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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park
Falcon Heights / Lauderdale

parkbugle.org
September 2024

Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival connects identity with community

By Maya Betti

On the walls of various commercial buildings in south St. Anthony Park and the Midway districts, vibrant murals have steadily emerged since 2019, transforming the industrial area into its own canvas.

These colorful works of art are the result of the annual Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival, the first and largest mural festival in Minnesota. A collaboration between Forecast Public Art, Burlesque of North America and the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), the festival aims to support artists and the lasting beauty of the cityscape.

By the end of the summer, the CEZ will be home to more than 60 outdoor murals.

This year's festival will feature seven new murals, with an artist's panel at Urban Growler Brewing on Sept. 19, a community mural project at the Baker Court Office Building on Sept. 20 and mural tours and living painting at Dual Citizen Brewings' Blocktoberfest on Sept. 20.

As well, the festival's first community mural project with Owns The Battle, a Lakota cultural brand, is scheduled at the Baker Court building from Sept. 17 to 21.

For details on event dates and mural locations, visit the official website: www.chromazone.net

The Chroma Zone 2024 murals vary as much as their pieces do, with three local, two national and one international artist participating. Before 2024, of the 55

murals in the CEZ, 89% were by local artists, 7% by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) artists, and 57% by women.

"We want people to see themselves here and to feel more welcome, and that's really by putting priority on women, BIPOC and queer artists," said CEZ Executive Director Angela Casselton. "We are really emphasizing that all narratives are welcome."



New wall murals are appearing in the Creative Enterprise Zone in time for this year's Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Angela Casselton, executive director of the Creative Enterprise Zone, and Maya Betti, intern journalist for the Bugle. Photo by Lou Michaels.

And, for many artists, that's a much-appreciated opportunity.

"For different artists to just have a wall to express their different perspectives and identities and the way that they experience the world is just so important," said Juliette Perine Myers, who is a queer

Chinese-American based out of Minneapolis. Myers' mural, titled "The Horrors Persist But So Do I," takes inspiration from Chinese mythology.

She noted that in virtually every career field, people of color are often not granted the same access or

opportunities. So, when organizations are able to directly confront that and create a more accessible path, they push back against these discriminatory systems.

For muralist Danielle SeeWalker,

Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival to p. 8

Mollie Hoben looking back: Bugle 50th anniversary

By Alejandro Alvarez de Alva

Before starting the Minnesota Women's Press, Mollie Hoben learned the importance of community newspapers from her time at the Park Bugle.

Hoben joined the Bugle after she moved to St. Anthony Park 46 years ago. She volunteered as a writer and worked as an editor for two and a half years at a time when there were very few women journalists.

Hoben said her role as Bugle editor was to convey every month a picture, voices and information that people needed to know about the neighborhood.

Hoben, now 80, said the Bugle taught her that a community newspaper can impact people.

"The newspaper maintains connections in the community and

encourages people to do things that are interesting," Hoben said. "There's so many stories, even in a small neighborhood like this, that people may not know, but are happy to know."

Hoben dedicated the first part of her career—some 15 years—to teaching. When she was ready to take a break from the classroom, she turned to journalism and went to work for the Park Bugle in 1980.

One of the biggest stories Mollie remembers covering was about the impact a tornado had when it hit St. Anthony Park in 1984. Although the tornado didn't destroy houses, it caused a lot of damage to the neighborhood, she said.

"We went around and took pictures and published a special edition, kind of breaking news that took us three days to get out," Ho-



Mollie Hoben, a former editor of the Park Bugle and founder of Minnesota Women's Press. Submitted photo.

ben recalled. "It was important information for people."

Despite having a teaching degree, her interest in journalism dates back to high school. She was actually encouraged by her mentor in high school to pursue a degree in journalism, but Hoben initially opted to take a different career path

Mollie Hoben looking back to p. 6

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CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 12 Community Council

SAP neighborhood gains green housing grant

The St. Anthony Park neighborhood is set to play a pivotal role in transforming St. Paul into a leader in sustainable housing, having recently won a Local Climate Action Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

This initiative, led by the St. Anthony Park Community Council in collaboration with Tim Wulling of Transition Town—All Saint Anthony Park and John Horchner of Green Home Club, LLC, aims to assist homeowners to make a comprehensive plan for achieving net-zero energy consumption in their homes.

For homeowners interested in significant energy and cost savings without the need for invasive renovations, a plan in place still makes sense, so that when something breaks and needs to be replaced, they are aware if a green solution is available.

Building on years of success in preserving the neighborhood's natural landscape, a community-led project in the areas of home decarbonization and residential energy efficiency should come naturally.

"Our goal is to empower homeowners to create a comprehensive plan that works for them," said Horchner, also a member of the Microsoft Founders Hub.

The project will offer a free self-guided and in-person course that will help homeowners through every stage of their green journey—from initial concept to implementation.

"Neighbors need a holistic view of their buildings to counteract the current market's fragmented approach, where each contractor is advocating for their own solution separately," said Tim Wulling, who has led the Transition Town Home Energy Committee for seven years. "If we are not careful, the new IRA rebates starting next year will not reach their full potential."

The new grant will advance homeowner-led education, including the use of chatbots, energy audits and a pilot program to celebrate green renovations prior to home sales, all grounded in the concept of whole home performance. It will also address the practicalities of working with contractors, home valuations, rebates and financing options.

"For those who are tired of making small changes and are ready for a significant shift, this course is designed for you," Horchner said.

The District 12 St. Anthony Park Community Council is backing this project, recognizing its alignment with the council's core mission of fostering a sustainable and resilient community.

"We are also exploring additional funding opportunities to support deep energy retrofits for income-qualified households," said Zev Radziwill, executive director of

the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Nationally, research—including a study from Yale University—underscores the need for extensive renovations in existing homes to meet the United States' commitments to the Paris Climate Accords.

"Over the years, Transition Town has demonstrated the effectiveness of community-driven sustainability efforts," Radziwill said. "This project could really accelerate those efforts."

Horchner added, "There's still a lot we need to figure out, but the market is finally moving, and there's much to be excited about."

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Zev or visit the Transition Town website. A soft launch of the course is planned for the fall.

Upcoming meetings

District 12 committee meetings are open to the public. If you're interested in attending, RSVP at bit.ly/sapccvolunteer to receive an agenda and Zoom link before the meeting.

- **Land Use Committee:**
7 p.m., Thursday, July 4
- **District 12 Board:**
7 p.m., Thursday, July 11
- **Environment Committee:**
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 24
- **Equity Committee:**
7 p.m., Thursday, July 25
- **Transportation Committee:**
7 p.m., Tuesday, July 30

Submitted by Zev Radziwill, District 12 Community Council, and John Horchner, Green Home Club LLC.

District 10 Community Council

Safety collaborative

For the third consecutive year, a group of organizations are collaborating to promote safety during the annual Minnesota State Fair.

Partners in the State Fair Neighborhood Safety Collaborative (SFNSC) are the State Fair, St. Paul Police Department, District 10 Community Council, St. Paul Public Works and Community Ambassadors.

For daily updates check out the group's website at fairneighbors@district10comopark.org or sign up for their newsletter at District10ComoPark.org/FairNeighbors.

The collaborative's activities include daily morning meet-ups with neighbors—bring your coffee to the Midway-Arona garden at 9 a.m. every day of the Fair.

Citywide drop-off Sept. 14

The city of St. Paul partners with local district councils to organize annual citywide drop-off events for residents to dispose of large refuse items and recyclable materials not collected via the regular residential recycling program.

District 10 Como helps coordinate the event held annually at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. For more information and a 2024 accepted items and pricing list, go to the District 10 website at District10ComoPark.org/CityWideDropoff, and also check here for the latest updates from the city of St. Paul: stpaul.gov/drop-offs.

Can't make it to the drop-off event? Remember, many items accepted at this event now have **FREE**

year-round disposal options, including electronics and mattresses. You can find that information on the District 10 website, District10ComoPark.org.

Volunteers get a voucher for a free drop-off. Interested in volunteering to help with the Sept. 14 citywide drop-off event? Please go to bit.ly/2024DropOffVolunteer.

Como tree trek—Sept. 28

The District 10 Environment Committee hosts tree treks where community members can learn how to identify the multitude of different tree species living in Como Park.

Come and hear volunteer tree expert Stephanie Mirocha lead a tree trek and discuss how community members can learn how to identify a multitude of different tree species. Space is limited, registration required.

Besides planned events each year, the Tree Trek program has also created and installed Tree Tags on numerous trees around Como Park for self-guided tree treks bolstered recently with a robust Meet The Trees write-up of all 41 species! Find out more at District10ComoPark.org/tree-trek.

Como curb cleanup

District 10's final Como Lake cleanup of 2024 will be from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 28. The Como Community Council is partnering with Capitol Region Watershed District again on the cleanup.

Join dozens of neighbors in sweeping your curb once a week this October and November to help keep Como Lake clean. Learn more and register as an "official" participant, which greatly helps track cleanup effectiveness, here on the D10 website: District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup#curb.

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Falcon Heights still pursuing police plan

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights continues shopping for a short-term policing partner during the summer, while also negotiating to restore a permanent relationship with St. Anthony Village.

St. Anthony Village covered Falcon Heights for police services from 1994 to 2017 and continues to serve Lauderdale.

St. Anthony Police and Falcon Heights ended their policing contract in the wake of the 2016 killing of Philando Castile by a St. Anthony officer inside Falcon Heights.

Concerns about broken trust on both sides from that event, plus concerns about cost and staffing, appear to be the main topics of negotiations as the two cities consider reviving the relationship.

Since 2018, Falcon Heights has been contracting police services from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, which has repeatedly pressured the city to find another service. Their current contract ends Dec. 31.

