sam Hamerni, was a newborn, she recalled a sleepless night when the idea for her new book, "Sister of Grendel," came to her.

"I know this sounds really woo woo and strange, but I was thinking about that story and then had this voice in my head and the voice said to me, 'I was there too.' " Thurston says. After her short maternity leave, Thurston found herself back at work and spending her lunchhours sketching out ideas for the book.

"That's how long I've been working on it," she says. Thurston will launch "Sister of Grendel," published by Black Hat Press, on Saturday, March 20, at 4:30 p.m. at the Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Actress Carolyn Pool will perform a reading from the book as the main character.

"I'm so excited to have an actual reading," says Thurston. "This is my first time ever reading the book out loud." Thurston is also working to bring the book to schools and libraries and has attended events at the University of Minnesota and Carleton College to promote the book.

"I love the connection between the book and contemporary issues," she says. "I think Beowulf is really relevant today for many reasons."

"Sister of Grendel" is available for $20. For more information, visit susanthurston.com.
Eilen Griffin, of her life in St. Anthony Park. She died Jan. 16.

Eilen Frances Rosenthal Griffin, 86, a lifelong resident of St. Anthony Park, 1928 home built by her parents, growing up and living the majority of her life in St. Anthony Park. She was a student at Gunterman Elementary School and graduated from Murray High School in 1947. Eilen attended Yankton College in South Dakota and spent time in Germany working to help rebuild the country's infrastructure damaged during World War II.

Politically active, Eilen championed the fight for the disenfranchised, working women, home midwifery and much more. Eilen extensively worked within local county and state social services, taking great pride in her brief service as a prison chaplain for the Ramsey County Jail. She was active in the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Sons of Norway and St. David’s Society. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, both of St. Anthony Park. Eilen is survived by four daughters, Fran (Dan) Beemers, Bonnie (Rick) Shoebottom, Millie (Brian) Welsh and Lu Griffin (Mike Hesano); four sons, Al (Nancy), Glenn (Cheryl), Jim (Jenna) and Ben (Stephanie Hughes); 20 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m. at First Christian Church, 610 W 28th St., Minneapolis.

F. Eileen Hagel, F. Eileen Hagel, 78, longtime resident of Como Park, died Jan. 29.

Eileen was actively involved in her church and children’s elementary school, Holy Childhood, where she worked as the church bingo hall manager and school secretary. She was preceded in death by her children Mary Eileen; Kathy Boy; grandchild, Christian; parents, Bert and Eleanor Thoennes; and sisters, Mary Ellen Thoennes, Margaret Aber and Kathy Swanson. She is survived by her husband, Rome; children, Mark (Diane), John, Bob (Samantha), Anne (Tom Marino) and Deb (Heidi Johnson); eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and siblings, John (Vicki) Thoennes, Joanne (Stuart) MacDonald and Barb Goben.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 6 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Robin Lindquist, Marie R. “Robin” Lindquist, “The Book Lady,” 90, died Dec. 21. She lived in St. Anthony Park for many years, greeter neighborhood customers at the front desk at St. Anthony Park Bank and served on the Park Press Board of Directors. She moved to Albuquerque, N.M., from here and was living in Portland Ore., at the time of her death.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold. She is survived by her children, Joy Barlert, Marc Barlert (Veronica) and Craig Barlert (Beverly), and three grandchildren. Interment will be held in the spring at Emmet Lutheran Church, Almend, Minn.

John Pearson, John Gille Pearson, 86, of St. Anthony Park, died Jan. 25 from myelodysplasia.

Jack graduated from Murray High School, Gustavus Adolphus College and St. Mary’s grad school. He was a teacher at Murray and Como Park Senior High School for more than 30 years and high school hockey coach for Murray High School. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Beverly; sons, Joe, Jon and James; daughter, Amy Peterson; seven grandchildren; and sisters, Bonnie Burns, Margaret Lunden and Judy Palmquist.

A memorial service was held Feb. 1 at Holcomb-Henry-Bloom-Parmel in Shoreview, with interment at Fort Snelling.

Leon Rossenthal, Leon L. Rosenthal, 97, of Como Park, died Jan. 18. He was preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Melita; daughters, Kathleen Clemens and Mary Leigh; and sons, Dennis, Patrick and Leon Girard. He is survived by sons, Peter (Peggy Docken), Noel (Jen) and Ken (Beth); 21 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Mary Rosenthal and Mildred (Robert) Moer; and daughters-in-law, Kathy McHale (Dennis) and Patsy Cleaton (Patrick).

