



Bugle photo scavenger hunt contest

Can you identify where these Bugle photos were taken?

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Oh, the places you'll go!

Check out the end-of-year activities at local schools.

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Coffee & Tea

Two local venues change hands.

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Celebrating 40 years of award-winning, community-supported news

Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Falcon Heights
Lauderdale / Como Park

www.parkbugle.org
June 2014

Party on the Green Line

Light-rail trains will roll down University Avenue on June 14 with a celebration at every stop

By Roger Bergerson

The rides are free, and there's a party at every stop. In fact, the festivities associated with the opening of the Metro Transit Green Line on June 14 amount to one long linear carnival celebrating the uniqueness of the neighborhoods along the light-rail route.

For example, events at the Raymond Station will have a public arts focus in keeping with the area's Creative Enterprise Zone, while the Hamline Station to the east will draw on the Minnesota State Fair for its theme.

Like their counterparts elsewhere on the line, the intent of the sponsoring organizations at the

two Midway stations is to catch the attention of those taking advantage of the free rides on that Saturday. (There's no charge to riders on June 15, as well.)

"We want to celebrate the Green Line and the neighborhood around the Raymond Station and encourage riders to come back," said Amy Sparks, coordinator with the St. Anthony Park Community Council's Creative Enterprise Zone.

Added Kari Canfield, president and executive director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce, "At the Hamline Station, we'll be sending a strong message that our businesses on and around the avenue are open and

Green Line to 6



Test trains have been moving along University Avenue for weeks in anticipation of the June 14 Green Line launch.

Take a walk on Como Park's bluebird trails

By Sharon Shinomiya

Would you like to see a bluebird? Take a walk through Como Regional Park and look and listen. Como is home to many bluebirds in the spring, summer and fall.

The birds are attracted to the park's open grassy areas that provide easy access to the insects bluebirds need to feed themselves and their young. The park also hosts two bluebird trails—a series of nest boxes monitored regularly by volunteers—one on the golf course with 14 boxes and another in the park with 11.

Bluebirds nest in natural cavities. The decline in natural



Bluebird eggs in a nest at Como Regional Park. Photo by Sharon Shinomiya

habitat and increased competition for nesting cavities from aggressive introduced species, such as house sparrows and starlings, led to dwindling bluebird numbers in the early 1900s. Bluebird trails were developed in the 1920s to help the birds maintain and increase their numbers.

Nine years ago, Como Park resident and bird enthusiast Val Cunningham read about bluebirds and thought it would be easy to help them. She contacted the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota (BBRP), established in 1979, and the

Como Park Golf Course, which agreed to be a location of the trail. With the assistance of BBRP, the trail began with 12 boxes.

Three years later, Cunningham, BBRP, Eco Education (a nonprofit environmental education program located in Bandana Square) and Great River School (a public charter school on Energy Park Drive) helped establish a second bluebird trail in the park.

"The first 30 years we lived here, we didn't hear bluebirds in the park,"

Bluebird trails to 8

Hampden Park will be under construction through July

Hampden Park will undergo a major stormwater improvement project starting this month. The park is at the intersection of Raymond and Hampden avenues in south St. Anthony Park.

The St. Paul Public Works Sewer Utility Division plans to install an underground stormwater infiltration system that will receive stormwater runoff from about 9 acres of local drainage area, according to Bruce Elder, the city's sewer utility manager.

The water will be routed into a perforated pipe system and seep into the soil underlying the park. Filtering the stormwater through the soil will help remove pollutants such as phosphorus and nitrogen, Elder said.

The project will be largely contained within the southern portion of Hampden Park, and it is anticipated that no trees will be impacted by the work, Elder said. The project is expected to be completed in July.

Park users are encouraged to exercise caution when using the north

side of the park during the project, Elder said. Construction activities will include soil excavation, pipe assembly, rock aggregate backfill, final grading and turf restoration. Once the project is completed, the park will look much the same as it does today, he said.

The Sewer Utility Division will fund the project; there will be no direct assessments to area residents.

What happened to the College Park project?

The Hampden Park project may have some St. Anthony Park residents wondering what happened to the College Park stormwater project that had been proposed in 2010. The project has been placed on hold indefinitely due to changing groundwater elevations in the area, Elder said.—Kristal Leebrock

C I T Y F I L E S

Como Park

The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

Como art fair registration open

The District 10 Como Community Council will host a community art fair on Sunday, July 13, noon-4:30 p.m., at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. Artists from all media are invited to

display and sell their work. Registration fee is \$25, which includes a banquet table. Find out more at district10comopark.org.

Volunteers needed at cleanup

The City of St Paul is hosting a citywide community cleanup on Saturday, June 21, 8 a.m.-1p.m., at Washington Technology Magnet School, 1495 Rice St. St. Paul residents will be able to dispose of and recycle construction debris,

electronics, furniture, bikes, small engines and more. Volunteers are needed to help direct traffic and assist with unloading vehicles. Volunteers will receive a voucher for a free load at this or another cleanup. Call 651-644-3889 or email district10@district10comopark.org to volunteer. Find out more about pricing at stpaul.gov/recycling.

Garden Tour is June 21

The District 10 garden tour will be held on Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The garden tour is free (but donations are welcome). Tour maps will be online at district10comopark.org on Friday, June 20, or they can be picked up on the day of the tour at the Historic Streetcar Station.

Como Tree Trek Walk is June 22

Join Como Park neighborhood tree expert Tim Morgan for a free walk featuring interesting trees in Como Regional Park on Sunday, June 22, at 10 a.m. The tour will begin at Como Lakeside Pavilion. Find out more at district10comopark.org or call 651-644-3880.

Como Ice Cream Social June 13

Meet your neighbors and enjoy a fun, family evening at the Como Park Neighborhood Ice Cream Social on Friday, June 13, 6-8 p.m., at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. The Como Community Council and Kemps will provide free ice cream. District 10 residents are invited to bring a (safe) outdoor game to play with neighbors.

No advance registration is required, but District 10 residents are encouraged to register in advance by visiting district10comopark.org and clicking on the "Ice Cream Social" link. Residents who register by Friday, June 6, will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates from neighborhood businesses, including Nelson Cheese and the UPS Store on Lexington.

Falcon Heights

The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.

You can recycle food waste

You can now bring your food waste, non-recyclable paper and compostable plastics to six Ramsey County yard-waste sites. Falcon Heights residents can pick up two free compostable bags at Falcon Heights City Hall. Call 651-792-7600 or drop by during business hours.

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. The district's Land Use Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at SSA. The Energy Resilience Group generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday

of the month. Email erg@sapcc.org to find out the location and date each month. The Environment Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at SSA. The Transportation Committee meets the first Monday of the month at SSA.

Raymond reconstruction update

Planning for Raymond Avenue reconstruction from Hampden Avenue to Como Avenue is gearing up. City Public Works staff will attend the District 12 Transportation Committee meeting Monday, June 2, meeting to begin drafting a plan based on the community comments from block party events held last fall. Contact lauren@sapcc.org for more information.

Green Line Challenge

The Knight Foundation is looking for projects that will make St. Paul's Central Corridor neighborhoods more vibrant places to live, work, play and visit. Over the next three years, the challenge will fund \$1.5 in winning projects. Any individual, business or nonprofit can apply. Applications for the first round will open June 24. Details are at knightgreenlinechallenge.org.

ADU task force to be created

The District 12 Community Council has voted to create a task force made up of interested community members to explore the pros and cons of a zoning amendment that would allow the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units in the neighborhood. The mission of this task force will be discussed at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 5, at the District Land Use Committee meeting. Questions? Email [Suyapa Miranda, \[suyapa@sapcc.org\]\(mailto:suyapa@sapcc.org\)](mailto:SuyapaMiranda@sapcc.org).

Youth Commission seeks rep

The St. Paul Youth Commission is seeking a representative from District 12. Youth commissioners serve a two-year term. Applications are due June 27. Find out more at stpaul.gov/youthcommission.

Free compostable bags

Ramsey County yard waste sites are now accepting household compost waste and the District 12 Community Council has free compostable bags you can use for your kitchen scraps and organic waste. Email lauren@sapcc.org or call 651-214-6788 to arrange a time to pick up a bag.

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T METRO Green Line
 Opens June 14, 2014



District 12's new executive director, Suyapa Miranda, and outgoing director Amy Sparks. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

District 12 names new executive director

The St. Anthony Park Community Council has hired Suyapa Miranda as the new executive director for District 12, replacing Amy Sparks, who worked in that role for nearly nine years.

Miranda has worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 10 years, most recently as a development coordinator and community organizer for the Women's Environmental Institute in North Branch, Minn. She has also worked for Merrick Community Services and for the YWCA and has served as a board member with the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Service, East YMCA and the League of Women Voters Development Committee.

Currently, she serves as vice chair for the Minnesota Women's Consortium and was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to be the Congressional District 4 representative for the Chicano Latino

Affairs Council, which she also vice chairs.

