Quentin Nguyen has a dream: neighbors coming together to create a floral gateway to Como Park.

By Kristal Leebrick

Quentin Nguyen really isn’t a flower guy, he says. He’s an idea guy. His latest idea is to rally his neighbors and local businesses in the Como Park neighborhood to help create a five-block-long, blooming boulevard garden along Lexington Parkway, stretching from Larpenteur to Montana avenues. He calls it the Lexington Boulevard Beautification Project and he envisions it as a “gateway to Como Regional Park.”

Nguyen home at the corner of Hoyt Avenue and Lexington is well known to joggers, strollers and the many drivers and bikers who pass in and out of the park each day. It’s hard to miss with the 6-foot-tall moss-covered giraffe he calls Gabriel standing watch at the southeastern corner of the house, the Dr. Seuss-like topiaries lining the lawn, the elf-size door built into a hill, the giant tortoise sculpture and the hanging garden on his backyard fence along Lexington, where he’s planted herbs and lettuce into some 100 2-liter green pop bottles.

And the flowers. Nguyen’s Lexington-side boulevard is filled with irises, or bluing star, a garden several years in the making. Come late July, his stretch of the street will be filled with purple blooms that attract birds, bees and butterflies.

That’s what he wants for the 19 boulevards in the five-block stretch that Nguyen wants to plant: gardens that are beautiful to see and that create a habitat for pollinators. His plan is to plant one kind of flower in each boulevard and hopes to have a mix of early-blooming flowers, midsummer bloomers and late-blooming flowers on each block.

This, he says, will bring a “mass of color” for residents and visitors who travel that route and provide easy maintenance.

“It will make drivers slow down when they see the beautiful flowers,” he says, “and it will bring neighbors together.” He envisions wedding parties that will be fun and become a tradition.

Nguyen has been knocking on homeowners’ doors to get permission to plant in their boulevards and to recruit volunteers. The response has been positive. Como Park Lutheran Church’s youth group has expressed interest in helping, and Murray Middle School science teacher Tim Chase sees an opportunity for students at the local school to learn more about planting a pollinator habitat. Nguyen is also working on a phased plan for the project with cost projections and a timeline to give to the District 10 Environment Committee, which has expressed interest in helping find grant money for the project.

Nguyen launched a Facebook fundraiser to buy plants and materials. So far, he’s raised $375 from donations and from selling plants from his own gardens. If he can’t raise enough money to buy plants, seed will work, he says. It will just take a little longer for the boulevard gardens to establish.

Nguyen, 24, was born in a rural village near Cam Ranh, Vietnam, before immigrating to Minnesota as child. Starting out in an agrarian community may have had some influence on his green thumb, he says, but he never gardened until moving into the old Muffuletta space in Milton Square. We’ll tell you more about it in our September issue, which comes out Aug. 21.

The Park Bugle received a Page One Award from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists (MNSPJ) at its June 14 awards banquet in St. Paul. The Bugle received third place for Best Issue for its November 2017 edition.

Awards were given in more than 60 categories for newspaper reporting, online news, photography, television, radio and multimedia. This is the fifth time the Bugle has won an award in the Best Issue category. The December 2011, June 2012, November 2013 and March 2016 issues all received second place. The Bugle competes in the Newspaper — Less than 50,000 Circulation category, which includes daily papers such as Finance & Commerce, Duluth News Tribune, Mankato Free Press, Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal and the bowledly Southwest Journal.
Como Park
The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Contact information: 651-644-3889 or district10@comopark.org.

ComoFest 2018 is happening now
Here’s a quick look at the ComoFest activities:
• Lyngbyhton Med-Summer Festival, Friday, July 20: 8-2 p.m.
• ComoFest 5K Walk/Run for Everyone, Saturday, July 21: 8-10 a.m., Como Lakeside Pavilion (benefits Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Project).
• ComoFest Art Fair, Sunday, July 22: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Como Lakeside Pavilion.

ComoFest is happening now
ComoFest 2018 is happening now
644-3889 or district10@comopark.org.
Festival, Friday, July 20: 2-8 p.m.
Everyone, Saturday, July 21: 8-10 a.m., Como Lakeside Pavilion
Living at Home Block Project.

Can you get around the park?
Can you get around the park?

Can you get around the park?

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By Jason DeMoe

Nature is something that many often take for granted. Yet, experiencing the natural beauty of the world is something that can enrich and enhance one’s life. Here in Minnesota, such beauty surrounds us in all corners of the state, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has several programs in place to sweeten the pot for any would-be adventurers.

