



## Happy hunting

Two successful bow hunts mark woman's 80th year.

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## It's a palace

Not a castle. Ask the expert.

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## A fine balance

Meet Como Park Senior High School's gymnastics team

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Celebrating  
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# Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Falcon Heights  
Lauderdale / Como Park

www.parkbugle.org  
January 2015

## Perfect pastries

*This is the story of a family's pursuit of just that: the perfect pie*

By Kristal Leebrick

The 23 pies lined up in two straight rows on the front table at Claddagh Coffee & Café on West Seventh Street, St. Paul, had names as alluring as the pies themselves:

Strawberry Butter Cream, Caramel Chocolate Supreme, Reese's Cup, Root Beer Float, Cherry Berry, Almond Joy Coconut, Salty Jack O'Lantern, Sweet Potato Eggnog, a green grape concoction called Minnesota Pie (According to the New York Times) and one named Black Pie Day—an apple pie made with cinnamon red hots and a mix of red, green and blue food coloring that gave the pastry and its filling the same color as the pie's moniker.

It was the Friday after Thanksgiving, and 50-plus people—ranging from tots to 60-somethings, some holding plastic divided trays to separate each diminutive piece of



Twenty-three pies—13 sanctioned and 10 unsanctioned—were entered in the Comstock family's 2014 pie baking contest. The pies ranged from sweet to savory and traditional to original. Photo by Marina Lang

pie—stood ready to taste and rate their top three choices.

This was the 2014 version of the Comstock family's annual pie contest, a tradition that began in Iowa City in 1976. That's when Verne Comstock Sr., the patriarch of the Comstock clan—a family of six kids who grew up near Langford

Park in St. Anthony Park—challenged his four daughters and two daughters-in-law to make the best pie.

It was five years before granddaughter Sunny Comstock was born, but her early memories of Thanksgiving are of the "wonderful chaos" at her Aunt Pam's home in

Iowa. "All the kids would come and all the kids' spouses and children," she said. "We'd be sleeping on the floor and fill the whole house."

Travelers from Minnesota and Texas would arrive on Thanksgiving Day and commence creating their

Perfect pie to 10

## New vendor selected for Como Pavilion

*Owners of Minneapolis' 331 Club and St. Paul's Amsterdam Bar say Como Dockside will offer paddleboat and canoe rental, picnic menu and summer concerts*

By Alex Lodner

After months of speculation, a new vendor was selected to operate Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Como Dockside is slated to open in spring 2015 and will include a full-service restaurant, an expanded summer concession stand and new recreational options. Based on community feedback and evaluation, listening sessions and more than 1,000 public comments, Como Dockside will be a center for the community first and foremost, according to city councilmember Amy Brendmoen.

The new venue will be run by Jon and Jarret Oulman, the father-and-son team behind the Amsterdam Bar in downtown St. Paul and the 331 Club in Minneapolis.

"The new vendors are very much responding to what the community is asking for," Brendmoen said.

The Oulmans say they hope to provide visitors with a place to enjoy

year round, a community hub that includes great food, both indoor and outdoor activities, and plenty of fun-filled events. Fans of the city's Music in the Parks series need not worry, the contract requires a minimum of 100 events per year on the outdoor promenade, including up to 20 dates selected by the city for the concerts.

"We're very excited about this opportunity," Jon Oulman said. "We are going to activate the lake. We will add new paddleboats and canoes—lots of activities."

The Oulmans plan to have a picnic-type menu for the restaurant, which will also include local beers.

"Folks can bring a picnic basket or get one from us and get out on the water," Oulman said. An overhaul of the building will make the venue cozier and more welcoming during the winter months as well, he said. The team is considering adding a small arcade downstairs for kids of all ages.

While the Oulmans will take over the building the first week in January, a meet-and-greet event is

tentatively planned for mid-January.

"We want an opportunity to introduce ourselves," Oulman explained. "We won't have much to show everyone yet, the ink is still drying, but we are excited to reach out to the community as soon as possible."

"The city has been amazing to work with," he added. "They made the process as smooth as possible and

were clear about what the neighborhood wanted. I'm a longtime St. Paul resident. I feel that in St. Paul, city officials assume you are trying to do the right thing by the community, and they help you get there."

The proposal will go to the City Council for final approval on Dec. 17.

## Langford Park Winter Classic set for Jan. 8-11

Winter enthusiasts, mark your calendars for the 56th annual Langford Park Winter Classic, Jan. 8-11, a four-day event that includes a squirt hockey tournament, a basketball tournament, a mini-mite hockey scramble, a treasure hunt, hockey skills contest, hot dogs and hot chocolate.

This free family-friendly event is sponsored by the Langford Park Hockey Association and St. Anthony Park Booster Club.

Call Langford Park Recreation Center, 651-298-5765, for schedule information.

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**Falcon Heights**

*The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpeur Ave. Contact information: 651-792-7600 or [www.falconheights.org](http://www.falconheights.org).*

**Winterfest is Jan. 25**

Join your neighbors from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, for Winterfest at Community Park, at the corner of Cleveland and Roselawn avenues. The annual event will include horse-drawn hayrides, ice skating, free hot cocoa and the Falcon Hunt. Clues will be given every 30 minutes and the winner will receive a prize.

**St. Anthony Park**

*The District 12 Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at South St. Anthony Recreation Center (SSA), 890 Cromwell Ave. To find when council committees meet, go to [www.sapcc.org](http://www.sapcc.org) or call 651-649-5992.*

**Community council embarks on strategic planning process**

The St. Anthony Park Community Council will undertake a communitywide strategic planning process in 2015 in hopes of maximizing the council's effectiveness in serving the neighborhood.

The council will begin a self-

evaluation with guidance from consultant Barbara Raye of the St. Anthony Park-based nonprofit Center for Policy, Planning and Performance.

"The St. Anthony Park Community Council is at a point where we have a great opportunity to really look at who we are, what we do and how we do it—to seriously evaluate how we can best support our community during these exciting times of change and improvement, not only in our neighborhood, but across St. Paul," said Seth Levin, co-president of the SAPCC board.

Read more about our strategic planning process at [www.sapcc.org/strategicplanning2015](http://www.sapcc.org/strategicplanning2015).—*Kyle Mianulli*

**Claire Mathews-Lingen is first student apprentice**

The District 12 Community Council welcomes Claire Mathews-Lingen, who will be working with the council weekly throughout the year. She is the first student community representative for the new Civic Stewardship Apprentice Program (CSAP).

Mathews-Lingen said she's eager to delve into the world of civic work. The Avalon School sophomore hopes to work in local-level politics one day, perhaps as a city councilperson. The national level partisan playground is less appealing, she said.

"I like the idea of being able to

change things and actually interact with community members," she said.

She became passionate about social justice issues during the state Marriage Equality campaign in 2013, where she helped with phone banking, she said. Environmental issues are another point of interest for Mathews-Lingen, who said she looks forward to helping with the District 12 Environment Committee.

Read more about her at [www.sapcc.org/CSAP](http://www.sapcc.org/CSAP).—*Kyle Mianulli*

**Thanks for supporting District 12 on Give to the Max Day**

Thanks to all who donated to support the St. Anthony Park Community Council's work to better the community. The council surpassed its goal of \$2,000 in donations on Give to the Max Day in November. If you missed the daylong giving extravaganza, you can still donate on the council's website, [SAPCC.org](http://SAPCC.org), or by sending a check to the St. Anthony Park Community Council, 890 Cromwell Ave, St. Paul, MN 55114.

If you'd like to find out more about the things the District 12 council is doing to support the neighborhood in 2015 or want to get involved in the community, check out the website or contact Suyapa Miranda at [suyapa@sapcc.org](mailto:suyapa@sapcc.org) or 651-649-5992.

**Public hearing set for Phase 2 of Raymond Ave. repaving project**

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, on the second phase of a three-phase reconstruction of Raymond Avenue. Phase 2 will stretch from Hampden Avenue to Energy Park Drive.

If the City Council approves the project, it will begin next summer and be completed by November 2015, according to project engineer Barb Mundahl.

Mundahl hosted a public meeting about the project on Nov. 19 at Langford Park Recreation Center. More than 30 area residents attended that meeting.

The project is aimed at making Raymond Avenue more pedestrian friendly and slowing traffic on the

avenue.

Phase 2 will include widening boulevards, adding grassy or landscaped medians and creating 6-foot bike lanes on each side of the street.

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

Two years later, the St. Anthony Park Community Council formed the Raymond Avenue Traffic

Calming Task Force, which initiated the project.

The plan was finalized and approved by the community council in 2010 and subsequently approved by the St. Paul City Council.

The first phase of the project—from University Avenue to Hampden Avenue—was completed in 2013.

You can see Mundahl's slideshow of the proposed project at the St. Anthony Park Community Council website, [www.sapcc.org/raymondphase2](http://www.sapcc.org/raymondphase2).

Questions concerning the project can be directed to Mundahl at [barbara.mundahl@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:barbara.mundahl@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-266-6112.—*Kristal Leebrock*

**Meet your neighbors at the 29th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner**

The 29th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, March 1. The fun, food and neighborliness will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. Then diners will fan out across the

neighborhood to partake in a series of salad, dinner and dessert courses hosted at the homes of Progressive Dinner participants.

Look for more information on the event and downloadable registration forms at [sapcc.org/dinner](http://sapcc.org/dinner). On the form, you

can select the course you are willing to host. You can also get more information and registration forms by emailing the Progressive Dinner coordinating committee at [progressivedinnersap@gmail.com](mailto:progressivedinnersap@gmail.com) or calling Jane Leonard at 651-303-5263.



Elaine Phillips and the buck she bagged three months after her 80th birthday. Photo courtesy of Dick Phillips

## Birthday bucks and bears

*Woman celebrates 80 years with two big wins on the hunting trail*

By Kristal Leebriick

Nothing says happy 80th birthday, like bagging a black bear four days after the big day and just three months later scoring a fat spike buck minutes before sunset—both with a bow and arrows.

“This has been my 80th year of surprises,” said longtime St. Anthony Park resident Elaine Phillips. That deer she killed near her cabin in Cross Lake, Minn., was probably the most exciting catch in her nearly 50 years of bow hunting with her husband, Dick, a retired agriculture professor at the University of Minnesota.

