Your award-winning, nonprofit community resource

Library ‘feeds the soul’

By Roger Bergerson

The man who provided $25,000 to build the St. Anthony Park Library a century ago did so because of a rock-ribbed conviction.

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people,” said Andrew Carnegie. “It is a never-failing spring in the desert.”

Generations of St. Anthony Park residents have felt the same way, because their stewardship has helped maintain what’s now commonly acknowledged as a jewel in the community at 2245 Como Ave.

“Our library is a form of public art, people love it, it feeds the soul,” says longtime supporter Mary Griffin.

Arlington Hills neighborhoods of St. Paul, are members of that latter select group, all celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year, as is the George Latimer Central Library in downtown St. Paul.

All three branches were designed by Charles A. Hausler, a city architect, who favored the lavish beaux-arts style of architecture.

Marching, speechifying

The St. Anthony Park library was the first of the branches to open in 1917. On a hot July day, 150 people attended a brief ceremony, each checking out a book.

The formal dedication took place in October, starting with a march to the library by children from Murray School. Dietrich Lange, principal of Mechanic Arts High School and St. Anthony Park resident, spoke on the uses of libraries. An evening concert followed, with more speechifying.

By the Great Depression, the library was showing signs of neglect, as Leveling, speechifying

The St. Anthony Park Branch Library sometime in the 1950s.

original purpose.

St. Anthony Park’s library, along with those in the Riverview and Arlington Hill neighborhoods of St. Paul, are members of that latter select group, all celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year, as is the George Latimer Central Library in downtown St. Paul.

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The first St. Anthony Park Bank building opened at 2250 Como Ave.

in 1917. The building was remodeled in the late 1950s (shown here).

That’s Rick Beeson talking, Sunrise executive vice president, and he’s referring to the continuity that has characterized the bank’s presence in St. Anthony Park and its trade area, especially its people orientation.

Customer Sandra Weise, owner of the Finnish Bistro, certainly agrees:

A stable presence

By Roger Bergerson

Sunrise Banks in St. Anthony Park is celebrating a century of service and community building.

Since the original bank charter was issued, there have been multiple name changes, facility expansions and product-and-service improvements. But there also have been constants, with first the Boss and now the Reiling families in ownership roles, and “so many hundreds of friendly faces and interesting people who have been customers over the years.”

Public meeting to address library property line dispute

St. Paul City Council Member Russ Stark will host a community meeting Tuesday, June 6, to discuss a possible sale of city land adjacent to the St. Anthony Park Library to the adjoining property owner. The meeting will be held in the basement community room of the library, 2245 Como Ave., from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Representatives from the St. Paul Public Library, the city’s real estate division and city attorney staff will also attend to answer questions.

In 2015, the city of St. Paul conducted a property line survey that revealed that a portion of land that the homeowners believed were part of the residential lot actually was part of the library property. The city and homeowners have been in negotiation since then and the city may sell the land to the homeowner. A sale would require a public hearing at the City Council. Stark is holding the community meeting to share information and answer questions, said Samantha Henningson, Stark’s legislative aide.

Bank to 7
Como Park
The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Here to how to contact: 651-644-3895, district10comopark.org or District 10 Community Council on Facebook.

Save the date for first South Como neighborhood social June 4
Save the date for Sunday, June 4, when District 10 hosts its first “neighborhood social” in South Como. Hang out with more neighbors than will fit at your house. Feast on food trucks, including La Tapatia, Cravin’ Pie and M.K. Mart Ice Cream. Plus, there will be plenty of activities for the kids to burn off energy. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social. It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social.

About the event: The event is co-sponsored by Como Active Citizens Network, Como Community Council Dist 10 and Como Community Council Dist 10.

Stop and join us
District 10 residents and the St. Paul Police Department will team up on a Stop for Pedestrian safety event on Sunday, May 28, at the intersection of Como Avenue and Pascal Street from 5 to 6 p.m. The event is designed to educate drivers that state law requires them to stop for pedestrians in every crosswalk, every time. Drivers who ignore the law get tickets. If you’re in town Memorial Day weekend, stop and join us.

ComoFest rides again
ComoFest will return again this summer, with free fun for everyone the last three weekends of July. For a sneak peak at new events, and old events with new spin, visit www.ComoFest.org.

Congratulaitons to the new ComoCommunity Council board in April.
Congratulaitons to the new ComoCommunity Council board in April. Here are the results: chair, Ryan Flynn; secretary, Tim Port; Sub-District 1, Gari Neu Nies; Sub-District 2, Maggie Zimmerman, Sub-District 3, Mike Ireland; Sub-District 4, Andrew Johnson; at-large, Wesly Farrow, Haley L. Frauen and Adina Wexman. (Nies), Johnson and Frauen are newly elected to the board. Farrow, Port, Zimmerman, Ireland, Farrow, and Wexman are incumbents who were re-elected. In addition, Kevin Dahm was elected to fill an at-large vacancy. Dahm previously was a board member representing Sub-District 4.

In case you missed it
District 10’s website has up-to-date information on the following:
• The construction delay along Woldfeldt Parkway
• The city’s latest plan to get rid of boulevard stumps and replace hundreds of ash trees it has cut down this year.
• MnDOT’s “final preliminary design” to make Snelling Avenue less like a freeway and, instead, make walking, and bicycling safer and less intimidating on the long stretch between Midway Parkway south to Hamline University. You can get the details at www.district10comopark.org.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 St. Anthony Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jenessin Community Learning Center, 2455 University Ave. The council offices are located at 2395 University Ave., Suite 300 E. Contact information: 651-649-5992 or www.sapcc.org.

Two Stop for Me events scheduled
District 12 and the St. Paul Police Department will team up for two Stop for Me pedestrian safety events, one on Sunday, May 28, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Como Avenue and Fifield Street, near Commonwealth Community Terrace on the U of M campus. The other will be held Thursday, June 1, 4 to 5 p.m. at the crosswalk at Franklin Avenue and the Court International building. Stop for Me events are designed to educate drivers that state law requires them to stop for pedestrians in every crosswalk. Drivers who ignore the law will be ticketed.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 3 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Contact information: 651-792-7600 or falconheights.org.

Ramsey County expresses interest in providing police services
Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier has indicated interest in contracting with the City of Falcon Heights to provide police services to the city. In April, the city sent letters to surrounding police agencies to gauge interest in policing in the city. The deadline to respond was May 10. City officials will meet with Serier to discuss options for services. The city currently contracts with the St. Anthony Police Department. In March, the St. Anthony City Council voted to make the City of Falcon Heights solely liable for any police incident within its borders. Since the July 2016 fatal shooting of Philando Castile by the St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights, both cities have incurred mounting expenses that aren’t covered under the liability insurance that is part of the $672,590 contract Falcon Heights has with St. Anthony. The current contract continues through Dec. 31, 2019.

Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier to attend
Falcon Heights City Council meeting, Tuesday, June 20
Community members are always welcome to attend and participate. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

Annual pie and ice cream social means summer has arrived
It’s not summer until the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts the annual pie and ice cream social.

That harbinger of the season of outdoor fun is set for Friday, June 2, 7-9 p.m. on the Luther Library lawn at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place in St. Anthony Park. Music will be provided by the St. Anthony Park Community Band.
Your Fourth in the Park heads up

The 2017 Fourth in the Park celebration will include a new kids’ zone and a slight change in where some activities will take place in Langford Park on July 4, as construction at St. Anthony Park Elementary School will make some areas of the park off limits.

Emma Seeley, one of the organizers of the annual St. Anthony Park Independence Day celebration, says many of the kids’ activities will be moved to the south end of the park near the baseball fields. The kids’ zone will include face-painting, an inflatable obstacle course and kids races. The organizers are hoping to have pony rides.

Volunteers are needed. Sign up at 4fitninthepark.org/volunteer.php.

Look for a complete schedule of events in the next issue of the Bugle.—Bugle staff

Potato sack races are part of the Fourth in the Park after-parade fun each year. 2010 Bugle photo by Lori Hamilton

Senior rental complex could break ground on Larpenteur

By Kristal Leebrick

A St. Paul developer hopes to break ground by next spring on a 60- to 70-unit market-rate senior housing complex at the former Hermes Garden Center site on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights. But first, zoning changes at the site must be approved by the city to allow increased density, change parking requirements and change the site from affordable housing to senior housing.

A public hearing on the proposed zoning changes will be held Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., during the regular Planning Commission meeting. If the commission approves the changes, they will go to the city council for final approval.

And if the city council approves the changes and the developer’s site plan, Kelly Brothers, Ltd., will build a four-story independent-living complex that would include a multipurpose community room, a wellness room, library, beauty salon, underground parking, common green space with raised planting beds and an expansive back porch on the southern end of the building that would overlook the University of Minnesota farm fields.

“We designed the L-shaped building to take advantage of views south and west,” said Peter Austin, director of finance at Kelly Brothers and a resident of St. Anthony Park.

When the Pohlad Family Foundation bought the 3.4-acre Hermes site four years ago, a “healthy-living campus” was envisioned that included an urban farm and organic food distribution center, as well as a 47-unit affordable-housing project that was to be managed by Common Bond Communities of St. Paul. The former came to fruition: the Good Acre, a hub that offers warehouse space to immigrant and low-income farmers, cooking classes and serves as a CSA (stands for Community-Supported Agriculture) that offers weekly shares of organic vegetables during the summer and fall. Common Bond Communities of St. Paul had planned to develop and manage the housing project, but did not receive the funding.

Next, Kelly Brothers is in contract with the Pohlad Foundation to explore developing that piece of land, Austin said. “We are working our way through the site plan approval process with the city.”

