Developer partners pledge to preserve Breck Woods

By Scott Carlson

Developers may build up to 450 units of housing on a 15.5-acre redevelopment site at Luther Seminary. But the team is also pledging to preserve as much of that property—called Breck Woods—a prized, seven-acre parcel of open space, as possible.

“This site is a jewel,” David Motzenbecker, of Motz Studios, said of Breck Woods. “There is nothing else like it.” The developer team, led by Master Properties Minnesota LLC, believes that preserving Breck Woods “is something we agree with you on.”

Motzenbecker’s comments came at community meeting this month where Master Properties introduced the members of its development team regarding the Luther Seminary redevelopment parcel. Some 150 neighbors and residents attended the meeting, which was hosted by the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council.

Don Gerberding, a principal at Master Properties, assured the audience that his development team is soliciting citizen ideas for the project and wants to collaborate with the neighborhood on its redevelopment plans. Currently, “we don’t have a plan, we have an assemblage of concepts,” Gerberding said. “It is early [in the process].”

The developers’ concept plan envisions 110 units of senior co-op housing, 110 units of senior assisted living, 120 units of affordable rental housing, 110 unit of multi-family, market-rate housing and 90 units of for-sale ownership housing.

“We want to develop the buildings on one side and leave as much of the woods as possible,” said Motzenbecker, whose business is a Minneapolis-based provider of therapeutic forest immersion walks.

Gerberding said his team is willing to grant a perpetual conservation easement that would run through the Breck Woods to protect them from development, as well as consider selling that open space to a citizen group or nonprofit.

Master Properties said it wants to make use of the hilly topography of the 15.5-acre parcel to minimize the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020. We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“We have a year-and-a-half to do the height of residential buildings on the existing neighborhood. The tentative plan is to carry out interior renovation of the Seminary’s Bedman Hall building in the fall and start new housing construction sometime in 2020.

“The developers said they plan to create an “engagement schedule” with help from the District Council and a citizen advisory committee. Other partners in the Master Properties development team include Cunningham Group, United Properties, Common Bond Communities and Simek Realty.

After the community meeting, resident Cynthia Ahlgren said she liked some but not all of what she heard from the developers.

“I liked the landscape architect’s example of work he had done for the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden [in Minneapolis],” said Ahlgren, a leader in a group called Save Breck Woods. However, I was not accepting of the idea of taking down a part of Breck Woods to build a 110-unit apartment. The woods is a natural ecosystem of complex interdependent organisms—some known, but most not yet recognized. Diminishing a part of it also harms the whole.

“It is painful to see any encroachment into the woods, but...
Commo council adds 3 to Honor Roll*

The Comomo Community Council has selected Jonah Fields, Laura Flockenicer, and Maggie Zimmerman as District 10’s 2019 honorees among those nominated by neighborhood residents. A little bit about them:

• Jonah Fields. He is the boys’ soccer coach at Comomo Park High School, where members of his team speak eight languages. Many are refugees from Thailand, and some have never played before. Yet Jonah gets them to play together — and well. Jonah also coaches a summer team of U12 girls.

• Laura Flockenicer. Laura started Girl Scout Troop 55229 when her first daughter was in Daisies. She continues to lead the troop even though her own girls have aged out. She offers as many as 14 hours of activities per month, gives even more time than that to families, and has the girls involved in everything from camping to service projects. Those projects include the annual Comomo Park cleanup, leaf-raleing for neighbors, and food and winter clothing drives.

• Maggie Zimmerman. As District 10 Land Use chairperson, Maggie navigates the head-on conflict between the Twin Cities German Immersion School’s expansion plans and some neighborhood’s campaign to gain historic designation for the former St. Andrew’s church building. She maneuvered through this potential land mine with grace and humor and incredible mediation skills. Speaking of land mines, Maggie also helps moderate the Comomo Park Neighbors Facebook group. Plus, she delivers Meals on Wheels in the neighborhood.

The annual, citywide award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations who make a sustained and lasting impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood and the city. Nominees from District 10 and the city’s 16 other planning districts will be honored at a ceremony on Friday, Jan. 25, at the University of St. Thomas. Ultimately, they will be immortalized with their names on a plaque at City Hall.

Upcoming District 10 Meetings

• Environment committee: Wednesday, Jan. 30.
• Neighborhood Relations and Safety committee: Tuesday, Feb. 5.
• Land Use committee: Tuesday, Feb. 12 (this meeting has been rescheduled from its usual day).
• Comomo Community Council monthly meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 19. All meetings typically begin at 7 p.m.

especially from such a large building,” Aalberg added. “I still hope that can be avoided.”

Community groups and residents have been lobbying to save Breck Woods, contending it is an irreplaceable natural resource. Breck Woods is home to some endangered species such as the rusty patched bumblebee and appears to represent some last relatively undisturbed section of the historic Mississippi River gorgy.

Last May, Luther Seminary’s board of directors approved selling the 15.5-acre parcel in line with its “Campus of the Future” plan. The sale includes the campus epicenter, Bockman Hall, as well as Northwestern Hall, Stub Hall dorms, the LDR Apartments, and Breck Woods, the seven acres of wooded land bordering the Lauderdale Nature Area.

The land sale is all part of reshaping a seminary that no longer houses all of its students throughout the school year.

“We need a different campus,” Morrow told the Bugle last spring. “We have a much different student base. The campus we have was designed for larger enrollment with everyone here taking classes full time. Today we have 500 students. About half are in the distributed-learning program, which means they live all over the country [and] take most of their classes online. We don’t have that many people here.”

Luther Seminary has slowly been selling under-used portions of its property for several years. In 2014, the seminary sold five apartment buildings on Euclid Street to Greenway Village. Senior housing developer Ecuemon bought 1.6 acres at Luther Place and Comomo Avenue in 2015 to build Zvago, a 95-unit co-op currently under construction.
Sunrise Banks names a new CFO

By Scott Carlson

St. Paul-based Sunrise Banks has kicked off its 100th anniversary this year with a new chief financial officer (CFO), naming Kevin Valois to the post.

Valois succeeds Melodie Carlson, who recently became Sunrise Banks’ chief administration officer. “I grew up in the Como Park area of St. Paul,” Valois said. “It’s great to be back in St. Paul and serving the communities that hold a special place in my heart.”

Before joining Sunrise Banks, Valois worked 18 years for KleinBank where he was first controller and then CFO. He began his career at the public accounting firm of McGladrey and Pullen (now known as RSM) where he worked 10 years.

“My job with McGladrey jumped started my banking career,” said Valois, who has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Minnesota at Duluth and is certified public accountant. “At the firm, you were required to pick an industry to specialize in after working for five years and I chose the financial institution space.”

As Sunrise Bank’s CFO, Valois duties include managing the finance and accounting departments, as well as providing strategic financial advice to the Sunrise board, CEO and management team.

“Adding Kevin to our leadership team will ensure that we have the financial management for continued growth,” Sunrise CEO, David Reiling said in a press statement. “His skills and expertise make him an ideal addition to our already highly talented team.”

Asked what he likes best about banking, Valois said, “The relationships that we have with customers and communities we serve. We can help individuals with their financial aspirations and assist entrepreneurs in achieving their business dreams in such an impactful way. By building these relationships, the communities become stronger and it’s great to be a part of.”

For Midway Chamber, it’s a centennial celebration!

The Midway Chamber of Commerce kicks off its 100th anniversary this year with a special dinner, auction and leadership awards celebration on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront, 11 East Kellogg Ave., in St. Paul.

Event sponsors include Sunrise Banks, Locuks, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Ideal Printer, Roseville Visitors Association, Riverland Bank, La Ragee Entertainment, St. Paul Saints, Bay West, Seven Corners Print & Promos.

Cost of the dinner and event activities is $125 per person, but there is a special rate for new members and nonprofits with fewer than 10 employees. For further information, call the Chamber office 651-646-4636 or email beth@midwaychamber.com.

