



Out on a Limb

A Falcon Heights dance troupe finds a place for all dancers.

Page 3



Summertime

And the living was, well, interesting. Here are two tales of summers past to help you ease into the next season.

Pages 8 and 9



The Parent-Teacher

A local writer-teacher-parent offers advice on how to start the school year: what to say to your child and when to keep your mouth shut.

Page 11

St. Anthony Park

Falcon Heights

Lauderdale

Como Park

Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

September 2011

4-H 'opened the world' for women in the '30s

For Minnesota farm youth in the early 20th century, the odds of entering a profession were slight. Many small communities did not have high schools, transportation to those towns that had them was rare and many farm families considered high school unnecessary. Farm boys were expected to become farmers; girls would marry a farm boy and raise a family. Young women who left the farm usually worked as servants, country-school teachers, dressmakers, housekeepers and the like.

For tens of thousands of rural Minnesota boys and girls, many of whom had never been more than a few miles from home, 4-H opened vistas to a world far wider than they had dreamed of.

For three local women—Verna Mikesch, Evelyn Kern Dose and Gertrude Esteros, now in their 90s—4-H changed the course of their lives.

The roots of 4-H date from about 1900, when pioneering Midwestern country-school teachers began forming boys and girls clubs to give rural youth extracurricular instruction in the arts and sciences of agriculture and homemaking to make rural life more appealing.

During World War I, there were clubs in every Minnesota county. By the 1920s, most Minnesota clubs were known as 4-H clubs and the four-leaf clover 4-H emblem was used throughout the United States.

Project work was a club staple; members grew crops, raised animals,

baked, gardened or made garments and showed the results at the county fair. Top projects advanced to the Minnesota State Fair and top State Fair project winners often received trips to an annual 4-H Club congress, for several decades held in Chicago.

A 4-H scholarship from the *Minneapolis Journal* brought Verna Mikesch, now of St. Anthony Park, to the University of Minnesota in 1935.

Mikesch grew up on a farm south of Breckenridge, speaking only Bohemian until she attended grade school. When a teacher organized a 4-H club that offered bread baking, cake baking, thrift (making clothing from feed bags) and other projects, Mikesch signed on.

"In the early 1930s... 4-H really took off," Mikesch recalled. "We took part in play contests, had a harmonica band, went to the Morris encampment, went to county fair with our exhibits and gave demonstrations at county and district achievement days." She and a friend put together a roll-making demonstration that took them to the Minnesota State Fair. Soo Line Railroad paid for the girls' trip to the Twin Cities.

Mikesch continued in 4-H, raising chickens and a calf. In August 1935 she won the \$75 *Minneapolis Journal* scholarship. "I didn't realize what it meant and set it aside," she said. "When a call came saying, 'Take it or give it up,' I decided to take it. My

4-H to 6



Summer's Swan Song

This photo of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory reflected in the lily pond on a late August evening was taken by Como Park resident Becky Kapell using the Hipstamatic app on her iPhone 3G. Kapell says she has walked past the conservatory in the evenings for several years and just recently discovered the pond, which is near the zoo entrance.



The \$75 *Minneapolis Journal* 4-H scholarship that Verna Mikesch, right, won in 1935 brought her to the University of Minnesota, where she majored in foods and business. She was hired as a 4-H agent for Big Stone and Lac qui Parle counties right after college.

Calming traffic on Raymond Avenue

Project goal is to make street safer for all travelers

By Kristal Leebrick

A proposed Raymond Avenue traffic-calming project that would stretch from University to Hampden avenues in south St. Anthony Park will be reviewed by the St. Anthony Park Community Council at its regular board meeting Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.

If the council approves the project, it could be voted on in November by the St. Paul City Council.

The \$2.1 million project would narrow parts of Raymond,

add bump-outs to decrease the length of pedestrian crossings, add new pedestrian crossings and medians, eliminate some on-street parking and add new lighting, sidewalks and curbs. Construction would begin in 2013 and take three to four months to complete.

The project would be funded through the city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) and a \$1 million federal grant awarded by the Metropolitan Council.

If the project is approved, property owners along the project

Raymond Avenue to 14

Peapods owner helps a toy-testing reform bill pass

By Harvey T. Rockwood

While federal lawmakers battled over the debt ceiling this summer, a toy-manufacturing reform bill championed by a local merchant quietly passed in Congress almost unanimously.

Dan Marshall, owner of PeaPods Natural Toy and Baby Care at 2290 Como Ave., is credited with getting the bill passed, which will ease some of the requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of

Toy-testing reform to 16

C I T Y F I L E S

Como Park

Volunteers are needed for the **Neighborhood Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 24**, at the State Fairgrounds. Volunteers get to dispose of one carload free and lunch will be provided. Contact Jessie at district10@district10comopark.org or 651-644-3889 if you want to help. The cleanup will be held at the north end of the State Fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to plant

3,600 plants (26 species) in the sedge meadow area of the Como Park Woodland Outdoor Classroom from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17. Training and education, tools and gloves will be provided. Go to the website, www.comowoodland.org, for more information.

Falcon Heights

The annual **Falcon Heights Fire Department open house** and Touch-a-Truck Event will be held Saturday, Oct. 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Visitors can meet Falcon Heights firefighters, tour the fire garage, sit in the fire trucks, check out the firefighter gear and learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Stove and car fires will be demonstrated in the parking lot during the event.

The Touch-a-Truck allows children to sit in, touch and experience the "big" trucks of Falcon Heights and Ramsey County. A dump truck, snowplow and other vehicles will be on display for the participants to explore.

For more information call City Hall at 651-792-7600.

Registration deadline for the fall soccer program for ages 4 through 8 is Wednesday, Sept. 14. Soccer players will meet on Saturdays from Sept. 17 to Oct. 22 at Community Park, at the corner of Roselawn and Cleveland avenues. Each session will include 30 minutes of skill-development activities followed by a 30-minute scrimmage.

Mini Soccer, age 3-4, will meet at 9-9:55 a.m. Super Soccer, ages 5-6, will meet at 10-10:55 a.m. Extreme soccer, ages 7-8, will meet at 11-11:55 a.m.

Cost is \$30 for Falcon Heights residents and \$37 for nonresidents.

Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation rents out park

facilities to residents and nonresidents all year round. City Hall, Community Park and Curtiss Field are available to rent. Go to www.falconheights.org-Parks and Recreation-Facility Rentals for information on cost, location and amenities.

St. Anthony Park

The St. Anthony Park **Community Council is holding a community meeting** Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave.

Come for food and a conversation with our elected officials to hear about the state of the neighborhood and to vote on a name for the light-rail stations in St. Anthony Park. RSVP to Amy Sparks at 651-649-5992 or www.sapcc.org.

The **St. Anthony Park community garage sale** will be Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration forms are due by noon Tuesday, Sept. 6. Forms are available at Speedy Market, Hampden Park Co-op, the St. Anthony Park Branch Library and at www.sapcc.org, or call 651-641-1172.

Neighborhood Cleanup will be held at the State Fairgrounds Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All St. Paul and Falcon Heights residents are welcome. Fees vary. Carloads start at \$15 with additional fees for electronics, demolition, appliances, mattresses, carpet and tires.

Thirty volunteers are needed to help with the event. Shifts are 7:30 to 11 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

to 2 p.m.; please indicate which shift you'd like, as well as preference for specific cleanup area. Sign up by contacting Lauren at lauren@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992.

Visit www.sapcc.org for more information.

St. Paul city staff has approved a site plan for a **single-story office/industrial building at the former Overnight Express site**, 620 Pelham Ave., which was purchased by the Port Authority. This occurred in spite of several letters from the District 12 Community Council to Mayor Chris Coleman, Council member Russ Stark, the Port Authority and the city's Planning Commission requesting a public process and an appeal to higher design standards.

The Union Park District Council is planning to appeal the site-plan approval and wants testimonials or legal aid from St. Anthony Park citizens. Please email Annie Johnson, annie@updc.org, with your testimonial. For more information on the appeal, call the District 12 office, 651-649-5992.

Renters: Pick up your free recycling bags. Ramsey County has provided the St. Anthony Park Community Council with recycling bags for residents who cannot use the curbside blue bins. Bags will be available for pickup on Wednesday, Aug. 31, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 890 Cromwell Ave. More pickup times will be available in the future. Email amy@sapcc.org if you are interested.

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Tour Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom

Two one-hour interpretive tours of the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom will take place on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m.

Meet the tour leader at the Kilmer Memorial Fireplace on Como Avenue between Beulah Lane and Lexington Parkway in Como Regional Park.

Lisa Held, Department of Natural Resources interpretive naturalist and Como Woodland advisor, will be the tour guide.

The tour will cover Como Woodland's flora and fauna and its history. This 18-acre urban woodland is being restored to native plant communities with a grant from the Minnesota Environment and

Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The tours are free, but are limited to 25 participants. To make a reservation, call Held at 651-373-0028.

More information about the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom can be found at www.comowoodland.org.

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Perfection is not the aim of Falcon Heights dance troupe

By D.J. Alexander

Last month a Falcon Heights dance troupe with an inspiring mission hosted a gala to celebrate its somewhat unlikely survival. The name says it all: Out on a Limb Dance Company and School opened its doors to a handful of students on Sept. 10, 2001—the day before 9/11.

They stepped from a borrowed walk-up to a tiny, one-story rehearsal space near the State Fairgrounds. Since then, fueled by boundless positive energy and a belief that dance is within everybody's reach, they have survived a decade on what its founding director calls a wing and a prayer.

