Rental apartments eyed for Sholom Home site
But plan comes with parking challenge

By Michael Kuchta

A new owner plans to convert the former Sholom Home senior care center into 150 rental apartments. But the project will require a substantial parking variance in order to work, a representative of Midway Community Group Redevelopment told District 10’s Land Use Committee in October.

The company, headed by Minneapolis developer Jeffrey Laux, is buying the former nursing home property at 1554 Midway Parkway through foreclosure. "It comes down to parking," Chuck Repke said. "This can work, but it comes with a dilemma."

Plans call for renovating the site's four buildings into market-rate apartments: 22 studio apartments of 400-500 square feet; 97 one-bedroom apartments of 550-600 square feet; 24 two-bedroom apartments of 800-900 square feet; and seven three-bedroom apartments of 900-1050 square feet.

(Editor's note: The former senior care center site has been vacant since 2008 when Sholom Home moved its operations from the complex to a new site. A subsequent owner failed in its efforts to turn the facility into an assisted-living housing complex. For more background, check out the Bugle story from February 2018: https://www.parkbugle.org/public-meeting-on-sholom-home-future-to-be-held-march-7/)

The existing site currently has 65 parking spots on its Canfield side. Plans include adding 10 more surface spaces and 25 more indoor spaces. But that could be more than 75 short of what city zoning requires.

Neighbors expressed concerns about increased traffic on Canfield, Arona, Midway Parkway, and Almond, especially during the State Fair. However, Repke said the parking crunch may not be as severe as neighbors fear. The A-Line bus that stops at Snelling Avenue and Midway Parkway, plus other nearby routes, makes the building one of the most transit-friendly options available, Repke said. Owners believe it can be marketed successfully to renters who choose not to have a car. That target includes empty-nesters, young professionals, and graduate students at Hamline University and the University of Minnesota.

Michael Kuchta is the executive director of the District 10 Como Community Council.

Going to the wall: Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival transforms CEZ

By Sarah CR Clark

Driving down Prior Avenue, you may have been surprised to see a giant axe-wielding deer and a canoeing loon.

The mural "Frontier Justice" created by Eric J Garcia was painted during the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival on the side of E-Z Recycling Inc.'s building. "We absolutely love our mural," said Chris Reinhardt, owner of E-Z Recycling, 875 N. Prior Ave. "It ties right into our business with the animals picking up baskets of cans and bottles out of the river to clean it up and recycle, that's what we do, too."

The Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival transformed 12 unremarkable industrial walls into breathtakingly colorful, socially conscious works of art within the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) this September. Fifteen local and international artists gathered in the CEZ multi-use neighborhood (the Raymond-University area of St Paul) over the eight-day festival. Among the artists featured: Minnesotan Chuck U, whose work appears on Indeed Brewing Co.'s cans; Cey Adams (NYC) legendary hip-hop visual artist whose career includes collaborating with the Beastie Boys; and Mariela Ajras (Argentina) whose stunning piece on immigration and motherhood was this festival's tallest mural, stretching five stories.

The "Frontier Justice" muralist and Minnesota newcomer sees his cartoonish doe and loon as being "a little bit sugar to go with the bitter pill" of the environmental issues he raises. Garcia's mural includes references to the Line 3 pipeline, oil dependency, and the importance of clean air and water for Minnesota's ecosystems. Personally influenced by Mexican muralism, Garcia sees his mural as an accessible way to educate viewers.

Chroma Zone was the brainchild of a number of CEZ partners. Also, Catherine Reid Day, CEZ board chair and festival producer, had seen buzz-worthy mural festivals in other U.S. cities. The collaboration of partners envisioned St. Paul's first mural festival bringing existing artists from inside the 300 creative businesses of the CEZ outdoors for the world to see. The festival included brewery parties, street
**Como and St. Anthony Park community council news**

**District 10 Community Council**

Vote early for board members

Ramsey County will hold early voting at Como Park’s Historic Streetcar Station from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4. Any voter in the county can vote in their own municipal elections during that period. In St. Paul, there are elections for every City Council seat, plus a referendum on whether to keep or overturn the city’s consolidated trash-collection ordinance. Early voting hours are Tuesday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 4, noon-5 p.m. The Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington Parkway and Horton Avenue.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m., but voters must cast their ballot in their home precinct.

Gather ‘Round for Fireside Tales

Cross-cultural stories, a bonfire and s’mores, and a few Halloween fables sprinkled into the 7 p.m., at the Como Park fire Community Council sponsors Cross-cultural stories, a bonfire Gather ‘Round for ballot in their home precinct.

Full Streetcar Station hours

With the change of seasons, the exhibit area of the Como Park Streetcar Station is now open only on the first Sunday of the month until spring. The next op- portunity is Sunday, Nov. 3, from noon-4 p.m. Submitted by Michael Kuchta, District 10 executive director.

**District 12 Community Council**

SAPCC 2020 Board Election

Voting is now under way through Nov. 10 to elect new members to the District 12 St. Anthony Park Community Council board of directors. Voting can be done on-line or in person at various neighbor- bhood locations, which can be found at sapcc.org/vote.

North SAP Candidates are Heather Humbert, Laura Andersen.

SAPCC CALENDAR

- **Board Meetings**: Second Thurs- day of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at Jennings Community School 2455 University Ave.)
- **Equity**: First Monday of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at Seal Hi-Rise 825 Seal St.)
- **Transportation**: Last Tuesday of the month 7-9 p.m. (Held at SAPCC office 2395 W. University Ave., Suite 300E)

St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council is appealing the St. Paul Planning Commis- sion’s recent conditional approval of the Rohn Industries’ site plan for 2495 Kasota Ave.

Currently, Rohn Industries wants to develop a semi-trailer parking facility at the site, which is located between Highway 280 and the railroad crossing near the NAPA Parts driveway.

In a recent news statement, District 12 said it has "many seri- ous concerns about the potential air/waterborne pollutants that could manifest at the Rohn Indus- tries project because an old ash dump underlies this site. Rohn intends to excavate and stockpile topsoil on site, which will disturb the historic Elm Street ash dump and expose the underlying pol- luted material. It contains tons of partially incinerated hospital waste from HCMC [Hennepin County Medical Center], and ash from the city of Minneapolis and the U of Minnesota, dating from the 1930s to the 1960s."

Ideally, the Rohn Industries’ site should be remediated and re- stored to its original wetland con- dition,” the Community Council said. “At a minimum, the site should remain undisturbed.”

