In the nick of time
Before holiday rush, Como Avenue repaving project wraps up (for now)

By Scott Carlson

On Halloween evening, merchants along the heart of St. Anthony Park’s downtown district got a treat: Their main street—Como Avenue—reopened after weeks of being closed for repaving.

Construction of Stage 3 of Como Avenue repaving (just past Dowell to Commonwealth) began in early September and ended Oct. 31. The finish of the road project didn’t come any too soon for Sandra Weise, owner of the Finish Bistro Coffee & Cafe.

“For me, this has been the third year of construction,” Weise said, noting she renovated her building in fall 2016 and, like her neighbors, has had to contend with repaving sections of Como Avenue for the past two summers.

“Thank you to the neighborhood, because without their support, I don’t know if we could have made it,” Weise said, noting that neighbors organized during the construction period to make sure her coffee and cafe had plenty of business.

It was the neighborhood support that convinced Weise last June to reject the offer Applebee’s To Go made to buy her business.

Two doors down from the Finnish Bistro, Bibelot Shops manager Jolene Borland was also relieved to see Como Avenue reopen.

“It’s been a long summer,” Borland said. “We are very pleased that our loyal neighbors continued to shop us and continued to support us.”

Borland said the road project had some negative impact on her store’s sales as well, though she did not have precise revenue figures.

“Whatever Bibelot’s ultimate fate, the Como Avenue reopening in the heart of St. Anthony Park’s business district comes ahead of the all-important holiday season, which can generate up to 25 percent of many retailers’ annual sales.”

The Como Avenue project has included new concrete curbs and gutters, new pavement, concrete driveway aprons, utility upgrades, new sidewalks and Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant pedestrian ramps, lantern-style street lighting with LED lights, sodded boulevards, the removal of all ash trees, dead trees and stumps, and planting of new trees on the boulevards.

Laurel is now 16, taking up smoking was glamorous. It was affordable. Everybody I knew smoked.”

She finally succeeded in quitting, and her daughter quit, too. Her granddaughter had a baby who was born premature and has chronic lung problems. Seeing the granddaughter, now 16, taking up cigarettes prompted Grove to act.

“Where’s she getting her cigarettes?” Grove asked.

On Oct. 23, Lauderdale joined a wave of Twin Cities municipalities raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21, guided by a campaign
**Como Park**

The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Como Park Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Here’s how to connect: 651-644-3889, district10comopark.org or District 10 Community Council on Facebook.

Baker elected to D10 Board

Alessi Baker won a special election in October to fill a vacancy on the Como Community Council board from Sub-District 4. Alessi will represent the South Como and Energy Park neighborhoods.

Spread the praise around

District 10 is accepting nominations of local individuals or organizations to add to St. Paul’s Neighborhood Honor Roll. The annual, citywide award recognizes members of our community who make a sustained and lasting impact on the quality of life in Como and the city.

To nominate someone: Email district10@district10comopark.org. Please provide a short description of your nominee’s accomplishments or the reasons they should be honored for making Como a better place to live, work or play. Send your nomination no later than Tuesday, Dec. 11. The District 10 Board will evaluate nominees at its Dec. 18 meeting.

Community yoga returns Dec. 2

District 10’s next Community Yoga is from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The session will be suitable for all levels of skill and experience. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes. The class is limited to 25 participants. Registration is $5, which benefits the Como Community Council. Reserve your spot at www.district10comopark.org/communityyoga.html.

Streetcar station open monthly

With the change of seasons, comes the change of hours for the Como Park Streetcar Station: Winter hours have been implemented noon to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Pick up organic recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, chat with a District 10 board members or simply learn a little about the history of streetcars. Upcoming dates are Dec. 2 and Jan. 6. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington Parkway and Horton Avenue.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

• Environment Committee: Wednesday, Nov. 28
• Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tuesday, Dec. 4
• Land Use Committee: Wednesday, Dec. 5
• Como Community Council monthly meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. Renters, homeowners and other community members are welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website, http://www.district10comopark.org/Board_News.html

St. Anthony Park

The District 12 Community Council (SAPCC) meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 University Ave. The council offices are located at 2395 W. University Ave., Suite 300 E. Contact information 651-649-5992 or www.sapcc.org.

New bike racks have been installed around St. Anthony Park. This was a project of the St. Anthony Park Community Council’s Transportation Committee, funded by University of Minnesota’s Good Neighbor Fund.

The design of the bike racks is enhanced by the addition of “St. Anthony Park” and a laser-cut bicycle in a bright, beautiful green, adding visual interest to the locations where they are placed. Additionally, a helix-shaped design was chosen for the Joy of the People location in South St. Anthony Park. This durable, stainless-steel rack gives a clean, modernized look to the locations, which previously had multiple temporary racks.

The majority of the hoop racks are along the newly constructed Como Avenue in North St. Anthony Park. This will provide patrons a safe place to leave their bikes, while further beautifying the area. Racks have also been placed at Avalon School and Jennings Community School.

Elections aren’t over yet! Applications remain open for the 2018 SAPCC Board of Directors through Friday, Nov. 23. St. Anthony Park Community Council is seeking candidates for 2019 board members.

As an elected/appointed delegate or alternate to SAPCC, you are a member of its board of directors, which has responsibility for governing the organization.

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FREE PARKING!

City Files to 7
Big Top Liquors cuts the ribbon on relocation

By Scott Carlson

Big Top Liquors, one of the retail legacies of venerable grocer Sid Applebaum, has a new home. The family-owned business now occupies the building that housed the former Perkins Restaurant & Bakery at 1754 University Ave. in St. Paul’s Midway neighborhood. Company owners recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark their new 6,000 square-foot site, a relocation necessitated due to construction of St. Paul’s new major league soccer stadium, Allianc Field.

At the ceremony, co-owner Jay Applebaum told local dignitaries that Big Top “was started by my father [the late Sid Applebaum] almost 40 years ago.” The store’s temporary home is smaller than its previous 16,000 square footprint, he said. Because of heightened competition in the retail industry, “we need to be more efficient,” Jay Applebaum said. Currently, Big Top Liquors carries about 500 different kinds of beer, 8,000 liquors and 1,000 varieties of wine.

The Applebaum family has had a retail presence at the intersection of Snelling and University avenues for more than 60 years, according to Nancy Rosenberg, co-owner and Jay Applebaum’s sister. “We are very proud of turning a decaying Perkins location into a temporary liquor store that is attractive, hip, urban, fun…for our neighbors,” Rosenberg said.