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 21 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Alice Rowell, Alice Elizabeth Rowell, 94, of Lauderdale, died in her home on Feb. 15.

She is survived by her husband of 72 years, John; brother, Harry (Beverly) Ham; sons, Bartlett (Jan), Bruce (Sharon) and Brian (Susan); five grandsons; four great-grandchildren; and 7 great-grandsons.

A celebration of life open house will be held at Midland Hills Country Club 2001 Fulham St., Roseville, on Sunday, March 6, noon-3 p.m.

Paul Savage, Paul Patrick Savage, 94, a 50-year St. Anthony Park resident, died peacefully Dec. 13, at the Minnesota Veteran’s County Jail. He was born July 18, 1923, in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Paul lived a rich and fulfilling life that included many interests. He was an active and respected St. Paul community leader. He was instrumental in forming district councils, served with distinction in District 12, and completed three-year terms on the St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget Committee under five mayors. He was an early member and past president of the St. Anthony Park Association, serving as president of when women were first admitted to that organization. In addition, he was treasurer of the Block Nurse Program and a dedicated volunteer driver for the American Red Cross.

A proud World War II veteran, Paul served in the 98th Bomb Group in North Africa and Italy and recounted his experiences in his memoir The Big One.

After graduating from the University of Iowa, he began his career as a corporate executive and ultimately retired from Medtronic. Paul was also known for his creative interests, which ranged from photography and fine woodworking to his love of opera and foreign cars.

He is survived by his wife, Arla; daughter, Anne (Gary) LeDuc; son, Jim (Laura) Savage; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Beloved by many, Paul Savage was a source of joy to all who knew him, and he will be missed.

A memorial service was held Feb. 1 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park.

Doris Vance, Doris Esther (Harter) Vance, 92, died Jan. 13.

She was born on March 7, 1923, in Greenville, Ohio. She married John E. Vance in 1946. Doris worked for the Minnesota Telephone Association for 17 years.

Doris is survived by her children, David, Jim, Diana Kisch and five great-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her sister and brother-in-law—Doris and Ralph Plessinger and their son, Ron.

A memorial service was held at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ Jan. 30.


Born in Sauk Center, Minn., she graduated from St. Paul’s Wilson High School in 1950 and received a bachelor’s degree from American International College in 1970. She taught primary and secondary school for more than 30 years in Cincinnati, Ohio, and at St. Bernard’s and St. Rose in St. Paul.

She was a prolific reader, gardener, birder, hiker, world traveler and patron of the arts. An avid daily walker, she filled her pockets with dog treats for the dog residents of south St. Anthony. All that knew her were better for it.

She was preceded in death by her brother George Cook. She is survived by her brother James Cood; her children, David and Sue (Lane), Deborah, Thomas, Dennis and Cheryl (Monat); five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and her longtime friend Rande Zeller.

A memorial service was held Jan. 30 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church.
St. Anthony Park UMC to merge with Roseville church

The church will close in June and reopen in September as Centennial United Methodist Church-St. Anthony Park campus

By Michelle Christianson

On Jan. 24, the congregation at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church voted to merge with Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville.

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church (UMC), located at 2200 Hillside Ave., has been in existence since 1889 and has gone through periods of growth and decline in the following years. Because current church membership has fallen below 100 members, congregational leaders have been trying to find a way to energize and grow the church, as well as meet financial needs with a smaller membership.

There is need for an elevator and improvements to the office and Sunday school rooms. The church considered selling the parking lot, but that would have meant a huge investment of money and time and would have taken away valuable parking space for the church as well as for the neighborhood. They have an endowment fund from the sale of the parsonage, but that could not be used for operating expenses. The congregation was not growing and was running out of enthusiasm (and options).

Centennial UMC has been facing its own challenges and looking for a way to grow in its contemporary service. They have well-established traditional services in the morning, but struggled to find the right time and location within the church to hold the contemporary service, which has been in existence for time and time again. Shopping everything up and then taking it down every Sunday was a chore, and alternate spaces were cramped and dark. Centennial looked at many options and even explored renting a space outside the building.

In April 2015 both congregations consulted with UMC district superintendent Judy Zabel, who suggested they consider a merger. Last summer the churches convened task forces to explore the option. Instead of installing a new pastor at St. Anthony Park when the previous pastor left, the district assigned an interim pastor, Pat Hanle, who was experienced at coaching churches through the merger process.