Born in Honduras, Miranda came to Minnesota when she was 3. She lived in various parts of the Twin Cities while growing up, including St. Paul, where she attended St. Anthony Park Elementary School for three years. She is a graduate of South High School in Minneapolis and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

Miranda lives in Como Park with her two children, ages 6 and 7, who attend Maternity of St. Mary-St. Andrew School.

Sparks will still be working with District 12 as she moves into a new part-time position as executive director of the Creative Enterprise Zone, a District 12 task force that is working to attract and keep creative businesses in the Raymond and University avenues area.

You can reach Miranda at suyapa@sapcc.org or 651-649-5992.—*Kristal Leebrick*

Name that photo

We're walking down memory lane with the Bugle's Name That Photo Contest, in honor of the Bugle's 40th anniversary. The photos on this page were all printed in past issues of the Bugle. To participate in the contest, tell us where the photo was taken and what is in the photo. Then bring your completed form to the Bugle booth at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on Saturday, June 7, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The booth will be in the Healy Building parking lot on Como Avenue just west of Park Service (see the festival map on page 11). We'll draw two winners from the completed and correct forms that day. Prizes are \$25 each. When you complete your contest entry, don't forget to fill out your name and address at the bottom of the page.



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Park Bugle

www.parkbugle.org

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

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EDITORIAL

Need we say more?



Sometimes a boulevard full of blooming tulips is worth several hundred words.

COMMENTARY

The Park Bugle welcomes letters and commentaries from our readers. Send your submissions to editor@parkbugle.org or to Editor, Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. The deadline for the July issue is Wednesday, June 13.

Picking up Grandma

By Jack Neely

It has been said that you are only as old as you feel. I am not sure that is true. Maybe your age is more attuned to your limitations and your appearance to others as well as the artifacts of your own aging.

Aging changes us physically, emotionally and sometimes spiritually. Now closer to 80 than 75, I have experienced a number of hallmarks along the way. A significant milestone is the realization that you simply cannot do some activities you did early on: swinging from one rung to the next on the jungle gym while following your grandson or doing the pull-ups you did in Basic Training in 1955. At age 75, I dashed our stucco house and painted the trim; this year it was a struggle to put up the ladder to clean the gutters.

Part of the aging process is slipping into a defensive mode. Our heart rate slows, blood vessels and arteries stiffen, bones shrink in size and density, and bodies become shorter. Our skin has been, and everything from our eyelids to our backside sags a bit as various body parts lose their muscle tone.

I see my endurance lagging as I now take longer breaks when shoveling snow, cutting and splitting wood, raking, playing racquetball or

taking a motorcycle ride. I use any railing available, ascend stairs leaning a bit more forward and always reach for the grab bar when getting in and out of the shower. Strength ebbs when lifting grandchildren or pulling their sleds up Suicide Hill. Stairs seem steeper, the toilet lower and ice on the sidewalk slicker.

Wounds heal more slowly and eye exams are more frequent, as are trips to the bathroom at night. We hear less, repeat ourselves and interrupt more often. Long-ago memories stick fast; short-term memories have less glue. We may use a cane, a helping hand at curbside, an aisle seat, an ice bag after repetitive activity or a heating pad at night. Getting out of the car takes more time, as does eating a meal and backing up the car. I now carry one bag of heavy groceries instead of two. My car ramps are no longer used, as someone else changes my oil.

We try to fight the aging process with routine checkups. We take our meds and try to do some form of regular exercise although we know it is never enough. We eat the bad stuff in moderation but probably not enough of the good stuff. A weekly planned pillbox is next to the kitchen sink, yet we forget to take our daily allotment. We sit closer to the media and cup our ear but won't wear our hearing aids sitting in the coffee table

drawer. We wonder why the newspaper can't use a larger font.

We daydream about the old days: how the cars, music, humor, movies, drivers, customer service and vacations were all better. Many of us are satisfied with landline telephones, smaller TVs and smaller homes. We like our old jeans, flannel shirts, tools, paintbrushes and stick-shift autos.

We plod on. If lucky, we go to bed knowing we have something of value to do the next day. And this can be ironic: The more purposeful your life, the faster you pass through time—something that is obviously quite limited now.

We are much more aware of our feelings and fragilities than we let on to loved ones and friends.

There have been four hallmarks in my aging process: Three surprised me and took me back a bit; the last one was like a brick to the forehead. The first was when a student called me "Sir"; the second was when I was 61 and the principal at the school I taught at asked me if I was "all right" as we restrained a student to the floor while awaiting the police; the third was a night when my son dropped me off and waited for me to get into my house before driving away.

We oldsters know that there might be a wheelchair, an attendant or a bedpan in our future. But what recently occurred in a doctor's office

in Harlingen, Texas, was the blow that knocked me into the reality of where I stand in that aging continuum.

I was most content with the world, having just passed a kidney stone. The doctor told me to increase my water intake and gave me a list of foods to cut back on (chocolate, nuts, dark colas, dark greens, salt and coffee—all my favorites). He then asked if I had any other concerns. I mentioned that I had significant edema in one leg. Knowing that we had just arrived after a 1,600-mile trip, he cautioned me to get out of the car more often and walk around when on long trips.

Then the good doctor strongly suggested something that I had put out of mind for 60 years: Buy a pair of rubber stockings. I had not thought of such an item since I last picked up Grandma Barlow in my '51 Ford for Sunday dinner. We were late to that weekly outing as I waited for her to laboriously stretch into her "rubber supports," as she called them.

It is only when you are forced into elastic, knee-high, flesh-colored supports that you are squeezed into being old.

Grandpa Jack lives and writes in St. Anthony Park.

Education rates high in funding with SAP Community Foundation

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation approved \$20,733 in grant awards as the first part of its special 15th anniversary awards package. The foundation will award an additional \$15,000 this fall to be paid out over the next three years to the winner of its recently announced grants competition.

Education leads the list of funding priorities with grants going to support arts and science programming at local schools. In addition, the Gerald R. McKay Family Music Fund provided grant money for the band programs at Murray Middle School and Como

Park Senior High School, as well as the school outreach coordinated by Music in the Park Series.

Other grantees included the St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, which received a grant for ongoing services and the community-wide assessment process the groups is working on with Wilder Research; the Park Bugle for expansion of its coverage of the business communities in the area; the District 12 Community Council to help support increased transportation and communication around light rail and the Creative Enterprise Zone; Keystone Community Services to help address ongoing needs in the

area; and St. Paul Magic, which has formed a local athletic team to compete in the Special Olympics.

St. Anthony Park residents have given more than \$400,000 to the foundation in the past 15 years, according to executive director Jon Schumacher.

The 15th Anniversary Grant Competition will be accepting entries from June 1 through July 31. The public will be asked to vote on the top three finalists in mid-August. There's more information online at sapfoundation.org.

Bugle editor wins Common Good Books 'Love Letters' contest

By Roger Bergerson

It was an early-morning call to the award winner's St. Anthony Park home.

"You're on the front page of the Grand Forks Herald!" Kristal Leebrick's mother excitedly told her from North Dakota.

Leebrick had just won first prize in Garrison Keillor's Common Good Books Love Letters poetry contest and the day before accepted her \$1,000 award and read "New Year Love" in an event at Macalester College. Author and humorist Keillor told her it was a "lovely poem" and called her writing "sure-footed."

Days later, Leebrick, the editor of the Park Bugle community newspaper, was enjoying her brush with celebrity but not taking her new status too seriously.

She said her decision to enter the contest was spurred by a desire to resume her poetry writing after putting it aside for some years.

"New Year Love" is a story of youthful romance and represents a different perspective for Leebrick. "I took a lot of writing courses in college and did a bit of poetry writing afterward, but what I wrote then was not about me," she says. "This is and it's a little embarrassing."

She's taken some joshing about

NEW YEAR LOVE

*I remember our breath
in the icy air
and how the northern lights gathered
in a haze at the horizon,
spread up past the water tower
then vanished into the dark.
I remember that January night in North Dakota:
We left the dance,
the hoods of our dads' air force parkas zipped tight,
our bare hands pulled into the coat sleeves.
We ran
into the wind
down the drifting sidewalks of our eighth-grade lives
to the brick-and-clapboard row houses on Spruce Street.
We ducked between buildings
and you pulled me close.
A flickering light from someone's TV screen.
A kitchen window.
Your fingers tracing my face.
Your hair brushing my eyes.
Your skin, your lips.
My legs.
My heart.
I remember that January night in North Dakota,
but I can't remember your name.*

the poem, she says, but has enjoyed hearing from people, including many from North Dakota, where she grew up.

Leebrick spent several days on the verse, as she puts it, "carving it up and messing with it."

And even though winning a

poetry award would seem to show that one is, indeed, a poet, she had no plans of giving up her day job.

"I think poetry is playful," Leebrick says. "I find it fun to play with words and images."

Boy Scouts' bridge and tower will be part of 4-H ice cream social, arts fest in June

Luther Seminary Lawn at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place will be full of action on Friday, June 6, as the Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts its annual ice cream and pie social from 7 to 9 p.m.

New at this year's event: Boy Scout Troop 17 will build a tower and bridge on the lawn in anticipation of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival the next day.