“Tobacco from 1

from the Minnesota Department of Health called T-21. As of early October, 13 Minnesota cities had raised the legal tobacco purchase age, mostly in the Twin Cities metro area but also in St. Peter and Mankato, according to the nonprofit ClearWay Minnesota.

A Minnesota Department of Health survey shows that youth tobacco smoking has recently increased, largely due to the popularity of e-cigarettes, or vaping.

The rationale for lowering the legal tobacco purchase age is that most people who become addicted to nicotine start ingesting it in their early teens, when they have far more contact with 18-year-olds (who can still buy tobacco legally in Minnesota) than they have with 21-year-olds.

Meanwhile, Grove acknowledged that people ages 18 to 20 can still drive to neighboring communities to buy tobacco products, so she is also watching efforts to raise the smoking age state wide.

Jeanne Wiegum, president of the Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota (ANSR), said bills to raise the smoking age statewide have been introduced in the last two legislative sessions, and legislators from both major parties have been engaged in the effort. (The St. Paul-based nonprofit has its offices at Raymond and University avenues.)

It isn’t a purely partisan issue,” Wiegum said, citing one voters survey that found more support among Republican voters than among Democrats to raise the tobacco purchase age, despite the fact that more Democratic than Republican legislators were on board. “It’s an issue that relates to the public health and the health of children.”

Grove, who has worked as a nurse in other clinic roles, has seen patients who have respiratory issues from vaping as well as from smoking cigarettes, she said. The state health department notes that nicotine is harmful to brain development regardless of how it is ingested.

The ordinance will not prevent under-age users from buying vaping products online, Grove conceded. “If you can get these online, who’s governing that?”

Clinic doctors have asked “the successful quitter” to talk to patients who are eager to quit smoking and vaping. Since she joined the Lauderdale City Council, those doctors have repeatedly urged her to add her city to the list of T-21 adopters.

“If this helps just one child not pick up a cigarette, I’m all for it,” Grove said.

I support the Bugle and here’s why

Tell us about yourself. Where do you live?

We are the family of Kate McGough, Brett Arenz and son Solomon. We live south of Larpenteur Avenue in the University Grove neighborhood. This neighborhood has a great small-town vibe! Most days we walk to the University Grove Clinic doctors have asked “the successful quitter” to talk to patients who are eager to quit smoking and vaping. Since she joined the Lauderdale City Council, those doctors have repeatedly urged her to add her city to the list of T-21 adopters.

What do you like about the Bugle?

The Bugle is the perfect distillation of local news and upcoming events. We read the Bugle to find out about local business and municipal plans, as well as local art and music events. And we like reading about our colorful neighbors!

Why do you support the Bugle?

We support the Bugle because we think the information it supplies and the community building that happens from that is important. Reading the Bugle helps us feel connected to our community. No one else is doing what the Bugle does in our community.
Road detours and giving thanks

By Scott Carolan

Retailers in St. Anthony Park’s downtown district rejoiced and gave thanks when their stretch of Como Avenue reopened at the end of October, after many weeks of being closed for repair. For merchants and their loyal customers, it was a summer of inconvenience and plenty of road detours.

In a way, those “road closed” and “road detour” signs were analogous to life. We frequently encounter detours in our lives that seem or are annoying. But quite often and maybe even most of the time, the detours and speed bumps and struggles help remind us how good life is usually. When life gets back to normal, we get an opportunity to reflect and give thanks.

Such is the case for Sandra Weise, Finnish Bistro Coffee & Café owner who has weathered two summers of road construction on Como Avenue.

“This is what you say when you are expecting, because without your support, I don’t know what you’d do,” Weise told the Bugle, noting that neighbor organized during the construction period to make sure her coffee and café had plenty of business.

From the neighborhood level all the way up to the national scene, we all have much to be thankful for. Despite the view of some people, America is still a great country.

Here we go, we also have plenty of reason to give thanks. We are in the midst of our annual fund appeal; to date we are slightly past the halfway point of raising $52,000.

Reaching our donors’ goal is vitally important as the Bugle is facing growing financial pressures. Our ongoing revenue covers just 60 percent of our expenses for personnel, production and distribution.

Editor’s note: Luther Seminary has put the “Just Say No to Breck Woods, along with walking, biking or taking the bus won’t solve global warming. Or that recycling and composting won’t help, either. Maybe planting a pollinator-friendly garden and refusing to chemically treat our lawns won’t prevent the shrinking of bee and songbird populations, but we try in the hope that we can make a difference.

We can be heartened that our efforts can indeed make a difference. By recent news that after decades of protective regulations, the ozone layer is healing! And a lawsuit brought by youth on behalf of future generations to compel the U.S. government to enact policies to combat global warming (Juliana v. U.S.) is still working its way through the court system despite repeated efforts to get it dismissed.

It is this instinct to protect nature and defend against global warming that motivates our movement to save Breck Woods. We are blessed by an accident of geology and the elements of the natural world to live in a place that has stood from before the time of development and that is still an important reserve of wildness.

Our movement started back in June when a group of Lauderdale neighbors responded to a call to advocate for the woods by entering a float in the SARP Fourth of July parade—to great crowd approval. We promoted our online petition (savebreckwoods.com) in which we respectfully requested that the seminary, along with cities of St. Paul, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights, recognize the vital importance of the woods as a barrier to air and noise pollution and global warming, and therefore, move slowly and carefully toward the future. We now have 385 signatures and are growing. Many have left comments about the significance of Breck Woods to them. At a Sept. 19 open forum, the seminary announced for the first time that it was willing to sell its Lauderdale property separately from the rest of the campus. The asking price was also made public for the first time—$2.85 million. In response, we formed “Friends of Breck Woods,” a nonprofit organization, to negotiate with the seminary and/or potential developers.

Do you have already donated to the Bugle, we heartily thank you. And if you have not donated, please join your neighbors who are financial supporters. You can donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE button at the top of the page. Or send a check to: Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.
Thank you, Bugle supporters!

The Park Bugle's annual fund appeal is in full swing and we are nearly halfway to our $52,000 goal for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Thank you!

The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper's annual operating costs. We would like to thank our most recent donors to the Bugle who, as of Nov. 3, have collectively given $25,400:

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- Sandy's Barber Shop
- St. Anthony Park Community Foundation
- St. Anthony Park Home
- Terra Firma Building & Remodeling
- Thomas Landscape of Minnesota
Students and staff at St. Anthony Park Elementary (SAP) School recently threw a surprise assembly for science teacher Jim Schrankler to honor his 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The award recognizes math and science teachers in grades kindergarten through 12th grade for outstanding teaching. Schrankler was one of two Minnesotans and among 102 educators nationwide who were honored in a ceremony this summer in Washington, D.C. Each of the beneficiaries also received a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

During SAP’s assembly in mid-October, school colleagues presented Schrankler with a banner and a check to fund a new Schrankler Science lab coat.

