Langford Park girls, “Let’s play hockey!”

By Sarah CR Clark

For the first time in its 80-year history, Langford Park hockey has an all-girls team.

On Jan. 13, 13 Langford Park (LP) girls, ages 8 to 12, took to the ice for their first game in their inaugural season.

Coach Clayton Howatt reported the girls were extraordinarily excited to play. “Every last one of them played with more intensity and drive than I have ever seen from them before.” He added the team chose warm-up music that had “the most girl power.”

The dream of an all-girls hockey team has been long in the making. Howatt and program coordinator, Scott Hamilton, have been working for years to organize the team. Eighty years ago, all LP hockey teams were solely for boys. But beginning in the mid 1980’s, one or two pioneering girls would occasionally join a boys’ team. Today, all of LP’s teams are co-ed, while most of the teams LP plays are still all boys.

“Girls hockey is growing like crazy,” Howatt explained. They hope to build on this year, expanding the girls’ program in the future to include 10u and 12u teams. In addition, Howatt hopes to extend hockey’s borders, “I would love to see more girls of color have access to this amazing game and program.”

While overall participation in hockey has dropped in the past few decades, Hamilton says the Rec program at Langford has seen a steady increase. Both Hamilton and Howatt credit active families, as well as dedicated rec center staff and volunteers. Coach Howatt also credits women athletes, like the Minnesota Gopher women’s hockey team. “Our girls have never known a time when there weren’t these women to look up to. When I was a kid, women’s hockey didn’t exist at any level, I’m so glad we have made progress.”

As for the girls themselves, they just love to play. “Hockey is my favorite sport and I love to play,” said Franny McNattin, a fifth grader and team member. “I go to Langford sometimes in the winter and will skate and shoot for at least two and a half hours. I am so pumped to be on an all-girls team.”

McNattin’s fourth grade teammate, Keegan Campos, said that “it feels pretty cool” to be on an all-girls team. “It’s fun to encourage my teammates and to be encouraged by them.” Meanwhile, the lessons hockey has to offer will shape the girls for life. Kristin (Hogenson) Henkenius knows from experience. She was one of the first two girls to play Langford Park. She and teammate Shana Lohse played on a co-ed team from 1984-86. Henkenius remembers shoveling the ice before practice, cross-rink drills, supportive coaches and inclusive teammates. She said hockey “instilled the importance of teamwork.”

Ali Granovsky, who played LP co-ed hockey from kindergarten through sixth grade, today is a senior at Roseville Area High School and plays center for the Raiders varsity hockey team. After graduation, she plans to play D3 women’s hockey at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

When asked for comment on the new Langford Park girls’ team, Granovsky said, “It’s good to see that the girls’ game is growing and there are now opportunities where young girls can come together and play the game. Langford hockey is truly something special and I hope the girls cherish their hockey memories.”

Sarah CR Clark is a freelance writer and resident of St. Anthony Park.

Falcon Heights eyes native landscaping ordinance

By Anne Holzman

The city of Falcon Heights is considering adopting an ordinance that would allow homeowners to implement environmentally friendly practices in their yard maintenance.

The proposed ordinance “aims to allow and encourage residents to replace turfgrass with naturalized plantings that will require less water, reduce stormwater runoff and provide habitat for pollinators,” according to Environment Commission chairman Jim Wassenberg.

The proposal can be viewed online at a “Native Landscaping” link on the city’s main web page.

Comments may be sent to Community Development Coordinator Justin Matkon.

As the Bugle went to press, the City Council had a hearing scheduled on Jan. 28 on the proposed ordinance. It may vote on the issue at its Feb. 12 meeting.

Wassenberg said the commissioners hope to have the new ordinance in place by this spring for the planting season.

“We would also like to have an informational workshop for residents who might want to do some native plantings,” Wassenberg added.

The commission began working on the ordinance about a year ago, after residents inquired about restrictions on what they could plant in their yards. “Some local residents wanted to plant something more than turf grass,” Wassenberg said.

Commissioners worked with Dan Shaw, an ecologist and vegetation specialist at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, to draft the ordinance. They looked at similar initiatives in Edina, Eden Prairie and Eagan.

Wassenberg said, also noting that fellow commissioner Nick Olson, a stormwater engineer, drew up the proposed document.

Anne Holzman is a former St. Anthony Park resident and regular freelance writer for the Bugle.
District 10

Groups exploring family homeless shelter in Bandana Square

By Michael Kuchta

Interfaith Action and Ramsey County are exploring the feasibility of opening a homeless shelter and day center for families inside the Minnesota Cameroon Community Center in Bandana Square.

“There are no solid plans, but it’s an exciting opportunity with lots of possibilities,” Sara Liegl, director of Interfaith Action’s Project Home, told the District 10 Como Community Council’s Land Use Committee on Jan. 6. The groups are working out renovation and code requirements; costs, construction and operations; and logistical needs, she said, adding that late summer is the earliest that a shelter could open.

Currently, Ramsey County does not have a permanent shelter for homeless families. Instead, Project Home provides 40 beds a night in a rotating group of faith communities and schools. Families must move every 30 days. Project Home also operates a day center for families at First Baptist Church in downtown St. Paul.

The shortage of beds is mind-boggling, Liegl says. Throughout 2019, there were at least 120 parents and children in Ramsey County on a waiting list for shelter at any given time.

The Cameroon Community owns about 57,000 square feet of space in the northwest corner of Bandana Square in St. Paul’s Energy Park district. The space used to be a medical clinic. It still has more than 70 exam rooms with sinks, plus public bathrooms and other public space.

The preliminary thinking is the former exam rooms could be converted into flexible, dormitory-style rooms, providing private space for 40 to 60 families of different sizes, and perhaps older women, Liegl says. Other space could be used for meals, showers, storage, laundry and case management services.

“When we found out about the plight of the homeless families, the school children, it was heartbreaking,” said Christian Akale, a board member of the Minnesota Cameroon Community. “We hope the building will be part of the solution.”

Como’s Ash Trees Dodge the Buzzsaw in 2020

For the first time in years, the city’s Forestry Department does not plan to cut down any boulevard ash trees in District 10 in 2020. Since foresters took down the first ash on California Avenue in 2009, the city has removed more than 800 ash trees from public property in Como as part of its ongoing fight against the invasive emerald ash borer.

Citywide, more than 11,000 ash trees have been removed from boulevards in the past decade; in 2020, foresters expect to cut down an additional 2,200 trees.

According to the city’s inventory, there are about 365 boulevard ash trees left in District 10. About 120 of them are being treated with the insecticide TREE-age (Emamectin benzoate).

Upcoming District 10 Meetings

Neighborhood Relations Committee: Monday Feb. 3
Land Use Committee: Monday Feb. 10 (rescheduled)
Environment Committee: Wednesday Feb. 12

Community Council Board: Tuesday Feb. 18

All meetings typically begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the north-east corner of Lexington Parkway and Horton Avenue. The public is welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website.

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

District 12 Community Council

Board member update

With the start of 2020, the St. Anthony Park Community Council has its board of directors’ slate in place.

After December’s election certification, District 12 returning board members are Michael Russelle, Heather Humbert and Pat Thompson. Newly elected is Laura Andersen.

In related District 12 news, Scott Simmons is business/organization chairman, Melissa Pappas is south chairwoman and Russelle is north chairman.

Meanwhile, John Maurer remains treasurer and Steve Ray is secretary. Karen Nelson accepted a 1-year appointment to the District 12 board. There are multiple seats still open on the board. If you are interested serving on the board, please contact Kathryn Murray at kathryn@ sapcc.org.

