Navigating the coronavirus crisis

Some restaurants offer take-out service, grocer providing curbside pickups

By Sarah CR Clark and Scott Carlson

From churches, schools and families to restaurants, shops, businesses and community organizations; the COVID-19 virus is disrupting a vast array of daily activities.

Many health experts and government leaders predict this “new normal” with closings, social distancing and other tactics to slow the spread of the virus will last at least through the end of March and, in the worst-case scenarios, far out into the summer.

This much we know: Dozens of local businesses are devising creative ways to hang on during the state’s mandatory shutdowns or limitations that are aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The following is a rundown of how the coronavirus is affecting various sectors in the Bugle’s circulation area and how some businesses are endeavoring to keep going:

Restaurants

The COVID-19 virus is causing havoc for local businesses, especially neighborhood restaurants. Governor Walz’s March 16 executive order temporarily closed restaurants, bars and other dine-in establishments to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

This has forced many of our local restaurants to close—either partially or completely—lay off employees and consider creative options to continue as take-out and delivery businesses.

Elizabeth Tinucci, owner of Colossoal Café, emailed neighbors on Tuesday, March 17, “We will close at 2 p.m. today and will remain completely closed until you hear from us again.”

In a phone conversation, Tinucci said she hopes to offer some pre-order pop-ups beginning sometime in the next couple weeks. At these pop-ups, customers could pre-order from a selection of potpies and family dinners, to pick up and enjoy at home.

“Everything is changing so quickly,” Tinucci noted, a sentiment echoed by many other business owners.

Sandra Weise, owner of The Finnish Bistro, will keep her café open for take-out and local deliveries made via brand new scooters. Weise plans to offer a shortened menu, which will include family-style meals.

“We’re still going to have almond kringlers,” she laughed. “People have actually called us to ask.” Weise was in the process of laying off many employees at the time of this interview.

Nico’s Taos co-owner Jenna Victoria also has cut staff and is offering take-out food options. Victoria hopes to keep her full-time employees employed. In a bid to keep their faithful patrons, the restaurant has added an option to its menu: a taco box to-go that includes 10 tacos, all the toppings, rice and beans and chips with guacamole for $35.

“For the folks who have expressed their support,” Victoria said, “I really appreciate this neighborhood and what people have done already.”

Karta Thai plans to remain open during their normal hours for both take-out and delivery orders. Mimi’s Café has decided to close until April 5.

All of the restaurant and café owners mentioned gift card purchasing as another way that neighbors can support them during this time of social distancing. Many offer gift cards online and are currently offering deals. The revenue from gift cards can immediately help employers pay employees, rent and other expenses, even if customers don’t use their cards right away.

New apartments proposed for Bandana Square

By Michael Kuchta

A St. Paul developer is proposing a four-story, 150-unit apartment building atop the existing parking ramp west of the Best Western hotel in Bandana Square.

The market-rate apartments would be a mix of studios, studio-one bedroom and two-bedroom units with none larger than 1,000 square feet, said Jim LaVallé, principal for TJJ Development LLC.

Early designs show a 60-foot, E-shaped building. LaVallé told the District 10 Land Use Committee that rents will be “competitive” with other apartment communities in Energy Park.

The proposed project would provide secure underground parking for tenants and lease 150 public parking spaces back to the hotel. The parking arrangement means the project would need to be rezoned from B3 commercial to T3 traditional.

A hearing before the city Planning Commission’s Zoning Committee was scheduled for March 26.

In other District 10 Como Community Council news: Hmong College Prep Academy, 1515 Brewer St., expects to build a K-12 charter school and outdoor playground beginning this July on land it owns southwest of Brewer and Pascal streets. A Skyway over Brewer would connect the three-story addition to the existing buildings.

Officials at the K-12 charter school say current enrollment of 2,350 pupils is about 150 over...
District 10 Community Council

Sholom Home renovation project inches forward

Renovation of the former Sholom Home into rental apartments moved one step closer when the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals, on identical 4-0 votes, approved density and parking variances for the proposed project.

The BZA approvals followed the recommendation of the Como Community.

Midway Community Group LLC wants to renovate the former nursing home at 1554 Midway Parkway to create 150 rental apartments.

Variances are necessary because the redevelopment plan does not meet the city's existing zoning code. Existing formulas allow no more than 82 units, although the site—which has been vacant for more than a decade—previously had a conditional-use permit for up to 170 units.

For the proposed mix of apartments, current zoning also requires 166 off-street parking spaces. However, the redevelopment plan includes only 80 off-street spaces—51 surface spaces on its Canfield side, plus 29 new indoor spaces. That leaves the project 86 parking spaces short.

Meeting changes, event cancellation

District 10 has cancelled its in-person elections for its community board of directors and, at press time, was exploring alternatives. Details will be announced on the District 10 website as soon as they are available.

Meanwhile, applications are still open for candidates. The board is seeking people for, among other things, vice chairperson, treasurer, one representative each from the neighborhood's four sub-districts and two representatives from the neighborhood- at-large. To learn more, see https://tinyurl.com/tmwp7ji. To get on the ballot, apply no later than Tuesday, April 14.

In related news, District 10 has cancelled its “Swap Till You Drop” free clothing exchange originally scheduled for April 19. And lastly, the Community Council will use video conferencing and conference calls to conduct all of its meetings in April. For further news, please check the “Board News” section of District 10’s website, http://www.district10como.org/, for updates.

Submitted by Michael Kuchta, executive director of the District 10 Como Community Council.

District 12 Community Council

City Council denies District 12 on Rohn Industries

The St. Paul City Council on March 11 voted 6-1 to deny District 12’s appeal of a conditional approval on Rohn Industries’ site plan at 2495 Kasota Ave.