The group has developed three similar housing projects: Westview Apartments in Forest Lake, Ashwood Apartments in North Branch and Highlands at River Road, a 69-unit complex that opened in 2016 in Highland Park. The company is considering calling the Falcon Heights project the Hendrickson, named after W. Hendrickson, one of the early settlers of the area. Hendrickson’s 112-acre farm was in the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Snelling avenues.

The site is a good location for senior housing, Austin said. There are two strong block nurse programs nearby: Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors and the Como Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program. A bus stop for Route 61 is right at the site and will take riders to both downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. It’s close to the new Bell Museum and Planetarium and Gibbs Farm, which could offer volunteer opportunities, something many seniors are looking for, Austin said.

And it would be right next door to the Good Acre. Austin would like to see a partnership between the Good Acre and the Hendrickson that involves food, of course.

The 60- to 70-unit market-rate senior housing complex that has been proposed next to the Good Acre on Larpenteur Avenue may be named after W. Hendrickson, one of the early settlers to the area.
Michael Griffin is a professor in Macalester College’s media and cultural studies program and a member of Park Press, the Park Bugle governing board. Griffin was interviewed for Macalester’s online Macalester News about how news has changed over the decades. We reprinted that article here.

What should we know about media history? Many current concerns about the news can be traced back to long-term changes that began as early as the 1960s and accelerated in the 1980s, when media companies were bought by large conglomerates and chains, and mainstream media concentration became a progressively larger problem.

In the middle of the 20th century, television network leadership believed that providing news was a public service. News wasn’t expected to make money for national broadcasters. During that time, CBS, for example, built up a high-quality news division, with distinguished journalists such as Edward R. Murrow opposing McCarthyism and Walter Cronkite, who became “the most trusted man in America,” anchoring a highly respected nightly news broadcast watched by tens of millions. CBS also created foreign news bureaus around the world to inform the American public about international issues. It was referred to as the “Tiffany Network,” allying to the perceived high quality of CBS programming during the tenure of CEO William S. Paley. Network news was something that great Americans relied upon and could trust; it gave them a common set of facts upon which people could have discussions and debates.

In 1986 CBS was bought by Loews Corp., then mainly a hotel and movie theater company headed by Larry Tisch. By the 1980s and 1990s, these types of acquisitions were happening across the media industry, CBS and Tisch being just one example. Whenever a big entertainment company or conglomerate came in, the news divisions had to answer to shareholders and improve the bottom line. For the first time, there was an expectation that the news divisions had to make money, just like the entertainment divisions. And a major way to improve the profitability of the news was to cut costs. As CBS, cut included the foreign bureaus, documentary division, and enormous numbers of people in the newsroom. This was an erosion of the concept and standards of quality news, and it happened particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

Then what happened? They held the market segmentation was increasing. As advertisers began to analyze large amounts of demographic data, they were able to target their products and advertising more precisely than ever before. Everything shifted to target marketing, and that means the national audience got sliced and diced. That happened first with magazines: the demise of the national interest magazines—Collier’s, Life, Saturday Evening Post—and the proliferation of thousands of little special interest magazines hyper-targeted to specific audiences.

Right after that came cable television. Instead of three channels (ABC, CBS and NBC) dividing up a big, diversified national audience, cable TV came along and targeted narrow niche audiences. Instead of spending big money to reach a mass audience, advertisers could spend less money and reach the narrow demographics they were really seeking. The ad money moved away from the big networks, and the emphasis for news companies changed. News became just another commodity.

How did cable TV change news? Cable television’s new 24-hour news cycle meant major changes. It meant newsmakers didn’t have longer periods of time to prepare content, check it, edit, vet it and then present it to audiences. Reporters were pressured to go straight to air with current events and any new information that was presented to them. That began to result in rushed and incomplete reports, inaccuracy, distortion and misleading material.

If you believe the polls, there’s now a real lack of trust in the media among the public. Some polls show that more than half of Americans don’t trust the media to tell them the truth. But this distrust isn’t something that only began in the last election cycle. This distrust has been ending slowly and steadily for 30 or 40 years. And it is going to take a long time to build up again.
Until recently, I’d never met any of our neighbors in Seal Hi-Rise, a public housing apartment complex at Territorial and Raymond avenues in south St. Anthony Park. Seal is home to many Minnesotans who have emigrated from other countries, including Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. They are joined by other East African immigrants in the townhouses east of Hamden Park Co-op.

Although I’ve lived just a few blocks away for years, I’d only visited Seal to vote on Election Day. But this spring, wanting to go a step beyond putting up an “All Are Welcome Here” sign, I joined a few women from Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park to find a way to make contact with the East African residents at Seal. We found we are welcome there.

In early March, resident Ali Osman met my husband, Jay Drebin, and me for coffee at Seal. We talked about our common interests, including travel, politics and public radio. Ali emigrated from Somalia to Houston 30 years ago, and to Minnesota soon after, driven by job opportunities. He spoke no English upon arrival, but found the people very friendly and willing to speak with him. After years of driving a taxi, Ali now drives for Uber.

Drought, food shortages drive Somalis from homeland
An estimated 87,000 to 110,000 Somalis now live in Minnesota, the largest population in North America. The current diaspora began around the time Ali left Somalia in 1987, prompted by severe drought, political instability and foreign involvement, including that of the U.S. By 2011, half of Somalia’s 12 million people again faced severe food and water shortages due to lack of rainfall.

Fighting often interrupted relief efforts. A quarter million men, women and children had died of starvation and even more fled to neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia. Many of Minnesota’s Somalis lived in refugee camps in those countries for years while awaiting resettlement to Europe and North America.

In April 2016 Somalia, led by a new president, signed the Paris Climate Accord. Meanwhile, climate volatility continues to devastate the country. Drought interspersed with torrential rains and flooding has hampered progress to restore trees, crops and livestock—the livelihood of 70 percent of Somalia. Groups, such as the United Nations Development Program, have helped build earthen dams to retain water for drinking and irrigating and to prevent a new wave of environmental refugees.

Somali culture flourishes here
As Minnesota’s East African population has grown—especially in Minneapolis—so have the businesses. Many Somali shopping malls and restaurants are found between Lake Street and Franklin Avenue. North America’s only museum devoted to Somali traditional nomadic culture and art opened in 2011 on Lake Street to “preserve, celebrate and cultivate a new future for Somali culture worldwide.” Through a personal guide at the museum, visitors sample the culture through stories, artifacts and a traditional portable home. You can learn more at somali museum.org.

Join us as we meet our neighbors
Later in April, a south St Anthony Park book group got together at Seal with immigrant residents. Everyone shared their own stories of how they came to live in St. Paul—with journeys ranging from Somalia and Ethiopia’s Oromo regions to various countries in Europe and N orth America. This summer, we plan to continue to meet, to chat, share food and perhaps play bocce ball, croquet and East African games.

How do we expand the “all are welcome here” motto into an active practice? We found it takes going beyond our comfort zones. For everyone, it could involve trying a new cuisine or shopping district, teaching or learning a new language, mentoring youth in school or visiting the Somali Museum of Minnesota. And all are welcome to join the gatherings in South St. Anthony. You can find out more about them at the Transition Town ASAP website, www.TransitionTow nASAP.org.

By Meredith Sommers

Bugle seeks board candidates

The Park Bugle, our local, award-winning, nonprofit newspaper, seeks candidates to fill openings on its board of directors. The board consists of residents and businesses/people from the communities served by the newspaper.

Ideal candidates would have one or more of the following skills/background: organizational, management or strategic-planning skills, especially with nonprofits; previous nonprofit board service; background in fundraising or grant-writing; sales, advertising or legal experience; or a strong connection to the community.

To apply, please send a short note and biography to editor@parkbugle.org with DIRECTORS in the subject line. Or send a letter to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108,ATTN: Directors.
Library from 1

But the biggest project in the library’s history came in the 1990s, an outgrowth of the need to make the building more accessible.

“The city’s idea was to install an elevator on the side, which would have taken our two ranks of bookshelves,” recalls Arlene West, a resident who was actively involved. “We said, ‘This is a small building with high per capita use, this makes no sense.’”

The city plan was rejected and an association design team worked with an architect for several years to develop a plan for a round addition to the back of the building which would house a children’s reading room, passenger elevator, informal reading area and librarian’s work space.

Many stepped up
To plug funding gaps in what would turn out to be a $1 million project, the association sold personalized paving bricks and sponsored a ‘read-a-thon’ at which local authors spoke. The Friends of the St. Paul Library and St. Anthony Park Bank each made $12,500 challenge grants, which individual contributions more than matched. The City of St. Paul kicked in extra money as well.

“People really stepped up: everything from children’s allowance money to much bigger contributions,” West said.

There were a number of delays that included a change in construction contractors and the library was closed for nine months, reopening in early 2000, with a grand opening in April of that year. St. Anthony Park library manager Tracy Baumann has worked at all three of St. Paul’s Carnegie libraries and says that all of them “have a similar basic layout and wonderful large windows. So when I came here last year, parts of the building itself felt familiar, as well as the sense of being in a space that has been an important part of the community for a long time.”

“Shortly after 1 arrived, the library association funded a renovation of the library’s auditorium space,” she noted. “And earlier, the Weekly Woroders, an offshoot of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club, planted the amazing pollinator garden around the back of the library.”

Heading into its second century, the library is in good shape and no major projects loom, according to Bob Arndorfer, chair of the library association. The association continues to support reading programs and related activities, including a Fourth of July essay contest at St. Anthony Park Elementary School.

Since 1969, the association’s major annual fundraiser has been the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on the library lawn, to be held on Saturday, June 3, this year. Many volunteers from both within and outside the organization pitch in to help, Arndorfer said.

The library’s offerings are no longer strictly book-based, of course, but a comparison of its circulation over the years gives an idea of what a busy place it is. During 1918, its first full year of operation, its circulation was about 27,000; in 1998, it was 97,000; and last year it was 133,000, counting all types of materials that were checked out.