“The Chamber’s roots go back to 1919 when several area businesses and individuals banded together to form the Midway Club. The organization served and promoted commerce in North and South St. Anthony Park, Merriam Park, Macalester Park, Groveland Park, Como Park and Highland Park.”

“Among the early businesses that made a mark on the Midway were the Griggs Cooper and Co., which manufactured candy and crackers, Bowen & Bigelow, Waldorf Paper Products, H.B. Fuller Co., several banks and many other ventures,” according to the Chamber.

Through the years, the organization went through a few name changes, including becoming the Midway Civic and Commerce Association in the mid-1970s and finally the Midway Chamber of Commerce in 1992. Today, the organization boasts more than 330 members.

The Bugle will have further coverage of the Chamber’s centennial year in the months ahead.

—Scott Carlson
E D I T O R I A L

Setting course for the New Year

As 2019 begins to unfold, the New Year holds all the promise of new adventures, ups and downs, triumphs and setbacks just as in all those prior years.

Will this be the year that you make and keep some of those New Year’s resolutions? Will it be time of accomplishments long dreamed of? Will it be a period of transition, taking on new jobs and leaving old ones? Moving from one residence to another home? Building new friendships?

Each day and each month is what we make of it. A wise person once said that success is the accumulation of a lot of successful days. Not everything in our lives is within our control. But how we respond to the events, people and places that touch our lives is something that we can control. “Attitude is everything,” says one of my friends.

Deadlines, publishing dates and where to find a Bugle

Want to submit something to the Bugle?

Here are the deadlines and publication dates for the next three months:

March issue: The deadline is Wednesday, February 6, and it will be published Tuesday, February 19.

April issue: The deadline is Wednesday, March 6, and it will be published Tuesday, March 19.

May issue: The deadline is Wednesday, April 10, and it will be published Tuesday, April 23.

Got a story idea?

Give us a hoot: editor@parkbugle.org or 651-646-5369. We take traditional mail, too: Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Missing your Bugle?

If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize. If your house was missed during our delivery week, we apologize.

C O M M E N T A R Y

German Immersion School makes case for church site rebuild

By Ted Anderson

The current controversy in the Wardendale neighborhood about whether our successful public charter school, Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), should be allowed to tear down and rebuild on its own property raises many public-policy issues.

Our plan to replace the remnants of the substantially altered former St. Andrew’s Church sanctuary is driven by one factor: The need to provide our student body with space that is adequate and safe. In two years we expect to top out at around 630 students, K-8. This will finally establish TCGIS in a 40-St. Paul school landscape that includes excellence across the spectrum from public charter, to traditional public (SPPS) to independent (private) schools.

After a two-year search of possible alternatives, including nearby buildings and other possible locations to accommodate the students’ needs, it was clear that demolition and replacement were our only option. TCGIS concluded that there were no other feasible and prudent alternatives to the demolition plan.

A small vocal group of Wardendale residents found our plan unacceptable and has been doing everything it can to keep the building up by burdening the school with a historic designation that we do not want, that we cannot afford and that would force TCGIS to spend public
Bugle Donors update/February 2019

A big thanks to all our donors, including these latest contributors: You can make an online donation at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE NOW button on the right-hand side of the page and scroll down. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, Minn. 55108.

Tim & Muffi Abrahamson
George & Jean Albrecht
Jean Alexandre
Haley Anderson
Nina Archabal
Brian & Karby Backberg
Norma Banka
Patricia Berglund
William & Margareta Beyer
Drew & Claire Bjorklund
Paul Bloom & Megan Layouse
Richard & Gail Bohr
Elabeth Borer
Bill & Kristen Brombrough
Francis & Barbara Bulbulian
David & Cathleen Burke
Gary & Sally Cagle
Karileen Carright
David & Phyllis Casper
Christopher & Julie Cassey
David & Michelle Christanson
Paul & Kathy Cirnia
Valte Cunningham, In the memory of
Roger Bergerston long time writer and publisher of the Bugle.
Kenneth Dahlberg & Mari Espeland
Virginia Davini
David & Karen Davis
Marc Davis
Larry Deal & Lisa Simonson
Arunadhe Deo
Tim Dickinson
Hal J. & Pam Dragseth
Judith Duren
Keith & Grace Dyrud
Joanne Eicher
Edward Elliott & Maria Bollig
Victoria Erhart
Ann Fendler
Linda Fite
Terence & Faith Fretheim
Dan & Kathryn Frywall
Bjorn & Britt Gangness
Julie Glowerka
Christopher Guarnera
Chris Guzman
Michael Hahm & Amy Breidmoen
Gregory & Mary Anne Haley
Leeny & Marry Halvorsen
Mark & Brenda Hansen
Tim & Kathleen Harding
Erik Haag
Ellen Healy
Nancy Hendrickx
Michael Heano & Luella Griffin
Andres & Julie Himmelstrop
Marilyn Hoegemeyer
Esther Hope
Jennifer Horn
Rober & Karen Hoyle
Bill Huth & Sally McGuire-Huth
Emi Ito
Wayne Jennings & Joan Sorenson
James Jernberg
Erik Jordan & Laura Park
Laxie Kaufman
Richard Klimala & Maryanne Hnub
Daniel Kriv & Susan Krivist Schmidt
William & Diane Krueger
Alvin Kuval
Jean Larson
Richard Levins & Jane Dickerson
Gregory Lien
Thomas Lobie
Betty Lotterman
Rick & Susan MacPherson
Kathy Magnuson
Anne McNemey
McKenna/Lansen Family
Roberta Megard
Brad Meinhold & Susan Stacey
Andrew Mellin
Bruce & Paula Mielke
Bjorn & Margot Monson
David & Lynne Murphy
Gordon & Chrisy Myers
Charles Nauen and PJ Pofahl
Joan Nolder
Mike & Marcie O’Connor
Catherine O’rell
Paul Otrold
Dennis & Turd Ormseth
Judy Peterson
Frank Preese & Barbara Shields
Gene & Judy Probst
David Punell
Matthew Rassente & Rene Perpent
Rebecca Rausser
Gitter Ruddy
Karen Ras
Dokter Rufenacht
Michael & Regula Russelle
Roald & Shelley Sararen
Ken Scherber & Rose Ann Foreman
Jay Schrader & Claire Cafrey
Jack & Karen Schultz
Jon Schumacher & Mary Briggs
John Selz & Catherine Furry
Steve & Susan Shuman
John Smull
Frank Sterne & Lisa Habeck
Robert & Mavis Straughn
Rick & Karen Sundeen
John & Gloria Sweet
Elad Tadmor & Jennifer Mullin
Thomas & Jill Tingey
Robert Thayer & Nancy Meade-Thayer
David Thomas
Blaine & Cindy Thrasher
Eric Van Leuven
John & Betty Vanhecke
Norris Waden
Frederick & Dorothy Waltz
John Wand & Anke Reinders
Michael Webster
Judy Wehrwein
Steve & Katherine Wellington
Tom Will & Kristen Nelson
Arthur Winman & Debbie Musell
Robert & Crystal Wison
Dona Woolery
John Wright
Natalie Zett
Debra Zimmer
Ed & Margie Zimmer

Bugle hears donor fund goal, but future remains challenging

Thank you, Bugle supporter! After conducting our annual fund appeal over the past three months, our goal of $52,000 is in sight. As of Jan. 6, the Bugle had received $49,120 in contributions. By press time, we may have actually met or exceeded our $52,000 goal. This is good news for our newspaper. However, the other side of the story: The Bugle now more than ever needs more donor support since advertising revenue, which covers about 60 percent of our costs, has fallen appreciably in the last several years.

Meanwhile, we have held the line on expenses, but some cost increases have been inevitable, most notably printing and distribution.

The future

Going forward, the Bugle’s staff and board of directors is committed to diligently address the newspaper’s financial challenges. We are beginning both short- and long-term strategic planning to ensure the Bugle’s future viability: As always, we welcome your suggestions and ideas.