Initially, the school split off from Midwest Youth Dance Theater (MYDT), where founder Kim Martinez felt the call to form a nonprofit arts organization offering dance to at-risk and underserved youth, while providing a healthy and supportive home for young dancers. Today, Martinez's dreams have come full circle. Her studio returned home to the old MYDT space, 1535 Larpenteur Ave. W., at the corner of Snelling. The studio mirrors reflect Martinez's background: They once hung inside her mother's dance studio. (Her family spans four generations of dance.)

Out on a Limb has hosted annual dance-theater extravaganzas at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium since 2003, starring a large cast of enthusiastic performers of all ages, colors, shapes and sizes. Martinez says she rarely turns away a dancer from her auditions. She finds a place for all, to tell a popular tale through music and movement, showcasing all styles of dance. These annual shows entertain thousands of school kids who attend for free, children who otherwise might not be exposed to an art form often considered elite.

Did you see the film *Black Swan*? Beware, this company's balletic technique may be as sound, but it leaves the angst at the door. Thus, the troupe opened the "Celebra-ten!" show with a classical Swan Lake that suddenly fractured into parody, comedy pratfalls choreographed smartly to tweak the original ballet with a wink and "a nod to those of us who refuse to take ourselves too seriously," says Martinez.

The 10th anniversary gala included videos of longtime dancers talking about why they have stayed with Out on a Limb, some for the



Out on a Limb Dance Company and School marks 10 years in September. Performing in the 2010 production of the Wizard of Oz are, from left, Allison Causin, David Bensussan and Sara Renee Martinez. Photo by Karen Johnson

entire decade the company has been in existence. Common themes were a sense of belonging, heartfelt joy, a freedom to create and family involvement. Between show-stopping numbers from their past kids' show productions—from "Alice in Wonderland," "Cinderella," "Oliver!", "Annie," "Aladdin," "Mary Poppins"—they weathered a few projector glitches with aplomb. Everyone laughed and went on with the show. Out on a Limb is not into perfection.

"It's all about love, but we train really good dancers," says school director, company member and frequent choreographer Amber Rosah Keeley. As she begins her 11th year with a class starting this month, Keeley strives to make newcomers welcome. "It starts in the studio," she explains, where new students can take creative risks and feel safe stepping out of their physical comfort zone.

Keeley's aim is "getting more kids moving . . . the deeper into our technological world we go" (here Keeley glances down at her hands and mimes two thumbs frantically texting). Students who enter her studio leave that behind for an hour or two. She challenges her preteen composition class, for example, to dance the color blue, or create the alphabet using only their bodies. "They are a really magical group of kids, so passionate," she says.

Keeley's upbeat attitude is shared by Marcey Bolter Mastbaum, an active fundraiser for the annual school shows who serves as vice president of the board of directors. Martinez is board president, as well

as artistic director and costume coordinator, with casting, props and set wrangling on the side.

"It's about technique, but it's more heart and soul," says Mastbaum, "and that's where your audience is going to connect." Connect they do, with a host of volunteers and an audience that includes 3,200 children each year bused in from less advantaged metro schools, where 75 percent or more of students receive free or low-cost lunches. Sometimes these kids want to learn dance, and there have been scholarships scrounged up if they need help paying for it.

It's noteworthy that Mastbaum's involvement started way back when, as a parent of two small boys taking dance lessons. One of her sons, Jeremy, all grown up, is now a principal dancer with Out on a Limb and several other well-known local companies. Another unique quality: Out on a Limb is not exclusive about where company members perform, and they don't demand "Courtesy of" printed on other organization's programs. "We're here to educate," says Keeley. "We want them to spread their wings and fly, then bring back what they learn."

Every year, several apprentices graduate to dance with the company, but no one is required to graduate from dancing classes; the program is open to all. Adult Tap is a popular offering.

The only age criterion for the dance school? All students must be potty-trained.

D. J. Alexander lives and writes in Falcon Heights.

Register for Langford Hockey

Registration for Langford Park Hockey will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, St. Paul. The

program offers youth hockey for Mini-Mites (ages 7 and under) through Bantams (ages 13 and 14).

Registration forms are posted on the Langford Park Hockey website at

www.langfordparkhockey.com.

For more information, email info@langfordparkhockey.com or call Scott Hamilton at 651-329-8609.



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The deadline for the next issue is Sept. 14.

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

Opinions expressed in the *Bugle* by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc. Copyright 2011, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Currently serving on the board are Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamsen, Emily Blodgett, Bruno Bornshtein, Ann Fendorf, Nate Flink, Mark Johanson, John Landree, Karen Lilley, Nancy Olsen, Glen Skovholt, Jan Sedgewick, Blaine Thrasher, Kathy Wellington and Eric Wieffering.

EDITORIAL

A feel-good story rising up out of the rubble

Out of all the noise and disruption on University Avenue comes a quiet story that hasn't had much fanfare.

When it came to light that Central Corridor construction would limit the St. Paul Fire Department's access to University Avenue at Station 20 near Vandalia Street, Rock-Tenn Co., the paper mill and recycler just across the street from the fire station, offered to help.

RockTenn refurbished some empty office space and remodeled it into living quarters for the firefighters who work out of Station 20. The company added showers, an employee kitchen and anything else the firefighters—who live in the station 24-7—need, according to Steve Zaccard, spokesperson for the fire department.

RockTenn, which has picked up the tab for all remodeling costs, has offered this to the city free.

The company “has been very generous,” Zaccard said. “The leadership there has been outstanding.”

Walsh Construction, the heavy-construction contractor for the light-rail project, is putting up a temporary building in the parking lot at RockTenn to house the station's fire truck. That building will be moved to Station 18 at 681 University Ave. next year when construction hits that part of corridor.

Once the light-rail line is running, it will bring more people to the University-Raymond area, Zaccard said, and that will require a bigger fire station. “The station we have there won't be adequate for future needs. We'll have 30,000 more people in that vicinity. We will need another ambulance. We don't have room in that little station. It would be helpful to get it off the light-rail line.”

If the city can come up with \$4 million for a new building, Zaccard says, RockTenn will donate land on their site to the city for the new station.

Bugle news

The *Bugle* has a lot of news within its own ranks this month.

Park Press Inc., the nonprofit group that publishes the *Park Bugle*, wants to thank a number of members who are ending their terms on the board for all their years of expertise and hard work. Those members include Audrey Estebo, past president of the board; Paul Kammueler, outgoing treasurer; Jill Kottke, outgoing advertising committee chair; Thue Rasmussen, our board secretary for many years; and Todd Shannon. Hats off to these folks who helped the *Bugle* through a long-term planning process to help ensure its viability.

We welcome the incoming board members: Grant Abbott, Lynn Abrahamsen, Bruno Bornshtein, Nate Flink, Mark Johanson, John Landree, Glen Skovholt, Blaine Thrasher and Kathy Wellington.

The new members bring a wealth of expertise in nonprofit management, web design and more. We're looking forward to the new year.

Chrissy Ames, advertising sales representative for the south side of Como Avenue, is moving on to new ventures. We wish her well. And we welcome her successor, Ruth Weleccki.

To review the work of the Park Press board over the last year, you can read our annual report on our website at www.parkbugle.org. You can access the report by clicking on “annual report” at the top of the web page.

LETTERS

Business owners weigh in on Raymond Avenue Traffic project

We would like to add our comments regarding the traffic-calming plan on Raymond Avenue.

1. We are opposed to the timing of the work, which gives the businesses at Raymond and University two years of road construction back to back. We would like to push back the construction for at least one year.

2. We are opposed to the scope of the project. In trying to calm traffic, the total project cost is now more than \$1.5 million. Since the city and the federal government have limited funds, this may not be the highest and best use of public money. We believe there may be lower cost

options available to calm the traffic.

3. We object to the large plan that was put together before anyone knew there would be assessments to the property owners and that property owners were not notified. Now that we know property owners will be assessed, we would like specific notices sent to each property owner so they understand the amount of the assessment and can have a say in the plan.

4. We object to the loss of parking on Raymond. The Raymond/University area has been identified as one of the 11 problem areas that are losing parking due to LRT and no permanent solutions

have been put in place. Territorial Road only provides two-hour parking. We do not know the future impact of light rail, and it is too early to take away the parking, which is so important to businesses. Once the parking is gone, we don't get it back.

*Sandy Jacobs
Update Company*

*Barbara Hunn
Keys Restaurant*

BLAST was a blast

Kudos to St. Paul Parks and Recreation for bringing Summer BLAST to Langford Park this summer.

It gave my older children a little independence, as they could walk to it by themselves, and it offered me some precious one-on-one time with my youngest child.

*Anne Holzman
St. Anthony Park*

Annual Report 2010

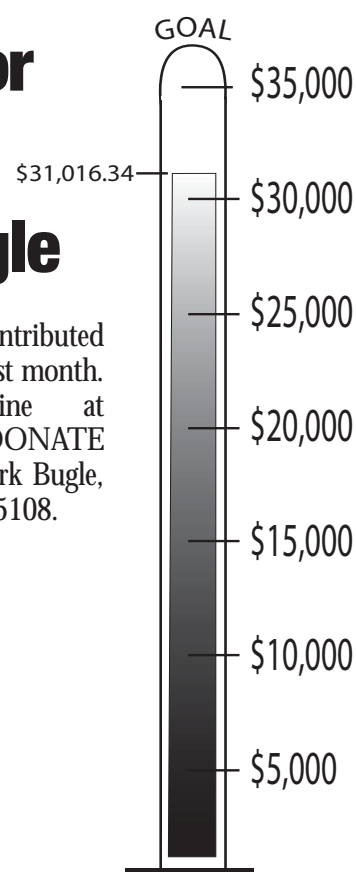
We've accomplished a lot in the last year, and we invite you to read our annual report online at www.parkbugle.org.