Traditionally, the troop has built a tower and monkey bridge for the St. Anthony Park July 4 parade and celebration at Langford Park, but this year, the troop will be at camp on the Fourth of July. The troop's craft will

be one of the attractions at the arts festival Saturday, June 7.

Former Scouts and others who would like to participate in building

or taking down the bridge and tower are welcome. The project be taken down at 4 p.m. June 7.

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Green Line from 1

welcoming by creating an atmosphere that encourages people to get off the train and see what we have to offer.”

On June 14, a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul will officially open the line. Following ceremonies at the individual stations, the launch celebrations start at 10 a.m. and continue to 4 p.m.

At the Raymond Station, the action will center on the Midtown Commons parking lot on the south side of University Avenue at Lasalle Street, just east of Raymond Avenue. There will be local music and entertainment on the main stage all day, ranging from bluegrass to Irish Americana, from alternative country to roots rock.

A second stage will feature a wide variety of performers, demonstrating everything from ballroom dancing to martial arts.

All around the area, local artists will be creating public art, including windsocks, shade structures and a mural-painting project. In many cases, event-goers will be invited to join in.

Food trucks and strolling musicians will add to the festive atmosphere.

Over at Hamline Station, “The Great Midway Get Together” will be headquartered in the parking lot on the southeast corner of Hamline and University Avenues. A grandstand will present live performances all day, including acts booked by the Turf Club and TV’s *Choo Choo Bob Show*.

In addition, a “Kidway” will feature the Como Park Zoo, the Minnesota Children’s Museum and the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, among others.

There will also be a bazaar with craftspeople and artists selling their wares and a food court featuring local restaurants.

Not all restaurants and businesses will be able to participate on site, of course, and event organizers want to encourage visitors to get out and explore the respective neighborhoods.

To help make that happen in the Raymond Station area, Sunrise Banks and the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation are sponsoring a trolley. It will start from the bank branch at 2300 Como Ave. W., and loop down to the Sunrise

branch on University Avenue and Vandalia Street, and return at about 30-minute intervals, with stops at Raymond and Territorial, the Raymond Avenue station, and local breweries Urban Growler and Bang Brewing Co. The trolley will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A “coupon-on-a-stick” program at the Hamline Station will invite event-goers to take advantage of special offers at local restaurants that they can visit via a fleet of pedal-cabs.

The Metropolitan Council and private sponsors are funding these community celebrations. It’s a massive undertaking and many details were still being firmed up as the Park Bugle went to press.

For an up-to-date list of features and performers at the Raymond Station launch celebration, go to sapcc.org.

For the Hamline Station, go to hamlinemidway.org or midwaychamber.com.

Information about all opening day events can be found at www.metrotransit.org/opening-day.

Roger Bergerson is a local historian, writer and regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Some business owners still lukewarm to light rail

By Roger Bergerson

Plenty of people are excited about the opening of the Green Line, but the Park Bugle found several business owners around the Raymond Station taking a decidedly wait-and-see attitude.

“I don’t honestly know if I’ll benefit from light rail, because this is such a niche business,” said Bruce Delles, owner of Twin Cities Reptiles, 2363 University Ave. W.

Also skeptical is Dana Rose, owner of Sharrett’s Liquors, 2389 University Avenue W. “We’re a driving destination and I don’t think it’ll help us, but we’ll see,” he said.

Over at Roller Revolution, 2418 University Avenue W., owner Gina Flak is more optimistic. She sells equipment, supplies and apparel to roller derby enthusiasts and has a lot of customers who go to school or work on the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus. “And there are a lot of roller derby people who don’t own cars; they bike everywhere, so they may use it, too,” she said.

Flak said light-rail construction on her block was mostly completed by the time she moved in a little more than two years ago. Although Delles has his own off-street parking, he said customers had a hard time getting to his store. And Rose, who felt the elimination of on-street parking on University keenly, says his business was down 16 percent at the peak of construction.

“It’s slowly coming back, but I don’t know if it’ll ever be what it once was,” he said.

About 200 businesses along the light-rail line received forgivable loans of up to \$20,000 from a Metropolitan Council/City of St. Paul program to help them through the construction period.

“The businesses that have survived, and the Met Council admits that we’ve lost 90 to 100 that they know of, did so because of strong management principles, not because of anything that anybody did for them,” said Jack McCann, president of the University Avenue Betterment Association. McCann has been an ongoing critic of the Metropolitan Council’s management of the project.

He is a partner in Update Company, which owns eight buildings in the Raymond and University area. He was asked if landlords now will seek higher rents because of the perceived value of being near the Green Line.

“In our case, we’ll be able to raise our rates slightly, but it will take a long time to recoup the \$300,000 to \$500,000 in business that we lost during construction,” he said.


In the eyes of some, progress has come at a price.

“Overall, I don’t think light rail has been good for University Avenue, because a lot of retail has gone away,” Delles said. “Maybe if some drivers become riders, they might have a chance to look around and see shops and restaurants they weren’t aware of and want to check out.”

McCann continues to advocate a “pocket parking concept,” the creation of small lots of perhaps 20 spaces each per block.

“If University Avenue is to retain a retail presence, we need to bring back parking somehow,” he said.

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Bringing art into the health sciences

St. Anthony Park man introduces art therapy course at Hamline University

By Kristal Leebrik

Nicola Demonte was a recent college graduate when he first saw the benefits of art therapy in a medical setting.

He had just finished his bachelor's degree in clinical psychology and joined the staff at a Chicago psychiatric hospital, where he shadowed a social worker who had initiated an art therapy group. Most of the patients at that hospital were suffering from chronic mental illness, Demonte said.

"It was the last stop before the state hospital—very chronic cases. It was the most extreme kind of environment one could imagine going into after college."

More than 18 years later, Demonte has made art therapy his life's work. And in January, the St. Anthony Park resident helped launch the Arts in Health course at Hamline University.

The class is offered through the Department of Studio Arts and Art History in collaboration with the university's Public Health Sciences program. The course was so popular the school is offering it again this summer.

Demonte, who has a master's degree in clinical psychology and has studied the history of art and architecture at Harvard University, shares his expertise around the metro area. He teaches art classes to Alzheimer's patients at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and at a senior facility in Chanhassen and he's on the faculty list at the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center.

The Hamline class is another educational outlet for Demonte. "It's a hybrid course" that introduces students to the history of art and medicine and artistic processes such as drawing, painting and collage, Demonte said.

Students in the class come from a variety of majors. Nuuria Osman, a sophomore, was a studio arts major who is now planning to major in both studio arts and public health.

"I'm trying to become an art therapist," she said. She initially had thought she'd be an art teacher "but there are not a lot of jobs in elementary school art." She did some research and "landed on art therapy."

It was serendipity that Demonte



Hamline University Arts in Health professor Nicola Demonte says "creativity has the potential to heal." The drawing below, by Kate Monson, depicts one of the patients she worked with during one of her internships. *Photos by Lori Hamilton*

years old. I [spent] about three or four hours with her, and by the end of the time, she was talking up a storm with me and having fun."

The course examines integrating arts programs across the lifespan, Demonte said.

Kate Monson, a junior in public health sciences, saw that firsthand while interning at Children's and Shriners' hospitals and at Lyngblomsten, a senior care facility in Como Park. At Lyngblomsten, Monson's first task was to help out in a taiko drumming class.

The taiko drumming, she learned, is more than just a full-body workout. "Everyone who is in there, when they start to drum, their faces light up. It's a fun activity for them to do and really good physically for them," but it's also good brainwork as participants memorize words that correspond with each hit of the drum, Monson said. "They are speaking and playing at the same time. It's a mental workout."

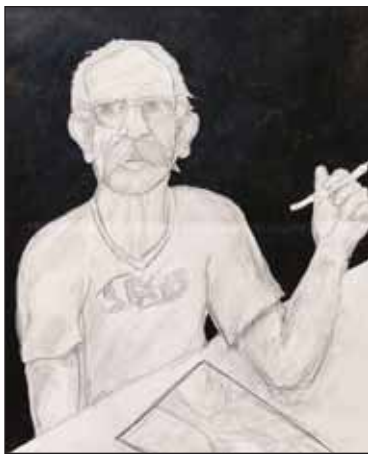
The Arts in Health class has "opened my eyes to a new field," Monson said. "I have always been interested in alternative health methods. I also really like art. It's a good blend of the two things."

Studies have shown that there are benefits to art therapy, Demonte said. "It lowers blood pressure, the heart rate, it has impact on language, mood, depression. More and more medical fields are seeing it as an important aspect in medical education."

Demonte—who has worked with Holocaust survivors, patients suffering from eating disorders and dementia patients—has seen the benefits in his own work.

"There are so many different stories," he said. One happened recently. A woman with dementia whom Demonte had been working with began talking for the first time in a year. The woman's son could now understand what she wanted.

"You see such great outcomes with people," Demonte said. "Creativity has the potential to heal."



offered the Arts in Health class this year. "This is the first time they had it," Osman said. "I was really excited, especially to take it at the beginning of my sophomore

year." The class began as a month-long intensive J-term class, and then students participated in 120-hour internships at hospitals and care facilities in the metro area.