Services under the St. Anthony-Falcon Heights contract include patrols, animal control, enforcement of the city code and crime investigations. Many Falcon Heights citizens have said they would like more comprehensive police services that would enable officers to better get to know residents and businesses.

Public comments during March and April showed widespread support among many Falcon Heights residents for returning to the St. Anthony police contract.

In St. Anthony, pursuing a revived police partnership between the two cities seems more controversial. Randy Stille, who was on the St. Anthony City Council when the Castile killing happened, stated his opposition to the proposal during the spring outreach sessions.

In early August, Stille ran in a special election for an open seat on the St. Anthony council. He used his comment time during a League of Women Voters candidate forum to mainly oppose the proposed police contract, which he viewed as too risky in terms of cost, trust and reputation. He lost the council election by a scant 26 votes to Nadia Elnagdy, who had expressed openness to the contract.

St. Anthony city staff told the two

councils in April that their starting proposal would be to expand the St. Anthony Police Department by nine staff positions, eight of which would be sworn officers.

Based on population and call volume histories, St. Anthony city staff proposed a starting price of \$1.6 million to \$1.8 million, which is comparable to the \$1.75 million the Sheriff's Office is charging Falcon Heights in 2024.

The earliest that St. Anthony could start serving Falcon Heights would be January 2026, which means the city still has to find coverage for 2025. Continuing with the sheriff's office is not out of the question, but Falcon Heights City Administrator Jack Linehan has been looking for other options.

Linehan told the Bugle in early

August the cost of indemnity for contracting with St. Paul Police would be too high due to their history of settlements.

In July, Linehan told his City Council he was in preliminary conversations with the City of New Brighton, where the police department has expressed an interest in trying to offer services in other suburbs. He said he had discussed the idea of a one-year pilot, after which Falcon Heights would anticipate switching to St. Anthony. But it was too soon to say whether that proposal might come together in time for 2025. ■

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights government news for the Bugle.

Lauderdale exploring municipal cannabis business

By Anne Holzman

The city of Lauderdale has commissioned a market study for a possible municipal cannabis dispensary at 2430 Larpenteur Ave.

City Administrator Heather Butkowsky told the city council at its July 15 meeting that the owners of the site had approached the city about selling their property.

At its August 14, meeting, the council unanimously authorized



the study, which will be conducted by consultant Point7 Group.

The goal of the study is to ana-

lyze the market for cannabis products at that location and determine the viability of such a business.

The city would likely own the property but hire a private entity to manage it. "It (the study) will speak to the viability of any cannabis shop, not just municipal," Butkowsky noted at the August meeting.

Discussion during the meeting included concerns about contributing to undesirable behavior, which some council members said they'd heard from residents. Mayor

Mary Gaasch said that unlike regulating alcohol, cities have no right to control whether a commercial property owner chooses to open a cannabis business.

"There will be a dispensary here. The question is whether we benefit from it," Gaasch said.

The council's discussion also touched on the increasing cost of public safety and the desire to keep property taxes in check.

"We're coming to a point with the budget and public safety that

we might have to make some hard choices," Council Member Jeff Dains said.

The small lot has the former Rosehill Service garage on it, which went out of business in 2006. Neighboring businesses FinnSisu and SuperUSA have also expressed interest in acquiring the lot for storage or parking. ■

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer who covers Lauderdale government news for the Bugle.

— THANK YOU FROM THE 4TH IN THE PARK COMMITTEE! —

A huge THANK YOU to our many generous neighbors and businesses that made the 77th Fourth in the Park a success this year! We would not be able to put on this event without the financial support from those named below and all the amazing volunteers that help year after year. A very special thank you to **The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation** and **Langford Park Recreation Center** as well for making this day possible. It is with sincere appreciation that we thank all individuals and organizations that contributed.

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We attempt to include the names of all who contributed to 4th in the Park.
If your name has not been included, please excuse the omission and let us know so we may properly recognize your gift. Please email 4thinthepark@gmail.com.

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

Continuing 50th anniversary Bugle coverage

With our July issue, the Bugle turned 50 years old.

In the past two issues, we have reprised a bit of Bugle history with stories on a key founder, Andy Boss, and reflections on a family with a 50-year history in south St. Anthony.

This month, we share the story of one of our earlier editors, Mollie Hoben, and we observe the 50th anniversary of the Bugle with a

special puzzle created by another former editor, Dave Healy.

We plan to have a few more 50th anniversary stories in the remaining months of 2024. In a day and age when the longevity of newspapers is under increasing attack, our Park Bugle board of directors is inviting you to join us in celebrating the Bugle's 50th anniversary with a gift of \$50.

Our special fund appeal, \$50 for 50 years, is an invitation to recognize the Bugle's milestone with hopes for many more successful years ahead.

"That's a buck for every year the Bugle has delivered local news not available anywhere else," Bugle board members noted last month. "Stories about our neighbors ... our children ... our elders ... and the celebrations, controversies and common good we share.

"We place our faith in readers who tell us 'We love the Bugle!' Let's make that love count so the Bugle can fulfill its mission of 'turning readers into neighbors' for another 50 years."

You can scan the QR code, donate on the website parkbugle.org



or send your check to P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Every contribution makes a difference. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

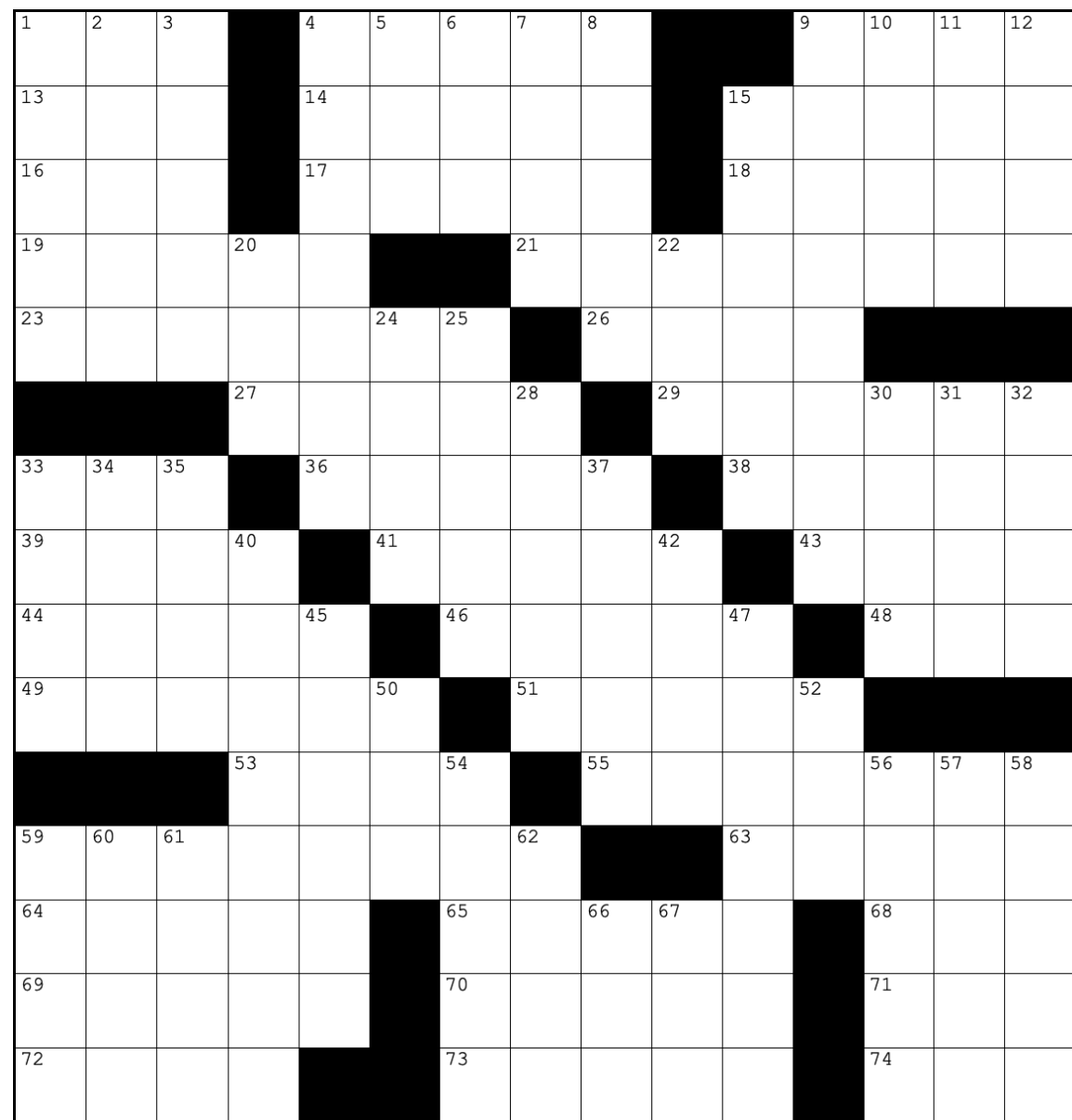
Special puzzle for Bugle's 50th anniversary

Editor's note: Dave Healy served as editor of the Park Bugle from 2000 to 2010.

A gifted journalist, Dave was a versatile editor who wrote great news stories and dabbled in poetry. Another gift: Putting together interesting word puzzles, Dave, who lives in St. Anthony Park, continues to

write occasionally for the Bugle and does crossword puzzles for the newspaper.