Kathryn Murray, District 12 executive director, said Commu- nity Council representatives plan to press their appeal at the City Planning Commission’s Zoning Committee meeting slated for Oct. 24. The full Planning Com- mission is expected to consider this issue on Nov. 1.

Since filing its appeal, SAPCC has launched a petition and fund- raiser to help pay for its appeals fees. People can sign the petition at chng.it/HBbdtxZPRj, and do- nate to the fund at givemw.org/story/Rohn-Appeals.

"SAPCC is encouraging neighbors to fill the seats and wear green as a show of solidarity” at the Planning Commission’s Oct. 24 Zoning Committee meeting, Murray told the Bagle.

![SAPCC Fundraiser Urban Growler is hosting a fund-raiser on Oct. 24 for the St. An- thony Park Community Council! Enjoy carritos tacos and a pint (included in the ticket price), plus local trio, Light of the Moon, will be performing. Current board members and staff will be in attendance to meet and greet! Here are the details: Thursday, Oct. 24, 5 to 9 p.m. Urban Growler Breez- ing Co. at 2325 Endicott St, St Paul. Tickets are available at the following link: SAPCC-U.ğ. brownpapertickets.com Submitted by Kathryn Murray, District 12 executive director.

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The climate is changing, and so are we

By Mike Lukes

Commentary

The Climate Strike in September showed that more people are waking up, ready to do what it takes to cut greenhouse gas emissions. We will need systemic change in energy, transit, agriculture, and more.

But personal action is just as important. Our daily choices matter, and collectively, they shape the market, and the culture. How are people in St. Anthony Park transitioning to more sustainable ways of life? We asked around.

Shifting habits

Directly and indirectly, many neighbors are using less oil: shrinking their demands on our fossil-fueled industrial system, changing their diets, saving energy, and improving their carbon-footprint per capita at home.

"An ebike has proven such a fun way to replace many car trips. With a small amount of battery charge, the pedal-assisted electric motor makes my 15-mile trip to work a joy and hills a breeze. It got me moving again and reduced my car mileage by 3,000 miles a year." —Karen Nelson

"I'm adding an accessory dwelling unit in my basement. In the process, parts of the house that have never had insulation are being insulated. More warmth, more density, and someone to help shovel—it's a triple win!" —Tertia Erhart

"I got rid of my car four years ago. I would never go back. I've lost weight, feel more fit, more connected to my community, and have a lot more money to spend on things I want to do. And I sleep guilt-free, knowing that I am not contributing as much carbon as I used to." —Betty Latterman

Wagner Hemstad, Elise Dunne, and me. We took the 3 but downtown. The most memorable thing was marching through the streets to the Capitol. . . . I was also struck by the sheer number of people striking in St. Paul, and all over the world. It felt empowering to be a part of something so big. It left me feeling hopeful." —Siri Pattison, Murray student

"Last year, our city-wide Read Brave program focused on issues of sustainable housing. This year’s theme is ‘Our Climate Crisis.’ Read Brave invites people to read, discuss, and even take action on critical issues... all while building relationships. We will be rolling out the books for all ages by the end of November and programming will happen in the spring." —Mary Knut, St. Anthony Park Branch Library

"My wife and I support Green America’s campaigns to influence corporations to make good choices for people and the planet. Recently we invited our neighbors to the Zengco co-op to meet with a visiting staff member. It was exciting to hear about Green America’s effectiveness: Amazon announced it will get to 80 percent renewables by 2024, AT&T’s new purchases of wind and solar will get them over 50 percent, and Sprint has committed to 30 percent." —Greg Danu (Learn more at GreenAmerica.org)

What are you doing to preserve a habitable future? Let us know at communications@transitionASAP.org. Or join us at a monthly Transition Town–ASAP planning group meeting. The next two are Oct. 24 and Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. at CoCreart, 2388 University Ave. n

Mike Lukes is a meteorologist now retired from federal service, most recently the National Weather Service. His roles ranged from upper-air test manager at the Sterling, Virginia facility to service hydrologist at the Weather Forecast Office in Grand Forks, N.D. He now lives in St. Anthony Park.
By Scott Carlson

A sad demise

Earlier this month, I heard some news that I found particularly heart-breaking. My hometown newspaper publisher, North Star—based LillianSuburban News, had ceased operations after 82 years in business.

From a St. Paul Pioneer Press news account, it appears that one of Lillian’s co-owners recently filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy and the company sent emails to various cities in its circulation area informing them that it would no longer be publishing their local news.

It was nearly 50 years ago that I got my start in journalism when the Ramsey County Review hired me as a stringer to cover the North St. Paul high school football team. I credit a North High math teacher, Ed Rohrer, who help connect me with the Review. I was already steeped in the high school newspaper, serving as senior editor for the North’s Hi-Lights, and knew I wanted to be a journalist. That start with sports writing led to other opportunities at the Review. As I worked my way through college at the University of Minnesota, the Review’s owners and editors let me spread my wings writing sports, features and even editorials and columns. My community newspaper experience enabled me to land a job at the St. Paul Pioneer Press in the late 1970s. Over the next 29 1/2 years, I covered St. Paul city government and then several beats as a business writer at the PinPress, including workplace and labor, aviation, manufacturing, energy and retail.

Without my start at a community newspaper, I may never have achieved my goal of working for The Bugle.

Now, Lillian News’ closure is bound to create at least a partial news void in North St. Paul. Lake Elmo, New Mexico, St. Anthony, Chisago and the other communities it served. Local newspapers play a key role in informing and binding communities. Lillian News was not alone in its shuttering. According to a USA Today article in July, one academic estimated that more than 2,000 newspapers, the vast majority of them weekly, have shuttered across the U.S. in the last 15 years.

In the end, the demise of Lillian News is close-to-home reminder of the challenges facing newspapers. In this environment that the Bugle is persevering to serve St. Anthony Park, Como, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. As we move into our annual fall fund drive, please join me in making a voluntary donation to keep the Bugle strong and vital.

Thanks, Ruth Weleczki!

This with this issue of the Bugle, we say “Thanks and job well-done!” to Ruth Weleczki, who is stepping down as copy editor after more than eight-year stint with the Bugle. Ruth and I met while working at the St. Paul Pioneer Press. She has done a yeoman’s job tweaking copy and catching errors, so that I can present a high-quality newspaper each month.

Ruth said it seemed like a good time to move on from the Bugle as she and her husband have launched the last of their four children off to college and now enjoy empty-nesters. We wish Ruth the best in her future endeavors.