Osman worked at the St. Paul campus of Children's Hospitals, working at bedside with children. "We are there as another support system to help relieve stress by doing different art techniques [with the patients]," she said.

"My first day I had a girl who was recovering from neurosurgery," Osman said. "She was very quiet and unresponsive, and the nurses had told me her parents weren't going to be there all day. She was around 6

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors presents: 2014 Senior Cinema Series

**"Seven Years in Tibet" 1-3 p.m.
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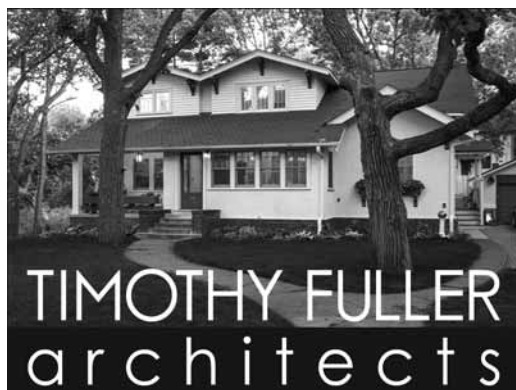


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Bluebird trails from 1

said Cunningham, who has lived near the park since 1974.

Now, it is common.

Together, these trails have fledged 445 bluebirds since 2005.

Bluebirds nest two or even three times each year, if weather permits. The female weaves a cup-shaped nest from pine needles or brown grass. She lays three to five pale blue (sometimes white) eggs, one each day, and begins to incubate the eggs after the last one is laid. Incubation lasts about two weeks. Young bluebirds fledge 16 to 22 days after hatching.

Other birds—chickadees, tree swallows, house wrens, cowbirds and house sparrows—use the trail boxes too. Chickadees and tree swallows nest only once a year, leaving the box open for bluebirds afterward. Wrens can be destructive, puncturing bluebird eggs in boxes they compete to use. Cowbirds lay eggs in the nests of other species; their babies develop faster than bluebirds, giving them an edge over their adopted siblings. These birds are native species and are covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which protects birds and their nests and eggs from interference. Non-native house sparrows are not protected under this

act.

Trail monitors check each box at least once a week throughout the nesting season. To deter wrens, boxes are placed far from brushy areas that attract the birds. Many bluebirds are able to successfully raise their brood even with a cowbird or two deposited in their nests. House sparrow nesting materials are removed regularly from boxes, and the boxes are sited away from residential areas that attract the birds. House sparrows can be deadly competition for bluebirds, killing both young and adult bluebirds.

Boxes are placed with their openings facing away from prevailing winds, at least 300 feet apart from each other. Predator guards attached to posts or boxes deter raccoons and cats.

Monitors note the number of eggs laid and birds hatched and fledged and contribute those numbers to BBRP to be part of the permanent record. They clear out old nesting materials so new nest building can begin and keep the boxes in good repair. Vandalism and theft of boxes are occasional problems.

It can be heartbreaking to witness the loss of a nest, according to Cunningham, but she finds it wonderful to take part in and see the recovery of these beautiful birds. As

she walks her trail in the wee hours of the morning, before golfers come out (to avoid both disturbing golfers' games and the possibility of getting hit in the head by golf balls), she enjoys the wildlife surrounding her: Orioles singing, warblers flitting about, a hawk bathing in golf course sprinklers, owls swooping silently by and foxes on the move. "The City of St. Paul is happy and proud to provide habitat for a large variety of native wildlife," said Shannon O'Brien, a natural resources technician with St. Paul Parks and Recreation. "Well-maintained bluebird trails offer educational opportunities."

Two opportunities to learn about bluebirds happen in June—a Bluebird Trail Tour as part of the Urban Birding Festival and a Birding Youth Camp conducted by St. Paul Audubon (see sidebar).

"The Como Park bluebird walk is a highlight of the camp," said Audubon volunteer Karen Eckman. "For most campers, this is a first-ever experience and one they all really enjoy and remember."

Sharon Shinomiya lives in the Como Park neighborhood and has been the monitor for the Como Park Bluebird Trail since 2008.

Want to find out more?

Take a tour

A bluebird trail tour will be offered Friday, June 6, 10-11 a.m., as part of the Urban Birding Festival of the Twin Cities. To register, call Faith Krogstad, 651-632-2455, or register online at apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/Activity_Search/24165.

Kids: Learn about birding at a youth camp

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is offering a Birding Youth Camp for ages 8-12 in Como Regional Park on June 16-20, 9 a.m.-noon. The camp will be conducted by St. Paul Audubon Society volunteers. Register online at www.stpaul.gov/parks, or call 651-292-6508.

You can be a bluebird trail monitor

St. Paul Parks and Recreation would add more bluebird trails if more people committed to maintaining them. Interested individuals or groups can find more information about volunteer programs at www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources. No nest boxes may be placed on park property without permission.

Learn more about the trail

To learn more about the 11-box Como Park Bluebird Trail and get weekly updates, check out St. Paul Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Division's blog at restoresaintpaul.blogspot.com.

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Meet the featured artists at the festival

A major theme running through Regula Russelle's more recent works of original letterpress prints, handmade books and paper sculptures is a celebration of place—"making good things happen right where you are," she says.

Regula Russelle

In many ways, Russelle's career and creative development is a perfect manifestation of that notion. A longtime resident of St. Anthony Park, her success began and continues close to home. Her first printing press was passed on from a colleague with whom she worked on a book for Hamline University. One of her first mentors who taught her how to use a block press is another St. Anthony Park neighbor, Tim Wulling.

Perhaps the most celebratory coincidence of place for Russelle is her proximity to the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in Minneapolis—the largest organization of its kind in the United States. She became one of the first members of the artist community there in the early 1990s and remains intimately involved as a board member, teacher, and regular user of the center's space and equipment.

"I would not be doing what I'm doing without the Center for Book Arts," Russelle says. "I feel like I am in the exact right place where I can learn and now teach others."

Whether she is working out of the center or from her small home studio in St. Anthony Park, Russelle says she strives to ask questions with her work that inspire conversations around important issues.

Through collaborations with area poets, and more recently her own poetry, Russelle's work explores questions such as the nature of beauty that spans cultural and geographic divides. In one piece she explores the dialectic between action and repose. A collaboration with poet Naomi Shihab explores the theme of "otherness." Environmental issues are also a recent topic of interest addressed in her work.

Whatever the theme being explored in a particular project, Russelle is passionate about the process her art demands. Letterpress printing is a tactile endeavor, often requiring patience and focus.

"I love making things carefully by hand," she says. "We live in a very fast paced world and this is a very slow paced thing to do."

Art fair goers will get a chance to experience this world of letterpress printmaking first hand. Russelle is bringing along a miniature letterpress with a preset design of her own making for attendees to print their own bookmarks to carry home. You will find her next to the library at the Como Avenue side of the building.

Nearly all of Russelle's work is part of a permanent collection at the Minnesota Historical Society. It is also often on display at the MCBA and will also be shown at the St. Anthony Park Library leading up to the Arts Festival.—*Kyle Mianulli*



Regula Russelle



Leo and Dina Lisovskis

Leo and Dina Lisovskis' handmade gold and silver jewelry reflects the environment in which it is crafted. Every unique piece draws inspiration from the natural beauty they encounter every day around their self-restored 1850s log cabin near Osceola, Wis.

Leo & Dina Lisovskis

"Northwoods nouveaux" is how Leo Lisovskis describes the couple's style.

A wildflower drooping over the banks of a gentle creek might become an intricate gold-and-silver pendant; leaves rustling in the breeze on a tree outside their window might inspire a pair of gold bells with etched silver leaves soldered on the outside surrounding a small precious stone.

Nestled on a remote 20-acre lot, inspiration abounds. When they're not working, Leo and Dina spend time tending their lush organic gardens and watching the vast array of birds that frequent their feeders. But there is an ever-present call to create.

"I have to keep creating, I guess, whether it's making jewelry, drawing, taking photographs or doing some watercolor. The creative process is just always there and you have to keep feeding it," Leo says.

Leo and Dina first met as art students at the University of Minnesota. Creative collaboration has always been a part of their relationship, Leo says. They both design the one-of-a-kind pieces. While Leo now does most of the metal work, Dina also takes her turn at the bench when she's not running the business end of things.

Their shared Latvian heritage also shows itself in their work. A subtle flare of eastern European folk art contributes to some of their jewelry's distinctive character. The pieces can range from simple and elegant to elaborate wilderness scenes that meld gold, silver and a variety of precious and semi-precious stones. Some can consist of four or five individually cut and etched layers with as many as 50 soldered joints, Leo says.