Rohn Industries wants to use the property as a parking lot for 25 semi-trailers. In upholding Rohn Industries’ planned use for the property, the City Council said there were insufficient grounds to overturn the Planning Commission’s vote.

City Council member Jane Prince dissented, saying she wished Rohn, a recycling company, could work with District 12 and community representatives to find a different site for its truck storage needs.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council contended the Planning Commission erred in its findings to allow the land use. District 12 representatives are concerned the project will potentially spread air/waterborne pollutants from the former ash dump site.

In mid-January, the city concluded that an environmental worksheet assessment (EAW) was not required on the project.

Scott Carlson, Bugle editor.

District 12 meeting changes

As the Bugle went to press, District 12 executive director Kathryn Murray said, “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SAPCC is cancelling all upcoming events and moving our board and committee meetings online.”

“Our office will be closed, though staff will continue to work remotely,” she added. “This includes the annual Kasota Ponds clean up. Details on joining meetings will be posted online on our events page. Links and resources available at sapcc.org/our-covid-19-response.”

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Supporting pollinators, the ‘little things that run the world’

By Margot Monson

As biologist E. O. Wilson put it, insects are the ‘little things that run the world.’

The most abundant of all animals, insects are the foundation of our ecosystems and in ecosystems, diversity counts. But with climate change and habitat loss, we’re losing species diversity, including insects.

What can we do? Close to home, we can make a difference with our own yards and container gardens. If we design healthy habitats for all living things, we can sustain insects and regenerate our own little piece of the world.

Nectar and pollen

Native perennials evolved with the insects they depend on for pollination. Insects, in turn, depend on the plants for nutritious nectar, and some insects, like bees, feed pollen to their young. In fact, bees have adapted to intentionally carry pollen, while most insects transfer pollen inadvertently, only pollinating when they visit the same species of flower repeatedly.

However, not all pollen and nectar sources are created equal. Most annual plants don’t have the protein-rich pollen that bees need to raise their young, or the nectar other pollinators need for energy. For that, you need deep-rooted perennials.

Native bees are essential to pollination in our ecosystems, and they depend on high-quality pollen and nectar. So, when you plant native perennials, you create habitat for a diversity of insects. It’s not just bees and butterflies, but moths, flies, beetles, wasps, lacewings and many that prey upon other insects.

And you’ll attract insects that turn organic matter into healthy soil, such as those in-habitant compost piles. With enough native plant diversity, you’ll have very few pest insects.

If you choose different varieties, you’ll have very few pest insects. If you plant annuals, choose pollinator-attractive ones like Dakota Gold (Helenium), Showstar (Melampodium), Orange Fudge and Prairie Sun (Rudbeckia), Lemon Queen or Music Box Mix (Helenium), Summer Jewel Pink and Purple Fairy Tale Salvia and Envy Zinnia.

Nectar and pollen

Native bees: Our local heroes

You may know the rusty patched bumble bee was named Minnesota’s state bee last year. It’s now rare, and researchers are finding several other native bumble bee species also declining. Although they’re most recognizable, bumble bees account for just 20 of about 470 native bee species in Minnesota. Bumble bees nest together underground in colonies with a queen, many female workers and a few drones. But most native bees are solitary.

Each spring, single females emerge to build small nests in underground tunnels or in hollow stems or other hidden places. They supply the nests with pollen and nectar, lay their eggs, seal the entrances and leave. Bee larvae consume the food, spend the rest of the season in the nests and emerge as adults the next year. They’re smaller than most bumble bees and often go unnoticed; they don’t sting, either. They are essential for the priceless work of pollination.

So please, do our native bees a favor this year: Give them nesting habitat. Leave a few bare places in your yard that will be undisturbed all season. Keep a few logs or sticks tucked away in a corner, or leave some dried perennial stems standing upright through the season. And keep your lawn or garden free of chemicals.

Tips for a pollinator-friendly garden

As you prepare for the growing season, here are a few ideas.

Choose plants friendly to pollinators

With only a few native perennials that offer high-quality nectar and pollen. For recommendations, visit www.beelab.umn.edu/flowers. If you plant annuals, choose pollinator-attractive ones like Dakota Gold (Helenium), Showstar (Melampodium), Orange Fudge and Prairie Sun (Rudbeckia), Lemon Queen or Music Box Mix (Helenium), Summer Jewel Pink and Purple Fairy Tale Salvia and Envy Zinnia.

Avoid chemically treated plants

Ask the seller about the source, and don’t buy anything pre-treated with pesticides, herbicides or fungicides. Many of these are systemic. Their pollen and nectar pass the poisons along, leaving insects with weakened health.


If these words lead you to choose home care for yourself or a loved one, we’re here to help. Caring Professionals Home Care can assist in determining the amount and levels of care needed to create a safe and nurturing environment. We will create a customized care plan and assign a caregiver that fits your needs to ensure you receive the best care possible.

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From the Desk of the Editor

By Scott Carlson

Coping with the coronavirus pandemic

In the last three weeks, the lives of everyone in our community have been dramatically disrupted and affected by the virus known as COVID-19. Cancellations of events and activities and the closure of schools, businesses, libraries, rec centers and restaurants and bars are among the many manifestations of how we are in the midst of a “new normal” that could stretch into the summer.

In response to this crisis, we have stepped up our reporting and postings on our Bugle website and Facebook page. In the span of 10 days, we posted breaking news stories about the closed St. Paul Public Schools teachers’ strike and the impact of the coronavirus on our local restaurants, shops and families. Many thanks to freelance writer Sarah CR Clark for pulling together a plethora of interesting and informative anecdotes on both subjects.

Our latest coronavirus coverage highlights the intense pressure that local restauranters face in their bid to weather this storm and what the community can do to help them during this period of mandatory shutdowns.