The proposal to merge was presented to the church councils in December and a vote was held in both churches on Jan. 24. The vote was successful and the St. Anthony Park campus most likely will be called Centennial United Methodist Church-St. Anthony Park. The merged church will have two campuses with a combined membership, a single church council and a single unified budget. There will continue to be two traditional services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at the Roseville location, with the educational program offered at 10:30 a.m. One contemporary service and an educational program will be held at the St. Anthony Park site, with details to be worked out.

Programs such as the senior Leisure Center and SAP UMC Community Nursery School will continue to be housed in the St. Anthony Park building, but other organizations with membership from one or both of the congregations may rotate between the two campuses.

The combined church will have to work on business planning (how to use the St. Anthony Park church’s endowment and a proposed capital campaign), immediate plans for sanctuary improvements for the St. Paul site to enhance contemporary worship (including new seating and screen installation), multi-site coaching for leaders and open houses to introduce members to both sites.

Because some members from St. Anthony Park will change to worshiping in Roseville, there are plans to make the experience more welcoming—an enhanced website, better signage inside and outside the building, and better explanatory materials for transfer, visitors and new members.

St. Anthony Park UMC will close in June and will reopen as Centennial in September. Whitney Sherdan, who has been an associate pastor at Centennial for four years, will be the new pastor in St. Anthony Park. She says she is very excited to get to know the neighborhood and about the possibilities for outreach.

“Demographics from Mission Insight (a demographics tool means to help churches get to know the areas in which they minister) show that there are more young families moving into the area, and 60 percent of the population here does not belong to a church. She thinks having the only contemporary service in St. Anthony Park, as well as the church’s ‘radical hospitality and passionate desire to help the people of St. Anthony Park find a home among a family of faith that cannot wait to meet them,’ will draw young families in.

Because St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church helped found Centennial United Methodist Church in 1953, there is a natural connection between the two. In some ways, this is really a reuniting of two entities that separated long ago, and church leaders hope and pray that it is a new beginning rather than an ending.

Michelle Christianson is a longtime contributor to the Park Bugle.

By Kristal Leebrock

Christina Nicholson stepped in as Hampden Park Co-op’s general manager late last fall, just after phase two of the Raymond Avenue reconstruction project ended.

Road and sewer-repair projects virtually shut down Raymond Avenue outside the co-op (located at 2382 Hampden Ave.) through the summer. Consequently, sales at the co-op have the new manager have co-op in my blood,” she said. “I have co-op in my blood,” she said. She spent the last eight years as a project manager and operations manager at Mississippi Market Food Co-op on Selby Avenue before coming to Hampden and worked at the Wedge Community Co-op in Minneapolis for 13 years before that.

Many of the competing food cooperatives have gotten bigger with more offerings, so Hampden Park is looking to increase the items on its store shelves. A store reset began in late February to make the flow of the store “more shopper-friendly” and create more space for a deli expansion. The co-op is also “renewing our efforts to connect with our members,” Nicholson said. At that end, the co-op reinstated mailing its newsletter to its members in February.

Shopping close to home is a good way to put your mark on making the world a better place,” Nicholson said. “There are some scary big things in the world,” Nicholson said. “For me, I ask how can you find the place where you can be the one to change the world? Shopping at a place like the Hampden Park Co-op is how you make that change, and I believe that’s why we’re here.”

Micawber’s has moved— but not far

After 44 years at 2238 Carter Ave. in Milton Square, Micawber’s is relocating, from the street level to the garden level.

Milton Square’s ownership is renovating the space Micawber’s has occupied, and rent for the renovated space will be considerably higher. Micawber’s owner Tom Blumenhagen has accepted an offer for an office in the space formerly occupied by Bungalow Pottery. The new store, at 2300 Carter Ave., can be entered inside the courtyard.

Christina Nicholson, general manager at Hampden Park Co-op Photo by Kristal Leebrock

Local food gifts Hampden Park Co-op

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700 Glendale St., 651-649-5495
www.avalonschool.org

Crossroads Elementary
3577 Harnet St., 651-293-8790
www.crossroads.spps.org

St. Anthony Park United Church
2323 Como Avenue W., 651-645-9375
www.stanthony.spps.org

Roseville Area High School
1251 County Road B2, 651-635-1600 / www.isd623.org

Lion King Jr. to be performed in March
Murray Middle School will present Lion King Jr. March 11-13 in the school auditorium. Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at the door will be $10 adults, $5 for children under 10. Advance tickets, at a reduced price, will be available online at pay.spps.org through March 8.