—Scott Carlson, editor

Thank You!

To the hundreds of individuals - and the following businesses and foundations - for their generous support.

- All Seasons Cleaners
- Augurian
- Ben Qui & Sons
- Bibeal Shops
- Bolger Vision to Print
- Carter Avenue Frame Shop
- ChampionShip MN
- Christ Deming, Townley & Deming Reality
- Healing Elements
- Lerner Foundation
- Park Dental
- St. Anthony Park Home
- Steve Townley, Townley & Deming Reality
- Sunrise Banks
- The Saint Paul Foundation
- Thomas Landscape
- Tim & Tom’s Spesy Market
- Update Company
- Wellington Management

Employee Matching Funds
- Brevity
- Best Buy
- Community Shares of MN
- McKesson
- Medtronic
- Thomson-Reuters

Saint Anthony Park

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PO Box 8038 • St. Paul, MN 55108 • 651-249-9107 www.sapfoundation.org
Roy Magnuson retiring as Como teacher, ready to serve Ramsey County

By Eric Erickson

After 25 years of teaching social studies at Como Park High School, and nearly 40 years of coaching the Cougars in football, wrestling and track, Roy Magnuson is retiring from his full-time position in education.

Magnuson began serving St. Paul and Ramsey County in a new capacity on January 7 as the Public Information Officer for the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office. He was appointed by Sheriff Bob Fletcher.

A lifelong resident of St. Paul, Magnuson grew up on Chleford Street, a short walk to St. Anthony Park Elementary, his first St. Paul Public School home away from home. He attended Murray for grades 7-12, when it was serving as the neighborhood secondary school.

As a high school senior, Magnuson began coaching at Langford Park – the rec center of his youth. “Bill O’Malley, who succeeded Langford Park playground legend Bruce Petrizko asked me to coach Wre PEE football in fall of 1971. He literally was a life changer for me,” Magnuson said.

Magnuson never stopped coaching. He coached teams in St. Paul Parks and Rec, ran programming, built relationships, and went to college at various stages. In 1979, in Como Park’s first year as a high school, Magnuson joined the coaching staff of the football team. He’d do the same for wrestling and track in the early 80s, serving as assistant, co-coach, or head coach ever since.

After earning a history degree from Augsburg College, Magnuson began teaching full-time at Como in 1993, two blocks from the house he and wife Mary Drew purchased. “It is an exaggeration to say that Roy’s work in the classroom touched the lives of thousands, inspiring students, and helping teenagers find their place in the world. Through thought-provoking instruction, humor, high expectations and unwavering belief, Roy built relationships. Chong Thao is a respected and beloved Como English teacher. At one point in time, he was Mr. Magnuson’s student.

“During Roy’s tenure at Como Park, he has been a mentor to students and champion of teachers in his efforts to show that, in his words, ‘Como Park is the best kept secret in St. Paul.’ As my former teacher, he taught me that I mattered; as my colleague, Roy taught me that I have a voice, and he has done the same for countless other students and teachers,” Thao said.

Anthony Rogers was a talented football player and wrestler who graduated from Como in 2001. Having built a relationship through coaching, Magnuson encouraged Anthony to challenge himself, to think of himself as a student with college potential, and to take the AP U.S. History course he taught.

Anthony graduated from St. Olaf College in 2005, the first in his family to earn a college degree, and works for iQor in Accounts Receivable. “Roy Magnuson is one of the greater men that I know. He always sees you for who you are and can help get anyone to their next level as a person,” Rogers said.

The reach of Magnuson’s work and the extent of his impact within education circles stands on its own merit. But above and beyond teaching, coaching, and relationships, Magnuson has a gift for organizing, which he has done for decades in both labor and politics.

“I have been fortunate to be involved with many campaigns of non-traditional candidates. Like many activists of my generation, the chance to have a relationship with Paul and Sheila Wellstone was maybe the most memorable part of my involvement,” Magnuson said.

“Life is in many ways about relationships and I have been blessed with so many. The labor and political activities have been a source of life-long friendships.”

Getting to know people, encouraging people, connecting people and empowering people are cornerstones of the work Roy Magnuson has done and will continue to do. Former teacher and St. Paul School Board member John Brodrick has been witness to it all.

“As a teenager, Roy already exhibited leadership skills. In his lifetime of service, he has transported those qualities and abilities to all of St. Paul. In teaching, coaching, politics, unionism and just being a friend, Roy has understood the heart of St. Paul in all of its history and diversity,” Brodrick said.

Talk to a few people in St. Paul and you’ll quickly find someone who knows Roy. You don’t have to look too hard to see the impact of Roy Magnuson’s career, and the influence he’s had in the community and city where he grew up and invested his energy.

Now, a new chapter – sharing the message and informing the public about the positive role the sheriff’s office has in Ramsey County and our city.

“The team that County Sheriff Fletcher has put together is a group of talented individuals who have the manuarity to work together for an important goal – redefining the way that law enforcement and public safety is seen and accepted in our society,” Magnuson said.

As the sheriff’s office provides services, ensures safety, connects resources, and implements programming to support youth and help the people, Roy Magnuson’s ability to create and foster relationships will certainly be an asset.

While his everyday presence at Como Park High School will be sorely missed, Cougars past and present should know that Roy Magnuson is still serving.
St. Paul educator Dan Mesick retires

By Alex Lodner

Dan Mesick retired in December, capping an illustrious career that began after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1985.

The Wisconsin native taught math at Harding High School and Hazel Park Junior High before working as an administrative intern at Johnson and Ramsey Middle School. After that, Mesick served as assistant principal at Highland Park Senior School and then principal at Como Park High School.

Mesick’s original plans.

“After more than 30 years as an educator in the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), Dan Mesick retired in December, capping an illustrious career that began after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1985.

Mesick became the principal leader at the Office of College and Career Readiness, working to increase opportunities for high school students to earn college credit. This past school year, Mesick moved to the Office of Teaching and Learning to focus on the SPPS Indigenous and World Language Department and help students earn college credit for a second language.

Surprisingly, education wasn’t in Mesick’s original plans.

“While studying engineering at the University of Minnesota, I decided to move into education to work with students instead,” he said on the day he retired. “Halfway toward earning my engineering degree, I realized that I wasn’t as interested in the engineering as I was in helping students learn and be ready for their future. After coming to this realization, it was a short step to changing my major to pursue a degree in mathematics education.” It was clearly a good fit.

“As a teacher at Hazel Park, I worked with math teachers across the district to start the SPPS Junior High Math League,” Mesick explained. “As an administrator at any of the schools I worked at, I was proud of being a tough but caring adult that supported students and encouraged them to pursue their own success both during school but more importantly, after they graduated. In my most recent work it was exciting to expand the opportunities for all high school students to earn college credit and be ready for success after high school.”

After three decades in education, Mesick reflected on the many challenges and rewards of working with students in St. Paul.

“One of the cooler things about being Como Park principal was seeing students and graduates doing great things or seeing them out and about and hearing about their successes and accomplishments,” he said. “Another highlight is when my niece and nephew, both of whom are Como graduates, break into a ‘No Fun Mesick’ chant when they don’t get their way. The chant began when I was working to prevent seniors from making fun of the freshmen at pep assemblies.”

Mesick remains concerned for the well-being of all students in the district.

“The biggest challenge is the continued work to make sure that success isn’t based on a student’s race, gender, religion, sexuality or zip code,” he said before leaving on vacation. “SPPS leaders need to work with all members of the community to allow each student to develop their own measures of success and then help the students reach them.”

Mesick might be retired, but that doesn’t mean he is finished contributing to the community. “I am trying to not rush into anything,” he said. “Right now my plans for retirement are to relax and recharge. I love to travel and have a couple trips planned. I’m also planning on reconnecting with friends and family.”

Murray Middle School seeks tutors

Murray Middle School is seeking volunteer tutors for its Pilot One-on-One Program, which serves academically-challenged students.

