Open house precedes wrecking ball for former St. Andrew’s Church

By Scott Carlson

The open house last month for the former St. Andrew’s Church in the Como neighborhood held special meaning for Tom Fauskee. “We were parishioners here,” Fauskee said, noting the church was where he sang in the men’s chorus and where he and his wife renewed wedding vows on their 30th anniversary. “In the end [former church] is just brick-and-mortar,” he mused.

On the last Sunday afternoon in July, Fauskee was among scores of people who stopped by to reminisce and say goodbye to the former Catholic church before the Twin Cities German Immersion School, the current property owner, was scheduled to raze the structure for a new school building.

TCGIS officials hope to have their new $6 million building completed for the 2020-21 school year. They obtained a demolition permit in late July from the City of St. Paul and the church building teardown was expected to begin the week of Aug. 12 as the Bugle went to press.

The calm before the wrecking ball finally came after a neighborhood group called Save Our Historic St. Andrew’s lost its battle to preserve the former church as a historic structure. They waged their fight in City Hall and local district court over several months before ultimately failing in mid-July to post a $1.9 million security bond to continue on their legal challenge. Through the many months, the fight sparked some hard feelings.

“We wanted to provide the opportunity for closure for all neighbors, school families and the greater community,” Julie Alkatout, TCGIS board chairperson, said about the open house.

“We are very sad,” said Di-anne Miron, who grew up in the Warrendale neighborhood and went to school at the church. “They are tearing down something culturally important to this neighborhood.”

That preservationists battled so long and hard to save the church reflected in its long-standing importance in the community. The Bugle reported in May 2018: “The three-towered church, with its Byzantine-Romanesque exterior and terra cotta roof, has been a landmark in the Warrendale neighborhood since it was built in 1927 — 32 years after St. Andrew’s Parish was established in 1895. It was the home of St. Andrew School until 1989, when Maternity of Mary and St. Andrew schools merged and moved to 592 W. Arlington Ave.

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For his part, Fauskee appreciated the gesture. “Thanks for doing the open house,” he told Alkatout. But across the street from the church building, protesters held placards that implored school officials to reverse course and not raze the former church building, which the school converted into a gymnasium.

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“And now it’s being torn down. It’s a very emotional thing.”

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District 10 Community Council

State Fair do’s and don’ts

The Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 22-Sept. 22. Some residents can’t wait. Some residents can’t wait to get out. To get up to date — or take a refresher course — on what is and is not allowed in the neighborhood during the Fair, see the “State Fair Do’s and Don’ts” article on District 10’s website, www.district10como.org. It covers the special chaos that is fair time in the Como neighborhood: yard parking, street parking, ped-dlers, vendors, signs and more.

Special Election Will Fill Board Vacancy

The District 10 board will hold a special election in September to fill the seven months left of the term of vice chair. The vacancy covers the special chaos that is fair time in the Como neighborhood: yard parking, street parking, ped-dlers, vendors, signs and more.

Want to run? Candidates interested in the position can apply by filling out the online application at www.district10como.org/d10_application.html. Candidates who file by Tuesday, Sept. 10, will be on the ballot; applicants who miss that deadline can run as write-in candidates. You can get more details about the position on the District 10 website.

Want to vote? The special election will be on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station at the northeast corner of Lexington Parkway and Horton Street. All renters, home-owners and residents age 16 or older who live in District 10 are eligible to vote. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in District 10. Community mem-bers must vote in person; there is no absentee or proxy voting.

Community Council

County commissioner speaking

Ramsey County Commissioner Tisra MatasCastillo will speak at the Aug. 20 Como Community Council board meeting to give updates to district residents. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The meeting is open to the public. Technology permitting, the council also plans to livestream the meeting on its Facebook page.

Upcoming District 10 Meetings

- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tuesday, Sept. 3
- Land Use Committee: Wednesday, Sept. 4
- Environment Committee: Wednesday Sept. 11
- Como Community Council Board: Tuesday, Sept. 17

Meetings usually begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Sta-tion. Meetings are open to the public. Whenever possible, agen-das are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website.

Community yoga is Sept. 8

District 10’s next Community Yoga is Sunday Sept. 8 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The session is suitable for all levels of skill and experience. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and wear comfort-able clothes. Class limited to 25 participants.

Registration is $5 per person, which benefits the Como Community Council. Register in advance at www.district10como.org/communityyoga.html

Streetcar Station open Sundays

The Como Park Streetcar Station is open every Sunday through Oct. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. It is a great chance to introduce yourself to the long-gone trolley system in the Twin Cities, pick up organics recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, or just to chat with the Dis-trict 10 board member who is staffing the day.

District 12 Community Council

Applications open through Sept. 23 for the 2020 Board of Directors election

St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC) is seeking can-didates for 2020 board members. District 12 Community Council board members are responsible for governing the organization, including overseeing planning, finan-cing, and policy decisions.

Any St. Anthony Park resi-dent may apply to be on the board. Representatives from all walks of life — including renters, youth and people of color—are encouraged to apply.

Candidate questionnaires and more information are available at http://sapcc.org/vote. Voting will occur at neighborhood loca-tions, in the SAPCC office and online at sapcc.org/vore.

SAPCC fundraiser

Urban Growler is hosting a fund-raiser for St. Anthony Park Com-munity Council! Enjoy carnitas tacos and a pint (included in ticket price), plus local trio, Light of the Moon, will be per-forming. Current board members and staff will be in attendance to meet and greet! The fundrais-er is scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Urban Growler Brewing Co.

Upcoming Events in SAP

Neighborhood Garage Sale — Sept. 21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.


Urban Growler Farmers Market (Sunday) 2-5 p.m., July 13-Oct. 13

SAPCC will be popping into the farmers market with information about elections and recruiting candidates. This year, the dead-line for candidate applications is Sept. 23. For more information on becoming a SAPCC board candidate, visit our website: sapcc.org/candidates.

District 12 calendar

Board Meetings: Second Thursday of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at Jennings Community School 2455 W. University Ave.)

Environment: Fourth Wednes-day of the month, 7-9 p.m. (Loca-tion varies)

Equity: First Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Held at Seal Hi-Rise 825 Seal St.)

Land Use: First Thursday of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at Jen-nings Community School 2455 W. University Ave.)

Transportation: Last Tuesday of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at SAPCC office 2395 W. University Ave., Suite 300E)

Please note: Times and locations subject to change.

St. Anthony Park and Como Park community council news
The Falcon Heights City Council has rezoned the TIES office building property at the south-west corner of Larpenteur and Snelling avenues for residential use.

Minneapolis-based Buhl Investors, which owns the property, plans to renovate and convert the interior of the art deco structure into a 106-unit apartment complex while preserving the historic exterior of the building.

Buhl is calling the project Amber Union in honor of the building’s history as headquarters of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association. At a city planning commission hearing in May, Buhl principal Peter Deanovic showed slides of interior features that the developer intends to preserve, including wood paneling in the executive suite, stone floors, and an auditorium where Walter Mondale and other notables addressed crowds.