New Year, new committees

With the start of 2020, District 12 has various committees that can accommodate more members. SAPCC committees are Equity, Environment, Transportation and Land Use. These committees deal with issues such as transit, food equity, environmental justice and accessibility. Attend and see what you think.

SAPCC CALENDAR

Board Meetings: Second Thursday of the month 7-9 p.m.
Environmental: Fourth Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.

Equity: First Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Land Use: First Thursday of the month 7-9 p.m.
Transportation: Last Tuesday of the month 7-9 p.m.

Submitted by Emily Rodriguez, District 12 community organizer
Understanding St. Paul’s Climate Action plan

By Tim Wulling

News analysis

If the city of St. Paul is serious, its new Climate Action and Resilience Plan, which has the goal of no net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; residents and businesses will need to wean themselves off fossil fuels: natural gas, gasoline and diesel.

Starting now, we'll buy no more gas appliances. The only new vehicles will be electric. Households, businesses, government—all will be shifting to energy generated from renewable sources. But collectively, that would multiply the electric load four times, so we'll also need to reduce our need for energy as we electrify.

Moreover, we'll rely on Xcel Energy to uphold its own commitment to be carbon-free by 2050. It's a tall order. Can we do it?

Greener mobility options can improve equity, too.

When the city council passed the climate action plan in December, St. Paul 350 (a team of the climate-solutions nonprofit MN350) persuaded the council to include amendments that make the transition more equitable and affordable for low-income people.

The plan calls for steep cuts in vehicle miles traveled in St. Paul, since transportation accounts for the largest share of greenhouse gas use in the city and Minnesota as a whole. That requires a set of changes to support walking, public transit and biking—options that benefit all income levels. The plan doesn't yet address air travel or any of our material consumption. But it gets us started with actions we can do now while we figure out the more complicated challenges.

Still, even if fully implemented, the plan will limit—but not eliminate—climate impacts on our lives. So it includes resilience planning for “residents to prepare for, withstand and adapt” to these impacts.

Holding Xcel accountable

St. Paul relies on Xcel Energy for electricity and natural gas; and the company has committed to provide carbon-free electricity by 2050. But in its 15-year Integrated Resource Plan presented to the state’s Public Utilities Commission last year, Xcel proposed two natural gas power plants: building a new one in Becker and buying an existing one in Mankato. Because of their long lifetimes, gas plants would undermine the 2050 carbon-free goal. The PUC rejected the Mankato plant purchase, which sent Xcel back to the drawing board, but they didn't reject the Becker plant. At least, not yet.

To keep pressure on Xcel to avoid the Becker plant as well, the St. Paul 350 group persuaded the city council to approve a resolution committing the city to submit comments to the PUC regarding Xcel’s plan. The resolution specifically calls for opposing any natural gas power plants.

The PUC’s job is to keep Xcel responsible to customers and all stakeholders, including showing what its sources of electricity will be for the next 15 years. Xcel is now in the middle of one of the required periodic updates. The public will be invited to submit comments again in spring and summer.

Finally, it should be noted that the city’s climate action plan doesn’t account for how to accomplish the last 33 percent emissions reduction to reach carbon use neutrality by 2050, nor does Xcel account for its last 20 percent. The challenge is too complicated to have all worked out initially. That’s why periodic reviews and updates are important, and the city is committed to doing those, as shown in the plan.

Tim Wulling was among the citizens testifying on Dec. 18 to the St. Paul City Council before the vote that passed the Climate Action and Resilience Plan. Photo by Mindy Keskinnen

Four ways to advance renewable energy

1. Learn more: Read the article “St. Paul City Council Adopts Climate Action Plan” by Fred Melo of the Pioneer Press, then take a look at the Climate Action & Resilience Plan itself: it’s reader-friendly, with a four-page summary at the beginning. Links to both are on our homepage: TransitionASAP.org.

2. Support MN350.org and its city-level working group, St. Paul 350, whose own webpage will soon be live on that site. Consider volunteering.

3. Plan to comment to the Public Utilities Commission. We’ll inform you in a future Bugle column.

4. Consider investing in solar projects. Minnesotans can invest in community solar without subscribing as energy customers. Two options are Cooperative Energy Futures, based in the Twin Cities, and the Red Lake Native Project in northern Minnesota, both with offerings ending this winter. As with any investment, read their full information before investing. Visit the links on our website.

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From the Desk of the Editor

By Scott Carlson

New Bugle webpage feature coming

One of the challenges of running a monthly newspaper is there are news and information that come in after our deadlines. As a result, some of that material also is not timely for our next print edition.

In a bid to help rectify this conundrum, we will be launching a mid-month report on our website starting in February. For now, I am going to call it “Bugle Midpoint.” It will include an assortment of news and information that has come in after our newspaper deadline and would be out of date for the following print edition. This new monthly web report will be short and sweet.

We also intend to send out the “Bugle Midpoint report” to people who are email newsletter subscribers.

If you can think of another, maybe better name for our new report, I am open to suggestions.

Just email me at editor@parkbugle.org.

Bugle Fundraising update

As our annual fall fundraising campaign winds down, we have received $44,667 in donations as of Jan. 15 towards our $52,000 goal. The fund drive is still open.

Thanks to all of our generous contributors. In our February issue, we have an updated list of the latest donors, including the names of numerous contributors that we did not have space to recognize in our January issue.

New Bugle ad rep

With this issue of the Bugle, we welcome Sonia Ellis to our commission advertising team. Sonia joins Paula Mielke, a Falcon Heights resident and former small business owner, who recently rejoined the Bugle after a brief hiatus.

Ellis is a St. Anthony Park resident of more than 12 years and has worked in sales and fundraising here in the United States and Uruguay, where she is originally from. Sonia said recently, “A passion for our caring, vibrant and educated community led me to accept this new challenge,” and added that the Bugle is a “gem of a newspaper.”

Sonia replaces Mary Hamel, who is leaving to pursue a full-time job in Wisconsin.

That great puzzle

Did anyone get all the answers to that great crossword puzzle we had in the January Bugle? We inadvertently neglected to credit Dave Healy for that brain teaser. Dave, as you may know, is a former Bugle editor and still submits stories and crossword puzzles as the spirit moves him. Thanks Dave!

Upcoming Bugle deadlines

Here is a reminder on our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. As always, we greatly appreciate when writers and readers submit their articles early. Aside from breaking news, most articles can be submitted ahead of the scheduled deadline.

And again, our publication dates represent when the papers go out for delivery. Distribution of the paper should occur over the next two to five business days.

Issue Copy and ad deadlines Publication

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A view from the edge of Breck Woods

By Regan Golden McNerney

One evening last summer, I stepped out my front door to see a female deer dash down Doswell Hill and leap into the traps at the edge of Eustis Street.

In the dark, the trees appeared to form a dense dark forest, quickly concealing the deer from view. In the daylight it is clear to see that these woods are only a few yards deep and about two blocks in length hemmed in by Highway 280 and the railyard.

This beautiful deer in the middle of the city was really startling and I immediately thought, where did she come from? My first guess: Breck Woods. In the conversation about how and when to develop Breck Woods, the discussion has focused clearly on the site itself. This makes sense when thinking about the planning process and how it impacts the human inhabitants of our neighborhood. But the animals and birds that share this space with us do not experience Breck Woods in isolation.

Breck Woods is an anchor

Breck Woods anchors our neighborhood. This urban forest forms a green ring around Saint Anthony Park extending from Breck Woods to the green space along Eustis Street following the rail road tracks and the transway all the way back around to the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. These fragments of urban forests are stitched together by the movement of birds and animals between these green spaces.

Sustainable energy

Alice played a key role in passing legislation to move utility companies to wind and solar power. Then after decades of no action on public transportation, Alice led the fight to bring light rail to the Twin Cities.