Colleagues know Schrankler as a teacher who engages his students using a clever gambit to start each class, an instructional technique that inspired them to think deeply about the science of design.

Schrankler was honored in a ceremony this summer in Washington, D.C. Each of the beneficiaries also received a $10,000 Foundation engineering grant. The research is a partnership between the U of M and Purdue University.

Como Park High School

Some 905 Como High students cast ballots in the statewide Students Vote mock election for Minnesota’s governor in an event sponsored by the Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office.

Nearly 52 percent of the Como High students voting backed DFLers Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively. Republicans Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom received 19.2 percent of the vote for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, while third-party candidates and write-in choices combined to earn the rest of the votes.

AP Government and Politics students monitored and facilitated an election on Oct. 23 in which all Como students had the opportunity to practice voting procedure in our democracy.

A precinct—complete with voting booths—was set up in the school auditorium. Como’s results were reported to the state where they were tabulated along with other participating schools.

Building on the student-election experience at school, 30 Como students served as Ramsey County election judges in the Nov. 6 election. The non-partisan service gave the students first-hand experience on the election process. Students received training at school prior to the election and then worked alongside experienced judges at precinct sites around the city.

In other news:

School News

St. Anthony Park Elementary honors longtime teacher Jim Schrankler

St. Anthony Park Elementary School students and staff threw a surprise assembly to honor science teacher Jim Schrankler for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science. Schrankler is accompanied by fellow science teacher Karen Christensen. Photo by Shawn Hogendorf.

St. Paul Public Schools

Some 905 Como High students cast ballots in the statewide Students Vote mock election for Minnesota’s governor in an event sponsored by the Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office.

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In other news:

School News to 7

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In late October, 905 Como Park High School students participated in the “Students Vote” election coordinated by the Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office. Photo by Eric Erickson
City Files from 2

including, planning, financing and policy decisions. Candidate questionnaires and more information are available at sapcc.org/2018-board-elections. Voting will be available at neighborhood locations, in the SAPCC office, online at sapcc.org/vote and at the annual meeting. Polls will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7.

The SAPCC annual meeting will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal Ave., St. Paul. Staff, current board members and community members will be joined by St. Paul Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalal Nelson.

Upcoming Meetings Transportation Committee Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7-9 p.m. SAPCC, 2395 W. University Ave., St. Paul

Environment Committee (location may vary) Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7-9 p.m. SAPCC, 2395 W. University Ave., St. Paul

Land Use Committee Thursday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. Jennings Community School, 2455 W. University Ave.

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. Larpenteur Ave. Contact information: 651-792-7600 or falconheights.org.

School News from 6

French students who took the College in the Schools (CIS) course participated in the Oct. 29 CIS French Field Day at the University of Minnesota. The CIS program allows students to earn college credits by enrolling in the U of M courses, which are taught at Como. The Field Day gave Como students a chance to meet and converse in French with more than 200 other French students from other area high schools who also take the concurrent enrollment course. Activities and sessions were led by French professors and advanced-college students.

Como’s Theatre and Music Department, featuring the Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, presented the annual fall musical Nov. 8 and 9 in the Como Auditorium. This year’s show was “The Tempest” (adapted from Shakespeare) by Nick Perrin and Ruth Kordy. “The Tempest” cast starred Willow Hollister-Lapointe, Tobias Sax, Chandoni Lee, Aseyia Khue, Alicia Banks, Aspen Schuckert, Lillian Rogers, John Dugan, Rean Buck, Wyatt Hanson, Kevin Yang, Mai Lao Lee, Eiki Seeba, Emilie Pagel, Ava Vitali and Jo Ann Lane.

—Eric Erickson

Murray Middle School

Murray was expected to send about 80 students up to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center for a long weekend Nov. 16–20. “This is their annual leadership, team-building, environmental and cultural-learning experience that is at the heart of Murray’s school climate,” said Jon Schumacher, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Foundation and a member of the St. Paul School Board.

In another activity, the middle school plans to hold its third annual ENGAGE at Murray event at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the school cafeteria. Days 2 Be Real, which is the student racial-equity leadership group, is teaming with the ENGAGE team to create an experience that is educational, engaging and fun, Schumacher said.

By Scott Carlson

Community organizer de Freitas’ work starts with the basics

Roberto de Freitas

As the new community organizer for the St. Anthony Park Community Council, Roberto de Freitas takes delight in what his friends say about his work.

“My friends remind me that [former President] Barack Obama was a community organizer,” de Freitas said. “I don’t necessarily have aspirations to follow in his [Obama’s] footsteps.”

Nevertheless, de Freitas believes he shares the same commitment as Obama once did to community organizing. “It [community organizing] is about building relationships and investing in trust of those who have the best interest of the community at heart,” he said. “A lot of it is listening to the community’s needs and desires.”

De Freitas said his immediate work is focusing on promoting conversations about affordable housing and “food justice” — ensuring that there is fresh and accessible food to people in the community. For example, the Community Council is looking to establish ties with Brightside Produce, an initiative from the University of St. Thomas, he said.

Asked what he considers a major challenge of being a community organizer, de Freitas said, “Bridging relationships with those [people] who we have not always had strong relationships with and getting more people involved in the [community] council, including the unheard voices.”

A resident of the St. Anthony Greens towns housing in south St. Anthony Park, de Freitas was born in Panama and moved to Los Angeles in his pre-teens years. He later moved to the Twin Cities to attend college.

De Freitas recently completed a master’s degree in the department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota. His work focused on the psychology of group dynamics and social interactions. As an intern with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, he worked with legislators to write legislation for student teachers.

Soon after taking his new post in late August, de Freitas began seizing the opportunity “to see how I could be of service to the community.”

No Cost Blood-Pressure Clinics

Every fourth Monday of the month, a registered nurse is available for a free blood-pressure clinic at the City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. The next clinic is from 1 to 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26.

The clinics are provided by the Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse program, a nonprofit serving residents 65 and older who wish to remain in their homes safely and independently.

Saint Anthony Park Seniors offers a series of free exercise classes each week that are open to Falcon Heights residents from 2 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.
Our tropical summer with high humidity levels not only brought us a new disease to wipe out our tasty basil plants, we also saw two insect pests thrive and attack special trees. From Highland Park to St. Anthony Park to Como Park, we see dead or dying magnolia trees and shrubs. And I am upset to see that our bur oaks, abundant in Como Park and St. Anthony Park, are also showing tip dieback.