The Minnesota State Park Hiking Club and the Minnesota State Park Passport Club are two programs designed to encourage folks to visit some or all of the 67 Minnesota state parks. My girlfriend, Kristina Handt, and I have completed both and we are on our second time through the Passport Club with our 2-year-old daughter. To join either club, a person simply needs to purchase a booklet ($14.99) from any state park office.

The hiking club lays out a challenge for a person to hike one specific trail (outlined in the booklet) in each state park. Along the way, you can earn pins and patches and free camping nights for hitting certain milestones. The entire journey consists of 194 miles of hiking. There is no timeline for the club, so hikers can push through (we finished in six months) or visit the parks at a leisurely pace and finish over the course of several years. Some of the required trails are a flat one-mile, while others are six miles of hills and rough terrain. The journey will see hikers traveling throughout the state, subsequently experiencing all of the different glorious landscapes that Minnesota has to offer.

Personally, my Minnesota hiking experience was a master class in pushing myself beyond my limits. When I began, I honestly had my doubts about being able to finish. Family memories made in nature will last a lifetime. In addition, unique state park-entrance signs make for one-of-a-kind photo opportunities. Jason DeMoe, Evelyn and Kristina Handt pose for a selfie here at Lake Maria State Park in Monticello.

Cheers to adventure!

By Michelle Christianson

After our trip last fall on the Trans-Siberian Express, neither my husband, Dave, nor I had much desire to take another international trip. Fast forward to this past April and the last day to sign up for the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church trip to Germany to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The tour was the brainchild of Pastor Jill Rode and was led by Hans Wiertma, a church member and associate professor of religion at Augsburg University. We couldn’t let the opportunity pass, so we took the plunge and joined the tour. The combination of learning about Germany and the Reformation, a fun group of people and the prospect of plenty of free time in cities we had never visited pushed us over the edge.

If you want to read a wonderful travelogue written by Pastor Glenn Berg-Mohong (with many pictures), go to: sapcho.wewish.com. I can’t improve on the facts presented there, but what I can do is give my personal take on what I saw and heard on the trip. Because some of that take is political and my opinion, you may not agree with me, but this is what I learned and felt in Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Bamberg and Nuremberg.

The combination of learning about Germany and the Reformation, a fun group of people and the prospect of plenty of free time in cities we had never visited pushed us over the edge. We were five teenagers on the tour who went on what I saw and heard on the trip. Because some of that take is political and my opinion, you may not agree with me, but this is what I learned and felt in Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Bamberg and Nuremberg.

We knew most of our 30 fellow travelers and, in some cases, knew them pretty well. That made for a warm, friendly atmosphere. There were five teenagers on the tour who went on what I saw and heard on the trip. Because some of that take is political and my opinion, you may not agree with me, but this is what I learned and felt in Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Bamberg and Nuremberg.

Michelle Christianson in Leipzig, Germany.
What I’ve learned about the Bugle this year

I have been on the board of directors of Park Press — the publisher of the Bugle — for three years now and just finished my term as chair. When I joined the board I thought I knew quite a bit about the Bugle and its operations. I mean, everybody loves the Bugle, right? It’s been part of our community for nearly 45 years, one of our most treasured institutions, along with the Fourth in the Park celebration and the St. Anthony Park Library. Turns out, I had a lot to learn.

First, it’s true, people and businesses love the Bugle. We have enjoyed loyal support from the local community and successful annual fundraising campaigns. The results of our recent readership survey told us that we have dedicated readers who appreciate the variety of articles, especially the coverage of local issues. The Bugle has such a big presence in the community that you might be surprised to learn that it is a very small organization with three part-time employees, two contract advertising sales reps, and a volunteer board of directors helping manage the operation.

Park Press is the nonprofit organization that publishes the Bugle. The business end of the Park Press is managed by a group of 14 community volunteers who believe in the importance of a free press and are doing their best to make sure the paper survives. The Bugle is not owned by a larger media company, a venture capitalist or a billionaire Silicon Valley entrepreneur. The Bugle relies on advertising revenue for 70 percent of its budget, and your donations make up the rest. No corporate sponsors. No government grants. No angel investors.

The Bugle exists only because of the support of the people and businesses who live here. It’s a shoestring budget and the three part-time staff members and a host of freelance writers do a fantastic job of producing this valuable community resource every month. And delivering it to your door. For free.

The Bugle faces the same problems that all newspapers are facing, whether they are community newspapers, rural weeklies or big city dailies: decreasing advertising revenue, a growing preference among many for online sources, and offering a reliable delivery service and the increasing costs of newprint and printing.