And when the University of Minnesota had given up on a new Bell Museum, it was Alice Hausman, who in the words of the Star Tribune “demonstrated the good that can be wrought. . . by the persistence of one skillful legislator.” And just last spring it was Alice Hausman who succeeded in passing a bipartisan housing bonding bill to address homelessness in Minnesota. Time and again, and issue after issue—human rights, climate change, education—Alice has made a difference. Let’s keep her working for us. Please go to your precinct caucus February 25 and caucus for Alice Hausman.

Sincerely,
Ann Wmier

(EDITOR’s note: The writer is a former DFL state representative who served portions of St. Paul in the 1970s and 1980s)

Supports Hausman

Among all the elections in 2020, there’s one especially important to us in legislative District 66A where Representative Alice Hausman is seeking re-election. During her years in the Minnesota House, Alice has delivered so many issues important to Minnesota’s future.

Remember the early battles on sustainable energy, Alice played a key role in passing legislation to move utility companies to wind and solar power. Then after decades of no action on public transportation, Alice led the fight to bring light rail to the Twin Cities.

And when the University of Minnesota had given up on a new Bell Museum, it was Alice Hausman, who in the words of the Star Tribune “demonstrated the good that can be wrought . . . by the persistence of one skillful legislator.” And just last spring it was Alice Hausman who succeeded in passing a bipartisan housing bonding bill to address homelessness in Minnesota. Time and again, and issue after issue—human rights, climate change, education—Alice has made a difference. Let’s keep her working for us. Please go to your precinct caucus February 25 and caucus for Alice Hausman.

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L E T T E R
The Bugle's annual fall fund is inching ever closer to our goal. The Bugle's goal for 2019-20 is $52,000; as of Jan. 15, we have received $44,667.

The Bugle’s annual fall fund is inching ever closer to our goal.

And now here is a list of our latest contributors. Note: The list includes contributors whose names were not published last month:

- Tom & Juli Farnsworth
- Paul & Ann Fete
- Cheri Faia
- Thomas Fisher & Cathy Wiegand
- Linda Fite
- Mark & Lori Fluger
- Christopher Foss
- Richard & Nancy Foss
- Ann Frances
- Terence & Faith Fereth
- Patricia Gaarder
- Wilhelmina Gaunael
- Byron & Britt Gangeness
- David & Kathryn Gilbertson
- Paul & Kay Lynn Gish
- Julie Giske
- Tornean Goodek & Jeanne Schacht
- Granger Family
- Gary Gam & Karen Lenander
- Kristin Gruver
- Yvonne Griesen & Diana James
- David Griffen
- Michael Griffin & Martha Nicoll
- Chudodmadman & Kevin Harangan
- Gregory & Mary Anne Hale
- Joyce Halverson
- Lee & Marc Halverson
- Dave Hammer
- Paul & Mary Harrison
- David Hansen & Karen Lilley
- Mark & Brenda Hansen
- John & Amy Hanson
- Christianne Hartkens
- Kent & Joana Hartung
- Thomas & Sharon Hartho
- Erik Haag
- David & Nancy Hailey
- Lolita Herk
- Nat Hernandez & Dana Wagner
- Nancy Hendrichs
- Virginia Herriotts
- Michael Heenan & Luella Griffin
- Marilyn Hoeghmeier
- Esho Hope
- Patrick Horrigan
- Thomas & Nancy Hudson
- Mark & Leslie Macleach
- Ken & Tina Hughes
- Ema Jo
- Elena Iakosaskas
- Patricia James
- Rosemary Jennings
- James Jordan
- Carl & Maryjo Jenson
- James Johnson
- Joel Dean Johnson
- Lavonne Johnson
- Sandra Johnson
- Jon Johnson
- Erik Jordan & Laura Park
- JoAnna Justavinos
- Kyoko Katsuyama
- Anne Kenny
- Carol Krohn
- Ray Kirsch & Sheri Huard
- Matthew Koncak & Mary Gausche
- Darryl Kork & Kim Chase-Korak
- Carol Krause
- Donald Kriew & Susan Krivin Schmidt
- Scott & Diane Kriewen
- Clement & Janice Kuharian
- Jeffery & Genchin Lang
- Jean Larson
- Mark Lageson
- Robbi & Janet Larson
- Noel Larson
- Virgil & Vianna Larson
- George & Nancy Laskaris
- Don Lecim
- Richard & Sally Leighninger
- Jan Leonard & Lorenzo Lippert
- Gregory Lin
- Seth Mee & Lisa Nozowski
- Thomas Lohse
- Marilyn Lopez
- William & Nancy Losier
- Betty Lowenstein
- Thomas & Dolores Lyon
- Jeffery Lynn
- Mark & Kate Mael
- Ryan Machak
- Bernadette Mahon
- Bryan Manion
- Ellen McEvoy
- Steve McVay
- Edmund & Alisa Mee
- Peter & Beth Marcel-Taylor
- James & Linda Meehan
- Christopher Miller & Andrea Bell
- Gregory Miller
- Bob Milligan & Sharon Daines
- Elliot Mills & Mary Menter
- Steven & Tracie Mitchell
- David & Jennifer Moberg
- Jennifer Mulhally
- Gordon & Barbara Murdock
- Nancy Myers
- Dan & Karen Fillmore-Nave
- Gary & Mary Melton
- David & Judith Nelson
- Claudia Nunez
- Sally Nol
- John Norton
- Nancy Nebrandt
- Walter & Karen Nothrup
- Shannon O'Brien
- John & Carol Connell
- Mike & Marcia O'Connor
- Dennis & Paula Olander
- Jos & Stephen Odoi
- Kathleen O'Malley
- Dennis & Molly O'Rourke
- Charlotte Oren
- Andrew & Sydna Oyen
- Pat & Arnette Paral
- Beverly Park
- Susan Perkins
- Colleen Peterson
- Gary & Mary Anne Peterson
- Judy Peterson
- Sandra Peterson
- Jodi Petkeu
- Kerby Persellin
- Richard & Elaine Phillips
- Steve & Nancy Pfeifer
- David Porter
- Don Posnera & Gabrielle Lawrence
- Frank Prinz & Barbara Shirl
- Hugh Prant & Fariba Saniktamak
- Robert & Jenny Pope
- Mary Radke
- Jenny Rapat
- Lorn Ramos-Garcia & Carol Klee
- John Ray & Karen Hanson
- Del Reil
- Chris & Jennifer Reedy
- Gary & Terry Reintussen
- Lawrence & Hannah Shar
- Tom Reynolds & Talia Nadir
- Michael & Eva Rapce
- Joanne Reudt
- William Romschreiber
- Virginia Ruddy
- Michael & Regina Ruselle
- Karen Ryan & Tracy Laverne
- Tom Sandau
- Eric Schiffman & Karen Kloer
- Tom & Janennie Schmaltz
- Dr. Sylvio & Yvonne Goucher
- Jack & Karen Schuele
- Mary Sevly & Cynthia Biever
- Harold & Virginia Sheff
- Carolyn Shephard
- Mark Simonsen & Pat Thompson
- William & Barbara Sible
- Nell & Anna Skowbrough
- Tom Slaughter & Ann Mensh
- Charles & Myra Smith
- William & Deborah Smith
- Amerecan Solone
- Kathleen Stiff
- Frank Stevens & Lisa Havelik
- Justin Steen
- Sunny Steven
- Jim & Ann Stout
- Gary Strassman
- Don Snyder & Kari Lobrock
- Rick & Karen sundeen
- Edward Swain & Mary Kirkeadian
- John Scol & Charlotte Farsay
- Joseph Swan
- Wayne & Ann Sief
- John & Gloria Stew
- Robert Slayter & Marc Maylor
- Mark Therios & Rhona Wilson
- Randy & Cindy Rutherl
- Christopher & Mary Thum
- Mary Volk
- David & Mary Ann Win
- Michael Webster
- Judy Wilsen
- Tom Will & Kristen Nelson
- Raymond & Elizabeth Will
- Robert & Crystal Wren
- Willy Wiltm & Brenda Young
- Niven & Diane Young
- Mary Zorn

Businesses:
- Auguson, LLC
- boerl Falcon Hugs-Lauderdale Lions Club
- Lehmann Consulting
- Medotonic
- Raymond Computer
- Sandy’s Barber Shop
- Shady Grove
- Sunrise Banks
- Transition Town

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

[financial information and list of contributors]
**Schools’ fundraising—a necessity, not a luxury**

By Sarah CR Clark

In a world of continual change in our neighborhood schools, one tradition remains constant: fundraising.