Yes, it’s a busy building, a place to get information, stimulation and to gather, just the sort of “spring” that a certain industrialist had in mind all those years ago.

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St. Anthony Park Area Seniors’ SWEET CELEBRATION

For program volunteers, seniors, caregivers, and for neighborhood residents will be on Thursday, June 15th from 3-5 p.m. on the lawn at 2200 Hillside Ave.

All are invited to eat a treat with us!

For program volunteers, seniors, caregivers, and for neighborhood residents.

SWEET CELEBRATION

A GARDEN PARTY will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the library from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 17. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic supper to enjoy on the library lawn, to be held on Saturday, June 3, this year. Many volunteers from both within and outside the organization pitch in to help, Arndorfer said.

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Centennial celebrations

A GARDEN PARTY will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the library from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 17. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic supper to enjoy on the library grounds, among the gardens created by community volunteers.

Activities will include a puppet show, family craft activities, a hat contest for children and adults, garden tours and a garden dedication, a story walk and history display. Participants will also be asked to share their stories of the library and the community to be included in a digital scrapbook.

In fact, an effort is already under way to collect those kinds of stories. If you have a story to share, stop by the library to find out how, or go to http://sppl.or/100.

IN THE FALL, a local artist will create a mosaic mural for the library and community members will be invited to contribute their artistic ideas during a series of sessions at the library. Dates and more specific information will be forthcoming.

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St. Anthony Park GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 24th, 10 - 4 p.m.

Advance tickets: $12 Online at www.stanthonyparkgardenclub.com or at Bieloit (Corner Ave.), Fratianne Hardware (Coron) and Speedy Market.

Day of Sale Tickets $15 At St. Anthony Park Library, Coron & Carter Avenue.

With the challenges of shade, hillsides & small spaces, these 12 gardens create artful urban oases. Master gardeners available for questions.

Featuring an award-winning pollinator garden and sustainable, edible, cottage, community and English gardens.

Benefits St. Anthony Park Garden Club UMN Scholarship & activities. FTF: http://www.stanthonyparkgardenclub.com

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The interior of the St. Anthony Park Library in 1930.
Bank from 1

“Sunrise Bank is where all walks of life, whether on two feet or four, connect and enjoy our community,” she says. “No matter what stage of season in life you are in, you feel a warm, inclusive, welcoming energy there.”

Adds Terri Banaszewski, Sunrise vice president for business development, “We know our customers by name, by being a neighborhood bank, you get to be that way.”

St. Anthony Park State Bank first opened in 1916 and operated out of a room behind what is now Finnish Bistro. In 1917, the bank moved into its new building at 2250 Como Ave., directly across from the new St. Anthony Park Library. Both were designed by Charles A. Haasler and both opened in the same year, joining already-established institutions such as the Children’s Home Society and Luther Seminary.

Since Haasler worked for the City of St. Paul, the bank design must have been a private commission.

Family tradition

The bank’s founders included Andrew Boss, a professor on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, whose son Wallace and grandson Andy would continue in leadership roles for the next 80 years. A reorganization under new federal laws in 1933 enabled the bank to survive the Great Depression, and it grew steadily. The original building was expanded and remodeled in 1955.

In 1935, a parking lot was built behind the bank building and the first drive-in teller window installed. Ten years later, a new drive-in and walk-up facility was built at Como and Dossel avenues for customer convenience.

But the pressure to grow that success continued, and in 1986, the bank headquarters moved into leased space in a new building on the site of the former H.B. Fuller Co., directly west of the library. (It’s now the home of the Emily Program.) A branch at University Avenue and Vandalia Street opened in 2001.

Andy Boss, who Beeson regarded as a mentor and refers to as a “titan in the community,” headed up an ownership group that acquired the bank in 1970. When control was acquired by a bank holding company headed by Bill Reiling in 1995, Boss continued as president and served as a board member until 1999.

In 2008, what by then was known as Park Midway Bank moved into a brand new building on the site of its former drive-in facility, across from Tim and Toni’s Speedy Market. And in 2013, David Reiling acquired majority ownership of the business from his father and merged and University banks into Sunrise Banks.

Customers remember favorite bank programs over the years, among them the Sparky Savers Club for youngsters and the Park Bank Diamonds-sponsored array of activities for seniors in the 1990s. Today there’s Park Perks, a coffee bar in the bank that raises money for small nonprofits.

Long service

Ex-employees reflect on the bank’s culture, its employees’ commitment to volunteerism, which includes working for and serving on boards of many non-profit organizations, Banaszewski said. In fact, back in 1980, the bank helped create the organization now known as the Nonprofits Assistance Fund.

Not-for-profit banking has been a growing niche for us, as has community development lending with new market tax credits and low income tax credits,” Beeson said. “Starting about 20 years ago, we evolved into providing more financing for local and small businesses as the larger banks increasingly focused on big business.”

“Rick was my loan officer back in 1990 when I proposed to buy the home,” said John Barkert, owner of St. Anthony Park Home, the skilled nursing facility at 2237 Commonwealth Ave. “It took a while to work things out, but he and Andy Boss took a chance on me. The bank people have been supportive in good and tough times and have stayed connected to their customers even as they’ve grown.”

Scary stick-up

There have been a number of robberies at the bank over all those years, and undoubtedly the most harrowing episode occurred in 2010.

On Aug. 4, a gunman demanded money, then grabbed the teller and pulled her over the counter, using her as a human shield as he fled. The teller quickly broke free and ran back to the bank. The suspect fired two shots in the air as he was being pursued by bank security. He got away, but was apprehended later that same day.

Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. The employee who was assaulted still works for the bank, although she is no longer a teller.—Roger Benjamin

Picnic in August

The bank will host an expanded version of its annual Community Appreciation picnic on Thursday, Aug. 3.

In addition to a lunchtime event, a celebration of the 100th anniversary will take place from 3 to 7 p.m. in the bank parking lot. There will be food, live music and kids’ activities and everyone is invited.

The 1963 July 4 parade passes St. Anthony Park State Bank on Como Avenue at left. Photo by Glen Skovhoft

The bank is known as Park Midway today:

On May 19, Sunrise Banks employees, city officials and members of area chambers of commerce look on as Dave Reiling, CEO of Sunrise Banks, cuts the ribbon at the company’s new headquarters at 2525 Wabash Ave., just west of Hwy. 280. The 57,000-square-foot building is part of the early transformation of the industrial area near the Minneapolis-St. Paul border called the Towerside Innovation District. The former industrial site just to the west of the building will soon see the development of a 600- to 700-apartment complex and a 2-acre St. Paul city park.

The 1966 groundbreaking for Park Bank building now occupied by the Emily Program at 2265 Como Ave. From left: Steve Wellington, unknown, St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, bank president Andy Boss and St. Paul City Council Member Kiki Sonnen. Bugle photo by Truman Olson
Did moving news online work? When people tried to move newspapers to the web, they found out immediately that the print advertising model did not follow them online. As the newspapers were spiraling, there simply was not the same number of reporters and editors doing serious journalism. There were blogs on the web, where lots of people were writing opinionated commentary, and aggregation sites that were recycling existing stories from other publications. But the amount of original reporting nationwide began to diminish tremendously. Reliable quality news reporting, as opposed to content re-purposing and commentary, was no longer being supported in the same way by commercial, ad-supported news media institutions.

Because of this, there’s no longer a model that most citizens in our country share for standards that news should meet. We’re getting more and more of our news online, and more and more of that news—in Facebook feeds and web browsing—is suspect in terms of its status as news. When someone on Facebook sends me a story, the first thing I do is see where it’s from. If it’s from somewhere I’ve never heard of, then red flags go up for me right away; and I check to see what that organization is. But most people do not have a working frame of reference for distinguishing different types of news sources.

How is online news different from traditional news? There’s not much new original reporting on the web anymore, unless you count the traditional news sites that are still run by traditional, respectable newspapers. We have fewer paid reporters than we did 15 years ago, and you’re not going to see the same kind of coverage if you have vastly fewer people doing the work.

But websites still need to fill up their spaces with content—so what do they fill it up with if they don’t have verifiable original reporting? You see a decrease in actual news and an increase in opinion, commentary, and blogging, not to mention the vast quantities of frivolous entertainment-oriented content and click-bait.

In the online environment where information comes as a steady linear stream, where it’s not divided up with a front page, an opinion page and different specialized sections (that prioritize news information according to prominence, urgency, civic importance, or local, national and international orientation), it’s all just mixed together. It’s a relatively unfiltered wash of stories and information. As a result, more and more young people don’t have a clear notion of the distinction between a news article and an opinion piece. It’s all just ‘the next thing on the page’ because they’ve grown up online.

What does that mean for a news consumer? We don’t, as a society, sit back and watch the evening news and believe Walter Cronkite when he says, “And that’s the way it is,” or pick up a daily newspaper feeling as though its editors will sort and summarize for us the important news we need to know about that day. We can’t, or don’t, do that anymore—and that’s the challenge. Most people are so busy, with so many pressing demands, that they don’t have the time to carefully evaluate news sources. Most citizens today don’t make carefully considered judgments about the sources they will routinely rely upon for sound information. They are more or less at the mercy of floods of content directed at them through new algorithms and marketing mechanisms. Just look at the homepage of any Internet log-on page.

What about paying for news online? The biggest crisis for journalism right now is the financial model for paying reporters to do serious reporting. Who’s going to pay for the news? People are increasingly unwilling to pay subscription fees because traditionally, they’ve been able to go online and get everything for free. The news organizations that have managed to weather these changes are places like the New York Times, which did some risk-taking when it created a pay wall to require subscriptions. It worked because the Times provides the kind of quality and in-depth news reporting that its readers want and are willing to pay for. Now the paper has a revenue stream of subscription money—and that means it doesn’t depend entirely on advertising money.