In this issue, he has created a special crossword puzzle that takes note of the Bugle's 50th anniversary this year. Puzzle clues are on this page with the answers posted on page 18. ■



ACROSS

- 1 Real estate unit
- 4 Homemade watercraft
- 9 Finger action
- 13 Flub
- 14 Brilliant success
- 15 Swiftly
- 16 Presidential moniker
- 17 Educator Freire
- 18 Milan mama
- 19 Panorama
- 21 Longtime Bugle advertiser
- 23 Corn-based fuel
- 26 Wisdom
- 27 Fix a cue
- 29 See 49 Across
- 33 Pre-WWII govt. relief prog.
- 36 With 25 Down, longtime Bugle column
- 38 British liquid measure
- 39 Actor Baldwin
- 41 Places to take a load off
- 43 Banjo player Fleck
- 44 Spanish priest
- 46 Sag
- 48 Court cry
- 49 With 29 Across, longtime Bugle advertiser
- 51 Former Bugle editor
- 53 Quits
- 55 Legal custodian
- 59 Woodsman, at times
- 63 Challenges
- 64 Sermonize
- 65 Path
- 68 Skill
- 69 Name of two Bugle editors
- 70 Complete
- 71 German article
- 72 Last of a Latin trio
- 73 Former Bugle editor
- 74 Low how a rose _____ blooming

DOWN

- 1 Depart
- 2 Scope
- 3 Former Yankee star Tom
- 4 Spruce up the rec room
- 5 Signature Obama leg.
- 6 _____ bug
- 7 Baby powder ingredient
- 8 Bar seat
- 9 Pork entrée
- 10 Intergovernmental mil. alliance
- 11 Unreturnables
- 12 Parisian papa
- 15 Unprincipled
- 20 Road surface
- 22 Apple pie go-with
- 24 Big name in elevators
- 25 See 36 Across
- 28 _____ of great price
- 30 One-time LP giant
- 31 First name in mysteries
- 32 Suckling's target
- 33 Kid's gun ammo
- 34 Show appreciation
- 35 Yield
- 37 Ermine
- 40 What to do with a paid bill
- 42 Pucker producing
- 45 What the Bugle has always been
- 47 Excessive propriety
- 50 So far
- 52 Botanist Gray
- 54 Blood component
- 56 Swap
- 57 Spooky
- 58 Perfume ingredient
- 59 Half of a carbonated beverage debate
- 60 Buggy
- 61 Result of an eruption
- 62 _____ tiller
- 66 Gas or elec.
- 67 Business card datum (abbr.)

Bugle deadlines

October: Food and Drink
Copy/ad deadline: Sept. 11
Publication: Sept. 24

November
Copy/ad deadline: Oct. 9
Publication: Oct. 22

December: Holiday Guide
Copy/ad deadline: Nov. 13
Publication: Nov. 26

COMMENTARY

Challenges ahead for next St. Paul Public Schools superintendent

By Joe Nathan and Khalique Rogers

Thanks to Park Bugle editor Scott Carlson, who asked us “where should the district be heading following the years of Joe Gothard as superintendent?”

Based on our 65 years of experience with St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS), as a graduate, educator, parent of three graduates and grandparent of five current SPPS students, here are six possible priorities.

1. Stem the exodus

Unquestionably some SPPS students are doing well, but not all. SPPS enrollment has declined by about 5,400 students during the Gothard years.

The district’s website shows E-12 (early childhood-12th grade) enrollment in the 2017-18 school year, Gothard’s first, was 38,455, and 33,062 in 2023-24 school year, Gothard’s last (see spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/data-center/school-district-data/enrollment).

The largest declines in SPPS enrollment over this period came from Asian-American (decline of 2,709) and African American students (2,419 decline). But there were other enrollment declines: white (557), Hispanic (334) and American Indian enrollment (71).

The school board wisely listened to some Asian American and African American families who urged

the creation of options that focus on these cultures, along with the district’s current curriculum.

A May 2023 Sahan Journal article quoted the 17-year-old daughter of an East African St. Paul resident saying, “When kids are raised here, they lose connections with their heritage and their traditions. When you’re being taught it (culture) in schools, there’s more of a lasting impact on you.”

We’ve heard this from so many parents. It’s one reason there’s been an exodus from SPPS, and a corresponding influx in charter school growth. From 2017-18 to 2022-23, charter public school K-12 enrollment in St. Paul grew by more than 2,500, to 16,701.

2. Personalize

SPPS might learn from charters offering individualized, personalized programs—like Avalon. Both Avalon and the SPPPS award-winning Open World have waiting lists.

How about replicating Open World, which shares space with Humboldt High School?

Shortly before Gothard arrived, the SPPS board agreed with the St. Paul Federation of Educators to ask all district educators for suggestions about new schools that might attract suburban as well as urban students, as many local charters do.

Sadly, the policy wasn’t implemented. This could help increase enrollment.

3. Play to students’ strengths

Build on students’ strengths, insights and energy.

- We’ve urged SPPS to create a program in which young people learn construction skills as they build homes for low-income people. GAP Alternative School on the West Side is such a program, which recently won a national “green construction award.” This has attracted a number of students. It’s a win-win-opportunity. State funds are available to help start such programs.
- The school board should follow chair Holla Henderson’s instincts and select (with student input) some student board members. Neglected over the last five years, this frustrated a number of students.
- The district could expand its “hands-on,” “service-learning” programs. University of Minnesota professor Andrew Furco has documented that well-developed service-learning programs improve attendance, increase academic achievement and help students learn they can make a positive difference.

4. Encourage more post-secondary ties

SPPS could strongly encourage most students to enroll in at least one dual (high school/college applied career or academic) course,

which helps produce significant increases in graduation rates.

District data shows dramatic differences in participation rates. We found that when encouragement and assistance are offered to SPPS Black, Asian American, Hispanic and American Indian students, many enroll and succeed. (See [minnpost.com/learning-curve/2015/01/dual-credit-programs-are-pushing-low-performing-students-complete-high-school.](https://minnpost.com/learning-curve/2015/01/dual-credit-programs-are-pushing-low-performing-students-complete-high-school/))

One of us earned such credits while attending an SPPS district high school, unfortunately encountering discouragement rather than encouragement from several faculty members.

District 2020-21 data shows that 77% of white students, compared to only 50% of Black and American Indian, 58% of Hispanic and 65% of Asian American 10-12th graders, enrolled in at least one dual-credit course.

5. Share the space

Given space in many buildings, the district could accept the St. Paul Federation of Educators’ recommendations to expand use of the community school approach—district and social service agencies sharing space. It’s another “win-win” for students, families, educators and the community.

When our Center for School Change worked with the Cincinnati Public Schools, expansion of this approach helped dramatically



Khalique Rogers and Joe Nathan. Photo courtesy Joe Nathan.


reduce achievement and graduation gaps.

6. Show us the money

Finally, financial transparency suffered over the last five years. Involved parents raised important concerns about SPPS failing to provide timely information to the community about budget options and not filing legislative required financial reports on time. ■

Khalique Rogers and Joe Nathan are co-directors of Center for School Change. They have been involved either as an SPPS educator, parent, PTA president or student since 1971. They welcome feedback and can be reached at khalique@khaliquerogers.com or joe@centerforschoolchange.org.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Crocus Hill Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine

By Janet Wight

Crocus Hill Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine in Falcon Heights is owned by Highland Park residents Matt and Jessica French.

The clinic, on 1579 Hamline Ave., offers acupuncture and herbal medicine, reiki, massage and other holistic treatments.

Everyone is welcome to attend the clinic's first Friday of the month get-togethers at 7 p.m. (held September through May), which offer music, snacks and a place for the community to gather. For additional information visit crocushillacupuncture.com.

The clinic was originally located at Grand Avenue and Oxford Street in St. Paul. It had several owners before Matt and Jessica purchased the business in December 2019, just prior to the pandemic, Matt said.

Jessica had been working at the clinic for the previous owners when she realized it might be for sale. Buying an existing acupuncture clinic was preferable to starting from scratch in her mind, since it already had established contracts with some of the larger insurance companies.

Word of mouth led the Frenches to the current location in April 2023. One of the clinic's practitioners had been a patient at Peterson Dental, the former tenant. Dr. Peterson was planning to move out of the space so the timing was ideal, Matt added.

Jessica designed the brightly lit



Jessica and Matt French.
Photos submitted by Matt French.

space using a neutral color palette accented with pops of color and comfortable seating to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Many patients seek acupuncture to relieve back or joint pain or headaches. Usually, they have already tried other treatments (surgery, cortisone, medication) and they are looking for something different to help them, Matt said.

Fertility programs—which combine acupuncture, massage and herbal medicine—are a popular offering at the clinic. Other patients try acupuncture treatments to assist with smoking cessation or depression, he added.

Acupuncture may be used to treat a wide variety of conditions,



Crocus Hill Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine offers acupuncture and herbal medicine, reiki, massage and other holistic treatments.

including any concern that would cause a patient to visit a provider practicing conventional medicine, Matt explained.

The clinic is an in-network acupuncture provider for several insurance carriers including Cigna, HealthPartners, UnitedHealthcare, United Medical Resources and the VA. A majority of the clinic's patients use insurance, and the per-

centage continues to increase as more people realize that acupuncture is a covered service.

For out-of-network patients or those who have not met their deductible, the cost for an initial acupuncture visit is \$130. Subsequent visits are \$90.

Reiki is another type of treatment offered at the clinic. This Japanese technique uses gentle

touch from a trained practitioner and aims to reduce stress and promote healing. The price is \$75 for 45 minutes or \$90 for 60 minutes.

Massage, either therapeutic or relaxation, is also offered, with rates starting at \$50 (for a 30-minute session) and ranging up to \$140 (for 90 minutes). Massage memberships are also available.

Both of Crocus Hill's current owners had previous careers prior to studying acupuncture. Jessica was a graphic designer. Matt had been a full-time musician as well as an analyst for a financial planning firm.