The property under consideration for interior renovation includes the main building, at 1667 N. Snelling Ave., and the annex immediately to the west, both built in 1947. The buildings were most recently occupied by the TIES educational software company, which installed large generators and other mechanical equipment south of the main building.

Buhl proposes to remove the mechanical generators; they will also reconfigure parking lots and pave some of the existing grassy areas to accommodate tenant parking. With that exception, the developer expects to keep the exterior of the two existing buildings substantially intact and is working with the National Parks Service to meet historic preservation plans, Buhl expects to allow continued use of that lot for parking until some other opportunity arises.

Pending approval of, among other things, bonds and historic preservation plans, Buhl expects to begin construction on the housing project in early 2020. Initially, Buhl Investors planned to maintain the TIES property for office use. But after several months searching for office tenants, Buhl Investors concluded the property isn’t attractive enough for that continued use and faces a lackluster market partly because growing numbers of businesses are letting employees telecommute and work from home.

So, in spring, the developer changed course and asked Falcon Heights city staff for help in assembling financing that would enable it to convert the TIES campus into affordable housing. The city is applying for conduit bonds on behalf of the developer and is also supporting grant applications for historic preservation and other opportunities connected with the site. Conduit bonds are allowed, with state approval, for affordable housing projects. They do not expose the city to liability; the risk is assumed by the bond buyers and the developer.

At a May 28 meeting of the Falcon Heights Planning Commission, Deanovic presented the development plan and sought the commission’s support for a PUD (planned unit development) designation that would change zoning on the site from commercial to multifamily residential and allow the project to move forward.

At the commission meeting, neighbors raised concerns mostly about traffic and parking. Some citizens also voiced concern about the extended hours of noise from housing compared with office use, and the possible need for added policing.

In answer to a question about whether Buhl would remain involved in the project as a manager or sell the completed project, Deanovic said, “We will be long-term stakeholders . . . north of 15 years.”

Ultimately, the planning commission voted to support the developer’s application for a PUD zoning variance, contingent on it providing a detailed security plan and that it consider retaining trees on the east side of the main building.

At its June 12 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved Buhl’s PUD rezoning request.

By Anne Holzman

Anne Holzman is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Developers are planning to convert the TIES building to an apartment complex. Photo by Scott Carlson

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Park Perks raised $355 for Rein in Sarcoma in July.

During the month of September we will be collecting for St. Paul Fire Foundation.
From the desk of the editor

Oh how fleeting is summer

By Scott Carlson

It seems like we waited and waited for summer to come this year. And before we barely got started, we witnessed it quickly waning. As this issue of the Bugle hits the streets, we are primed for the start of the Minnesota State Fair, which officially kicks off Aug. 22. The Great Minnesota Get-Together is often seen as summer’s last hurrah (BTW, check out our great story from former Bugle editor Kristal Leebrock last month on top 10 ideas for what to do at the Fair. Go to our website at: https://www.parkbugle.org/top-10-fair-highlights/ ) There’s a certain sadness in realizing that summer is almost over when the Fair starts. These days, I hear a lot of talk about living in the present, enjoying the moment. But that often seems like an uphill battle, with so many people gazing to the future. Many things, staccato against summer. Consider these facts: • Many major retailers bring out their back-to-school merchandise sometime in July. Meanwhile, summer apparel is cleared out of stores by the end of June, barely after the official calendar start of summer. • Pro football training camps get going in late July, which is close to the middle of the Major League Baseball season. • Summer sports, such as youth baseball and adult tennis leagues, largely wrap in mid- to late-July. But there are ways to push back to string our summer. Here are a couple things to think about:

- The truth is that calendar summer doesn’t end until Sept. 23. We can still get some of our hottest weather of the season in the early September.
- Make the most of each day. There’s still time to picnic, go bicycling or golfing or take in a Twins ballgame.
- When autumn seems to be knocking on our door, remember we are still in the middle of summer activities to fall back on.

More Insights: SAP’s American chestnut

Since my article A Chestnut Grows and Flowers in St. Anthony Park appeared in the Park Bugle back in May, I received a few emails with further insights about the tree and its provenance. These emails led me to Jim Merrell, his siblings and their parents. David and Jessie Merrell, who all lived at 1511 Chelmsford for many years. According to Jim, who is now a professor at Vassar, his father planted the chestnut trees about 30 years ago with seeds from the American Chestnut Foundation. (That makes sense since St. Anthony Park resident, Charlie Burnham was one of the founders of the ACF in 1983.)

At the time, there was hope that this variety might prove to be blight resistant and, indeed, it has long outlived susceptible chestnuts. David Merrell was a professor at the University of Minnesota, first in Zoology and later in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior in St. Paul. As for the chestnut itself, the tree continues to hang on, though it shows further signs of damage from Cryphonectria blight. Flowering time has also been delayed this year (2019), possibly due to our cold and wet spring.

A bad omen

On July 4, St. Anthony Park typically looks and sounds like a classic Norman Rockwell picture, come to life. As a neighborhood, we are celebrating and affirming the traditional American values of freedom, equality, faith and loyalty to our national vision of unity arising from diversity — “E pluribus unum.”

We had a warm, sunny day for 2019’s 4th in The Park parade. But as I turned to walk down Knapp Place to Langford Place, a chilly sweat came to my attention. Stuck on a car window was a prominent decal promoting the extremist slogan “molen labes.”, painted in stylized Greek lettering. Why did that sticker alarm me? Because I recognized it as the devide-du-jour of the ultra-rightist cult of gun fanatics or, as they should be called, the gun fanatics. Seeing that bloodthirsty mantra branded openly in SAP was a bad omen. And it seems we’ve watched constant gun-massacre news stories without letup all through July and August.

Our community, our country are under siege from “the terrorists next door,” and no place is exempt.

Obviously, the right thing to do now is to rally around and face down fear. Uncle Sam needs millions of authentic patriots to dispel the false allure of belligerent nationalism.

Your first duty is to become better informed: Visit the web sites for the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League and learn to recognize the slogans, symbols, and propaganda used to promote their vicious doctrines and sinister organizations.

Refuse to be intimidated. Heed the words attributed to Edmund Burke: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” —Oliver Steinberg St. Anthony Park

Examining rents

A recent article in The St. Paul Pioneer Press said that the apartments at the Luther Seminary site in St. Anthony Park would include “roughly 450 market-rate units.”

There is no legitimacy to “market-rate” rents. All capitalism has to justify “market” rents is rent paid and this cannot be trusted because many renters go without food or medication care to pay their rent.

How can the foundation for raising everyone’s rent be thousand of landlords who cannot afford their rent? More than 42,000 rental households in Minnesota, even though they work full time, cannot afford their rent. Without these 42,000 rental households, the supply side would collapse; there would be no high “demand.” Yet “supply and demand” does not work and is immoral when the purchaser has no choice, when they cannot walk away.