Supports Brendemoon

Friends and neighbors, and with an upcoming St. Paul City Council election, I wanted to share my confidence that re-electing Amy Brendemoon is our best choice as I attribute so much of the progress of St. Paul to her leadership. Amy’s energy, passion for our community, and solution-oriented approach resonate with my ideal public official.

I met Amy when she knocked on my door in the spring of 2015. I presented her with a challenge. I faced as a coach at Como Park High School. She assured me she was able and willing to help. To have my City Council member actively solve a fundraising challenge so we can provide equitable athletic programming was the first of many times I’ve reached out to her and found her engagement exceptional. To have such a responsive partnership with our neighborhood leadership is a blessing that I appreciate.

Since that first project, Amy proved her versatility with the construction and our new facility at Como Park High School. She’s proven she cares about the little things that keep our neighborhood with her willingness to support our student athletes. She understands how to reconnect and build relationships to move our city forward.

I know the same caring people who cheer for student athletes work days and night to address the bigger challenges our city faces. Her vision is building a better St. Paul for my children by investing in infrastructure, schools, and housing solutions, while providing answers in real time to address public safety concerns. Like Amy, I believe our city is a great place and is moving in the right direction. She has earned my trust and confidence—and my vote.

— Jonah Fields

St. Anthony Park

Climate change

On Sept. 20 I was honored to be able to attend the Climate Strike rally with my son and several of his classmates. While we as a people, as a planet, have much work to do it was inspiring and uplifting to have a day filled with so much resolve, youth and hope. In a day of so many messages I was struck by a few in particular.

First, of the speakers talked about the intersectionality of the climate crisis and many other issues. They reminded me how issues like violence in our city, education, immigration, racial justice, and many more are tied into the climate Crisis as they all impact each other. I was reminded yet again of the importance of addressing this crisis holistically and acting on this and related issues with haste.

Second, various speakers talked about the power of the people and the need for political leadership to take action on this issue. While I don’t remember the exact words, I took from those comments the importance of political leadership to political action and to address this and related issues aggressively.

PARK BUGLE • NOVEMBER 2019

LETTERS

From the Desk of the Editor

Mail-delivery update

Last month, the Bugle began home mail delivery. I hope that most of you found the October issue safely tucked in your mailboxes. Just a note, but many readers who are not in our core delivery area, have asked to receive the Bugle. Our staff has been working hard to update the “Opt-in” mail list.

To opt-in to mail delivery, go to parkbugle.org and look for the Opt In button on the left, just below the Bugle flag. It will take you to a page with a map of Bugle residents. Readers within the pink shaded area are scheduled to receive the paper via mail. Resi-

dents outside the shaded area can opt-in to mail delivery by filling out and submitting the form below the map.

If you prefer a more hands-on approach, send your name, address and the note OPT IN to the Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

The Bugle is also continuing to make bulk drops to various business addresses around town.

By Beth Magistad

Bugle launches 2019-20 annual fund drive

The Park Bugle is a monthly nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Falcon Heights, Como Park and Corno Park. The Bugle reports and analyzes community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the neighborhoods we cover and encourage community participation.

Opinions expressed in the Bugle by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc., Copyright 2019, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization guided by an elected board of directors.

Generally serving the board are: Jinh Burren, Bonny Carrie, Liz Danicheon, Gabrielle Lawrence, Becky Lomnitz, Beth Magistad, Dan Nisley, Steve Plagman, Merry Remahl, and Viencing.
Burgle’s annual fund drive off and running

Autumn is in the air and so is the Bugle’s annual fall fund drive. The Bugle’s goal for 2019-20 is $52,000 and we are off to a good start. As of Oct. 9, some 200 donors have contributed $17,200 since May. This includes a grant from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. Thanks to all our financial supporters. And if you have not done so yet, please consider making a contribution to the Bugle. Your support helps defray the newspaper’s annual operating costs and keeps our non-profit financially healthy.

You can make an online donation at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE button on the home page and scroll down. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8136, St. Paul, Minn. 55108.

Art Section - 2019-20

Artists

Fred Froster - painting & sculpture - thru Oct 27

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Thomas Landscape of Minnesota
"Easiest Catch: Another Fish in the Dark Net "

By John Horchner

Today, more and more of the products we bring into our homes and businesses are connected to the Internet—thermostats, smart speakers, even pacemakers. It’s called The Internet of Things and “. . . that’s the topic speakers, even pacemakers. . . ."

“Whenever we gain convenience, we give up security,” he said. Lanterman, who teaches cybersecurity at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, works for Computer Forensic Services, a Minnesota consulting firm whose clients include states, counties and towns. He often dispenses free advice, but it’s not always heeded. In one case, a small city in the south left a web page for vital controls unprotected for six months, Lanterman said, adding that was six months after he made them aware of the problem. “Hackers need our help,” he said, “and unfortunately we’re willing to give it to them.”

Organizations aren’t the only ones at risk. Today it is common for everyone to receive phishing emails. “Whenever you are asked to give anything of value, pick up the phone and call an unknown number to verify it,” he said. “Attacks are becoming more sophisticated.”

As an example, Lanterman showed the email that John Podesta’s personal Gmail account was sent when he headed Hillary Clinton’s 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. Hackers sent a message pretending to be part of a security team for Google and asked him to click on a phony link and enter a new password. That one mistake opened the door to his email account and may have been what influenced the results of the 2016 election, Lanterman said. During the Q-and-A period, most of the audience’s questions focused on how people can protect themselves.

Lanterman said the first line of defense has to be oneself because “the government is not going to do it for you.” Most antivirus products don’t work well, he said, including the highly advertised ones. “But they’re better than nothing,” he added.

After testing, he prefers Apple computers because the operating system is more resistant to hacks. “Ninety percent of hacks occur on a Windows computer,” Lanterman said. One way to protect against hacking is to “get off public Wi-Fi at airports, especially if you’re going to be typing in usernames and passwords,” he said. “Don’t be low-hanging fruit.”

Next up: UMN LearningLife’s “Headliners” for November will be “How Neuroscience Will Revolutionize the Law” by Francis X Shen, associate professor of law. It will be held at the Continuing Education and Conference Center at the university’s St. Paul campus. To register, go to https://ccaps.umn.edu/learninglife.

John Horchner is a publishing professional who lives in St. Anthony Park.
Lauderdale Halloween Party

Volunteers are needed to help carry out the city of Lauderdale’s Halloween party on Thursday, Oct. 31. Set-up for the event will be Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 26-27, from noon to 8 p.m. Set-up includes decorating City Hall, building and decorating a spooky maze, filling candy bags and setting up tables and chairs. Sign up to volunteer at https://signup.com/go/duKOnpQ or click on the link at www.lauderdalel.e.org. For more information, call 651-792-7650.