What can a news consumer do to support journalism? Identify reliable, respectable sources, and then support those organizations as your primary sources of news and information. Subscribe or donate money if you can. If you don’t have resources to donate, go back to that source as a primary information source to support them with your readership, viewing, listening or online clicks. It doesn’t mean those organizations are always correct and never biased—but they should conform to a set of standards. You know what their mission and motivations are, how they do their work, and you can hold them accountable.

That’s what we have to look for as consumers. The Financial Times of London is an honest, respectable source that isn’t trying to fool you, read the Financial Times every day. If you find National Public Radio to be a good anchor that’s doing its news work in an honest way, listen to NPR every day and send in a donation.

Help support them, so they can keep doing what they’re doing.

Can news organizations thrive in this climate? The Washington Post, another good example, was saved from the same diminished ad revenue and bleak financial models that caused so many other newspapers. Publicly owned news organizations (those that trade on Wall Street) are always trying to satisfy shareholders. They need to think about short-term profits: How are we doing this quarter? Amazon owner Jeff Bezos swooped in to buy The Washington Post, a couple of years ago and has stabilized its finances. Bezos basically said, “I think news organizations are really important, and I think the Washington Post is one of the jewels of our journalism system, the jewel that I want to buy it and run it as a private company that’s no longer at the mercy of Wall Street. I’ll keep the same editorial staff and the same reporters in operation interested in supporting independent news sources. I’ll be in favor of these kinds of purchases.

How are news organizations responding to recent attacks on the media? Just as some have said that Donald Trump’s election has inspired people to get out and be more active consumers, you think the attacks on the press’ credibility are awakening activism in support of good sources of news—and awakening a resolve in news organizations themselves to try to uphold the ideals on which they were founded. When the Washington Post puts on its masthead “Democracy Dies in Darkness,” they’re stifling their resolve against the attacks and saying they’re going to stand up for honest, accurate, and transparent journalism. The New York Times, with its traditional slogan, “All the News That’s Fit to Print,” has shown a similar resolve. The attacks could have an inadvertently positive impact over the long term. But it’s up to you to support these organizations.

We’re at a real turning point in media history. In the next 10 to 20 years, we will find out whether viable, respectable and honest news sources are going to survive. There’s reason for hope in what’s happening out there. But there are lots of uphill battles to be fought, and we’re fighting against the grain. It’s not going to be easy.

Saint Anthony Park Foundation awards $34,000 in 2017 grants

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation awarded $34,000 to 13 community organizations in its 2017 grant cycle. The awards include new grants to the International Institute of Minnesota and Incredible Edible garden project, a group that will plant edible teaching gardens in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

According to foundation executive director Jon Schumacher, the number of grant requests was more than three times the $34,000 the foundation had on hand to grant. That made this year’s decisions especially difficult and may reflect concerns in the nonprofit world that there will be less money coming from state and federal funding, he said.

The foundation’s committee tried to support critical community institutions, such as schools, but also encourage new initiatives, according to chair Tony Pfaff. “The International Institute has a program where they bring new Americans to our shops and businesses to introduce them to our customs and community,” Pfaff said. “We felt that was a great way to support community-building with these new neighbors.”

Other first-time recipients include the Fourth in the Park committee’s research into the possibility of a new bandstand in Langford Park and Jennings Community School’s arts programming. Como Park Senior High School, Murray Middle School and St. Anthony Park Elementary School all received grants.

Here is a list of all the grantees and their grant projects:

- Fourth in the Park, research
- Como Park Senior High School: Big Brothers and Sisters and reading programs
- Incredible Edible Group, a branch of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club, which will plant and maintain edible landscapes in public spaces, including College Park and in a raised bed near the Como Avenue fire station
- The International Institute of Minnesota, New Neighbors program
- Jennings Community School, arts programming

Joy of the People, landscaping around South St. Anthony Rec Center
- Keynote Community Services, Meals on Wheels
- Murray Middle School: Pilot Tutoring Program, special education, Wolfdridge retreat and community meal program
- Park Bugle, enhanced reporting support
- St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, mobile glass-blowing shop
- St. Anthony Park Elementary School, Wolfdridge retreat and arts programming
- The Schaubert Club/Music in the Park Series
- Shakespeare in St. Anthony Park, student workshops
- St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, general operating support
- St. Anthony Park District 12 Council, support for the 10-year comprehensive plan

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**One darn photo contest**

*Where have I seen these before?*

That’s the $50 question.

Each of these photos has appeared in Roger Bergerson’s Park Bugle history column, “History: One darn thing after another,” in the last two years. This contest will take some research and internet access. The articles appeared on our website and in the paper. If you want to search through the Bugle’s back issues, go to www.parkbugle.org. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Back Issues.”

We want to know the headline (or title) of the story that the photo accompanied and either the date it was posted online or the issue of the paper it appeared in (for example, June 2017). Fill out the form below and bring it to the Bugle booth at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 3, by 3 p.m. The booth will be along the sidewalk on the south side of the St. Anthony Park Library (see more about the festival on page 13).

We’ll draw two winners from the completed and correct forms that are turned in that day. Each winner will get $50.

When you complete your contest entry, don’t forget to fill out your name and address at the bottom of the page.

And if you have loved reading Roger’s history columns over the years, check out his new book, *History: One Darn Thing After Another*, a compilation of his historical anecdotes from Como Park, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park. We’ll be giving out copies at the booth on June 3 for a $20 donation to the Bugle.
Meet the featured artists at the festival

Dick and Debbie Cooter

By Judy Woodward

In the bicentennial year of 1976, a young couple spent the summer in a borrowed 10-by-12-foot one-room cabin on the North Shore by the banks of the Knife River. “It was a lovely, hot, idyllic summer,” recalls Debbie Cooter. Her husband of 42 years, Dick Cooter, immediately points out that “cabin” is something of a euphemism in this case. “It was a little like a hut,” he says.

Never mind. It may have been primitive, but that rustic summer was the start of two distinguished careers in the arts. Weaver Debbie Cooter’s rugs and blankets are known for their subtle interplay of color and texture, while potter Dick Cooter’s work is of such high caliber that he has exhibited jointly with Minnesota’s most renowned potter, Warren MacKenzie.

The Cooters will be among the featured artists at the 48th annual St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 3. Both agree that it is their life on the North Shore that makes their art possible. “My work reflects the natural world around me,” says Dick. And Debbie adds, “My work is what it is because I live in the country.”

Now living in a house they built themselves near Two Harbors, Minn., the two are proud that, thanks to the sign they posted on Highway 61 “near Betty’s Pie,” they are freed from the constant pressure to go on the road with their craft-show circuit. Customers are willing to take the 2-mile drive to their house. “From Highway 61 and... we can now sell from our door.”

Dick grew up in Falcon Heights, got a degree in studio arts from the University of Minnesota, studied with McKenzie and “always thought of myself as an artist,” but he wasn’t able to launch a full-time career as a potter until the couple moved to their present house in 1991. “Pottery is not portable,” he says, “but when I get here, I thought, this is the spot to build a kiln, and I jumped in with both feet.”

For Debbie, the connection of her work to the North Shore is even clearer. She grew up in Minneapolis and had no introduction to crafts through her family. “My mother never knitted, gardened or sewed.” But the family did own a cabin near St. Cloud, and after studying humanities at the U, Debbie realized that her deepest desire was to live in the country.

“When [Dick and I] moved to the North Shore, one of my friends [here] was a Finnish weaver. It was natural to learn weaving and easy to come by a loom,” she says. She started off making rugs with pre-cut materials, selling them initially at church bazaars. Then, as she puts it, “I gradually moved ahead,” designing patterns and coloring her own fibers and, in some cases, even creating her own natural plant-based dyes. She works in both wool and cotton, using chemical dyes for cotton and “cochineal, indigo and plant-based dyes from plants I’ve harvested” for wool.

“I go back and forth between bright tones and subdued shades,” she says, while pointing out that one of the chief pleasures of her work is “on a rainy day, I get to work with color and texture.”

Debbie hopes that those coming on her work for the first time will “see something comfortable with pizzazz.”

Dick expects first-time viewers of his pottery to “see a sense of play” in his sometimes-rough-hewn vessels. “People might think my work is crude, but I handle the material with control, so the clay has its say. I have fun in the work, and it’s always well-made and well-balanced.

Do they consider themselves artists or artisans? Neither Cooter is much interested in the distinction. “We’re both,” Debbie says. Dick adds, “Maybe this is why I don’t do ceramic sculpture. Pots are intimate objects that people use every day. Being used is what completes my work.” I consider myself a potter, but if somebody wants to call me an artist … “ He won’t object.

As for inspiration, they’re in perfect harmony on that topic as they are in so many other ways. The fact is, they are both a little suspicious of the whole idea. “The muse doesn’t come to those who wait,” says Dick.

Debbie agrees. “People think you should work when the muse hits you,” she says. “But no, you work until the idea hits. As you work, the idea comes.”

It’s that matter-of-fact, utilitarian approach that infuses their entire undertaking. Ask Dick what professional accomplishment he is most proud of and he responds not by describing a particularly well-executed bowl or by mentioning a prize or honor he has garnered, but by saying, “I’m proud that I’ve been able to support myself by working as a potter.”

“We’re lucky, because not everybody can do this,” Debbie says. “We lead a simple life, but a great life.”

To learn more about the Cooters and see examples of their work, visit www.crossingbordersstudiotour.com/?artist=debbie-cooter and www.cooterpottery.com.

Kim Crocker

By Judy Woodward

Jeweler Kim Crocker is intrigued by mechanical action and the relationship of parts to the whole. She shares these interests with her fiancé, an auto mechanic who brings Crocker gifts like a “ruined CD-player,” so that she can examine its inner workings. “I’m fascinated by how things move and work together,” she says.