Meanwhile, look to the Bugle for periodic updates on our website and Facebook page on coronavirus-related news. Our website is https://www.parkbugle.org/. Also, we have launched a new web feature called Midpoint, which debuted in mid-March. This is our latest format to provide you with a sampling of news and information that comes in after our press deadline and would be out of date by the time we publish again.

Spring is here

With an abundance of gloomy news, there are also hopeful signs that life keeps on rolling. Just this morning, I heard a large array of bird noises from outside my dining room window, a sure indicator that spring is here and our trees, lawns and gardens will be growing again. Look for stories germinating to our annual Home & Garden section in May.

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 six business days. Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town could be slightly delayed because our distributor is taking steps to ensure their delivery people are safe during the coronavirus challenge. Also, bulk drop-offs of the Bugle will not be possible at some locations due to business closings.

Alzheimer’s research

I was lucky enough to go on vacation someplace warm this winter season. Sitting at a restaurant by the beach, I got to talking with a couple seated at the same table. We did the usual small talk. On vacation? Yes. Where are you from? Minnesota. What do you do? Research Alzheimer’s disease.

The conversation stopped.

The man informed me that he had been diagnosed with the disease several years earlier. Even on vacation, even hundreds of miles away from Minnesota, the importance of our work trying to find treatments for Alzheimer’s was clear. There is always a family member, a friend or a person you are sharing a dinner table with who has been affected by this disease. It can be unpredictable, and it has effects not only on the person diagnosed, but on loved ones and friends.

I want to say thank you to our U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, and to U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, for voting to increase federal funding for Alzheimer’s and dementia research to $2.8 billion a year. Their support allowed me to tell my dinner companions not to lose hope. That leaders are committed to supporting people impacted by Alzheimer’s and that researchers like myself will continue to work towards treatments for the disease. You probably know someone who has been impacted by Alzheimer’s. If you are looking for ways to support this important cause, then consider going to the Alzheimer’s Association website at www.act.alz.org.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Brown
St. Anthony Park

Replace Enbridge Line 3

For simple and complex reasons, it’s time to move forward. Minnesota has reached an important time to act on something that is both simple and complex at the same time.

It’s time to move forward with plans to replace the Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline. This means the state of Minnesota should drop its appeal of the PUC [Public Utilities Commission] approval and let the process move forward. It clearly makes sense to do this.

Almost one third of all oil shipped into the U.S. comes through Minnesota. It’s coming here by train or pipeline. Pipeline lines are clearly better and safer. Replacing Line 3 means less oil on trains. It is a simple choice that Minnesota must make.

The complex part of this issue is climate change. I agree we should

LETTERS

Letter from Paul Carlson

With an abundance of gloomy news, there are also hopeful signs that life keeps on rolling. Just this morning, I heard a large array of bird noises from outside my dining room window, a sure indicator that spring is here and our trees, lawns and gardens will be growing again. Look for stories germinating to our annual Home & Garden section in May.

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The complex part of this issue is climate change. I agree we should...
The Bugle is seeking new members to join its board of directors.

For more information, please contact Beth Magistad, bethmag- istad@gmail.com or Gabrielle Lawrence, gabriellelawrence@gmail.com.

Bugle springing closer to fundraising goal

The Bugle's goal for 2019-20 is $52,000; as of March 18, we have received $47,468. That is nearly $4,532 up from our last report on Feb. 12.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed thus far. And for those who have not made a donation, it is still not too late. Everyone’s help is greatly appreciated and plays a major role in keeping the Bugle strong and able to continue operating.

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, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, Minn. 55108.

And now here is a list of our latest contributors:

Haley Anderson
Mary Boyd-Brent
Beverly Bybee
Linda Enterline
Shirley Espeland
Bjorn & Britt Gangeness
Lynne Hessler
Francine Kozel
Gayle Mangan
Martin & Judy McCleery
Greg Minton
Dennis & Turid Ormsnes
Amy Schneider Purdy
Daniel Rebek & Mary Rebek-Rebek
Scott Roste
Dan & Linda Severson
Mark & Alexia Ubbest
Jay Weiner & Ann Juergens
Mary Zorn

April showers bring May flowers

May flowers ... and hopefully some new listings for all the buyers looking in St. Anthony Park. Please call if you have any real estate needs.

I would love to work for you!

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Coldwell Banker Burnet
Office: 651-282-9630
Mobile: 612-790-5053
nmeeden@cbburnet.com
SAP Elementary School sets Read-a-thon records

By Sarah CR Clark

This year’s Read-a-thon was Olympic themed. The phrase “Read for the Gold” hung on a wall. A “burning” torch made of paper flames greeted students and staff at the front door.

Katie Loth, SAP parent and lead event volunteer, said, “Kids found ways to sneak reading into each and every part of their day, including bringing books to the lunchroom and recess.” Parents reported to Loth that they found their afternoons quiet as kids switched from loud playing to quiet reading.

While some students won gold by reading so prolifically, Duke claimed gold by performing the promised reward of fulfilling a crowd-pleasing dare she made this year: To complete a messy, Olympic-inspired obstacle course.

“Luckily the only thing that was too hard was climbing to the top of the tetherball pole,” Duke said, reflecting on the obstacle course challenge.

“By the end, I was soaking wet,” she added, explaining “I missed my long jump and fell in the kiddie pool!” That resulted in Duke getting covered with whipped cream and shaving cream.

“I also couldn’t see very well because my glasses were covered with whipped cream,” Duke claimed.

By Sarah CR Clark

Saint Anthony Park Elementary School’s 2020 Read-a-thon set new records in February, climaxing with principal Karen Duke fulfilling a pledge to take on a fun-filled, messy obstacle course if students met their reading goal.

From Feb. 7 to 16, the school’s students read for a combined total of 331,325 minutes, smashing the previous record of 320,090 minutes.