"There's a lot of hand engraving and carving of the metal itself," he says. "It's a type of work you really don't see many other people doing. It's relatively labor intensive and unique."—*Kyle Mianulli*

The Artists

Ceramics

Tom Abel
Robert Briscoe
Rebecca Bruzek
Guillermo Cuellar
Bridget Donahue
Vanessa Greene
Richard Gruchalla &
Carrin Rossetti
Travis Hinton
Chris & Sue
Holmquist
Ernest Miller
Wendy Penta
Jo Severson

Chuck Solberg
Zac Spates
Jason Trebs

Fiber & wearable art

Patti Berg
Cindy Brown
Debra Caserotti
Sharon Cherney
Dawnette Davis
Mary Descombaz
Beth Homa
Nancy Hovland
Linda Nelson Bryan
William & Linda
Sumner

Colleen Tabaika
Bao Yang

Glass & enamel

Steve Claypatch
Nicole Fierce
Nola Murzyn
Irene Sherman
Warren Slocum

Jewelry

Tricia Bagstad
Mary Best
Brenna Busse
Mary Ila Duntemann
Gary Rex Erickson

Aaron Kahmann
Brenna Klassen-
Glanzer
Leo & Dina Lisovskis
Larissa Loden
Mark Nuebel
Sue Peoples
Joan Teppen
Angel Teske
Candyce Westfield

Mixed media

Judith Hurd
Julie Johnson
Sharon Miller-
Thompson

Painting & drawing

Marilyn Cuellar
Mary Jo Fox
Christy Johnson
Olga Krasovska
Megan Moore
Lori Sherrick

Photography

Rachel Cain
Jim Gindorff
Erin Hartman
Daron Krueger
Dan Leisen

Printmaking

Emily Koehler

Sculpture

Cynthia Anderson
Bud Bullivant
David DeMattia
Sandra Haff
Dan & Lee
(Cutkomp) Ross
Jennifer Wolcott

Wood

Ted Golbuff
Andrew Kringen
Craig Richardson
Dave & Kathy Towley

Music on the Library Lawn

9:30 a.m.: Center for Irish Music Advanced
Youth Ensemble

10:30 a.m.: Ladyslipper Baroque Ensemble

11:30 a.m.: Richard Griffith
and Phillip Rukavina

12:30 p.m.: Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra

1:15 p.m.: Stage break

2:00 p.m.: Miss Becky Kapell

3:00 p.m.: Chuck Solberg

4:00 p.m.: Sherry Minnick

Your arts festival to-do list

- Children: Make art at the Kids Zone.
- See work from St. Anthony Park Elementary School students' residency with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre at the Kids Art Gallery.
- Check out the used book sale in the library's lower level.
- Find a favorite perennial at the St. Anthony Park Garden Club plant sale
- Visit your neighborhood nonprofit groups, including the Park Bugle.
- Try your hand at the Bugle's photo-identification contest on page 3 and deliver it to the Bugle booth on the east side of Como Avenue. (We'll be in the Healy Building parking lot; see the yellow box above.)
- Listen to music, eat, buy art and shop at the wonderful businesses in St. Anthony Park.

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Saturday, June 7, 2014 10 - 5

Artists 10 - 22

Artists 30 - 42

Artists 45 - 57

Artists 60 - 69

Artists 70 - 78

Artists 80 - 84

Artists 90 - 98

Book Sale 10 - 3:30

St. Anthony Park Branch Library

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Kid's Art Gallery

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SPEEDY MARKET

Lee Cutkomp (now Ross) prepares for her first craft fair at the St. Anthony Park Library 54 years ago with her sisters, Kay (left) and Terry (right). At far right, work by Dan and Lee Ross.

Artist spotlights from 9



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Combining ancient materials with modern design, Dan and Lee Ross achieve a unique aesthetic that ties the old world to the new in their stone sculptures, clay work and mono prints.

Since moving to their home in Hovland, Minn., on the North Shore of Lake Superior, their work has evolved dramatically, according to Lee Ross. The color palette in much of their work is derived from the rust reds of the iron-rich rocks that line the shores near their house or the dappled gray pebbles they pick up on the beach. Swooping curves accentuated by crisp edges in their stone and clay sculptures reflect the wave-worn boulders that pass beneath their canoe when out for a paddle.

Animal forms are a common theme for the couple, as can be seen outside Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, where five of the Rosses' large granite animal sculptures now sit. Even in their abstract work, Lee Ross says people find animal shapes the same way one might see puffs of form in a lingering cloud.

Lee's more recent work, "Footprints," were inspired by following Dan on the quarter-mile trail that leads through the woods to their studio. The patterns his shoes press into the mud or snow soon became a new medium in their work.

"I don't know who is designing the bottoms of shoes, but it's very interesting," Lee says.

The couple met while attending the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1972 when Dan offered to help Lee carry a large woodcut self-portrait she made for a class. Creative collaboration has been central to their work and relationship ever since.

"From the beginning to the end, we're collaborating," Lee says of their work. "We'll sit down and sketch on the same piece of paper and push it back and forth . . . then sit down and physically work on the same piece—it will go back and forth between our hands maybe 15 to 20 times."

Returning to the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival is a homecoming of sorts for Lee. She grew up and got her start with art in the neighborhood. She did her first show here when she was 5, taking after her mother, Martha Cutkomp, a well-known area potter.

Lee says she is happy to be returning for an event that benefits the St. Anthony Park Library, a place that holds many fond childhood memories.

"I grew up hanging out at the library, studying inside, playing on the lawn and meeting up with friends there," she says.—*Kyle Mianulli*

Lee & Dan Ross

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JUNE

Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by June 11 to be included in the July issue.

3 TUESDAY

Domestic & international adoption information session, CHLSS, 6-8:30 p.m.

4 WEDNESDAY

English conversation circles, every Wednesday in June, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Book Club, "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-8 p.m.

7 SATURDAY

St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, begins on the St. Anthony Park Library lawn and stretches down Como Avenue, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Library used book sale, library auditorium in the lower level, 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

"An Investigation of Patterns and Pathways," abstract landscapes by Amy Tillotson, artist reception,

Undercroft Gallery, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, noon-4 p.m.

9 MONDAY

Minnesota's Waiting Children information session: learn about adopting children who live in foster care, CHLSS, 6- 8 p.m.

Falconeers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

"Karma, Freedom and Destiny" presented by Dr. James Ulness, Spirit United Church, 7-9 p.m. The event is part of the Theosophical Society's Ancient Mysteries, Ancient Wisdom series.

10 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library Summer Reading Program: Brodini Comedy Magic Show, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Adoptive parents group: Minnesota's Waiting Children, for parents who adopted children through Minnesota's foster care system, CHLSS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

12 THURSDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Anthony Park Senior Cinema Series: "Seven Years in Tibet," St. Anthony Park Library, 1-3 p.m.

14 SATURDAY

Eating, Reading and Living Well Series: Beez Kneez Kids, learn about honey and honeybees, ages 5+, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m.

Wildflower Honey Folk Band, St. Anthony Park Library, 2-3 p.m.

16 MONDAY

Neighborhood Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, open to all, 7 p.m.

17 TUESDAY

Microsoft Excel 2010 workshop, four sessions, June 17, 19, 24 & 26, St. Anthony Park Library, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 651-642-0411 to register.

St. Anthony Park Library Summer Reading Program: Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.

18 WEDNESDAY

Jazz: New Forms and Original Works with Bryan Nichols and his quartet—J.T. Bates, Brandon Wozniak and James Buckley, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

Domestic & international adoption information session, CHLSS, 9-11:30 a.m.

Pioneer Sampler at Gibbs Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

22 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "The Dinner" by Herman Koch, Micawber's Books, 2:30 p.m.

23 MONDAY

Falconeers Card Club, Falcon Heights City Hall, 1 p.m.

24 TUESDAY

St. Anthony Park Library Summer Reading Program: Bill the Juggler, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.

26 THURSDAY

Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

27 FRIDAY

Co-ed drum circle, Women's Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. All levels of

experience welcome; \$10 at the door; drums provided.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors exercise classes meet at these times and places:

Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 3-4 p.m.

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

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

VENUES

CHLSS, Children's Home & Lutheran Social Services, 1605 Eustis St., 651-646-7771

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

Gibbs Museum, 2097 Larpenteur Ave., 651-646-8629

Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 651-631-0300

Micawber's Books, 2238 Carter Ave., 651-645-5506

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, Fulham Street and Hendon Avenue

Spirit United Church, 3204 S.E. Como Ave., Minneapolis

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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., 651-645-3058

Women's Drum Center, 2242 W. University Ave., www.womensdrumcenter.org.



Neighbors



Brooke Rogers

Local girl named Athena winner

St. Anthony Park senior Brook Rogers received the St. Paul Area Athena Award for outstanding achievement in athletics.

Rogers, a senior at St. Paul Central High School, was one of 42 women athletes from St. Paul area high schools recognized at an awards ceremony and luncheon in April.

The daughter of Belinda and Charles Rogers, Brooke played soccer, ran cross country, and was a member of the Nordic ski team and track team at Central. She served as captain of both the soccer team and track team this year.

Outside of her athletic activities, Brooke is a member of the senior class council, plays trumpet in the school's symphonic band and heads

the school's National Honor Society's Multicultural Committee.