What is happening?

About 10 years ago, a new insect pest arrived in Minnesota. Known as magnolia scale, it previously was common on the East Coast. However, climate change has triggered many insect pests to relocate. As I walked Dowwell and Carter avenues in St. Anthony Park this fall, I saw numerous trees infected with these scale insects; some trees are nearly dead.

It was in the early 1980s that star magnolias began showing up in garden centers. Minnesotans were eager to enjoy the fragrant, early blooms (late April-early May) these various star magnolias as they were being abundantly planted in our neighborhood.

It will be a battle to save these trees today. Applications of dormant oil need to be applied in November when the leaves fall. This dormant oil will suffocate the scales living on the branches. Then, in early summer, an application of a systemic insecticide can be applied to magnolias. Or, every two weeks during the growing season, you can wipe down the branches with cloths soaked in rubbing alcohol to remove and kill the scales.

How does the magnolia scale damage our trees? The insect thrives under a scale covering that protects it as it literally sucks the living daylights out of the magnolia. It feeds on phloem vessels that carry nutrients from the leaves down to the roots. Once damaged, the phloem’s nutrients cannot be translocated. The scale insects appear to start at the feeding, they excrete honeydew, which drops onto leaves and then forms a sooty mold—black mold—on the leaf. The honeydew attracts a variety of death. The adult predators are between one to five years. The 200-year-old oak in front of the St. Anthony Park Library is severely infected and the library is striving to save it. We will know within a year or two if it will survive. A nearby neighbor’s oak is half dead and will likely be dead in a year. Don’t let that happen to your oaks.

Examining your magnolia every two weeks during the growing season for signs of scale. If the scale is just arriving on your tree, the rubbing-alcohol treatment is one approach to follow. Otherwise, contact a licensed, reputable tree service to apply treatments. Keep in mind that the adults of magnolia scale are able to fly, so if these pests are not kept under control, they can easily move from one yard to another.

Meanwhile, two-lined chestnut borer is what is causing bur oaks to dieback, some severely, to the point of death. The adult predators are greenish-black metallic wood beetles with two yellow stripes along their backs. The borer larva feeds beneath the bark and destroy both the phloem and the xylem (water-conducting tissues) in the terminal branches where the new growth occurs. They work back into the branches slowly, eventually killing the branches or the entire tree, usually between one to five years. The 200-year-old oak in front of the St. Anthony Park Library is severely infected and the library is striving to save it. We will know within a year or two if it will survive. A nearby neighbor’s oak is half dead and will likely be dead in a year. Don’t let that happen to your oaks.

Attack the problem

How to prevent the infection: Avoid soil compaction under the tree and keep the tree well-watered, especially during dry periods. Do not apply fertilizer or herbicides to the soil area within 50 feet of a borers-infected tree, as this will further weaken the tree. Have your oak trees inspected every three to five years and prune between September and January, when dieback is observed. Do not save oak trimmings for firewood—you will simply harbor the chestnut borers near your trees. Do not purchase oak firewood—you may be bringing borers into your area.

I had our oak trees pruned irregularly every three to five years to remove any dead wood and to keep the branches from hanging over the house. If you see dieback on a neighbor’s oak tree and they don’t seem to be aware of the issue, inform them.

Oak infected with chestnut borer can be treated with Entranet bionautica by a licensed tree service that has tree-injection experience. Oak tree flowers open in early spring and are wind-pollinated, so this is not an issue for bees.

Please do your part to help save our remnant oak savanna trees here in St. Paul. For more information on two-lined chestnut borers, visit https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/forest_health/tlcb/index.html.

Mary Maguire-Lerman is a graduate horticulturist and lives in St. Anthony Park.
December fun guide to 11

REINDEER, CAROLERS AND THE JOLLY ELF will bring merriment to Como Avenue Saturday, Dec. 1, when the St. Anthony Park neighborhood celebrates its annual Shop Home for the Holidays. The day’s activities will include reindeer-pulled sleigh rides and Santa photo-ops at Sunrise Bank, 2300 Como Ave., 9 a.m.-noon; cookie decorating at Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market, 2310 Como Ave., 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; a wine tasting at the Little Wine Shoppe, 2236 Carter Ave., 1-4 p.m.; and an artisan market at Healing Elements, 2290 Como Ave., 1-6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday that weekend.

Thistle, the occasional shop in Milton Square, is offering two “Sock Snowman” workshops that day, one at 10 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. Let the season of fun begin!

December fun guide to 11
1 p.m. If you want to learn how to make a whimsical snowman, preregister at thistlemiltonsquare.com.

Many merchants will be offering specials throughout the day. Scarborough Fair in Milton Square will have hot-spiced cider and cookies and offer 25 percent off clothing and shoes all weekend. Lady Elegant’s Tea in Milton Square will offer 20 percent off scones and cookies. Complexions on Carter will be offering special promotions in its Milton Square shop. Micawber’s will host Kristal Leebrick, who will be signing her book “Thank You for Shopping” from 11 a.m.-noon. Healing Elements will hold a drawing on Saturday for a chance to win 10 to 20 percent off retail or a $50 gift card. Colossal Café, 2315 Como Ave., has a gift certificate special: buy $100 worth of gift certificates and receive a $20 gift card free. And stop into Nico’s in the former Munafetta space on Como Avenue. The new restaurant won’t be open for food service yet, but the proprietors will be there to show the work being done to transform the building.

BLUE HOUSE BOUTIQUE: Check out this unique boutique on Saturday Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sunday Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. The boutique is a major fundraiser for the Blue House, an orphanage in Uganda. The sale will include high-quality, hand-crafted personal and holiday items, gourmet goodies and unique gifts from Africa.

GIFTS, MUSIC, SAFE REFRESHMENTS: The nonprofit Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota (AFAA) will hold its 11th annual silent auction and benefit concert Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2300 Como Ave. The event will include a free children’s ornament workshop, refreshments and music. AFAA provides food-allergy education, advocacy and support throughout Minnesota, and was founded by St. Anthony Park residents. If you are interested in donating items or services or volunteering at the event, contact Jeff Schaefler or Nona Narvaez at 651-644-5937.

HEAD SOUTH: Several south St. Anthony Park businesses are featuring festive events that first weekend of December. Urban Growler Brewing Co., 2325 Endicott St., will host its second annual Hoppy Holiday Maker’s Market, Friday Nov. 30, 5-10 p.m., and Saturday Dec. 1, noon-6 p.m. The market will feature local artists, live music and gift-wrapping.