What’s the future for a nonprofit, monthly community newspaper with a tiny staff and limited budget facing all the challenges of every newspaper with significantly fewer resources? The board has been discussing this all year, and we are optimistic about the future. Our community newspaper is different from other media sources. We focus on local issues and events with comprehensive, balanced and objective coverage of important topics and people in our area. The paper keeps us informed and connected with real news (not fake news) about what’s happening down the block and in our local schools. That makes the Bugle difficult to put in an e-newsletter, or a neighborhood list, or a bulletin board, or a specific web page. It’s our newspaper telling the stories of our community. I can’t imagine this community without the Bugle.

The board is not naïve about the future. With the support of our readers, advertisers and funders we will approach the work ahead with care and creativity. We believe that the Bugle can meet the challenges of our day and continue to produce comprehensive and balanced stories that explain our understanding of our local world, which cannot be found anywhere else.

Thanks to everyone for your loyalty and support of this fine paper. — Gabrielle Lawrence, swing-chair of the Park Press board of directors.

A labor of love

I want to give a shout out to Kathy Wellington, longtime Park Press board member, who is stepping down this year. Kathy has been an essential part of our nonprofit community paper. Wellington was always a steady voice and I appreciate all the work she put into keeping the Bugle vital.

I also want to welcome our new board member, Chris Gausner, a small-business loan officer at Sunstate Banks, and thank the rest of the volunteer board members — Josh Becerra, Ted Blank, Amy Carrië, Elizabeth Danielson, Michael Griffin, Gabrielle Lawrence, Beth Magstad, Joey McGarvey, Bob Milligan, Merry Rendahl, Steve Plagens and Matt Vierling — for continuing the work of promoting the exchange of ideas and reporting and analyzing community news.

As Kathy leaves the bugle board, the Bugle relies on the community to continue to tell the stories of the folks who live and work here. And it relies on a dedicated barbershop staff that works hard to give you a professional little paper each month.

The Bugle’s new beats repeating again and again: the brainchild of the late Andrew Boss, who was president of St. Anthony Park Bank (now Sunstate Banks) in 1974 when the Bugle began, it’s been weathering economic boom and busts and the changing landscape of traditional print news for a long time.

Boss saw how a local newspaper builds community and local businesses and neighbors thrive when they support each other. And he gave us the Bugle.

There has been a long line of editors who have helped steer the Bugle over its 44 years, a job that’s half labor of love (as one former editor once said to me) and half part-time job. Bear with me as I list the past editors who — believe this — worked their tails off to bring you the Bugle each month for the last 44 years: Gail McCullure (1975-1976), Mike Hazard (1976-1977), Peggy Mann Rinehart (1977-1980), Mollie Hoben (1980-1984), Kevin Reim (1984-1985), Mary Mengenthal (1984-1992), Mary still has her hands in the Bugle as obituary editor, proofreader and good listener), Kathy Malchow (co-editor, 1990-1992), Winston Pictoff (1992-1994), Julie Lehr (1994-1995), David Anger (1995-1998 and 1999-2000), Laura Pritchett (1998-1999) and Dave Healy (2000-2010).

I walked in when Dave Healy retired and now I am about to add my name to this esteemed list. My eight years as the managing editor of the Park Bugle will end Sept. 1, and the Park Press board of directors is working hard on a search for the new editor.

My first Bugle editorial appeared in the August 2010 edition and I waxed a bit about Fourth of July, the St. Anthony Park parade and the idea that Independence Day should be called Independence Day. The businesses, schools, foundations, nonprofits, residents and yes, community newspapers, are dependent on each other. And this community is fortunate to have a resource like the Bugle to help make sense of it all.

My hope is that the community will continue and maybe even increase it’s support of this community institution as it heads into its 45th year. — Kristal Lebrick

L E T T E R S

Welcome to the Bugle editorial pages, the place where we exchange ideas and opinions. The views reflected in the commentaries and letters printed here each month are the opinions of the individual writers, not the Bugle staff or board of directors. We encourage community participation on this page, but we do retain the right to edit letters and commentaries for clarity and brevity. Letters should be kept to 400 words or fewer and commentaries should be 800 words or fewer. Send your commentaries or letters to editor@parkbugle.org.

Mitra Jalal Nelson would bring employment to a fresh voice to St. Paul

Please join us in voting for Mitra Jalal Nelson in the Ward 4 City Council Special Election on Aug. 14. Mitra offers a kind of leadership that we need at this time in our ward and our city. Her campaign is not a lamentation of change, rather it is a call for all of us to participate in building the most welcoming, prosperous and sustainable community of our community’s rich history.

As an organizer and former teacher, Mitra believes in the power of education when we create equal access to opportunity. In Ward 4, continuing to expand housing and transportation options while growing opportunities for employment in the community is a priority that lifts up families and improves life for all of us, together.