Rogers is in the top 5 percent of her senior class at Central and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall. She's a full-International Baccalaureate diploma student, but the achievement she's most proud of is this: She's had perfect attendance in school since she began as a kindergartner at St. Anthony Park Elementary School.

Legislators Hausman, Lesch, Marty to host Townhall Forum

State Rep. Alice Hausman, Sen. John Marty and Rep. John Lesch will review the past legislative session at a townhall forum on Tuesday, June 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Como Park Lakeside Pavilion in the Larry Kitto Room, 1360 Lexington Parkway.

Art opening at St. Matthew's

An opening reception for the art show "An Investigation of Patterns and Pathways: Abstract Paintings by Amy Tillotson" will be held Saturday, June 7, noon-4 p.m., at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Undercroft Gallery, 2136 Carter Ave. The show will run through June 27.

A Wisconsin native, Tillotson studied architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a degree in art and industrial design.

Tillotson lives in St. Paul with her husband and two children.

Angel symposium at Spirit United Michigan author Chantel Lysette will headline a five-hour symposium on angels on Saturday, June 7, 2-7 p.m., at Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E. The presentation is part of the Ancient Mysteries, Ancient Wisdom Series of the Minneapolis branch of the Theosophical Society.

Also appearing at the symposium will be James Ulness, professor emeritus in psychology from Concordia College in Moorhead, and harpist Bettie Seitze.

Lysette is the author of *Angelic Pathways*, *The Angel Code* and *Azrael Loves Chocolate*, *Michael's a Jock: An Insider's Guide to What Angels Really Like*. Ulness will speak on "Developing a Living-Working Relationship with Angels."

The cost is \$35 for adults, \$45 for couples or families, and \$30 for students, seniors and Theosophical Society members. You can register at the door or in advance by mail. Send your registration no later than June 5 to Minneapolis Theosophical Society, Attn: V. Braschler, 1034 Dayton Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104. Call 651 235-6645 or go to www.theosophical.org for more information.

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Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.

Robert Banks

Robert S. Banks, 78, died on April 19.

He was born and raised in California, he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of California-Berkeley, followed by a doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota.

Bob founded the environmental consulting business Robert S. Banks Associates.

Active in the Boy Scouts since his youth, Bob continued to work as a volunteer for the Northern Star Council as an adult. One outstanding memory was his cross-country train trip to the 1950 Boy

Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pa., with his brother Phil.

Bob served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later as a Reservist. This experience led to his purchase and restoration of a Korean War military jeep and his induction into the Red Bull Historic Military Vehicle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Adrienne (Andy); children, Stephen, Gregory, Carrie DuFresne, Pamela Barnard, David, John, James Barnard and Kirsten A. Banks-Cutler; 15 grandchildren; and brothers, Philip) and Kimball; and former spouse, Norma H. Banks.

Bob was a member of St. Anthony Park United Church of

Christ, where a memorial service was held May 16, followed by interment at Fort Snelling.

Dr. Johnny Bland

Dr. Johnny L. Bland, 78, of Minneapolis, died May 8, from complications of Alzheimer's. Dr. Bland was a retired science teacher and department head at Murray Junior High School.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Irma; children, Sandra Buckner, Sybil Pickford, Carla Bland, Michael Bland (Kim); four grandchildren; and brothers, Noah (Ida Louise) and Arcell (Lucille).

The service was May 16 at Shiloh Temple International Ministries in Minneapolis, with interment held at Mound Cemetery, Brooklyn Center.

Wendell DeBoer

Wendell James DeBoer, 86, died peacefully April 22, at his home in Falcon Heights.

Wendell was born June 16, 1924, in Aberdeen, S.D.

He graduated from Huron High School and attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, where he met Marjorie Rockwell. They were married in 1951, and moved to St. Paul in 1955, so he could attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

He worked in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, first as an instructor, then as an assistant professor and academic advisor until 1967. He became the assistant to the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine

and remained with the college until retiring in 1993 as coordinator of student affairs.

Besides his wife and children, his main passion was running. He began running at age 48 and continued until he was 85½. During that time he ran more than 66,000 miles, 100 races and, for one period, ran every day for more than 10 years, becoming the first American identified as a daily "streak" runner over the ages of 50, 60 and 80 (at present he still holds the title as oldest daily runner ever in the U.S. Running Streak Association).

Wendell was a member of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ for nearly 60 years, where he served on several committees and was known for his good humor and proper pronunciation of the Lord's Prayer.

He is survived by his children: Steve, Dave, Sharon Duban, Wendy and Bob; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; his brother-in-law and two sisters-in-law, Bill and Caroline Pilgram and Betty Rockwell. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie, who died in February; brother Dillon DeBoer

and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held May 19 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Vic St. Martin

"Como Boy" Vic St. Martin, 77, longtime teacher and hockey coach, died May 5. He was a graduate of Cretin High School, 1955, and the College of St. Thomas, 1959. A lifetime resident of Como Park, he was a teacher at Benilde High School and Tartan and John Glenn of Maplewood. He was also the hockey coach at Benilde, Tartan, St. Bernard's and Johnson high schools. He was a member of the Minnesota High School Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame and the Old Timer's Hockey Association.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jan; sons Marc, Tim, Mike and Patrick, nine grandchildren; sisters-in-law Carol Sobota and Ann Harrison; and brother-in-law Mark Sobota.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 9 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment Roselawn Cemetery.

Neighbors from 13

Corpus Christi will honor priests' ordination anniversary June 8

The Catholic community of Corpus Christi will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of four priests who have served the parish at a Mass Sunday, June 8, at 11:30 a.m. at the Church of Corpus Christi, 2131 Fairview Ave. N.

The Rev. Ronald Bowers, Rev.

Robert Nygaard, Rev. John Parkos and Rev. David Smith and were ordained in February 1964 and together they have more than 200 years of service to the church and community.

Nygaard was the pastor at Corpus Christi for 16 years and is currently a weekend associate. Bowers was a weekend assistant from 1980 to 2006. Smith was a weekend assistant several years ago, and Parkos is currently a weekend assistant. A reception will follow the Mass.

Bethel Lutheran rummage sale

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Parkway, will hold its annual rummage sale Thursday, June 19, through Saturday, June 20. A presale will be held on June 19, 6-8 p.m., with a \$3 admission. The sale will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on June 20 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on June 21. Find out more at www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Zion Lutheran to host sale

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold a rummage sale on Friday, May 30, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 651-645-0851 or visit www.zlcmidway.org for more information.

Community Worship Directory



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Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the church

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Education hour for all 9:45 a.m.
Vacation Bible School - June 23-27

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector, www.stmatthewsmn.org
2136 Carter at Chelmsford
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. service (summer schedule), Nursery care available
Wednesday: Noon service with communion, followed by lunch
Project Home: Our church serves as a temporary homeless shelter for families with young children during the month of August. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry or assist during evening hours, visit our website: www.stmatthewsmn.org

To add your church to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org



School News

Brimhall Elementary School

1744 W. County Road B
651-638-1958, www.isd623.org/bh

End-of-year news

The Brimhall PTA met on May 5 to elect officers and conduct end-of-year business. New officers include Neil Ankrum, president; Katy Westby and Erica Inkes, co-vice presidents; Katie Merriam, secretary; and Trish Vaillancourt, treasurer.

Scott Roste completed a two-year term as PTA president. In his term, he worked hard to connect parent volunteers, staff and school leadership to identify opportunities and continue Brimhall's tradition of high-quality education and family involvement. Thank you, Scott!

Diane Kaphing's served her last year as director of community involvement. Diane has been the strong, friendly connection between hundreds of parent volunteers and the school for nearly two decades. She will be missed.

After an exciting spring featuring the all-district track meet, "Cinderella" production, honors assembly and more, Brimhall sixth-graders will graduate June 10. Thanks to the sixth-grade families for their many years of volunteering.

Como Park Elementary

780 W. Wheelock Parkway
651-293-8820, www.comoel.spps.org

Spring carnival is May 30

Como Park Elementary School will host its annual Spring Carnival on Friday, May 30, 5-7:30 p.m. The carnival is a fundraiser to revitalize the school's playground, support its literacy program and fund field trips.

The carnival will have more than 15 games, three large bouncers, a snack walk, Scholastic Book Fair, basket raffle, Bingo, a silent auction, games, a dunk tank, a crazy hair booth and face painting.

The St. Paul Mounted Police will visit with their horses and the St. Paul Canine Unit will conduct demonstrations. Food will be available for purchase and the popcorn is free.

Como Park Senior High

740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800
www.comosr.spps.org

550 AP tests: done!

Como Park Senior High School students took 550 Advanced Placement tests in 18 subjects in May. Como Park has St. Paul Public School's largest AP program, offering numerous opportunities for students to take rigorous coursework leading to college credits after a national exam.

Multicultural fashion

The Multicultural Appreciation

Fashion Show on May 15 gave students a chance to wear clothing that celebrated their ethnic heritage. The school was filled with colorful ethnic costumes from all over the world.

Academy of Finance news

The ninth-grade Academy of Finance attended "Global Opportunities for Our Next Generation," a talk from Thomas Hanson, a former Foreign Service officer. It was held at the University of St. Thomas's Minneapolis campus on April 29.