Sanford Health Senior Living

Just across from Como Park, Sanford Health Senior Living in St. Paul offers a wide range of programs and activities to keep you engaged and active. Our program helps seniors remain independent, thriving and engaged in the community. We also offer respite and other support for caregivers. To make a donation, go to www.sapaseniors.org and click on the givemn.org link on the home page.
St. Paul Ward 5 Council

By Anne Holzman

Four candidates are vying for the Ward 5 seat on the St. Paul City Council. They are incumbent Amy Brendmoen and challengers Bob Blake, Jamie Hendricks and Suyapa Miranda. The following is a snapshot of each candidate:

Bob Blake

Blake did not respond to the Bugle’s phone and email inquiries, but his website outlines who he is and why he is running for the council.

“I want to give a voice to the people in our community who have traditionally felt ignored,” the lifelong St. Paul resident and Red Lake member wrote on his site. “Growing up on the East Side, I am aware that we often get the short end of the stick. I want to ensure that we are being heard and have a seat at the table.”

Blake added he is a social justice advocate and environmentalist, who is interested in renewable energy and prison reform. “I want to use my voice as an advocate to highlight the inequities in our community and redistribute power in a way that benefits the hard-working people who live in Ward 5,” he wrote. Blake is owner of Solar Bear, an installer of solar energy, and is active in Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MN IPL), an interfaith coalition that is seeking to respond to the threat of climate change.

“One of my key goals is to develop workforce training in St. Paul that will prepare members of our community to take on local jobs,” he added. “This would boost our local economy and benefit residents, rather than passing off jobs to people who live outside St. Paul.”

Amy Brendmoen

Brendmoen, who has been City Council president since 2017, is running for her third term. She has also worked as a mediator in the Minnesota State Attorney General’s Office, as communications director for a social service nonprofit, and in advertising.

Brendmoen said her priorities include “further work on housing production, preservation and protections; holistic public safety including mental health-trained officers, data-driven deployment of staff, increased training, youth workers and restorative justice.” She added that she wants “a city budget that builds the tax base, creates efficiencies, investigates new sources of funding and engages the community in the creation process.”

Brendmoen said she will vote “yes” on the ballot question that would preserve the new garbage-collection system. “I am committed to leading the negotiation on these changes once the system has had some time to settle in,” Brendmoen said. “It’s been 12 months since the program rolled out, and things are going well, especially considering the scale of the change.”

Brendmoen....

Amy Brendmoen

Brendmoen, who has been City Council president since 2017, is running for her third term. She has also worked as a mediator in the Minnesota State Attorney General’s Office, as communications director for a social service nonprofit, and in advertising.

Brendmoen said her priorities include “further work on housing production, preservation and protections; holistic public safety including mental health-trained officers, data-driven deployment of staff, increased training, youth workers and restorative justice.” She added that she wants “a city budget that builds the tax base, creates efficiencies, investigates new sources of funding and engages the community in the creation process.”

Brendmoen said she will vote “yes” on the ballot question that would preserve the new garbage-collection system. “I am committed to leading the negotiation on these changes once the system has had some time to settle in,” Brendmoen said. “It’s been 12 months since the program rolled out, and things are going well, especially considering the scale of the change.”

Brendmoen....

Jamie Hendricks

This is Hendricks’ first time running for any elected position. She has worked in health care, human services and education. “I have been an activist and advocate for children, people with disabilities, and those who have been disenfranchised,” Hendricks said. “I have taken public policy training and a number of equity trainings throughout my career. All of my work has been with equity in mind.”

“I decided to run because our property taxes continue to rise, steady, our community has seen more gun violence, putting residents in danger, and I believe direct involvement and transparency is vital to make our neighborhoods better,” she said. Hendricks opposes the current trash system. “It is an unfair, high-priced, no-choice concept,” she said. “My own garbage has not always been picked up and the dumping throughout the city continues.”

Hendricks listed no public endorsements.

Suyapa Miranda

Miranda is running for office for the first time. She served for four years as executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Council. She cites accomplishments in healthy food access, affordable housing, community gardens, and disability access on public transit during her tenure there. She was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and served on the Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board. Currently, she is on the board of St. Paul NAR, and is vice-chair of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, an organization working on housing security.

Miranda listed affordable housing, economic development (including small-business support), health and environment, and community safety as her key issues.

Falcon Heights 2019 city election

By Anne Holzman

Voters in Falcon Heights will elect a mayor and two city council members November 2.

Mayor Randy Gustafson, a council member who was appointed as mayor earlier this year when Peter Lindstrom resigned to take a Metropolitan Council post, is running for re-election. He is opposed by Dave Thomas.

Mayoral candidates

Gustafson was first elected to the council in 2015. He has also served on the Falcon Heights planning commission as well as the Ramsey County Charter Commission, which he chaired for four years. He has worked on legislative staff and in the governor’s office. Currently, he is coordinator of crime prevention in the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office.

Gustafson said he is motivated by “delivering public services to those in need, be they individuals, families or organizations in effective and cost-efficient methods. Local government touches people’s lives in many ways. Falcon Heights is a nice community and a well-run city. I am motivat...”

Thomas teaches social studies at Nausayer Center School in Minneapolis. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army/Minnesota National Guard and served in Iraq. He has served as a Falcon Heights parks commissioner and firefighter.

Thomas said he wants to move the city’s election dates to even years to coincide with state and national elections in order to boost voter turnout and save money. He also supports strong parks and youth programming.

“I do not support further high-density development in Falcon Heights until our infrastructural needs are met,” Thomas said. But he does support construction of a traffic circle at Roseawn and Snelling avenues, citing traffic management and pollution reduction.

Council candidates

Meanwhile, three candidates are running for two at-large seats on the City Council: Kay Andrews, Adam Sychla, and Yakasah Wehaye.

Andrews has served on the city’s planning and human rights commissions, and on the Policing and Inclusion Task Force formed in 2016 in response to Philando Castile’s death. She was also

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Nine candidates vying for St. Paul School Board

By Kathy Henderson

Nine candidates are vying this fall for four seats on the seven-member Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education. They are Ryan Williams, Omar Syed, Steve Marchese, Jennifer McPherson, Jessica Kopp, Tiffany Fearing, Zuki Ellis, Charles Castro and Chauntyll Allen.

The contenders include men and women who reflect various race/ethnicity, career backgrounds, educational attainment and community connections, and school board experience. The Bugle sent questionnaires to the candidates for their views on school district issues with only Ellis and Allen not responding.