Besides generating upwards of $10,000 to $74,000 for educational programs, school fundraising campaigns create community and culture within our neighborhoods. Each school community executes and evaluates their fundraising efforts differently and then uses its money in its own unique ways. The list ranges from field trips to classroom supplies.

Yet, a common truth is clear: the long-standing practice of school fundraising is now a necessity.

“It’s no secret that our schools do not have the money they need to provide successful learning environments for all of our kids,” said Jon Schumacher, past member of the St. Paul School Board and resident of St. Anthony Park. “We do our best and have amazing educators and staff, who somehow make it work, but it is not sustainable.”

For years, the forms school fundraising has taken are many and varied. Some initiatives are ongoing throughout the year. For example, families and neighbors of Saint Anthony Park and Falcon Heights Elementary schools are invited throughout the year to dine at participating restaurants that donate a portion of their evening’s sales to the schools. Neighbors can also collect box tops or other items for schools to use in rewards programs.

Other fundraisers are one-time events such as Give to the Max Day, book fairs, read-a-thons, auctions, senior parties and carnivals. These single events often become part of the school’s culture.

“Our spring Family Fun Night is probably the best event we put on in the school,” said Jodi Burth, treasurer of the Falcon Heights Elementary PTA. “It’s a great community event that kids absolutely love and last year we raised $11,500 for our school.”

The events included a raffle, auction, prizes, and decorations.

A similar event, the Spring Carnival at St. Anthony Park Elementary, is a long-standing tradition dating back to at least the 1950s. Principal Karen Duke attended SAP as a student in the 1970s and fondly remembers the carnival.

“It was the social event of the season,” Duke said, “kicking off the summer, even then! I recall that it was even pretty similar, with cake walk, carnival games, and a jumpy house outside, just like now.”

However, not all successful fundraisers are longstanding. Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, president of the Como Park Senior High Booster Club, said she hopes their Homecoming Fun Run becomes a beloved tradition.

“Our 2019 Fun Run was a success—parents, staff, and students ran/walked the lake and returned to food trucks and activities before the Homecoming game,” she said.

Seeking feedback

Each school has a dedicated group of parents and staff who lead fundraising efforts. These groups are also charged with evaluating their efforts. The Como Park Booster Club considers profits as an indicator of their success, but LaCroix-Dalluhn said they may also “discontinue activities based on feedback from the Como community.”

Similarly, the Falcon Heights PTA collects feedback from teachers and staff about its fundraising efforts. “Our read-a-thon went through a major revamp about two to three years ago to build excitement and engagement,” Burth said. “We used teacher and parent input to add a unity-themed activity. We also added a celebratory closing assembly.”

Last year their special guest was Roseville native and Olympian gold medalist, Lee Stecklein.

Meanwhile, the St. Anthony Park School Association recently surveyed families via online and paper forms about fundraising in our neighborhood school community and school priorities. SAPSA President Laura Renner said the survey’s data helped shape their fundraising plan for the current school year, including adding more community building events, bringing back Dine Our night and eliminating a direct-selling fundraiser.

Renner reflected, “There was lots of feedback to suggest people weren’t interested in doing the type of fundraiser where kids had to sell products.”

SAPSA hopes “to participate in a conversation with teachers and administrators at school to make sure our fundraising budget reflects the diverse beliefs and priorities of our school community,” Renner said.

The constant invitations families receive to participate in fundraising efforts can sometimes feel overwhelming. Some parents have reported having negative thoughts or anxious feelings about fundraising events. Some say they would rather make a one-time donation to the school than participate in multiple efforts.

And yet, the need for fundraising from those who can afford to donate seems unavoidable. Schumacher explained, “Seventy six percent of SPPS students are on free or reduced lunch so the capacity of their families to give additional money is challenging—even with property taxes rising in many of the areas they live or own homes.”

Each school has its own fundraising goals, ranging from $10,000 to $74,000. These funds are often used to pay for field trips; classroom supplies and technology; and staff appreciation events. Como High also uses its raised funds to support, among others, specialized groups (Big Brothers Big Sisters and ELL), athletic programs and in-school music. SAPS’s funds also support artist-in-residence programs, a tutoring coordinator, speaker series, Destination Imagination and more.

“We are lucky to have a community so willing to support us financially,” Duke said. “Of course, I would also always like our schools to be better funded so that fundraising wouldn’t be so critical.”

For instance, SAPSA now has to fund library coordination to cover loss of personnel due to St. Paul School budget cuts. Schumacher noted, “Until the Legislature fully funds our public schools, we have to fundraise from those who have capacity and a commitment to public education so that we ensure every child gets the education they need to succeed.”

If you are interested in supporting your neighborhood schools, please reach out directly: St. Anthony Park Elementary, 651-293-8735; Falcon Heights Elementary, 651-646-0021; Murray Middle School, 651-293-8740; and the Como Park Senior High Booster Club, spp.org/domain/1107.
Power-Theisen a curator at Art Institute exhibit

By Eric Erickson

A new exhibit titled “Just Kids” at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts has the imprint of one student from Como Park Senior High School.

Junior Audrey Power-Theisen was among the curators for the exhibit, working with museum staff to select and display the artwork for the display in the Institute’s Harrison Photography Gallery. The exhibition opened in early January and is scheduled to run through mid-June.

Como High art teacher Jason McIntyre nominated Audrey to help as an exhibit curator, calling her an exceptional art student who has flourished in her photography and studio art classes.

“Audrey is an amazing artist and this opportunity allows her to see the process that museums go through to choose and display art in a world class museum like the Minneapolis Institute of Art,” McIntyre said. “It is a very unique experience for a high school student.”

“Just Kids” explores the complex relationship between young people and photography, according to the MIA. “Comprised of nearly 300 objects, the exhibition includes images of children and teens by both celebrated and emerging photographers, as well as photographic books and series created for and by young people. Middle and high school students were integral to the curatorial process, writing and editing the gallery texts and weighing in on exhibition design.”

In other news at Como Park High School

• Thirteen Como students participated in the Youth in Government Model Assembly program from Jan. 9 to 13 at the state Capitol. The program gives high school students from across the state opportunities to serve as legislators, judges, attorneys, lobbyists, government officials and media representatives in the sessions that are conducted by the entirely student-led state government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government, teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government. Liz Paone, who teaches in Como’s social studies department and the Academy of Government.

As a result of superior work in her AP Studio Art class at Como Park, Audrey Power-Theisen was selected to be a curator for a new exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Photo by Molly Power-Theisen.

The days are getting longer and spring is coming soon! So are some really interesting properties we will have for sale in the next couple months. Price range $400’s to high $600’s.

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The Bugle previews 2020

By Scott Carlson

As the Bugle kicks off a new year of reporting, we expect 2020 to be an eventful year.