Giving back

Thirty Como Students had fun face painting and running carnival games at the St. Anthony Park Elementary School Spring Carnival. It is the 17th year that Como students have volunteered at this event.

Sapphire Stars are stars

Como's Technovation Challenge team, the Sapphire Stars, presented their app "QuizzAthon" at the Technovation MN Appalooza at the Ties Event Center on April 27. The afterschool club for girls focused on creating apps for mobile phones and then designing a business plan for the inventions. Como's team has sent their app on to be judged in a global competition.

French speakers compete

Thirty-seven Como Park Senior High School students participated in the annual *A Vous la Parole* French speaking contest at the University of Minnesota on April 22. The categories include prose and poetry recitations, theater presentations, song performances, extemporaneous reading, extemporaneous conversation and original skits.

Murray Middle School

2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740
www.murray.spps.org

Award-winning teacher Tim Chase

Murray science teacher Tim Chase has been selected by the Minnesota Association of Environmental Education to receive the Formal Environmental Educator of the Year Award. Chase is being recognized for his outstanding, ongoing effort integrating environmental education into school curriculum. This is evident in his work with the Como



Oh, the places you'll go and the things you'll see

St. Anthony Park fourth- and fifth-graders spent the month of May with artists from In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. The fourth graders created puppets and masks for a May 29 in-school performance. The fourth-graders will perform "The Pageant of the Birds," based on six poems by Mary Oliver. The pageant will feature goldfinches, hawks, hummingbirds, swans, geese and blackbirds. The fifth-graders made puppets and giant masks for their performance based on the Dr. Seuss book *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. Here, artist Seth Eberle works with three fourth-grade students. Some of the work from this residency will be on display at the Kids Art Gallery on Carter Avenue during the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival. (See the arts festival special section starting on page 9.) Photo by Courtney Oleen

Woodland Outdoor Classroom and his Environment Inquiry Immersion course.

Heads up sixth-grade families

Current Murray sixth-graders should be receiving a packet in the mail indicating which vaccinations they need for seventh grade. Currently, seventh-grade students need a Tdap booster, two MMR, three Hepatitis B and two Varicella (Chicken pox) shots. New for 2014 is the requirement of a meningitis shot for all seventh-graders.

Parents should arrange for the vaccines before school starts in September and then fax, mail or drop off the students' updated shot records to Murray at anytime over the summer. Students who plan to play sports at Murray need to have a sports physical on file with Murray's school nurse. Sports physicals are good for three years, so if your sixth-grade student played a sport at Murray this year, he or she does not need a new one next fall. Any questions? Contact Murray's nurse, Diana Bishop, 651-888-7650.

Dr. Johnny Bland

Dr. Johnny Bland died on May 8. He and teacher Art Payne were the creators of the Murray Science Magnet Program devised in the 1980s. Bland and Payne introduced the Murray Science Fair to the school, a very successful part of Murray's curriculum. Bland will be most fondly remembered by the relationships he established with students and families, and the way he

would relate to all students with humor and wisdom.

Thank you, tutors

Thank you to the Murray Middle School community for tutoring each week with students in the Pilot One-on-One Tutoring Program. More than 125 community members and college students volunteered with more than 70 Murray students during the academic year.

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Register in June for fall rec sports

Registration for St. Paul Parks and Recreation fall youth soccer and football begins June 1.

The program offers early-bird discounts to those who register online June 1-5. Discounts range from 25 percent on June 1 to 10 percent on June 5.

Registration runs through June 30. Go to www.saintpaul.gov/athletics to register or call 651-266-6400 for more information.

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All they need to know . . .

about geckos they learned in kindergarten

By Alex Lodner

When Tony Gamble, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota specializing in geckos, found out that Justin Terrones' kindergarten class at St. Anthony Park Elementary School had been researching and writing about geckos for their nonfiction writing unit, he jumped at the chance to visit the classroom and introduce the students to some real live lizards.

The National Science Foundation, which funds Gamble's projects, encourages scientists to not only conduct important research but also to share it with the community at large.

"This is one of my favorite ways to fulfill that requirement," said Gamble after his visit. "The kids are so excited, and this is the age I got really excited about lizards too."

Excited is an understatement. When Gamble fished the first gecko out of his cooler, the children could barely stay seated on their "pockets." Tiny hands went up in the air before Gamble even had a chance to begin his presentation, and the questions and comments continued throughout the session.

"Can we touch them?"

"Do they stick to windows?"

"Have you ever been bitten by a gecko?"

With the patience of a schoolteacher, Gamble answered the questions while enthusiastically explaining what each of the four geckos he brought was known for.



Gecko researcher Tony Gamble visited kindergartners at St. Anthony Park Elementary School in April. *Photo by Alex Lodner*

"The bad boy of geckos," for example, also known as the Leopard Gecko, breaks all gecko rules by daring to have eyelids and no sticky feet. Placing another small gecko on the white board to see if it would stick (it did) brought a roar of laughter from the pint-sized audience.

Gamble asked many questions of his own, inviting a slew of gecko-encounter stories from the classroom, including tales of seeing "thousands of geckos in Texas."

After the presentation, the children were allowed to come up and view the geckos in their not-so-natural habitat made up of what appeared to be clear plastic containers that once housed cookies.

When not blowing the minds of 5-year-olds with his collection of live lizards, Gamble examines the

evolutionary processes of sex-determining mechanisms and sex chromosomes in geckos.

"A minimum of 30 new species of geckos are discovered in the world every year," he explained. "There are over 1,500 kinds of known geckos who live all over the world."

This huge diversity of geckos has evolved again and again over millions of years, making them a perfect model for studying sex-determination mechanisms, he said. Researching replicated patterns can lead to better understanding of general principals of evolution, which can be very rewarding, according to Gamble.

While this information may not have stuck with the kindergartners, one scientifically proven fact did: Geckos are cool.

And that, to Tony Gamble, is the best kind of reward.

Author! Author! at Chelsea Heights

By Alex Lodner

On a recent visit to Chelsea Heights Elementary School in Como Park, award-winning author Mary Bleckwehl brought her books to life with a dynamic presentation that included magic tricks, costumes and an important message.

Bleckwehl, a former teacher and author of *Henry! You're Late Again!* and *Henry! You're Hungry Again?*, read from her books to students in grades K-3. She visited each grade separately and catered her talk to the students' reading levels and interests.

Kindergartners and first-graders

got a rousing recitation of her book *Henry! You're Hungry Again?* while the older students received some insight into publishing and becoming authors.

Bleckwehl's experience as a teacher was evident in her presentation. The students beamed when she asked them what they were writing about and congratulated them on being real writers. She encouraged them to continue telling their stories and using their creativity.

Henry! You're Hungry Again? is Bleckwehl's second book and delivers a clear message on healthy eating with a hilarious narrative and lively illustrations by Duluth artist Brian Barber. Henry is always hungry, and more often than not, he succumbs to the lure of junk food and sweets to fill his grumbling belly. In spite of his gym teacher's best efforts at instilling a love for broccoli in his students, Henry chooses french fries again and again. But when he discovers that all that junk makes him weak, he ends up being the one to teach the grownups a lesson about good nutrition and healthy choices.

You can find out more about Bleckwehl and her books at www.marybleckwehl.com.

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Como softball conference champs

By Eric Erickson

For the sixth time in the last eight seasons, the Como Park Senior High School varsity softball team has won the St. Paul City Conference Championship.

The 2014 season has been like many others for the Lady Cougars, characterized by hard work, quality pitching, timely hitting and sound fundamentals. What's unique this year is youth. The Cougars start only two seniors, but the youthful line-up has come together quickly and multiple team records are being broken.

Coaching a talented but young team can often be a roller-coaster ride, but Como's veteran head coach John Fischbach says it's been smooth, thanks to senior co-captains Cindy Pawlitschek and Grace Jensen.

"They are both outstanding leaders. They are always positive, respectful of their teammates, helpful, reliable and just first-class individuals," said Fischbach. "Our No. 1 starting lineup consists of one freshman, five sophomores, one junior and the two senior captains."

The molding of a team may also have something to do with Fischbach's 23 years of coaching softball at Como. With a career record of 315-178 (at press time), Fischbach has led many winning teams, but he never had an undefeated team in May or had a team ranked in the state's top 10 until this year.

With a record of 19-2 at press time, the Cougars were ranked No. 9 in Minnesota's Class AA Coaches Poll. The team has set goals of going deep into the Section 4AA playoffs and team members feel they are one of six strong teams in the section that could extend the season into June.

In addition to the almost-perfect record and state ranking, the Cougars are also breaking single-season offensive statistical records. The 12



The Como Park Senior High School softball team after winning the Como Park/North End Invitational Tournament in April.

home runs produced this season are an all-time high.

"There are realistically seven girls in our line-up who could hit one out on any given at bat," said Fischbach. Other record-breaking stats include outscoring opponents 198-24 and a team batting average of .473.