Elaine grew up in southern Minnesota watching her dad and brothers head up north each year to deer camp, but she didn’t take an interest in hunting until her husband gave her bow lessons as a gift on their first Christmas as husband and wife.

Those lessons with national archery champ Jim Ploen in Bloomington “kind of got me hooked on it,” Elaine said. Her first hunt was in the Boundary Waters with her husband in 1966.

The Phillipses spent many summers hunting and camping in Colorado with their three sons. Elaine tried deer hunting in New Zealand during Dick’s sabbatical, and

bagged an impala ram in South Africa. She’s arrowed three bears in Canada, yet her biggest thrill, she said, was the deer she killed Nov. 12.

“It was only my third deer,” she said, and with the deer population down in Minnesota this hunting season, “I really didn’t have much hope seeing anything.”

She was late getting into her

*Birthday to 20*

## Foundation director announces bid for school board seat

Jon Schumacher, executive director of the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, has announced his candidacy for the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education election in 2015.

Four seats on the school board will be up for election next fall.

A parent of two daughters who attended St. Paul public schools and graduated from Como Park Senior High School, Schumacher said he’s been involved in many aspects of the schools. His work in “community and consensus building” with the community foundation over the last 15 years would benefit the district, he said.

“St. Paul has great students, parents, teachers, staff, principals and administrators,” he said. “Now is the

time to find new ways to work together to deliver on the promise of a world-class education for all of our students.” —Kristal Leebriick



Jon Schumacher

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## Next deadline:

**Jan. 14. The paper  
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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

*The Park Bugle board of directors and staff  
wish you all a very happy new year.*

## COMMENTARY

### My Brother

*By Adam Granger*

Percival Harkness Granger was born in Ithaca, N.Y., six days before the end of World War II, and four years and 10 days before me. He was Type A from the get-go, incessantly banging his head against his crib in his sleep until padding had to be installed.

In high school in Oklahoma, where we moved in 1953, he was class president, youth court judge, student council president, a letterer on the track team and—well, you get the picture. He went to Harvard on a scholarship (one of two Okies in the class of '67), and then moved to New York City to become a playwright.

Along his way, he wrote scripts for *CBS Radio Mystery Theater* and a few television movie screenplays, ultimately having a number of his plays produced on and off Broadway. The best known of these was *Eminent Domain*, which was staged at Circle in the Square. To pay the bills, he wrote for the soap opera *As the World Turns*. Trying to break into the movie business, he flew frequently to Los Angeles.

His lifestyle as an adult was a glorious, joyful iteration of his crib head banging, and he wouldn't—and couldn't—have lived any differently.

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 8,

1992, I played music for a St. Anthony Park Community Council banquet. I got home around 8:30 p.m. and was just settling down with a Scotch when the phone rang. It was my sister-in-law, MariElena, calling me from New York City to tell me that Percy had had a heart attack.

I caught the first New York flight out of Minneapolis the next morning and, 16 hours after playing for friends and neighbors in the basement of the St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, I stood at my brother's bedside in the intensive care unit of St. Clare's Hospital in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen.

New York City had always been a scary place for me: On my first visit there in 1967, I stayed at the midtown YMCA and barely left my room, and I had rarely returned since then. (My trepidation was sufficient that, in 1973, I turned down an offer to join the staff of *National Lampoon* magazine, for whom I had been freelance writing, because I would have had to move there, opting instead for the more placid environs of the Twin Cities and the relatively more staid positions of performer and writer for Garrison Keillor.)

Percy had stayed up all that Monday night working on a rewrite of a play, *The Dolphin Position*, which was to open in two weeks at Primary Stages Theater, on West 38th Street.

He played squash with his older son, who was to start high school the next day, then hopped on his bike and tore across town to deliver the script. As he rolled up in front of the theater, he suffered a massive coronary and crashed into a parked van, ending up unconscious on the sidewalk. After numerous attempts by paramedics, his heart restarted, but 27 minutes had passed, and he suffered diffuse anoxia.

He regained consciousness but came back as a different person, with only brain stem skills and limited ability to communicate or recognize people. My sister-in-law converted his study into what was essentially a hospital room, and there he lived for the next four years. During that time, I visited every few months (coming to love New York in the process) to take care of Percy so MariElena could have a break. On March 10, 1997, my only sibling had another heart attack and died.

We look for explanations for awful events. We say that everything happens for a reason, but I'm not a religious man, and I believe that secular chaos defines some events and that there are concrete, earthly reasons for others. Percy's death was a combination: He lived a wild, short, amped-up life and got very unlucky on a beautiful fall morning.

We try to learn from tragedy,

and the lesson I learned from this one will stay with me forever.

Three days before his heart attack, Percy and I had spoken on the phone about his plans to come to Minnesota to spend time at a cabin we co-owned. After the call, I became concerned that I had said something that made him think I didn't want him to come. I called him back the following night to assure him that I did, and that I loved him and his visits, and he in turn assured me that he had not thought any differently.

All was well between us. Had I not called him back, I would have been haunted by the thought that I had hurt his feelings and had forever missed the opportunity to set the record straight.

Since that time, I have tried to keep my accounts clear. I communicate with people whom I worry I have hurt or offended. I try to apologize for wrongs I feel I have committed, and I strive to compliment people for their good deeds and qualities. It may sound corny for me to say that every time I do these things, I think of my brother and that phone call, but it's the truth.

*Adam Granger lives in St. Anthony Park with his wife and son and is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.*

## LETTERS

### Storytime at the library

A recent Park Bugle letter indicated that St. Paul Public Library would no longer have volunteers interacting with children. The library regrets any miscommunication leading to this impression.

The library values the contributions of more than 1,000 annual volunteers, over half of whom work with youth in a variety of programs and activities. For example, St. Anthony Park Library has benefited from Tom Foster's decade as a volunteer engaging preschoolers and families each week with the delight of puppetry and reading. Other volunteers serve youth in

activities ranging from snack and lunch programs to homework and reading tutoring.

What is new at the library is a focus on strengthening the role that professional library staff play in the delivery of storytime, one of our core services that is supported by intensive training and evaluation. This focus will not diminish or eliminate the important role that volunteers play in engaging youth in rich opportunities at the library. For more information about the library's volunteer opportunities, please visit [sppl.org/about/volunteers](http://sppl.org/about/volunteers).

*Kit Hadley  
Director, St. Paul Public Library*

### Leave it to credentials

*This poem is in response to the letter in the last Bugle that indicated that volunteer storytellers at St. Paul libraries will be replaced by professional librarians.*

One day, in order to help  
Your own kid with homework—  
Your own kid—legally  
You will have to have  
At the very least  
A teaching certificate.

One day, in order to say  
The sky is blue—whether or not  
The sky is blue—legally

You will have to show  
At the very least  
A high school degree.

And one day, in order for me  
To recite this poem—yes  
To recite this poem—legally  
I will have to have  
What I do not have—  
A Master's in Fine Arts.

Warning: No professional  
With the right credentials  
Pre-approved this message.

*Michael Penfield  
St. Paul*

# Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

Thanks to the following Park Bugle readers who have contributed to the Bugle's 2014-15 fund drive. This list reflects those who gave up to Dec. 4. We'll publish more donors in the next issue. If you haven't had a chance to contribute, you still have time before the new year. The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper's annual operating costs. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000. You can donate online at [www.parkbugle.org](http://www.parkbugle.org). Click the green DONATE NOW button on the right side of the page. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Thank you!

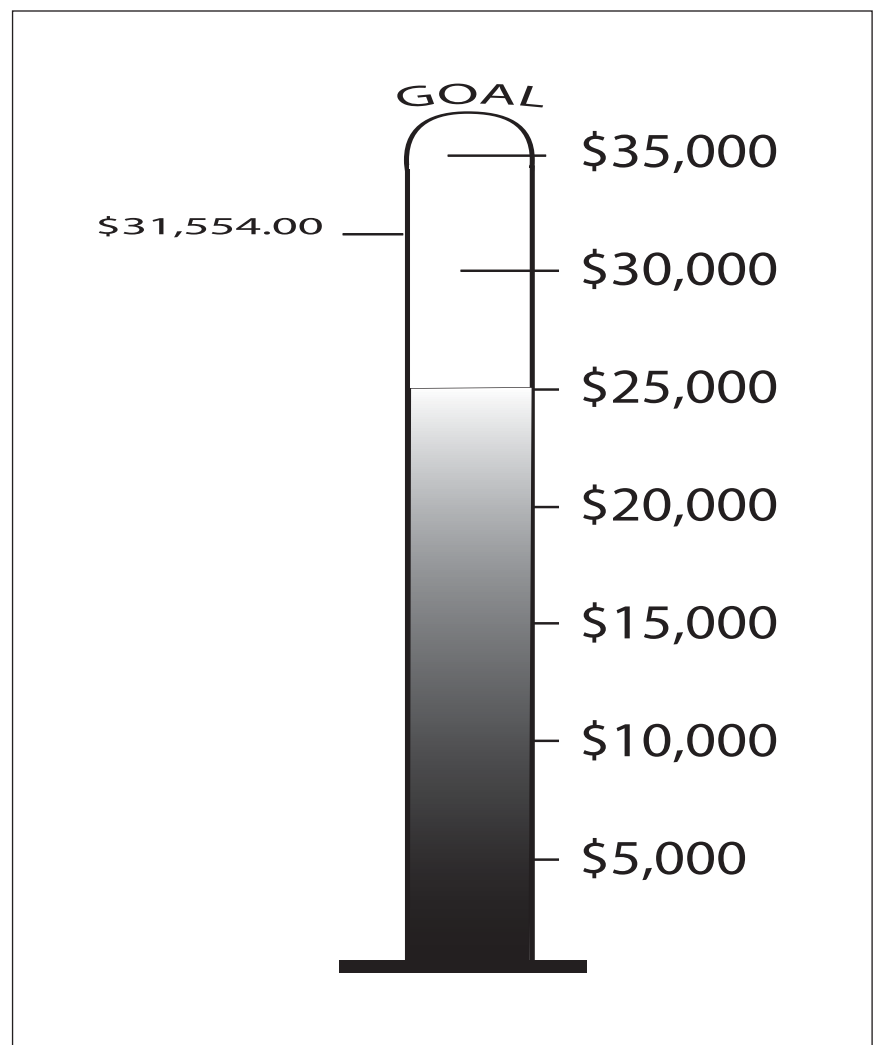
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## The Bugle seeks board candidates

The Park Bugle is seeking candidates to fill openings on its board of directors. The board consists of residents and business owners from the communities served by the newspaper.