Many of the candidates have similar reasons for running for the school board: Having personal connections to SPPS, valuing public education, desiring that all students feel welcome and have opportunities to succeed, and aiming to strengthen budget oversight.

Their concerns are similar, too: test-achievement gaps, over-all educational equity, lack of staff diversity, the need for culturally meaningful curriculum, school climate and safety, and finances and resources.

However, when asked what distinguishes them from the other candidates, their answers varied.

Candidate differences/similarities

“The main difference between me and the other school board candidates is that I am a true outsider,” Charlie Castro told the Bugle in an email response. “As an educator for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, I see the power that education has. And as a resident of Lowertown, I have seen a definite change in my community.

“Being an outsider puts me in a unique position to not hold allegiances to the DFL Party or endorsing bodies, but to truly work for the students, teachers and families of St. Paul.”

Tiffany Fearing describes herself as creative and able to think outside the box. “Jessica Kopp cites her educational expertise and experience, including successfully working with SPPS district staff and community partners. She also brings the perspective gained through her experience as a teacher in another district.

Steve Marchese said that as a lawyer, he “brings a legal, strategic-thinking and thoughtful eye to the board.” Currently serving as the board’s vice chair, Marchese said that he has “spent time in almost all the SPPS buildings and has gotten to know many of the schools’ teachers and staff.”

Jennifer McPherson sees herself as a very logical person who exams everything from all sides, especially when it doesn’t make sense. “I always look at the big picture,” she said.

Omar Syed would bring an immigrant/refugee perspective to the board. “I am an immigrant, coming from Somalia,” he said. “I came here as a refugee without a background in school. I graduated from a SPPS high school and opened a business in St. Paul. My kids now attend SPPS. I want to help the board connect with all communities.”

Meanwhile, Ryan Williams said he is the only candidate who, as a child, had an IEP (Individual Education Plan) for a learning disability. He also said he is the only candidate campaigning on the platform to document all restraints of all students, to designate a school transportation-safety director and to adopt a transportation-safety policy provision for the qualifications of training and duties of bus monitors.

More than concerns, challenges

Despite their concerns for the School District, the candidates also said there are many positives things happening.

“One thing I like is that SPPS welcomes everyone,” said Syed.

Ryan Williams contends you can’t have a positive school culture without recognizing the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community. Acknowledgement of all cultures is significant to McPherson.

Marchese said SPPS has very hard-working staff who are connected to the kids, and that is partly due to restorative practice’s pilot sites having already built better relationships between staff and students.

Kopp said that SPPS builds relationships both within the schools and within the community. “Connectiveness and shared purpose don’t end when you walk out the school door,” she said.

It should include how diverse the district is, Fearing said.

Castro suggested that numerous engagement/discussion events should be held to get as many perspectives as possible on what would be best district practices going forward.

Special education/IEPs

The school board’s strategic plan calls for, among other things, increased achievement of students receiving special education services. The Bugle asked the candidates if they felt knowledgeable about IEPs (Individual Education Plans) or any of the special-education advocacy organizations.

Castro said too often IEPs are created without family input and reflect a lack of resources and available providers. “This is an area in our schools that is under-funded,” she said.

Castro also noted the SPPS Special Education Advisory Council “is very active and a place where parents come and learn from each other, share experiences, SEAC is a part of the SPPS Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships.”

McPherson said Farnsworth Aerospace Upper campus does a great job including families in their students’ education plan and following it through.

Syed said IEPs need to be updated to meet the needs of the school district’s immigrant families, who, because they may have had limited schooling in their native country, do not know how to get started or how to help their children.

Williams, once a student with an IEP, would like to see family members as more equal members of IEP teams and closely follow the regulation of the right of a mandatory IEP meeting when two or more student physical restraints occur in 30 days. He sees a need for staff-paid time so they can document physical restraints and participate in post-restraint debriefings.

Williams supports the SPPS providing information on parent-advocacy organizations, including the organization Scholastic Room Shut Down, which is a group of community members, parents and educators working to assist in reducing and ending improper restraints and seclusion of students.

An outside community organization could also be used to determine if SPPS is reducing the number of physical restraints or it is failing behind on documentation, Williams said.

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John Dexter

John Dexter, 73, died Sept. 13. He was the longtime manager and screammer at the St. Paul Curling Club and an important presence in the curling community. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; sons, Mike (Melly) and Jeff; Papaji’s girl, Dani (P.J.) Hangartner, Bailey, and Grace; and sister, Pam (Tom) Wurtman. His memorial service was held Sept. 21 at Trinity EFC in Lakeville.

Burnell Fischer

Burnell J. Fischer (née Bugge), 87, died Sept. 20. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald and brother, Robert Bugge. She is survived by her children: Theresa (Keith) Valle; Mark (Sandy) Schoeben and Richard Schoeben. She was a lifelong parishioner of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial was held Sept. 27 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with interment at Elmehurst Cemetery.

Maysel Guenthner

Maysel Guenthner, 94, died on Sept. 4. She moved up to Wyoce-Maysel is survived by son Greg and daughter Luanne (Jef- fry Lund), of St. Paul, and grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held Oct. 15 at Falcon Heights Church of Christ, with a service at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. She was born in 1927 and graduated from Concordia College with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Richard Hahnen

Richard Hahnen was born on Oct. 27, 1946. He grew up in St. Antho- ny Park, graduated from Murray High School in 1964, then attended the University of Minnesota until he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After the Army, he attended and graduated from Concordia College with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Patrick McGuinn

Patrick T. McGuinn, 87, died Sept. 27. He attended St. An- drew’s grade school and Murray High School. He played in the State high school hockey tournament again in 1949/1950.

McGuinn worked as a railroad engineer with Great Northern/ Burlington Northern Railroad for 44 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Kath- ryn (née Roan); his wife of 66 years, Mary Elizabeth (née Niles); infant son, Dennis; and great-grandson, Peyton Mejara. He is survived by his children, Sandy Mapel, Michael (Mary Ann), Paty (Roy) Erickson, and Daniel; seven grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 5 at St. Oddila Catholic Church, with burial at Rosemary Cemetery.

Phyllis Moberg

Phyllis Loraine Moberg (née Rickaby), 98, died Oct. 1. She was preceded in death by her husband Eddie O. Moberg in 2002. She is survived by sons Robert (Lynne); Peter (Karen); David (Jennifer); and Glen (Karen); six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. Moberg’s funeral service was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on Oct. 8. Phyllis had been active at St. Anthony Park Lutheran and her son Glenn is senior pastor there. Memorials preferred to the church.