Go to our website and click on “annual report” at the top of the web page.

Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

The following *Bugle* readers contributed to the *Bugle* find drive in the last month. You can donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click DONATE NOW. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Victor Etienne
Nina Jorgensen
Lerner Foundation on behalf of Adam Lerner
Wesley and Marcia Sundquist
Jay Weiner and Ann Juergens



SPORTS CORNER

Central High School senior Jonah Van Why is back at it, writing about local high school sports. Check out his column at www.parkbugle.org. Click on Sports Corner and read all about it.



Jonah Van Why

While helping a friend convalesce, a book is born—along with a new career

By Michelle Christianson

Most people switch jobs at least once in their lives, but St. Anthony Park resident Doug Koons has mastered the art of changing careers. In his current occupational iteration, he is president of his own publishing house, William Charles Publishing, and co-author and photo contributor to a new book, *The Word of Jesus*.

Koons, a native of Sioux Falls, S.D., graduated from St. Olaf College in 1971 with majors in philosophy, Asian studies and theology. After graduation, he worked for two years at a day-activity center for developmentally disabled adults, then he and his wife, Jane, moved to Hong Kong, where they taught for two years at a Lutheran school in what was then called the New Territories. In 1975, they moved back to Minnesota, where Doug got a master of divinity degree at Luther Seminary and Jane earned a doctorate in Sino-American relations. Business opportunities opened for both of them when they finished their degrees.

Jane eventually became director of contract and international sales for Homecrest, a casual furniture company based in Wadena, Minn. She began traveling extensively in Europe, the Middle East and South America. Doug opened the Douglas-Baker Gallery (using his first name and Jane's maiden name) in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis after working for a year for Fred Wells at Asian Fine Arts Gallery in Minneapolis.

Koons later moved his gallery to 225 S. Sixth St., where he bought and sold fine art. In 2007, he sold the gallery to Nina Bliese (wife of Luther Seminary president, Dr. Richard Bliese).

While pursuing their interests in India, the Koons became involved in building libraries in Lutheran schools there. With the help of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry and many donors, the Koons added libraries to 97 schools, living in the home they have made in India for 10 months of the year and fundraising in Minnesota for the remaining two months. Jane remains the prime contact for this project, both in India and in the United States.

It was during this time that Doug met and became good friends with Gideon Devanesan, bishop of the

40,000-member Arcot Lutheran Church and president of the Union of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India, an affiliation of 11 Lutheran bodies with a membership of about 2 million. While attending the Lambeth Conference in England in summer 2008, Devanesan suffered a massive stroke, effectively losing his ability to speak and forcing him to retire as bishop.

Because there were few speech therapists available, Doug decided to learn how to work with Devanesan himself. He ordered books on speech therapy and spent two or three days a week, mornings and afternoons, helping Devanesan regain his speech. They read the Bible to each other and the idea for *The Word of Jesus* was born. Together Koons and Devanesan picked quotes and wrote short essays for the book. Devanesan set the order for the quotes. Koons, lead photographer Jeanne LeFevre, Cameron Quinn and Natalie Gehringer shot the photos for the book and decided which quotes would go with the photos.

Koons returned to Minnesota and began his own publishing house, William Charles Publishing (named after both Doug's and Jane's fathers). At present, *The Word of Jesus* is its only property, but Koons intends to continue in the publishing business,

focusing on spirituality, fine-art books and small-run handmade books. He will market them at trade shows, on websites and to libraries.

The Word of Jesus is a beautiful little book that consists of 60 passages from the Bible and 33 photographs. The passages are only Jesus' words, unencumbered by interpretation or explanation. "We have encrusted Jesus with so much talk," says Koons. "We wanted to let him speak for himself. And the gift we are giving to the book is our silence. We want people to hear for themselves."

The passages are enhanced by the photographs, mostly of the natural world, which reflect the meanings of the parables, prayers, lessons and admonitions they accompany. The book is suitable for young and old, and Koons says that it would make a good gift for new church members and confirmands or for first communion or baptism.

The book is available locally at Micawber's Books and the Luther Seminary bookstore.

And the future? "We're on the 10-year plan (with the libraries and the publishing house). Then we will retire," Koons says. But they are interested in South America. ...

Michelle Christianson is a frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.

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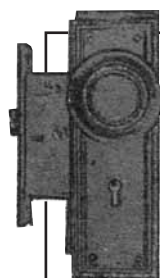
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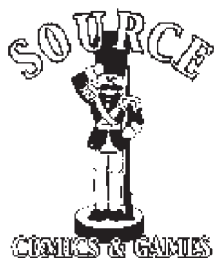
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mother and I cried over the decision, and in a couple of days I was on the train, bound for the university."

Evelyn Kern was 10 in 1929, when she joined 4-H. Kern's club, named the Ambitious 25 because it had 25 members, continues to this day as the Ambitious 4-H Club.

At age 12, Kern and her older sister, Anne, gave their first clothing demonstration, "Choosing Shoes," at the Wadena County Fair. Borrowing a foot-measuring device from Joset's Shoe Store in Wadena, they demonstrated how to choose shoes that fit properly and gave good support. Their first-place award entitled them to demonstrate at the Minnesota State Fair.

"Dad drove us to the fair," Kern said. In 1931, the State Fair 4-H building was yet to be built; 4-H members stayed in dormitories on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. Kern's father rented a campsite adjacent to the fairgrounds and slept in his car for the four nights they were there.

When a home economics student at the university came to Wadena County as summer 4-H club agent the next year, Evelyn realized that's what she wanted to do: become a 4-H club agent.

After graduating from high school in 1937, Kern continued 4-H as a junior leader and won the county bread-baking championship but declined the State Fair trip when she became employed, doing housework for a Wadena family and, on Saturdays, cashiering at the Ben Franklin store.

Late that fall, a telegram told her she had placed first in Minnesota and second in the nation in 4-H food preparation; her expenses would be paid to the 4-H Club congress in Chicago. Better still, the national award included a Servel kerosene-powered refrigerator, perfect for

Evelyn's non-electric farm home, and a \$300 Servel scholarship. She used it to register for winter-quarter classes at the University of Minnesota.

4-H "opened the world" to Gertrude Esteros, she said. She had been a 4-H club member for three years when, at age 12, she and her friend Myrtle Dalton worked up an award-winning canning demonstration for five fruits and vegetables.

This was Gertrude's first demonstration and "the most complicated I ever did," she said. The girls wore white 4-H uniforms with breast pockets and green trim. When the demonstration and its obligatory question period finished, the girls produced harmonicas from their pockets and announced, "If there are no more questions, we will close our demonstration with a harmonica duet." Whether for demonstration technique or sheer grit, their performance won the girls a trip to the Minnesota State Fair.

They were housed in dormitories on the university's then "Farm Campus," adjoining the fairgrounds. There, Esteros learned of the university's School of Agriculture, a boarding school designed for rural youngsters. Her community had no high school so, she decided, the School of Agriculture is where she belonged. She was admitted at age 14 (despite the school's enrollment age of 17) and lived on campus in the schoolgirls' dormitory.

On to college: After Mikesch enrolled at the university, she found housework that provided room and board and she scraped dishes in the St. Paul campus cafeteria. Income from that job along with her \$75 scholarship and savings from the sale of her 4-H calves carried her through the year. The cafeteria connection led to a summer job at Glacier National Park, where she



Gertrude Esteros

saved enough for her sophomore year.

Mikesch joined the campus Gopher 4-H Club and Beta of Clovia, the 4-H sorority. She completed college in December 1941, the same month that Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese.

For Evelyn Kern, college began with winter quarter in 1938. She found a housework job that provided room and board and paid \$3 a week, and settled in to her studies and her goal of becoming a 4-H agent. Like Mikesch, she joined the Gopher 4-H club and Beta of Clovia sorority. In spring 1939, she moved into the Clovia sorority house on Raymond Avenue in St. Anthony Park. She, too, found work at Glacier National Park, spending the summers of 1939 and 1940 there cooking at Going to the Sun Chalets. The job paid \$60 a month and provided housing, food and round-trip train fare—a bonanza back then.

Kern graduated with a degree in home economics education in March 1942.

As a college freshman, Esteros was one of the four Minnesota 4-Hers to attend the National 4-H Encampment in Washington, D.C., in spring 1933. The group stopped en route at the Chicago World's Fair, where the 4-Hers visited the World of Tomorrow.

In Washington they were housed in a tent city below the Washington Monument. "It was early in Franklin Roosevelt's first year as president," Esteros recalled. "Eleanor Roosevelt came in a little, open-top roadster. She sat down very close to me and visited with us; I was entranced. Her eyes were the most beautiful blue. She was so interested in us."

During college Esteros worked for room and board in the home of Wylle McNeal, then director of home economics. McNeal and the fabled



Verna Mikesch



Evelyn Kern



In 1937, Evelyn Kern, right, placed second in the nation in 4-H food preparation. The award included this Servel kerosene-powered refrigerator, perfect for the family's nonelectric farm home. The sale of that refrigerator a few years later gave Kern the down payment on her first car.

Goldstein sisters—Miss Harriet and Miss Vetta, who nurtured the division of related art in the home economics department from its inception—became Esteros' mentors and academic advisers. She received her bachelor's degree in home economics education, with honors, in 1936.