The students also raised $12,500, breaking previous fundraising goal.

“Read for the Gold!” hung on a Olympic-themed sign throughout the school.

Parents were happy to see their children engaged in reading.

“Students are so excited to read!” said Sarah Clark. “The Read-a-thon is the perfect way to encourage reading.”

While the students won gold in the obstacle course, the parents won gold in the fundraising.

“This is probably the closest I’ll come to the real Olympics, and it was a thrill!”

Sarah CR Clark

Spring Carnival coming to SAP Elementary

St. Anthony Park Elementary School plans to hold its annual Spring Carnival on Friday, May 1, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the school, 2180 Knapp St. The major fundraiser is open to students, parents and the public.

The event is “mostly about fun and school camaraderie,” said Alex Bollman, a lead organizer of the Spring Carnival and the father of two SAP Elementary School students.

“Kids are excited to have some more outdoor activities.”

Besides being a community celebration, the carnival is a major school fundraiser. This year’s fundraising goal is $7,500.

“Luckily the only thing that was too hard was climbing to the top of the tetherball pole,” Duke said, reflecting on the obstacle course challenge.

“By the end, I was soaking wet,” she added, explaining “I missed my long jump and fell in the kiddie pool!”

That resulted in Duke getting covered with whipped cream and shaving cream.

“I also couldn’t see very well because my glasses were covered with whipped cream, so I had to take them off,” Duke said. “This is probably the closest I’ll come to the real Olympics, and it was a thrill!”

Sarah CR Clark

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors

THANKS ALL VOLUNTEERS!

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25

Our 120 volunteers gave more than 1500 hours of service to the SAP community this past year. Our volunteer recognition event, Sweet Celebration, will be held when we can all get together again.

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUR SENIORS.

Please contact us if you would like help or would like to help during this time.

Wishing Everyone Health and Safety!

www.sapaseniors.org | 651.642.9052

Sarah CR Clark

St. Anthony Park Elementary School principal Karen Duke goes through a fun obstacle course in fulfilling a promise to undertake this test after students surpassed their goal for the annual Read-a-thon Challenge.
Como Park High students go to Washington

By Eric Erickson

Here is a roundup of some major news from Como Park Senior High School:

Twenty-seven seniors enrolled in AP Government and AP Macroeconomics classes at Como Park Senior High visited Washington, D.C., in late February as part of the national Close-Up program, which promotes civics education and participation in our democracy.

Como student highlights during the trip included study visits to national monuments and memorials including Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King Jr., Lincoln, World War II, Vietnam and Korea. They also visited the Smithsonian, the Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Holocaust Museum and unique Washington neighborhoods.

Students met with U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., and legislative aides for Minnesota's U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith at their Capitol Hill offices. While observing the House of Representatives in session from the House Gallery, Como students saw Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., present the Green New Deal resolution. Ocasio-Cortez's presentation was inspiring for several students, Gbolo said. “I have former students who are thriving in fields that our programs have exposed them to, which is really rewarding.”

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School. His classes include AP Government.

At the Science Fair

Students from Murray Middle School recently prepared to attend the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. The fair was held Feb. 28. Photo submitted by Timothy Chase.
Poetry Contest

By Scott Carlson

Susan Warde, a St. Anthony Park resident and writer, is the winner of the Bugle’s 10th annual poetry contest. This is the third time that Warde has won our annual contest that is held in April during National Poetry month. She also won in 2016 with her poem “Ashes to Ashes” and in 2013 with “The Seven Months That Aren’t Winter.”

This year, we asked our lyricists to draw their inspiration from these words: stress, contentment and/or peace. All entries were judged anonymously by former Bugle editor David Healy, also a longtime writer and poet from St. Anthony Park whose writings have appeared in the Turtle Quarterly, Dash, Elysian Fields Quarterly, and the Minneapolis Review of Baseball.

Healy chose what he considered the top three entries. As our first-place winner, Warde will receive $50. Second- and third-place finishers this year are Betty Wheeler and Marilynne Thomas Walton, respectively. Here are our top three poems:

**FIRST PLACE**

Susan Warde

**Departure**

If you’d stayed another week you’d have witnessed the abrupt retreat of winter. But there you are with your freeways and palm trees and ocean, your neon bougainvillea, your In-N-Out Burger, and you missed it.

You propped the snow shovel by the door and left me with a bag of Arctic Thaw and the number of the guy who plows the driveway. Then winter said what the hell, enough, and took off too. Just up and left.

Some snow still lies like rags in shadowed hollows, though less and less. The season’s dissolution drips and gurgles toward the storm drains. The silver maple’s buds have turned to fluff. The soil is pierced with green.

If you’d stayed another week you’d have seen these skies, benign blue winped with white, furrowed by returning geese, nothing like winter’s hard cerulean, nothing like L.A.’s smudged air, that’s for sure.

You may be partial to the static silences of the natural world. It’s even found in a talons outstretched at last minute, Scooping for target, then swooping up away, Ascending on helium wings, Plunging again, until nestlings fed, Or fishing from ice edge, midstream Along river bluffs. Bluffs, vertical at cliff edge, Fractures swelling water, Dripping through summer, In winter freezing at nodes, Along the cliff, as waterfalls. Silky, translucent. Thick overlapping layers Bending to gravity As the petals of gypsum flowers, In a cave candelabra, Hanging above the calcite rimstone dam. Silently flowing by, clear liquidity Turns back down, Alternately threading horizontal along Walls polished by eons of rain, then Finding the next fracture, And continuing the journey Ever downward, commanded by gravity, Uplifting, by pressure gradient Into the lake bottom. A lake that isn’t. Only a wider, deeper link of The River. Ever downward, commanded by gravity, Uplifting, by pressure gradient Into the lake bottom. A lake that isn’t. Only a wider, deeper link of The River. Flowing high and fast in flood stage. Quiet above, strong currents deep.