The board encourages residents of the Como Park neighborhood and the cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights to apply to help achieve geographic balance on the board.

- Fundraising and grant-writing experience, a strong connection to the community and the ability to comfortably approach potential donors
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If you want to help shape the strategic direction of your local, award-winning, nonprofit newspaper, send a short note and biography to editor@parkbugle.org, with DIRECTORS in the subject line. Or send a letter to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, Attn: Directors.

### Skills and background desired:

- Organizational or management skills, especially with nonprofits, including board service

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The 1937 St. Paul Winter Carnival ice palace near the State Capitol. Photo courtesy of Bob Olsen

## Expert tells of ice palace magic

By Roger Bergerson

Bob Olsen would like to get one thing straight: He's an authority on St. Paul Winter Carnival ice palaces, not castles.

"A castle is a fortification," he clarified, "a palace is a residence."

Not that Olsen is a dour or pedantic guy, far from it. The longtime Falcon Heights resident just plain loves ice palaces, has since he was a boy, and is an expert on all 20 that have graced the Winter Carnival, most recently in 2004.

(Olsen will talk about them when he addresses the Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lion's Club at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W. The public is invited.)

"I've always loved the ethereal nature of these structures and how they fit in with the mythology of the carnival," he said. "An ice palace is a transitional thing and captures the feeling that we have as a northern people. Winter can be a dark time, but it will pass."

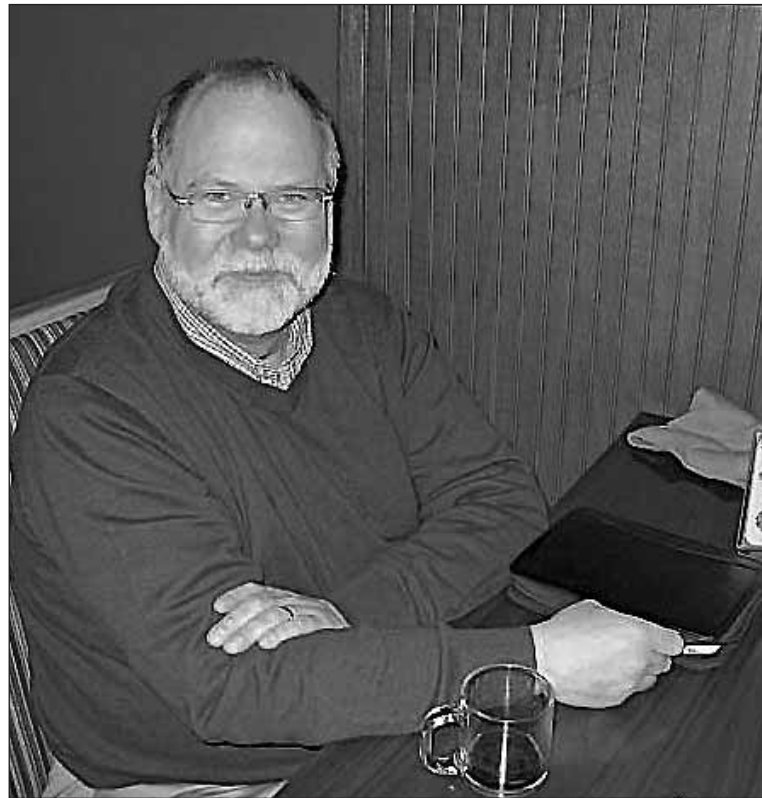
Olsen said the earliest known ice palace was built by a Russian monarch in the mid-18th century. The next one was built in 1883 for Montreal's Winter Carnival.

St. Paul's Winter Carnival began in 1886, at least partially in response to the jibe of a New York newspaper reporter who declared the city to be "another Siberia, unfit for human habitation."

Photos of that carnival's inaugural palace show it to be a remarkably large and ornate structure, one that would dwarf those that came later. Olsen estimated that it would cost \$3 million to \$5 million to build such an edifice today.

"The biggest modern hindrance to constructing ice palaces is obtaining insurance," he said. "This is despite the fact that there's been one associated injury in the whole history of the carnival" — a worker who'd been drinking and fell to his death from the top of the 1887 palace.

Olsen has been an "unofficial/official" historian of the carnival palaces since 1967. While attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., he asked carnival officials if they were thinking about having a palace for the 1975 event. "Why don't you do it?" was the



Bob Olsen will talk about ice palaces at the Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lion's Club meeting on Jan. 26. Photo by Roger Bergerson

response. Olson agreed and handled everything from fundraising to organizing the construction on Harriet Island.

Is there another ice palace in St. Paul's future?

Olsen hopes so and thinks one might be an ideal addition to festivities associated with the 2018

Super Bowl.

"Sure, these things cost a lot of money, but they also provide memories that you'll never forget," he said.

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

## Designer extraordinaire

Clarence "Cap" Wigington was chief design architect for the City of St. Paul from 1915 to 1949, and the nation's first African-American municipal architect.

He designed a host of public buildings around the city, including the Highland Park water tower, Holman Field airport terminal, the Palm Dome extension of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Regional Park and Chelsea Heights Elementary School, 1557 Huron St.

Wigington's work also included several Winter Carnival ice palaces, and Bob Olsen thinks the Art Moderne lines of his 1937 effort echo those of the school.



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Mizna executive director Lana Barkawi Photo by Marina Lang

## Mizna shares artistic and literary contributions of Arab-Americans

By Judy Woodward

Picture an ill-assorted group of urban dwellers who escape their stifling daily lives by spending their evenings smoking, drinking and joking, passengers aboard a houseboat as it floats down the River Nile under a jeweled sky.

It sounds like a movie, and in fact it is a scene from a classic Egyptian film based on Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz's novel *Adrift on the Nile*. It's also a cinematic representation of an aspect of Arab life that doesn't get much traction in the American popular imagination. Whatever else can be said about it, the scene couldn't be farther from the standard Hollywood version of wild-eyed Arab terrorists.

And that's the point.

Images like this one may soon become better known to area residents thanks to Mizna, the Arab-American arts and cultural organization based on University Avenue in south St. Anthony Park. Mizna recently won a \$40,000 Knight Foundation grant to produce a series called Arab America at Home.

According to executive director Lana Barkawi, the series is "designed to take our programming to the broader community in St. Paul. We want to make the connection that Arabs are part of the community, and the cultural production of the Arab-American community is part of the greater American art and culture."

The planning process has just begun, but Barkawi and her colleagues are talking about mounting outdoor screenings of classic Arab films like *Adrift on the Nile*, as well as holding picnics and "literary conversations" in conjunction with the semi-annual publication of the group's journal *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art*

Exploring Arab America.

The long-term goal is to introduce area residents to the richness and complexity of Arab culture and to the nuanced artistic and literary contributions of Arab-Americans.

*Mizna* is a poetic Arabic word that Barkawi defines as "a desert cloud that holds the promise of rain and shelter from the sun and heat." The organization was founded in 1998 by local Lebanese-American teacher Kathryn Haddad. Its original goal, says Barkawi, was to publish a literary journal that would offer Arab-Americans "a respite from the broader culture in the West [which] may not feel so inviting, understanding and comfortable."

It's a respite that Barkawi has experienced first hand. Raised in California as the daughter of Palestinian-American immigrants, Barkawi, now 40, recalls the first time she attended a literary reading sponsored by Mizna, when she was a relative newcomer to the Twin Cities in 2003. At the event, local poet Nahid Khan recited her "Ode to Scheherazade." A tart deconstruction of one of the West's most enduring mythic images of the Arab world, the poem begins, "I am not Scheherazade, a shimmering shadow, emanating Middle Eastern mystique."

"I remember feeling astounded that I was hearing something that related to me culturally," Barkawi said. "I'd never before heard expressions of our community by our community." She adds that, to an Arab-American, "It feels very important to see some facet of your story reflected on the page."

Barkawi emphasizes Mizna's resilience and continuing vitality.

"Minnesota doesn't have such a huge Arab population," she says. Yet for 15 years, Mizna has "maintained

[its] presence with the nation's only journal of Arab-American literature and one of the country's largest Arab film festivals."

The organization's offices at 2446 University Ave. W., Suite 115, were founded initially as a way to provide support for the journal. Over time, activities have expanded to include Arabic language classes, as well as lessons in Arabic drumming on an instrument called the derbake, which Barkawi likens to the Indian tabla drum. Students include second- and third-generation Arab-Americans "who wish they had a better grasp" on their ethnic and linguistic heritage, as well as non-Arab locals with an interest in the culture.

With the Knight grant, Mizna sees an opportunity to reach out to those with fewer ties to the Arab community.

"We know that the broader public is not Arabic," she says, "but there are those that hunger to know what's beyond the headlines."

The Mizna community is both nonsectarian and nonpolitical, but members are not naive. While they count members of several faiths and many shades of opinion within their ranks, they understand that bigotry and anti-Muslim prejudice continue to be daily reality for many Arab-Americans.

The best way to counter anti-Arab stereotypes, says Barkawi, "is simply by doing the work that we do. We present complex, beautiful, challenging work from our community. A specific story [in the journal *Mizna*] can take on a life of its own when the reader sees the universal in it and draws a connection to his or her own life. We hope that presenting culture from our community will break down



The Birdman of Lauderdale

by Clay Christensen

# How chickadees make it through a cold winter's night

In his book *Winter World*, scientist and naturalist Bernd Heinrich said something that puzzled me. He was describing the effect of the cold on small birds and wrote: "The physics of heating and cooling dictate that small objects cool quickly, since every point within them is close to the surface where heat is lost. The smaller the animal, the proportionally larger is its surface area, which is the drain whereby it loses heat."

I had trouble visualizing his statement that the smaller the body of the creature, the higher the ratio of skin surface to body mass. I just thought a bigger body mass would also lead to larger skin surface. The body has to enclose all that mass, doesn't it?