As a foods and business major, Mikesch aspired to become Betty Crocker. Two impediments stood in the way: The job wasn't open and city life did not appeal to her. She was hired as a 4-H agent for Big Stone and Lac qui Parle counties.

Mikesch needed a car for her new job, so she borrowed \$300 to buy a Model A Ford and bought a driver's license for 25 cents; there were no driving examinations then. She

arranged to live on credit at Ortonville's Orton Hotel, eat on credit at the Korner Café and buy gasoline on credit at the Standard Oil station until her first paycheck.

In 1945, Mikesch left 4-H for a broader role as Lac qui Parle County home demonstration agent. She transferred to Perham, in Otter Tail County, for a similar position in 1953.

She joined the state Extension staff in 1955, then took a sabbatical in 1959 to complete a master's degree in rural adult education, with a minor in meats, at Oklahoma State University. She retired as professor in 1971.

Evelyn Kern met her goal—an Extension position—in 1942. The day after her college graduation, Kern took the bus to Wadena, bought her 25-cent driver's license and received a quick driving course from the insurance agent who was financing the 1937 Plymouth Kern had put \$100 down on. The \$100 came from the sale of the Servel refrigerator, which her parents had replaced with an electric one.

In 1945, Kern joined the state 4-H staff at \$300 a month. Three years later, she married Victor (Vic) Dose and resigned her 4-H position to raise sons Dexter and Greg. As they grew



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Gertrude Esteros, far right, was born Kerttu Esteros to parents who emigrated from Finland. She grew up on an 80-acre farm, 40 acres of it a swamp, at Saginaw, Minn., north of Cloquet. Her trip to the Minnesota State Fair introduced her to the University of Minnesota's boarding school for rural youth, where she would enroll just a year later.



Gertrude Esteros says 4-H showed her that she could be a leader.

older she sometimes judged 4-H projects.

In 1970, Evelyn Kern Dose returned to Extension work, serving as Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNP) supervisor in Ramsey County. She retired in 1984.

After college, Gertrude Esteros taught at a southwest Minnesota high school, the School of Agriculture, Morris (now the University of Minnesota-Morris) and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1940, she returned to the University of Minnesota to teach and earn a master's degree in related art.

During World War II, Esteros joined the American Red Cross and was assigned to the Southwest Pacific where she set up recreational activities for ambulatory military patients. She arrived in Australia just before Christmas 1942 and returned to the states just before Christmas 1945. She rejoined the university's home economics art faculty. With various time-outs, she remained there for 34

years.

In 1949, Esteros succeeded Harriet Goldstein as head of related art. During her tenure, design grew from a small unit into the Department of Design. She oversaw the development of the Goldstein Gallery, which has costume, textile and decorative arts collections. Esteros retired in 1980. She maintains that 4-H showed her she could be a leader.

Together, Verna Mikesch, Gertrude Esteros and Evelyn Kern Dose have enjoyed 95 years of active retirement.

In 1978, Mikesch was deeply involved in acquiring the Beta of Clovia house at 1499 Cleveland Ave. N. for the 4-H sorority. She lived there for nearly 30 years as rental and maintenance manager and unofficial confidante to Clovia members. Her popularity spread next door to Farm House Fraternity, whose members began to stop by for her advice.

She now lives in an assisted-living facility in St. Anthony Park.

Kern Dose has served as a Goldstein Gallery volunteer, earned the National Association of Extension Home Economists Distinguished Service Award and chaired the Minnesota Home Economics Association History Committee. Her greatest pride is her family: two sons,

two daughters-in-law, three granddaughters and a grandson.

A generalist who taught many courses while heading the Department of Design, Esteros grew keenly interested in housing. She began teaching the cultural aspects of housing in the 1960s, later expanding it to a two-quarter course, "Housing in World Perspective." She was a founder and president of the American Association of Housing Educators.

In the early 1980s she took a leading role in developing 1666 Coffman, a 93-unit condominium community near the St. Paul campus for people 55 and older who worked at the university at some time in their career. She was the first to purchase a home there. In 1993, Esteros received the Outstanding Achievement Award, the highest honor given to a University of Minnesota graduate.

Abridged with permission from an article by Harlan Stoehr. Stoehr was assistant professor and agricultural bulletin editor at the University of Minnesota in the 1960s and went on to Midland Cooperatives, the Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul and a Minneapolis advertising agency. He writes of connections with rural Minnesota now and then.

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Summer days

Two writers, two tales, two summers past

the 1971 grateful bread truck tour

By Dave Healy

What's the best summer you ever had?

Mine was exactly 40 years ago, when two friends and I spent three months driving around the United States and Canada. Although in 1971 we were four years removed from the Summer of Love, the spirit of that phenomenon was still in the air. But rather than converge on a single location like Haight-Ashbury, we decided to take the countercultural pulse of the entire country by "circumventing" it.

Although we intended to travel frugally, the trip would take a chunk of change. To that end, I got a second-shift job at Whirlpool a month before spring semester of my sophomore year in college ended, and those workman's wages were enough to fund my share of a 1951 Ford Taystee bread truck, which Steve Eckstrom, Pete Bergeson and I turned into a poor man's Winnebago. When school was out, we headed north to Canada, then east to the Atlantic, south to Florida, west to Arizona and California, north to Washington, and then east again, arriving back in St. Paul 12 weeks and 11,000 miles later.

Along the way, we eschewed freeways, campgrounds, tourist attractions and restaurants—though we were not above freeloading off the occasional relative: Steve's aunt and

uncle in Sacramento, Pete's parents in Seattle, my grandmother in Emery, South Dakota.

We slept in the truck, which we had outfitted with a fold-down couch in the front and a bunk bed in back. We parked in out-of-the-way spots wherever we found ourselves at day's end. We cooked our meals on a Coleman stove, heavy on oatmeal and baked beans.

Macroscopically, our route was a giant circle. Microscopically, a particular day's journey was dictated by whim: We followed our noses. Although we were anti-freeway, we were not averse to big cities, and we checked out Montreal, Washington, D.C., New York City, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

In Montreal, someone broke into the truck while we were walking around downtown and unaccountably made off with our (well-used) camp stove. Replacing it constituted our second-biggest single expense of the summer, topped only by a tire we had to buy later in Crescent City, Calif.

We were afraid to drive in New York but equally fearful of navigating the subway system, so we bused into the city and walked for hours to reach



fabled Greenwich Village. In Central Park we heard steel drums, our first exposure to that musical form, and attended a rally billed as being for workers and students. After a few minutes Pete asked, "Where are the workers?"

With the movie *Easy Rider* much on our minds, we drove pretty much straight through the South, sleeping in shifts and stopping only to get gas, fearful that three longhairs would attract the attention of roving bands of rednecks. In Phoenix, we spent our first night parked near a gas station that had a large time-and-temperature sign. When we finally drifted off to sleep around midnight, the sign read 99°. When we awoke at 6 a.m., things had cooled to 97°.

Though a bread truck is capable

of highway speeds, it's better suited for a slower pace, and we rarely drove more than 50. With no deeds to do and no promises to keep, we moseyed along beneath the blue true summer sky, happy as the grass was green. If something in a particular town looked interesting, we stopped and checked it out. If not, we shook the dust from our tires and kept cruising.

Our journey took us along a ribbon of highway from the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters, from sea to shining sea, and we drove

the last leg with the Grateful Dead's "Truckin'" echoing in our minds:

*Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me.
Other times I can barely see.
Lately it occurs to me
What a long, strange trip it's been.*

In 1971, gas was 35 cents a gallon and burning it was a guiltless pleasure. That entire summer—food, transportation, lodging, entertainment—cost me less than \$300. I've never lived as cheaply since, nor as expansively.

My life is no longer governed by the rhythms of the school year; summer vacation is mostly a state of mind. But what a state it is, and what a collection of states I live in. And what I wouldn't give to spend another summer touring those states in a 1951 bread truck.

Dave Healy is a freelance writer and editor. He was the editor of the Park Bugle for 10 years, retiring in 2010.

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‘They’re gonna put me in the movies’

By Adam Granger

In summer 2006, I was cast as an extra in the Robert Altman movie *A Prairie Home Companion*, Garrison Keillor’s stylized eponymous nod to his radio show. I was one of the dozen so-called “GK Extras” (officially, Musician Extras) brought in at Keillor’s suggestion, all of us regulars on the show. Human verisimilitude.

There was no speaking or playing involved. Among us, we had 400 years of experience doing what we were on the movie set to do: stand around backstage and onstage, instruments in hands, “waiting to go on.” (Other GK extras were John Koerner, Dan “Daddy Squeeze” Newton, Bill Hinkley, Judy Larsen, Jon Pankake, Becky Schlegel, Peter Ostroushko, Prudence Johnson, Bob Douglas, Butch Thompson and Dick Rees.)

As I am completely uncredentialed and unambitious regarding the movie biz, it’s safe to say that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, and what an experience it was. It was tacitly understood that this would be the ailing Altman’s last film and, as he was a director universally loved and respected by actors, major stars flocked to the set like Amish to a barn raising: Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, John C. Reilly, Lindsay Lohan, Tommy Lee Jones, Kevin Kline, Virginia Madsen and, of course, Garrison (as himself).

I was told to wear what I would wear when I’m on the radio show, so I wore a pale print cream-colored shirt and black pants (which look great on the radio). As a result of my nondescript appearance, I ended up in 14 scenes. Watching the movie, then, becomes a sort of Where’s Waldo experience for my friends and family.