Murray Showcase
Murray’s February Showcase and Open House was a great success. Current students, families and educators created a welcoming environment where future Pilots got to interact and experience the opportunities available at Murray. They traveled through the school, stopping at various interactive stations where they received a passport stamp.

Plot One-On-One needs tutors
Murray Middle School needs tutors to provide support to students in English, math or science studies.

Tutoring is offered Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 12:18-1:07 p.m. and 1:11-2 p.m. Tuition choices the day(s) and time(s) that work best with their schedule. Training and orientation are provided. For more information, contact Cindy Thaddeus, 651-744-5323 or cindy.thaddeus@bps.org.

School News

Debate due shines
Sophomore Stephen Boler and freshman Peter Schlisk thinned on the Como Park Debate Team, finishing the season as Como’s top duo and qualifying for the MSHL State Tournament, held Jan. 15-16, at the University of Minnesota. They competed in the Public Policy category, placing 15th overall in the state.

Iowa caucuses up close
Forty-seven AP Government and Politics students took a road trip to Iowa on Feb. 3. Both teams tied for 15th place out of 40 teams from across the state.

Kids’ Stuff Sale
Falcon Heights Elementary will hold its annual Kids’ Stuff Sale at the school on Saturday April 9, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. The sale will include gently used kids clothing, toys, sporting equipment, furniture and more. Half off on marked items begins at 11 a.m. Admission is free, but please no strollers or outside bags. For more information or to donate kids items (donations will be accepted through Monday, April 4) find us on Facebook: Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale.

Crossroads Elementary
543 Front Ave., 651-767-8940
www.crossroads.spps.org

Falcon Heights Elementary
1359 Garden Ave., 651-646-0021
www.falconheights.org

Middle School
2200 Baudouf Ave., 651-293-8740
www.murray.spps.org

To add your church to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-593-6814 or bradleywolfe@parkbugle.org

Community Worship Directory

LYTHA PLACE COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES ELCA
Rev. Scott Simmons, pastor; 612-859-1134, lythaplace.com
Hymn tap beer and hymns, first Monday of each month
7 p.m. Dubliner Pub, 2162 W. University Ave. 55114

MOUNT OLYMPIC CHURCH -WELS
Rev. Blair Pogue, Rector 2136 Carter at Chelmsford. www.stmatthewsmn.org
Sunday worship: 9:15 a.m., education for all ages 10:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
7:30 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2129 Commonwealth Ave. (corner of Commonwealth and Chelmsford) 651-646-5773
www.saplc.org
9:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages; 10:30 a.m. worship
Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m., Good Friday 12:00 Noon Nave
Pastor: Victoria Wilgocki
Christian traditions • Progressive faith • All are welcome

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Reconciling Congregation. All are welcome!
Reverend: Jill Rode, 651-645-0371
2323 Como Avenue W. (651) 645-0371
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
7:00 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor

ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
2323 Como Avenue W. (651) 645-0371
Staffed nursery available - Handicap-accessible Pastor Glen Berg-Moberg and Pastor Jill Rode
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
11 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
Sunday School 10:30 a.m. with education hour for all 9:30 a.m.

ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
6:00 p.m. Youth worship service; 10:30 a.m. service for all 8:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m. Free young adult dinner in parlor
7:30 p.m. Community Bible study in parlor

THREE BUTLERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
3206 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis, 612-978-3802; www.threebutlers.com
Come as you are. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome.

ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
2377 Octavia Blvd., 651-644-4102
www.stceciliaparks.org
Handicapped accessible
Sunday Mass at the church
Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the church

Learn about SPPS’s plan to redesign SAPS Elementary School
An informational meeting about a proposed program and school expansion at St. Anthony Park Elementary will be held Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6-7:30 p.m. at the school. The district is proposing to increase the size of the building and number of students who attend the school. District officials will be present to share information, gather input and answer questions.

Press release route
Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.
Swim team is young, promising

Hot and humid air is a rare commodity in the long months of a St. Paul winter, but seasoned residents of the city may know they can catch a taste of tropical climates in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in Como Park.

On the other side of Lake Como, the neighborhood has another large space that feels like the tropics upon entry. Tucked behind the gym at Como Park Senior High School, off a long hallway on the eastern end of the building, is the well-heated pool area where you can find the Como swim team training after school.