The couple has been married for 16 years. They are raising two children: daughter Everly, 3, and son Evren, seven months.

Matt said his favorite thing about being a business owner is building something that serves the community and provides an enjoyable experience for employees and patients. He has also embraced learning the business of running a clinic in conjunction with his role as an acupuncturist, Matt said. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

Mollie Hoben looking back from p. 1

because she was discouraged there were so few women journalists.

While Hoben worked at the Bugle, she attended the University of Minnesota and took classes in feminist and literature studies. During that time, she realized there was a lack of women's voices in newspapers.

After two and a half years working as the Bugle editor, Hoben left to start the Minnesota Women's Press with Glenda Martin.

Hoben said she has great memories of the Bugle.

"I am proud of the work I did

there and I am thankful for my time at the Bugle."

Hoben and Martin started the Minnesota Women's Press as a biweekly newspaper to promote women's words, ideas, values and stories, according to Hoben.

Hoben said the Minnesota Women's Press newspaper also helped people get to know other women in the community.

"For 30 years, there would be a one-page main news story and next to it there would be a profile of a woman," Hoben said. "The profiles wouldn't be about famous women.

We would do a profile about any women we wanted, to prove that every woman has a story."

The Minnesota Women's Press was sold to Mikki Morrisette six years ago, but Hoben and Martin decided to keep a section called BookWomen, a magazine created 29 years ago to publish different women's stories and their work.

Hoben said the new owners are now set to take over Book Women. "Once in a while, I might write something for the BookWomen magazine, but we are kind of done," Hoben said. "We will be consultants for the new people; there's a lot of stuff they need to learn."

The BookWomen is a quarterly magazine and currently has 28 volumes. Recently, Hoben published a story on her 80-mile walk through St. Paul in anticipation of her 80th birthday. ■

Alejandro Alvarez de Alva is a University of Minnesota journalism student and an intern reporter for the Bugle.

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TRANSITION TOWN

This is a monthly column from Transition Town — All St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood-based group working for a local response to climate change: a smaller carbon footprint and a stronger community. Learn more about Transition Town at TransitionASAP.org.

In new R&E role, Martinson envisions more value from trash

By Janet Pope

“Trash: every single person has an impact on it,” says Ramsey County board chair Victoria Reinhardt, “from what we buy, how and from where, how long we use it and what we do with it when it is no longer useful to us.”

How to deal with trash so energizes Trista Martinson that she stepped down as Ramsey County board chairperson on Aug. 1 to become the first executive director of Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy (R&E).

“When we interviewed Trista about the R&E job, she nailed every part of it,” Reinhardt reported.

Martinson talked enthusiastically about R&E’s “upstream” efforts to decrease trash generated. R&E has multiple education efforts underway, including ways for households to generate less trash, trash-reducing technical assistance to businesses and public tours of the R&E Center located in Newport.

Recent Minnesota legislation will also help with recycling efforts, Martinson said. She cited the 2024 Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act, which will hold manufacturers accountable for their products and packaging through their lifecycle. It also requires all packaging in the state to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2032.

Working the whole trash stream

And then there are the ongoing and planned “downstream” measures to connect value to waste.

In 2016, R&E purchased its Newport center, where all solid waste from both Ramsey and Washington Counties is processed.

“I actually did not think we would end up buying it,” Reinhardt remembered. “But after extensive research and review, the purchase was made. Our goal was, and still is, to continually make improvements to gain value from our trash.”

About 400,000 tons of garbage is processed at the Center each year. Machinery sorts it, pulls out any recyclables and pulverizes the rest.

Of the resulting “refuse-derived fuel,” 87% is trucked for incineration to create electricity at two former coal-burning Xcel plants. The remaining 13% goes to Waste Management landfills in Burnsville or Elk River.

Forty tons of aluminum cans are pulled out of the R&E trash stream each week, or the equivalent of seven elephants. These are crushed, baled and sold for reuse. Mattress springs are also retrieved for recycling and resale.

Last year, the R&E Center added a new line that can capture plastics #1 and #2 for recycling. Once fully operational, it will allow separation of plastics for resale.

Martinson and R&E staff are quick to note that the recyclables, about one tenth of the trash received in Newport, are “dirty” recyclables because they have other refuse mixed in and therefore do not fetch as much on the resale market.

(Note: Recyclables sorted at home are sent elsewhere for processing. So are some other materials, including electronics and infectious waste.)

Organics pickup coming to St. Paul Food scraps, on the other hand, are about 33 percent of trash received at the R&E Center.

After much planning, curbside pickup of food scraps has already been started in several suburban communities; it will roll out in St. Paul on April 1, 2025. Households will be provided durable compostable bags to collect their food scraps and place them in their regular trash cart each week.

“When fully operational, the R&E curbside pickup program in our two counties will be the largest in the country, possibly the world,” Reinhardt explained.

Currently, Ramsey County food waste is sent to a Mdewakanton

WASTE SYSTEM for Ramsey & Washington Counties



Sioux Community-owned compost site in Shakopee. But R&E and a private partner plan to build an anaerobic digester where organic waste would decompose naturally in an enclosed space.

The resulting biogas and biochar can be used for renewable energy and soil improvements. These are

some of the future developments that energize Martinson about her new position.

“The possibilities of using our trash to get renewable energy is pretty exciting,” she said. “This is my dream job. I get to be hyper-focused on challenges we have to address in the most equitable,

environmentally responsible ways possible. I am ready to go!”

Janet Pope lives in the Como neighborhood. She’s an avid fan and supporter of community newspapers and local journalism.



Inside the R&E Center control room, veteran employee Sean Donovan (right) posed with 2-year apprentice Phil Walker. R&E employs about 100 people, 70 of them union members. Photo by Janet Pope.



Public tours of the R&E Center in Newport are offered monthly, and by appointment for groups of five or more: recyclingandenergy.org/tours. Photo by Shannon Conk, R&E project coordinator.

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City Files from p. 2

District 10 meetings

- District 10 community meeting: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4
- District 10 community meeting: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. Meeting details are at District10ComoPark.org. All District 10 community meetings are open to the public and include time for citizens to bring up topics for discussion.

Submitted by Shevek McKee, District 10 Community Council Executive Director.

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School news around the town

Compiled by Sarah CR Clark

Great River School

New curtains for the stage

Since 2006, Great River School's theater program has used hand-me-down curtains from the Guthrie Theater.

But now, after a four-year fundraising campaign, GRS has met its \$12,000 goal and will finally have new curtains in their theater.

"The new curtains are ordered and will be installed this fall, just in time for the 2024–2025 theater season," according to GRS Development Director Ricardo McCurley.

The fundraising campaign, which began during the school's 2021 winter production of *Alice in Wonderland*, at times seemed overwhelming.

"The prospect of new curtains seemed out of reach, even as the Great River School Theater was winning awards," McCurley admitted.

Last year, GRS students won multiple awards for technical effort and performance through Spotlight Education, a program



Great River School students performed "The Play that Goes Wrong" in March 2024. The school's theater recently raised \$12,000 to replace their hand-me-down curtains. Photo courtesy of Great River School.

of Hennepin Arts, (formerly Hennepin Theater Trust).

But a recent surge in donations from parents and community members enabled the theater group to raise enough money to buy new stage curtains. Particularly noteworthy was an anonymous donor who offered a \$2,500 matching donation in the spring of 2024.

Upcoming GRS theater season

Queens; November 22–24

King Henry VIII is trapped in purgatory, bound to his throne by a sin-

ister Fool and the ghostly Women in White. Here in his gilded cage, he is forced to relive the sins he committed against his queens, mistresses and people of the court, over and over again, for an eternity.

Les Misérables;

March 7–9, 14–16 In 19th-century France, Jean Valjean, who, for decades, has been hunted by the ruthless policeman Javert after breaking parole, agrees to care for a factory worker's daughter. The decision changes their lives forever.

St. Anthony Park Elementary School



Principal Duke on leave

Karen Duke, principal of SAP Elementary, will be taking a leave of absence this academic year.

In an Aug. 5 email to SAP Elementary families, St. Paul Public

Schools Assistant Superintendent Adam Kunz said, "A temporary leader will be named in the coming days, and they will perform the principal's duties while she is away." Duke's leave began Aug. 12.

In an email to SAP Elementary families, Duke said, "After a long period of discernment, I have decided to heed the advice of my doctors and take time off to address two chronic health conditions that I have had for some time. I am confident the school year will get off to a successful start thanks to the tremendous SAP staff."

The school district didn't specify how long Duke's leave of absence might run.

Back-to-School Open House

SAP Elementary's Back-to-School Open House was scheduled for 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29. Students and their families got a chance to visit the building,

meet teachers and drop off school supplies.

Twin Cities German Immersion School

It's not too late to attend TCGIS The Twin Cities German Immersion School still has a few openings for the 2024–25 school year.

TCGIS welcomes all students residing in Minnesota, regardless of their current level of German proficiency. School officials said that even if your child is joining in a later grade, TCGIS provides personalized German language support to help them succeed.

If you are interested in enrolling, please visit tcgis.org, email info@tcgis.org, or call 651-492-7106 for more information. ■

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



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Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival from p. 1

who is Húŋkpaŋa Lakḥóta and a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in North Dakota, this form of representation is crucial.

"Growing up, I never saw public art or murals or any kind of artwork that really represented my culture," SeeWalker said.

Now, she is happy to leave her mark for the Native community through her art. "My own community, when they see it on the wall, they'll reach out to me like 'Oh my gosh, this mural, like I love it. It's so cool,'" SeeWalker said.

Xilam Balam, a St. Paul artist who based most of his artwork on Mayan and Mexica culture, found an interesting way to combine his heritage with Minnesota's. In his mural, a young girl receiving corn honors the significance of maize in Mexica tradition, while the vibrant purple background pays tribute to Prince's iconic legacy.