Tutors are needed Monday through Friday for one to three hours from 11:08 a.m. to 12:08 p.m., 12:12-1:08 p.m. and 1:08-2 p.m. Pick a day and the time you can commit to each week that meets your schedule.

All volunteers must attend a 90-minute training and orientation session prior to starting tutoring.

“At this session, we will describe the program, review Murray policies and complete a background check form,” said Cindy Thrasher, coordinator for the Pilot One-on-One Tutoring Program. “We can schedule a training session most days at 8 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. upon request.”

Now in its 12th year, the tutor program focuses on students who that typically do not have strong home support. Students work with a tutor individually each day. Both the tutor and student study English, math, social sciences or science together. Students also work on developing and improving their study skills.

For more information about the program or to sign up for a training session, contact Cindy Thrasher at (651) 293-8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org.
The old St. Andrew’s Church that is now home to the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

— Twin Cities German Immersion School and St. Andrew’s Church.

The Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCCGS) last year unveiled plans to raze and replace its current facility, the former St. Andrew’s Church in Como Park, with a new campus building to meet growing K-8 student enrollment — expected to reach 630 kids in two years — needs. But “Save Historic St. Andrew’s,” a group of 23 neighbors who live near the school, want the church building designated as a historic landmark. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission sided with the citizen group, but the city’s Planning Commission has essentially backed the school. Ultimately, the German Immersion School’s proposal will wind up before the City Council, most likely in early March.

— Como Harbor project: Como Zoo is continuing construction of the $20 million Como Harbor, its new seals and sea lions exhibit that is expected to open in this year. The new exhibit will provide year-round indoor and outdoor use that will meet or exceed all regulatory and animal-care requirements, according to zoo officials.

— Falcon Heights senior housing project. Groundbreaking and construction is underway on an estimated $13 million senior housing complex on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights called “The Hendrickson.” The four-story, 66-unit building at the former Hermes Garden Center site will include five studio apartments with the rest a mix of one- and two-bedroom units. Completion is expected in December, according to an official at Kelly Brothers Ltd., the project’s developer.

— Zvago development project. Zvago, a three-story, 49-unit housing cooperative took shape in 2018 and is now on tap to welcome its first residents in late February with the rest expected to move in sometime this spring. The new development is located at the southeast edge of Luther Seminary at Como Avenue and Luther Place. Examen, a Lutheran-affiliated nonprofit, is the developer.
Does St. Paul have a housing crisis?

These days, that is a very topical question given that the Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) reports three-fourths of St. Paul’s housing units are at least 50 years old, and half of those are renter-occupied. To accommodate the city’s growing population, the MHP predicts St. Paul will need more than 18,000 new housing units by 2030.

According to a recent American Community Survey, half of St. Paul’s non-white residents and one-third of the city’s white (non-Hispanic) residents are cost-burdened; that is, they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

Doreen Healy was the Park Bugle editor from 2000 to 2019.

Two Read Brave events

St. Anthony Park will feature two Read Brave events in the coming weeks. The St. Anthony Park Branch Library and the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association (SAPBLA) will host a discussion on “Evicted” on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. The discussion will be moderated by Paul Fate, a St. Anthony Park resident and former president and CEO of CommonBond Communities, the Midwest’s largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing.

“Evicted” was published in 2016 and won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, a Carnegie Medal, and the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction. The book is set in Milwaukee and follows the lives of eight families living in that city’s poorest neighborhoods, where evictions are commonplace.

“For decades, we’ve focused mainly on jobs, public assistance, parenting, and mass incarceration,” Desmond said. “We have failed to fully appreciate how deeply housing is implicated in the creation of poverty.”

Desmond, who is white, lived in a trailer park for four months, getting to know residents. He then moved to a rooming house on Milwaukee’s North Side, a mostly black and poor neighborhood. There he got to know the landlords of his and many other buildings. His book is about both the people who get evicted and those who evict them.

Copies of “Evicted” are available to check out at the St. Anthony Park Library and are for sale at Micawber’s Books, 2230 Carter Ave., in Milton Square.

The second Read Brave-related event will feature St. Anthony Park resident Tom Fisher, former dean of the University of Minnesota’s Architecture School. Fisher will discuss “Community-First Approaches to Housing the Homeless” Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. The event is hosted by SAP library and SAPBLA.

Both Read Brave events are free and open to the public.

Ferdinand Peters Law Firm

We are all here to help you!

Ligitation / Wills & Estates & Probate / Real Estate
Divorces & Family / Criminal Defense / Business Start-ups

www.ferdlaw.com / ferdpeters@ferdlaw.com

In Milton Square, 2230 Carter Ave., St. Paul, 651-645-8250

Stop! In the name of love!

Speedy has all things heart-related to sate your Valentine needs.

Cards.
Candy.
Flowers.

Show the love.

With you every smile of the way.

Dental care for the entire family, including:
- Preventive dentistry
- Cosmetic dentistry
- Dental implants
- Same-day crowns

We now have new, expanded hours!

Preferred provider for most insurance companies. Call or request your appointment online.

www.parkdentalcomoavenue.com

2282 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-640-3272 | parkdental.com

FREE PARKING!

Trusted dentist for the Minnesota Vikings
Growing hockey in Langford Park and across Minnesota

By Katie Schultz
Murray Middle School eighth-grader

Supposedly, Minnesota is the “State Of Hockey.”

However, roughly 60 percent of kids across the USA drop (http://www.ccmhockey.com/page/buycross_101129/producing-dirt-as-players-starts-bottom) out of hockey after the Pee Wee level (when checking starts). Why? Commitment, safety, cost, and accessibility are a few of the big reasons kids don’t stay on the ice. The same is true in Langford Park.

Which is why—with lots of support from both Courtney Moriarty at Langford Park Rec Center and Scott Hamilton, director for the Langford Park Hockey Association—a few families came together this fall to create a coached teen hockey club that meets for indoor and outdoor practices and informal pick-up games.

This club is co-ed, non-checking, and focused on fun. For my family, no checking was a big factor because of all the research that reveals the adverse impact of concussions on players’ lives. In 2011, for example, USA hockey banned checking at the Pee-Wee level because of research on the dangerous and lasting effects of even minor head injuries.

Our club includes everyone from beginners to those who have played up to 8 years on organized teams. Those who have played a lot before simply have other interests or commitments that don’t match the intense schedule required by other leagues for this age group. For those who haven’t had a chance to learn to play before, it’s a fun way to test out “the greatest sport on the planet.” (OK, I’m biased.)

“The fact that we encourage first-time players to join is almost unheard of at this age,” Moriarty says. “All teen programming is important, especially in this day and age where young people can just stay in their rooms with phones or computers and never create real connections with real people.”

Derek Ricke, vice-president of administration for the Minnesota Hockey Rec League, agrees. “There’s really a nationwide trend across all youth sports of dropping participation because of the increase in intensity and commitment levels at younger ages.” In contrast, the hockey rec program, which includes more than 600 players spread out across 41 teams, matches Langford’s focus (on a much larger scale) on the importance of low-cost, co-ed, lower commitment, non-checking options for teens.

What the Minnesota Hockey Rec League offers is weekly refereed games for those who love a little more competition and a few practices. Hamilton worked with the Minnesota Hockey Rec League to make sure that teens on the Langford Club, who wanted officiated games against other teams, could all be on the same rec team.

Eric Hedblom, president of the Minnesota Hockey Rec League, made it clear that he and others are devoted to this alternative model of growing hockey in Minnesota. “Our goal,” he said, “is for every player to have a fun and safe experience playing hockey, while hopefully developing lifelong hockey players who play because they love the game!”

“We may just be scratching the surface of the actual demand for this type of hockey option,” Ricke added.

Thanks to Hamilton, Moriarty, Minnesota Rec Hockey, and the teenagers who play for the club team for making all of this possible! We have so much fun and you should join!