MidModMen, 2401 W. University Ave., has transformed its showroom into a holiday market featuring vintage and modern gift items: art and art glass, German and Italian mid-century pottery and an array of accent pieces. The shop is open Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Raymond Avenue Gallery’s annual Yunomi Show will run through Saturday, Dec. 22. The gallery, located at 761 Raymond Ave., features yunomi (small, clay tea bowls) made by 35 well-known Minnesota ceramic artists. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays, noon-4 p.m. And rumor has it that a number of local musicians will be playing holiday tunes throughout the day on Dec. 1 at Barely Bros. Records, 783 Raymond Ave.

MORE GIFT-BUYING OPPORTUNITIES: You may be able to find everything you need for the horse lover on your list at the Horse Crazy Holiday Market in the Warner Coliseum at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, Friday Nov. 30, noon-8 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The equine-themed
December fun guide from 11

Marketplace will have more than 100 vendors, artisans and exhibitors.

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., will hold its annual art-and-craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The fair will host 15 local artists selling handmade glass beads, knit and felted items, quilted products, wooden items, metal sculptures, jewelry and more.

A CUP OF COMO TEA: Como Park Zoo and Conservatory continues its tradition of offering a three-course holiday tea that includes a behind-the-scenes tour in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The tea will have two seatings, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., on Thursday Dec. 6. Guests will get a tour of the building’s production greenhouse space and Sunken Garden after the tea. Tickets are $45 per person. Reservations are required. Call 651-487-8250.

IN CASE YOU MISSED HIM: You’ll have two more chances to catch Santa Claus in the area in December. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for a spaghetti dinner at Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park, Friday Dec. 7, 5:30-7 p.m. The event will include a craft project, cookie decorating and face painting. Cost is $5 per person. Tickets are $25. Register at any St. Paul recreation center or call 651-298-5765. Register online at stpaul.gov/parks.

ALL ABOARD THE NIGHT TRAINS: Night Trains is a holiday tradition at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, Suite 8. The show displays dozens of model railroad layouts with miniature Christmas lights and decorations. It will run every Saturday, 6-9 p.m., through Feb. 23. Admission is $15 per person with special group rates for families. Find out more at www.tcmrm.org

BOOK SIGNING
Saturday, December 1, 11 a.m.
Local author Kristal Leebrick, will be signing copies of her book "Thank you for shopping!

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—Compiled by Kristal Leebrick
Our neighborhood bibliophile offers some novel ideas and other top-shelf selections for December shopping

By Judy Woodward
Looking for a few good books for those on your shopping list this holiday season? Tom Bielenberg, of Micawber’s Books at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park, has suggestions for the naughty, the nice and everyone in between. On a recent afternoon, Bielenberg drew on a lifetime of experience in the book trade as he offered his recommendations.

Front and center on his list is the new novel Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver. This is the one, according to Bielenberg, for people who don’t usually read novels. “Kingsolver is so popular, and this is her first book in 15 years,” he said. “She’s almost a brand.”

As if to demonstrate the truth of his words, a customer came into the store and headed straight to the pile of Unsheltered copies. “I don’t read a lot of fiction,” said Barbara Bulbulian, “but I love the way Kingsolver writes.”

Other hot new titles for the gift-giving season, according to Bielenberg, include former first lady Michelle Obama’s new memoir Becoming and President of Wars by Michael Beschloss.

Bielenberg describes the Beschloss book as ideal “for your relative who loves American history,” but he also cautions, “my customers don’t necessarily want to read about politics. More so these days than ever before people come in for … something to take [their] minds off current affairs.”

For these beleaguered souls, Bielenberg recommends the latest in The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series by Alexander McCall Smith or in Botswana and featuring the indomitable Mma Precious Ramotswe. The Colors of All the Cattle, in which Ramotswe runs for office, has just been published.

For readers who would like to forget the anxieties of our era by immersing themselves in the tensions of another age, Bielenberg suggests Dear Mrs. Bird by A.J. Pearce. The book tells the adventures of a young woman journalist in World War II London, and Bielenberg describes it as a “wood-of-mouth hit.”

Mystery fans will be glad to hear that Tana French, Lee Child, and “the most popular mystery author at Micawber’s right now” Louise Penny all have new titles out in time for Christmas. Penny writes in English, but, in a nod to Canadian biculturalism, her books are set in Quebec with a French-speaking hero, Inspector Gamache, who may be the biggest Francophone detective since Hercule Poirot.

Looking for a good cookbook? Bielenberg offers The Great Minnesota Cookie Book by Star Tribune food writer Lee Switak Dean and Rick Nelson with “prize-winning cookies from decades of the newspaper’s Christmas Cookie Contest.” Another title to ease you into the Holiday Season is Jul Swedish American Holiday Traditions by Patrice M. Johnson. “Smorgasbord, St. Lucia, Christmas gatherings, recipes and more,” is how Bielenberg describes it.

Or maybe you’d like to find something by a Minnesota author. Bielenberg offers up an embarrassment of recent riches: Leif Enger, the author of Peace Like a River, has a new book out called Virgil Wander. “He said. The new book, a story of life in a small town near Lake Superior, has already “sold out and been restocked twice” he World of the Twin Cities by John J. Mortaroy. “It’s organized with sections on fun and fogs, prairies, sandhills, woods and so on. It directs you to places that are examples of that environment, then shows you what you will see there.”

Even closer to home, this year Micawber’s is selling works by two former Bagle writers. The new edition of the late Roger Bergerson’s History: One Darn Thing After Another is “ready in time for Christmas with 12 new stories,” Bielenberg said. Longtime Bagle Editor Kristal Lebrick’s lavishly illustrated Thank You for Shopping: The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores is a tribute to the merchandising magners that long ruled the Twin Cities retail landscapes as premier destinations for generations of Minnesotans.

Bielenberg spends his professional life figuring out what other people want to read, but naturally he has some personal favorites himself.

“I like all 21 of the Patrick O’Brian books,” he said. “For that task, he suggests 111 Places in the Twin Cities That You Must Not Miss.”

The Great Minnesota Cookie Book by Star Tribune food writer Lee Switak Dean said. Minnesota author Patricia Hampl has recently come out with The Art of the Wasted Day, which Bielenberg describes as a “beautifully written” meditation on a “day to dream.”

In a very different key, there is new work by Minnesota rapper/writer Deena. Bielenberg describes My Own Devices as an “amalgam of music, science, philosophy” that has been selling well among the millennia generation, as well as to their parents and grandparents.