Undoubtedly, preserving the



Danielle SeeWalker works spray painting a wall mural this summer for the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival. Photo by Lou Michaels.

unique and distinctive identity of each artist is a large part of Chroma Zone. Yet, there is also an element of community, especially artistic community, that creates such a special experience.

"For us, it's very much about this community and serving the creative people and businesses of this

community, and to use this festival's own launching point for a lot of these new and emerging artists," Casselton said.

Several of the artists this year were connected with CEZ from their relationships with past participants.

Michael Roy, also known as Birdcap, was introduced to the Chroma Zone Festival by his friend Sydney James, who participated the previous year. His mural, titled "Flowers for the Friends Who Picked Me Up," is meant to reflect this friendship.

"I wanted to do a piece that kind of celebrated friendship and that be sort of the topic (because) I was in St Paul because of Sydney," Roy said. ■

Maya Betti, a journalism student at St. Olaf College, is a summer intern for the Bugle.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Como Park High School news

By Eric Erickson

Principal Brown wins honor

The Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) has named Como Park Senior High School Principal Diana Brown as the Capitol Division Principal of the Year.

There are eight divisions within the MASSP. The Capitol Division includes St. Paul and all of Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties.

This January, the MASSP will select one high school principal as the state's Principal of the Year.

The nomination for Brown recognized her work as a leader in developing an equitable and engaging educational environment while also highlighting some of her characteristics and attributes. Those included, "Showing up unapologetically authentic. As a strong black woman, she brings work ethic, compassion, joy and trust to the Como community."

The nomination also said Brown is a lifelong learner and teacher, "strongly believing that you get out what you put in."

While surprised to receive this honor after her first year at Como, Brown is enthused for her school.



Como Park Principal Diana Brown. File photo.

"I am very happy to bring this honor to the Como Community because we are doing great things here," Brown said. "Our students are my priority, and I will continue to work on making this an environment where everyone belongs, succeeds and flourishes."

Como students travel to Spain

Spanish teacher Leah Deiman and two colleagues led 22 students for a week of immersive education during July in Spain.

Coordinating with Education First (EF Tours), the group traveled to Barcelona and Madrid.

The itinerary included a walk along Las Ramblas and several fa-

mous Barcelona landmarks such as La Sagrada Familia, Park Güell, Montjuïc, the Gothic Quarter and the Cathedral.

Madrid activities included visits to the Royal Palace, Prado Museum, Puerto del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Mercado de San Miguel, as well as a flamenco dance lesson and seeing a show.

While the art and architecture of the Spanish cities was abundant, Deiman said the greatest value for students was "gaining independence and self-confidence through exploring different cultural perspectives and practicing what we've learned in the classroom out in the real world."

As is often the case with traveling, going with the flow helped make some unexpected, pleasant memories. One day, the student group arrived too late see a sunset at the beach. "Instead, we got to swim and watch a full moon rise over the Mediterranean Sea—bright orange and huge," Deiman said. "It was something none of us will forget." ■

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School and a regular freelance contributor to the Bugle.



Como students in Barcelona, Spain, during summer break. Photo submitted by Leah Deiman.

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Facelift at Falcon Heights School ready for fall start

By Bill Brady

Bert and Ernie no longer have a place at Falcon Heights Elementary School.

No, not that Bert and Ernie. We're talking about two humongous boilers that once provided heat to the school on Garden Avenue.

At one time, school staff bestowed on them those affectionate nicknames.

But now those boilers have joined Oscar the Grouch in the trash bin, replaced with a new chiller and other state-of-the-art climate control equipment as part of a two-year capital expenditure project reshaping the physical plant at Falcon Heights Elementary School.

"I think we'll name it Chilly," joked Principal Beth Behnke as she sat in her office surrounded by cones and construction equipment on the last day of July.

This is the second straight summer that students and books have given way to hard hats and jackhammers at Falcon Heights. Phase one in 2023 focused on classrooms,

which were remodeled in time for the students' return last fall.

This summer's second phase—besides the aforementioned HVAC overhaul—includes a new gym floor and an updated kitchen that will catapult the lunchroom "from the 1950s to 2024," as Behnke put it. "I think it's about time. We're very excited about it."

That means a new cafeteria floor and all new appliances, most notably an industrial dishwasher that will allow for the use of real dishes and cutlery again instead of the disposables they were forced to use for decades.

LED lighting is also being installed throughout the school, promising a "nice and fresh and bright" ambience in the building, Behnke said.

Due to construction work proceeding until the last possible minute, a traditional meet-and-greet for parents in late August has been scratched in favor of a Back-to-School picnic on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Organized by the PTA and school staff, the picnic will feature visits by the local police and fire de-

partment along with games, food and socializing on the school playground, weather permitting.

"We tried this last year and it was hugely successful," Behnke said. "It might become a new tradition."

Enrollment for the new school year is about 450 students, which is fairly consistent with the past 12 years of Behnke's tenure as principal, excluding the COVID years.

Kindergarten through third grades are divided into three sections of about 24 students each, while fourth through sixth grades are two sections of 30 students apiece. The teaching staff numbers 27, including special educators. ■

Bill Brady is copy editor and writer for the Park Bugle. He lives in Falcon Heights.



Falcon Heights Elementary School Principal Beth Behnke started many mornings this summer meeting with construction crews as she oversaw the completion of a two-year remodeling project. Photo by Bill Brady.

SAP history and architecture series returning

By Mary Mergenthal

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church will sponsor the popular SAP history and architecture series again in 2024–25, the third year of these monthly talks.

The presentations are given by neighborhood resident Kristin Anderson, professor emerita in the Art & Design Department at Augsburg University.

As before, the free presentations are scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. The programs begin at 7 p.m. at the church, 2323 Como Ave.

On Sept. 10, Anderson will examine the history of the neighborhood's parks. While not based on a walking tour (which would have been quite a walk), some of this content was presented at the Alden Square history program in July.

The year's history series will present the themes covered in Anderson's walking tours over the past two summers.

"While we generally had good crowds for the tours, often 20–30 people each time, there were always requests for more tours and requests for repeated topics," Anderson said. "Presenting the tour


content in our series format will open these experiences to a larger audience."

The walking tours were organized, by necessity, on specific locations. But that's not the only way to tell the stories of SAP places and people.

In many cases, the flexibility offered by a slide presentation opens up great possibilities to understand the topics. People who came along on the individual walking tours over the past two summers will certainly see and learn new things in this year's slide presentations.

In addition to the in-person session at the church, the talk can also be accessed live online, with a recording available for one week after the session.

Use the SAPLC YouTube channel at bit.ly/Sap-history. You can also get to the church's YouTube channel by clicking through from saplc.org to the worship link, and then to the livestream link. ■



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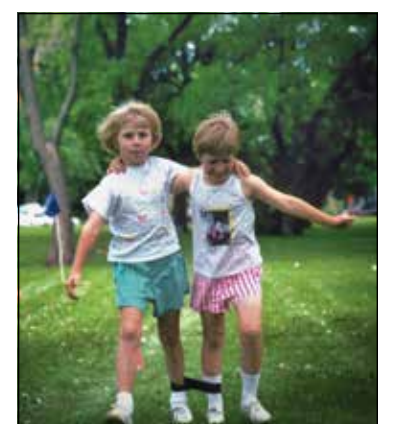
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For well over a century, Langford Park has hosted a large 4th of July all-day event with races, food, music, and more. Here, Siri Larson and Britta Hansen enjoy the 3-Legged Race at 4th of July Langford "a few years ago." Photo by Dave Hansen.

Mary Mergenthal is a former editor of the Bugle and remains the Bugle's obituaries editor.

News from the Hampden Park Co-op

By Catherine Day

High summer means exceptional produce and other fresh treats at Hampden Park Co-op.

In mid-July, the EAT LOCAL Farm tour allowed co-op enthusiasts to connect with their growers and learn about farm life.

Your board of directors has been busy this last quarter. The long-range planning team led by board member Delonna Darsow has convened two groups to tour the 100+ year-old building and identify strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for our headquarters.

Board members were joined by community leaders, including Jamie Flannery of Flannery Construction and Geoff Warner of Alchemy Architects, to discuss the potential of the building and ways for the co-op to improve the shopping experience and expand our capacity.

We plan to share more about this vision at our annual meeting, scheduled for Oct. 22 at the Urban Growler.

General Manager Matt Hass reports we have applied for a loan to finance a new cooler for the deli section. The soups, hot bar and deli are a popular part of the store and the cooler must be reliable. We

are working with Shared Capital on the financing and they have a special interest in the store's efforts to be inclusive, equitable and just.

We highlighted to Shared Capital our roundup efforts as an example of our priority for supporting important nonprofit missions.

The first-quarter roundups supported the Immigrant Law Center, Friends of the Mississippi and the Keystone Midway Food Shelf.

April roundup dollars totaled \$1,434 and are supporting the Creative Enterprise Zone and its annual Chroma Zone Mural Festival. An additional mural will be added to the co-op as part of the festival. Roundup funds also supported pollinators. Thank you for your generous support of these programs.

On another front, the membership team, led by board member Rose Shannon, has promoted the co-op to potential new members by attending local community events. In mid-July the membership team had a table at the District 10 Ice Cream Social at Como Lake. During National Night Out, they plan to host events at various south Saint Anthony Park neighborhood apartment buildings.

With the expert assistance of Ellen Squires, we have a survey



Outdoor merchandise at Hampden Park Co-op. Submitted photo from Catherine Day.

ready to go out to members and shoppers. Look for an email with a link to the survey, or a QR code in the store and on the website. We are eager to learn more about your opinions about the co-op.