There is no “market” that exists outside of landlords banding together and jacking up rents — landlords are the “market.” It has always been this way, going back 1,000 years in the slums of Paris and London. You pay the current landlord extortion rate or you live under a bridge. Renters are human beings, not fodder for a capitalist system. Renters and their live are more than just cash machines for landlords.

— Frank Erickson Minneapolis

A divided community

A letter writer in the August 2019 issue makes a lot of claims about supporters of the Twin Cities German Immersion School’s efforts to construct an addition to their campus. He asks, “How

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Letters from p. 4

by Adam Granger

First, a message to readers my age (or older). Nothing herein is meant to disrespect anyone but myself. If, collateraly, you find yourself poked as well, fire up that sense of humor, which helped get you this far.

I turned 70 last month. No other decade has faced me. Not 60 nor 50, not 40 nor 30, and certainly not 20: The only people traumatized by the arrival of their 20th birthdays are child stars and boy-band members. But, 70 is proving to be a milestone around my neck.

I’m not exactly sure what the problem is. Maybe it’s that I’ve died so close to death’s pale form that I can smell its breath. Maybe it’s the fact that I am usually the oldest person in the room. Or maybe there is no problem. Maybe this is just what it’s like to feel one’s way through the haze of dotage.

I’ve heard my entire life that popular culture is geared toward a young demographic, and I always believed that I would be one of the exceptions. The septuagenarian who gets and parties the cultural references tossed about a tableful of twenty- and thirtysomethings. The septuagenarian who dances “Boom Boom Pow” at the karaoke bar and actually makes it work.

Well, that didn’t happen to me. That’s not how it’s supposed to work, Mick Jagger notwithstanding, and there are significant commercial and cultural reasons for this.

My wife and I are no longer consumers. We have everything we want and need. We’ve furnished our house and bought our cars. I have more clothing than I could possibly wear out in my now-fioreshorted lifetime. I grew up poor and wore my brother’s hand-me-downs so, on the rare occasions now when I need new clothing, I don’t buy pants with holes ripped in them or shirts that look like they’ve been washed 150 times. In sum, advertising and the commerce it promotes are dead to me (except for cathers and adult-diaper commercials, which have my full attention). And, regarding 21st-century technology, what I don’t understand of it—and that’s a lot—I appear to be able to live without.

The cultural landscape is more like the same: I listen to Live From Here, the radio show that replaced A Prairie Home Companion and, even though I am a professional musician and had a 40-year relationship with the Compasison, the new show is chock-full of music I generally don’t quite get. It’s creative, ambitious, demanding stuff, played by people I know and like and respect. But, like advertising, it’s not aimed at me. I don’t mean to be curmudgeonly or to sound whimsical. This is not a problem. I’m fine with my ever-advancing fossilization, and it’s imperative that popular culture and the arts move forward. I wear to the artists coming on to the scene whose work is not aimed at me. I can like it if I want, but they don’t need me to like it.

And, when I say that today’s pop music is insipid and all sounds the same, it’s what my parents said about ‘60s pop music and it’s what the next generation will say about the drivel that is sure to be mid-21st-century pop music.

In place of knowledge of current popular culture, I have seven decades of life, and mine has been incredible. I was born just four years after the end of World War II. I saw “white” and “colored” bathrooms in my hometown stores. I was in grade school when John Glenn went into space, and I still have the footstool I was working on in junior high shop class when I heard President Kennedy had been shot. I was playing in a professional rock ’n roll band before the Beatles invaded America. I have witnessed the entire history of computer science. I remember when collegiate sports were collegiate and not professional. As I noted earlier, it’s important that we remember that cultural experience is not an either/or proposition. We pick and choose what floats our boats. We possess a unique set of memories, interests, perspectives and passions, some of them brand new—current—and some of them, well, ancient. You can’t have mine, and I can’t have yours.

I began with a message to seniors; let me close by waxing avuncular to you youngsters. Before the start of school each fall, I was issued, along with an unopened eight-pack of Crayolas, six unsharpened pencils and a Big Chief table, a brand-new pair of Levi’s. And I still remember that amazing, beautiful, intoxicating indigo. When you guys pay $250 for a pair of jeans that someone on the other side of the world “distressed” instead of honestly earning the wear and tear and patches and stains yourself, you are missing out on one of life’s great sartorial experiences: wearing your clothes out. And, kids, that indigo is really trippy.

by Adam Granger, a St. Anthony Park resident, is a frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Como, Murray principals preview 2019-20 school year

By Eric Erickson

Stacy Theien-Collins is set to begin her second year as Como Park High School’s principal. Jamin McKenzie is preparing for his second year as principal of Murray Middle School. We asked the school leaders about the academic year that students will soon experience.

The view from Como Park High
Q: How is the construction project coming along at Como?

Theien-Collins: The construction project is on track with the science rooms, elective classrooms, new nurse’s office and health clinic completed for the start of the year.

Our commons and cafeteria space will look very different. It has been opened up to provide a larger commons space with greater ease moving throughout the building. Our new front entrance and office space is on track for a January 2020 completion and as a result, we will be using door number 7 (far west door) as our main entrance with the office temporarily housed in a classroom.

Q: What new initiatives will be implemented at Como this year?

Theien-Collins: One is that we have a new start time: 8:30-3:00 with a new daily bell schedule that supports a short daily advisory time. Secondly, we are excited to focus on freshman through creating academic teams where our students will be co-hosted by English, science and social studies. The teachers will work to welcome and support successful transition into high school as we know the importance of the freshmen academic year in leading students to achieve at high levels throughout high school.

Q: What are you and your staff excited about as you prepare for the new academic year?

Theien-Collins: We are excited to continue offering high-level academics and extra-curricular opportunities that meet the diversity of our amazing learning community. We have amazing students, exceptional staff and great community support. Now we are updating the building to give our students and families facilities to match that excellence.

Q: In one sentence, what do you enjoy about being Como’s principal?

Theien-Collins: There is so much joy in being able to work with students, families and great educators. Como offers that in an atmosphere where students are the sole focus.

The view from Murray Middle School
Q: What new initiatives or programs will be implemented at Murray this year?

McKenzie: We are excited to be offering a seven-period day that will offer students more opportunities for electives and at the same time create opportunities for our staff to have collaborative work time to create interventions and supports for our students. We will be continuing our work around restorative practices and maintaining a priority around the social and emotional health of our students and staff.

Q: What are you and your staff excited about as you prepare for the new academic year?

McKenzie: There are many reasons for excitement. We are welcoming new students and families to Murray. We are on-boarding new Co-Pilots as staff members. We have extended our visual arts and foreign language programs to full-time. We are going to be able to go deeper with our foundation curricula that will result in a higher degree of academic and mental health support. And we are able to continue our professional development model allowing our teachers to digitally share their classrooms with each other and learn from each other in a collaborative environment.

Q: In one sentence, what do you most enjoy about being Murray’s principal?

McKenzie: I most value the tradition, dedication and love that Murray’s families have for the school, the students and our staff.

—Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School.

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“Blocktoberfest” back for a second round  

By Scott Carlson

A daylong celebration of the emerging transformation sweeping parts of south St. Anthony Park is making its second annual appearance.