But Crocker doesn’t express her interests solely in machines and engineering. She also creates lovely, intricate designs in gold and silver, where miniature discs, spheres and wires achieve the equilibrium of objects brought to rest through the logic of engineered movement.

For Crocker, it’s a puzzle to be solved. How to “synchronize a piece so that it has validity, motion, lightness, femininity but still [has] strength” is the challenge.

To those who appreciate fine jewelry, it is wearable art. Earrings, necklaces and pins that have brought her to the attention of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival committee, which this year invited her to be one of three featured artists at the annual event on June 3.

As far as Crocker, 51, is concerned, it’s all part of a process of learning and development that started when she was in high school. “The brain is always working, always picking things up—not that you expect to achieve perfection, but it’s the passion to want to try,” she says.

Crocker says she is a “fabricator, which means that I work with a tool” and without caving her pieces in a mold. “My pieces are completely from scratch,” she says. “I can add all the way until a piece is done.

I don’t like to make things twice,” she says, and it’s a principle she lives by—even when she finishes a “pair” of earrings. Crocker specializes in what she calls “asymmetric earrings,” individual pieces of jewelry for the ear that are united by theme and material but made unique by detail and composition. “I’ll make 30 different earrings [on a theme] so that the customer can mix and match the right pair,” she explains.

It’s a different life from the one she imagined when she was growing up in Golden Valley, Minn., with plans to become a veterinarian. A stint in high school working for a vet convinced Crocker that her professional future did not lie with sick animals. There followed
Music
On the library lawn:
10-10:45 a.m.: Phil Rukavina, Renaissance lute
11-11:45 a.m.: Greg Herriges, world music
Noon-2:45 p.m.: Chuck Solberg, jazz
2-2:45 p.m.: Paul Seeba, folk and pop
3-3:45 p.m.: Blue Yodel No. 9, acoustic trio
4-4:45 p.m.: Miss Becky Kapell, country folk

Special attractions
Celebrate St Anthony Park Library's centennial: Artist Emily Gray Koehler has created woodblocks of special places at the library and you're invited to create a rubbing of the woodblocks to take home with you or let the library keep it for an exhibit that will be on display throughout the summer.

Learn about bees: Pollinate Minnesota will be on hand to teach gardeners of all ages how bees make their homes and honey. Come to the patio garden area on the southeast side of the St. Anthony Park Library between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to see a fully enclosed beehive (bees will not be able to escape the hive). Youth-size beekeeper outfits will be available for visitors to try on for some great photo ops.

Pollinate Minnesota is an education and advocacy group that teaches with live honeybees. This activity is being sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Garden Club. There will be educational activities for youth and tours of the library's pollinator gardens. You can learn more about Pollinate Minnesota at www.pollinatemn.org.

Check out the glassblowing demonstrations: The Foci Minnesota Center for Glass mobile glassblowing studio will be fired up throughout the day in the parking lot just behind Finnish Bistro.

Climb a tower: Boy Scout Troop 17 and Cub Scout Pack 22 will have fun activities for kids from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Luther Seminary lawn, across from Speedy Marker and next to St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church at Luther Place and Como Avenue. Go for a climb on a tower or take a pinewood derby car for a spin.

And don't forget to check these off your list:
• Children: Make art at the Kids Art Tent, sponsored by the St Anthony Park Community Foundation.
• The best used-book sale in the Twin Cities will be in the library's lower level, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
• Find a favorite perennial at the St. Anthony Park Garden Club plant sale, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.
• Visit your neighborhood nonprofit groups, including the Park Bugle, on the south and east sides of the library.
• Try your hand at the Bugle’s name-that-history-article contest on page 10 and deliver it to the Bugle booth by the sidewalk on the south side of the library (you need to get started early on this).
• Listen to music at Speedy Marker and on the library lawn.
• Check out the food vendors and the nearby St. Anthony Park restaurants.
• Eat, buy art and shop at the wonderful businesses in St. Anthony Park.
Visit the Kid’s Art Tent for crafts & fun!
Sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation

June 3, 2017
10 – 5

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a period she describes as “very hippy-like.” She followed the Grateful Dead band, while making jewelry on the side. After a few months as a Deadhead, Crocker rejoined the straight world by studying design and metalworking at the University of Minnesota and Normandale Community College.

She now lives on a hobby farm in New Prague with her fiancé and the five daughters, ages 11 to 20, they have brought to the relationship. She still loves animals—the farm includes horses, pigs, ducks, goats and a donkey. There were even some alpaca in residence for a while, and Crocker was able to incorporate their fleece in her work. “I loved incorporating the softness and texture of alpaca fiber with silver metal,” she says.

Working strands of alpaca into silver earrings is the kind of playful touch Crocker favors. She hopes people will find “whimsy and a lightening of spirit” in her work, “and maybe a little surprise.”

Still, Crocker is undaunted. “It’s more important than ever to stand up for things that are created with soul and heart,” she says. Find out more about Kim Crocker and her work at kimcrockerdesigns.com.
Take a tour of St. Anthony Park gardens in June

By Rose Gregoire

We all do it. Walking the streets and alleys, we admire the front gardens, peek over the back fences and wonder what surprises are in between. But every two years the St. Anthony Park Garden Club sponsors a garden tour in the neighborhood, and we have permission to enter the gate and enjoy the planning, hard work and happenstance that make up a beautiful garden. This year, the tour will be Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I walk by Susan Ward's front garden often and marvel at it: always seems full of blooms. Ward, whose cottage garden will be on the tour, carefully plans her garden so that there are blooms throughout the summer. When I was there in early May, the bleeding hearts, fairy bells, primroses, rhododendrons and so much more were welcoming spring. Green shoots promised continual blooms to come, ending with the autumn mums. Susan's love of wildflowers came from her father, who taught her the names of each plant. She was on to study plant biology in graduate school and teach high school.

Gardening is a long game. Susan has been working her current garden for 36 years, and it shows in the design, rich soil and healthy plants. She started with a small strip on both sides of the sidewalk, added a bed along the front walk, and from there it continued to grow, change and grow. Varied heights, colors and textures keep the garden interesting, even when not in bloom. Her front garden is more formal with defined beds and plants. A newer shade garden in the back is under development, wilder and her current challenge.

She laughs when I ask her about things that have gone wrong. A volunteer jeweler was allowed to grow and became invasive. Virgin'sbower, a native delenium, also ran amok. I laugh with her. I've had the same experience, all part of the ongoing experiment that is gardening.

Tickets for the June 24 tour are $12 in advance and can be purchased online at www.stanthonyparkgardenclub.com or at Speedy Market, Frattallone's Ace Hardware or the Bibelot Shop, all on Como Avenue. Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour for $15 and will be for sale at St. Anthony Park Library, at the comer of Como and Carter avenues.

Gardeners know that the best plants are those grown locally. Fortunately, every year the St. Anthony Park Garden club sponsors a plant sale during the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival in June with plants donated from members. The sale will include "pollinator packs" from the Minnesota Horticultural Society, with plants that encourage butterflies and bees in a garden. The plant sale will be held Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

The Garden Club will also be sponsoring Pollinaria Minnesota, an advocacy group to protect pollinators, during the arts festival. Go to the Bug's Arts Festival Guide on page 12 to find out more about this activity.

Proceeds from the tour and plant sale benefit the garden club's annual University of Minnesota horticulture scholarship and garden club activities, including plantings at the St. Anthony Park Library.

SAP Garden Club awards scholarships

Each year the St. Anthony Park Garden Club awards a $1,500 scholarship to a University of Minnesota student studying in the plant sciences. In 2016, Brandon Cory Ramirez earned the scholarship, and this year Eric Branch was awarded the scholarship during the Kemper Olson Memorial Lecture in March.

Ramirez will graduate this spring with a degree in food systems and has been a research assistant in the flower-breeding program under the direction of Professor Neil Anderson.

Branch's focus is in tomato diseases. His work in the Department of Plant Pathology includes working with a variety of tomato diseases.

Proceeds from the garden club's annual plant sale at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival funds the Brandon Cory Ramirez and Eric Branch scholarships. This year, the sale will be held on Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

The sale also helps support the St. Anthony Park Library gardens. Volunteers meet Tuesday mornings to work on those gardens. Gardeners of all ages and energy levels are welcome. To join the "Weekly Weeder," contact Alice Duggan at comeforteamn@gmail.com.

Prospect Park Garden Walk and Plant Sale set for June 24

The annual Prospect Park Garden Walk and Plant Sale will be held Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free.

The walk will follow East River Road and East River Terrace with some of the most fabulous gardens in the neighborhood. Maps and descriptions of the featured gardens will be available on the Prospect Park neighborhood web page, pperr.org/events. Printed maps will be available the week before the Garden Walk at Prospect Park businesses, Schneider Drugstore, the Textile Center, Signamur Café, Dunn Brothers (next to the Westgate light rail stop) and the Hub City Café and T-Rex Cookie (formerly Cupcake).

You can also pick up a map on the day of the walk at the plant sale, which will be held in the parking lot at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 1560 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis.

The sale is a fundraiser for the Prospect Park Garden Club's neighborhood programs. Prospect Park is located east of the Mississippi River, just west of Highway 280 along University Avenue, Franklin Avenue and East River Parkway.

For more information, visit pperr.org/events.

A detail of Susan Ward's cottage garden, one of the gardens to be featured on the 2017 St. Anthony Park Garden Club's garden tour.

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Park Perks raised $465 for the Minnesota Horticultural Society in April.

During the month of June we are collecting for the 4th in the Park celebration.
Business News

Owner of Republic, Bar Brigade to open pizzeria at former Como Park Grill

By Alex Lodner

Marty O’Reilly, owner of Republic, Red River City Kitchen and Bar Brigade, has signed a lease on the former Como Park Grill space on Pascal Street at Midway Parkway in Como Park. O’Reilly plans to turn the restaurant into a neighborhood-friendly pizzeria.