A few plans and projects unveiled in 2019 have been completed while we anticipate others to reach fruition this year. Here are a few things to watch:

Downtown St. Anthony Park
Could there be any more changes ahead? It’s a legitimate question given the area’s slight retail changes in 2019. Winding Trail Books took the space of the shuttered Micawber’s Books and boreal assumed the vacancy of the former Bibelot store. The two retail turnovers seemed seamless. That’s particularly true with boreal, whose owners Janet Haugan and Peggy Merrill were former Bibelot employees and have adapted Bibelot’s eclectic merchandise assortment to their new store.

Falcon Heights senior housing project
Construction is nearing completion on an estimated $13 million senior housing complex on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights called “The Hendrickson.” The four-story, 66-unit building at the former Hermes Garden Center site will include five studio apartments with the rest a mix of one- and two-bedroom units. One bump in the road: “The installation of our passenger elevators has been delayed four to six weeks which has pushed our initial occupancy date into April,” says Peter Austin, vice-president and director of finance at Kelly Brothers Ltd., the project’s developer.

Luther Seminary redevelopment
Luther Seminary put 15 acres of buildings and land of its site on the market in mid-2018 to pursue its “Campus of the Future” plan, which includes shedding land and buildings in the northwest part of its campus. Since then, the seminary’s board of directors approved the sale of a parcel that includes Northwestern Hall, the administrative building at 1501 Fulham St. and the seven acres of wooded land known as Breck Woods, which abuts the Lauderdale Nature Area.

At a community meeting early in 2019, a development team led by Master Properties outlined its vision for building a mix of housing (up to 450 units) on the sale property and preserving all or most of the woods. However, no word yet on whether construction will begin this year.

Twin Cities German Immersion School
The Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) last summer razed the former St. Andrew’s Church in Como Park on its campus site to start construction on a new 24,000 square-foot building to meet the needs of its growing K-8 student enrollment — expected to reach 630 kids in another year. School officials have said they hope to have the new $6 million building ready for the 2020-2021 academic year.

New vet in south Saint Anthony Park
Dr. Starke Mueller, who lives in St. Anthony Park, is building a new veterinary clinic at Raymond and Hampden avenues, just a half block from where he lives with his wife, Breann and their four children. The property at 918 Raymond Ave., abuts the Hampden Park Co-op. “I’m not committing myself to an opening date,” Mueller recently told the Bugle. “All I can guarantee at this point is that it will be sometime in 2020.”

Como Harbor project
Como Zoo is scheduled to open Como Harbor, a $20 million seals and sea lions exhibit sometime this year. The new exhibit will provide year-round indoor and outdoor use that will meet or exceed all regulatory and animal-care requirements, according to zoo officials.
A visit from some winter crows

From my kitchen table, I can look out onto my front yard where we have all of our bird feeders and can see any variety of birds. Besides feeders suspended from the roof overhang, I’ve got a suet feeder on a shepherd’s crook pole and a wooden platform feeder on another pole. The platform feeder is a fly-through design, basically a large, rectangular feeder tray with a roof supported by a post at each corner. It allows the birds to keep an eye on what’s happening around them while they feed. And gives them some shelter from snow and rain at the same time. And, if necessary, they can exit in any direction.

I was recently sitting at my table, staring into the yard, wondering what I should write about for this column, when a crow flew in and perched on top of the platform feeder. I always chuckle when I see a crow on top of that feeder, because they don’t fit under the roof very well. They have experienced birds. They immediately hopped off the roof, turned in mid-air and landed on the seed tray right next to each other. They’d done this before.

A single crow can pretty well fill up my platform feeder. Two crows pack it completely. No other bird’s going to get a shot at any seeds. And most other birds wouldn’t try to compete with crows.

But here came a third crow to perch on the top of the feeder. And then a fourth crow that opted for a spot in the snow below the feeder! So, there were two crows in the feeder, one on top and another crow on the ground. Something spooked this last crow in the snow and it took off. That affected crow number three and it left as well. With the party breaking up, the two crows inside the feeder bailed too, and the yard was once again crow free. I was glad they didn’t stay too long because crows can quickly go through a lot of bird seed.

I got to thinking about this small flock of crows. They may have been a family group. Young crows often stay with their parents for a year or more, learning crow things, like where to find food, what’s edible, where to seek shelter from bad weather, where to roost at night and helping to raise the next brood.

I think the first two crows were acting like the parents, the last two like the youngsters. Family groups tend to stay together and it’s these groups that gather into the larger roosts that we see in the winter. Some years I’ve seen crows roosting on the roof to the tray! In fact, sometimes the crow sits on the roof, peering over the tray. In fact, sometimes the crow hunches over to get onto the seeds.

But these were apparently experienced birds. They immediately hopped off the roof, turned in mid-air and landed on the seed tray right next to each other. They’d done this before.

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I think the first two crows were acting like the parents, the last two like the youngsters. Family groups tend to stay together and it’s these groups that gather into the larger roosts that we see in the winter. Some years I’ve seen crows heading to their roosting sites. They usually head out late on a winter afternoon, in groups ranging from five or 10 birds to 25 or more. They’re all flying in the same general direction. From our neighborhood in Lauderdale, they head off to the southwest, most likely to a city park in Minneapolis.

Besides watching crows, I listen to them. When they’re mobbing a hawk or an owl, their loud calls invite other crows to come over and help get rid of the invading predator. I try to find out where they are, so I can see the target of their wrath.

I listen to other crow calls in the yard.
Dr. Alvin Weber

Dr. Alvin F. Weber, D.V.M., 101, a St. Anthony Park resident since 1949, died Dec. 29, 2019. Dr. Alvin was born March 13, 1918, in Hartford, Wis., and graduated with a B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and a D.V.M from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and taught there until 1988. After retirement as an emeritus professor, he continued to work as a consultant and researcher at the University until 2016.

A longtime member and one-time president of the St. Anthony Park Association [predecessor of the St. Anthony Park Foundation], Alvin rode in the St. Anthony Park Fourth of July parade. He loved music and played harmonica and accordion. “A weltbumerl,” a globetrotter, he traveled the world both with his wife, Eleanor, and later after her death, companion Hazel Stockeler. His sense of humor and his love of life will be missed by all.

Alvin was predeceased by his wife Eleanor; parents Anton and Veronicka; siblings, Evelyn, Vernon, Walter and Robert; and his son, William. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth, and his son Thomas (Viko).

Sympathy cards may be sent to the Weber family at 1666 Goffman St., Apt. 333, St. Paul, MN 55108. Memorials can be made to the University of Minnesota Foundation for the Alvin F. and Eleanor E. Weber D.V.M.-Ph.D. Fellowship. Memorial service plans will be announced later.

Alvin was born March 13, 1918, in Hartford, Wis., and graduated with a B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and a D.V.M from Iowa State University. In 1949, he joined others in helping start the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and taught there until 1988. After retirement as an emeritus professor, he continued to work as a consultant and researcher at the University until 2016.

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Dental practice opening in Falcon Heights
Coming to Falcon Heights—a new dental practice.
Dr. Tami Pham and Dr. Bernard Bomberg on Feb. 3 will open Hamline Family Dental, at the corner of Hamline and Larpenteur avenues. Pham and Bomberg are moving their 20-year practice to Falcon Heights after operating Snelling Ave Dental at 804 Snelling Ave. S. Their new clinic name reflects their new business location.

Como Park student chosen for institute program
A student-teacher team from St. Paul’s Como Park High School and Murray Middle School has been selected to participate in a unique program that will take them to Hawaii this summer. Samuel Skinner and his teacher, Courtney Major, were recently selected as one of 16 teams from across the United States to participate in the second annual Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute.

The program, coordinated through National History Day, is sponsored by Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum, the USS Missouri Memorial Association and Pacific Historic Parks.