Ronald Pescal

Ronald John Pescal, born May 31, 1938, died Sept. 27. He had a long-time residence of St. Paul, and retired member of IUOE Local 49. He was preceded in death by his wife, Georgina Pescel, parents, John and Marguer- rite Pescal, and sisters, Lucille Grosinger and Marilyn Tur. He is survived by his second wife, Lois, daughter Mary Jo(Ran- dy) Maxwell, son, John Ang- ie) Pescal; grandsons Brandon Amanda) Maxwell, Brett Max- well; granddaughters, Marissa, Hannah and Jenna Pescal, soon to be granddaughter-in-law, Tif- fany Vanllaaften; great-grandchil- dren: Owen and Anami. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Oct. 7 at The Church of the Holy Childhood.

Shirley Prescott

Shirley Marie Prescott, 86, died Sept. 17. She lived a full life, enjoying her family, travel, gar- dening, reading, learning and entertaining.

She died in her husband of 64 years, Rog- er. She is survived by four chil- dren; Nancy; David; Ruth and Stuy; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Condolences and memorials can be sent to St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1465 N. Victoria St., St. Paul 55107.

James Prifel

James “Jake” Prifel Sr., died Sept. 11 after a long battle with Alzhei- mer’s. He was born in 1932 to Jo- seph and Flora Prifel.

To add your place of worship to the directory, contact Bradley Wolfe at 952-393-6814 or bradley.wolfe@parkbugle.org

Community

Worship Directory

❖ CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS

2200 Hillside Avenue, 651-635-7644

10 a.m. Sunday contemporary worship

Adults: Thinking • Active

❖ HOLY CHILDHOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

1455 Midway Parkway, St. Paul 55108

Parish: Fe Timothy Clother

Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 p.m., Sun. 9:15 a.m.

Wedday Masses (Mon.-Sat.): 7:45 a.m.

Confession: Sat. 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Parish office: 651-647-7495, contact@holychildhoodparish.org

❖ ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1904 Como Ave., St. Paul, 651-771-0125

David King Pastor

info@mississippi.org, web site: missionsof.org

Sunday school at 9 a.m., Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. Sunday service at 9 a.m. — Fellowship Lunch and 2 p.m. Service Nursery available.

❖ MISSION ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1040 Como Ave., St. Paul, 651-771-0125

David King Pastor

❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

1744 Welser Street (at local), Lauderdale, 651-644-5480

www.peacelaудerdale.com

Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Paula Dinner and Craft Sale, Sunday, October 26, 4 to 7 p.m.

All are welcome. Come as you are.

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford)

651-646-7173, www.sapucc.org

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation for all ages:

Sunday School & Adult Forum

10:30 a.m. Worship

Conversation and Coffee Hour • Open to all!

❖ ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Byllesby Lane, 651-644-4502

www.saintcecilias.org

Handicap-accessible

Sunday Mass: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m.

❖ LYDIA PLACE COLLABORATIVE

ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS

2200 Hillside Avenue, 651-635-7644

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Como High JROTC program honored again

By Eric Erickson

Como Park High School’s Marine Corps JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer’s Training Corps) program has been recognized as a Naval Honor Program for 2019. The award is reserved for only 20 percent of schools with JROTC programs across the nation.

"We didn’t understand how well we were doing because for us this is normal," said Sergeant Cadet Major Anderson Xiong, a Como senior. "It’s normal for us to be working and pushing and doing what we do, so to get this for a second year in a row was shocking to all of us."

The ranking is based on several factors, including volunteer campaigns, promotion tests, grade-point averages, attendance, JROTC academics, and competition performances. The commitment outside of the standard academic year is significant.

Sergeant Major James C. Kirkland has been Como Park’s instructor for seven years. In that time, he could see the foundation of a strong team and the impact it has made on the students who are cadets in the program.

"There was a level of maturity that was built in. The ‘take charge’ attitude of the cadets, the ‘can do’ ‘real’ spirit of the cadets. It was just kind of refreshing," Kirkland said.

In other news, the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams administered by the College Board in 2019 revealed successful results for Como Park students. AP scores are categorized on a five-point scale for each test taken in a specific subject, with colleges and universities generally awarding credit for scores of 3, 4, or 5. The College Board recognizes individual student achievement based on results of multiple exams across a variety of disciplines.


The AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Como AP Scholars with Distinction include: Ayanna Aeikens, Henrie Friesen, William Gray, Chloe Hollister-Lapointe, Jackson Lee, Celia Olson, Elaine Reit, Mason Salverda, Peter Schulk, Antero Sivula, and Marco Tabacman.

National AP Scholar is a classification granted to students in the U.S. who earn an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Como’s National AP Scholars are Isaac Harker and Alistair Patterson.

The rigor of AP courses is optimal preparation for future college studies, regardless of test scores. Experience in AP is also favorable to students in college admission decisions, demonstrating a commitment to challenging study in courses of a student’s interests.

SCHOOL NEWS

Chromatic Zone from p. 1

fests, artist talks, live painting, bus tours and gallery exhibits. The CEZ produced this year’s festival with the partnership of Forefront Public Art and Burlesque of North America. The festival exceeded expectations, Reid said. "The artists created murals that are true gems: colorful, beautiful and full of storytelling," she said. "The community came out in droves." Partial funding for Chroma Zone has been secured for at least two more years.

One of the most popular festival murals is ArtCrop’s ‘Ask Why’ mural painted by Christina Vang. Teeko Yang and Oskar Ly. These three Hmong women together are ArtCrop and have studio space in Como. "I have loved for the last 15 years. Because of its location in the heart of the Park this home could be a great equity builder with the new price of $249,000."

2347 Chilcombe

Nancy Meeden
Coldwell Banker Burnet
Office: 651-282-9650
Mobile: 612-790-5053
nmeeden@cbburnet.com

The artists of ArtCrop paint their ‘Ask Why’ mural during the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival. Photo by Sarah Clark.

Friends of Breck Woods.org

Come home to St. Anthony Park …

Out of state sellers need buyer who is willing to take on task of re-modeling this 106 year old home which they have loved for the last 15 years. Because of its location in the heart of the Park this home could be a great equity builder with the new price of $249,000.

2347 Chilcombe

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Mobile: 612-790-5053
nmeeden@cbburnet.com

Sarah Clark, a resident of St. Anthony Park, is a new freelance writer to the Bugle.
James grew up in St. Paul’s North End, graduating in 1950 from Cretn High School where he played baseball. He earned his college degree from Metropoli- 

tan State University. He was sta-
	tioned in the Army at Fort Riley 

in Manhattan, Kan. 