As a woman of color, a child of immigrants and a renter in our community, Mitra will bring a fresh voice to the City Council. If you’ve met Mitra, you know she listens; she’s approachable, energetic and knows how to work with people to get things done.

In Ward 4, we have a strong tradition of electing women and men to represent us who actively lead the city. When Russ Stark recently left this role, he was the council president, and he has endorsed Mitra. Mayor Melvin Carver has too. Please join us all in voting for Mitra on Aug. 14.

Jeff and Emily Blueduet, Mary Briggs and Jim Schumacher, Beth and Jim Comerford, Kathy Magowsky, Charlie Nauen and JF Yffel, Erica Schumacher and Andrew Collier, St. Anthony Park

Shirley Erdast gets things done

In a special election Aug. 14, St. Paul’s Ward 4 will choose a new City Council member. I’m delighted to have the opportunity to vote for Shirley Erdast, someone who actually listens to and engages with individual and neighborhood groups.

As the executive director of Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, Shirley has a track record of working with neighborhood groups to get things done. She has been an effective advocate before elected officials and expects them to keep their promises. Others have noted that our neighborhood may be in store for changes.

Shirley Erdast will provide the thoughtful, in touch leadership St. Anthony Park needs.

Ann Wyna, St. Anthony Park
I’m leaving on a jet plane

By Adam Grazier

No or. This is an anti-travel article. I’ll let you decide how to celebrate the delicious irony of its being published in the busiest travel month of the year. You can make up a little song or wear some sort of costume or, well, I said I’d let you decide.

There are two types of people in the world: travelers and non-travelers. Of course, most of us are chunks of both, but this piece will be more dramatic if I boot out the moderates and reduce things to black and white. (I follow my country’s politics, and I’ve learned to polarize chunks of both, but this piece will be more dramatic if I boot out the moderates and reduce things to black and white. (I follow my country’s politics, and I’ve learned to polarize)

The process by which I place people in one camp or the other is simply to ask them, “Would you travel anywhere in the world, providing the destination was safe and all expenses were paid?” Travelers answer yes and non-travelers no. Done and done. (See how simple polarization is?)

I had always thought that my disaffection for travel was a relative newcomer to my stable of neuroses — the result of a life spent traveling. Last month, however, I found a letter from my mother to my older brother that included the sentence, “You know how much Adam hates to travel.” It was written in 1963. I was 14.

So, if travel is such an ordeal, why have I journeyed to 28 countries and 47 states? Well, first of all, my mother’s letter notwithstanding, I didn’t use to feel as strongly about travel as I do now. When I was a young man, it was exciting to be on a tour of one-night stands, my suitcase and guitar in hand, like the guy in “The Boxer.” And, as a musician, it was necessity. It’s difficult to make a living as a performer without traveling; musicians can’t get arrested in their hometowns, as the saying goes. Even steady gigs like the Minnesota Orchestra and “A Prairie Home Companion” (RIP) involve travel.

In my decades on the road, I’ve experienced my share of minor drama and trauma — getting lost on foot in London with no money or ID, peeing blood in Prague — but I haven’t had truly terrible things happen to me. I’ve never been in a plane, train, car or boat accident. I’ve never wandered over the wrong border and wound up end up stranded in a country so remote that it’s on the back of the map. And, as far as I can remember, I’ve never been abducted by aliens. So, whence my trepidation?

First, it’s not entirely trepidation. Mostly I just love being home, with my family and my car and my friends and neighbors and my stuff. Second, I’ve pretty much seen what I want to see in the world. Now, I understand that, to travelers, this is heresy — how can someone even say that! I own, right? Live and live? So, just put down the globe and step away from the effigy.

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And, as I indicated, I don’t observe an absolute travel ban. Last summer, I flew to the East Coast, then to my reunion in Oklahoma and ended up with a tour of Washington and Oregon with banjoist Alan Munde. And I’ve visited 20 countries working with Garrison Keillor. So I will travel; I just won’t be jogging across Latvia or exploring Patagonia on a motorcycle. The son of a couple I know went to Asia to teach ESL and ended up marrying a Vietnamese woman. The couple flew for 30 hours to attend the wedding. Thirty hours! Now, I’m as dedicated and loving a parent as any, but I get weird just flying to Grand Forks. Vietnam is out of the question unless I am assigned my own personal indigent anesthetist. It’s for people like me that God invented Skype.

My wife, Renée, on the other hand is a traveler. Kayak the Bering Strait? “You bet.” Hike the Gobi? “I’ll bring sunscreen.”

Renee is planning solo trips to Ireland and New Zealand in the coming year. She’d rather I went along, I assume, but she’s a tough, experienced solo world traveler and she’ll have a ball. And me? I’ll keep the car fed and the home fires burning and make sure the former doesn’t get too close to the latter. Bon voyage, honey!
Singing the red, white and blues

A few scenes from the Fourth in the Park parade in St. Anthony Park July 4.