Salivating for Salvias
Neighborhood horticulturist Mary Maguire Lerman will lead a talk titled “Salivating for Salvias” to the St. Anthony Park Garden Club. Her talk is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on Feb. 4 at St. Antho- ny Park Lutheran Church, 2525 Como Ave. The event is open to the public.

New Raymond Avenue Gallery show
The artistic works of Janel Jacobson and Stuart Looughridge will be on display from Feb. 14 to April 17 at the Raymond Avenue Gallery.

Samuel Skinner and Courtney Major are one of 16 student-teacher teams in the United States selected to attend the second annual Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute. Photo submitted by Ric Stoddard, National History Day communications director.

761 Raymond Ave. An opening reception for the two artists will be 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 14. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Jacobson’s art focus is on mak- ing pottery; Looughridge’s mediums are oil paint, watercolor, graphite, ink, etching and serigraph.

QPR—Suicide Prevention class in St. Paul
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota is of- fering a free, one-hour presenta- tion on suicide prevention titled “QPR—Suicide Prevention” at noon on Feb. 5 at its offices, 100 University Ave. W. Suite 406. The program covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide: question, persuade and refer. For information or to reg- ister, call 651-645-2948 or see “classes” at naminmn.org. NAMI Minnesota is a non-profit organiza- tion that works to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses as well as their families through its programs of education, support and advocacy.

Food scrap recycling in Falcon Heights
Ramsey County has opened a food scrap recycling site at the Falcon Heights City Hall parking lot, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W. Residents may drop off food scraps, including meat and bones, and any goods marked “compostable in a commercial compost site” to this site. Free food scrap (organics recycling) starter kits and compostable bags are available at Falcon Heights City Hall. Starter kits are also available at any Ramsey County library or select St. Paul libraries while supplies last. To find any of the country’s 15 col- lection sites, go to its inter-active map (https://maps.co.ramseys. mn.us/CollectionSites/index.htm?_medium=email%20 or%20us%20source=govdelivery).

Church gathers meds, toiletries for homeless
Jehovah Lutheran Church has launched its annual Caring Hearts drive to collect toiletries and over-the-counter medica- tions for the St. Paul homeless. Needed items include shampoo, lotion, soap, toothpaste, tooth- brushes, deodorant and meds such as Tylenol, cold/flu tablets, ibuprofen, cough drops and chil- dren and adult’s vitamins. Win- ter clothing, such as hats and mittens, are also needed.

Bring donated items to the church at 1566 Thomas Ave. on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m.-noon or on a weekday by appointment (651-644-1432 or jelcoffice@gmail.com). Items will be accepted through Feb. 23.

Tonic Sol-fa at Roseville High
The award-winning a cappella singing group Tonic Sol-fa will perform at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at Roseville Area High School, 1240 County Road B (at W. Rose- ville) Advance Tickets are $19 for adults and $12 for students and seniors over 60. Day of the concert: $25.00 and $15.00 for students and seniors. Purchase tickets online at: www.isd623.org/tonicolta.

Admission is free to all programs, and no registration is required for members of the community.

Authors appearing at Windling Trail Books
Two authors are scheduled to appear during February for read- ings and book signings at Wind- ing Trail Books, 2230 Carter Ave. The schedule is:

Thursday, Feb. 6
6:7 p.m.
Dennis and Karen Vinars, authors of “How did You Find Me After All These Years?” Books discussion and signing. A story of love, separation and a reuniting.

Saturday, Feb. 15
10:30 a.m.
Stories and Art with Miss Jennie Children’s event Ages 4-6 but all ages are welcome.

Thursday, Feb. 20
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Author Beth Dooley will discuss her cookbook “Sweet Nature—A Cook’s Guide for using honey and maple syrup. Honey and Ma- ple Syrup” — Books will be available for pur- chase and signature.

Thursday, Feb. 27
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Dr. Heidi Kopacek will discuss her book “Sothe your Mind—Body-Spirit guide for dealing with Crappy Emotions.” Books will be available for pur- chase and signature.

By Judy Woodward
Every week, the reference librar- ians at the Roseville Library an- swer hundreds of questions from the public. Here are a couple of the interesting queries they have received lately:

Q. I remember a storm when I was in grade school in Albert Lea in which so much dirt blew into southern Minnesota from the Dakotas that it was as dark as night during the school day and everything was covered with dirt when we left to go home. I think it was in the win- ter, but I don’t remember for sure. It would have been in the 1950s. Can you help?

A. Although we can’t pinpoint for certain the date you remem- ber, we did get a quick search of the digital archives of the Minneapo- lis Star-Tribune for the 1950s. During that decade, there were two front-page stories about blaz- ings in Minnesota that also in- volved dust storm features.

In particular, an article on March 12, 1954, talked about “reddish-brown dust whipped into the air” in Albert Lea which was a “complicating factor” in the storm.

The other front-page story in- volving snow and dust appeared on March 2, 1950. If you have a childhood mem- ory of an unusual weather event like a “snow/dust storm,” you can ask a librarian to help you locate information about it from our digital newspaper archives.

Other good sources of infor- mation are local historical society archives. For more about mem- orable weather events in Albert Lea, for example, you might con- sider contacting the Freeborn County Historical Society Li- brary. They will almost certainly have more detailed records from that era. (Proquest Historical Newspapers database.)

Judy Woodward, who lives in St. Anthony Park, is a reference librarian at the Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave.

Ask the librarian

Tuesday with a Scholar series
The Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., is continuing its “Tuesday with a Scholar” series through Feb. 18. Talks begin at 1 p.m. The series features scholars from area colleges and elsewhere as they share their knowledge on specialized topics. All talks are free and no registration is required.

Here is the remaining schedule:

Feb. 4—Mapping Prejudice in Minneapolis
Kirsten Delegard, who is affiliat- ed with the Department of Geog- raphy, Environment and Society at the University of Minnesota, will talk about how structural rac- isms shaped our urban landscape, blocking African Americans from critical avenues for wealth accumulation.

Feb. 11 and 18—Economic War: A History of Tariffs
St. Paul Pioneer Press economics columnist Ed Loterman will talk about the history of economic tariffs in the United States, from Alexander Hamilton’s vision of economic protection to current measures imposed by the Trump administration. His second talk will cover tariffs and the global economy.

This series is co-sponsored by the Other Lifelong Learning In- stitute of the University of Min- nesota with the financial support of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries.

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**SAINT ANTHONY PARK LIBRARY**

2425 Como Ave.
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.stpaul.lib.mn.us. Please note: The library will be closed on Feb. 17.

### Special Events and Classes

- **Monday, Feb. 3**
  Middle School 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, Feb. 6**
  Vietnamese Conversation Group 6:00-7:00 p.m.
  Gather for a fun, friendly hour of conversation led by a Vietnamese speaker. For native speakers or anyone interested in learning, speaking, or practicing Vietnamese. All ages welcome. Drop-in at any time. No registration required.
- **Saturday, Feb. 8**
  Senior Cinema: “The Peanut Falcon” 2:00-4:00 p.m.
  A young cub must compete for leadership of his clan, and in doing so, develop the skills that will make him a powerful ally in the fight against their ancient enemy. Register for this free program at the library. Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. 
- **Saturday, Feb. 13**
  Butter Falcon” 2:00-4:00 p.m.
  A young cub must compete for leadership of his clan, and in doing so, develop the skills that will make him a powerful ally in the fight against their ancient enemy. Register for this free program at the library. Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required.