When the Cougars aren't hitting the ball all over the park, the pitching staff has been setting down opponents efficiently. A "staff" is another exciting development this season. For the first time, the varsity team has three pitchers.

Pawlitschek is experienced and reliable with three wins on the mound: Sophomore Brianna Menssen is 5-0, with a 1.33 ERA (earned-run average), and freshman Kathryn Proper is 7-0 with 83 strikeouts and a 1.00 ERA.

"[Proper] is now our No. 1 starter," said the coach, "and handles the pressure as a ninth-grader without question."

Having three high-quality, relatively interchangeable pitchers is rarely seen in high school softball in the conference. Batting averages of more than .500 are also rare, but the Cougars feature two players at that

level with junior Grace Maruska batting .588 and Pawlitschek at .533. Sophomores Delilah Wolf and Bekah Hausman are also near the .500 mark.

Sophomore Emma Hartman is the everyday catcher and leads the team in runs scored with 26, while sophomore Cassie Prescott (first base) has scored 18 runs.

Valuable contributions and leadership have also come from senior reserves Megan Heiberger, Yer Xiong and Alleluia Musabyimana—all veterans of Como softball success.

Beyond sweeping through the conference season, the Cougars won two tournaments against nonconference opponents, including the Como Park/North End Invitational. They also won the Nicollet Tournament in southern Minnesota.

The team is a tightly knit positive force on the field and strong role models for Como's JV team, C-team, and younger softball athletes in the area as well. "Wearing the Como Park softball uniform is a privilege," explains Fischbach. "Sacrifice, commitment, and dedication are all words that we take to heart."

Taking conference championship trophies back to school has become part of the Cougars softball culture as well.

Eric Erickson teaches at Como Park Senior High School. He recently stepped down from coaching the Como boys soccer team after leading the program for 10 years, culminating in last fall's State Championship. Erickson will coach Murray Girls Soccer next season.



Spring planting

Students from Murray Middle School's eighth-grade E2 class spent a May morning helping park volunteer Mary Maguire-Lerman plant balsam fir seedlings in College Park. The seedlings, which were donated by Dave Hansen of Hansen Tree Farm, will replace the trees that came down during a summer storm several years ago. Teacher Tim Chase said students from the school's Magnet Science classes will also be working in the park before the school year ends. Pictured here are students Elliott Varela, Seven Armstrong and Araeja Poole. *Photo by Kristal Leebrick*

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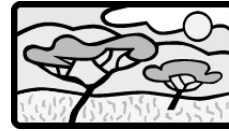
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Business News

Tea shop under new ownership

By Teresa Townsend

For more than 10 years, people from throughout the Twin Cities have enjoyed taking a break from the outside world while “taking tea” in the British tradition at Lady Elegant’s Tea Room and Gift Shoppe in St. Anthony Park’s Milton Square.

The Tea Room, which was opened by Michelle Sommerfield in 2004, came under new ownership this spring. Wubitu Ayana Sima and her husband, Admadu Simeso, bought Lady Elegant’s Tea Room and Gift Shoppe on April 30.

Sima and Simeso said the shop would continue to operate in the way its customers have come to expect: The Tea Room will open for tea on Wednesday through Saturday, scratch-made three- and four-course meals will still accompany Parlor Teas, an eclectic assortment of hats will be available to bare-headed guests, and the gift shop will offer tea accessories and more than 70 kinds of tea.

Many things will stay the same, but Sima and Simeso are looking forward to making small changes to the operation as well.

The couple had not intended to buy a tearoom, but were looking to open a coffee shop. “When we looked at this place, we said, ‘Oh this is perfect,’” Sima said.

Lady Elegant’s and the surrounding neighborhood

reminded Sima and Simeso of their time in Old Town Geneva, Switzerland, where Sima worked for the United Nations and also learned to make croissants and other pastries from scratch. She plans to bring her passion and talent for baking to the Tea Room. The couple is also considering opening on Tuesdays and may eventually add an Ethiopian coffee ceremony to the agenda, a nod to their home country of Ethiopia.

After nearly two decades of world travel, Sima and Simeso are happy to be back in their “second home.” Sima came to Minnesota to attend Augsburg College in Minneapolis while Simeso did an internship in St. Paul, and then they traveled for work, returning to Minnesota in 2012.

“We love Minnesota,” said Sima. “We want people to know that we’re here to serve.”

The couple plans to host an open house at the Tea Room this summer.

Want to “take tea” at Lady Elegant’s in the British tradition? Be sure to make a reservation for your Parlor Tea by phone at 651-645-6676 before you go. Lady Elegant’s Tea Room, 2230 Carter Ave., is open Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gift shop is open Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome for the gift shop; reservations must be made in advance for Parlor Teas.

Teresa Townsend is a freelance reporter and coffee roaster in St. Paul. She enjoys drinking black coffee and reading the newspaper.



Admadu Simeso and Wubitu Ayana Sima, the new proprietors of Lady Elegant’s Tea Room. Photo by Teresa Townsend

Park B4 Dark is back for its fifth summer

“Eat. Drink. Shop.” is the theme for the fourth annual Park B4Dark summer series, which will be held the third Thursday of each summer month, starting June 19.

The event is hosted by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, with support from the Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA) and the merchants of Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park. The event runs from 5 to 8 p.m. on June 19, July 17 and Aug. 21.

Park B4 Dark will feature shopping, dining and beverage specials, as well as free music and other activities.

Event specials and activities tend to evolve throughout the summer, but you can find out more by going to www.sapfoundation.org.

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New owner, new name, new menu at former Coffee Grounds

By Alex Lodner

When Tim Cheesebrow took the helm as the new co-owner of Coffee Grounds along with his parents and business partners, Bonnie and Dennis Cheesebrow, folks got a little nervous.

The beloved neighborhood coffee shop at 1579 Hamline Ave. N., Falcon Heights, had been a favorite hangout for parents and their broods, book clubs and craft groups, music lovers and locals looking for a comfortable spot to meet up with friends. Former owner Dave Lawrence and his crew had made everyone who walked down the stairs into the cavernous café feel welcome.

It was Falcon Heights' version of



Tim Cheesebrow of the Underground Music Café in Falcon Heights. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

Cheers, where everyone did, in fact, know your name. It was home away from home for many regulars, and the change in ownership was a bit unnerving.

No one understood that better than Tim Cheesebrow.

"Rest assured it will not become a Starbucks," he wrote on Coffee Grounds' Facebook page in January. "We are a local family business that will continue to run the shop with an independent spirit."

It is with that same independent spirit that the Cheesebrow family also runs MusicWorks Minnesota (MWM), a nonprofit organization that works with at-risk youth through in-school and community programs. While looking for a location for the organization, Cheesebrow found Coffee Grounds when he was recording his album *Home in the Heartland* at Essential Sessions Studios around the corner.

"The Coffee Grounds space was the perfect fit to give MWM a stage for its community programming and to financially support the work of the nonprofit," he said.

A few months later, the Coffee Grounds changed hands. With the passing of the torch came some immediate changes.

The name change to Underground Music Café rattled regulars at first but made sense—most of the space is underground.

But the new emphasis on music is what really matters to Cheesebrow. He sees the café as a venue for local bands that are being ignored by radio stations playing trendy music geared toward selling rather than creativity and originality.

The coffee shop will also serve as community outreach for the nonprofit.

"Underground Music Café gives MWM a space to build awareness for the need of music education. If music lovers are coming here to get their dose of local music, they will learn about MWM and realize it's worth supporting," Cheesebrow said.

The new owners also wasted no time improving the quality of coffee and food at Underground Music Café, bringing in local roaster True

Stone as well as fresh pastries from April Fool Virtual Bakery and Gourmet Donuts of the Twin Cities, including gluten-free treats.

And they aren't stopping there. The menu seems to expand daily with made-to-order pizzas, wraps, sandwiches and smoothies. Cheesebrow is working with the City of Falcon Heights on securing a license to add local craft beers to the menu, but he has already started serving wine with an impressive selection and a range of price points, including a \$5 glass of house wine.

Slowly, the place is feeling more like the neighborhood café Cheesebrow envisioned. He is searching for a chef to create dinner specials that would be showcased exclusively on weekends.

Cheesebrow also brought on Dan Ratte as the new manager at Underground Music Café. The two met back in middle school.

"I'm surrounding myself with childhood friends that I trust and have fun with," he explained. "Like I said, this is a family business, and we view the community here in that way too."

Cheesebrow acknowledged there is a fine balance between "keeping what was here and remembering why people came here" and "growing and sustaining the business so we can be here for the community in the future."

Change is hard, and Cheesebrow knows there may be a shaky transition period, but he is banking on people's desire for a neighborhood hangout where they can take the family for a nice meal on a Friday evening or linger over a glass of cold-press coffee on the patio.

The new owners are planning a renovation in June that will include the addition of a curved bar, new floors, fresh paint, barn-wood accents and improved lighting.

Cheesebrow is launching a Kickstarter campaign on June 1 to raise funds for the stage area and sound system.

"We hope to have a grand re-opening celebration mid-July," Cheesebrow said. "It's going to be a lot of fun to see this place blossom."

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