Mayor Melvin Carter. Photo by Mike Krivit

Long live the free press. Photo by Mike Krivit.

Play local: Rosemary Johnson. Photo by Pat Thompson

Isaac Harrison. Photo by Stephen D. Parker

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Park Perks raised $400 for the Rein in Sarcoma in June.

During the month of August we are collecting for Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly.

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A scenic treat — for a while

It was cozy, that’s for sure, tucked away in a little valley, connected to but separate from its much bigger Como Park neighbor, Lake Como. Cozy Lake was a 10-acre gem in its heyday, “so pretty, so secluded,” in the words of one newspaper writer, with the park’s original Japanese garden on its northern shore. Levels of drought also took their toll.

And, like Lake Como, it had the added disadvantage of being atop a peat bog, which made it all the more difficult to keep water in.

A Ramsey County atlas of 1859 shows a body of water in the Cozy Lake location, but it doesn’t appear on other maps until nearly the turn of the century. By then the lake, complete with its own Cozy Island, clearly was well established.

A 1916 real estate atlas shows the relationship between Cozy Lake and Lake Como. Author’s Collection

The northwestern arm of Lake Como is Bent on Going Dry Too.” In 1913 alone, more than 600 million gallons of water were pumped into Lake Como.

Cozy was said to be deteriorating into a “scummy swamp,” and city officials had had enough. In 1922, Cozy Lake was dammed off from Lake Como and allowed to dry.

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Roger Bergerson chronicles our remarkable past

The Japanese garden was a favorite subject for souvenir postcards. Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Both areas were designated for incorporation into the new Como golf course, which opened in 1930. The Cozy Lake acreage is today occupied by the course’s holes Nos. 5 through 9. The Japanese garden was in the general area of the ninth green and the forward tee on No. 5.

Three stone lanterns from the original garden now grace the Charlotte Parmelee Osthway Japanese Garden on the other side of the valley.

For some years after the course opened, pear trees continued to burn underground in the old Cozy lakebed. It was said that a golfer would occasionally get a “horror” from breaking through the surface.

The name lives on at Cozy’s Pub, the bar and grill in the golf course clubhouse.

The Japanese garden was clearly well established.

A newspaper headline in 1919 on the eve of prohibition: “Land Sakes, Lake Como is Bent on Going Dry Too.”

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The southw est arm of Lake Como, too, was abandoned, but it presented a challenge to reclaim. “The bog land . . . seems to absorb fill as fast as it is dumped in,” a newspaper noted.

The cherry trees died, the bridge was torn down and the garden faded from memory.

Meanwhile, maintaining the water level continued to be a problem for both lakes. (A newspaper headline in 1919 on the eve of prohibition: “Land Sakes, Lake Como is Bent on Going Dry Too.”)

In 1913 alone, more than 600 million gallons of water were pumped into Lake Como.

Cozy was said to be deteriorating into a “scummy swamp,” and city officials had had enough. In 1922, Cozy Lake was dammed off from Lake Como and allowed to dry.

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Sandra Barton

Sandra May (Hunsley) Barton, died peacefully in her home on June 24, 2018, surrounded by loving family. She was born May 14, 1936.

Sandy was a humble, adventurous spirit with a delightful sense of humor who loved nature, especially birds and critters, but most of all her family. She lived in Como Park most of her life and was a long-time member of Holy Childhood Catholic Church. She attended Mechanic Arts High School and worked at the Home of the Good Shepherd for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Yvonne Mulvihill; infant son Brian; son Michael; and five grandchildren. She is survived by children, Deb Runyon (Dan), Scott Barton, Bob Barton, Jim Barton, Steve Barton (Emily), Kevin Barton (Mary), Vanessa Simonson (Chad) and Patti Murphy (Jay); daughters-in-law Lucy; brother Kenneth (Kathy); and sisters Barbara Sukut (Water), Jean Wiyandt, Maxine Ondahl (Nick) and Kathy McDIan (Mike); 28 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 29 at Church of the Holy Childhood in Como Park.

Helen Brown

Helen Monroe Brown, died June 7, 2018, surrounded by family. She was born May 18, 1936, in Livingston County, Ill., and attended county high school and high school in Fairfax, Ill.

She enrolled in Illinois State University, where she met Dwight Brown. The couple married in 1956 and went on to have three children.

The family settled in Minnesota in 1966. Helen became interested in politics and in 1976 was the first woman elected to the Falcon Heights City Council.