O’Reilly has his hands full, as he recently opened the already-ultra-popular Bar Brigade in the former Ristorante Luci in Highland Park and is planning the seasonal opening of Red River Kitchen, which sits on the Mississippi River by the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St. Paul. The restaurant should be open by fall.

In 2013, the Java Train, a family-friendly coffee shop at Pascal Street and Midway Parkway, morphed into the Como Park Grill, a more grown-up cafe serving lunch and dinner. It closed last year. The green building with the sassy graffiti mural on its north side has been sitting empty since, leaving neighbors anxious for a new place to gather over a cup of morning coffee or evening glass of wine.

The location, between the Minnesota State Fair and the Como Zoo, is a high-traffic spot most of the year. The sprawling patio is fenced in, which helped corral spirited toddlers when Java Train catered to young neighborhood families. It seemed like the perfect spot: Why wasn’t anyone snapping it up?

Rumors swirled last summer that Donald Gonzales, former chef at Fourpaugh’s, and his wife, Erin, attempted to rent the space for a restaurant they had planned to call Gray Duck, but things went south. Gonzales is now opening Gray Duck in the Lowery building in downtown St. Paul.

O’Reilly has signed a lease on the space. O’Reilly has partnered with former Muffuletta chef JD Fratzke at Bar Brigade. Fratzke opened Strip Club Meat and Fish on St. Paul’s East Side a decade ago after leaving Muffuletta. The Strip Club is closing July 1.

Karta Thai to open in July (we hope)

Inquiring minds want to know: When will Karta Thai open in the new Park 24 development in the heart of St. Anthony Park?

Last fall, the Park Bugle reported that owner Terry Spotts, who has two popular locations in Minneapolis, was looking forward to opening the third location of Karta Thai in St. Anthony Park, and he still is.

But, as it often goes with new buildings—and restaurants in particular—the development ran into several obstacles on its way to opening day.

When reached by phone recently, Sports was confident and enthusiastic about the latest opening projections for the restaurant, which he now says will open in July.—Alex Lodner

When you need it fast
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The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge as a service to our community. Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.

L I V E S  L I V E D

Janet Cardinal
Janet Therese Cardinal (née Stamara), 88, of Falcon Heights, died April 12, 2017. Janet was a devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Cardinal II; son, John; sister, Marietta Spencer; nine grandchildren, Peter Park; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Lauderdale, died April 18, 2017. She was a '49er from Maine who started the limestone and cement business in Indiana until the very end of his life. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his master’s degree in behavioral disabilities from the University of Minnesota’s Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife. He stayed there the rest of his career.

Peter taught at Yale for nine years and then moved his family in 1974 to Minnesota, where he accepted a position in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife. He taught there the rest of his career.

Anthony Park, died April 1, 2017. He was born on Jan 2, 1930, in Alameda, Calif. Though he had begun declining in health for the past few years, he continued to dream of many more adventures. He was talking about visiting Bolivia and Namibia until the very end of his life.

Peter was a proud native Californian. His great-grandfather was a ‘40er from Maine who started the limestone and cement business in Santa Cruz that helped build San Francisco. His mother, Frances, was the orphaned daughter of Irish immigrants to Napa.

Peter was born just months after his father, Allison, died in an car crash. He was raised by his doting mother and older sister, Marion, in the homes of his paternal grandparents in Alameda and Santa Cruz, Calif. Peter went to grammar and high school in Alameda. Early on he developed a deep love of wilderness and science that lasted all of his life.

Peter spent his early summers with his sister exploring the natural wonders of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean beaches and tide pools. Starting at 14, he rode up to Yosemite Valley every summer in an open rumble seat and worked for a year as a young cabin guide have the chance to hike the Sierra Nevada Mountains on his days off. He maintained his love for the natural history of California and always said he planned to retire to Santa Cruz. In the end, he loved his profession too much to ever truly retire.

Peter went to the University of California Berkeley for his undergraduate and graduate studies, getting his doctorate in zoology in 1963. He studied under A. Starker Leopold, doing his dissertation on the ecology of mule deer in the Sierra. His education was interrupted by two years in the Army for officer training at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Lewis, Wash., from 1953 to 1955.

Peter married Martha Ellis at Berkeley; they were married in 1962. Their son, Chris, was born a year later in Berkeley. They then moved to Indiana, where Peter was a postdoctoral research associate at Purdue University for Duro A. Allen’s study of moose and wolves at Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, starting what would be more than 50 years of research on moose on Isle Royale.

Their second child, Marion, was born two years after Chris. The family spent summer on Isle Royale with Peter traipsing through the forest collecting data while Martha took care of Marion and Chris in a log cabin with no electricity or running water on a tiny, rocky island. The family moved to Connecticut for Marion’s first year of kindergarten before Peter was offered a faculty position at Yale University in the School of Forestry. Their son, Benton, was born soon after.

Peter taught at Yale for nine years and then moved his family in 1974 to Minnesota, where he accepted a position in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife. He stayed there the rest of his career.

The family settled in St. Anthony Park and he remained in the neighborhood for nearly 40 years. He adored the neighborhood and made many dear friends. He helped clean the gutters and shoveled the walks of those unable to, and in turn was supported by his neighbors as he aged. The family is grateful for these many ways.

Peter leaves his children, Christopher (Rebekah) of Corvallis, Ore.; Marion; and Peter; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his former wife, Martha Jordan, of Santa Cruz.

A memorial was held May 20 on the St. Paul Campus.

Jeanette Kelsey
Jeanette E. Kelsey, 93, longtime resident of Falcon Heights, died April 10, 2017. Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband, John (Jack). She is survived by seven children and their spouses; 18 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was held April 19 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Como Park, with private interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Patricia Lebens
Patricia L. Lebens, longtime owner of the Park Bugle, died May 9, 2017. Lebens was located for decades on what is now the site of Greenhouse Village Cooperative.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 9 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Como Park, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Karen Milligan
Karen H. (Weinberg) Milligan, 60, died April 14, 2017. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 26 at Church of St. Cecilia in St. Anthony Park, with burial at Oakland Cemetery.

Gregory Monroe Sr.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his master’s degree in behavioral disabilities from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Gregory used his education and training to counsel and mentor youth at the Hubbell Humprey Job Corps Center in Como Park, where he was employed for 33 years.

He is survived by his son, Gregory B. Monroe Jr.; his brother, Lloyd B. Monroe Jr., of Missouri City, Tex.; and several grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service was held April 20 at the Hubbell Humprey Job Corps Center. A memorial service for family was held in Houston, Tex.

Julia Norris
Julia P. Norris, 90, of Como Park, died April 30, 2017.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Frank; three sons, Pat, John (Jule), and Dan (Dawn); Fr. Tim and Bill (Mary); four grandchildren, and sisters, Thersse Moen, Rose Deusch (Gene) and Joanne.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 4 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Como Park, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Faith Ohman
Faith L. Ohman, 74, of Falcon Heights, died April 8, 2017.

A retired attorney, graduate of Macalester College and the University of Minnesota law school, she made trips to Mexico and the Boundary Waters.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Jean Ohman. She is survived by her sister, Joanne (Carl) Carlson. Funeral services were held April 27 at Episcopal Church Home Coventry Chapel, with internment at Rose Lawn Cemetery.

Helen Overbee
Helen L. (Schultz) Overbee, 93, of Como Park, died April 23, 2017.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald. She is survived by their children, Yvonne, Mark (Myra), Adina (Kevin), Jay (Jannine), Don (Rosanna), John and Donna (Terry); nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; her brother, Leo (Peggy); and dear friends at Rosville Senior and Lyngbloom.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 27 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church, with internment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Marietta Spencer
Marietta E. Spencer, 95, a former executive at Children’s Home Society of Minnesota, died April 2, 2017.

Marietta’s brilliant mind was taken away slowly, but she continued to express feeling lucky and happy, as she did throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband; sons, Mick, Ken and Jerry; and daughter, Nancy Kasper. She is survived by her daughter and sons, Judy Andersen, Larry (Bobbie) and Steve (Kathy); special niece, Linda Rosenbalt; son-in-law, Leon Kasper; and daughters-in-law, Judy and Carole Weirath, 14 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held April 21 at Como Park Lutheran Church, with internment at Rose Lawn Cemetery.

Robert Sventek
Robert B. Sventek, 90, of Lauderdale, died April 21, 2017. He was a World War II veteran and Milwaukee railroad retiree.

He is survived by his brother, Jerry (Mary Jane).

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 26 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Rosville, with internment at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Mabel Thompson
Mabel L. (“Ma”) Thompson, 98, formerly of Falcon Heights, died April 4, 2017, at Johanna Shores, Arden Hills.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Willard L., and daughter Julia Linn Erickson. She is survived by her daughter Susan Thompson (Don Miller), two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister Ellen Paulin.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Jessie Weirath
Jessie O. (“Youseman”) Weirath, 100, died April 17, 2017. Jessie and her husband, Mike, raised their family in the Como Park area. She worked many years at Proa Ballroom and Catering.

She was preceded in death by her husband; sons, Mick, Ken and Jerry; and daughter, Nancy Kasper. She is survived by her daughter and sons, Judy Andersen, Larry (Bobbie) and Steve (Kathy); special niece, Linda Rosenbalt; son-in-law, Leon Kasper; and daughters-in-law, Judy and Carole Weirath, 14 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held April 21 at Como Park Lutheran Church, with internment at Rose Lawn Cemetery.
**June Events**

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, June 7, to be included in the July issue.

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

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

Parochial story time, every Friday, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-3:30 p.m.

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar.