“Blocktoberfest,” an Oktoberfest-style event, will be held from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at several neighborhood microbreweries with live music and other activities. Participating breweries include Dual Citizen Brewing, Urban Growler, Lake Monster Brewing, and Burning Brothers. New to the brewery lineup is The Lab, which is a pilot brewery at 767 Eustis St. Much of the festival activities are scheduled at the corner of Raymond and Myrtle avenues in St. Paul.

“Blocktoberfest is different this year, in that we are running the event through the Lowertown Blues Festival, which is a 501c3 nonprofit,” said Tim Kessler, a Blocktoberfest founder and co-owner of Dual Citizen Brewing.

Another change: The festival will feel more like a block party.

“Due to licensing issues with the City last year, we were unable to achieve our goal of a true street block party where patrons can enjoy a beer or wine on the street while they peruse the fest,” Kessler said. “We took the initiative to change the city ordinance to designate a portion of the CEZ ([Creative Enterprise Zone] as an entertainment district, enabling us to provide this year’s guests with the ability to enjoy a beer or wine on the street.”

Kessler added that this year’s event coincides with the Rails & wine on the street.”

There are a lot of good things going on here and we are continuing to grow,” Kessler said. “The festival will help bring awareness to that.”

For more information, contact Dual Citizen Brewing at 530-4790, or check its website at https://dualcitizenbrewing.com.

Pictured are Tim Kessler and Max Filter (left to right), co-owners of Dual Citizen Brewing, as well as the CEZ’s Chromazone Mural Festival.

“Local Indie band Tapes ‘n Tapes will be reuniting for their first show in over five years and long time St. Paul hip-hop group HearSusps,” he said.

Last year, Kessler told the Bugle that Blocktoberfest was meant to be “a free event that incorporates the neighborhood and engages the residents. The area is exploding in the south St. Anthony Park neighborhood” with a lot of new office and residential construction.

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For more information, contact Dual Citizen Brewing at 530-4790, or check its website at https://dualcitizenbrewing.com.

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www.plddbs.com
Todd Grossmann, DDS

To add your business to this listing, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-4814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org

Vet clinic coming to south SAP

Look for a new veterinary clinic to open its doors in south St. Anthony Park.

A two-story building is now under construction at 918 Raymond Ave. that will be home to veterinary clinic and two upper-story apartments, according to Starkie Mueller, a co-owner of the building and veterinarian of the pending pet clinic.

“There are a lot of good things going on here and we are continuing to grow,” Kessler said. “The festival will help bring awareness to that.”

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Vet clinic coming to south SAP

OARS: Older Adult Resource Series

Stay Independent Longer by Addressing Vision, Hearing, and Oral Health Issues

- Beth Brostrom of the Telephone Equipment Distribution program will talk about adaptive telephone equipment available at NO COST. Mary Bauer of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services will address consequences of untreated hearing loss.
- Sue Bauer from Vision Loss Resources will share about resources to assist people with low vision in living independently.
- Dr. Nate Cogswell from Saint Anthony Park Dental Care will speak to “Keep Your Teeth….I don’t want them!” and “Snoring is dangerous — Sleep apnea and CPAP alternatives”

Thursday, September 19

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors

Saint Paul Public Library
2245 Como Ave.

Mark Your Calendar!  
www.sapaseniors.org | 651.642.9052
A model farm restores land to health

By Ranae Hanson

A farm-scale, poultry-centered, regenerative agroforestry project has brought 100 degraded acres near Northfield back to life in two short years.

Julie Ristau, executive director of the nonprofit Main Street Project, will be in St. Anthony Park on Sept. 18 to explain how it was done and how the process can be replicated elsewhere.

In 2017, the land—alternately dried-out and rain-soaked—had been growing corn year after year. Now, just two years later, the farm has clean streams, restored wetlands, wildflower-topped hills, healthy vegetable patches, and hazelnut bushes with contented chickens running among them.

During the 2018 season, the project produced 7,300 pounds of organic vegetables and fruit for the cuisines of its diverse community. Meat and eggs from the poultry add to the bounty.

A farm-scale permaculture effort in the Upper Midwest, the Main Street Project Farm is modeling an agriculture system that is profitable to farmers, fair to workers, beneficial to consumers and rural communities, and regenerative for the land. It’s called poultry-centered regenerative agroforestry because it combines annual crops, perennial crops like nuts and fruits, and the soil-restoring magic of free-range chickens.

Permaculture, as well as the project’s poultry and perennial models, are all based on indigenous wisdom and culture. Work on the farm is being co-created with the Northfield-area community, especially with its Latinx and East African immigrants. As the renewed farm takes shape, the staff and community members are planning its bushes, trees, paths and ponds.

When the trees are ready to plant, the soil is documented, the water quality is monitored, the paths are to be laid, teamwork gets the work done.

The Main Street Project welcomes new Americans, values their farming expertise, and provides them with land access and help as they negotiate the existing U.S. farming system. Its training program for vegetable production draws on the wisdom held by community members, some of whom grow food on the farm for their families and to sell.

Offering bilingual training in poultry- and perennial-centered regenerative agriculture, the project runs a meat CSA—a community-supported agriculture program—to help market the chickens. It also coordinates equipment-sharing and works with individual farmers to secure land and financing.

Creators of the Main Street Project welcome replication and adaptation of their vision: Last year, 1,200 people visited the farm. It’s building urban-rural partnerships with a focus on equity by working with Twin Cities area groups including Appetite for Change and Urban Ventures. With Dakota County, the project is documenting the water quality and climate benefits of land restoration. A pilot easement program will help establish perennial crops on marginal lands, the buffer zones around farm fields.

The Main Street Project shows how a regenerative agriculture system can help equip farmers to solve our global food crisis by producing food in a way that also restores the landscape. Learn more at MainStreetProject.org, and by joining us for the Sept. 18 event.

Regenerative farming: Learn more Sept. 18
Learn how permaculture can revitalize land and communities when Julie Ristau visits the next monthly meeting of Transition Your Money, the subgroup of Transition Town ASAP that is exploring ways to invest in a more local, sustainable economy. All are welcome.
When: Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 7–8:30 pm
Where: CoCreatez, 2388 W. University Ave., First Floor, St. Paul
Info: TransitionTownASAP/TransitionYourMoney

Ranae Hanson teaches at Minneapolis College. She lives in St. Anthony Park.

Previously mono-cropped with corn, this farm now produces a variety of vegetable, fruit, and nut harvests. All photos courtesy of the Main Street Project.

Free-range hens are part of the ecosystem at the Main Street Project Farm in Northfield, Minnesota. Photo by Main Street Project.

Main Street Project staff

Previously mono-cropped with corn, this farm now produces a variety of vegetable, fruit, and nut harvests. All photos courtesy of the Main Street Project.
Construction continues on Falcon Heights housing project

Steady progress continues on a $13 million senior housing complex in Falcon Heights called “The Hendrickson.”