Healy’s review: There are some wonderful images here: geese furrowing the skies, an anticipation, perhaps, of the furrows that will result from certain green pirouette of the soil; the Mississippi’s brown determined hustle toward the Gulf. I like impending spring described as winter’s “dissolution,” that word containing both a chemical process—it and snow dissolving to water—and the idea of termination, John Steinbeck, though he lived in California, asserted, “I’ve lived in a good climate, and it bores the hell out of me. I like weather rather than climate.” Obviously, this writer does too.

**SECOND PLACE**

Betty Wheeler

**Exquisite Essence**

The elegance of a lily’s petals. Petals spread as the wings of an eagle Soaring on an updraft in early morning, Rising effortlessly, in ever-widening loops, Alternately, diving for prey, Talons outstretched at last minute, Scooping for target, then swooping up away, Ascending on helium wings, Plunging again, until nestlings fed, Or fishing from ice edge, midstream Along river bluffs. Bluffs, vertical at cliff edge, Fractures swelling water, Dripping through summer, In winter freezing at nodes, Along the cliff, as waterfalls. Silky, translucent. Thick overlapping layers Bending to gravity As the petals of gypsum flowers, In a cave candelabra, Hanging above the calcite rimstone dam. Silently flowing by, clear liquidity Turns back down, Alternately threading horizontal along Walls polished by eons of rain, then Finding the next fracture, And continuing the journey Ever downward, commanded by gravity, Uplifting, by pressure gradient Into the lake bottom. A lake that isn’t. Only a wider, deeper link of The River. Flowing high and fast in flood stage. Quiet above, strong currents deep.

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**THIRD PLACE**

Marilynne Thomas Walton

**My Fair Home**

I want to go home to my red house by the Fair; where syrup and corn dogs paint the viscous air.

Hoofed animals call from an old barn while chickens answer with waving wing-arms, flap-dancing their full-beaked alarum.

Skyride hovers in the intense blue sky; with people like pigeons flying over the magical Giant Slide.

I wish I could always stay in my little house by the Fair. See my lace curtains sway to beat of Grandstand song.

And each night fire works giant roses and peonies implode in the soft end of summer air

Oh, where did we go?

Healy’s review: Ah, the Fair. Indeed, its air is viscous, thick with the scent of culinary temptations. And those flap-dancing chickens: Ya gotta love ’em. To paraphrase Paul Simon, “Something tells me it’s all happening at the Fair.”

**Susan Warde**
COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

NURSING ASSISTANT POSITION:
Lyngblomsten Care Center, a 225 bed non-profit nursing facility located near Como Park in St. Paul, has openings for all shifts as a Nursing Assistant, Registered. The ideal candidate must be active on the MN Nursing Assistant registry. No prior experience is required. Since no one can care for others without first caring for themselves, Lyngblomsten offers a highly competitive wage and benefit package, a family-like atmosphere, and an engaged healthcare team to grow with!

If you are interested in being part of this innovative facility that puts residents first, apply in person or fax completed application (found at https://www.lyngblomsten.org) to Maddy Bean at 651-632-5438.

Lyngblomsten Care Center
1415 Almond Avenue
St Paul, MN 55108

AA/EEO

Biafra’s wall mural brightens Bro-Tex building

By Sarah CR Clark

The north side of the Bro-Tex building in St. Paul looks like a page from a comic book since last fall’s Chroma Zone Mural Festival.

Artist Biafra’s brightly colored character peers from the cement wall, removing her sunglasses to better witness a ship sinking. The doomed ship can only be seen reflected in her glasses.

Biafra explained that his mural, “Crisis,” was inspired by America’s current political and social climate. “Right now, our country is so divided on everything and everyone is at each other’s throats,” he said. “Our country is slowly sinking, and we are just standing by watching it happen.”

Biafra completed “Crisis,” his largest solo mural to date, with 30 cans of spray paint last September during the Chroma Zone Festival. The Bro-Tex building is located at 800 N. Hampden Ave.

“I had a great time with Chroma Zone. I only wish the weather had been better,” Biafra said. “It was great to see so many people out and about, wandering around the neighborhood checking out the murals and talking with each other.”

Biafra confessed that he enjoys checking out the murals every couple of weeks. “I really like looking at the bright colors.” Biafra’s biography swears that he hadn’t planned on being an artist. But after creating some stencils for his skateboard (and becoming interested then in graffiti and screen printing) he traded his education major for an art major, earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota. He describes his work as “text heavy and hard lines.” He said he uses comic book characters because they “are instantly relatable to every generation and represent an idealistic time.”

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

The Biafra wall mural can be seen at the Bro-Tex building in south St. Anthony Park. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.
At 5 a.m. March 10, cell phone screens across Saint Paul woke sleeping families with the message that school was cancelled for the day.

The texts read, “All St. Paul Public Schools and activities are canceled TODAY, due to a Saint Paul Federation of Educators union strike.”

On March 12, schools and activities remained cancelled. The educators demand more support: mental health support in each building, more multilingual teachers, and more special education support. The administration was uncertain how to fund added support.

On March 13, the parties reached a tentative settlement.

The teachers’ union said it had achieved some gains and wanted to terminate their walkout, in part, due to complications with the burgeoning COVID-19 crisis.

Coronavirus from p. 1

“will be happy to help with your shopping needs. Neighborhood delivery, curbside service or UPS shipping. Gift cards available.”

“Think of us for care package supplies and Easter needs. We have extended spring break, and we are shipping. Gift cards available.”

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Families

Close to home, families are suddenly finding themselves together—in this historically chaotic moment—with a lot of quality time. Schools, churches, museums and gyms are closed. Many employers are encouraging employees to work from home.