Bielenberg thinks that even Twin Cities natives like himself can learn more about their hometowns. For that task, he suggests 111 Places in the Twin Cities That You Must Not Miss. “I’ve been to only 45 of the 111 places, and I’ve lived here all my life.”

For the amateur naturalist on your shopping list, he recommends A Field Guide to the Natural Kingdom of the Blind by Barbara Kingsolver.

Best buys
Tom Bielenberg, owner of Micawber’s Books, has the following books on his recommended reading list for the 2018 holiday season:


Alexander McCall Smith The Colors of All the Cattle New York: Pantheon Books 2018; 240 p. (No. 19 in the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series.)


Roger Bergerson History: One Darn Thing After Another CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform 2018; 282 p.


John LeCarre The Spy Who Came in From the Cold New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan 1978, c1963; 256 p.

Judy Woodward is history coordinator at Ramsey County’s Neville Library and a frequent contributor to the Bugle.

One Darn Thing After Another
A new edition of Roger Bergerson’s popular book is now available, with 12 additional stories.

Get your copy at Micawber’s, the Como Avenue Bibletal Shop, or the Minnesota History Center Museum Store.
John Bauer

John Edwin Bauer, 74, died Oct. 12. John taught in the St. Paul Public Schools; and was a book collector, poet, musician, and traveler. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elise and Edwin Bauer, and brother, Mark. He is survived by siblings, Leslie Whitney (Leland), Paul (Catherine Brandel), Laurie; and sister-in-law, Chinya. A memorial service was held Oct. 25 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials preferred to United Gospel Mission, Twin Cities.

Paul Duba Brey

Paul Duba Brey, longtime resident of St. Anthony Park, died Oct. 17, 2018. Paul was born Dec. 30, 1927, in Wabasso, Minn. For more than 70 years, Paul and his sister Ann lived in their iconic, three-story red Victorian home overlooking Langford Park. Over the years they hosted many visiting University of Minnesota students, creating fostering friendships across the U.S. and abroad. Paul was a veteran of the armed services and graduated from the University of Minnesota. Throughout his life, Paul was active in the local community and was a longtime member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. He worked in various careers, including a long tenure with Montgomery Ward. Paul’s passion for devoting time with family and friends over weekend gatherings, bridge, camping, fishing and hunting trips, left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Frank and Elizabeth Brey, and his sisters, Virginia Osterbauer and Ann Brey. He is survived by his sister, Dr. Theresa Haddy and Justine Dubrul; and by his brother, Aloys Brey.

A Nov. 21 memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Roseville. Internment is scheduled for Nov. 26 at St. Anns Cemetery in Wabasso. Memorials are welcome to the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund to support children’s cancer research.

Louis Frenzel

Louis Daniel Frenzel Jr., 98, of Falcon Heights, died Oct. 19, 2018, at Good Samaritan Ambassador in New Hope, Minn. He was a professor of wildlife biology at the University of Minnesota from 1960 to 1984, most recently teaching in the biology department at Macalester College. Louis was preceded in death in 2016 by his wife, Virginia. He is survived by their children Richard, Scott, and Denise, and five grandchildren.

His funeral service was held at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Roseville, with interment at Elmhurst Cemetery.

Lisa Hage

Lisa Hage was born April 22, 1950. She died peacefully at home of glioblastoma, surrounded by her family on Nov. 2.

Lisa was known as a wonderful wife and mother, master gardener, book lover and animal expert. Family and friends also knew her to be very kind with a wicked sense of humor and deeply ingrained sense of justice. Her greatest joy after her family was to show others, especially children, the world of books. Until recently, she served at St. Anthony Park Library.

Lisa was preceded in death by her parents, George and Patricia Hassenstein. She is survived by her husband, Rolf; her sons and families, Jens (Martha) of Galesville Wis.; and Gordon (Brooke), of Minneapolis; three grandchildren; and her sisters, Holle Hassenstein and Laurel Shelton.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Coronation Society of Minnesota, 7110 France Ave., Edina. Memorials preferred to Alliance Housing, or Heifer International.

Jeannie Sloan

Jeannie “Skye” Sloan, 71, of Edina, Minn., died Oct. 19. Skye was born on Jan. 31, 1947, to Joe and Wilma Sloan in Berville, Tex. She graduated from Edina High School in 1965 and from Stephen F. Austin University in 1972. Skye lived in the Cornopol Park area for many years, before returning to Edina in 2014. She was a well-known member of her Cornopol Park neighborhood, as well as the St. Anthony Park community, where she worked for many years at All Season Dry Cleaners on Carter Avenue. Skye was also known for her ready smile, her love of gardening, art and nature, and her enthusiasm for life. She is survived by her sisters, Linda (Lynn) Wilkerson and Sandra (Dennis) Ray, and her brother, Joe (Janis) Sloan.

A celebration of Skye’s life was held Nov. 4. Dick is survived by his wife, Mary Jo (Franklin) and his golden retriever, Toffee. Please direct any memorials to St. Paul Urban Tennis or Super Hiking Trail Association.

Richard Tein

A. Richard (“Dick”) Tein, 70, of Hugo, Minn., died Oct. 10 due to complications from a long fight against lymphoma.

Dick grew up in Falcon Heights, attended the former Alexander Ramsey High School (now Roseville Area High School), and Hamline University. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, and was stationed in Guam and South Korea. After his military service, he worked as an electrical engineer at Medtronic for 50 years. An avid tennis player, Dick competed regionally and nationally, creating lifelong friendships along the way. Throughout his life, he excelled at many other sports, including hockey, triathlons, biking, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, sailing and golf.

A celebration of Dick’s life was held Nov. 4. Dick is survived by his wife, Mary Jo (Franklin) and his golden retriever, Toffee. Please direct any memorials to St. Paul Urban Tennis or Super Hiking Trail Association.
Steve Jents honors as 3M rising econ star

The Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCCEE) has honored Falcon Heights resident Steve Jents with its annual 3M Rising Star in Economics award. The award recognizes an educator who shows a commitment to economic education and professional growth.

Steve Jents

Jents teaches IB Economics Systems at St. Paul Central High School and helped the MCCEE develop a rigorous personal finance curriculum for urban high school students as part of its Learning Together, Thriving Together program. He also coaches the Economics Challenge team at Central.

The MCCEE held the awards ceremony on Oct. 25 at its annual EconFest at the new Bell Museum of Natural History on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Besides his involvement in economics education, Jents is an athletics coach for the football, softball and golf teams.

‘Art at Ramsey’ features 80 local artists

Art at Ramsey’s 25th annual art show will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ramsey Middle School, 1700 Summit Ave.