Jim worked 39 years for 

Northern States Power (NSP), 

now Xcel Energy. His hobbies in-

cluded fishing at the cabin, hunt-

ting deer in northern Minnesota 

golfing. 

He married Annette, his eighth-grade sweetheart and 

their marriage lasted 66 years. 

Returning back to St. Paul, Jim 

and Annette raised six children; 

Jim, Judi (Rick), Joe (Debbie), 

Mary (Mike), John (Debra), 

and Ann (Mike). He was bless-

ed with 12 grandchildren and six 

great-grandchildren. Mass of 

Christian Burial was held Sept. 

17 at Maternity of Mary Cath-

olic Church, with interment at 

Roselaw Cemetery. Memorials 

preferred to Maternity of Mary 

Catholic Church in St. Paul. 

Annette Prifrel 

Annette Prifrel died Sept. 27. She 

graduated from Washington Se-

ior High in St. Paul. 

Annette loved being a house-

wife, making time to share in 

prayer, faith, and wisdom. She 

loved gardening. After her 
husband Jim retired, they enjoyed 

traveling, including visiting elder 

hostels to learn more about the 

United States. She golfed with 

her husband but enjoyed looking 

for golf balls more. 

She was preceded in death (see 

above) by husband of 66 years, 

Jim; parents, Tony and Mary Ba-

chinski; and sister, Joan Garvey. 

She is survived by six children, 12 

grandchildren; six great-grand-

children; and sister, Patty. 

Mass of Christian Burial was 

held Oct. 3 at Mount Olive Lutheran 

Church in Como Park, with buri-

al at Elmhurst Cemetery. Memo-

rials may be directed to Mount 

Olive Lutheran Church or St. 

Croix Lutheran Academy. 

Marlene Struve 

Marlene Struve, 76, died Sept. 

28. She graduated from Alex-

ander Ramsey High School and 

began her career working for Ros-

eville schools until retirement. 

She loved travelling and her pets. 

Her funeral service was held 

Oct. 3 at Mount Olive Lutheran 

Church in Como Park, with buri-

al at Elmhurst Cemetery. Memo-

rials may be directed to Mount 

Olive Lutheran Church or St. 

Croix Lutheran Academy. 

Alan Uhl 

Alan Welton Uhl, 92, died Sept. 

2. Al was known for great sense 

of fun and compassion for all. He 

graduated from Murray High 

School in 1945 and joined the 

Navy that May. He earned a de-

gree in journalism from the Uni-

versity of Minnesota and edited 

ewspapers in Otterville and 

Crookston before joining the St. 

Paul Dispatch. Later he moved to 

Honeywell, where he became the 

manager of publications until re-

tiring in 1986. 

Al had many passions, in-

cluding liberal politics (running 

for Congress in 1976), building 

projects, cooking and entertain-

ing, and tennis. 

After retiring he traveled the 

world with wife Nancy, volun-

teed for Habitat for Humanity, 

Meals on Wheels, and the Guth-

rie and made his home a center of 

fun for friends and family. 

Al is survived by his wife Nan-

cy Adair; children Lyn Uhl (Gar-

net White) and Al Uhl, Jr (Ann); 

stepchildren Dean (Joanne) and 

Ross (Patty Perfetti) Newlund; 

and grandchildren Lauren, Riley, 

and Jake Uhl; and step-grands 

Evan, Taylor, and Coby Newlund. 

A memorial service was held 

Oct. 19 at The Grove Method-

ist Church in Woodbury. Me-

morials preferred for a bench in 

St. Anthony Park. Contact the 

family for details: Lyn Uhl at 

awuhlmemorial@gmail.com or 

617-905-3681.
said he wants to “create a Falcon Height that people who come here after me will feel comfortable here.”

Wrehsee is also new to running for office. In addition to a master’s degree in political science, Wrehsee lists nonprofit service with three organizations. Born in Liberia, Wrehsee grew up in the Ivory Coast, Minnesota and St. Paul. “It’s a real challenge to relate to people from diverse backgrounds and views is an indispensable skill,” Wrehsee said, adding that community engagement is important to him.

Wrehsee said he would look for “creative solutions” to infrastructure problems such as renovating Community Park. He added, “I am motivated by the chance to support affordable housing and clean energy initiatives.”

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**February 7-10, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**Monday, Feb. 7**

**Spring Break Camp Art**

9:30-11:30 a.m., ages 3-6

**Monday, Feb. 8**

**Teen Art**

2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 12-17

**Wednesday, Feb. 10**

**Doors and Windows Art**

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., ages 5-11

**Thursday, Feb. 11**

**North Star Art**

1:30-3:30 p.m., ages 12-17

**Friday, Feb. 12**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**Saturday, Feb. 13**

**Bird Watching**

9:30-11:30 a.m., ages 6-11

**Sunday, Feb. 14**

**Mother’s Day Art**

10:30-12:00 p.m., ages 12-17

**Sunday, Feb. 14**

**Pizza and a Book**

6:30-8:30 p.m., ages 12-17

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**

**American Sign Language**

3:00-5:00 p.m., ages 3-5

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

**Beading**

2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 12-17

**Sunday**

**Valentine’s Day Art**

10:00-11:00 a.m., ages 3-5

**February 21-28**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**March 3-6**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**Wednesday, March 9**

**Storytelling & Group Art**

2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 5-12

**Thursday, March 10**

**Waving Hands Art**

10:30-11:30 a.m., ages 5-12

**Friday, March 11**

**Mother’s Day Art**

10:30-11:30 a.m., ages 6-12

**Saturday, March 12**

**American Sign Language**

3:00-5:00 p.m., ages 3-5

**February 19-20, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Friday, Feb. 19**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**Sunday, Feb. 21**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**Sunday, Feb. 28**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**March 4-6**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**Thursday, March 11**

**St Pat’s Day Art**

2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 5-12

**Saturday, March 13**

**American Sign Language**

3:00-5:00 p.m., ages 3-5

**March 15-17**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**March 18**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**March 18-19**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11

**March 19-20**

**Painting & Drawing**

10:00-11:30 a.m., ages 5-11
Weiner chronicles Hy Berman in new book

By Michelle Christianus


Weiner’s latest book is a fascinating compilation of hishy Berman’s writings, lectures and stories told in his inimitable voice. (Jay also wrote Stadium Games: Fifty Years of Big League Grid and Bush League Bootleg and this is not FlorIDA: How Al Franken Won the Minnesota Senate Recount.)