Amelia Corl, mother of two young sons and strategy officer at GHR Foundation, has found her son’s preschool closed, as well as her and her husband’s offices. She and her husband have made offices for themselves in their basement.

Corl said, “It feels important to take one day at a time since everything is unfolding so quickly. While we have resources to work from home and the privilege of (at least for now) continued childcare, we all miss being in community with our colleagues and classmates. It all still feels so new, like maybe it’s just a bad storm. But there are potentially many weeks of this ahead, and we need to commit to compassion and care towards ourselves and others.”

The Cakir Snyder family, similarly, is trying to isolate as much as possible, particularly since Metin Cakir recently returned home from a trip in northern California. Samantha Snyder is a professor at Macalester College and while she’s technically on an extended spring break, her three classes will go online once the session resumes. For the moment though, Snyder is spending most of her time caring for her two daughters.

“For now, I am trying to keep the kids on some kind of schedule, make sure we get outside twice a day, and only turn to screens as a last resort,” Snyder said. “It’s exhausting work. It has been a challenge for my patience both towards my family and myself.”

However, Snyder is grateful that she and her husband will both be able to work from home until business and schools return to normal.

“I know that we have a ton of privilege that a lot of other families don’t,” she continued, “I can’t imagine trying to do this while also needing to figure out childcare and going out into the world to work, worried about sharing my family’s germs or picking others up outside.”

Government, community organizations

Meanwhile, community organizations, public and government offices are also hunkering down. Co-Creatz, a community of- fice-sharing and networking collaborative, said it closed its office to walk-in traffic from the public on Tuesday, March 17.

The St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council has cancelled all upcoming events and said it will be conducting its board and committee meetings online through at least April.

At Lauderdale, Administrator Heather Burkwski said the City Council will, for the time being, hold its meetings remotely as the council chambers do not allow for proper social distancing. More information on how to access the meetings will be posted in the next few days as CTV helps the city set that up, she said.

And in Falcon Heights, all rentals of city facilities have been cancelled until further notice.
The drumbeat of the woodpeckers

This winter I’ve been trying to learn to identify woodpeckers by their drumming. I’ve been hearing a lot of drumming as I take the dog out for walks in the mornings. But I rarely see the woodpecker who’s making the sound. It seems that the woodpecker is always on the other side of the trunk or the branch and I can’t see it. That’s made it hard to learn what species is doing the drumming.

Woodpeckers drum for several reasons. The male may drum to attract a mate or to commu-nicate with its partners. You can often hear the mate drum back in response, so let the male know where she is. I’ve tried to figure out what species of woodpecker is making which drumming pattern, but there are only a few I can recognize.

Often, the woodpecker will vocalize during a pause in its drumming. That’s one way I can get a clue as to what species is doing the thrumming.

The vocalization of the downy is energetic “peek.” The memory aid is “pick-pick.” I learned to remember this by thinking of short bill, short vowel sound. They also do a whiny, a descending call.

The hairy woodpecker looks just like the downy, but it’s a bit larger. I can usually identify it by its longer bill. I tell beginning birders in order to separate downies and hairyies, imagine taking it by the beak, bend that beak back along the side of the head (don’t try this with the bird itself!), and, if the beak extends beyond the eye, it’s a hairy woodpecker.

If you’re fortunate enough to see a downy and a hairy close to one another, the size difference is pretty obvious. But you usually only see one or the other, not both at once. Here that white patch on the back of the head is supposed to resemble hair, rather than the down on the smaller woodpecker. “The hairy call is a very energetic ‘peek.’ The memory aid is long bill, long vowel sound.

The red-bellied woodpecker is one that often confuses folks. Years ago, when bird identification was done over the end of a gun barrel, this bird was first identified “in hand.” And when you can flush away the body feathers on the stomach, you’ll see a red/pink down against the skin.

Even though it’s small, I’ve heard a downy woodpecker giving a very healthy drumming to a telephone pole. The male has a red patch on the back of its head. The female’s head has no such patch. The vocalization of the downy is “pick-pick.” I learned to remember this by thinking of short bill, whiny sound.

The male red-bellied woodpecker makes an area of small holes on the trunk of a tree in spring. This is called a sap well. Other birds who’ve learned that sweet sap will come to taste the sap, get stuck, and make a handy snack for the returning sapsucker, and other birds who’ve learned the trick. The drumming of the yellow-bellied sapsucker starts strong and then tails off to a few disconnected raps. It’s another rhythm I can usually recognize.

The pileated woodpecker is our largest woodpecker. It’s the size of a crow. The pileated woodpecker’s drumming rhythm is distinctive. It’s a solid thudding that echoes through the woods. It also gives a “cuk-cuk” call that rises in volume and pitch and then falls off. The call reminds me of Woody Woodpecker of cartoon fame. The pileated looks a lot like Woody also, with a red plume of feathers on the top of its head.

I’ve learned to identify a few woodpecker species by their drumming. But it helps if they vocalize or show themselves. This is quite a fun challenge!
EDITOR’S NOTE: Due to the coronavirus, many groups and organizations had, at press time, cancelled events and closed their locations through the end of March. Further cancellations into April are also possible. Please check with the Saint Anthony Park Library, St. Anthony Park Area Seniors and St. Paul city parks and recreation centers on the status of any events or activities listed below. Thanks.
A pioneering ecologist, one woman was 100, a man who was the owner of Campus Bikes and a former teacher and piano player are among the people we remember in this edition of "Lives Lived."

**John Tester**

John Robert Tester, 89, St. An- thony Park, died Nov. 16, 2019. He was a pioneering ecologist at the University of Minnesota whose research took him around the world. He wrote a groundbreaking book on the state's ecology, "Minnesota's Natural Heritage." It will be re-released next year in its 25th anniversary.