For further information: Langford Teen Hockey Club Practices Tuesdays and Thursday at 5 p.m. at Langford Park Rec Center, 30 Langford Park, weather permitting (with occasional indoor ice) teenrechockey@gmail.com
MN Hockey Rec League https://www.minnesotahockey.org/recleague

Sign-ups open for annual SAP Progressive Dinner

Registrations are now open for the 36th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 16.

Send an email to progressivedinner.sap@gmail.com and organizers will send you a registration form. The form explains how the dinner works and you can select the course you are willing to host. The registration deadline is March 9 and you must register to participate in this free event. Walk-in registrations on March 16 cannot be accepted.

The fun, food, and friendship begin at 5:30 p.m. on March 16 at the Centennial Methodist Church St. Anthony Park campus at Como and Hillside avenues, for appetizers. Then, progressive dinners fan out across the neighborhood to partake in a series of salad, main course, and dessert courses hosted at the homes of Progressive Dinner participants.

For further information, email the Progressive Dinner coordinating committee at progressivedinner.sap@gmail.com, or call/text June at 651-303-5263.
Commentary from 4 dollars on the preservation of a church. Against our wishes, the group submitted an application to the city for local historic designation of our building. This past Nov. 5, the city’s Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) voted 8-1 to saddle the worthy of preservation. We believe reasons. The building failed to make the cut for the parish with another. Neither the historic designation in surveys done by HPC. Further, the Catholic diocese nor the Vatican’s canonical real estate agents ever declared the purchased the property in 2013, ultimately be designated against our wishes, it will present a very troublesome precedent for the future. Aula to the city’s registry of historical sales of similar properties. Countered the HPC’s action and decision rests on the city’s 2040 Ordinances, which prohibits forced preservation: forced preservation of a historic building in the interest and welfare of “the people” when that very preservation will have a deep and negative impact on the property, safety and welfare of the people who learn, study and work within that building. The vote is consistent with comments made by several members of the Planning Committee’s Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee which indicated that historic designation should not be used as “a weapon” by people who will not have to carry any responsibility, including any financial obligation, for the burden imposed when there is a designation over the property owner’s objection. These people fighting demolition include a minority of Warrentdale residents and a few outliers calling themselves “Save Historic St. Andrew’s” (SH SA). They have now challenged the city’s site plan, including its request for a parking variance. TCGIS has clearly outlined that the variance will not negatively affect neighborhood parking, a conclusion based on the data and analysis of an independent traffic research firm. This evaluation, at a cost of $12,000 to the school, was performed at the request of city planners to ensure that the new building and site plan would not disrupt traffic for neighbors. TCGIS is confident the full turf fields, and rain gardens that have improved the character of the stormwater filtration and served as a pollinator habitat for monarch butterflies. The TCGIS location in Warrentdale is in “forever home.” And it’s going to continue to be a good neighbor!”

Ted Anderson is the executive director of TCGIS and has been a St. Anthony Park resident since 2005.

Com m entary from 4 dollars on the preservation of a church. Against our wishes, the group submitted an application to the city for local historic designation of our building. This past Nov. 5, the city’s Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) voted 8-1 to saddle the school’s students and staff, Warrentdale neighbors and ultimately other St. Paul decision-makers with the burden of designating the failing structure as a historic property worthy of preservation. We believe this decision is flawed for several reasons. In 1983 and again in 2001, the building failed to make the cut for historic designation in surveys done by HPC. Further, the Catholic Church itself decommissioned and abandoned the site in 2011, merging the parish with another. Neither the diocese nor the Vatican’s canonical real estate agents ever declared the worthy of preservation. Another fact: When the school purchased the property in 2013, there was no discussion of historic designation. Should the space ultimately be designated against our wishes, it will present a very troublesome precedent for the future sales of similar properties. Thankfully, on Dec. 14, the city’s Planning Commission countered the HPC’s action and voted 12-1 against adding the altered Aula to the city’s registry of historical buildings. The Commission’s decision rests on the city’s 2040 comprehensive plan to “prioritize publicly-owned buildings,” and Chapter 73 of the city’s Code of Ordinances, which prohibits forced preservation: It is impossible to argue that forced preservation of a historic building is in the interest and welfare of “the people” when that very preservation will have a deep and negative impact on the property, safety and welfare of the people who learn, study and work within that building. The vote is consistent with comments made by several members of the Planning Commission’s Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee which indicated that historic designation should not be used as “a weapon” by people who will not have to carry any responsibility, including any financial obligation, for the burden imposed when there is a designation over the property owner’s objection. These people fighting demolition include a minority of Warrentdale residents and a few outliers calling themselves “Save Historic St. Andrew’s” (SH SA). They have now challenged the city’s site plan, including its request for a parking variance. TCGIS has clearly outlined that the variance will not negatively affect neighborhood parking, a conclusion based on the data and analysis of an independent traffic research firm. This evaluation, at a cost of $12,000 to the school, was performed at the request of city planners to ensure that the new building and site plan would not disrupt traffic for neighbors. TCGIS is confident the full

City Council will do the right thing and approve the school’s construction project when it finally meets to discuss the plan (most likely in early March). The only German immersion school in the state, TCGIS gives Minnesota kids the chance to engage with the world. TCGIS is also a model Minnesota public charter school. The school has increased the vitality—and value—of the Warrentdale neighborhood, in numerous ways and it will continue to do so with in new building. Some of the ways in which this community—and the city—have benefited from TCGIS include: To date, nearly every one of TCGIS 120-plus graduates has had the chance to participate in our exchange with a German partner school, regardless of financial situation. Teachers and TCGIS families continue to move to the neighborhood to be close to school, buying or renting. In at least two cases, “troubled” neighborhood properties were purchased and completely renovated. This increase in demand and quality has raised property values for residents. The school has made the pre-existing school site greener by landscaping and adding play areas, grass fields, and rain gardens that have improved the character of the stormwater filtration and served as a pollinator habitat for monarch butterflies. The TCGIS location in Warrentdale is in “forever home.” And it’s going to continue to be a good neighbor!”

Ted Anderson is the executive director of TCGIS and has been a St. Anthony Park resident since 2005.
James Dickson

James U. Dickson, Jr., 84, of Vadnais of St. Paul; and his four children, Tom Dickson, Helena, Mont.; Mary O'Connor of Shoreview, Minn.; Linenhart, Lindstrom, Minn.; Jay Dickson of Dakota Dunes, S.D. He was preceded in death by three brothers and by his second wife, Ellen O'Connor Dickson. He was previously married to Cheryl Pashby. Dickson of St. Paul.

He was born in 1934 in Rapid City, S.D., and spent most of his early life in Sturgis, S.D. James graduated from the University of South Dakota with a business degree, and worked with his father in forest-products and construction businesses in Sturgis, and then was employed by forest-products associations in Albuquerque, N.M., and Portland, Ore.

In 1967, the Great Northern Railway in St. Paul hired him. For that organization, which eventually became the Burlington Northern Railroad, James held various executive positions in St. Paul, Fort Worth, Tex., and Denver, Colo., as head of market research and economic services, lobbyist, and speechwriter.

After an early retirement, James moved back to the Twin Cities and put his master's degree in communications to work teaching speech and writing for 10 years to graduate students at St. Mary's and Hamline universities. During that time, he was a successful freelance writer and business consultant.

He also served two terms on the Minnesota Business Partnership board and was an accomplished potter. Memorials may be given to Voice, the Twin Cities organization for choirs for people living with dementia and their loved ones, at givingvoice.org/donate.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 30 at the Como Park Conservatory.

Leland Green

Leland Joseph “Lee” Green, 86, died Dec. 20.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Green. He is survived by children Kathryn Green (Mike Rother), Douglas (Denny) Freiberg, Chris (Kathy) Green, Jeff Green, Jenny (Patrick) Coyne, Karen Green, and Ameer (Brian) Whitmore; 19 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister Alice Olsen; and dear friend and cribbage partner Greg Schones.