Now, years after reading Heinrich's book, I've been thinking about the perky little chickadees we have at our feeders and wondering how they can survive our bitter winter nights. Do their little bodies lose relatively more heat than the larger blue jays and mourning doves? I still couldn't visualize how skin surface area changed with an increase in body mass.

So, I decided to take a mathematical approach to analyzing the thesis. I thought I could approximate a bird body as a sphere and look up the formulae for the surface area and the volume of a sphere.

The surface area of a sphere =  $4\pi r^2$ , where  $r$  is the radius of the

sphere. The volume of a sphere =  $(4/3)\pi r^3$ . To get the ratio of skin surface to body mass, divide the first formula by the second one. The result is simply  $3/r$ . Isn't that neat?

Since the radius is in the denominator, a smaller radius gives a larger ratio of skin area to body mass. Therefore, we can estimate that a smaller critter loses relatively more body heat than a larger one.

It's true that a larger bird has more skin area than a smaller one, but that ratio of area to volume is smaller for a larger animal.

All of this fancy math just points out the problem: If you're a little bird, you're going to need some strategies and techniques to make it through a Minnesota winter night.

One thing that chickadees do is add additional feathers to their bodies as winter approaches, especially the little downy feathers near their skin. It's the equivalent of putting on their long-handled drawers as the days and nights get colder.

Like other birds, chickadees also fluff out their feathers to retain heat. Fluffing creates air pockets that insulate the body from the exterior chill.

Norwegian scientist Jon Steen studied titmice and five species of common finches one winter outside his lab near Oslo. He found that the birds had a couple of techniques for reducing heat loss. The birds would "ball up," tucking their heads into

their back feathers, thereby reducing heat loss, especially from the areas around their eyes and beaks.

But, more important, he discovered that the birds were able to lower their body temperature at night, going into a torpor-like state known as hypothermia. When plenty of food was available, they maintained normal body temperature but shivered the whole time, often while sound asleep.

Here in North America, the black-capped chickadee has been studied extensively for its rate of heat loss in winter. Susan Chaplin at Cornell University in upstate New York found that chickadees were able to lower their body temperature from their normal daytime 107°F to the range of 86°F to 90°F. This helps to slow the use of their fat reserves

during the night, in spite of vigorous shivering, even while they're sound asleep.

For me, shivering is usually the prelude to teeth chattering and loss of muscle control. Once I start shivering, I can't think about anything else but getting warm. Birds, however, use shivering as a way to generate heat. And they can do it while they sleep.

The shivering does use up their fat reserves, however. Chickadees usually start each winter day with little fat reserve and have to find sources of fat to lay on enough fat (more than 10 percent of their body weight) to get them through the coming day and especially the night ahead. We can help by providing good sources of fat at our feeders, like suet and black oiler sunflower seeds.

Chickadees often spend the night in a tight-fitting roost hole where the surrounding wood gives them some insulation from the nighttime temperatures. And they are better off if they find a hole that faces away from the night wind. Heinrich said you can tell how snug their night accommodations were by noticing that some chickadees have bent tail feathers in the morning.

They might be described as having a bad tail day, but they've survived another Minnesota winter night.

*Clay Christensen lives and writes in Lauderdale. His book, The Birdman of Lauderdale, is available at local book and bird stores and online at Birdman-Book.com.*

## Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is topic of next Audubon meeting

Phil Jenni, executive director of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, will talk about the center's work at the St. Paul Audubon Society meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, Roseville.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, 2530 Dale St. N., Roseville, is one of the nation's leading veterinary clinics for injured and orphaned wildlife. The center has treated more than 9,000 wild animals from among 184 species in each of the last two years.

The center also provides professional education to veterinary students from around the world and to many other students interested in careers involving wildlife. WRC is also involved in activities that have national and even international significance in regard to protecting both wildlife and human health.

You can find out more about the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at [www.wrcmn.org](http://www.wrcmn.org).

The event is free and open to the public. A social time with refreshments begins at 6:45 p.m.

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 Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. Children's Living Creche - Service with communion  
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 Kenyan Celebration: Jan. 11, 9:15 a.m., all ages learning hour of Kenyan history, culture & music. Kenyan liturgy at 10:30 a.m. Service Jan. 11, 18 and 25.  
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**Perfect pie from 1**

pies. Thanksgiving supper was soup and then the pie contest began.

"It was just chaos, madness in the kitchen," Sunny said.

Judy Comstock, who is married to Verne Comstock Jr., won that first pie contest with a Poor Man's Pecan Pie. It was made with crackers, walnuts and a Crisco crust, she said.

"All of my sisters entered a pie," Verne Jr. said. "It was very competitive. The men were the judges. At the end, Dad stood on a chair and announced the winner. [My sisters] couldn't believe they lost."

That first win was contested, Judy said (with a smile), and she

hasn't won since.

The contests continued in Iowa City for almost three decades. The pie took top billing on Thanksgiving Day and the traditional turkey dinner was served on Friday.

"One year the whole family came down with the flu," Verne Jr. said. "That was the last one in Iowa."

That was 2005. If you look at the traveling plaque the family engraves each year with the name of the winner, you'll see that there was no contest in 2006. "We were in transition," he said.

In 2007, Becky and Manny Comstock began hosting the pie contest in the family home on Langford Park, where they now live, and the contest moved to the Friday evening after Thanksgiving.

Somewhere in all of this, the family also kicked family members with doctorates off the judging panel. Verne Sr., a Ph.D. in agronomy who taught at the University of Minnesota, judged for many years alongside his son-in-law Jim Ehrhardt, a Ph.D. in nuclear physics.

Then one year, neither of them judged and "it went really fast," Sunny said.

"Ph.D.s think too much," said Becky.

The contest grew to include more than just family, and the Comstocks created two categories: sanctioned (family members) and unsanctioned (nonfamily members). Winners of the unsanctioned category receive a traveling trophy of a chef holding a rolling pin to display in their homes for a year.

Matt and Rita Comstock (son and daughter-in-law of Judy and Verne Jr.) kept the family plaque

hanging in their Cincinnati, Ohio, home from 2001 through 2008. They say the space on the wall and the nail the plaque hung on are still there, waiting for the family's next win.

Verne Sr. died in June, and this year the contest moved into a rented location to accommodate the crowd. Despite the new digs and more room, Becky said the pie count was low. Last year, there were 34.

As three teams of ballot counters huddled in corners of the coffee shop, tallying the participants' picks for best pie of 2014 (it's ranked choice voting: 3 points for first picks, 2 points for second and 1 point for third), Comstocks and their guests discussed their theories on what makes a winning pie.

"Generally, anything out of the norm," said Sunny, who operates her own pie company, Sunny Lane Pies, with her sister-in-law Lane Cook (the

Neighborhood Café, 1570 Selby Ave., sells their pie or you can find Sunny Lane on Facebook, facebook.com/SunnyLanePies). She declined to enter the contest this year after baking dozens for customers two days earlier.

Her dad, Manny, said it's a balance between the crust and the filling: "A perfect crust is important," but that crust has to be appropriate to the pie. "The crust is there to support the filling," he said.

His recipe for a stellar crust includes leaf lard and vodka, instead of water.

"Too much water makes the crust crumbly," he explained. "The vodka evaporates. If you use vodka you can more easily manipulate the crust."

Twelve-year-old Sophie Comstock's friends Sam Wickler-Marchand, William Gray and Aseem Gidwani helped her create a pecan



Rita and Matt Comstock, Barb Soukop (sister of Manny and Verne Jr.) and Sunny Comstock in 1990.



The crowned victor of the 1996 contest in Iowa was Kate (Comstock) Trevorrow, daughter of Manny and Becky Comstock.



George Ehrhardt (oldest son of Pam), Jane (Comstock) Roman and Ginny Soukup, daughter of Barb (Comstock) Soukop in 1988.



Pies were judged on taste, appearance and creativity at the Comstock pie contest. The "Minnesota Pie (According to the New York Times)" included cream cheese, a halo of chopped nuts and a layer of green grapes. Photo by Marina Lang



The first Comstock pie contest was held in 1976. Though no more than eight pies were entered, the competition was fierce; entrants clawed through ballots to confirm Judy Comstock's premiere win (which was contested, she said). Photo by Marina Lang



The winners: Michele Dao and Layla Comstock. Photo by Marina Lang

pie (under the guidance of Sophie's mom, Sunny). They sang the praises of cutting ice-cold butter into little bits to help create a delicious crust, something they had learned about earlier that day (and one of them had a bandaged finger to prove it).

Jessie Rise, a friend of David Comstock, entered a coconut pie for his first entry into the unsanctioned category of the contest.

"I grew up hearing of this legacy event," he said, "and saw the plaque hanging in David's house. I'm glad to

be here." His crust? Store-bought, ready-made.

The night came to a close after the judges tallied the votes. Last year's winners, Manny Comstock (sanctioned) and Joan Snyder (unsanctioned), donned black commencement gowns and aluminum-foil crowns, carried the plaque and trophy they had each held in their homes for the past year, and walked to the front of the room under a canopy of wooden spoons

held by participants who naa-na-na-na-na-na-na'd the song "Pomp and Circumstance."

After a brief speech by each, they passed the plaque and trophy to this year's winners: Layla Comstock (sanctioned, she's the 10-year-old granddaughter of Verne Jr. and Judy) for her Root Beer Float pie, a cream pie with real root beer as an ingredient, and Michele Dao (unsanctioned) for her Crack pie, a gooey, buttery, creamy pie with an oat cookie crust.



The pie contest moved out of the family home this year and into Claddagh Coffee & Café, where more than 50 people gathered for the Nov. 28 event. Photo by Marina Lang



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CPHS Cougar Sports

*Eric Erickson highlights Como Park Senior High School athletics each month in the Bugle.*

# Como gymnasts vault into winter season

**By Eric Erickson**

Can the average Bugle reader guess the number of winter sports teams your neighborhood high school features? If you're trying, you may have already listed hockey for the boys and the girls, as well as basketball for both genders.

Perhaps a drive on Lexington Parkway reminded you the boys and girls Nordic teams are out there skiing. Back inside the warmth and

humidity of the school pool, the boys swim team is making waves. Down the hall, the wrestlers are grappling and getting fit.