Developers expect to finish installing roof shingles in August and begin putting in apartment windows. “Our goal is to have all of the exterior work, including the landscaping, completed by late fall,” said Peter Austin, vice-president of finance at St. Paul-based Kelly Brothers Ltd., the project’s developer. “The completion date remains target ed as of Feb. 15, 2020.”

The project, at the former Hermes Garden Center site on Larpenteur Avenue, will feature 66 market-rate apartment rental units for people who are at least age 55, don’t need assisted medical services but want a living setting with on-site social activities. The project will also include one guest unit.

The Hendrickson senior complex is scheduled for completion next February. Photos courtesy of Kelly Brothers Ltd.

St. Andrew’s Church from p. 1

St. Paul Public Schools leased the school building for many years and its French immersion school, L’Etoile du Nord, was in the building until 2011.

St. Andrew Church stayed on until it merged with Maternity of Mary Church on Dale Street. The last Mass was held on June 12, 2011. Two years later, TCGIS Building Co., bought the church and school building from the Maternity of Mary Parish, and leased it to TCGIS. (Charter schools are publicly funded, and under Minnesota law these schools cannot use public funds to purchase facilities from which they operate.)

Meanwhile, the TCGIS’s building plans came after a year of study, which included looking at buying or leasing additional space, having a split campus or building a new structure at the current site. The public charter school, which moved into the site of the former St. Andrew’s parish in 2013 with 330 students, has seen its enrollment increase to 555 in five years—and it’s expected to grow to more than 600 by 2021.

In place of the former church, the TCGIS plans to build a new 24,000-square-foot facility, which includes new classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria and individualized instruction rooms in the footprint of the former church structure.

Demolition began Aug. 12 on the former St. Andrew’s Church. Photo courtesy Media Savant Communications.
Archaeological dig dedicated to Roger Bergerson

By Judy Woodward

Roger Bergerson would have loved this.

The late Bugle writer chose the Hoyt-Hazzard House, the imposing Italianate mansion on Nebraska Avenue in Como Park, as the subject of his last local history feature for this newspaper.

Bergerson recounted the long history of the nearly 150-year-old house, which towers over its smaller, much more recent neighbors, built decades later on land that originally belonged to the Hoyt-Hazzard farm. And he explained how a local couple, Sarah Dye and John Coulter, had recently moved in and set themselves the formidable task of restoring the house to its 19th-century glory.

That was a year ago. Since then, Bergerson’s article has set in motion a deeper understanding of the area and times in which it was built.

Bergerson died without knowing his article had caught the attention of Reed Aronow, the real estate agent who had first introduced Dye and Coulter to their dream house.

“Before I went into real estate years ago, I studied archaeology...” and when I mentioned this to the buyers, they expressed interest in the idea of someday having an archaeological dig at the house,” Aronow explained. In fact, Dye noted the idea “was incredibly exciting... I was jolted in anthropology and I’m interested in the whole archaeological process.”

When Aronow saw Bergerson’s article in the October 2018 issue of the Bugle, he was reminded of the earlier conversation. “On a whim, I called my old archaeology professor at Hamline,” he said.

That would be Brian Hoffman, associate professor of anthropology at Hamline University and fellow Como Park resident.

Micro-history of the kind that Roger wrote... is tied to a bigger understanding of economic, sociological and technology events,” Hoffman said. “Archaeology does that, too, in the story that objects tell. All of those things give us tangible connection to the things of the past.”

Long interested in the archaeology of his neighborhood, Hoffman saw a chance to tie potential findings at this site to another exploration he is conducting of a farmhouse of the same vintage in the Hamline vicinity. He also understood that there could be a measure of urgency in the Hoyt-Hazzard project, since the Dye and Coulter were planning to build a new three-car garage somewhere on the site. New construction could destroy potential archaeological findings, so Hoffman needed to act fast.

Hoffman and his student crew began what he calls “soil coring” earlier this summer. “We pulled out core soil samples with a tube-like instrument” at regular intervals throughout the yard. “We’re mapping locations every meter across the yard,” he explained.

So far, Hoffman and his students have discovered “lots of coal and ash and clinkers” — refuse of the heating systems of the 19th century. His further analysis will uncover evidence that “a distinct area of the yard was used for a specific activity like butchering animals or chickens. I’d like to find the foundations of some outbuildings.” Even discovering an old latrine can be an archaeological bonanza, because of the antique bottles and other objects that might have been thrown away in it a century ago.

After he completes the coring sample analysis, Hoffman may return to concentrate on particularly promising spots. “If we find anything of interest, we might open a large-scale dig there,” he said. “I’d like to understand the development of the Como neighborhood from farms to the urban places we live in today. I hope to discover something we don’t already know.”

And if he does make an archaeological breakthrough, it will be Roger Bergerson who showed the way. The dig has been dedicated to Bergerson’s memory.

Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Riverview Library and a frequent contributor to the Park Bugle.

By Judy Woodward

The residents of 1371 Nebraska Ave.: Sarah Dye, left; her mother Carol; and her husband John Coulter. Bugle archive photo: Roger Bergerson.

St. Paul’s Creative Enterprise Zone will host Minnesota’s first and largest public mural and art festival from Sept. 7 to 14. The event will feature the creation of 12 large outdoor murals created over eight days by local, national and international mural artists. Highlights include a South Asian–style street fest opening weekend at Raymond Station on the Light Rail Transit’s Green Line in south St. Anthony Park with multicultural food, shopping, music, and arts activities.

For further information, go to https://www.chromezone.net/.

For further information, go to https://www.chromezone.net/.

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Normal admission prices range from $13 to $15 per person with discounts available on special days.

But once inside the gates, there will be plenty of free entertainment and attractions. Here is a list of some of what is available:

- Nightly fireworks spectacular
- Live music and entertainment all day and night at stages throughout the fairgrounds, including the Cosgrove Stage where community groups perform
- The daily parade at 2 p.m.
- The Kemps Little Farm Hands agricultural education tent
- Karaoke and music in The Garden
- And much, much more. Use the Fair Finder or daily schedules at mmnhts.org or printed daily schedules available at any information booth for a complete list of activities.

Meanwhile, here is the Fair’s list of special days.

**Thursday, Aug. 22**

Discounted admission is $13 for adults (13-64) and $10 for seniors (65+) and kids (5-12) when purchased at the gate.

**Monday, Aug. 26**

Seniors & Kids Day. Seniors (65+) and kids (5-12) are admitted for $10 when tickets are purchased at the gate.

**Military Appreciation Day, Tuesday, Aug. 27,**

is when active military and their families, as well as retired and veteran military and their spouses, are admitted for $10 when they purchase admission at the gate with documentation of U.S. military service.

**Wednesday, Aug. 28, Read & Ride Day.**

Guests presenting valid public library cards when purchasing admission at the gate are admitted for the following discounted prices: Adults (13-64) $13; seniors (65+) $10; and kids (5-12) $10. (One discount per card)

**Seniors Day, Thursday, Aug. 29**

Seniors (65+) are admitted for $10 when purchasing tickets at the gate.

