

Mustangs win
season opener **9**

Shoreview Press

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Retired but working

by Katie Russie

Associate Editor

"Coldwell ... this is Pat,"
answers a cheery voice.

Pat Kennedy retired last
Friday, just five days shy of
her 85th birthday.

This Shoreview resident
with white hair, an easy
smile and outgoing person-
ality, says she's not the type
to stay at home. She tried
retirement once, for three
years, but didn't like it.

"I'm a natural born let's-
do-it-even-if-it's-wrong type
of person," Kennedy said.

For the past 12 years she
has worked as a reception-
ist at the Shoreview/North
Oaks Coldwell Banker
Burnet office.

Still full of life and ener-
gy, she's retiring now only
because she has something
else to do — her son, Bruce
Kennedy of Roseville, is
running for Minnesota
Secretary of State, and
Kennedy plans to work
with his campaign commit-
tee.

Kennedy thrives on
staying busy. The Chicago
native (who still loves the
Cubs and Bears) started
her own lemonade stand at
age 12 and quickly discov-
ered that she loved being
with people. "It sounds so
trite to say I'm a people
person, but (I am)," she



— Photo by Paul Dols

Pat Kennedy celebrates during her retirement party at
the Coldwell Banker Burnet office on Friday, April 14.

returned from war, the
couple bought a house in
Homewood, south of
Chicago.

Kennedy stayed home to

She still loves houses
and enjoyed what she calls
"the detective story" of
finding the right fit for new
homeowners. She loved

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by Katie

Associate

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Kennedy

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She gained the trust of her clients too. Kennedy recalled one couple who simply signed their purchase agreement and left to watch a Chicago Bears game, trusting her to fill in the rest of the paperwork.

Kennedy's husband died in 1980, and she retired two years later. It didn't take long, however, for her to realize she needed to do something, so she moved to Minnesota to help care for her autistic grandson. She bought a condo in Shoreview because the area reminded her of Homewood.

Kennedy volunteered for a while at Fairview and St. Johns' hospitals, delivering flowers to new mothers and running errands.

But she missed working, and she missed the real estate business. She wanted a real job again and soon found herself as a receptionist in a real estate office.

At Coldwell she worked 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and rarely, if ever, called in sick.

"Every morning you came here she was here," sales manager Jack McCarty aid.

"She's a conscientious worker who's always on time and always efficient," he added.



— Photo by Paul Dols

A coworker with a video camera records Pat Kennedy as she bids farewell and discusses her plans after retirement.

For her part, Kennedy loves her co-workers. "I have never ever not wanted to come to work here," she

said. "I come to work just happy to see what's going on with them."

Kennedy always likes to know how her co-workers are doing, and McCarty said she often asks him about his grandchildren. He said she shows

interest in her co-workers' lives, both in their jobs and personally — without being

nosy.

Kennedy said she will especially miss watching new agents close their first sale, and she will miss keeping updated on how her co-workers are doing.

In the days before Kennedy's last Friday, sales associate Kent Gerzema kept telling her, "You can't quit!"

"I get that feeling that what I do is appreciated here," she said with a smile.

"She's a great lady. She'll be missed," McCarty said. "I think she's just a genuine person who cares."

Katie Russie can be reached at 651-407-1229 or shoreviewpress@sherbtiel.net.

"I have never ever not wanted to come to work here. I come to work just happy to see what's going on with them."

Pat Kennedy
Retiring at age 84

COLLEGE NEWS

The following North Oaks residents made the fall 2005 dean's list at the University of Thomas: **Caroline Cker, Todd Chrun, Gina neo, Michael Hara, idahl Prokop, Jennifer tkowski, Jessica Smith Tiffany Vescio.**

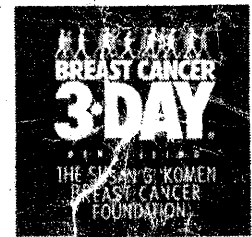
North Oaks was named a Hobart College statesmen scholar in sailing for the 2004-05 school year. His academics and contribution to the team, which won two national championships, made him eligible for the recognition.

Kristofer Longley-
Postema of Shoreview

the fall 2005 dean's list at Cornell College in Iowa.

The following Shoreview residents made the fall 2005 dean's list at North Dakota State University: **Kimberly Gedde, Holly Reddy, Justin Thompson and Stephen Vannelli.**

Dr. Michael J. Enz
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