We were paid \$275 a day, and I was on the set 11 days; filming propitiously occurred between gigs on the East Coast and in Texas. Every day, we filled out pay forms, and I remember that they had little boxes to check marked “smoke pay” and “wet pay”: One got more for working under those inclemencies. Our environment was ideal: The movie was filmed almost entirely in the air-conditioned comfort of the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul. Also, because Altman was not well, workdays were a civilized eight hours or so instead of the 12 to 14 common for movies. Paul Thomas Anderson was on hand as insurance against Altman’s being unable to complete the film.

I would arrive early and get breakfast at the food trailer parked in front of the old Science Museum. The company was called “Extreme Movie Catering”; their van had been driven from Los Angeles to provide food for the company, and good grub it was.

The theater looked essentially the same as normal, except for the lobby and backstage areas, which had been stylized in a vaguely ’40s-’50s motif. The PHC crew and the Fitz staff were on hand to oversee technical issues and to act as extras. Over time, I came to understand why each of the other 80 or so people scurrying around the place was there: Meryl Streep’s hairdresser, the script girl, six production assistants, three four-person camera crews, assistant director Vebe (Victor Borge’s son), Altman’s personal assistant, Lohan’s manager (dapper in a three-piece suit). . . .

Altman sat in the right rear of the theater, watching three large monitors (the film was shot in high-definition video) and communicating his wishes over an intercom. If one behaved, one could stand eight feet behind him and watch him work. For close-ups, he would make his way down to the action and direct from there. His catchphrase—the one that let people know they’d done a good job—was, “That was adequate.”

Particularly fascinating were the conferences between Keillor, whose show and script it was, and Altman, the supreme commander of the ship. Garrison, true to his style, was changing the script at the last minute, on a laptop on the set. (Tomlin and Streep were given new scripts for one of their big scenes 15 minutes before it was shot.)

One fun glitch: The movie is about a show broadcasting over the fictional radio station WLT, but the band’s music stands have “MPR” on them.

The several hundred unpaid extras who served as the audience were housed in the old Science Museum when not needed and trooped across the street when their scenes came up. They brought bag lunches and seemed delighted to be there and in the movie.

Lindsay Lohan always had a few fans waiting outside the makeup trailer, holding teen magazines and wanting autographs, and, by the way, her comportment and professionalism were beyond

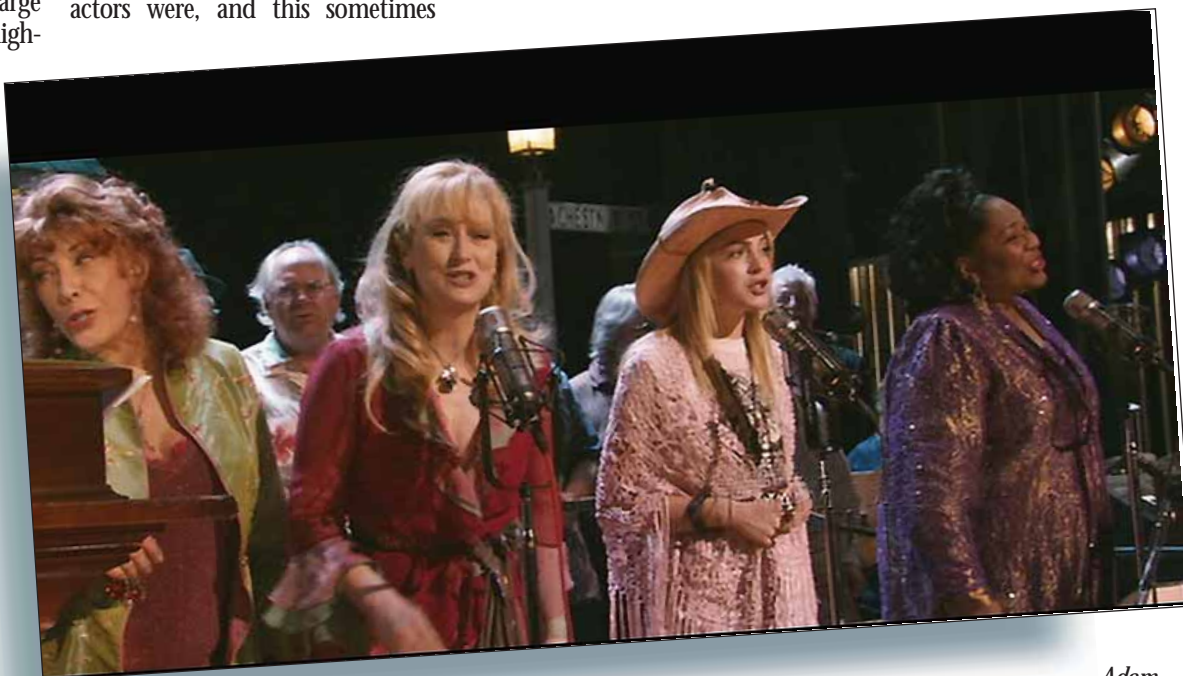


reproach. John C. Reilly took advantage of his down time on the set to learn to spin lariats from Pop Wagner. He worked on this several hours a day. By the time the movie wrapped, he could spin two at once. For his generous efforts, Wagner earned a movie credit as “Lasso Trainer.”

The big surprise for me was what good musical performers the actors were, and this sometimes

with Kline hitting all of his marks at exactly the same times as before (for the cameras), but with completely different comedic business (e.g., opening the screen door of the house set and getting his thumb stuck in it). It was an amazing thing to witness, and Altman’s leaving the decision to Kline was an exemplar of why he was so loved by the cast: He was an actors’ director. After that second take,

Where’s Adam? You can spot him in the shadows behind Meryl Streep and Garrison Keillor (above) and Lily Tomlin, Streep, Lindsay Lohan and Jearlyn Steele (below) in the movie *A Prairie Home Companion*.



Adam Granger lives in St. Anthony Park (in the shadow of the trestle).

under duress: Lily Tomlin took two days off to bury her mother in Kansas and, upon her return, filmed “Goodbye to My Mama” with Streep, a sweet, sad Keillor composition made triply so by her loss. You can see her struggling to maintain her composure as she sings, ever the professional.

Kevin Kline had a scene in which, as house detective Guy Noir, he prowls around backstage during the broadcast, searching for the only-sometimes-visible Dangerous Woman (Madsen). The take was typical Altman, meaning it was a long one, with cameras following Kline across the backstage area. When they were finished, Altman, over the intercom, asked, “Kevin, do you want to do another one?” Kline thought a minute, brow furrowed, and said yes. They re-shot the scene,

Altman’s voice came booming through the theater: “Kevin, that was extremely adequate.”

As was my experience.



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Neighbors

Cub Scouts fire up Sept. 12

St. Anthony Park Cub Scout Pack 22 is holding its Fire Up event for boys in grades K-5 on Monday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Langford Park bandstand. Call Clay Helmer at 651-603-6987 for more information.

Rhino and zebra conservation topic of next Audubon program

The St. Paul Audubon Society will present the program "Rhino and Zebra Conservation in Namibia" on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. at Fairview Community Center, County Road B W., Roseville.

Tara Harris, director of conservation for the Minnesota Zoo, will discuss how the black-market demand for rhino horn has led to a catastrophic decline in black rhino numbers.

The event is open to the public. A social time with refreshments will begin at 6:45 p.m. Call Val Cunningham at 651-645-5230 for more information.

Lions donate money for visual-aid software to Roseville Library

Three computers at Roseville Library now have software that can assist people with limited vision, thanks to a \$20,000 donation from the Falcon Heights-Lauderdale Lions Club. Computer users who need low-vision aids can use two adaptive software programs that read aloud what is on the screen or increase the size of what is seen on a monitor. The donation also helped the library purchase large print books and books on CDs.

Memorial Blood Centers sponsors blood drive

Memorial Blood Centers will host a blood drive Thursday, Sept. 22, from



This old house

Dave and Nancy Healy celebrated their Scudder Avenue home's 100th birthday on Aug. 20 with a party that included 10 former residents, who came from Minnesota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont and New York. Dave Healy says the group collectively lived in the house from 1941 until 1990, when the Healys moved in. Pictured above are the current and former residents of 2246 Scudder Ave. Front row: Pat Curtis, Joyce Kirk, Jean Prickett, Nancy Healy, Jean Andrews and Gordon Prickett. Back row: Ben Healy, Matt Healy, Dave Healy and Russell Prickett. Not pictured: Tom Duke and Karen Duke.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Court International Building, 2550 University Ave. W., Suite 416.

To register for the drive, call 888-GIVE-BLD.

Driver-safety fair is for parents of teenage drivers

St. Paul Community Education is hosting a Teen Driver Education Safety Fair for Parents on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Parkway. Call 651-744-4924 for more information.

Women's drum circle Sept. 17

A women's drop-in drum circle will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Go to www.womensdrumcenter.org for more information.

Celebrate apples at Gibbs

Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, 2097 Larpentour Ave. W., will host its annual Apple Festival Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1 and 2, from noon to 4 p.m.

The festival will include apple games, apple crafts, apple activities, apple food and a visit with Johnny Appleseed. Strawberry Moon will perform old-time string band music.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 62 and older and \$5 for children ages 2-16.

Horticultural Society names new officers, board members

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society's new at-large members include Mary Granlund, St. Paul; Alec Charais, Andover; and Nola Wagner, Minneapolis. The society's new officers are Mary Maguire Lerman, St. Anthony Park, chair; Jack Fistler, St. Paul, vice chair; and Bob Newman, Eagan, secretary.

Former Bugle photographer celebrates 40-year career

Steve Rouch, a writer and photographer for the *Park Bugle* in the 1970s, is celebrating his 40th year as a professional photographer with an open house Friday, Sept. 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Steve Rouch Photography, 2184 Marshall Ave. For more information, call the studio at 651-644-2184.