Add the gymnasts, and the grand total is nine. You can find the girls gymnastics team in the Como Park Senior High School field house, where you'll also find a large floor mat with apparatus on the side. This is home base for a group of 25 girls who have been balancing, vaulting, springing and swinging every day

after school since Nov. 11.

Some of the girls are veterans who have been training at clubs or in community programs for years. Others are new to organized gymnastics, choosing to learn new skills and become part of a supportive family.

Como gymnastics coach Kirstyn Ouverson is in her third year of teaching English at Como. It's also her third year of leading the team. A 2008 Como graduate, Ouverson studied English and education at Bethel University. Trained as a classical ballet dancer at the St. Paul City Ballet, she is proud of the program she now administers.

"We have a dedicated team of girls that come together and support each other like a family," she said. "We take chances, we work hard, and we teach each other. Everyone is able to join. We cheer for each other during meets, and generally aim to have fun and grow in our skills."

The events of high school gymnastics are the same ones you see when watching the Olympics. The specialization and skill required for the beam, uneven bars, vault and floor exercise can seem overwhelming, but that's where Como's inclusive and supportive approach is beneficiary.

Girls can focus on an event or two, or go for it all and compete in the all-around competition. Ouverson fosters team themes of self-improvement and developing confidence.

She said she is blessed to have Como coaching legend Marv Rouse as an assistant.

A former acrobat and tumbler from New York (plus football and track star), Rouse led the Como gymnastics program for a couple of decades before retiring from teaching. Rouse's technical knowledge and analysis allows the girls to make adjustments to their performances and routines.

Rouse said he knows style and presentation are in great hands with Ouverson. "Her dance background helps the girls a lot. She also works really hard and is a great role model for the girls."

Team captains are junior Patsy Thaiyeng and senior Anna Blaine. "Patsy is a powerhouse on the floor, combining explosive acrobatics and fluid dance elements," Ouverson said. "Anna is great on bars and gets a lot of height on her back tucks for floor."

Senior Anna Fryxell is often the top-scoring gymnast and always competes in the all-around competition, doing all four events. Sophomore Josie Schermerhorn also competes in the all-around. Both athletes are described by their coaches

as dedicated and focused leaders.

There are five varsity scores recorded for each event in the team competition. The next eight scores are counted for the junior varsity. With the different skill sets and events, there is opportunity for every team member to contribute to team scores in each meet.

The Como gymnastics veterans speak with pride about the meets. The support of each teammate in each event is what makes it possible for all the girls to represent Como in

a sport that requires risk.

"I wouldn't be able to get through it without my teammates," Fryxell said. "When I'm standing alone on the beam being judged [in a meet], I feel comfortable taking risks because I don't stand alone."

*Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School who has coached a variety of school and youth sports teams in St. Paul over the last 20 years. Follow Twitter @eestp for current school sports news.*

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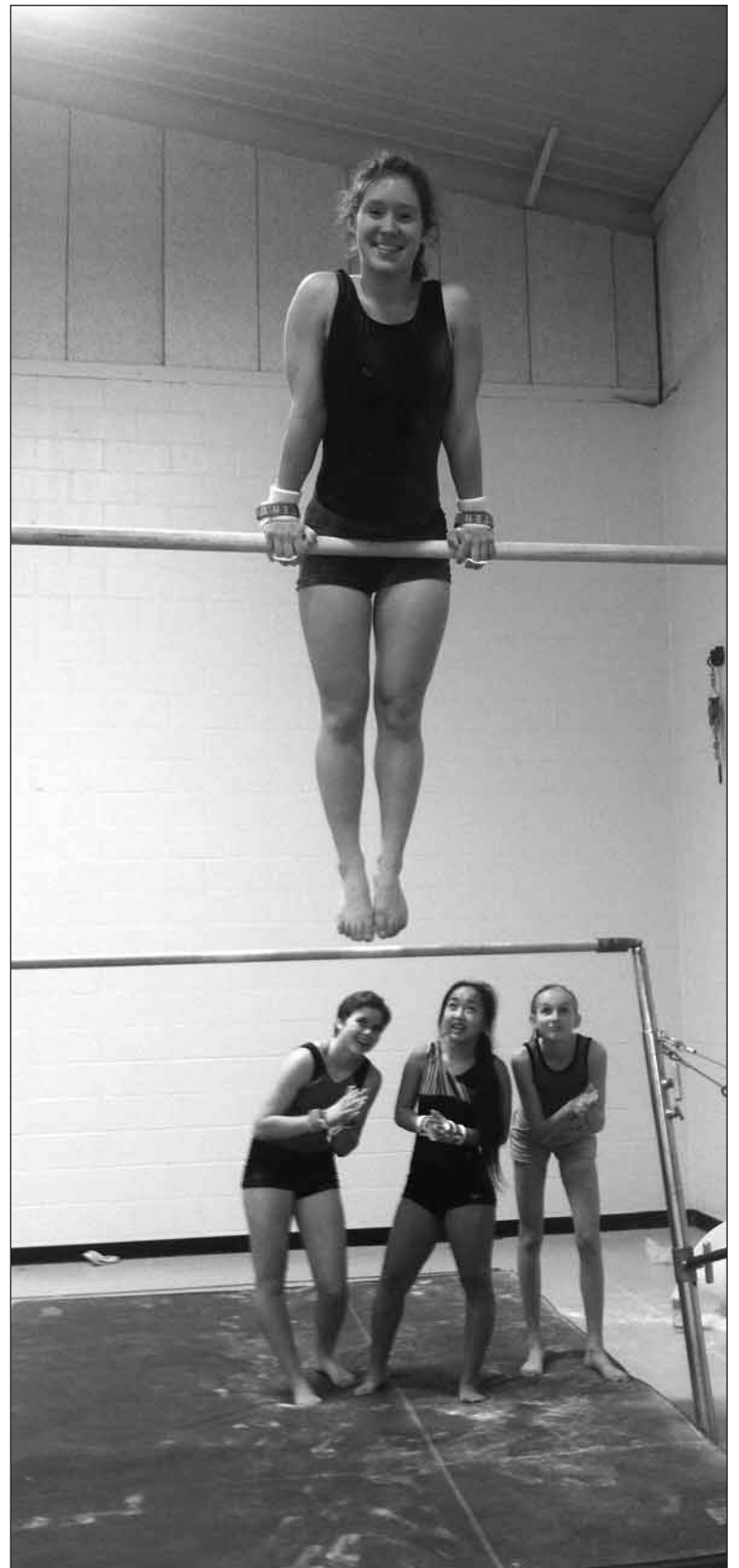
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To contact the editor, email Kristal Leebrick, [editor@parkbugle.org](mailto:editor@parkbugle.org), or call 651-646-5369.

To place an ad for a business south of Como Avenue, contact Clare Caffrey 651-270-5988 or [clare.caffrey@parkbugle.org](mailto:clare.caffrey@parkbugle.org)

To place an ad for a business north of Como Avenue, contact Bradley Wolfe, 952-393-6814 or [bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org](mailto:bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org)

To place a classified ad, email [classifieds@parkbugle.org](mailto:classifieds@parkbugle.org) or call 651-239-0321.



Anna Fryxell of the Como Gymnastics team prepares for a routine on the uneven bars while teammates Josie Schermerhorn, Patsy Thaiyeng and Chloe Hansen provide encouragement.



## School News

*The Bugle welcomes news about students and schools in the area. The deadline for the February 2015 issue is Wednesday, Jan. 14. Send your news to editor@parkbugle.org.*

### Avalon School

700 Glendale St., 651-649-5495  
www.avalonschool.org

### Open house dates

Avalon School, a grade 6-12 project-based learning charter school in St. Paul, is having open houses through February ahead of its March 1 application deadline. If you would like to learn more about this small 200-student school in south St. Anthony Park, please come to an open house or contact Kevin Ward at kevin@avalonschool.org or 651-649-5495, ext. 211. Upcoming open houses include the following:

- Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Chelsea Heights Elementary

1557 Huron St., 651-293-8790  
www.chelsea.spps.org

### Family Fitness Night is Jan. 9

The Chelsea Heights PTO will host its annual Family Fitness Night at 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. There will be many activity stations where participants can challenge themselves with cardio, strength, agility, dancing and yoga. Everyone gets a healthy snack too.

Attention Chelsea parents: Volunteers are needed for the night of the event. Please contact chelseaheightsffn@gmail.com.

### Como Park Senior High

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

### An excellent math teacher

Como math teacher Barb Schmidt received an Award of Excellence from the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Schmidt was recognized for her tireless dedication to the students of St. Paul and her mentorship of countless new math teachers in the district throughout her nearly 30-year career in education. The CEHD Alumni Society's Award of Excellence is given each year to two individuals.

### Choir news

The Como Concert Choir attended a choir clinic presented by VocalEssence on Nov. 20 at Johnson High School with Francisco Nunez and the Young People's Chorus of New York City. They had an opportunity to sing for Nunez, exchange performances with the Johnson and Central choirs and learn a song composed by Nunez.

The Como Chamber Singers performed in a concert celebrating community at the American Choral Director's Association of Minnesota fall convention on Nov. 21. This project began in October with

Melanie DeMore, an expert on music of the Gullah people of southeastern U.S. coastal islands. Como's singers joined singers from One Voice Mixed Chorus, Park Center High School of Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis Washburn High School in Songs from the Underground Railroad, a composition by DeMore that included Gullah stick pounding. Check out the Como Park Senior High Choir Facebook fan page to hear excerpts of this extraordinary event.

The five choirs from Como held their annual Pops Concert on Dec. 15. Songs from *Frozen*, a medley of popular dance music, a recap of some of the fall musical's tunes and *Waka Waka* were part of the performance.

### We Day

Thirty-four Como students who have gone above and beyond with community service projects qualified to attend the We Day celebration on Nov. 12 at the Xcel Energy Center. Speakers and performers included Magic Johnson, Martin Sheen, Colbie Caillat and The Band Perry.

### Quiz Bowl Team wins

The Como Park Quiz Bowl Team competed in its first tournament of the season at Roseville High School, winning all four rounds of competition against teams from Hill-Murray, St. Paul Academy, De La Salle and Mounds View. The team answered questions across a range of subjects, including literature, science

and history. Como Quiz Bowl Team members are seniors Celia Commers, Ellen Purdy and Anton Konieczny and freshman Andrei Konieczny. Their next tournament is Dec. 18.