Helen is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dwight; children, Cindy Brown Polon (Mark), Lori Casey (Mark) and Kyle (Berry); eight grandchildren; and (soon-to-be) three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held June 23 at Falcons Heights United Church of Christ.

Gary Carlson

Gary Carlson, 71, of St. Anthony Park, died June 11, 2018. Gary was born Dec. 27, 1946, in Two Harbors, Minn. He attended St. Olaf College, graduating in 1968 with a biology degree. In December of that year, he married Robin Raud. He had already been drafted and went into the army in February 1969. He spent a year in Vietnam as an infantryman.

Gary graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in 1974. After teaching pharmacy for five years, he took a position as a compounding pharmacist at University Hospital. He continued working there (and later Fairview Hospital), both as a pharmacist and as a teacher for more than 35 years.

Gary and his wife, Robin, moved to St. Anthony Park in 1976, where they became active community members.

Gary was a leader and supporter of the Boy Scouts and spent many years actively involved in the Minnesota Green Party. He loved playing bridge regularly with friends and leaves behind a dearly beloved, 1,000-plus book collection.

Gary will be remembered for his sense of humor, especially puns, dedication to family, endless patience and the practice of pharmacy.

He is survived by Robin; three children, Matthew Carlson, Laura (Matthew) Brinster and Paul (Andrea) Carlson; two grandchildren; and siblings, Barbara Carlson, Suzanne (Roger) Magnuson, Elizabith (Tanya) Lieffring and Donald (Cheryl) Carlson.

A memorial service was held June 22 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Tyson Allen Conner

Tyson Allen Conner, 50, of St. Louis Park, died unexpectedly June 29, 2018, of heart complications. Tyson grew up in St. Anthony Park.

Tyson was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joseph and Verna Kruschwitz, and father, Ralph Conner.

He is survived by his wife, Megan (McGinnis); son, James; parents, Susan Conner and Shannon Conner; sister, Adrienne (Jeff) Schucker; nieces, Amelia and Josephine Schucker; and many extended family members and friends.

A celebration of his amazing life was held July 14 at Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul. Memorials can be directed to James 529 MN College Savings Plan at www.gofundme.com/tyson-conner.
New communications manager at Federal Reserve

Longtime St. Anthony Park resident Jay Weiner has been named the manager of communications at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. For the past seven years, Weiner has been the special counsel and University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler.

Jay Weiner

Becky Kapell to perform July 23

Songwriter Becky Kapell will perform at Spring Cafe in Como Park Monday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. Kapell recently released her second album, “That Certain Ache.” Spring Cafe is located at the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Parkway.

Two SAP homes on garden tour

Two St. Anthony Park homes will be on the Minnesota Water Garden Society’s 21st annual Water Garden Tour Thursday, July 27, and Friday, July 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. St. Anthony Park residents Norm Bailey and Deb Bordensen and Alden and Rebecca Tetlie will open their gardens to the tour. The 2018 tour has 11 sites filled with water gardens, waterfalls and streams, as well as “nonwater” gardens. The tour is self-guided and includes sites in the northeast metro.

The home of Bailey and Bordensen, built in 1880, was the residence of Minnesota Gov. William Marshall and Bordensen’s childhood home. She and her husband moved into the home in 1997. In 2001, the waterfalls and pond were professionally installed. The garden includes a variety of perennials, trees and shrubs. Koi and goldfish overwinter in the pond with the use of a livestock heater. Don’t miss the garden art “Larry’s palette,” created at Bordensen’s father’s workshop, and her mom’s irises planted close by.

The Tetlies transformed a steep backyard into a place of beauty. It is a favorite gathering spot with a northwoods-like waterfall connecting two small ponds. Bruce Johnson designed the garden in collaboration with Bordensen. The Tetlies have hosted St. Anthony Park staff. (We once competed in a one of many events offered by the park staff.)

Regions seeks volunteers

Regions Hospitals is looking for volunteers 15 years and older for one shift a week in departments such as the Cancer Center, gift shop and physical therapy. Located at 640 Jackson St., just off the Green Line, it’s easy to get to by bus or light rail. Call 651-254-5709 for more information or go to volunteerresource@healthpartners.co m.

SonShine center to close

SonShine Learning Center, a nonprofit daycare for infants through preschool-aged children, has relocated to 1568 Eustis St., Lauderdale, a building that shares a parking lot with the center’s former space. SonShine, called WesCare Davcay, has been in the community for more than 40 years. The 5,000-square-foot building that SonShine just moved into was originally used as a recording studio and office space by Luther Seminary. It is now owned by Greenway Village Apartments. Learn more about the center at sonshinelearningcenter.net.