From mid-November through the end of February, the Como Pool area is a warm-weather destination for 16 young and enthusiastic student athletes who comprise the Como Park boys swimming program. The range of ability is wide, yet for all the participants, the pool is a place where they feel they belong.

Novice and less speedy swimmers work on basic technique and compete in junior varsity meets. More experienced swimmers with advanced technique and stamina represent Como in the varsity competitions. Similarly to many Como athletic squads, there is acceptance for all, with teammates encouraging and pushing each other to achieve personal bests.

The coach in charge is a former Carleton College athlete who qualified for the D3 national meet in 1987 while swimming for the Knights. Coach Steve Conery has taken what he learned at Carleton and applied it to the Como teams he has been coaching since 2001.

Conery is proud of the 15 years he has led the Cougars, spending the fall seasons training the Lady Cougars swim team, and the winters with the boys. Neither program is at the top of the conference, but both are competitive (for a third-place position). But as the 2016 season winds down, Conery sees the recently completed conference meet, in which his team once again finished third, as a new beginning.

“There is the promise of success,” said Conery. “I think in the future if we can continue growing as a team, we’ll be competitive (for a top-two finish).”

Multiple years of high school swimming still ahead for a group of talented underclassmen is indeed a promising prospect. Speaking of his team, Conery said, “I like their youth, I like their enthusiasm, and I like the way they work as a team.”

The team’s captains are junior Joe McCane-Zierath and sophomore Cole Napieralo. Other top varsity performers through the season and at the conference meet, included sophomores Noah Fese and Jared Czech and freshmen Joe Miller and Frank McGuire.

Every member of the program is valued, encouraged and supported. The variety of personalities, ages and even cultures has created a fun chemistry. The full roster of the Como swim team includes seniors Yang Xiang, Khan Myo and Vichai Thao, sophomores Gaarme Thompson and Allan Thoresen, freshmen Eliot Ohon-Halpern and Philip Chervenak, and Murray Middle School eighth-grader Levi Treiber. The team also has two foreign exchange students, Elia Frinzi from Italy and Made Alvesregui from France.

Conery assigns different stroke drills to individual swimmers to maximize potential improvement in each of them. He also varies the workouts and activities. Examples include the occasional “catfish” meetings around stacked kickboards, dry-land fitness training, sprints in the pool, as well as the laps that build the stamina.

What sort of distance do the top swimmers cover in a typical day of practice? On average, Conery says they swim about 5,000 to 6,000 yards.

That’s 2.5 to 3 miles a day. Surprised? These guys have become fit athletes. And focused. They don’t count their laps, or even think about it in terms of yards or miles. They just keep swimming.

“We don’t think about how much we swim,” said co-captain Cole Napieralo. “When informed their average day is a couple of miles, Napieralo was surprised, and added. “That’s kind of crazy, but the team helps each other get through it. We tell jokes before a set and stay cheerful. You learn to be physically and mentally strong to get through those workouts.”

Junior co-captain Joe McCane-Zierath agreed. He’s proud of the work with his teammates, and enjoys the camaraderie everyday on the pool deck and in the water. “We’ve all improved and we see each other cutting down their times,” said McCane-Zierath. “It’s exciting to see the results and know how far you’ve come.”

For the Como boys swimming team, 2016 has already produced pride, good times and personal bests. What they could do in 2017 and beyond holds promise for the Cougars. They’re already looking forward to the sets, the laughs and reaching new milestones.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High-School and a longtime coach of St. Paul school and youth sports.
Editor’s note: Writer Anne Holzman interviewed St. Anthony Park resident Emma Lee before she left for the Olympic trials held Feb. 13 in Los Angeles. Lee placed 73rd out of 149 finishers with a time of 2:50:56. Nearly 200 women started the trial, but many dropped out due to the heat in Los Angeles that day, Lee said. After the race, Lee sent the Bugle an email with her photo and this comment: “I am doing well apart from some nasty blisters on my big toes, and I’m really happy with how my race went.”

By Anne Holzman

After a frustrating start to her running career, Emma Lee found herself flying to Los Angeles in February to try out for the U.S. Olympic marathon team.

The St. Anthony Park resident, a 2009 graduate of Como Park Senior High School and 2013 graduate of St. Olaf College, ran Grandm a’s Marathon in Duluth in 2014. Since then, she has been repeatedly stymied by injuries. But a recent change in rules for U.S. trials meant that her Grandm a’s time 2:43:18 would qualify her to try out for the 2016 Olympics, so she worked with Como High coach Chris Lundstrom and got herself ready for the race.