### Raising funds for D.C. trip

Twenty Advance Placement Government students are fundraising to support their participation in the national Close Up program in Washington, D.C. Students will be bagging groceries for donations at the Midway Cub Foods on Dec. 21-23. The students will fly to the District the first week of March for an action-packed schedule of events.

### Tour Como Park Senior High

Como will offer tours to prospective students and families on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in January and February at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Shadowing will begin in January. Call Sandy Kestner at 651-744-3997 or email sandy.kestner@spps.org to set up a visit.

### Murray Middle School

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

### Murray science students propose plan for rain garden at the school

On Nov. 19, 20 students from Environmental Inquiry Immersion class presented their proposal for a rain garden on the Murray Middle School property. Students analyzed water collection, soil types and percolation test data, and took

account of curb appeal, as well as the types of plants that would be native to the area and beneficial to desirable insects and birds. District consultants and St. Paul Public Schools facilities staff are interested in working with the students and the St. Anthony Park Transition Town team to bring more sustainable and environmentally friendly landscape projects to Murray.

Science teacher Tim Chase said he plans to follow up with all groups represented at this meeting to discuss grant writing and ways to work with a proposed parking lot resurfacing project, tentatively scheduled for next summer.

### Judges needed for science fair

Murray Middle School needs judges at the school's annual science fair on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Judging will be at 6:30-9 p.m. If interested, contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-293-8740 or stefanie.folkema@spps.org.

The science fair will be open to the public from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

### Tours, showcase set for new year

Murray Middle School will hold tours for interested families and students at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 20 and 27, and Feb. 10. The school will also host a showcase from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. For more information, contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-293-8740 or stefanie.folkema@spps.org.

# Once a science teacher, always a science teacher

By Tim Chase

Art Payne was willing to mentor another student in the science fair at Murray Middle School this year. I noticed him sitting, laughing and talking with Henry in the back prep area of the Murray science department. They were discussing how to set up a laser and measure the mass of the sample on the electronic balance.

It was fun listening to them laugh, get serious and work through the problems of doing a science fair experiment.

Payne, a retired Murray science teacher, has mentored many students since the early 1980s, starting with a few students who wanted to participate in an optional science fair when Murray had just transitioned from a grades 7-12 high school to a grades 7-8 junior high. Since then, the Murray science fair has become an iconic tradition for the school and neighborhood that has been developing scientists and intelligent, informed citizens for decades.

Murray has a reputation of many proud students representing their school with qualified projects every year at the Twin Cities Regional

Science Fair (TCRSF). The Murray staff is proud of their efforts and hard work. More students have gone on to the regional and state science fairs than any other school in the area. No one is more dedicated to the science fair and the process than Payne.

Besides developing the Murray fair, he has been working with the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair for the past few years. He should be proud of his legacy and all of the students he has mentored over the years.

His former Murray students now span everything from astronomers to native species specialists to interns at the National Institutes of Health.

Several students who have gone through the Murray science fair chose to do projects at the senior high level. There was no support at the high school level, so Payne sponsored them, going through the paperwork and making sure all procedures were safe and approved before the experiments were started. Many of them went on to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

One student did his project on insect habitat fragmentation and is

now finishing up his doctorate in entomology at the University of Georgia. Two other students from Harding High School went on to ISEF by doing a native plant survey of the Phalen Lake area.

My favorite story is of how Emily Letournou and Anna Bishop did a project on the antibacterial effects of honey. These students were offered scholarships and jobs by the judges.

While Payne was vacationing with his wife, Judy, and touring the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz., he realized that what he was learning from the tour guide was related to Henry's science fair project. Once a science teacher, always a science teacher. He was so excited to bring back the information to Henry.

If anyone is interested in judging these amazing student projects at Murray's annual science fair on Tuesday, Jan. 13, contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-293-8740 or email her at stefanie.folkema@spps.org.

*Tim Chase is a science teacher at Murray Middle School.*



Art Payne talks with a student about his science fair project at Murray Middle School.

# JANUARY Events

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to [calendar@parkbugle.org](mailto:calendar@parkbugle.org) by Wednesday, Jan. 14, to be included in the February issue.

## 6 TUESDAY

Community blood drive at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 1-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment call Joy Albrecht at 651-644-8833 or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use ZIP code 55108.

## 7 WEDNESDAY

English Conversation Circles, every Wednesday in January, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m.

## 8 THURSDAY

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

## 9 FRIDAY

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## 12 MONDAY

Theosophical Society presentation by the Rev. Barbara Everett and Von Braschler on the role of the wounded healer, Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7 p.m.

## 13 TUESDAY

Baby/toddler lapsit storytime (ages birth to 2 years), St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

## 14 WEDNESDAY

Murray Middle School science fair open house, 6:30-8 p.m.

## 16 FRIDAY

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## 19 MONDAY

Community Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Everyone welcome. This month's Community Sing will be dedicated to Pete Seeger.

## 20 TUESDAY

Baby/toddler lapsit storytime (ages

birth to 2 years), St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

## 22 THURSDAY

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

## 23 FRIDAY

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Co-ed Drum Circle, Women's Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. All levels of experience welcome; \$10 at the door. Drums provided.

## 25 SUNDAY

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Old Man River: The Mississippi River in North American History" by Paul Schneider, Micawber's Books, 2:30 p.m.

## 26 MONDAY

Behind the Curtain: The Color Purple; Park Square Theatre actors present an evening from the upcoming musical "The Color Purple," St. Anthony Park Library, 7-9 p.m.

## 27 TUESDAY

Baby/toddler lapsit storytime (ages birth to 2 years), St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

## 30 FRIDAY

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## SENIOR EXERCISE

**St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:**

**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.

**Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays,** Falcon Heights Town Square, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Arbor Pointe Senior Apartment, 11 a.m.-noon

## FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

**St. Anthony Park Area Seniors:**

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

**Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program:**

**Third Thursdays,** Arbor Pointe

Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.

**Fourth Thursdays,** Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon

## VENUE INFORMATION

Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 635 Maryland Ave. W.

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

Falcon Heights Town Square, 1530 W. Larpeur Ave.

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

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

Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740.

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fulham St.

Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. [www.theosophical.org](http://www.theosophical.org)

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

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 651-645-0371

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 651-603-8946

Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org)

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## Mizna from 8

bigotry."

As for those within their own ranks who object to films like *Adrift on the Nile*, with its suggestion of alcohol use among traditionally abstaining Muslims, Barkawi has a forthright response: "Many of us in Mizna [understand that] religion is not perfectly lived by its adherents. There's not simply one way to be a good Muslim."

Mizna charts a careful course in portraying and serving a "complex and pluralistic" Arab-American culture. For example, at a recent reading held during the month of

Ramadan, when observant Muslims fast from sunup to sundown, Mizna organizers tried to take an inclusive approach. There were snacks served after the performance for traditional Muslims who were ready to break their fast. For others, there was also wine.

Will Mizna continue to thrive as a culturally based organization, as the American genius for assimilation does its invisible work among subsequent generations of Arab-Americans whose connection to Middle Eastern homelands becomes more and more attenuated?

"We don't take a stand on assimilation," says Barkawi. "Mizna exists in a very active social media world, but for subsequent generations, there has to be an explicit decision to stay connected."

Barkawi is more interested in the present. She's proud of the increasing role Mizna has been asked to play in the Twin Cities art scene, co-sponsoring events at the Open Book center in Minneapolis and participating in Northern Spark, an all-night summer arts festival that lights up the Minneapolis sky on the second Saturday in June.

"We're proving that Arab art is something that's happening right now," she says. "It's a vibrant scene."

Find out more about upcoming Mizna events at [mizna.org](http://mizna.org).

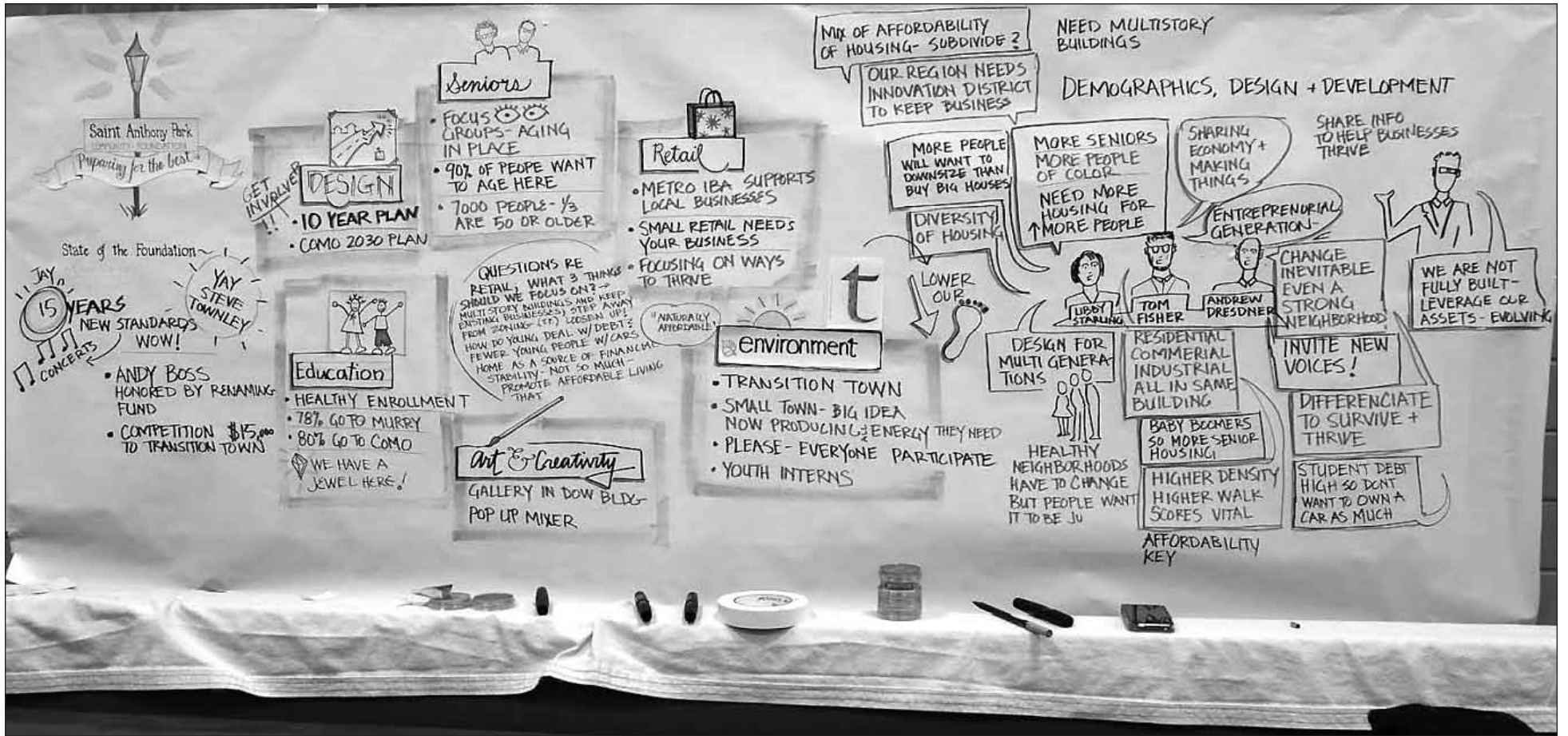
*Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Roseville Library and a longtime contributor to the Park Bugle.*