Italian-inspired fun run at Como

Meet Italians and Italy lovers during the fourth annual Giro del Lago di Como, an Italian-inspired 5K fun run and walk, Sunday, Aug. 19, 8:30-11 a.m. Music, prizes, T-shirts, gelato and an exhibit on Italy’s most beautiful runs and hikes will be part of the festivities. Go to italiantanuralcenter.org/event-2974645 to register.

The fun run is sponsored by the Italian Cultural Center of Minnesota/St. Paul, a nonprofit open to anyone interested in Italian culture. Learn more at italiantanuralcenter.org.

Drum center offers custom classes for parties, retreats and more

The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., offers custom classes and workshops for birthday parties, retreats, team-building events and more. Workshops can be 1.5 to 3 hours. A variety of hand drums and stick drums are provided, along with many percussion instruments. The center can accommodate up to 25 drummers. There is convenient parking in back.

For more information, go to www.womendrumcenter.org or call 651-206-7617.

Passport from 3

When I hit my 19th mile at William O’Brien State Park in Marine on St. Croix, I almost cried. Although I enjoyed the experience immensely, hiking nearly 200 miles is not for everyone. The Minnesota State Park Passport Club is perfect for the casual park visitor who might choose to take in the beauty of nature from the comfort of a park bench. The passport club requires no hiking. Simply visit the main office at a state park and get your passport club book stamped. This program is perfect for families with children who may find it difficult to handle a six-mile hike but still want to be involved. Passport club participants earn free camping nights and much, much more.

Once a person completes either club by visiting all of the state parks listed in the brochure, the DNR will create a customized plaque complete with the name of the club participant. The plaque will be mailed to a person’s home free of charge. It is a nice way to show off an accomplishment and also spark a conversation that may see others visiting state parks more often.

For our family, completing both clubs was only the beginning of our state park experience. We had so much fun and made so many memories that each time we vacation, we make it a point to stop in at least one park. We often take a day on the weekend to get out to a park and just enjoy nature. Sometimes we hike and other times we just make great use of a playground facility or take part in one of many events offered by the park staff. (We once competed in a state park version of the CBS reality show “The Amazing Race.”)

Getting outside and enjoying nature just makes a person feel better. Fresh air and a nice walk in the woods or on a trail through an open field door wonders for the soul and is a great way to hit the reset button. Get out there and have some fun with all the nature that Minnesota has to offer. Trust me, you’ll be better for it.

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St. Paul Hiking Club leads the way

The St. Paul Hiking Club offers hikes throughout the month at various locations in the east metro area. Sunday hikes start at 2:30 p.m. and last up to two hours. Tuesday hikes start at 7:30 p.m. and will last about an hour. To find out more, go to www.stpaulhike.com.

Conveniently located in the Baker Ct Bldg (1 Blk East of 280 at corner of Territorial & Raynold) at 821 Raymond Ave – Ste 310, St Paul 55114. Call for an appointment 651-999-0123 or visit my website at: www.danbancepa.com

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**AUGUST EVENTS**

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Tuesday, Aug. 8, to be included in the September issue.

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

**2 THURSDAY**
Caregiver Support Group, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**3 FRIDAY**
Fancy Weft Expressions Spinning, ages 4+. Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

**6 MONDAY**
Mandarin Storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10-11:30 a.m.

**9 THURSDAY**
SAPAS game night, “A Dog’s Purpose,” St. Anthony Park Library, 2 p.m. Free.

**11 SATURDAY**
Summer Wrap-up Picnic, St. Anthony Park Library, noon-1:30 p.m.

**16 FRIDAY**
Fairy Tale Engineering Storytime, ages 3+, Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-7 p.m.

**17 FRIDAY**
SAPAS Game Day, Centennial United Methodist Church, 10-11:30 a.m.

**18 SATURDAY**

**20 MONDAY**
Community Sing, Olson Campus, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. gathering, 7-8:30 p.m.

**21 TUESDAY**
Summerfest at North Dale Rec Center, 5-7:30 p.m. Concessions, games, inflatables, climbing tower, pony rides.

**22 WEDNESDAY**
SAPAS lunch outing to Olive Gardens, 1525 Columbia Road C, 11 a.m. Call 651-642-9052 to sign up.

**26 SUNDAY**
Outdoor movie at Hampden Park: “The Secret Life of Pets.” Activities begin at 6:30 p.m.; movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and cash for concessions.

**18 THURSDAY**
Mandolin Storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and blankets for outdoor movie.

**21 TUESDAY**
SENIOR EXERCISE Saint Anthony Park Seniors Sessions Mondays and Thursdays, Saint Anthony Park City Hall, 2-3 p.m.