**Labor Day, Sept. 2, Kids & Last Chance Day**

Kids (5-12) are admitted for $10 when purchasing tickets at the gate.

---Source: Minnesota State Fair
William Patrick Cunningham, 82, of Falcon Heights, died July 24 after suffering a major heart attack while attending the Chau- tuqua Institute in New York with his wife of 60 years, Mary Ellen.

Bill was born on July 11, 1927 in Ortonwa, Iowa. He loved books, conversation, music, novel foods, travel and sour cherry pie.

As a professor at the University of Minnesota, Cunningham’s early academic work in cell biology later shifted toward conservation biology and environmental science, in response to urgent environmental concerns and the interests of his students. Bill loved being in the wilderness, and he camped and canoed often with this family in the Boundary Waters.

In the 1970s, Bill served as president of the North Star Chap- ter of the Sierra Club. He traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress to create the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Bill built beautiful wood-strip canoes and paddles, and he led the construction of the 33-foot voyageur canoe for Camp Amnicon and he led the construction of the wood-strip canoes and paddles, Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Congress to create the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Wilderness, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Catholic Charities, Camp du Nord, or a charity of your choice.

June Cavert

June Lorane Sederstrom Cavert, 97, St. Anthony Park, died June 5. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elsie Sederstrom of rural Litchfield, Minn.

June graduated from Litch- field High School and the Uni- versity of Minnesota, in addition to graduate work here and at the University of Missouri.

During WWII, June super- vised Lutheran Campus Ministry chapters at colleges from Michi- gan to California.

She and H. Mead Cavert were married on Jan. 17, 1946, 10 days after his return from military ser- vice in East Asia. They moved to the Longfellow neighborhood of south Minneapolis and became fixtures in that community for over 50 years. June served on the boards of Fairview Hospital and Fairview University Hospital.

She was a generous friend, fi- nancially and personally, of the homeless and the hungry. She and Mead warmly welcomed and supported many immigrants and their families, helping them get settled in their new homes in the Twin Cities.

When possible, June enjoyed getting her hands into good soil and tending flowers, and avidly reading books, magazines and newspapers into her late 90s. June was predeceased by her husband Bill, and two great-grandchildren. Her memorial service was held Aug. 18 at Central Luther- an Church, with interment at the church cemetery at Beckville, ad- jacent to the family farm where June spent her youth.

Memorials are preferred: to University of Minnesota Foun- dation, Box 806266, Minneapo- lis, MN 55486-0266, designated to the Dr. H. Mead and June S. Cavert Scholarship Fund (fund #5773) for the benefit of students at the Medical School, or Central Lutheran Foundation, 333 S. 12th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404, designated to youth or global ministries or Camp Amni- con; or your chosen charity.

Romanus Hagel

Romanus Hagel, 87, died July 19.

Romanus was active in his church and his children’s elemen- tary school, Holy Childhood, where he was a long-time usher and a Boy Scout troop volunteer. A book lover and history buff, he regaled all with stories of growing up in Wisconsin and serving in the U.S. Air Force.

He was predeceased by his wife Eileen; children Mary Ellen and Baby Boy; grandchild Chris- tian; parents Susanna and Henry; and eight siblings. He is survived by children Mark (Diane), John, Bob (Samantha), Anne (Tom Martino) and Doby (Heidi John- son-Hagel); nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 25 at Holy Child- hood Catholic Church, with inter- ment at Fort Snelling. Please direct memorials to Sharing & Caring Hands; Fairview Foun- dation, earmarked for The Pil- lars Hospice Home Fund; or the Ronald McDonald House.

Thomas Hong

Thomas Jackyuu Hong, 96, died July 25. Thomas immigrated to the United States in 1986 from South Korea. He had a love of learning, whether it was the Bi- llinge, navigating around the Twin Cities by bus, or traveling over- seas. He was a man who accepted and loved everyone.

He is survived by his wife, Suk Chia: children, Jong Won (Moung Soon); Jong Un (Kyoo- ung Mi); Anthony (Yun Hui) Darrin (Amy), Jong Ok (Hwangu Bae) Kim and Son (Jung Yup) Kim; 12 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

His funeral was Aug. 3 at St. Andrew Kim Catholic Church in Como Park, where he had been a longtime member.

Ali Johnson

AliRGB Johnson was born on July 8, 1947. He was the son of Kent and Herbert Johnson in St. Paul.

From a young age, Ali developed a lifelong passion for wilder- ness canoe trips through YMCA outings.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Minneapolis on Aug. 2. Memo- rials are suggested: to Save the Boundary Waters Foundation, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Catholic Charities, Camp du Nord, or a charity of your choice.

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SAINT ANTHONY PARK LIBRARY
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All events and classes take place in the Saint Anthony Park Library auditorium unless otherwise noted. For more information about upcoming programs, please call the library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.stpl.org. Please note that failure to cancel will result in a $5 registration fee.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Special Events and Classes

• Wednesday, Sept. 4
  Adult Book Club
  6:30-7:30 p.m.
  Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss interesting books. All are welcome and no registration is required.
• Thursday, Sept. 12
  Senior Cinema: Crazy Rich Asians
  2:00-4:00 p.m.
  A native New Yorker, Rachel Chu accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick Young, to his ultra-lavish family’s wedding in Singapore. Excited about visiting Asia for the first time and nervous about meeting Nick’s family, Rachel is unprepared to meet his key details about his life. Co-sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors.
• Thursday, Sept. 19
  Meet the Author: Raising Will—Surviving the Brilliance and Blunders of ADHD
  6:00-7:30 p.m.
  Join child psychologist and author Katherine Quin for a book reading and Q&A about her memoir and newly founded cause, ADHDGUI. Raising Will is a heartfelt memoir written by a Texas-born, Minnesota-raised mother and child psychologist. Books are available for purchase.

Ongoing Events and Classes

• Mondays in September
  Baby/Toddler Laptime Storytime
  9:30-10:00 a.m. and 10:30-11:00 a.m.
  Storytimes are geared for babies and toddlers ages 0-2, but siblings and children of all activity levels are welcome.

• Tuesdays in September
  Preschool Storytime
  10:30-11:00 a.m.
  Preschool storytimes teach social skills, literacy comprehension, letter and number recognition, and vocabulary. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

• Saturdays in September
  One to One Tech Help
  11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  Have a question about your tablet and smartphone? If we can’t answer the question, we’ll find resources or organizations that can! This is a drop-in session, no registration required.

ST. PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION
Full-class registration now underway. Basketball registration is the month of September for ages 3-18. Don’t forget the registration discounts on the first 5 days.

LANGFORD PARK RECREATION CENTER
For more information, call 651-288-5665 or visit www.stpaulparks.org/langfordrec.