Many people knew University of Minnesota Professor Berman as their history instructor or as a commentator on local news programs discussing the historical implications of current political issues. Weiner got to know him personally when they both attended Tom SenGupta’s weeknight “salons” at Schneider Drug and stories told in his inimitable voice.

On the spur of the moment, in 2015, Weiner accepted the challenge of finishing what Stewart had started. After conducting more than 40 hours of interviews and completing an outline and first chapter of the book, Weiner then learned the sad news: Berman had died on Nov. 29, 2015. How would he finish this book?

Initially, there appeared to be little detailed information about Berman’s thinking and evolution as a historian, as he said that he didn’t keep any papers or personal documents. But when the family cleaned out the house after his death, they found 22 boxes containing such papers, including stories he had never told before. Weiner spent another year going through the boxes, watching videos of Berman’s television appearances and reading all that he could about the man.

The final book product is part biography, part history and part funny stories.

Berman was the son of Polish immigrant garment workers who were very involved in the Jewish labor movement and the Communist Party in the 1920s and he soaked up their passion and ideology from a young age. After getting his B.S. in history from City College of New York, he taught at his alma mater, at Brooklyn College and Michigan State before coming to the University of Minnesota in 1961, earning his masters and PhD degrees along the way.

Weiner writes Berman “instantly became a Minnesotan” and was often called Minnesota’s historian. During his life, he intersected with many of Minnesota’s most influential politicians, including Hubert Humphrey, Rudy Perpich, Harold Stassen, Arne Carlson and Jesse Ventura. He evolved as a historian and political person, but always kept his devotion to progressive ideals and internationalism. One of the most important speeches he wrote was for Rudy Perpich, entitled “History Through the Eyes of the Vanquished,” which encouraged Minnesotans to look at how events affected the working poor, American Indians and people of color.

Weiner’s book contains interesting anecdotes about the history of labor movement, what Minnesota and the University were like when Berman first arrived and how that culture changed, and how he knew the important people in the state and often influenced them. He was a larger-than-life man who knew it, playing a key role when Rudy Perpich decided to appoint Rosalie Wahl to the Minnesota Supreme Court and negotiating with students who took over University President Malcolm Moos’ office one day in 1969. Though he didn’t publish as much as some of his University colleagues, Berman felt it was more important to impart historical perspective to the public at large than to have articles appear in journals where only a few people would see them.

Weiner discovered a few things about Berman that he hadn’t known, including the death of his daughter, his wife’s internment at Auschwitz and his repudiation of communism in his later life. There is also a bit about his testimony in the tobacco trial and what his reason for testifying for the defense may have been.

Weiner says the audience for his book includes students who loved Berman, people who love history, the Minnesota Jewish community and, really, anyone who is curious about Minnesota’s history and political development. (And, it’s laugh-out-loud funny in places!) The book will be available at all bookstores and online, including from the University of Minnesota Press website. Weiner will read from the book at the Minneapolis Central Library on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m., and at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul on Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.

To learn more, go to the U of M Press’ website at https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/professor-berman.
Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O.Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Fariba Sanikhatam, 651-644-9241. 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: Nov. 7, 2019.

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Cougars’ defense. Senior captain Reev Bar Hoover is a strong and skilled playmaker with a great gift for scoring goals.

Senior Diana Rodriguez is a dynamic midfielder who has been a two-year starter, and senior Ki-ersten Howatt has been a reliable role player for two seasons.

With that senior leadership and ability forming Como’s core, first-year head coach Hussein Mohamed was able to help guide the group to the top of the city.

“I know these girls were competing and had been making big improvements as a group,” Mohamed said. “Como is like a family and so many people helped the team get here, and also helped me as a coach.”

Mohamed and his senior leaders are quick to applaud every team member.

Junior Anna Weins has emerged as an excellent goalie during her three seasons with the Cougars. Junior captain Abran- na Armenta has been a solid central defender since her freshman year. Junior Olivia Barnes is also a third-year player who is always a threat to score from distance or serve up dangerous crosses.

The junior class is deep with other key contributors, including Heer Wah, Emalie Hanson, May Hr Oo Kyaw, Tee Wah Pa, and Maiseng Thao.

Meanwhile, the energetic and spirited Cougar sophomores include Mariatu Kanu, Isa Sanchez-Espaza, Lesia Lopez, and Lucy Heb ble. Injured players and managers assisting the team are Benny Heb ble, Maddy DeGara- no and Way Hr oo.

The diversity of ages, personalities, and soccer talents have blended together to make the team greater than the sum of its parts.

“We’re not the biggest or tall- est team, but when we play, we leave everything on the field,” Rodriguez said. “The phrase that best describes us is ‘heart over height.’ We’ve been down in games before, but we have heart and we’ve come back to win some of those games.”

“We all have a passion for soc- cer,” Million agreed. “There are good individual skills, but we love playing together and working to get better as a team.”

“The collective effort to im- prove has been years in the mak- ing. None of these girls had ever beaten Central or Highland before. So accomplishing both to win the conference was a mas- sive reward. ‘It shows all of our hard work paid off,’ Weins said. ‘We’ve been trying for so long and we’ve been getting closer and then this year, it finally happened.’

‘It felt so good!” Kanu said. “Walking off the field after those games, knowing that we won, with family and friends there, they were really proud.”

The pride is evident in the Como soccer community. From parents, teachers, former players, and current players in the boys’ and girls’ programs, there has been joy in witnessing the effort put forth by this team and cele- brating their accomplishment.

“To see the girls win the con- ference means so much,” said Kyle Johnson, who coached the Como girls from 2016-2018, shaping the development of this group which are now champi- ons. “I know how hard they have worked to get to this point.”

What the girls have accom- plished is gratifying for Coach Mohamed, a former Como stu- dent and varsity boys’ player from the class of 2012 and now a full-time educational assistant at Como.

“To be able to help students here, and to be able to coach soc- cer here, means everything,” Mohamed said. “I loved playing here, and to be leading the girls’ team now is really special. I’m happy to help the girls try and reach their goals with the help of the Como family.”

As the Bugle went to press, the Cougars had completed the reg- ular season with an 11-3-1 overall record. That impressive mark was achieved against high level competition from section opponents in the east metro as well as large suburban schools like Prior Lake and Shakopee. The city crown and non-con- ference success earned the Cougars the No. 3 seed for the Section 4A playoffs, which features 13 teams. A run to the semi-finals would be fun, but Coach Moh- emed and the Cougars aren’t looking too far ahead.

“We’re concerned with our next practice,” Mohamed said. “Then the next one.”

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