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## In case you missed the meeting

If you couldn't attend the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation's second annual State of the Park event on Dec. 4, don't worry. Amy Sparks (at right) took notes.

Sparks, coordinator of the Creative Enterprise Zone and former executive director of St. Anthony Park District 12, created a "visual recording" of the night's events,

which included a nonprofit information fair; foundation updates by Jon Schumacher, executive director of the foundation, and Jay Schrader, the foundation's board president; an update on the Como 2030 plan by Como 2030 task force co-chair Roger Purdy; and a panel discussion on demographics, development and the future. Metropolitan Council member Jon

Commers moderated the discussion, which included Tom Fisher, dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design; Libby Starling, regional policy and research manager at the Metropolitan Council; and Andrew Dresdner, architect and urban designer with the Cuningham Group.

You can see Sparks' finished product above.—*Kristal Leebick*

*Photos by Duane Schriever*



## Neighbors

### Keep an eye on those reindeer

The Como Zoo has once again installed a webcam for viewers to watch the zoo's two resident reindeer in December. The live stream can be seen at [www.apl.tv/reindeer.htm](http://www.apl.tv/reindeer.htm). Rumor has it that Santa Claus will be checking in on the reindeer at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; Monday, Dec. 22; and Tuesday, Dec. 23.

### Zoo offers winter break camps

Como Zoo is offering one- and two-day camps for students in kindergarten to third grade over winter break. Camps are \$60 for a one-day camp and \$120 for a two-day camp. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with extended care times available at \$10 an hour. Children can either bring a lunch or you can order a box lunch for \$7.

Polar Expedition will be held Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 22-23. This camp will explore the tundra and the animals that live there.

Bugmania will be held Friday, Dec. 26. Campers will participate in hands-on insect investigations, eat "buggy" treats and even bring some bugs home (but don't worry; they won't be real).

Big Cat Bash on Monday and

Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, will explore the zoo's cats and their habitats.

African Adventures will end the break on Friday, Jan. 2.

Preregistration is required. Go to [comozooconservatory.org](http://comozooconservatory.org).

### It's a Wonderful Life screening

Ancient Mysteries, Ancient Wisdom, a local branch of the international Theosophical Society, will host a screening of the Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life* at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. There will be free refreshments and parking in the lot east of the church. A \$5 donation is suggested. Call 651-235-6645 for more information.

### Tutors sought

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) offers afterschool youth programs to elementary school students at Obama Elementary School, 707 Holly Ave., St. Paul. Volunteers work one-on-one with students on literacy activities, homework help and relationship building. Tutoring takes place at 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information contact Anna Preus,

[anna.preus@ppl-inc.org](mailto:anna.preus@ppl-inc.org) or 612-455-5108.

### Mental health support groups meet in Falcon Heights, St. Paul

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors a support group for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holston St. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or James at 612-804-3592.

NAMI also sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8:30 p.m. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.



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

### Mary Jane Johnson

Mary Jane (George) Johnson, 89, died peacefully on Nov. 7. Mary Jane was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and wife. She was married to Richard W. Johnson for 68 years.

Born in Grinnell, Iowa, to Russell and Helen (Coutts) George, she attended Grinnell College and, after raising five children, started a career in real estate at age 46. She enjoyed her career and spent 27 years as a successful saleswoman who earned sales awards and helped start Real Estate Masters.

Mary Jane led a very active social life. She enjoyed spending time with her wide circle of friends at Children's Hospital Guild, golfing and more. She and Dick played bridge together and had many travel adventures to Hawaii, Belgium, Germany, Tokyo and Australia. She enjoyed time at their cabin in Aitkin and the winter in Tucson.

Mary Jane was preceded in death by her husband and eldest daughter, Linda. She is survived by her son, Kirk (Marilyn Knudsen); three daughters, Beth Johnson, Gail Rudberg (Tom) and Alicia Andre (Roger); eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her sisters, Winifred (George) Oetjen and Dorothy Westphal.

A memorial service will be held honoring Mary Jane's life at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. A reception will be held in the gathering room following the ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to the Children's Hospital Guild and Planned Parenthood.

### Milton Larson

Milton N. Larson, 82, of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 25.

He was born Aug. 11, 1932, on the family farm at Castle Rock, Wis. He married Jean Slocum at Castle Rock on Dec. 6, 1953.

Milt served two years in the U.S. Army and taught high school in Thomson, Ill. He then won a scholarship from the National Science Foundation to pursue a master's degree in science education, which he earned from the University of Northern Iowa in 1961.

Milt and Jean served as Lutheran missionaries in Madagascar, where Milt was principal of the American School at Fort Dauphin and taught high school math and science from 1962 to 1980.

Returning to the United States in 1980, Milt taught at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis until his retirement in 1997.

He was dedicated to Jesus and is remembered fondly for his interests in earth science, his jokes and his twinkling eyes. His quiet wisdom touched many children, co-workers and friends.

Milt was preceded in death by his parents, Jule Larson and Cora Williams; and brother, James Larson. He is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Nordeen (Arlene Libby), Carolyn (Jan Tenbruggencate), Pier (Michelle Boardman) and Maren (Ying Liu); and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 13 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Special thanks to Deborah, Darinda, Shedrick and Cliff for their care of Milt.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Lyngblomsten Foundation or Global Health Ministries.

### Alison Lohse

Alison Mae Lohse, 68, died suddenly Nov. 17.

She was a registered nurse and worked for Neighborhood Health Source Community Clinics for 25 years. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Shana Buchanan; and parents, Charles and Gail Coutts. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Lohse; children, James and Tara; and five grandchildren.

Her funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be received by Tom Lohse at 2142 Knapp St., St. Paul, MN 55108, and will be donated to Alison's favorite dog sanctuary, as she had a life-long love of animals, especially dogs.

### Elizabeth Murphy

Elizabeth Clark Murphy, 85, of Woodbury, formerly of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 7. She was a longtime employee of 3M.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; brother, James (Eloise) and closest friend, Onalee Fohrenkamm.

She is survived by her dearest goddaughter, Betsy (Marty) Hamilton; grandchildren, Ryan, Michael and Megan; other family, Karin and Liz of Pennsylvania and Walter (Peggy) Murphy and their family of Connecticut.

Service was private. Memorials preferred to Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, or cancer society of donor's choice.

### LeRoy Quale

LeRoy John Quale, 93, died Nov. 15 in Roseville. He had lived on Carter Avenue in St. Anthony Park for 62 years.

LeRoy was born Feb. 15, 1921, in Mondovi, Wis., and was raised in Gilman Valley, Wis., on the family farm. He graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., in 1942 and Creighton Law School, Omaha, Neb., in 1948.

He served as a naval aviator

during World War II on the USS *Chicago*, which was present in Tokyo Bay during the signing of the Japanese surrender.

He and his wife, Janet, were married in 1944 in New York City. Roy was a contract lawyer with Honeywell, retiring in 1987 after 35 years.

He was active as a volunteer in community and church activities. He enjoyed bowling, gardening, card games and especially fishing, taking annual trips to Canada with his good friend Sig Haugan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John H. and Malene Helgoe Quale; his daughter, Karen Quale Steimann; and his wife.

He is survived by his sons, Frank and Randall (Heather); daughter, Laura Quale; son-in-law, F.J. (Fritz) Steimann (Barbara); four granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.

Special thanks to the staff at Keystone Communities of Roseville for the outstanding care he received the past three years and recently from the Health Partners hospice care team.

A memorial service was held Dec. 13 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, with burial in Oakland Cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to St. Anthony Park Library or St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

### Warren Reynolds

Warren Lind Reynolds, 93, of Lauderdale, died peacefully on Nov. 3 at Regions Hospital from complications following heart surgery.

Born on Nov. 29, 1920, on a small rural homestead near Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, he was the seventh of nine children of Raymond and Ellen (Lindgren) Reynolds. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and then attended the University of British Columbia, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees.

He met the love of his life, Rose Pallone, in British Columbia, and they married in 1946.

In 1955, he and Rose moved to Minnesota, where Warren continued his studies and earned his doctorate. He was a professor of chemistry at the University of Minnesota from 1955 until his retirement at age 70 in 1991. He co-authored the book *Mechanisms of Electron Transfer* and had a passion for chemistry, continuing to conduct research at the University of Minnesota and in retirement well into his 80s.

His contributions to academia and science were recognized with his inclusion in the 1970 *Who's Who in America*.

Warren's greatest pleasures in life included the company of family and friends, neighborhood dinner parties,

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**Lives Lived from 16**

happy hours with visiting relatives, games of bridge and researching family history.

He and Rose also enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Canada, and journeyed to Australia, New Zealand and Europe, including a sabbatical year in the former Yugoslavia.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years and his son Allan.

He leaves sons Lawrence and Michael, daughters-in-law Joan and Dee, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Nick.