Tester helped found the U's Department of Ecology, Evo- lution and Behavior, where he taught for decades. He was one of the first to raise alarm about global warming.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce, sons Hans and Peter, daughter-in-law Maya and two granddaughters. A celebration of John's life was held Jan. 11 at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Donations can be made to the University of Minnesota's John Tester Trusta Research Fund. https://makingagift.umn.edu/give/fund.html?id=23277.

Lorraine Bender

Lorraine M. Bender, 100, died Feb. 21, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Bob; children Pamela, Mi- chele (Dean), Roger, Mike (Jodi) and David; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Joan was a longtime member of Maternity of Mary Catholic Church. Special thanks to New Perspective Seniors Living in Rose- ville and HealthPartners Hospice. Memorials preferred to Catholic Charities of St. Paul. Her memo- rial service was held March 9 at Roseville Memorial Chapel.

Leroy Halvorsen

Leroy (Roy) O. Halvorsen, 87, of Falcon Heights, died Feb. 21, 2020. He was born Oct. 11, 1932, to Oscar and Pauline (Freowold) Halvorsen in Greenwood, Minn. He grew up in Swatara, Minn., with his eight sisters and one brother, and graduated from Hill City High School in 1950.

Roy enlisted in the Air Force and spent four years serving during the Korean War. He met his wife Marge upon his arrival in the Twin Cities in 1956 and they were married on Aug. 3, 1957, at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Roy attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a BBA degree in 1959. Roy spent his 31-year working career at Great Northern Railroad and its successor Burlington North- ern, where he retired as director of shortline services.

During his retirement, Roy and Marge were volunteers at the Roseville Area Senior Program. Roy also participated in St. Paul Winter Carnival Senior Royalty activities and was the prime min- ister in 2003.

Roy was extremely proud of his Norwegian heritage, as all four of his great-grandparents emigrated from Norway. He was preceded in death by his par- ents, one brother and seven sis- ters. Leroy is survived by his wife Marge; daughter Lucia, son Mark (Vicky); and sister Rose Reich. A funeral service was held Feb. 28 at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis.

John Hamre

John M. “Jack” Hamre, 83, died March 7, 2020. He was preceded in death by parents Alfred and Stella, sis- ter Stella Ann and brothers-in-law Richard Huhta and Merlin Olson. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Laura; chil- dren Jacqueline (Robert), Keith (Lynne) and Lauren (Theresa); seven grandchildren; nine great- grandchildren; and siblings James (Corrine), Elaine and Paul (Carol).

Jack was a teacher and ele- mentary librarian in the Duluth school system from 1967 to 1994. He then enjoyed being a wise Texan for 18 years. His retirement activities included reading, playing with his grandchildren and then his great-grandchildren.

He had a wonderful sense of hu- mor and a great wit. He always enjoyed being with his family. He was a loving, kind, witty and helpful person who acted from a deep faith and kind heart. A celebration of his life was held March 14 at Como Park Luthe- ran Church.

Alice Hultmann

Alice J. Hultmann, 99, died Feb. 17, 2020. She was a former teach- er, piano player, bridge player, crafter and volunteer.

She was preceded in death by husband John and daughter Mary. She is survived by daugh- ters Ruth Ann (Tony) Yocum, Virginia (John) Eken and Nancy (David) Drach; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Her memorial service was held Feb. 20 at Como Park Lutheran Church. Memorials preferred to the church or Presbyterian Homes.

**Marjorie Kight**

Marjorie Kight, 95, died Feb. 26, 2020. She served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a teacher and a librarian with the St. Paul Public School System.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents Guy and Elizabeth, brother Jack and sister Mary. She is survived by nephews Guy Kight, Timothy Kight and family; niece Marguerite (James) Clements and family, and cousin Mary Japel and family.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 4 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Calvary Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Memori- ty of Mary Church.

Floyd Klein

Floyd J. Klein, 86, died Feb. 15, 2020. He was preceded in death by wife Julie and parents Her- man and Emma. He is survived by...
Newcomer challenges Hausman for DFL backing in House 66A

by Anne Holzman

A Como Park neighborhood woman is challenging longtime incumbent Alice Hausman for the DFL endorsement to state House District 66A, which includes parts of St. Anthony Park and Como Park neighborhoods in St. Paul and also Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and part of Roseville.

Hausman was first elected in 1982 and is now serving her 15th term. If ultimately re-elected, her term would begin before any legislative redistricting occurs under the 2020 U.S. Census.

Challenger Cari Ness decided to run for office after her experience as a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota. She ran for District 10 council and served one term in 2017-2018.

Ness said she hopes to serve on the council’s Environment Committee as a community member.

Margaret Meier
Margaret Ruth (Henning) Meier, 82, died Feb. 11, 2020. She was born April 23, 1937, in Milwaukee to Clarence and Norma Henning. She graduated from Columbia Nursing School and married Norbert Meier Sept. 14, 1957.

She served as a pastor’s wife and missionary in Billings, Mont.; Tokyo, Japan; Fairbanks, Alaska; St. Paul; and Kumbu, Cameroon.

She worked as an R.N. at St. Anthony’s and Comforts of Home nursing homes. She was preceded in death by her husband, brother and son-in-law Dale. She is survived by her children Pam (Wayne) Iserman, Jeff (Hope), Cheryl (Wayne) Brown, Debbie Johnson (Denise McNaughton); eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held March 19 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Rosewell Cemetery.

M. Edward Nicholson
M. Edward Nicholson, 84, died Feb. 11, 2020. He was born July 20, 1935, in Minneapolis to Edward and Evelyn Nicholson. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Margie, and their children, Lisa (Jon) Beckman, Tim (Elly) and 12 grandchildren.

