The view from here

Three successful efforts to build community happened recently in the Grove. Many thanks to the organizers and volunteers:

Sue Spalding and Mel Baughman’s home was part of the Treasures of Falcon Heights Walking Tour on May 13. A special thanks to Veryl Andre, Sue Gehrz and Karen Kloser for standing in the driving rain to hand out information about the Grove neighborhood and history.

Kristen Swanson and Monika Chandler organized another successful perennial plant swap on May 21 as evidenced by the Grove’s flourishing gardens! The annual neighborhood picnic for families with young children was held in the Grove Park on June 4. About 10 families attended this event organized by Dawn Hudock.

In early June, the City of Falcon Heights contracted for sidewalk repairs throughout the Grove. While this project began under short notice, I was pleased at how quickly the work was done.

The U completed the Grove portion of their project to bury fiber optic cable between the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses. The current cables follow the transit way, but an alternate path was needed, they said, in case the fibers on one path are damaged.

The golf course grounds staff plans three projects adjacent to the old trolley path north of Folwell. The first is to improve drainage on two areas of the golf course. The other two are particularly welcomed by residents on the north side of Folwell, west of Coffman. They plan to remove diseased or dead elms soon, and all the buckthorn and dead trees on both the north and south sides of the tracks this winter. I’m inquiring if the same can be done east of Coffman – no reply as we go to press.

At last fall’s annual meeting, an advisory vote asked the Board to “put together a ballot to be voted on by the general membership of UGHA on the topic of incorporation as a nonprofit organization.” The Board in turn asked a small subcommittee to examine the issue. The primary reason to incorporate is to protect the officers in the event of a lawsuit. We learned the optional personal liability umbrella coverage offered with the homeowners policy usually provides protection while serving as an officer or board member of an incorporated or unincorporated nonprofit organization. Not all of us have personal liability protection. It typically adds $200-300 to the annual premium. But because coverage is available, we decided there is no need to pursue incorporation. If you feel we should pursue it anyway, please give me a call.

— Russell Hobbs, president

Parkview team competes globally

Team “SAWIMAJOZA” held its own at the Destination Imagination Global Finals competition May 24-27 in Knoxville, Tenn. William Zimmermann was on the team of 4th and 5th graders from Parkview Center School in Roseville; mom, Mary, was one of the team’s two managers.

Billed as the largest problem-solving competition in the world, the Globals event drew 14,000 participants and spectators including 850 teams (5-7 students each) from 50 states and 15 countries. The Destination Imagination program begins in the fall when teams form and choose one of five challenges developed by international “Challenge Masters.” Teams work for 4-5 months to design an innovative solution to their challenge that they present during an 8-minute skit complete with original storyline, characters, costumes, props, and set.

SAWIMAJOZA won 1st place in their category at the regional competition in March and 2nd place at the state competition in April, which earned them the opportunity to compete in Knoxville. At Globals, the team took 7th place in a field of 63 teams from around the world.
The end of an era

In 1967, Bill and Rosemary Hartup moved to the Grove with three kids in tow. After 39 years, they cleaned out the house and took almost four decades of Grove memories with them. Throughout those years, both Bill and Rosemary juggled careers and raised a family. Modeling their parents, the kids: Hope (’56), Grant (’58) and Barry (’62), now have their own families and careers. Bill, an emeritus Regents professor in child development, came to the U’s Institute of Child Development during an exciting time in the field. The U was rebuilding the Institute in the 1960s, conducting more rigorous scientific experiments in learning, social development, language, and personality than had ever been done before. Bill was working at the University of Iowa when Harold Stevenson, then head of the Minnesota Institute and a Grove resident, invited Bill to the U in 1963. When the Hartups moved to the Grove from St. Anthony Park, they became neighbors to several Institute colleagues: Herb and Ann Pick, Andrew and Carolyn Collins, and Al Yonas and Susan Phipps-Yonas (who lived at 1596 Vincent for 26 years until last year).

In the 1960s, the U had nursery, elementary and high schools on campus, which the Institute used as their “labs.” The Hartup kids were research subjects, too. Their youngest, Barry, attended the nursery school. The elementary and high schools are now closed. During Bill’s tenure, the nursery school enrolled approximately 150 kids from Head Start programs and many other families, including faculty offspring. Bill’s research on the social development of school age kids focused on peer status, friendships, aggression, and conflict through observation, testing, and home visits. “The Institute is a first rate place with lots of international connections and government funding,” said Bill. He was director of the Institute from 1971-1982, editor of the academic journal, Child Development, from 1982-1989, and president of numerous scientific organizations. In 1993, he was awarded a Regents professorship, the U’s highest recognition for faculty excellence. Bill and the family traveled the world for his scholarly research and guest lectures in China, Italy, Holland, England, Spain — often extending into months of living abroad.

Rosemary’s musical background and degree in theater were put to work wherever they lived. She “paid the bills” teaching dance, directing and acting while Bill worked on his doctorate and dissertation. When they lived in Iowa City, she came into her own acting in many community theater productions, and a summer repertory company. Rosemary continued her stage life in the Twin Cities with the St. Paul Eastside Theater, Chimera Theater, Theater in the Round, Cricket Theater, Chanhassen Theater and the Guthrie.

Additionally, Bill and Rosemary were active in the Grove. The “core” of the Falcon Heights League of Women Voters chapter once resided in the Grove. The core included Rosemary, Mae Thompson, Bernadine Wold, Mary Waldo, Jerry Jenkins, Nancy Karaken, and Betty Jones. In the 1970s, they watched the graceful archway of elms that once lined the avenues from Northrop and Grantham to Como succumb to Dutch elm disease. They experienced the U’s divestiture of its caretaking role in the Grove, recalling the days when residents raked their leaves into the street and the U would sweep up after, the U’s twice-a-week garbage collection, U police protection, and forestry school visits for ailing trees. Rosemary and Bill both served as UGHA presidents. Rosemary’s tenure was marked by the controversy of building 1666 Coffman. Both agreed the most divisive issue the neighborhood ever faced was the U’s offer in the early ’90s to sell the Grove land to residents. Bill and Rosemary recalled the big parties of their day: “Scads of dinner and cocktail parties...visiting faculty or any excuse resulted in a big party.” While much has changed — much remains the same, as they reflected on how kids still play in the Commons and the Grove remains a well-kept secret.

Kudos

Professor emeritus Martin Dworkin received the 2006 J. Roger Porter Award from the American Society for Microbiology in May for his career contributions.

Katie Sterner, daughter of Bob and Joan, graduated from RAHS and is attending the U this fall. An acrylic portrait she painted was one of the Best of 100 Art Show entries featuring works from Minnesota high school seniors. Katie also designs and makes clothing for sale at Design Collective in Uptown.

Toby Pardey, son of Philip Pardey and Michelle Hallaway, graduated from RAHS. He plans to attend UTT, a technical college in Phoenix, AZ.

Rachel Smith, daughter of Allen Smith and Monica Chandler, graduated from RAHS. She’s taking a year off to work and then plans to attend Century College in Little Canada.

New directory

At the last annual meeting, Gary Wright proposed changes to the neighborhood directory to save money and make updates easier. The new directory, to be published this fall, will be in a binder with pre-punched pages. Each address will have a photo of the house, architect name, date built and current household contact information. Contact a board member or your block captain to help with collecting information, proofing, etc.

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