SAP native receives fellowship with Jewish Education Service

Ariela Lerman, a native of St. Anthony Park, has been named an Enriching LIFE Fellow with the Jewish Education Service of North America. Lerman is the Israel Education Coordinator at the Louise D. and Morton J. Macks Center for Jewish Education in Baltimore. She has taught in a variety of congregational schools throughout the country.

Lerman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and master's degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service from the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

THANK YOU

to everyone who stopped by for our annual
Community Appreciation Day!



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School News

The Parent-Teacher

Stay positive when talking with kids about the new year; anxiety is contagious

By Megan Marsnik

If your family is anything like mine, you have a child who has been checking the mail every day since the end of June to see if that infamous "letter" arrived from school. The envelope holds something far more valuable than plane tickets to Disneyland, a million dollars, or a dinner invitation from Justin Bieber. The letter reveals (drumroll, please) the name of my child's 2011-2012 teacher! And I assure you, to my daughter, it couldn't arrive quickly enough.

When you discover who your child's teacher is, act excited. I mean really excited. Jump up and down, do an embarrassing dance, go out for ice cream to celebrate. Have you ever heard anyone say a nice thing about this teacher? Tell your son or daughter, and feel free to use hyperbole.

Have you ever heard a not-so-nice thing said about this teacher? Keep it to yourself. Zip those lips. If you need to vent, do it later. Anxiety is contagious.

When I first moved to St. Anthony Park, kids received teacher assignments on the last day of school. I stood outside Speedy Market watching my recently promoted children drink root beer floats when another parent leaned over to look at my six-year-old's teacher assignment. It was printed on that infamous letter. "Oh!" the parent said. "You got the good one."

The good one?

It is normal for parents to want our children to get the best teachers. However, it is crucial for us to know that "best" is relative. If you have more than one child, you know that no two kids are alike. A teacher who was absolutely perfect for your creative, free-spirited child may not be ideal for your younger child who thrives in a more structured environment. Even if you had hoped to see a different name on that letter, don't let your disappointment show to your child. It is possible he or she got the "good" one after all.

Students entering junior or senior high school also may have anxieties about teachers, but more often, the anxiety is about social issues. This stress is rarely articulated vocally and often manifests in strange ways. Remember those three-year-old temper tantrums? They might make a resurgence in the weeks before school starts. (It's difficult not to tantrum back. Or is that just me?) Even if your tweens or teens say they are not concerned about fitting in, or having the right clothes, or knowing someone in homeroom, they might be. I have a sign in my high school classroom that says, "Most teenagers are too concerned with their own insecurities to notice yours."

It's true.



Megan Marsnik

What can we do to prepare our children for the first day of school? Curb the usual anxieties. Will your daughter get yelled at if she has the wrong color pencil box? No. Will the lunch lady get mad if your son can't remember his lunch code? No. What if your child gets lost or can't remember how to work the lock on their locker? It happens all the time. Schools have adults and older students in the halls to help.

The most important thing we can do to prepare our children for school is to be thrilled for them. Rant and rave about their gym shoes (fastest ones ever), let them pick out school supplies, and talk about the friends and faculty they might be excited to see again. Remind them about the clubs they can join or sports that will be starting.

When they leave you on that first day of school, assure your child that this will be the best school year ever. I think it will be.

Megan Marsnik has worked as an urban educator for nearly 20 years. She and her husband are the parents of two children who attend public schools in St. Paul. She will be contributing occasional columns to the Park Bugle about parenting and teaching.

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September 30, 2011

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Properties For Sale! In Wonderful North St. Anthony Park!



Linnea Gardens, #107 - \$134,900

Very cute and cozy 1 BR unit just across the street from the St. Paul Campus. Gorgeous kitchen! Cheaper than renting – build equity and live in the Park's best condo.

2439 Como Avenue - \$289,900

Exudes charm, yet incorporates the updates that are hard to find. Cent. Air, Dbl gar. New kit, 3 BR, 2 full baths.

2326 Hendon Avenue - \$399,900

This one has it all - 4 BR, 2 BA, central air, hardwood floors, wainscoting, beamed ceilings, remodeled kitchen, and beautiful built-ins, 2+ car garage, and more!

Linnea Gardens Units #204 and #304

2040 Como Avenue. #204 is an incredibly spacious 1 BR, 1 BA with a gorgeous kitchen. #304 features 2 BRs, 2 baths, top floor location with skylight. Elevator, fitness center, guest suite, extra storage, garage and so much more! \$214,900 & \$244,900

1666 Coffman Street, #215 - \$185,000

Designed for active adults age 55 years and over, with an unusual amount of amenities in a prime location, this 2 BR, 2 BA unit is centrally located in Falcon Heights.

2458 Como Avenue - \$298,900

Surprisingly spacious, fully remodeled, 4 BR, 2 BAs. Fplc, hdwd flrs, gorgeous kitchen, formal dining.

2309 Priscilla Street 4-plex - \$349,900

Quiet location, excellent condition. Each unit has refinished hdwd floors, natural wdwk, sun room.

There are other great Park properties in all price ranges coming on the market soon.
 Call for more information!

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Apple Festival

**Saturday, October 1 and Sunday October 2, 2011
Noon - 4:00 p.m.**

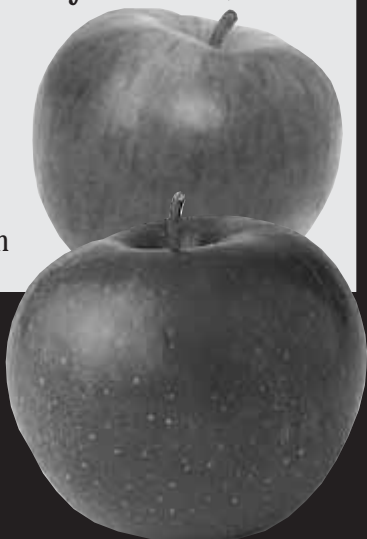
Apple crafts, activities, food and
music, all in the beautiful setting
of Gibbs Museum

\$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 Children



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SEPTEMBER

Events

Contact information is at the end of the
calendar. Send events by Sept. 14 to
calendar@parkbugle.org for the next issue.

3 & 4 SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Drop-in bluegrass jam every weekend,
8 a.m.-1p.m., Edge Coffeehouse

6 TUESDAY

Block Nurse Exercise, 3:15 p.m.,
St. Anthony Park (SAP) library

7 WEDNESDAY

Open computer lab, 1:30-3:30 p.m.,
SAP library

English Conversation Circle,
4-5:30 p.m., SAP library

St. Anthony Park Book Club, Little Bee
by Chris Cleave, 6:30 p.m., SAP library

9 FRIDAY

Block Nurse Exercise class, 3:15-4:15
p.m., SAP library

10 SATURDAY

"How to Avoid Financial Exploitation of
Seniors," 10:30 a.m., SAP library

12 MONDAY

Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., 500,
Cribbage, Falcon Heights City Hall

13 TUESDAY

Block Nurse Exercise, 3:15-4:15 p.m.,
SAP library

14 WEDNESDAY

Open computer lab, 1:30-3:30 p.m.,
SAP library

English Conversation Circle, 4-
5:30 p.m., SAP library

15 THURSDAY

Basic computer class, 10:30 a.m.-12:30
p.m., (sign up required) SAP library

16 FRIDAY

Block Nurse Exercise, 3:15-4:15 p.m.,
SAP library

Preschool storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
SAP library

20 TUESDAY

Block Nurse Exercise, 3:15-4:15 p.m.,
SAP library

Baby storytime, 10:30 a.m., SAP library

21 WEDNESDAY

Open computer lab, 1:30-3:30 p.m.,
SAP library

English Conversation Circle, 4-5:30
p.m., SAP library

22 THURSDAY

Basic computer class, 10:30 a.m. (sign
up required) SAP library

23 FRIDAY

Block Nurse Exercise class, 3:15-4:15
p.m., SAP library

Preschool storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
SAP library

25 SUNDAY

Sunday afternoon book club, Outliers by
Malcolm Gladwell, 2 p.m., Micawber's

26 MONDAY

Falconers Card Club, 1 p.m., 500,
Cribbage, Falcon Heights City Hall

27 TUESDAY

Flu shots, 1-3:30 p.m., call 651-642-
9052 to reserve a time, SAP library

28 WEDNESDAY

Open computer lab, 1:30-3:30 p.m.,
SAP library

English Conversation Circle, 4-5:30
p.m., SAP library

Beginning stained glass class, through
Oct. 26, \$75, J. Ring Glass Studio

Starwatch with WCCO meteorologist
Mike Lynch, 7:45 p.m., SAP library

29 THURSDAY

Block Nurse Exercise class, 3:15-4:15
p.m., SAP library

Basic computer class, 10:30 a.m.-12:30
p.m., (sign up required) SAP library

30 FRIDAY

Block Nurse Exercise class, 3:15-4:15
p.m., SAP library

Preschool story time, 10:30-11:30
a.m., SAP library

"Bread for the Journey" concert, all
ages/free-will offering, 7 p.m., St.
Anthony Park United Church of Christ

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Edge Coffeehouse, 2399 University Ave.,
651-641-1656

Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077
Larpenteur Ave., 651-644-5050

J. Ring Glass Studio, 2408 Territorial
Road, 651-644-8193

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

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

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

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**September 10th
10:30 - Noon**

**Topic: How to
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Exploitation of Seniors**

**Speaker: Iris Freeman,
ElderCare Rights Alliance**



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*We will miss St. Anthony Park.
Thank you for a fabulous 5 years!
Please continue to stop by, if the lights
are on, as we wrap-up the business.*

L I V E S L I V E D

Mary Abraham

Mary T. Abraham, 100, of Como Park, died of pneumonia July 29. She was born Oct. 16, 1910, in Lebanon and lived in St. Anthony Park for several years before moving to Como Park.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alex, and siblings. Mary is survived by her daughter, Ferial, and sister-in-law, Anna Hager.