Heartfelt thanks to Kristy Yu for her many years of loving care and friendship.

Aloise Smith
Aloise “Posy” Smith, 85, died March 7, 2020. She was the daughter of J. Seneca and Rose Johnson. She was preceded in death by her husband, two children, brother and sister. "She had a sweet tooth that she passed on to her girls! Heartfelt thanks to Kristy Yu for her many years of loving care and friendship.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 12 at the Church of Our Lady of Grace with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Sidewalk: Brett Rose is running for House 66A as a Republican. He lives in Roseville with his spouse and one child. His website is “Dealing with the econ- omy” as a key issue.

by children Steve, Nancy Strom, Tom, (Don) Thiers, John and Paul (Deb); eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Ness got involved in the Senate District 66 DFL party and was interim vice chair leading up to the 2018 convention.

"Last year, on a road trip to Yellowstone Park, she decided to run for the House. "I had a heavy realization about how things are changing," she said, citing climate change as a strength of her campaign.

Meanwhile, Hausman said before every election, she meets with other seasoned lawmakers, asking, “Do I want to do this again?”

This time she met with Sen. John Marty and former Rep. Mindy Greiling and discussed the impact redistricting might have on subsequent elections. Hausman lives in St. Anthony Park and saw her district substantially redrawn in 2011.

Hausman also thought about the special election to replace Minneapolis Rep. Diane Loeffler, who died Nov. 16, while in office. When there’s no incumbent, she said, more candidates try for the seat. In this case, “there were lots of candidates,” Hausman said. “They have a good debate. And then they re-draw the lines and they’re not in the district.”

Hausman said she expects another round of changes after the 2020 Census, in part because so many apartment buildings are going up.

“It’s a practical reason to do this one more time,” she said.

Of her long service in the House, Hausman, said, “I think in most professions, experience helps. When you know what you’re doing, you can do an amazing amount of work even if you’re in the minority.”

she said she would abide by the endorsement.

Meanwhile, Hausman said she’d like to get another daily Am- plication tool and do it now. There’s so much urgency around this and criminal justice and health care.

Ness explained that while knocking on doors for other can- didates, she has met experts on climate change whose voices she believes should be heard at the Capitol.

“The demographics of this dis- trict have changed significantly,” said Ness, who is married with two children. “I’m running to flip what I see as a very divided district and I want to make it the model of representation to be more inclusive.”

Ness, who worked at Minne- sota Public Radio as a fundraiser and now works for an offshoot of the radio network that pro- cesses donations and funds rides for seniors, cites fundraising as a strength of her campaign.

The World needs traveling! When you are ready to plan your trip, we are here for you.

Francis Wethern
Francis “Frank” Wethern, 97, died Feb. 21, 2020, at the Minne- sota Veterans Home. He was preceded in death by his wife Lois and his youngest and eldest sons, Francis and Thomas. Wethern is survived by nine children, Mary (Bill) Moeller, Terry (Ray) Finn, Bern (Sherr- ri), Philip, Clare, Marge, Anita (Tony) Deutsch, John (Amy) and Lorraine; 25 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and broth- er Gene. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 27 at the Church of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to the Minnesota Veterans Home.
immediate systems. Take extra care to choose chemical-free trees and shrubs, as their sources are harder for sellers to track. Visit www.pollinatorfriendly.org and see how to “opt-in.”

Letters from p. 4

continue to find ways to reduce carbon emissions and be smarter about how we use energy. The hard reality is that separating Minnesota from fossil fuels is something much bigger than Line 3 that will take decades to get done. So what do we do in the meantime? Minnesota needs to take responsibility for our energy needs and energy safety. This is why the PUC spent years reviewing Line 3. There are strong rules in place for things like pipelines and the review of the project made it better as things were changed. Line 3 has passed every test. The perfect scenario is that Minnesota needs to take line away from the Leech Lake tribal reservation and avoid more environmentally sensitive areas. Blocking the replacement line will leave a corrodioning and cracking pipeline in place, creating a needless risk that should be addressed. The perfect scenario is that tomorrow Minnesota immediately stops using carbon-based fuel. That may happen someday. But for the immediate future, we need a transition plan. We need to rebuild Line 3 and Minnesota needs to let this process move forward.

Sincerely, Kevin Fjelsted
St. Paul
Como’s winter athletics season wrapped up before the coronavirus halted all school and sporting activities.

For student athletes, their athletic competition helped them develop deeper bonds with peers and the Como school community. Here’s a summary of Cougar winter sports.

Wrestling
For two Como Park Cougars, the season concluded where every wrestler wants to be: The state meet at the Xcel Energy Center.

In his second competitive season of wrestling, junior Bleah Paw placed second in the Section 4AA Meet in the 113 lb. weight class and qualified for state. He became the first Karen wrestler representing Como to ever go to state.

Sophomore Ronnie Porter was honored by the Pioneer Press as one of five finalists for the East Metro Player of the Year. Porter and fellow sophomore Kaylynn Aeberry reached the 1,000-point career milestone in January. The dynamic duo both earned All-Conference in the St. Paul City.

Sophomores Shakyla Walker, Jada James, Cloye Dmytryk and Makayla Holton, junior Jaylen Smith and senior Jakwonna Baker were selected All-Conference honorable mention.

Meanwhile, in related news the Murray Middle School girls’ basketball team had another stellar season. For the second consecutive season, the Pilots were undefeated in the middle school division of the St. Paul City Conference. The team will carry a 25-game winning streak into next season with eyes on a three-peat.

This year’s championship squad was led by eighth graders Ellery Tenneson, Genna Spenner, Alice Wagner-Hemstad and Taylor Williams plus seventh-grade standouts Clarise Freberg and Elayna VanNet.

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

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