Lee spent most of his life as a St. Paul resident, working for more than 30 years for the City of St. Paul and was a longtime parishioner and choir member at the Church of the Holy Childhood.

In his spare time, he was active and served in leadership positions with several organizations, including Boy Scouts of America, St. Paul City – County Men’s Golf League, Holy Childhood Schola Cantorum, and FERA (St. Paul) Retiree Association. Additionally, Lee had several hobbies, including painting, photography, gardening, collecting musical instruments, traveling and playing cribbage. Special thanks to the staff at Sunrise Senior Living of Roseville for caring for Lee with dignity and respect in his later years.

Memorials preferred to either Sharing and Caring Hands or Holy Childhood Choir Fund.

Norma Harrisville

Norma Alice Harrisville, 89, former longtime resident of St. Anthony Park, died Dec. 20.

Norma was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Vincent and Edel Haggerty. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, as well as liturgy tutor, artist, vocalist, and reader and renderer of tropes.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Roy; children, Randi Marie (Brad) Lundell, Roy Alvin III (Mary), Lars Gander (Christine), and Carol Louise (David) Young; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sister, Carol Haggerty.

Norma’s funeral service was held Dec. 27, at Cross Lutheran Church in Maplewood, with burial at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis. Memorials preferred to New Life Lutheran Church, Menomonie, Wis.; Antioch-Loeving Word Church, Falcon Heights; or Lyngbyholmst Foundation in Como Park.

LaDine Lindberg

LaDine (Chadd) Lindberg, died Nov. 30 at Our Lady of Peace Hospice in St. Paul. She was born in Liberty, Kansas, Aug. 31, 1929, to William Bryan Chadd and Dacia Zeda Tedder.

LaDine was preceded in death by husband Stanley; sons-in-law Thomas Maciak and Anthony Moretti; great-granddaughter Abigail Rose Maciak; brothers Burl (Bertha) and Marvin (Naomi); sisters Doris (Booker) Edel, Glena Buggs, Helen Matlskey; and Darlene Chard.

She is survived by brother Billy Chard (Barb); children Boettcher Maciak, Karl (Callie), Joyce McCabe (Kevan), Mark (Sherry), and Eric (Ryan Towers); six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held Dec. 15 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. Memorials Preferred to Our Lady of Peace Hospice.

Susan Showalter

Susan E. Showalter, (née McNamara), 70, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died Dec. 15, 2018. Susan jumped a year in grade school, was a math whiz, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, a junior high teacher, a loving mother, a mid-year Bush Fellow scholar at the University of Minnesota, a health-care policy analyst, a loving grandmother, and a believer in Mr. Rogers. Her working passion became philanthropy, helping guide foundations in grantmaking. She was especially proud to assist Native American tribes and reservations in Minnesota and the Dakotas. In the early 80’s, Susan also served as a stellar business manager of Park Press Inc., publisher of The Bugle.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, David; daughters Abbey (Showalter-Lorch) and Kira (Water), sons-in-law; Tim and Matt; and four grandchildren.

A celebration of Susan’s life will be held Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 4 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis. In lieu of flowers, donations preferred to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
Roseville Library Tuesday Scholar talks
The Roseville Public Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., is continuing its Tuesday Scholar presentation with local college academics and other experts share their special knowledge on topical subjects. For more information on upcoming talks, all that begin at 1 p.m.:

Jan. 22 -- Push or Pull AKA the Pa Ingalls Syndrome
Pioneer Press business columnist Edward Lotterman will give an economist’s look at what he calls the “Pa Ingalls Syndrome” in historical patterns of American immigration.

Jan. 29 -- Stewardess
The Minnesota History Theatre presents scenes from its new play Stewardess about a young woman’s tumultuous involvement with the glamorous (and sexist) world of 20th century aviation. A discussion of the changing roles of female airline workers will follow the presentation.

Feb. 5 -- Illiberalism and the Return of Nationalism
Thomas Hanson, a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer who served in posts throughout Europe and the former Soviet bloc, will talk about the causes of resurgent nationalism and the emergence of “illiberal” movements both at home and abroad. We’ll talk about the rise of alternative political models and consider the prospects for democratic government in the face of globalization and rapid technological change.

Cuba rumba drum class starting
The Women’s Drum Center is offering Cuban Rumba, a co-ed beginning class at its location, 2242 W. University Avenue, St. Paul, at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. Instruments provided. Cost is $20.00. Register at www.womensdrumcenter.org. This is a fun, easy-going class teaching conga and rhythm instrument technique through songs from Cuba. No experience necessary.

Roseville Support Group for Families
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their stories.

A family support group meets in Roseville on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 Co. Rd. C, 2 West (at Snelling Ave.). For information, call Anne Mar at 651-484-0599.

Free programs on climate change and health
The Comcy Clinic Health Club, a group of patients and providers at HealthPartners Como Clinic, is sponsoring two free programs about climate change and health that are open to the public. They are:

- Climate Change and Health: A Community Workshop 7:00 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019 Conference Room A/B, 2nd Floor, HealthPartners Como Clinic. According to the recent U.N. Report, climate change will have many implications for human health. We’ll review facts and discuss what we can do, individually and together, to make a positive difference for our warming planet and for the health of all of us. You will leave informed and inspired.

- Penguins, Polar Bears, and Problems at the Poles: Global Warming at the Ends of the Earth 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, Conference Room A/B, 2nd Floor, HealthPartners Como Clinic. Chuck Dayton, a retired environmental lawyer, has travelled to both the Antarctic and the Arctic in the past 2 years. This talk and photo presentation will blend his wildlife experiences with a discussion of global threat of climate change occurring there.

Movement class for health and wellness
Marjorie Huebner, Rosen Method Movement senior instructor, has added a movement class in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. This is a low-impact movement class accompanied with music that is being held at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., on Frady mornings in January and February from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Classes are $15 and drop-ins are welcome! Bring an exercise mat and/or blanket, water bottle and dress in comfortable clothes. For more information, call Marjorie at (651) 242-6646.

Ruth Craner: A Collector’s Journey
The wide-ranging pottery collection of Ruth is now being exhibited at Gallery 241 at the Goldenstein Museum of Design at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul campus, 1985 Buford Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. an weekends 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Join the Friends of Breck Woods
We’re a non-profit dedicated to preserving the Woods for future generations. To learn more and to join Friends of Breck Woods go to SaveBreckWoods.com

Take action for climate!
Join our ideas & planning group 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. Next meetings: January 24 & February 28 at CoCreart, 2238 University Avenue, St. Paul

Transition Town
All St. Anthony Park
Smaller footprint, stronger community
TransitionsAAT.org

St. Paul public rec centers highlights
A variety of winter-related and indoor activities are on tap at the Langford and Northwest Como recreation centers in St. Paul. See the following information:

- Langford Park Recreation Center: https://www. langford.gov/facilities/langford-park-recreation-center or call 651-298-5705
  Ice Skating Lessons ages 5-9 on Sat. Jan 5-Feb 2, times vary, $35 Baseball and softball clinics ages 8-12 on Tue, Jan 29-March 5 from 7-8pm, $30 Sing Along Art ages 1-5 on Sat. Jan 12-Feb 9 from 10-11am, $50 Chess classes ages 4-6 on Wed. Jan 30 from 6-7:30pm, $70 Red Cross Babysitting ages 11-17 on Fri, Jan 25 from 9-10am, $40, $60 Intermediate Pitfalls, Adults on Thu, Jan 3-March 7 from 11am-noon, $75 Zumba, Adults on Mon, Jan 7-March 4 from 7:45-8:45pm, $60 Pickleball on Sat, Jan 5-Feb 9 from 1-3pm, $2/session Open Gym on Sat, Jan 5-Feb 9 from 1-3pm, Free
  Tot Time ages birth-5 on Fri, Jan 4-March 29 from 9:30-11am, Free
  Adult Yoga, Adults on Tuesdays and Fridays through March 29, from 2:30-3:30 pm, Free Senior Gym Bowling ongoing Fridays from 9:30-11am, Free
  Soo Bahk Do for ages 5-Adult on Thu, ongoing form 5:30-6:30pm, $45/month.
  Preschool Fun Day ages 1-9 on Sun, Feb 24 from 3-5pm, $10/family
  Join the Langford Park Booster Club by contacting Courtney Moriarty at Langford Park