Lee’s training runs have taken her on paths through Como, Roseville and Falcon Heights, as well as near her parents’ home in St. Anthony Park. As the race approached, Lee said, “If you see a girl in crazy Spandex doing a hill workout in front of your house, that’s probably me!”

Lee also lifts weights and does core-strengthening exercises. An avid cross-country skier in earlier years (she was one of those neighbors on roller skis a few summers back), she incorporated a few ski runs into her training, too. She said dietary preparation “is just getting enough to eat; it’s hard to take in enough calories to balance out a 100-plus mile week.”

She acknowledged that the L.A. weather might be a challenge after training in a Minnesota winter. “The high temperature is forecast to be in the 70s,” she said in the week before the run. “I plan to take fluids at every aid station to try not to get too dehydrated.”

She was looking forward to meeting other runners, including some “famous in the running world.” She said she and her mom would share a rented apartment with a woman she’d met at the Fargo Half Marathon in 2014. “It was cool to be able to make that connection,” she said.

Lee earned a master’s degree last spring and is now pursuing a doctorate in kinesiology/exercise physiology at the University of Minnesota. She said she would consider running professionally and hopes to work with athletes. She would also consider work that inspires people to improve their health. “I love getting people excited about exercise,” Lee said, “because it is basically a free miracle drug that will cure myriad health problems.”
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Murray student group works to end racism

By Kristal Leebrick

A poster hanging on the wall just up the stairway from Murray Middle School’s front office shows a photo of a black student holding up a sign that says, “I am not a criminal.”

Throughout the school’s hallways, similar posters are on display, all with students holding signs that challenge stereotypes: An Asian girl’s sign says, “I am not a criminal.”

The posters are the work of Dare 2 Be Real (D2BR), a new student leadership group that is inviting the student body at this St. Paul Public School to start talking about racism and stereotyping.

D2BR has been present at Twin Cities middle and high schools since 2005. Murray’s group began a year ago. Nearly 30 students meet a couple of times a month during the school day to explore issues surrounding cultural and racial stereotyping and to brainstorm projects that will encourage students to talk about why they have these biases.

On a recent Tuesday morning, students gathered in sixth-grade math teacher Katharine Hunziker’s classroom, along with school behavior specialist Lorenzo Farley and assistant principal Jamil McKenzie. The session started with a video from racial-justice group Race Forward that features a group of black high school boys talking about their experiences with racial stereotyping in school. The boys in the film describe childhood experiences of being accused of doing things they didn’t do, being graded more leniently than their white counterparts, and being accused of “acting white” by black people or “acting black” when they are with white people.

When the 7-minute film ended, Hunziker, who is white, told the group about an experience she had when she stopped at a coffee shop on her way to work earlier in the week. As she pulled up to the curb in her car, she saw a black man walking past the coffee shop. It was early morning and still dark outside. As she turned off her car, she saw the man—his hood pulled up over his head, a cigarette in his mouth—stop and stand in front of the coffee shop.

“I automatically thought, ‘This guy’s going to rob me,’” she said. “That’s the reaction that went through my mind. So, I put my lights on and I drove off.”

Hunziker came to school that day and shared her experience with her colleague, Farley, who is black.

“You’re racist,” he told her. “You’re racist,” he told me,” Hunziker said.

Of course, I was just joking with him,” Farley told the group. But then, he asked Hunziker, “What do you think made you worry about that? What things in your life have made it so that you would have been more comfortable if it was a white guy in front of the store?”

And with that, students began sharing their reactions to the film and Hunziker’s story.

“I know many other people in our school have felt the way they felt in the video but don’t feel comfortable sharing,” said one girl.

Eighth-grader Avani Holcomb reflected on her own experiences as a black girl at Murray: “Just because I’m a tall black girl people think I can play basketball and that I can play sports. My friends can all do track and they can run, and I can’t run that fast.”

Amelia Moeseman said that as a seventh-grader African-American boy, who didn’t want his name used, said the group has helped him deal with racist comments directed at him. “If someone’s talking about you’re not smart or ‘you can’t do this because you’re this race’ or something, well, now I don’t care. I’m above that. If someone is going to say that, I might as well just ignore it, because they don’t know if I’m smart or not.”

Amelia Moeseman said that as D2BR becomes more visible through presentations at student assemblies and the poster project, students are asking about the group. “I also feel like they are more careful about what they say,” she said.