### Events Around Town

- **NORTH DALE RECREATION CENTER**
  For more information call 651-668-2929 or visit www.stpaul.gov/northdale
- **Monday & Wednesdays, Jan. 6-March 30 Open Time**
  9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ages 8-15
- **Thursday, Jan. 23-April 23 (4th Thursday)**
  Journey to Wellness 6:30-7:30 p.m., Adults
- **Mondays & Wednesdays, Jan. 27-March 4 Tai Ji Quan**
  1:00-2:00 p.m., Adults
- **Saturday, Feb. 1-8 Multiplayer Minecraft**
  3:30-4:30 p.m., Ages 8-15
- **Monday, Feb. 1**
  Red Cross Baby Sitter Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Ages 10-14
- **Saturday, Feb. 22**
  Painting Party 9:30-11:30 a.m., Adults
- **February 2-22 Multi-grade**
  Musical Theatre 9:15-10:45 a.m., Ages 6-14
- **February 2-22 Multi-grade**
  iPad Maker 3:00-4:30 p.m., Ages 14-17
- **Saturday, Feb. 22**
  Creative Writing Club 2:15-3:15 p.m., Ages 12-17
- **Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**
  Everyday Wellbeing 9:30-11:00 a.m., Adult
- **Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**
  Tai Ji Quan Weekend 12:00-2:00 p.m., Adult
- **Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**
  Tai Ji Quan Class 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ages 0-5
- **Sundays, Feb. 9-March 29**
  Men’s 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball 12:00-3:00 p.m., Adult
- **Thursdays, Jan. 30-May 28**
  Picnic Ball 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Adult
- **Thursdays, Jan. 2-May 28**
  Senior Day 10:30-2:30 p.m., Adult
- **Thursday & Thursdays, Jan. 2-28**
  Senior Fitness 9:30-10:30 a.m., Adult
- **Thursday & Saturdays, Jan. 4-May 30**
  Yoga: Earth Moon Tuesdays 7:45-8:45 p.m., Adult
  Saturdays (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.), Adults
- **Monday, Jan. 6-May 18**
  Challenge Square Dancing 6:30-9:00 p.m., Adult
- **Mondays & Wednesdays Jan 6-May 27**
  Pilates Core Strength/Flexibility 7:15-8:15 p.m., Adult
- **Thursdays, Jan. 7-May 26**
  Senior Games 1:00-3:00 p.m., Adult

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**Monday & Wednesdays, Jan. 6-March 30 Open Time**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ages 8-15

**Thursday, Jan. 23-April 23 (4th Thursday)**

Journey to Wellness 6:30-7:30 p.m., Adults

**Mondays & Wednesdays, Jan. 27-March 4 Tai Ji Quan**

1:00-2:00 p.m., Adults

**Saturday, Feb. 1-8 Multiplayer Minecraft**

3:30-4:30 p.m., Ages 8-15

**Monday, Feb. 1**

Red Cross Babysitting Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Ages 10-14

**Saturday, Feb. 22**

Painting Party 9:30-11:30 a.m., Adults

**February 2-22 Multi-grade**

Musical Theatre 9:15-10:45 a.m., Ages 6-14

**February 2-22 Multi-grade**

iPad Maker 3:00-4:30 p.m., Ages 14-17

**Saturday, Feb. 22**

Creative Writing Club 2:15-3:15 p.m., Ages 12-17

**Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**

Everyday Wellbeing 9:30-11:00 a.m., Adult

**Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**

Tai Ji Quan Weekend 12:00-2:00 p.m., Adult

**Sundays, Jan. 5-March 29**

Tai Ji Quan Class 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ages 0-5

**Sundays, Feb. 9-March 29**

Men’s 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball 12:00-3:00 p.m., Adult

**Thursdays, Jan. 30-May 28**

Picnic Ball 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Adult

**Thursdays, Jan. 2-May 28**

Senior Day 10:30-2:30 p.m., Adult

**Thursday & Thursdays, Jan. 2-28**

Senior Fitness 9:30-10:30 a.m., Adult

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Minnesota Young DFL endorses Hollins for state house

Athena Hollins, an East Side community activist, said recently the Minnesota Young DFL has endorsed her campaign for state House District 66B.

“I am excited and honored to be endorsed by MYDFL,” said Hollins, who is challenging DFL incumbent John Lesch for endorsement at this spring’s District 66B convention. “Our ability to confront the challenges we face and the future of our party depends on young voices having a seat at the table.”

District 66B spans parts of the Midway, Como, North End and Payne-Phalen neighborhoods of St. Paul. Lesch is a nine-term state representative who began service in 2002.

[Lesch told the Bugle he is seeking re-election. Currently, he has endorsements from several labor unions.] Precinct caucuses will be held on Feb. 25 and the District 66 DFL convention on April 11 with both at Washington Technology Magnet School, 1495 Rice St. N.

MYDFL said it endorsed Hollins after a rigorous screening process that involved in-depth exploration of candidates’ positions. The group called her “a fierce advocate for justice.”

“One of the things that sets her [Hollins] apart is her dedication to addressing our climate crisis at the legislature,” said MYDFL Political Director Maddie Pavlik. “In a time when young people are boldly standing up and demanding action, we need allies like her at the Capitol.”

Hollins is a resident of the Payne-Phalen neighborhood with her husband, David, and her two children, Hypatia and Langston. Currently, she is board president of the Payne-Phalen Community Council Board.

“I am running because our district deserves an inclusive, progressive problem solver,” Hollins said. “During my months of experience in community relations, I have seen the need for exciting prizes and classroom Doughnuts were invited to participate by pledges for 220,000 minutes during these 11 days. Last year we exceeded our goal by a large margin and we hope to do the same this year,” said Katie Loth, parent and lead volunteer.

Kids are encouraged to read for exciting prizes and classroom pizza parties. If the entire school reaches its 220,000-minute goal, the teachers and principal will participate in a crowd-pleasing dare at the end of the read-a-thon. “One year the principal ate bugs, another year several teachers got a pie in the face,” Loth remembers.

This year’s read-a-thon theme, prizes, and “dare” will be revealed at the opening school-wide assembly on Feb 6.

Loth noted, “We keep the theme a secret until closer to the start of the read-a-thon, so Bugle readers will need to ask SAP students in their community about this year’s theme once the read-a-thon starts.” The community is invited to participate by pledging to individual students, reading to SAP students whom you may know, and donating directly to the school.

For more information about Hollins’ campaign, go to www.athenahollins.com

(Editor’s note: The Bugle is planning a lengthier report in our

SAP Elementary School Read-a-thon coming

By Sarah CR Clark

St. Anthony Park Elementary School’s annual Read-a-Thon will run from Feb 7 to 16. All kindergarten to fifth-grade students are invited to count the minutes they spend reading each of these days and collect pledges from supportive neighbors, family, and friends.

Read-a-thon donations help fund school field trips, artist-in-resident activities and other school-wide events. The school goal is collectively read for 220,000 minutes during these 11 days. “Last year we exceeded our goal by a large margin and we hope to do the same again this year,” said Katie Loth, parent and lead volunteer.

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Birdman from p. 9

hopes of learning what they might mean. Crow “talk” fascinates me. I often count the “caws” to see if I can match any behavior to a specific count. So far, I haven’t figured it out yet, but it’s a fascinating puzzle to work on.

One vocalization that stumped me the first several times I heard it was the cackle. This sounds like an old-time wooden noise maker in which a geared wheel clacks a wooden reed as it turns. I’ve heard that it’s a parent talking to a youngster. It’s done very softly when they’re on the nest, sort of a reassuring contact call. But it can get louder, perhaps as the Mom needs to get the kid’s attention.

I enjoy studying and learning about crows all year long. But especially, in winter, they’re among the largest birds around, very visible on the landscape and in the air. I find their intelligence just fascinating, and their antics very entertaining as I sit at my perch at the kitchen table.