Northwest Como Recreation Center: www.langford.gov/northw est-comoRec or call 651-298-5813
  Ice skating lessons ages 3-5 and 6-9 on Sat, Jan 25, $35 Family Open Gym on Sat, Jan 5-March 30 from 1-3pm, Free Game Night ages 8-Adult on Mon, Jan 7-March 25 from 6:30-8pm, Free
  Artist Workshop ages 5-7 on Wed, Jan 16-Feb 20 from 3:15-5:15pm, $60
  Artist Workshop ages 7-13 on Tue, Jan 15-Feb 19 from 3:15-5:15pm, $60
  Cooking With The Staff ages 7-14 on Tue, Jan 15-29 from 6:15-7:30pm, $10
  Dance Classes ages 5-16 on Wed, Jan 16-May 1, times and prices vary, $45
  Creative Wring ages 7-12 on Thu, Feb 7-March 14 from 3:15-4:15pm, $45

Art/Wine/Plaza, Adults on Mon, Feb 4 from 6-9pm, $50
My Hat: My Family, Adults on Tue, Feb 5-26 from 6:30-8pm, Free
  Friday Film Training, Adults on Tue, Feb 5-March 26 from 6:30-7:30pm, $45
  Adult Indoor Soccer on Sun, Dec 2-March 31 from 5-6:30pm, $5
  Women’s 35+ Basketball on Sun, Dec 2-March 31 from 6:30-7:30pm, $5
  Family Movie Series on Fri, Nov 30-Dec 28 from 3:30-5:30pm, Free
  Senior Gamers ages 55+ on Tuesdays ongoing from 1-3pm, Free
  Taekwondo ages 4-17 on Tue/Thu ongoing from 4:30-5:30 pm, $50/month.
**January / February Events**

**January**

**30 WEDNESDAY**
Valentine Card-Making, Wednesday, from 5-30 to 11 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at Central United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. No charge.

**February**

**7 THURSDAY**

government spending on St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ (2200 Commonwealth Ave.), 10-11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**18 MONDAY**
Community Sing, Olsen Community Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Folsom St., St. Paul, 6-7 p.m. Socializing, 7:00-8:30 singing. Event is fun, but a list will be provided to help support the work: lovers and to make the songs possible.

**23 SATURDAY**
Fashion clothing swap at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2200 Commonwealth Ave. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closets, gently used clothing, is being accepted during church office hours for the swap, which is for all genders.

Garden of the Righteous, 7:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2233 Como. Prunes of Yiddish music. Free, but donations for Discover Women's Bureaus.

**24 SUNDAY**
Southern Airways Book Club, 1 to 3 p.m. at Micah's Books, 2250 Como Ave. Discussion on the books “Where the Eyes Don’t See” by Mona-Hee-Aims, the event is open to the public.

St. Anthony Park Area Sessions

Weekly offerings:
- Exercise class on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 AM at Central United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside)
- Blood pressure class on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 PM at Central United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside)
- Exercise class on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-3 PM at Lauderdale City Hall (1891 Webster St.)
- Exercise class on Sundays from 2:30-3:30 PM at SAP Library (2245 Como Ave.)

No EXERCISE CLASSES on February 18 FOR HOLIDAY BREAK

Special offerings:
- Thursday, February 7, Caregiver & Bereavement Support groups at SAP United Church of Christ (2209 Commonwealth Ave.), 10-11:30 AM. All are welcome.
- Friday, February 8, Caregiver & Bereavement Support groups at SAP United Church of Christ (2200 Commonwealth Ave.), 10 AM-noon. No charge on registrations received.
- Thursday, February 14, “Wanna Men? Here We Go Again” show at 2:00 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.
- Friday, February 15, 11 AM, Game Day, Central United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 10 AM-noon. No charge on registrations received.
- February 18, FOR HOLIDAY BREAK.

No storytime on Friday, Jan. 4.

**February**

**14 MONDAY**
Community Sing, Olsen Community Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Folsom St., St. Paul, 6-7 p.m. Socializing, 7:00-8:30 singing. Event is fun, but a list will be provided to help support the work: lovers and to make the songs possible.

St. Anthony Park Area Sessions

Weekly offerings:
- Exercise class on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 AM at Central United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside)
- Blood pressure class on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 PM at SAP Library (2245 Como Ave.)
- Exercise class on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-3 PM at Lauderdale City Hall (1891 Webster St.)
- Exercise class on Sundays from 2:30-3:30 PM at SAP Library (2245 Como Ave.)

No EXERCISE CLASSES on February 18 FOR HOLIDAY BREAK

Special offerings:
- Thursday, February 7, Caregiver & Bereavement Support groups at SAP United Church of Christ (2209 Commonwealth Ave.), 10-11:30 AM. All are welcome.
- Friday, February 8, Caregiver & Bereavement Support groups at SAP United Church of Christ (2200 Commonwealth Ave.), 10 AM-noon. No charge on registrations received.
- Thursday, February 14, “Wanna Men? Here We Go Again” show at 2:00 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.
- Friday, February 15, 11 AM, Game Day, Central United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 10 AM-noon. No charge on registrations received.
- February 18, FOR HOLIDAY BREAK.

No storytime on Friday, Jan. 4.

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.sppl.org

**February**

**Book Discussion - Evicted - led by Paul Fate**

This is a book discussion about this year’s adult Read Brave title, Evicted by Paul Fate, president of Common Bond, non-profit provider of affordable housing. Light refreshments will be served. No registration necessary.

**Thursday, Feb. 21 O lder Adult Resource Series “How to Talk to Your Doctor” at 4 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.sppl.org

**February**

**Book Discussion - Evicted - led by Paul Fate**

This is a book discussion about this year’s adult Read Brave title, Evicted by Paul Fate, president of Common Bond, non-profit provider of affordable housing. Light refreshments will be served. No registration necessary.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Thursday, Feb. 21 O lder Adult Resource Series “How to Talk to Your Doctor” at 4 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.sppl.org

**February**

**Book Discussion - Evicted - led by Paul Fate**

This is a book discussion about this year’s adult Read Brave title, Evicted by Paul Fate, president of Common Bond, non-profit provider of affordable housing. Light refreshments will be served. No registration necessary.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Thursday, Feb. 21 O lder Adult Resource Series “How to Talk to Your Doctor” at 4 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.sppl.org

**February**

**Book Discussion - Evicted - led by Paul Fate**

This is a book discussion about this year’s adult Read Brave title, Evicted by Paul Fate, president of Common Bond, non-profit provider of affordable housing. Light refreshments will be served. No registration necessary.

No pre-registration necessary.

**Thursday, Feb. 21 O lder Adult Resource Series “How to Talk to Your Doctor” at 4 PM at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. No charge.

No pre-registration necessary.
Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Fariba Sanikhatam, 651-440-8160. Ads are $1 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for $10 each. Next deadline: Feb. 6.

**PARK ANGELS CHILD CARE.** Infant to 11 years old, near Como & Osceola. Call Adalia, 651-644-5516.

**BUTURY’S RAIN GUTTER SERVICE.** We install, clean, repair gutters. Call us too for roof snow and ice removal. Insured, license ABC26737. 651-699-8900 www.burtonsraingutter.com

**LOCALLY LOCATED IN LAUDERDALE.** Specializing in bathroom/kitchen remodel, trim carpentry, tile work, flooring, and handyman services. Fully insured. Caleb, 651-280-7589.