• Thursdays, Sept. 5-6
  Pilates Intermediate
  11:30 a.m., noon, adults

• Thursdays, Sept. 5-6
  Wine Do
  5:30-7:00 p.m., ages 6-adult

• Fridays, Sept. 6-7
  Senior Bowling
  9:30-11:00 a.m., adults

• Fridays, Sept. 6-7
  Bingo Balls
  6:00-8:30 p.m., ages 9-11

• Wednesdays, Sept. 11-27
  Chess Club
  6:30-8:00 p.m., ages 7-12

• Mondays, Sept. 16-20
  Zumba Session 1
  7:45-8:45 p.m., adults

• Mondays, Sept. 16-20
  Falling Into Autumn
  6:15-7:15 p.m., ages 3-5

• Thursdays, Sept. 19-20
  Music In Motion
  6:00-6:35 p.m., ages 16 months-2 years

• Thursdays, Sept. 19-20
  Music In Motion
  6:45-7:20 p.m., ages 3-5

• Tuesday, Sept. 24
  Indoor Plant Care
  6:30-7:30 p.m., adults, at the Urban Grower (2200 Endicott St, Saint Paul, MN)

• Tuesday, Sept. 24
  Choir
  5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 7-12

• Fridays, Sept. 4-27
  Tot Time
  9:30-1:00 p.m., ages 0-5

• Friday, Oct. 11
  Fall Fest
  5:30-8:30 p.m., all ages

• Thursday-Friday, Oct. 17-18
  Harry Potter Master Engineering
  9:00 a.m. - noon, ages 5-12

NORTHDALE RECREATION CENTER
For more information, call 651-288-5229 or visit www.northdaleparks.org/northdale.

• Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 3-5, 12, 19, 26
  Senior Fitness
  9:30-10:30 a.m., Adults

• Tuesdays, Sept. 3-June 9
  Rec Check
  2:00-6:00 p.m., ages 6-12

• Tuesdays & Saturdays, Sept. 3-23
  Yoga
  7:45-8:45 a.m. (Tue), 11:30 a.m. (Sat)

• Mondays, Sept. 3-23
  Blood Pressure Clinic
  11:00 a.m.-noon (Sat)

• Tuesdays, Sept. 3-Dec. 17
  Senior Gamers
  1:00-3:00 p.m., Adults

• Mondays & Wednesdays, Sept. 4-Dec. 16
  Tai Chi
  7:15-8:15 p.m., Adults

• Mondays & Wednesdays, Sept. 4-Dec. 16
  Taekwondo
  6:45-7:45 p.m., ages 4-17

• Thursdays, Sept. 5-Dec. 19
  Senior Day
  10:00-2:00 p.m., Adults

• Mondays & Wednesdays, Sept. 4-Dec. 9
  Tai Chi
  10:00-1:00 p.m., Adults

• Mondays & Wednesdays, Sept. 14-Dec. 18
  Challenge Square Dancing
  6:30-9:30 p.m., Adults

• Thursdays, Sept. 10-Dec. 17
  Friday Ball
  11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Adults

• Saturday, Sept. 12
  Teen Basketball Training
  9:30-4:00 p.m., ages 11-17

• Mondays & Wednesdays, Oct. 2-Dec. 30
  Tot Time
  9:00 a.m.-noon, ages 1-5

ST. ANTHONY PARK AREA SENIORS
Planned activities for September

• Saturday, Oct. 12
  Indoor Plant Care for Adults
  10:00-11:00 a.m., Adults

• Thursday & Friday, Oct. 17-18
  Minecraft Master Engineering with Lego
  9:00 a.m. - noon, ages 5-12

ST. ANTHONY PARK (SAP) LIBRARY
2245 Como Avenue.

• Tuesdays in September
  (Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24)
  Exercise class, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

• Fridays in September
  (Sept. 13, 20, 27)
  Chair yoga, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

• Thursday, Sept. 12
  Movie: “Crazy Rich Asians”, 2:00 p.m.

• Thursday, Sept. 19
  Older Adult Resource Center: Staying Independent Longer by Addressing Hearing Vision and Oral Health Issues, 2:00 p.m.

LAUDERDALE CITY HALL

• Mondays & Wednesdays in September (Sept. 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26)
  Exercise class, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

NORTH DALE RECREATION CENTER
(2129 Commonwealth Ave., 10-11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

• Monday, Sept. 16
  Community Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fulham St., St. Paul, 6:30 p.m. gathering, 7:00 p.m. singing. Event is free, but a hat will be passed to help support the music leaders and to make the singer possible.

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CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2200 Wolden

• Wednesdays in September (Sept. 11, 18, 25)
  Exercise class, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

• Wednesdays in September (Sept. 11, 18, 25)
  Blood pressure clinic, 11:30 a.m.-noon

• Fridays, Sept. 13 & 20
  Game Day, 10:00 a.m.-noon

SEPT EM BER 2019  ■  PARK BUGLE

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Community garage sales, seeking tutors and more

Reading tutors sought
Chelsea Heights Elementary is seeking reading volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year.

Reading volunteers choose one day a week, Mondays-Thursdays, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., to read one-on-one with students from first to third grade for 15 minutes. The school provides the books, the students and the coffee.

To volunteer, contact Maura Thompson at maura.thompson@spps.org or call Chelsea Heights at 651-293-8790. The new season begins the week of Oct. 1. The school is located at the intersection of Hamline and Hoyt avenues in St. Paul.

Gallery features Miller and Fokken artwork
The Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., is displaying the artwork of Ernest Miller and Kyle Fokken now through Oct. 18. Miller’s work is inspired by architecture and machinery found in the rural Midwestern landscape, while Fokken employs vintage toy and folk art aesthetics in his works.

The day-and-late sculptures and paintings of Raymond Avenue Gallery owner and artist Joseph Brown are on view in the lower-level gallery. Gallery hours during exhibition: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learning about lilies
Rick Rodich, an experienced grower of more than 40 species of lilies native to North America, Europe and Asia, will talk about lilies for Minnesota gardens at the Sept. 10 meeting of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club. Refreshments are at 7 p.m. and the program begins at 7:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. (Enter door on Luther Place.)

Beginners hand drum class
The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., will offer a class in hand drums for beginners on Sept. 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is $10. Drums are provided. For more information, visit womensdrumcenter.org.

The Women’s Drum Center is a nonprofit organization providing opportunities for women and girls to learn, teach, and play percussion together.

Book author speaks at Winding Trail Books

A former St. Paul Pioneer Press business reporter, Carlson is currently editor of the Park Bugle.

Children’s book party
Author/photographer Sara Marie Moore and her hedgehog Ginger will hold a book party for “The Spike Cream Woods” at 10 a.m. on Sept. 7 at Winding Trail Books, 2230 Carter Ave. The book blends the worlds of fiction and nonfiction as Ginger, a real-life African pygmy hedgehog, explores a fictional ice cream forest. Ginger will appear for a reading of the book, short pizzas, lesson and question and answer time about pet hedgehogs.

Moore will sign books and Ginger will stamp them with her hedgehog stamp. Moore and Ginger are St. Paul residents. For more information visit quillvillage.com.