Retired from the Twin Cities Linnea Home in 1984, she was a member of a Salvation Army quilting club and an avid gardener. She had a beautiful smile and a wonderful sense of humor.

Funeral services were held at Roselawn Cemetery.

Gerald Anderson

Gerald W. Anderson, 77, of Como Park, died surrounded by his family on Aug. 6. Jerry was a Korean War veteran, an avid chess player and an enthusiastic Boy Scout.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Shirley Rose. He is survived by his children Tracy Harrigan, Gay (Dan) Bartholic, Michael (Donna) and Scott

(Kimberly); and eight grandchildren. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 10 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

JoAnn Kristina Anderson

Passed in peace on June 21. JoAnn was a longtime resident of St. Anthony Park and an employee of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Wayne Dordell

Wayne “Tim” Dordell died peacefully surrounded by family in Mesa, Ariz., on March 4.

He is survived by his wife, Priscilla, with whom he celebrated 50 years of marriage on Dec. 17, 2010. He is also survived by his children, Timothy, Robyn Bedgood and Christoffer, and their spouses, as well as two grandchildren.

Tim served on the board of trustees at Como Park Lutheran Church and was general counsel for Lyngblomsten Foundation. A celebration of his life was held July 30 at Como Park Lutheran Church.

Father Joseph Gannon

Father Joseph T. Gannon, 96, died July 19. Gannon had served at Maternity of Mary Church in Como Park before he retired in 1984.

A native of Farmington, Minn., Gannon graduated from Farmington High School then joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1936, he married Arlene Vieths and had six children.

Gannon worked for People's Natural Gas Company, then owned and operated the Maid-Rite Restaurant in Lake Mills and Osage, Iowa, and the Sugar Creek Drive-In in Osage. In 1956, he moved his family back to Minnesota. Gannon joined the priesthood at age 56, after his wife's death.

Gannon lived at the Leo C. Byrne residence in St. Paul. He loved to cook, tell stories and was an amazing joke teller, harmonica and piano player, and tap dancer.

He is survived by his children, Tom, Dennis, Dr. John (Evelyn), Patricia Faxvog (Tom), Steve and Mark (Tina); 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 27 at St. Helena Catholic Church in Minneapolis, with interment at St. Michael Cemetery, Farmington.

Judith Nolting

Judith Lynn Nolting, 73, of Arden Hills, died Aug. 2. Judy taught at St. Anthony Park Elementary School.

She was born in Indianapolis and attended Indiana University (Bloomington).

After teaching in St. Paul, Nolting moved to Kansas where she completed a post-master's program in Family Therapy.

She held several positions in counseling and mental health management in Kansas, then in the St. Paul area. She is survived by her husband, Earl; children, Susan (Kevin) Burke, Matthew and David; four grandchildren; and sister, Jayne (Gary) Admire. Her memorial service was held Aug. 5, at Sunset Chapel and Cemetery.

Glenn Osterberg

Glenn Osterberg, 80, of Falcon Heights, died July 19. He was preceded in death by his brother, Roy. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jean; son, Peter (Kirsten); daughters, Carol Kriegler (Bill) and Susan Malecha (Paul); nine grandchildren; and brother, Martin.

A memorial service was held July 26 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, with private family burial.

Dr. Phillip Raup

Dr. Phillip M. Raup, 97, died July 21. He was a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota from 1953 to 1984.

Raup was an internationally recognized expert in land-use policy, with a particular focus on the Soviet Union, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and North Africa.

Born in January 1914, he was raised on a farm in western Kansas. Raup married Marian Louise Getter in 1941. They were active in the Twin Cities Alliance Française, the United Nations Association of Minnesota and St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. Marian died in 2009.

He is survived by three children, Philip Jr. (Marjorie), Martha (Diane) and Gordon (Sandra); three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Another grandson, David Raup, died in 1994.

A memorial service was held at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ on July 31, with interment at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Helen Lindstrom

Helen Lindstrom, 92, longtime resident of Lauderdale, died July 24, with her four children by her side. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur. She is survived by her children, Larry (Niki), Carol (Peter) Ferrier, Melody (Tom) Kirkpatrick and Brian; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; best friend, Virginia Boyle; and friend of the family, Ice Fang.

Her funeral service was July 30 at Peace Lutheran Church in Lauderdale.

Donald M. Schmidt

Donald M. Schmidt, 82, longtime resident of Como Park, died July 16.

Born on Feb. 28, 1929, Schmidt was a Korean War veteran. He was a member of St. Andrew's parish and an employee of Ecolab.

Don is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Mark, Molly Schmidt Johnson, Terry, Tim, Dick, Ellen Schmidt Grady and Zeila; and many grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Brainerd, Minn., on July 22.

There is no charge for Bugle obituaries. Send information to Mary Mergenthal, 651-644-1650 or mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.

Community Worship Directory

❖ COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

www.comoparklutheran.org
www.comoeveningprayer.org
1376 Hoyt Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55108-2300
651-646-7127
Handicapped Accessible
Sunday Fall Worship Schedule & Sunday School Kick-Off: Begins September 11
8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship (nursery care provided from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
9:35 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Education (Adult Ed begins September 18)
Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays
Rides available for 10:45 a.m. worship- call before noon on Friday.
Wednesday Evening Activities: Begins September 14
7th & 8th grade confirmation, adult and children's choirs, adult and children's bell choir, senior high youth group. Meal provided 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Adults \$6, Children \$3 (3-11), Family maximum \$20.
Pastor: Martin Ericson
Director of Music Ministry: Thomas Ferry

❖ FALCON HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1795 Holton St. at Garden, 651-646-2681
www.falconheightsucc.org
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. worship (summer hours, through Aug. 28)
Communion, first Sunday of the month
Sept. 8 (Thurs.) – 7 p.m., Juncture One (alternative worship experience)
Sept. 11 – 9:15 a.m., weekly adult education series begins: Thinking Theologically about Justice Issues
Sept. 11 – 10:30 a.m., Welcome Sunday worship; 12 p.m., garden party with cookout
Sept. 13 (Tues.) – 10 a.m., weekly Bible study series begins
Sept. 14 (Wed.) – 6:15 p.m., weekly evening adult education series begins: Living the Questions: “Saving Jesus”
Sept. 17 (Sat.) – 6 p.m., Pie Festival; 7 p.m., youth group overnight
Sept. 18 – 9:15 a.m., children and youth classes begin.
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace church; handicap accessible

❖ HOLY CHILDHOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

1435 Midway Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108 Handicap Accessible
Rectory/office 651-644-7495, www.holychildhoodparish.org
Sunday Masses: Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Daily Mass: 7:45 a.m. with Rosary following Mon.-Thurs. and 6:30 p.m. Thurs.
Confession: Saturday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 9:30-10 a.m.
Sept. 29, 5-9 pm, "Oktoberfest-Taste of Como," No Minors

❖ MT. OLIVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH-WELS

www.mtolive-wels.net, 651-645-2575
1460 Almond Ave., St Paul, MN 55108
Handicapped Accessible
Sunday: Worship 9 a.m.
Pastor Al Schleusener

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth Avenue (corner of Commonwealth & Chelmsford)
651-646-7173 www.sapucc.org
10 a.m. worship
Pastor Victoria Wilgocki
God is Still Speaking

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.sapumc.org
All are welcome!
2200 Hillside Ave. (at Como) 651-646-4859
Pastor Donna Martinson
Sundays:
10 a.m. Worship celebration
11 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2323 Como Avenue W. 651-645-0371
Staffed nursery available - Handicap-accessible
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Email: office@saplc.org
Rally Day, Sept. 11 – Join us!
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Education Hour for all: 9:45 a.m.
Choir School begins Sept. 14
Wednesday Community Dinners 5 – 6:30 p.m. begin Sept. 14
Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church 1:30 p.m.

信義教會 星期天下午

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector
2136 Carter at Chelmsford, 651-645-3058, www.stmatthewsmn.org
Sundays 9:15 a.m. Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Nursery care provided 9 a.m.-11:20 a.m.
7 p.m. Night Prayer, Dinner at 6 p.m.
Regular Fall Schedule begins Sunday, September 11.
Please join us – All are welcome!

❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Raymond Avenue from 1

route will be assessed \$153,000 for the grading, paving and lighting on the street. That amounts to \$2,495 for a 50-foot parcel. Property owners could choose to pay the assessment up front or stretch it over 20 years at 4.75 percent interest. Payments would begin at \$272.16 the first year and decrease each year as the principal is paid down.

"The goal [of the project] is to make the corridor safer for pedestrians and for everyone," said Lauren Fulner-Erickson, District 12's community organizer.

But some area business owners are concerned that the project will take away already-limited street parking and create more disruption for construction-weary merchants.

Sandy Jacobs of Update Co.,

which leases office and warehouse space in the area, said she's concerned about the scope and the timing of the project, as it comes on the heels of the Central Corridor light-rail construction project.

Patty George's shop, Salon George at 856 Raymond, is on the block that stands to lose street parking on the west side, between Long Avenue and the Bradford-Ellis intersection. Taking away parking makes it harder for people to get to businesses, George said. "And when it's not easy to get to businesses, they will go away."