Warren had a zest for life and he will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Private interment was held at Hillside Cemetery.

**Herbert Richards**

Herbert L. Richards, 86, of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 23, 26 days after the death of his faithful and beloved wife of 63 years, Florence.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Evelyn; a granddaughter; and three great-granddaughters.

He is survived by his children, Suzanne Robinson, Terry (Greg) Alton, Robert (Jean), Cressy Kovich, Tom (Terri), Liz (Steve) Hammer and Henry (Janet); 24 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Herb was plant manager at Union Brass and Metal Manufacturing Co. for 35 years. He enjoyed going to the gym, meeting friends for breakfast and reading the paper.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 1 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Brighton, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorials preferred to the family or donor's choice.

**Brian Rutford**

Brian David Rutford, 56, El Cerrito, Calif., died suddenly Nov. 8, as he was preparing to return home to Minnesota for his father's funeral.

He was preceded in death by his father, John, two days earlier.

Brian is survived by his wife of 30 years, Lori Rogers; mother, Donna; siblings, Doug (Sue), Ruth Hogenson-Rutford (John Hogenson) and Mary; and many other relatives.

Brian was born in St. Paul, grew up in St. Anthony Park and moved to California in 1985. He attended Murray High School and the University of Minnesota.

He was employed by First Student in many capacities throughout a 37-year-career in the student transportation industry.

He was actively involved in the California Association of School Transportation Officials (CASTO) as Chapter 10 president and on the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Brian's love of family, friends, baseball, golf and travel will live on

in many shared memories.

Services for Brian and John Rutford were held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on Nov. 29.

An additional memorial service was held in California on Dec. 6.

Memorials are preferred to the Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, or to donor's choice.

**John Rutford**

John Kinney Rutford, longtime St. Anthony Park resident (most recently of Mahtomedi) died Nov. 6 at age 85. He was a U.S. Korean War vet.

John is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Donna; son, Doug (Sue); daughters, Ruth Hogenson-Rutford (John Hogenson) and Mary; daughter-in-law, Lori Rogers; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brothers, David, Bob (Margie) and Ken (Sharon).

He was preceded in death by parents, Skuli and Ruth; and sister, Mary Covert. His son Brian died Nov. 8.

John was born in Duluth, Minn., and grew up in St. Anthony

Park, where he attended Murray High School. He also attended the University of Minnesota.

He was employed by the Boy Scouts of America and the Metropolitan Council. He was actively involved in his church, in several Icelandic Associations, Roseville Kiwanis Club, Minnesota Korean War Veterans Chapter 1, U of M YMCA Group and was a former member of the Civil War Roundtable Association.

He was very involved in St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, including many years spent compiling a record of the conjugations for its centennial in 2002.

He greatly enjoyed family, friends, travel, the North Shore, volunteering and public service.

Memorials are preferred to St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church or to donor's choice.

A memorial service for both John and Brian Rutford was held Nov. 29 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

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Business news

# That morning latte just got a little easier

By Alex Lodner

The only thing better than a steamy, creamy cappuccino for your blurry-eyed morning commute is having that hot cup of java handed to you by a cheerful barista through a cute little drive-thru window (along with a freshly baked scone, perhaps) while you stay toasty warm in your car.

Enter Mudslingers Drive-Thru Coffee. Opening mid-December at Lexington Avenue and County Road B in Roseville, Mudslingers will serve customers fancy coffee drinks, organic chai, all-natural fruit smoothies and baked goods, just as its sister shop in Burnsville has been doing since June.

What the tiny shop lacks in comfort, it makes up for in convenience and quality. There is no seating at either shop, and unlike the

Burnsville location, the new Roseville spot doesn't even have counter service. It's all about fast and easy accessibility and a great cup of coffee, any time of the day.

Owners Vince Hunt and Van Harvieux decided to open Mudslingers after Harvieux approached Hunt, a fellow mortgage broker, about the idea. Harvieux had seen many such venues on the West Coast, and it was an easy sell for Hunt, a Como Park resident who had considered participating in such a venture a couple of decades prior.

After many months of research, the business partners found Mudslingers, a coffee drive-thru brand that provides business owners with expert advice and assistance.

"They have been so supportive,"

Coffee to 20



Vince Hunt and Van Harvieux will open Mudslingers at Lexington Avenue and County Road B this month. Photo by Jessica Hilmanowski

# Hamline-Hoyt Service has a new owner and a new name

By Roger Bergerson

After more than 70 years of Horazdovsky ownership, Falcon Heights' only auto repair shop has been sold and is now Honest-1 Auto Care—Hamline-Hoyt.

"It was time to pass the baton," said Steve Horazdovsky, the last family member to be associated with Hamline-Hoyt Service, 1565 Hamline Ave. N., a business that his father and uncle started in 1942. "I'm retiring with lots of memories of both great times and hard times."

Honest-1 Auto Care is a national chain, and Peter Lee, the new owner, already operates a franchise at 3114 Lexington Ave. N., Roseville. He has some major upgrades planned for the Falcon Heights operation.

For example, Lee has permission from the city to extend the building 10 feet south toward Hoyt Avenue, which will make it possible to enlarge one service bay and install a new alignment machine. But the main purpose of the expansion is to create a customer lobby with free Wi-Fi, coffee, snacks, a children's play area and new bathrooms. The remodeling will start soon and take six to eight weeks.

During that time, the shop will be closed and Byron Hunkle and Craig Schwinghammer, the new manager and assistant manager, respectively, will temporarily relocate



Byron Hunkle, left, and Craig Schwinghammer of Honest-1 Auto Care—Hamline-Hoyt. Photo by Roger Bergerson

to the Roseville location.

The new Honest-1 Auto Care will be open longer hours than Hamline-Hoyt Service: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Lee said the shop will offer a three-year, 36,000-mile nationwide warranty on most repairs, free shuttle rides and loaner vehicles on an as-needed basis.

What made him want to be a part of Honest-1 Auto Care?

"I've had my share of less-than-stellar experiences with auto repair shops," Lee said. "I was looking to

own a business that stood apart from the others, something I could put my name behind. Honest-1 Auto Care's philosophy is to be very upfront with customers on their vehicle needs.

"If there's a safety issue, we're going to encourage them to deal with it, but otherwise, armed with the necessary information, we want customers to make up their own minds about whether or not to make a repair.

"Steve has had much the same philosophy and an extremely loyal customer base. We will work to earn that same respect and trust," Lee said.

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**Coffee from 18**

Hunt said. “They came out and helped us scout locations, and they helped us with the oftentimes treacherous process of obtaining permits and jumping through many hoops.”

The first location the partners settled on was a pre-existing, foreclosed drive-thru shop in Burnsville. The building had been vacant for a long time and was in rough shape by the time the two purchased it, but after a lot of hard work, Mudslingers’ Burnsville location opened last summer on the corner of Highway 13 and County Road 5.

The business quickly garnered eager regulars, but soon after it opened the highway next to the shop was torn apart for construction. Business suffered.

“For a while, there was a giant mountain of dirt right next to us,” said Hunt. “Drivers couldn’t see our beautiful building.”

Things are slowly turning around at the Burnsville location now that construction is over, Hunt said, and the partners are excited about their Roseville location.

Although they are using the

Mudslinger moniker, Harvieux and Hunt feel strongly about using locally sourced products as much as possible. For the Roseville shop, which was built on an empty lot where a Clark gas station once stood, the partners hired local architect Häns Schmidt of HJS Architecture to design the low-footprint building. Schmidt created a simple structure that will allow easy access to two drive-thru windows.

“Häns did a great job meeting the many challenges of designing a building this size within all the code restraints,” explained Hunt. “For example, we have to have seven sinks to meet code, and that was tough in a space this small.”

For their coffee, the team partnered with Minneapolis-based B+W Specialty Coffee, a small-batch coffee roaster specializing in Fair Trade coffee and will offer baked goods from Como’s own The April Fool Bakery.

Starting a new business can be extremely challenging, but Hunt’s and Harvieux’s families have been hands-on since the beginning. Several family members, including Hunt’s wife and Harvieux’s father and sister, went through training at B+W in case they needed to fill in on

a shift—or 12.

“I want to get in there and work alongside everyone else. As soon as my schedule permits, I’ll start working on my foam art,” Kate Hunt said with a laugh.

Harvieux’s father, Tom, used to own Tommy’s Café in Stillwater, and although he is retired, he makes the early morning drive to Burnsville most days to serve customers with the same warm and generous hospitality he bestowed upon the diners at his own café.

“It is really a family-run business,” Kate said.

Head barista Benjamin Gifford was introduced to the team by a friend and now manages both locations.

“Benjamin is amazing,” Hunt said. “He brings 15 years of experience with him, and he has been a tremendous asset to us.”

Even the Hunts’ young sons have gotten in on the action, whipping up smoothies like old pros, much to the delight of customers.

The Roseville Mudslinger’s hours had not been established

*Alex Lodner is a freelance writer who lives in the Como Park neighborhood.*



Elaine Phillips marked her 80th year with a successful birthday bow-hunting trip to a bear camp in Ontario. Photo courtesy of Dick Phillips

**Birthday from 3**

stand that day and only had a little more than a half hour before sunset. “I thought, ‘This is kind of worthless,’ and 25 minutes later here comes a deer.

“I got myself aligned and my bow pulled back. I let go and heard a sound and thought my arrow had hit a log.”

When she got down to the ground, she couldn’t find her arrow but saw the deer’s tracks in the snow.

It was dark then, and she decided to wait until morning to track the animal.

When she and Dick went out the next day, “it was a real surprise” to find the buck, she said.

Elaine’s love of hunting isn’t so much about hunting, she said, but “just being outdoors and being still and listening.”

“It’s opened my eyes to so much in nature,” she said. “You don’t realize until you sit there straining your ears—one of the first times I hunted

I heard this sound and I thought, ‘Oh, it must be a big bear.’ I looked, and it was a little mouse running under the leaves.”

Next year, she’s “tentatively” planning to return to the bear camp in Ontario where she got her birthday bear. For now, the Phillipses have a freezer full of bear (it’s delicious, she said, and tastes fairly close to beef) and venison. What’s for dinner on Christmas Day? “Oh, we always have turkey,” she said.