Admission is free to the show, which is sponsored by Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education in cooperation with Artists’ Circle, a non-profit art organization promoting fine crafts.

Art at Ramsey is a sale of quality work by 80 local artists from the upper Midwest who create fine crafts and fine art. The sale includes leather handbags, acrylic and oil paintings, photographs, silver and gold jewelry, baskets, sculpture, woven scarves, art dolls, stained and blown glass, woodcut prints, unique hand-dyed silk apparel, hand-carved wooden birds, hank-woven rugs, turned wood, original cards, pottery tiles, vases, bowls, teapots and cups; and also Hmong needle work and holiday ornaments.

Rosetown Playhouse presents Madagascar Jr. Nov. 30-Dec. 2

The Rosetown Playhouse will present an all-youth cast in its musical version of "Madagascar Jr." Performances are at 7 p.m. Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Ramsey Area Middle School, 15 E. County Road B2, Little Canada. Tickets can be bought online at www.RosetownPlayhouse.org, by calling at 651-792-7414, ext. 2 or at the door. The Ramsey Area Middle School box office opens 45 minutes before showroom.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $10 for seniors (65+), $10 for students ages 6-12, and $7 for children 5 and under. Call the box office for information about special rates for groups of four or more.

‘Thank You for Shopping’ talk at Scarborough Fair, Micawber's

Scarborough Fair and Micawber’s Scarborough Fair and Micawber’s Books will host a talk by Kristin Leebrecht, author of “Thank You for Shopping: The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores,” Tuesday, Nov. 27, 6-7:30 p.m. at Scarborough Fair, 2238 Carter Ave.

Published this month by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, “Thank You for Shopping” offers a lively trip back to the glory days when department stores ruled the retail landscapes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. More than just shopping centers, stores like Dayton's, Powers, Donaldson's, Young-Quinlan, the Emporium and the Golden Rule were centers of social life.

Leebrecht, the former Park Bugle editor, is also scheduled to sign books at 11 a.m. Dec. 1 at Micawber’s bookstores during the St. Anthony Park Shop Home for the Holidays celebration.

Hamline professor reviews 2018 midterm elections

Hamline University political science professor and author David Schultz will be the last guest speaker in the Roselle Library's free series titled “Political History in the Making: A Backward Look at the Midterm Elections of 2018.”

Schultz will speak at 1 p.m. Nov. 28 at the Roselle Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. He is the author of more than 30 books and 120-plus articles on various aspects of American politics.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Other Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Minnesota and the financial support of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Men’s Shed meeting weekly in Roseville

Men’s Shed, an international community service program that began in Australia, has opened a new chapter in Roseville. The Roseville Area Men’s (and Women’s) Shed meets weekly, from 1:30-3 p.m. every Thursday at the Fairview Community Center, Room 116A, 1910 W. County Road, Roseville. Men’s Shed is free, and welcomes men and women. There is no registration.

Men’s Shed offers an opportunity for people to get together, work on projects, tour local points of interest, socialize and make friends. For more information, call the Roseville Area Senior Program at (651) 604-3520.

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Christmas Eve Mass – December 24, 10 a.m.

Mene Panteau – Saw an Bousoue

Choir, Strings, Oboe, Harp & Organ

Christmas Day Mass – December 25, 9:15 a.m.

Fear of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 30, 3:15 p.m.

Masa Solomon – WA, Mozart (K.337)

Choir, Strings, Winds & Organ

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www.newlifechurchroseville.org

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Education for all: 11:15 a.m.

December 2, 3 & 9: Adult education “Just Merry” ma ss incarneration

December 16: Children’s program, jingle

Youth sale: 12 fences following service

December 24: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Lessons and Carols

All are welcome.
Cougar cubs make Como Zoo home

Two recently orphaned puma cubs from two locations in northern California are now calling Como Zoo home. The pumas arrived from California on Oct. 30 after being cared for by Oakland Zoo wildlife specialists. Como Zookeepers and University of Minnesota Veterinary staff are monitoring and tending to the male and female cubs, who are now about 10 to 15 weeks old.

Before making a public appearance the cubs—also known as mountain lion and cougar—must pass a 30-day quarantine period at Como Zoo, a standard practice done for all incoming animals to prevent spreading diseases, parasites or illness to other animals.

“While we don’t know for sure what caused this female cub to become orphaned, we do know that one of the biggest threats to mountain lions in California is traffic, with 107 animals killed by automobiles in 2016 alone,” Amy Godtiffe, director of conservation at Oakland Zoo, said in a statement.

“We are so pleased that Como Zoo is able to play a role in saving the life of these cubs,” said Nicole Carion, California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s rehabilitation coordinator. “Returning injured or orphaned wildlife to the wild is always the ideal outcome, but in situations like this—where an animal is too young to have the necessary survival skills—placing it back in the wild would be a death sentence. In those cases, we rely on AZA-accredited zoos [Association of Zoos and Aquariums] with experienced wildlife specialists and resources to step in and provide critical care.”

—Information supplied by Como Zoo
1 SATURDAY
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2237 Como Ave., select action and leadership for the vaccination sex, non-profit Amherst, and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota (FAAA).

A series of holiday-related events are scheduled Milos Square and other locations is downtown St. Anthony Park. Check out Bugle Holiday Fun Guide in this edition.

4 TUESDAY
Bake/cheesecake swirl. Every Tuesday. St. Anthony Park Library, 9:30-10 a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m. However, no class on Dec. 25.

6 THURSDAY
“Compassionate Care for Caregivers and the Bereaved” with guest speaker Jonny West. Thursday, 10:15-11:30 a.m. St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul. First to the public.

8 SATURDAY
“Yunomi” potters show, noon to 4 p.m. at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., St. Paul. This exhibition preview the work of the new potters “Minge-sota” group of potters. The work is not the creation of the yunomi, which are teacups without handles. The exhibition runs through Dec. 22. We visit gallery hours are Wednesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10 MONDAY
Roseville Symphony Christmas Carol Sing-Along, 7:30 p.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 7124 W. County Road C2.

17 MONDAY
Seasonal Community Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fulham St., St. Paul; 6:30-8 p.m. gathering, 7:00-8:30 p.m. singing. Event is free, but a hat will be passed to help support the music leaders and to make the sings possible.

20 THURSDAY
Smartphone/tablet drop-in clinic. St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul. Noon to 2 p.m. This clinic is for tablets and smartphones. Bring your questions, problems and concerns.