We also plan to elect two new board members in October. Applications are available on the website or by emailing board@hampdenparkcoop.com. ■

Catherine Day is president of the Hampden Park Cooperative.



Hampden Park Co-op General Manager Matt Hass said the store has applied for a loan to finance a new cooler for the deli section. Submitted photo from Catherine Day.

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South of Como Avenue, contact sonia.ellis@parkbugle.org 651-226-1274



Party among the stars at the Bell Museum



Statewide Star Party International Observe the Moon Night

The Bell Museum hosts its fifth annual Statewide Star Party, September 14, 8–10 pm. This year the community sky watching event invites audiences to honor cultural and personal connections to the Moon, learn about lunar science and more! Join fellow Minnesotans in taking a look at our closest companion in the skies at the same time as people all around the world!



Sensory Friendly Saturday September 28, 8–10 am

This monthly series provides a welcoming and accessible environment for individuals, families, and children who have sensory sensitivities. Experience our Minnesota Journeys gallery, temporary exhibits, the Touch & See Lab, and a brief planetarium show at 8:45 am—all with lowered lighting, quieter sounds, and fewer visitors.



Spotlight Science: FungiFest September 28, 10 am–2 pm

Spotlight Science is a regular program that shines a light on current science conducted at the University of Minnesota. Join the Minnesota Mycological Society in celebrating 125 years of this educational organization. Explore unique mushrooms, identify common edible species and more!

LIBRARY CORNER

Library Corner
sponsored by
St Anthony Park Branch
Library Association



New mobile library debuts in St. Paul

By Scott Carlson

A new traveling bookmobile has hit the city streets. Debuting on Aug. 4, the Saint Paul Public Library's Mobile Library is providing expanded services based on community feedback, including access to mobile hotspots, computers and Wi-Fi, and referrals to community resources and notary services.

The Mobile Library replaces the previous bookmobile, which had reached the end of its useful life after 19 years in service, library officials said. They noted the new Mobile Library is more accessible, environmentally efficient and better reflects St. Paul's rich diversity by offering books in multiple languages and displaying vibrant art.

In addition to its revolving collection of books for borrowing, residents can participate in ever-changing programming for all ages, connect with a digital navigator to answer technology-related questions and access broadband internet, library officials said.

The Mobile Library makes regular stops each month at various St. Paul locations including the Seal HighRise in south St. Anthony Park, Lyngblomsten Care Center in Como Park and Episcopal Homes on University Avenue.



The St. Paul Public Library debuted its new Mobile Library in early August. Photo by Lou Michaels.

Emma Eubanks who grew up in south St. Anthony Park, helped create the design for the Mobile Library. She noted the goal was to create an imaginative partially "fantastical world where animals, humans and fantasy creatures interact with each other and the library services.

"I tried to capture an honest reflection of the communities that make up St. Paul to emphasize that point—the Mobile Library is for everyone," Eubanks told the Bugle.

Last year, she worked with the

Rondo Public Library on a series of mural illustrations.

Originally from south St. Anthony Park, Eubanks graduated in 2018 with an illustration degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Eubanks has been a designer and freelance illustrator in Minneapolis, working in partnerships with local artists and organizations. She now lives and works in Nashville, Tennessee. ■

Scott Carlson is editor of the Bugle.



Emma Eubanks.
Photo by Nina Luna.





Mobile Library Manager Savitri Santhiran surveys books and materials in the mobile library unit. Photo by Lou Michaels.

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SAPLA
St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association
presents the
2nd Thursday Forum
Thursday, September 12, 6:30-7:30 pm
Crop Art:
Comedy and Commentary at the State Fair

Neighbor Teresa Anderson has won 11 State Fair Blue Ribbons in her 21 year career as a crop artist. Teresa will share the story of her artistry and the history of Crop Art at the Minnesota State Fair — the only major Crop Art competition in the world! She hopes to seed new interest in her craft.
In Partnership with the SAP Library 
Library Auditorium | 2245 Como Ave.
More information can be found at sapbla.org.

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19 **Muralist Talk + Meet & Greet** THURS, 9-19 6:30-8 PM @ Urban Growler Brewing Co, 2325 Endicott Street
20 **Owens the Battle Mural Project** FRIDAY, 9-20 5-8 PM **Makers Pop-Up & Mural Tours** @ Baker Court Office Building, 821 Raymond Avenue
21 **Mural Bus Tours & Live Painting** SAT, 9-21 12-4 PM @ Dual Citizen Brewing Co's BLOCKTOBERFEST 724 Raymond Avenue


St. Anthony Park Library events

Find familiar favorites and special programs this September at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. Please note, the library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday.

Special events

Changing Times Book group
3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28. This reading group is open to all, one title at a time, with a focus on climate, social and environmental justice in both fiction and nonfiction. It is co-hosted by Transition Town-All St. Anthony Park and the St. Paul Public Library. The group meets bimonthly on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Ongoing programs

Storytime in the Park
10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at College Park, 2223 Carter Ave. Bring a blanket and get ready for stories, songs, rhymes and puppets. Storytime is designed for children ages birth to 5-year-olds, their caregivers and siblings. In case of inclement weather, the event will move indoors to the library auditorium. The decision to relocate to the library will be made by 9:30 a.m. on storytime days and posted to sppl.org/calendar.

English Conversation Circle for Adults
4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Join the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice at the library. All levels of English language skill are welcome.

HANDIWORK at the Library
10 a.m. to noon. Thursday, Sept. 12. Drop in to knit, crochet or embroider and socialize with your neighbors. Bring your own supplies. This program is designed for adults and is co-hosted by the St. Anthony Park Library and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo
10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. Youth ages 5 to 12 can read to a

friendly dog that loves to sit and listen to stories. A single reading session is 15 minutes long (to give opportunities for others to read). Call the library at 651-642-0411 or email SaintAnthonyPark@ci.stpaul.mn.us or stop by the circulation desk at the St. Anthony Park Library to register your young reader.

Adult book club
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23. Join library staff and fellow book lovers in the library's auditorium for lively conversation and refreshments. Stop in or call the library at 651-642-0411 for more information.

Submitted by the St. Anthony Park Library; compiled by Kathy Henderson, Bugle freelance writer.

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Fundraising Event



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 ■ Through PayPal on our website: www.sapaseniors.org
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EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Art exhibits

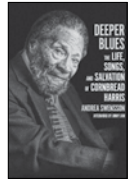


boréal Art Loft
September brings Minneapolis artist Ann Solyst's pastels of whimsical creatures and meditative oils of often-overlooked objects to boréal's art loft. Open during regular store hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. 2276 Como Ave. shop.boreal.life.



Goldstein Gallery
"Narrative Threads: Embroidered Textiles from the Donald Clay Johnson Collection," runs Sept. 3 to Dec. 21. Techniques and traditions of embroidery originating primarily in northwestern India. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays, University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus, 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave.

Springboard for the Arts



Journalist and author Andrea Swensson reads from "Deeper Blues: The Life, Songs and Salvation of Cornbread Harris."

Includes an appearance by Cornbread Harris, aka James Harris Jr., the 97-year-old pianist/singer and father of record producer Jimmy Jam Harris.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, Springboard for the Arts, 262 University Ave. W. Presented by the Ramsey County Historical Society and Jazz88 FM. \$25 general admission; \$50 admission includes a copy of "Deeper Blues." Purchase tickets online at RCHS.com.

St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Guest speaker Michelle Mero Riedel, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteer in Washington County, presents "Celebrate Fall! Get Creative

with Cool Weather Containers." 6:30 p.m. meeting, 7 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. program, Tuesday, Sept. 3, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Enter the building via the Luther Place door.

Como Park Summer Flower Show



Expect to see floral favorites such as petunias, begonias, impatiens, coleus, salvia and verbena on display. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sept. 22 in the Sunken Garden area of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive.

Senior Strolls

Special time reserved for adults ages 55 and older. 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10, Conservatory and Zoo; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, Conservatory only. Check-in at the main Visitor Center entrance. Admission is free, but reservations required: comozooconservatory.org/como/senior-strolls.

Hofu

St. Paul Garden Club flower show, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24, through Thursday, Sept. 26, Bonsai Room (next to the Japanese Garden). Free.

Dock & Paddle's Music

Café Accordion Squeeze: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

St. Paul Police Band: 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10.

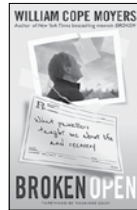
Russel Schmidt's "A Dan Fogelberg Tribute": 6:30 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12.

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N. The Dock & Paddle summer music calendar is available at dockandpaddle.com.

Next Chapter Booksellers

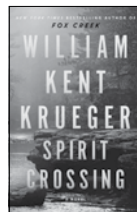
Upcoming readings and signings:

William Cope Moyers,



St. Paul author and vice-president of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, presents a courageous and inspirational look at the ups and downs of sobriety in "Broken Open," Thursday, Sept. 5.

William Kent Krueger,



author of the Cork O'Connor mysteries. "Spirit Crossing" is the twenty-first book in the series, Monday, Sept. 16.

Lisa Mueller,



associate professor of political science at Macalester College, analyzes what truly works when it comes to group advocacy in "The New Science of Social Change," Thursday, Sept. 19.

All readings start at 6 p.m. at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 Snelling Ave. S. nextchapterbooksellers.com.

Gibbs Farm

Gibbs Farm, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays through Oct. 19. Friday summer hours, noon to 3 p.m., end Aug. 30. Tours available on the hour or explore the site on your own. \$5-\$10; free for children 3 and younger, Dakota and Indigenous visitors and RCHS members. Free parking in lot off Cleveland Avenue.

Apple Festival

Apple treats, apple games, music and face painting. Included with regular admission. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21.