**FRESHEN UP YOUR HOUSE WITH A FRESH COAT OF PAINT.** We satisfy all your painting needs. Painting, staining, water damage repair, sheetrock, spray texture, spray texture removal, wallpaper and wallpaper removal. Family business in the Park 70 years. Jim Larson, (cell) 612-309-7666, 651-644-5188 or jimmyrocket1464@gmail.com

**PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.** Interior & exterior painting. Complete carpentry services. 651-917-2881. BBB.

**Burton’s Rain Gutter Service.** We install, clean, repair gutters. Call us too for roof snow and ice removal. Insured, license #BC126373. 651-699-8900 www.burtonsraingutter.com

**LOCALLY LOCATED IN LAUDERDALE.** Specializing in bathroom/kitchen remodel, trim carpentry, tile work, flooring, and handyman services. Fully insured. Caleb, 651-280-7589.


**FRESHEN UP YOUR HOUSE WITH A FRESH COAT OF PAINT.** We satisfy all your painting needs. Painting, staining, water damage repair, sheetrock, spray texture, spray texture removal, wallpaper and wallpaper removal. Family business in the Park 70 years. Jim Larson, (cell) 612-309-7666, 651-644-5188 or jimmyrocket1464@gmail.com

**PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.** Interior & exterior painting. Complete carpentry services. 651-917-2881. BBB.

**Burton’s Rain Gutter Service.** We install, clean, repair gutters. Call us too for roof snow and ice removal. Insured, license #BC126373. 651-699-8900 www.burtonsraingutter.com

**LOCALLY LOCATED IN LAUDERDALE.** Specializing in bathroom/kitchen remodel, trim carpentry, tile work, flooring, and handyman services. Fully insured. Caleb, 651-280-7589.


**FRESHEN UP YOUR HOUSE WITH A FRESH COAT OF PAINT.** We satisfy all your painting needs. Painting, staining, water damage repair, sheetrock, spray texture, spray texture removal, wallpaper and wallpaper removal. Family business in the Park 70 years. Jim Larson, (cell) 612-309-7666, 651-644-5188 or jimmyrocket1464@gmail.com

**PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.** Interior & exterior painting. Complete carpentry services. 651-917-2881. BBB.

**Burton’s Rain Gutter Service.** We install, clean, repair gutters. Call us too for roof snow and ice removal. Insured, license #BC126373. 651-699-8900 www.burtonsraingutter.com

**LOCALLY LOCATED IN LAUDERDALE.** Specializing in bathroom/kitchen remodel, trim carpentry, tile work, flooring, and handyman services. Fully insured. Caleb, 651-280-7589.


**FRESHEN UP YOUR HOUSE WITH A FRESH COAT OF PAINT.** We satisfy all your painting needs. Painting, staining, water damage repair, sheetrock, spray texture, spray texture removal, wallpaper and wallpaper removal. Family business in the Park 70 years. Jim Larson, (cell) 612-309-7666, 651-644-5188 or jimmyrocket1464@gmail.com

**PRO TEAM PAINTING PLUS, INC.** Interior & exterior painting. Complete carpentry services. 651-917-2881. BBB.
Como Girls’ Gymnastics Team is Working to Compete

Marv Rouse has been coaching gymnastics for 52 years. Many members of the Como gymnastics team are brand new to the sport. While they’re eager to take a run at the vault or swing on those uneven bars, Rouse urges caution: “Let’s start with a forward roll on the floor.”

Girls’ gymnastics at Como Park High School is a winter sports activity that accepts all-comers. The most important prerequisite is a willingness to learn. In a sport such as gymnastics, the learning curve can be steep for someone who’s never tumbled before, let alone flown through the air before landing squarely on their feet.

While Rouse has been a constant for the Cougars, providing technical and practical instructions for all levels of skill and being the gymnastics guru, head coach Jill Bachmann is in her fourth season leading the program. She’s enjoying this season more than others due in large part to increased participation.

Numbers in the last couple of seasons have been in the single digits. This year, fifteen girls showed up for an informational meeting, and on the first day of practice — they were all there! The girls have become a close-knit crew with an extremely supportive and joyful chemistry.

“They are very dedicated and willing to try things. They are close with each other, have great attitudes, and listen well,” Bachmann said.

In tandem with Rouse’s thinking, Bachmann has her team of mostly all beginners becoming comfortable with basic gymnastic movements on the floor. Everyone starts there — on a forgiving padded surface at ground level.

In a sport that has four events in which competitors can score points for their teams (floor exercise, balance beam, vault and uneven bar), having the majority of your roster limited to one event means the Cougars aren’t winning any meets. “Which is fine, because that’s not the goal yet. “Our season goals are to get all of the girls performing on at least one apparatus. In years past we’ve had girls practice beam, vault and bars, but when it came time to compete, they would not be willing to,” Bachmann said.

“This year is very different. We have numerous girls who are eager to perform. We tell the girls to work on making personal bests and not worrying about the other teams. But everyone likes to win.”

There are a couple of Cougar gymnasts who might be in a position to compete and win some recognition at an individual level. Sophomore Amelia Christ has been involved with a gymnastics club since a young age and is experienced in all four events. Her coaches say she’s got a great shot at placing in the top tier of the St. Paul City Conference in multiple events and the all-around competition.

Christ has been a wonderful addition to the Cougars this season. As a freshman, she was still doing her club gymnastics during the winter so state high school league roles forbade her from participating. This year, she’s enjoying her new teammates at Como and says it’s been fun to have new friendships at school.

I think it’s been a great choice to be part of Como’s team,” Christ said. “I like seeing my teammates during the day and I may not have ever met them without gymnastics.”

Her coaches admire the camaraderie she has with the other girls, and appreciate the fact that when the team is with each other outside of practice or meets, you’d never know who the star athlete is.

Her coaches admire the camaraderie she has with the other girls, and appreciate the fact that when the team is with each other outside of practice or meets, you’d never know who the star athlete is.

With Christ earning a huge portion of the team’s points, it’s the beam in particular where she shines. “The beam is my favorite. I guess it’s because what I’m best at,” Christ said.

Sophomore Amelie Due can be a point-earner in meets for the Cougars. She does two events; the vault and the beam. Blumenfeld explained that what she likes best about the vault is “flying. I love the feeling of flying.”

She feels like she’s improving in both of her events, thanks in large part to coaching. “Our coaches know a lot. And they’re nice. Coach Mary has been doing it for so long. She’s helpful,” Blumenfeld said.

She also says her teammates are helpful. As a freshman, everything about Como is new to Blumenfeld, so have a team of support has made the transition to high school easier. “My team is always so positive and so supportive.”

The team is extremely young overall which, in the Cougars’ situation, is an extremely positive thing. Coach Bachmann explained, “We haven’t had a program that has won meets in the past. Hopefully with continued dedication this season and into next, we can be a competitor.”

The youth stretches down to three middle-schoolers who bus over from Murray after their school day: Alyssa Aarthun, Emma Osborne, and Bingira Sandstrom-McGain. Freshman gymnasts in addition to Blumenfeld include Tasha Carter, Rita Fernoes Delfos, Amelia Hernandez, Isabella Hernandez, Isadora McGinley Myers, Jennifer Rosak, and Eva Lanson.

There are three sophomores including Christ, Lily Klett, and Sophie Lancaster, along with two juniors who are Paw Say Wah and Minnie Her.

As the Bugle went to press, the Cougars were still without a win against an opponent. “That has not diminished the joy of their gymnastics journey in the slightest.”

Amelia Christ noted, “We like gymnastics because it challenges you. Even if you’ve been doing it your whole life, it challenges you to try new things and try to get to the next level.”

No matter what their scores have been, the Como girls gymnastics program is taking advantage of the opportunity right in front of them to improve, and work to become a competitive team.

Coach Marv Rouse and members of the Como Gymnastics team look on as freshman Laura Blumenfeld practiced her balance beam routine and sophomore Amelia Christ worked on the uneven bars. Photo by Eric Erickson