24 MONDAY
Numerous Christmas Eve church services. Check the Bugle’s Community Worship Directory.

25 TUESDAY
Numerous Christmas Day church services. Check the Bugle’s Community Worship Directory.

26 WEDNESDAY
1-1:45 p.m., St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Architects! Kids, ages 7-11, will learn about the concepts of housing and design, hear a story and design and build a structure. Inspired by the children’s book, Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts.
Cougars, Pilots wrap up fall sports seasons

By Eric Erickson

Sports news and analysis

More than 300 students at Como High School and Murray Middle School played in 11 athletic programs this fall and, win or lose, hopefully they all have benefited from that experience.

Through commitment and competition, we saw teammates develop chemistry that, in turn, fostered friendships, fun and character-building lessons for living.

We saw positive intergenerational encouraging adults and motivated, energetic teenagers who together represented their school communities.

Regardless of wins and losses, school sports help students shine and gain education in an experiential setting. The journey of each team and individual is unique.

For the Bagle community, we offer a snapshot of the fall sports season and what 11 programs produced at Como Park High School and Murray Middle School.

Como Park Cougars

Football — A young team with 20 new starters struggled against more experienced competition in the Twin Cities Red Sub-District.

Though they finished with a record of 2-7, the Cougars learned what resiliency could do for a team after beating Brooklyn Center 54-12 in their final home game. That win was realized after the team kept working through a challenging stretch against two opponents who both qualified for the state tournament.

Josh Ward and Morris Walker were key players on both sides of the ball for the Cougars and were selected to the Twin Cities All-District Team. Players receiving honorable mention honors are Alonte Johnson, Chae Chang, Alex Fusco and Khyri Lauben.

Boys’ Soccer — The Cougars clawed their way back to claim three come-from-behind victories over St. Croix Prep, Harding and Highland Park that will stand out as proud accomplishments for this year’s varsity squad. Overall, the Cougars completed the season with a record of 7-8-3, finishing 5-5-2 in the always-challenging St. Paul City Conference.

Leadership from seniors Pet Sad Tit and Mu Ku Shu modeled the desired commitment and unselfish attitude for younger players to emulate. Shi was an all-conference selection. Tit was honorable mention along with Yanni Mohamed and Emmanuel Molinos Lopez.

Volleyball — The Cougars’ volleyball program had 30 players with a varsity, junior varsity, and C-team. Team improvement was evident at every level throughout the season. With just six seniors in the program, a strong nucleus is in place to try to improve upon this season’s overall varsity record of 5-15.

Junior captains Carter Brown and Anna Smith were consistent leaders and organizers for the team. Sophomores Hannah Hauser and Morgan Nichols emerged as additional leaders on the court. Nichols was voted the team’s best offensive player and most valuable player. Hauser was chosen best defensive player. Brown won the leadership award. Haidsee Mona was voted most improved.

Girls’ Soccer — The Cougars’ non-conference schedule this season was more difficult than in 2017, but the girls responded to the challenges and accumulated an overall record of 11-5-1. New non-conference opponents such as Minnehaha Academy, Tartan and Hastings were tests for the up-and-coming Cougars. Wins against Minnehaha and Tartan were affirming. A loss to Hastings was a learning experience that led to improvement.

For the third straight season, junior Sha’ir Too was named all-state.

Girls’ Tennis — The team had 16 individuals who bonded on and off the court to create a fun extracurricular experience. The varsity’s overall record was 2-7, with wins against Washington and New Life Academy.

The Cougars’ top singles player was senior captain Victoria Hartwig-Cedillo, who earned all-conference recognition. Stella LaCroix-Dalluhn and Abby Kuran formed a strong doubles combination and also served as co-captains. LaCroix-Dalluhn received honorable mention. Freshman Eva Larson played No. 2 singles and was Como’s recipient of the Jeanne Arth Sportsmanship Award, which is determined by a vote of the conference coaches.

Girls’ Swimming — For the second consecutive year, Como’s swimmers joined with Johnson High School participants to create a combined team. Practices at Como provided the opportunity for the team to come together and train with common goals of gaining confidence, stamina and speed. The team finished in fourth place in the St. Paul City Conference. Junior Ana Boles earned all-conference honorable mention. Coach Steve Conery was selected as the conference coach of the year.

Cross Country — it was another successful season for the boys’ and girls’ teams who both placed third in the St. Paul City Conference. In the five-team Pike Island Invitational, both teams took home the first place, with sophomore Claire Olson crossing the finish line first in the...
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girls’ race. At the conference meet, sophomore Justine Wulff was the top Cougar finisher and earned all-conference status. Olson, Bridget Proper, Saylor Landrum and Molly Clement received all-conference honorable mentions.

Junior Alistair Pattison was a leading runner for the Cougar boys, earning all-conference honors with a strong performance at the city meet. Antero Sivula, AbdulKarim Ogato and Issac Harker were all close behind and qualified for honorable-mention awards.

Murray Pilots

Volleyball — The Pilots have been a consistent force on the volleyball court over the years and this season was no exception. Murray posted a 13-3 record, placing second in the regular season and third in the conference tournament. Team leaders and key contributors include Kayla James, Dawn Weins, Grace Hamilton, Ayrion Gordon-Jackson, Jaraju Anderson, Ellen Tenisson and Selena Paul. The coaches were impressed by the talent and work ethic displayed every day. They are already eagerly awaiting next season when many top players will be returning.

Girls’ Soccer — The Pilots played solid defense and scored many goals on their way to an overall record of 6-2 and a third-place finish in the St. Paul City Conference. The team’s top scorers are eighth-graders Betty Hebble, Pia Banat, Shania Nichols, and sixth-grader Ava Lopez.

The girls’ soccer squad made a lot of progress throughout the season, concluding with a well-played and hard-fought 3-1 loss against the undefeated champs from Highland. No other team had as close a game against Highland as Murray.

Boys’ Soccer — Competition at the top of the St. Paul City Conference was intense with the Pilots right in the mix for a title. In the end, an overall record of 8-2 was good for a third-place tie.

The blending of offensive firepower and tenacious defending led to 39 goals scored and only 8 allowed. Each of the two losses were by narrow 1-0 margins, to Humboldt and Battle Creek. High participation and an abundance of talent bode well for the future.

Flag Football — After two consecutive city titles in 2016 and 2017, the Pilots found themselves in the middle of the pack this season. The team had a record of 4 wins and 6 losses. The Pilots posted wins over Linwood-Montine, Ramsey, Capitol Hill and Battle Creek. While the results were not what the eighth-grade class had grown accustomed to at Murray, it was an opportunity for the students to grow as individuals and a team.

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