Murray Middle School tutors needed
Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave. St. Paul, is seeking volunteers for its Pilot One-on-One Tutoring program. Now in its 13th year, the program provides comprehensive tutoring/study skills support during the regular school day to at-risk students.

Tutors work with students on developing solid study skills and assisting them with core subjects, including English, science, math and social studies. All tutor volunteers participate in a 90-minute training/orientation session to find out how the program works at Murray and answer any questions.

For more information or to sign up for the program, contact coordinator Cindy Thrasher at 651-293-8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org

Falcon Heights city events
A series of citywide events are coming up in Falcon Heights. They include:

Citywide Garage Sale
Falcon Heights is organizing a Citywide Garage Sale Day on Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be creating a city map with locations of garage sales.

Falcon Heights residents must register by Sept. 7 to be included in the sale map. Register online at www.falconheights.org or call City Hall at (651) 792-7600.

Sustainable Actions Fair
The Falcon Heights Environment Commission presents the second annual Sustainable Actions Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 at Falcon Heights Community Park, 2050 Rosemont Ave. Topics include resilientcy for your home and yard. The fair will feature guest speakers and tabling organizations.

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Camp Waidjian, where he was a camper and counselor and paddled to both Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean.

He studied at George Williams College and met his wife, Jan Nicodemus, in Chicago, Ill. They raised their daughter Alyssa in St. Paul.

Throughout Al’s career in the automotive industry, including Saab and Subaru, he was known as a “car whisperer.” He dedicated his later years to caring for his rescue dogs, bicycling and volunteering for local and national political campaigns.

A celebration of Al’s life was held at the family home July 13. If desired, please send memorials to the Herbert O. Johnson Family Endowment Fund at YMCA Camp Waidjian, W. N, 9901, Box 1459, Minneapolis, MN 55485-9901; or HealthPartners Hosptice, 803 34th Ave. S., Suite 200, Bloomington, MN 55425.

Gwen LeFevre

Gwendolyn Ruth Stemrud LeFevre, 83, St. Anthony Park, died June 6 at St. Anthony Park Home, from complications of cancer. She was born on Dec. 23, 1935, in Dawson, Minn., to Ione and Oliver Stemrud.

After growing up on a farm near Stockhom, S.D., she attended South Dakota State University, where she majored in home economics. On June 9, 1957, she married Charles LeFevre. They moved to New Ulm, then Springfield, Minn.; then Black River Falls, Wis. They had two children, Camille and Lee, who both survive her.

In her final working years, she settled in Stockhom, Wis., where she restored a historic property, hosted a bed-and-breakfast, and located her antique business. She was preceded in death by her brothers, John and Charles.

Memorials may be made to Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (mnovarian.org) or St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where her memorial service was held on July 12.

John Waite

John Waite, 72, of Lauderdale, died Aug. 1.

John graduated from Montana State University with a bachelor’s degree in engineering and had a lifelong career at Unisys.

John is survived by his wife of 34 years, Barbara Waite; and brother, William. He was preceded in death by his sister, Joan Weddle.

A memorial service for John was held Aug. 7 at Sunset Funeral Weddle.

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By Eric Erickson

For Como Park Cougars, fall is here!

For hundreds of student athletes at Como Park and thousands across St. Paul, Aug. 12 marked the end of summer and the beginning of the new fall sports season.

After voluntary summer sessions and workouts, Cougars participating in girls’ and boys’ soccer, football, cross-country running, girls’ volleyball, girls’ tennis and girls’ swimming started official practices led by their coaches, a full three weeks before classes commence.

During that time, team tryouts occur, practices are abundant and competitive games are already underway. For Bugle readers, we offer a preview of what’s ahead.

Girls’ Soccer—The Cougars have produced winning records for five straight seasons, including the last three under head coach Kyle Johnson. This year, Hussein Mohamed is stepping up as head coach to lead an experienced varsity team.

Mohamed was a starting defender for the Cougar boys in 2011. Now, as an educational assistant at Como, with several years of assistant coaching for the boys, Mohamed is eager to guide the girls’ program, which will feature more than 50 players on three teams (varsity, JV and C team).

Varisty will benefit from the return of some outstanding seniors. Shar Too has been an All-State player since her freshman year. Rebar Htoo is a dynamic attacker and goal scorer. Tina Million is a reliable defender who helps spring the offense and is a consistent vocal leader.

Mohamed put together a challenging varsity schedule, with no-conference games against traditional section powers and larger schools. The team is ready for the challenge of competing at a higher level and to prove it can improve upon last year’s second-place finish in the St. Paul City Conference.

Boys’ Soccer—With more than 80 players in the program competing on four teams (varsity, JV, B and C teams), Jonah Fields is excited to serve his sixth season as head coach. “We want to continue to define our program with work ethic and first class actions,” Fields said.

For the varsity, junior Kevin Iragaba is expected to play a key role as a center back and provide a calm, positive presence for the defense. Junior Emmanuel Moli returns as goalkeeper. He has started 30 games for the Cougars in the past two seasons and has nine career shutouts. Ely, Senior Abdikhamid Mire will have the opportunity to use his offensive creative flair and technical skill in a forward position.

There are plenty of dates on the home schedule for the community to come out and see the team in action, including the Rice St. Rivalry Game vs. Washington on Sept. 11. All fans will get a free hot dog and see a spirited, high-energy match.

Cross Country Running—Coach Tim Kersey will lead the Cougar boys’ and girls’ teams for a seventh season. The teams train together and have an extremely supportive culture, fostered by captains who are selected by teammates based on experience and leadership qualities.

Boys’ captains for the 2019 season are Kalid Ali, Alastair Patterson and Nicholas Jacobson. Girls’ captains will be Justine Wulff, Claire Olson and Saylor Landrum. Historically, both Cougar cross country teams finish third out of the seven schools in the St. Paul City Conference. Finishing in that position or higher is certainly the goal once again this season. The teams have decent depth and the top runners trained consistently over the summer. Big meets on the schedule include the Roy Griak Invitational and the Section 4AA Meet, both of which will be held on the U of M golf course.

Volleyball—The Cougars varsity finished fifth out of seven teams in the 2018 St. Paul City Conference standings, after finishing third in 2017. If this year’s team develops chemistry, a top-half conference finish is within reach. The first home match will be a big test versus the defending champs from Highland Park.

Girls’ Tennis—The Como swimmers form the base of a cooperative team with Johnson High School. Together, the squad will aim to improve all individual times over the course of the three-month season. Cooperative teams are common in St. Paul as Highland Park partners with St. Paul Academy and Washington pairs up with Humboldt.

Girls’ Tennis—The Cougars will search for new doubles combinations and top singles players as they compete in a round-robin conference format. Non-conference opponents include both suburban and private schools, with the first home match on Aug. 22 against New Life Academy.

Football—The Cougars’ collective results over the last two years in the Twin Cities Red District, including their 6-2 record in 2017, led to a new placement in the highly competitive Twin City Blue Division. The schedule is filled with top-tier teams from St. Paul and Minneapolis such as Central, Johnson, Highland, North and Washburn.

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