**VENEW INFORMATION**

**ATTENTION: Residents of St. Anthony Park**

Sunday, August 26th, the Minnesota State Fair will hold its 144th Annual 6K Milk Run. The race course begins on the fairgrounds and then winds its way through the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota and the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. The race begins at 7:45 a.m. and may affect traffic in your neighborhood between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Please see the Milk Run map at minnesotaquartermarathon.com for the specific route. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Milk Run hotline at (651) 388-4396.
Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Farihah Sanikhaham, 651-239-0321. Ads are $1 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for $10 each. Next deadline: Aug. 8.

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Two local actors in circus show

Two St. Anthony Park teens will perform in Circus Juventas’ 2018 summer show “STEAM: Grab your goggles and fly!” August Liefeld, a sophomore at Central High School, will play a mischievous street sparrows, and Gage Anderson, a junior at Great River School, will play a sky pirate.

The show is a sci-fi adventure set in 1890s Paris following the young H.G. Wells and science fiction writer Jules Verne.

The show will open Friday, July 27, and run through Sunday, Aug. 12. Tickets may be purchased through the Circus Juventas box office, circusjuventas.org/summer-

were real troopers and invariably polite, even though they must have been bored with the sometimes dry information and long dinners with inquisitive senior citizens.

The first day in Germany, we took part in a short service at the Berlin Cathedral. Although, and maybe even because, it was in German, it was particularly moving, for this descendant of hundreds of years of Lutheran, German pastors. The beauty of the church and the lowly organ music made me very emotional. In some ways it was like coming home. In both good and bad ways, I saw myself in the Germany we visited, that good and bad music and culture, and the bad in the way we can let evil things happen through inaction. As German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer — who was executed by the Nazis in 1945 — said, “Not to speak is to act.”

Looking back over my journal, I see that we learned a great deal about how powerful, greedy and corrupt rulers can dominate a society, bringing out the worst in those whom they should be leading to a better society.

During the period leading up to the Reformation, people were so frightened of the terrors they might suffer in the afterlife that they bought indulgences from the Roman Catholic Church to shorten their time in purgatory, sometimes even paying for future sins. The Bible and masses were in Latin, so pictures (often of demons leading sinners to Hell) were more understandable than words. People lived in fear.

The Nazis, too, ruled by fear and exploitation of people’s baser instincts. We toured the Typography exhibit in Berlin and the museum at the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds outside of Nuremberg, both of which showed in great detail, through words, pictures and videos, the way a civilized and cultured society can be turned into one in which some people are deemed “important” and no one knows who could be the one to turn them over to authorities.

Frankly, the parallels to our government now right now are chilling — the denigration of the press, the turning of the judicial system to one more friendly to the rich and powerful, the treatment of some groups of people as the “other” who are not deserving of the same treatment as the rest of us and the propaganda machine, churning out divisive lies. One cannot look at Germany’s history without apprehension.

The Stasi, the East German secret police, also ruled by fear. We learned that one in six people were informers, turning on their friends and neighbors. No one knew who would turn them in. The wall between East Germany and the West split families and friends from one another, and people longed to be reunited.

But — and this is a huge but — there was resistance to the powerful who relied on fear. Martin Luther rebelled against the greed and corruption of the church in the 16th century, relying on the belief that one is saved by faith alone rather than good works or indulgences. He also translated the Bible into colloquial German. Despite being a priest, this man turned God’s word — the Bible — into language that everyone could read.

There was much to be inspired by in the form of the resistance to the Nazis. Also, right across from our first hotel in Berlin, a museum honored those who fought against the fascist regime. Every exhibit included information about their efforts. The Germans have made their history a lesson for the future by retaining artifacts from the past, including the Nazi parade grounds in Nuremberg and the sections of the Berlin wall left standing, and by being open to exploring the darker sides of their past. We saw groups of young people being taught about their history at every exhibit.

In Leipzig, we heard from a pastor who had taken part in the “peaceful revolution,” which started there in 1982 in St. Nicholas Church with seven people in a prayer group that eventually grew to thousands and, in time, led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. A few people, peacefully resisting those in power, can make a difference.

Of course, not all that I learned and felt in Germany was so heavy. We had many delightful dinners with our fellow travelers, filled with laughter and interesting conversation. Our guides were knowledgeable and informative, and the cities and towns we visited were for the most part beautiful and charming. Because I had read many books in which Berlin was the setting, it was particularly interesting to me, and to see the church in Leipzig, where Bach was organist, cantor and composer, was thrilling for this musician. Also, it was hope-inspiring to see Dresden, which was virtually destroyed in the allied firebombing that killed more than 25,000 people. The city has been rebuilt and the center looks much the same as it did before the war. Some of its original stones, left blackened by the fire, were used to so everyone could read it.

History: It is the story of fear and hope.