**2 Friday**  
Parochial story time, every Friday, St. Anthony Park Library, 10-30 a.m.

Walking in the Longfellow Park, open 1-2 p.m. every Friday. First and open to adults.

SAPAS blood pressure check, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-2:30 p.m.

Northern Lights 4-H Club Picnic and Coron Social, 11:30 a.m., St. Anthony Park Library, 7-9 p.m.

**3 Saturday**  
St. Anthony Park Co-op Preschool will celebrate 60 years and honor committee, teachers, Brain Book, 10 a.m.- noon, College Park. St. Michael’s Episcopal Church will serve as the event location.

St. Anthony Park Arts Festival and used book sale. Festival is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Book sale is 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See more about the festival on pages 11-14.

St. Anthony Park Canine Club Pet Sale at the Arts Festival, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2725 Como Ave., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. People need a lunch and pets need to be on leash.

**6 Tuesday**  
Hopi drumming circle for ages 0-2, 9-11 a.m., open to adults.

SAPAS blood pressure check, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-3:30 p.m.

**7 Wednesday**  
English Conversation Circles, every Wednesday, St. Anthony Park Library, 4 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Audubon Club, “A Walk in the Woods” by Bill Brower, St. Anthony Park Library, 6-7:30 p.m.

**8 Thursday**  
St. Anthony Park Auction Services Presents, “Colonial Beauty,” St. Anthony Park Library, 2 p.m. All welcome.

**13 Tuesday**  
Sweater Swap, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Ollie’s Gardens presented by Woodland Poppies. Ollie is the dog, leaves new marks.

SAPAS blood pressure check, Seal Hi-Rise, 1-3:30 p.m.

**15 Thursday**  
Middle School Book Club, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

Students in 7th and 8th grade are invited to join to discuss “The Secrets Most Important Thing” by Shelley Pearsall. Please register and pick up a copy of the book at the Information Desk.

**3rd Friday**  
Miniature Monstera: Hands-on with books, songs, crafts, science activities and more for preschool and early-elementary school children, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**24 Saturday**  
St. Anthony Park Canine Club Pet Sale at the Arts Festival, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2725 Como Ave., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. People need a lunch and pets need to be on leash.

**25 Sunday**  
Sovaly Automotive Book Club, “Brothers of the World and Me” by Tadzio Groen, Mozambique, 1-30 p.m. All are welcome.

**26 Sunday**  
Miniature Monstera: Hands-on with books, songs, crafts, science activities and more for preschool and early-elementary school children, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**27 Tuesday**  
Sweater Swap, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Hometown Michigan: see a penguin try to fly and much more.

**28 Wednesday**  
Milkos Cafe, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m. Milkos will provide hands-on, drop-in activities for youth ages 6-12. Families may continue the fun on Wednesday through July and August. Parents and guardians are encouraged to join in the fun.

**29 Wednesday**  
Miniature Monstera: Hands-on with books, songs, crafts, science activities and more for preschool and early-elementary school children, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**30 Friday**  
Miniature Monstera: Hands-on with books, songs, crafts, science activities and more for preschool and early-elementary school children, St. Anthony Park Library, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Senior Exercise**  
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors Mondays and Thursdays, Luther Place City Hall, 2-3 p.m.

**Tuesdays and Fridays**  
St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30-3:30 p.m. (No class on June 21st and June 28th)

**Wednesdays**  
Community United Methodist Church, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Conso Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights Senior Service Senior Apartments, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**1st Thursday**  
Morgan Park Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.

**4th Thursday**  
Falcon Heights Senior Service Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon.

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

**Friday, May 9th**  
St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 9th**  
Seal Hi-Rise, 7-9 p.m.

**Venue Information**  
Morgan Park Senior Apartments, 655 W. 39th St.

Community United Methodist Church, 2200 Hildale Ave., 651-607-8546

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-622-0111

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Earth Day cleanup in Lauderdale

More than a dozen people joined forces in Lauderdale on April 22 to celebrate Earth Day and help clean Lauderdale’s nature preserve south of Larpenteur Avenue.

“It was a really nice event,” said Mary Hamel, the organizer of the event. “Half of what we picked up we were able to recycle.”

The cleanup is the first of many of the participants hope will become an ongoing environmental stewardship in the Lauderdale-Falcon Heights-St. Paul area, said Hamel. They hope to include eradicating invasive species, cleaning up graffiti and anything else the group identifies, she said.

Treats were provided by the Good Acre and Hadmen Park Food Co-op.

Boy Scouts 2017 district awards

The Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America held its annual volunteer recognition dinner on April 6. Here is a list of area award winners:

- Ralph Davis Award: Matt Connolly, Troop 218, Holy Childhood Catholic Church, and Anthony Kiester, Troop 1, Church of St. Mark
- Henri A. Eisenhauer Award: Al Madison, Pack 70 &Troop 13, Church of St. Mark
- Bob Plateau Award: Bruce Black, Troop 90, Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Unsung Hero Award: Tim and Mary Mantey, Crew 47, Macalester-Plymouth United Church and Karla Chase, Troop 90, Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Gordon F. Meeker, Whelos Leader Award: Jill Pelletier and Tim Hagnon, Pack 90, Parent Advisory Board Expo School
- Assistant Scoutmaster of the Year: Bob Harshorn, Troop 1, Church of St. Mark
- Cubmaster of the Year Award: Josh Bailey, Pack 82, Men’s Club of the Church of the Holy Spirit
- Scoutmaster of the Year Award: Dean Schafer, Troop 17, St. Anthony

posted around the neighborhood. When it’s showtime, bring your friends and spread a blanket. Donations will be appreciated.

The U.S. role in World War I to be discussed at Roselville Library

The United States entered World War I on April 2, 1917. Although U.S. troops did not see significant combat until more than a year later, they played an important role in ending the war. Join historian Janet Woolm an in her presentation, “When the Yanks Were Over There: America in World War I,” Tuesdays, May 23-June 27, at 7 p.m. at the Roselville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. Admission is free and there is no registration required.

Native plant expo June 3

The Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo and Market will be held Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Cub Foods Community Pavilion, 1201 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Come and learn about native plants and their many benefits from local conservation organizations and purchase plants native to Minnesota and accessories from a variety of local growers. No cultivars, no systemic insecticides.

Cash and check only. Learn more at the following website, www.airpalevent.com/events/native-plant-expo-and-market.

Show to open at Raymond gallery

Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., will present the pottery of S.C. Rolf and the

Lauderdale Earth Day cleanup volunteers included, from left, Kathy Backberg, Mary Hamel, Lauderdale council members Andi Moffatt and Kelly Dophin, Stephan Kistler, David Secker and daughter, Karen Kistler and the Djingga family. A number of volunteers left before the photo was taken by Julie Drennen of Conservation Minnesota.
Hat tricks aren’t just for kids
71-year-old St. Anthony Park hockey player skates his way to a national championship

Gregory Page missed out on a first-place win in 1963, when Murray High School’s hockey team went to the state tournament, only to end the season in fourth place.

But on April 21, the 71-year-old goalie celebrated a first-place win with his team, the Minnesota Oldtimers, in the USA Adult Hockey National Tournament 70-plus bracket in Florida.

“We played five games in four days, and after a furious battle, defeated the Michigan Sting in the finals, 2-1,” Page said.

A lifelong resident of St. Anthony Park, Page hasn’t stopped skating since he first learned on a flooded tennis court that once stood at one of the triangle parks on Branston Street at Hendon Avenue.

He started playing hockey on the outdoor rink at Langford Park in sixth grade, got pretty good at it, he said, and then played goalie and was co-captain for Murray, when it was a grade 9-12 secondary school.

Murray hockey players practiced on an outdoor rink next to the grade 9-12 secondary school, before the district built the new science wing and gymnasium on the south side. Skaters moved onto a flooded area on Fulham Street, where Luther Seminary’s Olson Campus Center is now, and then skated at Murray Field, across from HealthPartners on Eustis Street. “We flooded the rinks ourselves and always played outdoors,” Page said.

Page won a hockey scholarship to the University of Michigan. After college, he hitchhiked around the world, became a vice president at Minneapolis advertising agency Campbell Mithun, worked for a company that opened stores at airports, and retired from the St. Paul Riverfront Corp. five years ago.

Now he spends Tuesday mornings in Bloomington skating with a group of 50- to 80-year-old guys, some of whom are former Olympians, he said. The group plays a few tournaments each year and has won at the Florida tourney four out of the last five years. Page, whose 1963 Murray hockey jersey hangs in the Xcel center in St. Paul, said he was pretty thrilled that at 71, he has just won a national hockey championship.—Kristal Leebrick

Murray’s 1963 almost champs. Page is the goalie fifth from the left in the front row.

The Minnesota Oldtimers are the USA Adult Hockey national champs in the 70-plus category.
The Cougars come together and bond time, it’s been really fun and we don’t with their star pitcher. A road trip to of responsibility, but at the same That unselfish maturity has helped asked about her goals for the season. The first thoughts Proper shared when the that I am, I take it seriously. I feel a strong team have been special, Como’s once-in-a-lifetime pitcher and only senior on the team set to graduate and head to St. Kate’s. The 2017 team that represented the Cougars on the diamond did the same, finishing in second place with a 7-1 record in conference play. The only blemish was a nail-biting one-run loss to Highland on May 8. While a win on that day would have been special, Como’s achievements and an overall record of 13-3 as the Bugle went to press, are remarkable when considering the team’s youth and lack of previous varsity experience. There is only one senior on the roster. However, with that one senior being Kathryn Proper, an all-state pitching ace, captain and beloved teammate, coach John Fischbach had reasons for believing his young team could compete this spring. Fischbach, a teacher of 38 years in St. Paul and Como’s softball coach for 26 years, says Proper is the most complete and powerful pitcher he’s ever had. “She’s a once-in-a-lifetime pitcher for a smaller city school like ours,” Fischbach said.