Clay Christensen lives and writes in Lauderdale. Photo of Clay by Chase Vanderhill.
New chapter for retired Murray Middle School teacher

By Kathy Henderson

When English teacher Jill Elliott retired after 26 years at Murray Middle School, she expected that she’d get her home more organized, read more novels and spend more time with family and friends.

What Elliott didn’t expect was that she’d be back working in education just within months of retiring at the end of October.

This time, Elliott isn’t part of St. Paul Public Schools, where she started teaching in 1989. Instead, she’s begun the new year supervising three Metropolitan State University student teachers.

After starting out in education coaching gymnastics, Elliott is coming full circle, only now as coach to the aspiring middle and high school teachers. Along with mentoring her college students, Elliott’s duties will include observing, assessing and evaluating her mentees.

Being a retiree gives Elliott the flexibility to meet with her students at times convenient to their schedules. And Elliott said she’ll be giving them the same advice that her father gave her when she started her teaching career: Get to know your students really well in the first few weeks and build a relationship with them through what they read and are interested in.

That philosophy was evident in Elliott’s teaching career at Murray, where her online profile read: “What I enjoy most about teaching English is when I can get kids reading and connecting their personal lives to the literature.”

Elliott credits her father—a teacher, coach and horseman—with being her biggest inspiration, to become a teacher, a calling she knew she had as early as a second grader.

Meanwhile, Elliott credits the “amazing staff” and especially her English team at Murray for keeping her teaching there for over two decades.

“Despite all they have to do each day, they are like a family in the way they would come together to help the students,” she said.

In her new job, Elliott hopes to inspire her student teachers to follow her father’s wisdom and the ideals of her Murray colleagues.

Sunrise Banks forges affordable housing group

Sunrise Banks said it is teaming with Aeon and three local foundations to create a pilot program designed to preserve hundreds of units of affordable housing in the Twin Cities.

The St. Paul-based bank announced the news in early January, calling its venture with Aeon, the Minneapolis Foundation, the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation and the Frey Foundation an “innovative” initiative intended to begin easing the Twin Cities growing shortage of affordable housing.

“Affordable housing is key to financially stable and successful communities,” Sunrise Banks CEO David Reiling said in press statement. “Our creation of the Sunrise Banks Community Impact CDC and our partnership with these local organizations is something we’re very proud of and a great accomplishment for everyone involved.”

Under the program, Sunrise Banks has created a community impact development corporation (CDC) to pool its funds and those from outside investors to finance the purchase of existing rental properties, thus ultimately preserving about 600 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. Aeon, a nonprofit developer, owner and manager of affordable homes, will manage the properties.

The partnership believes its program could become a model to be used across the country.

CDCs are corporate entities used to invest in community development projects. Aeon will use the funds to acquire and preserve naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) units in the Twin Cities. NOAHs are properties that have aged and are now classified as affordable.

“The problem our community is facing is so great that we must tackle it together,” Aeon CEO Alan Arthur said in a news statement. “The problem just gets worse as we see affordable housing properties gobbled up and converted into high-rent apartments. Through this collaboration, we are ensuring the stability of homes for hundreds of residents.”

Affordable housing is an issue across the country. The Twin Cities Metro has lost more affordable housing than it added since 2011, according to the Metropolitan Council.

By Kathy Henderson, freelance writer who lives in St. Paul.
Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O.Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Fariba Sanikhahram, 651-440-8160. Ads are $1 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or at for $10 each. Next deadline: Feb. 12, 2020.

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Lives Lived from p. 10

Grandchildren. He is also survived by five great-grandchildren.

Please direct memorials to St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 1465 Victoria St., St. Paul. Memorials may be sent to Meals on Wheels, The Church of St. Cecilia, and the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance.

James Purinton

James R. Purinton, 77, died Dec. 31, 2009. Jim was an Air Force veteran, retired from Hyman Freytag's, and a longtime sports fan. He loved fishing, bowling, and time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Ellen (née Hollish); sons, Kyle (Stacey); Kevin (Angela), the Rev. David (Monica), and Keith (Mary); six grandchildren; and five sisters-in-law.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 7 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, 1651 Detroit St. N., St. Paul. Inurnment will be held Dec. 30, 2019. He was a member of the United States Navy, 1954–1957, stationed in Norfolk, Va. Gordon was a graduate of Murray High School, and a regular attendee at class reunions, having missed only having missed the 70th reunion in 2019 due to health issues.

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While a junior varsity swimmer, alone in the water, pushed himself to finish the final lap of a race, 20 teammates on the pool deck supplied encouraging cheers and provided the energy boost to bring the first-year swimmer home.

An eruption of noise ensued when the Cougar completed the event and touched the wall.

This scene is the norm for the Como Park High School boys’ swimming program. The support for every swimmer, regardless of experience, skill or speed, is a source of pride for the Cougars. From the veterans swimming multiple miles, to the novices developing their first technical strokes, the boys bond and train together. They also go to their competitive meets as a pack. Divisions of varsity and junior varsity only reveal themselves in scoring columns, not in vocal inspiration for each other.

The Conery culture
The architect of the Como swimming culture is Steven Conery. In his 19th year as the Cougars’ head coach, Conery says he can still remember how to do stuff and make them feel welcome and make it fun.”

Napierala recalled. “Now as a captain, we help new kids learn how to do stuff and make them feel welcome and make it fun.”

Senior co-captain Jack Schumacher joined Como swimming as a sophomore. With no prior swim experience beyond splash around and treading water, he quickly learned strokes, improved technique, bought in to the work ethic and enjoyed the camaraderie of the team.

Schumacher’s massive gains led him to All-Conference honorable mention status last season: senior Mason Salverda, junior Aaron Ramsey and junior Kaeden Warnberg-Lennm. Sophomore Soren Sackreiter has state-level potential, having already earned St. Paul City All-Conference status as a freshman in 2019. Conery can count on these six to swim fast and score varsity points. “This nucleus is joined by incoming freshman Sigmund Isaksson, who I believe will be at the top of the conference meet in the distance events,” he said.

Diversity in competing
While Como’s swimmers excel in a specific event, being versatile is also a key component to the Cougars’ training and competitive goals. "With the effort they give in practices and the assortment of sets we do, they’ve grown into and have had fun competing in every event—their special events and their ‘off’ events," Conery explained. "This gives us the flexibility to have two to three swimmers competing for first place in every event in dual meet competition; and with our depth, we can compete for every point possible.” Beyond the previously mentioned nucleus, Como’s team includes: juniors Ian Brudnak Voss, Emmett Sandis, Mark Remuto; sophomore Mosa Xiong, Jaffer Rais, Jacob Given; freshmen Nathan Henrickson, Charlie Power-Theisen, Gabe Napierala, Frankie Barnard, Latif Alhamam, Frankie Barnard, Latif Alhamam, and Murray eighth-graders Kyle Kossiak, Finn Lucy and Oskar Helgen.

The Cougars diversity in age and swimming experience is a key to the team’s success, Conery said. “This gives us the flexibility to have two to three swimmers competing for first place in every event in dual meet competition; and with our depth, we can compete for every point possible.” Beyond the previously mentioned nucleus, Como’s team includes: juniors Ian Brudnak Voss, Emmett Sandis, Mark Remuto; sophomore Mosa Xiong, Jaffer Rais, Jacob Given; freshmen Nathan Henrickson, Charlie Power-Theisen, Gabe Napierala, Frankie Barnard, Latif Alhamam, and Murray eighth-graders Kyle Kossiak, Finn Lucy and Oskar Helgen.

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The coaches and the athletes are eager to see how they measure up in the city and section meets during February. “I believe we can compete for first place in a number of events at the conference meet and hope to qualify a swimmer or two and a relay team to the state meet,” Conery said.

Whatever the results, one thing is certain: Fellow Cougars will be cheering them on—all the way through their final lap.