Bell Museum



Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays, 2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. See website for admission charges: bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Lunar trivia

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12. Win "out-of-this-world" prizes. \$7. Register at bellmuseum.umn.edu/events.

International Observe the Moon Night

8 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14. Telescopes will be set up outdoors, weather permitting. Hands-on activities inside. Free, but registration required: bellmuseum.umn.edu/events.

"Ojibwe Moons" will be playing within the planetarium. Showtimes at 8:10, 9:10 and 9:40 p.m. Show requires a separate ticket you can acquire from the front desk. 2088 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights.

Community sing



Join musician Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed for a sing-along on the third Monday of the month in the parish hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 16, 2136 Carter Ave. All voices welcome. Free.

Women's Drum Center

Drum Basics: Explore both hand and stick drumming using easy, energizing exercises to build skills. Drums provided. 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 15, at 2242 University Ave. W. \$15. Register for class at womendrumcenter.org.

Senior activities

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors' calendar for September. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. Office phone number: 651-642-9052.

In-person activities include:

- **Tai Ji Quan:** Moving for better balance. 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St. Call the office to register.
- **Luncheon:** Famous Dave's: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept 4, at 2131 Snelling Ave., Roseville. Sign up at the office.
- **Handiwork group:** 10 a.m. to noon, on Thursday, Sept. 12, St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave.
- **Poetry group:** 9 to 10 a.m., Friday, on Sept. 13, Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

Events and More to p. 15



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comofriends.org/events/wild-conservation-21

Bugle memories as we celebrate 50

By Mary Mergenthal

Editor's note: All through 2024, as we celebrate the Bugle's golden anniversary, we are asking former editors, staff and board members to reminisce about their time spent with the paper.

When the Bugle started 50 years ago, it served only St. Anthony Park. The Park was much more conservative then (lower case "c" and upper case as well).

The Muffuletta restaurant (where Nico's Tacos now stands) brought hundreds of outside diners to the neighborhood for decades. It was famous for its still-lovely patio and delicious food.

But remember the times? Some residents were aghast because "The Muff" also served wine ... in St. Anthony Park! Gasp!

The Bugle was filled with community news—schools, Scout

groups, 4-H Club, church schedules, Garden Club, the Froula Circle [book group], Antique Club, etc. Except for Froula, nothing much has changed content-wise. (Froula, if you're still meeting, please so advise!)

While I was editor in the 1980s, the board realized it would be wise to add Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale to our distribution area.

Why?

Well, there's lots of cross-pollination in terms of businesses, churches and library usage. Pragmatically, the board realized that increasing readership would allow our ad rep, Kathy Magnuson then, to quote larger circulation numbers when encouraging new businesses to advertise. Numbers count!

One way numbers count is that the number of ad inches determine the number of editorial inches in any given issue. Readers some-

time are frustrated if a cause dear to their hearts doesn't get as many "inches" as they'd like. Usually, that's because the "editorial inches" simply aren't available to the editor and layout staff.

There's a way to help that. Kathy Magnuson used to regularly ask us to tell local advertisers we'd seen their ads in the Bugle, to take our business to the same advertisers, and to ask potential advertisers if they'd considered the Bugle.

My editorship was enhanced by the work of my assistant editors, first Joel Schurke and then Kathy Malchow.

In the 1980s the Bugle switched to computer layout. Rather than bringing typed articles to the Midway Como Monitor office for typesetting, staff members learned Quark-XPress so this task could be done in-house. We always excitedly awaited the string-tied bundles of each monthly issue prepared by

Shakopee Valley Printing for hand delivery in our areas. (None were sent by mail in those days.)

For all 50 years, the Bugle has been blessed with thoughtful board members who have guided the paper carefully. Some of those early members are still around. Glen Skovholt, Kent Eklund, Joanne Karvonen, Paul Kirkegaard, Catherine Furry and Steve Ahlgren come to mind (apologies to any overlooked).

Former editors still living in the area include Mollie Hoben, Dave Healy and myself.

I'm fortunate that I still remember the first 1974 issue. It came out



five years after we moved to St. Anthony Park. ■

Mary Mergenthal served as Bugle editor during the 1990s and through 2001.

Events and More from p. 14

- **Blood pressure clinic:** 3 to 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St.
- **Sippin' Suds:** Noon to 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22, Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St. Contact the office for more information.
- **Game day:** 10 to 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24, Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.
- **Chanhasen Dinner Theatre:** "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25. Contact the office to register.

Virtual:

- **Chair Yoga:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Mondays, Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Call the office for the Zoom link.
- **Lunch Bunch:** Noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 18. Call the office for connection instructions.

Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a freelance writer for the Bugle.

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The gem that is College Park

By Kathy Henderson

On the second anniversary of getting named director of St. Paul Parks and Recreation, Andy Rodriguez stopped in early June at College Park in St. Anthony Park for an informal chat about the park's history and its place in today's parks system.

Rodriguez, described in local news stories as one of the youngest directors of the parks system and the first Latino, oversees 184 parks and open spaces—plus even more in its buildings, trails, beaches, golf courses, sports and aquatic facilities, and Como Zoo and Conservatory.

Last May, the Trust for Public Land rated St. Paul as the “second-best public parks system in the nation.”

Rodriguez had before visited College Park, 2223 Carter Ave., but not in a while. “This is one of our older parks,” he said.

College Park joined the parks system in 1907, largely due to the intercession of St. Anthony Park residents, led by University of Minnesota Professor Samuel Green, whose home was near the park.

College Park's terrain is undoubtedly one of the most unusual of any neighborhood park. Walking around its circumference, you'll find the sidewalk along

Carter Avenue borders the park at tree-top level. Walk along the eastern border on Raymond Avenue and you can also look down on the parkland, providing an exceptional view for watching the players on the courts.

However, park users can also enter at street level from Doswell Avenue, which borders the north side. But if you continue along the Doswell dirt path, you'll be tree top level again. And toward its eastern edge sits a large grass-covered, bowl-shaped area edged by trees, reputed to be a superb spot for winter sledding.

Lost lake, a tax forfeit and a Green rescue

Sorry to disappoint science fiction fans, but that peculiar depression in College Park isn't due to some otherworldly or meteoric occurrence.

Instead, it is evidence that in the mid-1880s, a two-acre body of water called Partridge Pond needed to be drained.

During that era, it was common for the Board of Health to authorize Public Works city engineers to attend to ponds, giving drain-and-fill orders in response to “sanitary demand and public sentiment” under “abate nuisance of stagnant and impure water.” It would have been considered a sensible public health action when there was a fear that unsanitary conditions—such as stagnant water—caused fevers and sicknesses such as diphtheria, scarlet fever and cholera.

The story goes Partridge Pond became Partridge Park. But that name didn't stick. Located so close to the University of Minnesota's Agricultural College on the St. Paul “farm” campus, it wasn't long before it became known as College Park.

By 1906, the vanquished pond and surrounding land was on the tax delinquent roll.



Andy Rodriguez, director of St. Paul Parks and Recreation, stands by a granite tribute marker that was placed in the park a hundred years ago: “This park and these trees perpetuate the memory of Samuel B. Green, 1859-1910.” Photo by Kathy Henderson.



Professor Samuel Green has been described as an “energizing force” in its acquisition and development. As the U's first dean of the then newly established Department of Forestry, his 1910 portrait is on the wall outside the office of Professor Kristen Nelson, who is the U's current interim head of the Department of Forest Resources. Photo by Kathy Henderson.



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Professor Samuel B. Green, who had resided with his wife, Alice, at 2095 Commonwealth Ave. ever since the U hired him as its first horticulture professor in 1888, was concerned about future ownership and what might be developed on that site.

Thus, Green rallied his neighbors to chip in, buy the property and donate it to St. Paul's Board of Park Commissioners. It was officially established as College Park on May 14, 1907.

While the purchase and donation went as planned, College Park remained what was described as an “undeveloped eyesore.” It was becoming known as Green's Folly.

With that mocking attack on his good intentions, Green took action again, this time in 1908, donating trees and shrubs to be planted in College Park. The park board au-

thorized the labor to plant them at a cost of \$88.79 (equivalent to \$3,026.08 today).

Also, Green's intentions for College Park went beyond creating pretty parkland.

“Professor Green purposely designed College Park to be used as a teaching park,” said Kristen Nelson, interim head of the U's Department of Forest Resources. A 1910 portrait of Green, who was the U's first Forestry dean, is on the wall outside her office at Green Hall, a building on the St. Paul Campus that was dedicated in Green's honor in 1938.

Over the years, others have added trees and plantings to College Park for aesthetics and for teaching, Nelson said. Today, University students still use College Park as a resource for dendrology (the scientific study of trees) field study.

District 12 Community Council's Environmental Committee scheduled a Tree ID Walk on July 10. In 2021, its tree inventory listed 147 trees in College Park, including 111 deciduous of 14 varieties (counting 50 Burr oak) and 36 coniferous pines, spruce and cedar.

Tribute stones

During his walk around the park, Rodriguez looked at the granite tribute stones that were placed in College Park 100 years ago, on May 11, 1924, by the St. Anthony Park Improvement Association in recognition of its past presidents: Green, LeRoy Cady and Gilbert Gutterson.

Located close to a grove of blue spruce, the largest stone reads: “This park and these trees perpetuate the memory of Samuel B. Green, 1859-1910.”

In 1933, former St. Paul Parks Superintendent George Nason reflected on Green's contributions to College Park: “A hole in the

College Park from p. 16

ground does not teem with decorative value. Yet Samuel B. Green, eminent Minnesota horticulturist, did see the possibilities in such a hole.

“The blue spruce he planted are an ever-rising monument to his memory. ... College Park contains the greatest concentration of the blue spruce of Colorado to be found in the environs of St Paul.”