“What Kathryn’s done to improve each year, her goal of pitching in college, which she’s committed to do at St. Catherine, is evidence of her hard work. She’s set high goals and reached them.” The St. Paul Pioneer Press took notice of Proper’s statistics this season. Sportswriter Jace Frederick wrote a feature article about her in the May 10 edition of the paper. The attention is well deserved, but Proper hasn’t let it be a distraction. She is focused on her pitching, and more broadly, focused on her young teammates on and off the field.

“I want to help our players build their confidence as much as I can, and teaching them that the mistakes you make don’t define you as a player,” Proper said. “I’ve wanted to be a captain my whole life and now that I am, I take it seriously. I feel a lot of responsibility, but at the same time, it’s been really fun and we don’t feel a lot of pressure with our young team. We just go out and do our best.”

Team goals and leadership were the first thoughts Proper shared when asked about her goals for the season. That unselfish maturity has helped the Cougars come together and bond with their star pitcher. A road trip to Brained for a tournament early in the season helped establish the sisterly support and spirit of the team. Junior Adrianna Tarver, who plays first base, shared that they played games and cards together at the hotel, along with some dancing, and that the Proper family has also hosted team dinners. “Our chemistry is so strong this year. It’s crazy. It’s the best. We have lots of laughs,” Tarver said.

Junior Alexis Barnes was co-captain with Proper. While Barnes says she’s not as vocal as Proper, she tries to help lead by example. Barnes also has the responsibility of catching the curveballs and fastballs that Proper propels past the batter. “Kathryn’s always consistent. She’s always throwing it in her spots, but it does hurt sometimes. She throws it so fast,” Barnes said. “She’s a great captain and helps everyone out. She’s always cheering for everyone. And she’s so funny, too.”

Barnes converted to catcher this season after playing in right field as a freshman. Fischbach needed to find a replacement for Emma Hartmann who caught for Proper’s first three seasons and now studies and plays softball at Macalester College.

Fischbach has been impressed by Barnes’ performance behind the plate. Stepping up to catch for Como’s elite pitcher carries big responsibility, and the entire team agrees that Barnes has handled it beautifully.

Several other players were also asked to try new positions this season in order to fill needs left behind from the talented seniors who graduated in 2016. Every one of the 12 varsity players on this 2017 Cougars’ squad has contributed in meaningful ways. Freshman Bailey Hoppe plays third base, sophomore Gianna Gabrielli is the shortstop, and sophomore Isabelle Hoppe covers second base with Tarver at first to round out the infield.

The starting outfielders are sophomore Bridget Proper in left, junior Jessica Koch in center and freshman Jade Sklar in right. Designated hitters include sophomores Adina DeGaetano and Asia Faulk. Junior Lai Chia Moua is a designated runner.

Together this diverse cast of characters has kept Como in familiar territory contending for conference crowns and being a tough tournament team. They added a trophy by winning the Concordia Academy Invitational tournament, sweeping three metro-area opponents in April.

The end of May will bring the team to the challenge of the Section 4AAA Playoffs. The Cougars traditionally make deep runs toward the finals. Fischbach, Proper and this year’s youthful team are preparing to get there again.

“We have high expectations. We don’t lower our expectations. We’re working hard, developing and having fun,” Fischbach said.

The veteran coach is not shy about setting goals. The bar is set high, but with that he preaches family. There is an emphasis on togetherness. Individuals won’t meet goals alone. “We’re a family. We all look out for each other. We support each other,” he said.

While the goal of winning what would have been the eighth conference championship in Como softball history fell out of reach with that heartbreaking loss to Highland, the strength of this Cougar team was brought to light in a different way on that day. The trait in the player’s eyes showed the passion and pride of the Como softball program. The encouraging words and hugs demonstrated the care and support for one another. And the smiling faces at school the next day revealed resiliency and a characteristic of any successful team—excitement for another chance to play in a season they don’t want to end.

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

Come home to University Grove...

Twenty-five year owner has recently completed many improvements... new hardwood floors main level, new carpet second level, new windows main level, new paint throughout. Five bedrooms, four baths, in open floor plan with cathedral ceiling over living/dining area. Home has already gone through three months of required marketing to U. of M. employees and is now open to the public. 2098 Folwell Ave. $605,000.

Nancy Meeden
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School News

School News will return in our September issue, which deadline is Aug. 9. Send your news about local schools and students to editor@parkbugle.org.

Chelsea Heights Elementary
1557 Hunto St., 651-293-8790
www.ches.spps.org

Hash Browns head to Global
One of Chelsea Heights Destination Imagination teams, the Nightmare Hash Browns, won first place in the regional tournament and second place at the state tournament, qualifying the team to compete in a global competition in Tennessee at the end of May.

You can help the team meet their travel expenses by making a donation to Chelsea Heights PTO.

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

Spice Angels win for app that supports young English learners
A mobile app development team from Como Park was one of two high school teams to win the Minnesota Technovation Challenge at the Minneapolis Convention Center May 7. Technovation annually invites teams of girls from around the world to learn and apply the skills needed to solve real-world problems through technology.

The winning team of Aye Win, Moe Chrest Paw, Uurh Faraht, Leo Lamja, and Naw Sei created a literacy app for new immigrants and refugees that helps young children maintain a connection to their home language and culture while they are learning English. Como teacher Liz Riggs, who mentored the girls, said one of the app’s main features is a dictionary the students made with translations in six languages.

“The girls drew from their own experiences as new immigrants and refugees to make an app that will support the next generation of English language learners,” Riggs said.

The winning team, who along with themselves the “Spice Angels” for the competition, automatically advance to the national competition, which is evaluated virtually by a committee of judges. If their app is selected in the national round, they will present their app at the world competition held this summer in Silicon Valley, Calif.

Also representing Como at the Technovation Challenge were Nimo Mohamud and Kewar Ahmed, who developed an app that provides wrap-around services for homeless people in their communities. Their app also received high scores and was favorably received by the judges.

The girls are members of the Technovation Challenge by presenting their apps to Kristin Meister’s Public Speaking class the week before the event, allowing them to get feedback on their delivery from other students, while developing confidence.

Spring play was lively, humorous
Como’s annual spring play was “The Brothers Grimm: Fast-paced, modern, humorous medley of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. Como’s performers were directed by Allison Harrzell.

This team of app developers won the Minnesota Technovation Challenge at the Minneapolis Convention Center May 7, from left: Aye Win, Moe Chrest Paw, Uurh Faraht, Leo Lamja and Naw Sei.

Murray students and teachers heading to the National History Day competition are, from left: teacher Courtney Major, Aaron Ramsey, Nora Thomsey, Fiona Juarez-Sweeney, Claire Driscoll, Bridget Lee, Tana Oasal, Sam Skinner and teacher Carrie Newman.

History Day winner Grace Philippon, teacher Catie Jacobs and volunteer Joe Lyle.

Big wins at Minnesota State History Day

A number of area students will head to National History Day in June at the University of Maryland after big wins at the state tournament in May at the University of Minnesota.

Of the 24 students Murray Middle School sent to the state class tournament, seven will compete nationally and nine won honorable mentions. Grace Philipson of St. Anthony Park, a seventh-grader at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, won first place at the Junior Division Paper category and will advance to nationals with her paper “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring: Standing Up for Women, Science, and the Environment.”

Here are the Murray students who will go to nationals or received honorable mentions:

In the Junior Individual Documentary category, Samuel Skinner won first place with “An Ordinary American, An Ordinary Stand: Korematsu v. United States.” Mira Seeba received an honorable mention.

Junior Group Exhibit honorable mentions went to Kaya Scheid and Lyra Sano and Charles Wieden.

Murray teachers and students need to raise more than $900 each for expenses. Contributions can be made online at education.mnhs.org/historyday/state-history-day. Choose the yellow “Donate” button on the right and you will be directed to the GiveMN.org site under “Adopt a Scholar.” On the right side of the screen, choose your donation amount and press donate. Be sure to designate Murray Middle School in the Tribute or Memorial Dedication box. The deadline to donate is June 1, 2017.
School news from 22

Murray Middle School

2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740

www.murray.spps.org

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

www.stanthony.spps.org

St. Anthony Park Elementary Teacher David Hughes is hanging up his education hat in June after 25 years spent the last 14 years teaching seventh- and eighth-grade social studies. He stayed, attended Winona, and later received his master's degree in education at River Falls. He did his student teaching at Hazel Park and stayed there for 10 years, spent one year at Highland Junior High and then came to Murray.

Murray Middle School teacher David Hughes is hanging up his education hat in June after 25 years in St. Paul Public Schools. He has spent the last 14 years teaching seventh- and eighth-grade social studies at Murray. Hughes was recognized at the Minnesota State History Day competition in May for his work at Murray.

When Hughes decided to get his master's degree in education after 10 years of working as an insurance adjuster, it was because he wanted to work with kids and use the knowledge he acquired with his bachelor's degree in social studies.

A job at the third-millition of Toronto, Ohio, Hughes came to Minnesota to visit a friend who was attending Winona State University in Winona.

"I couldn’t believe there was a place where you could literally breathe,” he said. The air pollution produced by the mills in his hometown took its toll. “They used to say that breathing the air there was equivalent to smoking three packs of cigarettes a day.”

If you would like to make a gift, please direct your contribution to Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Please note Pilot One-On-One Program in the memo field. Questions? Contact Cindy Thraher at 651-293-8740, ext. 45232 or cindy.thraher@spps.org.

Longtime Murray social studies teacher retires

"He stayed, attended Winona, and later received his master's degree in education at River Falls. He did his student teaching at Hazel Park and stayed there for 10 years, spent one year at Highland Junior High and then came to Murray."

What’s he looking forward to in retirement? Not hearing the alarm clock go off at 5 a.m.—Kristal Leebrick