"If we could just keep the two-sided parking on our block it would make a world of difference," she said. "I think there's a way to do it to make everyone happy."

There are a number of apartment buildings on Raymond that depend on off-street parking, George said, and with light rail coming into the neighborhood, she worries that the demand for on-street parking will increase. "Raymond Avenue will be a thoroughfare. People are going to drive into our neighborhood and get on the light rail—and they will be biking too—but this is Minnesota. This is a town of cars. It's going to be a long, long time before we get to the point of having no cars."

Susan Peterson, who lives across the street from the salon, says the project "is a great idea."

"It will be nice to have a bike lane, new street lights for brighter streets, safer crosswalks. I walk to the bus every day," she said.

She welcomes restricted parking on the west side of the block between Long and Ellis-Bradford because it would make it easier for homeowners to move in and out of their driveways. Parked cars frequently block the driveways, particularly in the winter, she said.

"There is parking on both sides of Territorial Road and it is never full," Peterson said. "All in all we are only losing about 15 parking spots."

The plan to rework the street began in October 2004, when the District 12 Community Council held a public meeting at which residents expressed concerns about traffic and pedestrian and bicycling safety. Residents told stories of motorists taking curves too fast, particularly in the winter, and landing in their yards or

hitting fences and trees.

John Sigveland, who lives in the 800 block of Raymond Avenue, joined the Raymond Avenue Traffic-Calming Task Force shortly after witnessing a dramatic crash in front of his home. He and his wife had just walked out of their house carrying their infant son in his car seat, when a car swerved around the curve at Long Avenue and crashed into their parked car.

"The previous owners had cars up on the lawn, the stone wall was hit, trees were hit," he said. "It was universal. It wasn't just us."

In August 2006, 45 people attended a meeting at South St. Anthony Recreation Center where ideas were presented for three Raymond Avenue intersections: Gordon, Hampden and Bradford.

The Gordon and Raymond project was expedited in 2007, after a woman pushing an infant in a stroller was hit by a car in a crosswalk at the school crossing there. Sigveland said the money to add a median to that area came out of then Councilmember Jay Benanav's own budget.

After a November 2006 public forum, the task force submitted a proposal to the city to rework the area of Raymond between University and Hampden. Task force members were told that a successful capital improvement budget request could take up to five years to implement.

It's now five years later.

The task force has met intermittently since its formation. It reconvened in December 2010 to finalize a plan to send to the District 12 council in hopes it would be approved and sent on to the City Council for final approval.

Construction was initially proposed to begin in 2012, but after several meetings with area stakeholders the start date has been pushed to 2013.

News about property assessments didn't come to light until this summer, which upset many residents and business owners. Paul St. Martin, assistant city engineer, said he takes the blame for the miscommunication. Raymond is a county road and in the past, city property owners were not assessed for improvements on county roads. That policy has changed.

The task force held a community meeting in June to review the project. When word of the assessments hit, the Community Council hosted another public meeting with city engineers Aug. 8.

Some details of the plan were changed after that meeting to address property owners' concerns. Here is a breakdown of the current plan:

- Curb lines and parking will not change from University to Territorial Road. The street will be restriped and bump-outs will be added at all four corners of the Territorial Road and Raymond

intersection.

- Parking will continue on both sides of the street from Territorial to the Ellis-Bradford intersection. Bump-outs will be added at Ellis.

- Ellis and Bradford will be realigned. Currently, both streets come together to intersect at Raymond, creating a large pedestrian crossing. Bradford would be realigned to Ellis and Ellis would intersect with Raymond. The realignment would require the city to acquire some land from a townhome association at that intersection. If the city's real estate division and the association can't agree on the land acquisition, then that part of the project will be reviewed.

- The project calls for bike lanes to be added between the Ellis-Bradford intersection and Long Avenue. That block is the only part of the avenue that does not have bike lanes. Parking will be permitted on the east side of the street only.

- The intersection at Long and Raymond will be narrowed and Long will intersect with Raymond just south of the curve at that point of the road.

- From Long to Hampden Avenue, three medians will be added along Raymond with space to allow cars to turn into Bayless Avenue and the Hampden Park Food Co-op parking lot.

- Bayless Place will be extended to meet Raymond Avenue, and the intersection at Bayless Avenue and Raymond will be removed.

- The Metro Transit bus bay at the northwest side of Hampden will be moved to the southwest corner of Hampden and Raymond.

- The island at Hampden and Raymond will be enlarged and landscaped.

- The project will include reconstruction of the water main, new sidewalks and new street lights. The lights will be the lantern-style lamps similar to those installed in north St. Anthony Park in the last decade.

Raymond Avenue was built in 1923 and, other than a new overlay of asphalt in 1956, 1982 and 2000, no work has been done on it since it was built, said St. Martin. The original pavement is almost 90 years old.

If the Community Council approves the project Sept. 8, the city will host a meeting in mid-October before the proposal goes before the City Council. The time and date for that meeting have not been determined. Property owners along the project route will receive a mailing from the city announcing the meeting details.

After that meeting, the city will host a public hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 2, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. The City Council could vote on the project at the end of November.

You can stop by the District 12 office, 890 Cromwell Ave., to see a map of the plan. For more information or to comment on the project, contact Lauren Fulner-Erickson at 651-649-5992 or lauren@sapcc.org.

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Business News

'Flappers' slated to open in October

By Roger Bergerson

The new Colossal Café on Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park is going to be several times larger than the south Minneapolis original, but in terms of sheer physical size still not, well, colossal.

Occupying space that for decades housed Dr. David L. Gilbertson's medical practice at 2315 Como Ave., the 50-seat café is tentatively slated for a mid-October opening.

It will offer much the same breakfast and lunch fare that draws raves at the tiny (16-seat) original Colossal Café at 42nd Street and Cedar Avenue South. That means a menu featuring yeast-based pancakes known as "flappers" (one of the favorites comes with apples, walnuts and brie), breads and pastries made from scratch and a meat-loaf sandwich with cranberry

sauce. The latter was described as "Christmas in a sandwich" by Guy Fieri, host of the Food Channel's *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* series, in an episode that can be viewed at www.colossalcafe.com.

John Tinucci will co-own and manage the new café, having recently retired from an active role with Tinucci's Restaurant, a perennial favorite supper club in Newport. His daughter, Elizabeth, who runs the south Minneapolis eatery, will split her time between the two locations.

"I still have a passion for the business and it's exciting to build the Colossal Café brand," said John Tinucci. "It's so different from what I've been doing." He added that it's a challenge to take a space that housed a doctor's office for 40 years and adapt it to the special requirements of a restaurant.

Equipment has been ordered, construction should be under way soon and a staff is being assembled. Already on board is kitchen manager Dave Frey, formerly of the Four Inns restaurant in downtown St. Paul, known for his prowess in baking, soup-making and from-scratch cooking.

It's early days, but Tinucci says he has had a positive reception from St. Anthony Park residents who have heard about the addition of the Colossal Café to the neighborhood.

"What I'm hearing is that people are happy to have dining options," he said. "We love the mini-downtown feel of the neighborhood and think that a lot of our customers will walk or bike to the café."

Roger Bergerson, a former newspaper reporter and longtime Como Park resident.

Peapods from 1

2008 (CPSIA), a law that lumped manufacturers large and small with heavy inspection requirements.

CPSIA mandated the same expensive third-party testing on all children's products whether they are made in China in batches of 100,000 or in a home studio in batches of 10.

While well-intentioned, the law sent many businesses to near extinction, Marshall said. This "one-size-fits-all law" had already caused the closure of dozens of small businesses and was threatening to shutter more when several of its most costly provisions were set to take effect by the end of this year, Marshall said.

For the past three years, Marshall, president of the Handmade Toy Alliance, has been working to change

aspects of the law and testified before Congress several times.

"Many [businesses] were starting to lose hope," he said.

The reform measure was signed into law Aug. 12 by President Barack Obama. Only two of the 435 members of the House of Representatives voted against the bill, Marshall said, while the Senate passed it unanimously. Marshall credited U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar with exceptional effort to get the measure passed.

The updated measure strikes a careful balance, Marshall said. For instance, it requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to develop a new alternative-testing framework that would be economically viable for so-called small batch

manufacturers, those with less than \$1 million in annual sales. Additionally, only products made in quantities of fewer than 7,500 per year would qualify for alternative-testing under the new law. Some standards, such as the lead paint rule and the standard for metal in children's jewelry, were not changed.

"These changes will significantly reduce the burdens imposed on struggling businesses while maintaining strong protections for our children," Marshall said. "We simply cannot afford to lose jobs or stifle innovation because of questionable regulations, and I thank the president for signing this critically important bill into law."

Marshall co-founded the Handmade Toy Alliance as a result of the initial legislation. The group represents small toymakers, children's product manufacturers and independent retailers.

Peapods has eight employees and carries wooden toys, cloth diapers and organic clothing. Marshall said they avoid selling things like mass-market plastic toys and focus instead on more environmentally friendly items.

Harvey T. Rockwood is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.

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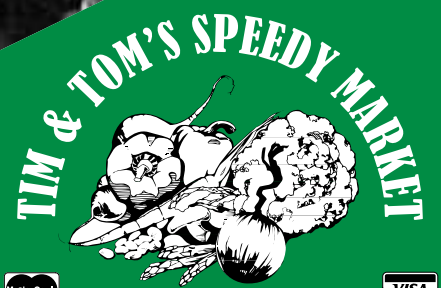


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