In a 1924 photo, the blue spruce trees surrounding Green’s tribute stone look just a bit larger than household Christmas trees and are so close together that their branches seemed to touch. Today, those trees soar so high one needs to tilt their head way back to see the tops.

It is poignant that Green, a visionary who was instrumental in saving 100-year-old red pine trees for the U’s field research facility at Cloquet Forest, now has trees over 100 years old surrounding his tribute stone.

The tribute stone to LeRoy Cady faces toward the Cady family’s former residence at 2121 Doswell Ave.: “The community planted this tree in memory of LeRoy Cady, 1879–1923.” Whatever tree was once there is now gone.

Cady, a U graduate who went on to become a professional colleague of Green’s, was once praised by St. Anthony Park resident William Boss for his “great interest in neighborhood affairs,” noting that Cady “was instrumental in securing graded streets, sidewalks, trees on boulevards and many other improvements which made his community a highly desirable place in which to live.”

In bittersweet happenstance, Green’s and Cady’s lives ended while each man was doing the work he loved in the place he loved to be in.

Green died at age 51 of a stroke while he was at Itasca Park, where construction of the U’s forestry research station was just getting underway.

And Cady, who had “labored unceasingly for the upbuilding of the (Horticulture Society’s) flora exhibits” at the Minnesota State Fair, was stricken with a ruptured gastric ulcer on Sept. 8, the final day of the 1923 Fair. Hospitalized, he passed away on Sept. 12 at age 44.

Gilbert Gutterson, the recipient of the third 1924 tribute stone, lived at 2181 Doswell Ave. He was a local businessman, community leader and former Minnesota legislator (Mankato/Blue Earth). Gutterson Elementary School, once located at Como and Commonwealth avenues, was named in his honor. He died of a stroke in 1923, leaving an endowment fund to the St. Anthony Park Methodist Episcopal Church.

Neighborhood gem

“Serene” is how Rodriguez first described College Park’s surroundings on that 80-plus-degree Tuesday afternoon he visited.

But that serenity was only a lull. A short time later a group of youths ran across the park to the play area and a couple with tennis rackets strolled toward the courts.

“This is what a neighborhood park should be: open space, play area, courts; a place you could read a book, hang out, have a picnic,” Rodriguez reflected.

The play area was established in 1964 and the current look is from 1997, he said. The courts were redone in 2001; could be time for a redo, he mused.

As our walk around College Park ended, Rodriguez noted, “This park is amazing. There is nothing we (parks system) would want to touch in its open space ... You have a gem here.” ■

Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a Bugle freelance writer.



Ryan Murphy, a member of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Environment Committee, recently led a program on identifying trees in College Park. Photo by Photo by Kathy Henderson.

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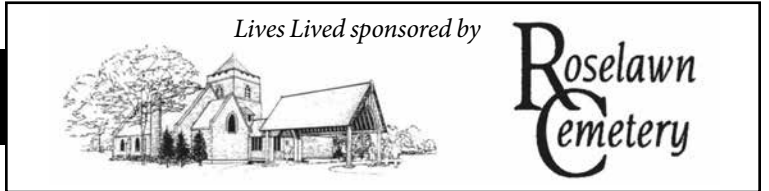
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Jimmie Beardsley

Jimmie Beardsley, 92, died July 20, 2024, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was born March 20, 1932, in Muskogee, Okla.

Jimmie is survived by long-time partner and caregiver Marilyn Piersdorf and her family, Mark (Chris) Johnson and family. Jimmie's children also survive him: Ylanda Boerma, James Beardsley and Debra Whitehead; eight grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by sister, Estella Sue Beardsley; grandson, Sgt. BJ Beardsley; and step-daughter, Robin Curtis; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Upton, Sr., Michael Howard; and infant son, James.

Memorial Service was held July 31 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to St. Timothy Lutheran Church or Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Roseville.

Sunthi Chookiatsirichai

Sunthi P. Chookiatsirichai, 79, died July 10, 2024. He was born Fu Her Ping in Hainan China; grew up in Bangkok; and emigrated to Seattle where the McLeod family adopted him. Their love and generosity influenced so much of how he lived.

Ordained at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, he was called to serve at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; and founded Southeast Asian Ministries at Redeemer Lutheran in North Minneapolis.

Sunthi passionately served the Twin Cities Lao, Thai and Chinese communities. He was an advocate, a teacher, a mover and a shaker. He had unending optimism for the goodness of humanity. He never forgot a face. He will be fiercely missed.

Sunthi is survived by children: Laura (Dan) Morlock, Mark, Chris (Matt), Matthew, Amy Chookiat-

sirichai and Val Young; two grandchildren; the Seattle McLeod Clan, innumerable friends, parishioners and clients.

Celebration of life was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church July 27.

David Jacobson

David L. Jacobson, 78, of Shoreview, died July 28, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran, member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church and employee of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

David is survived by wife Carol; daughter Kristin (Ben) Davenport; brother Dale (Mardelle) Jacobson; and mother-in-law Theresa Kovacovich.

Memorial service was held Aug. 5 at St. Timothy Lutheran, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials preferred to St. Timothy Lutheran Church or the Minnesota Golden Gopher Fund.

Kathleen Marier

Kathleen A. Marier, 80, of Roseville, died July 13, 2024.

Kathleen was a devout Catholic and a member of two parishes, Holy Childhood and St. Agnes. She was a graduate of Holy Childhood Grade School and Derham Hall High School. She received her bachelor of arts from the University of Minnesota and master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Kathleen was an employee of the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland, for 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 37 years, Vincent; and parents, John and Mary Catherine Schwartzbauer. She is survived by sister, Mary Schwartzbauer, and brother, Thomas Schwartzbauer.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of St. Agnes in St. Paul, with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Irene Struck

Irene Caroline Struck, 97, died July 29, 2024. Irene was born April 25, 1927, to Albin Struck and Daisy (Brunninga) Struck in St. Paul, where she was a lifelong resident.

She graduated from Murray High in 1944 and continued her education at the American Institute of Banking. Irene worked for First National Bank of St. Paul for 24 years before retiring.

She was an avid reader and community volunteer. She was a member of the Falcon Heights Planning Commission, the Lions Club and several area orchestras. She enjoyed playing the violin and an occasional clarinet and always took a keen interest in area politics and city activities.

Irene is fondly remembered for the sparkle in her eyes and the example she set with her humility, intelligence, strength, independence and resilience. She will be dearly missed by those who knew her.

ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 4.

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CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

Como forms new co-operative teams

By Eric Erickson,
Sports analysis

The 2024 fall sports season began in August with cooperative high school teams dotting the landscape across Minnesota. The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) allows and encourages the formation of a “co-op”—a team comprising players from two separate schools—when it creates opportunities and access for student athletes.

Having a full roster to practice and compete in a safe environment is a primary reason for establishing a co-op. Providing an athletic opportunity for students whose own school doesn't sponsor the sport they want to play is another.

Partnerships between neighboring schools or similar communities are common, to the point where prep sports enthusiasts don't bat an eye when they see former rivals uniting as teammates under a hyphenated name. If kids can have a positive education-based experience, it's worth pursuing.

Football welcomes Washington players

The Como Park Cougars football team under head coach Kirby Scull has averaged about 40 players in

grades 9–12 during the last 10 years. Most years, the Cougars have managed to stay competitive and win some games.

However, a dozen players graduated from last year's team while there are only three seniors returning this fall. The coaching staff expected around 35 Como students in total. At the same time, there's a handful of students 1.5 miles away at Washington Technology Magnet who have wanted to play football but can't because their school doesn't have a team.

For a couple of years, Washington Athletic Director Jesse McCann inquired about Como's openness to allowing the interested students to join the Cougar squad. In the spring of 2024, it made sense for Como to say yes and welcome Washington players into the program.

Advantages of forming the co-op include the possibility of fielding a full junior varsity team, enabling every player a chance to develop by playing at their appropriate level. More athletes would also improve practice situations.

The impact may not be immediate. Coach Scull said the number of Washington students officially signed up for first day of practice

was eight but anticipates that will grow through opening week.

“I would expect our overall numbers will be about 35 Como and 15 from Washington,” he said.

Logistically, practices and games will still be at Como. The Cougar uniforms remain black and gold. But there's a new name: the Como Park–Washington Cougars.

“I am excited that a group of athletes now get a chance to play football,” Scull said. “A few of these athletes grew up playing football and had the desire, but felt they had no opportunity to continue playing.”

Now they do.

Girls tennis combines with Harding

Como's returning players knew this upcoming 2024 season was going to be different. They were eagerly anticipating playing on the eight newly constructed tennis courts!

What else emerged last spring was less expected—but also turned out to be exciting.

A local private school had asked Como girls tennis if they'd like to form a co-op team. St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) policy dictates that co-op status must be offered to fellow SPPS schools first before partnering outside the district.



Como's brand-new tennis courts, donated by retired teacher and coach Kathy Dumas, were completed over the summer. Photo by Eric Erickson.

That opened dialogue within the St. Paul City Conference, resulting in two SPPS teams seeking to partner (co-op) with Como.

Cougar tennis coach Kia Yang explained that pairing up with Harding made the most sense. “There are connections between the two programs. The coaches knew each other, and the players already trained together.”

Both teams rostered about 15 players last season and had no problem producing successful varsity teams for city competition. But neither could field a junior varsity roster. The co-op program will let them do that and play full JV

matches against suburban and private school opponents.

“By ourselves, Como and Harding are both in contention for a conference championship,” Yang said. “Together we can make a run in our section.”

As for the new team's name? “The coaches have discussed possibilities, but we want the girls to come up with something,” Yang said. “If they create it together, they can get behind it together.” ■

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

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