Fans of Como Park Zoo's Sparky the Sea Lion won't have to wait much longer to see the popular pinniped in his new digs. Como Harbor, whose originally planned opening was delayed about nine months because of the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to be unveiled to the general public on June 3. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for 10 a.m.

The project was primarily funded with a $15 million bonding appropriation from the 2017 Minnesota Legislature. The remainder of the $21 million project was raised by Como Friends, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's nonprofit partner, along with individuals, corporations and foundations.

The exhibit space depicts the northern California coastal habitat of seals and sea lions. It features year-round viewing (with indoor and outdoor saltwater pools), underwater viewing (similar to the zoo's Polar Bear Odyssey) and an up-close look at the animals and their care and training. The addition also includes a shaded amphitheater, new restrooms, a restaurant and a picnic area. All are wheelchair accessible.

Como Harbor replaces Seal Island (originally Monkey Island), built in the 1930s for monkeys as part of a federal Works Project Administration effort. That facility was later converted for use by seals, along with the addition of an amphitheater. The old amphitheater's pool could not be used with saltwater and sat empty each year over the winter.

"We had originally planned to open Como Harbor in the fall of 2020," said Matt Reinartz, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory marketing and public relations manager. "But with the uncertainty of COVID, we chose last summer to delay that opening for when the community could more come together and celebrate in June."

The new amphitheater is the same size as the former one and will be able to seat up to 1,000, once it is deemed safe to do so under COVID guidelines. "We are planning to open habitat so that guests can see the animals in their new space and have another celebration later this summer/fall for the return of full-on shows," Reinartz said. "We hope that at some point we can fill the seats."

The seals and sea lions—which are pinnipeds—will have access to Como Harbor year-round, Reinartz said. The new facility will have some new faces. Over the past year, Nico, a sea lion, harbor seals Killian and Kash and Atlantic gray seals Stanley and Wallace joined sea lions. It features northern California coastal habitat of seals and sea lions. It features year-round viewing (with indoor and outdoor saltwater pools), underwater viewing (similar to the zoo's Polar Bear Odyssey) and an up-close look at the animals and their care and training. The addition also includes a shaded amphitheater, new restrooms, a restaurant and a picnic area. All are wheelchair accessible. Como Harbor replaces Seal Island (originally Monkey Island), built in the 1930s for monkeys as part of a federal Works Project Administration effort. That facility was later converted for use by seals, along with the addition of an amphitheater. The old amphitheater's pool could not be used with saltwater and sat empty each year over the winter.

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The Aquatic Animal Building, which has undergone renovation, will provide their indoor living area, along with the penguins and puffins. Renovation of the Aquatic Animal Building includes new aquarium tanks of Caribbean reef, lion fish and an octopus. Reinartz said: "The Sparky Show," which debuted in 1956, remains a popular feature at the zoo. When will it return?

"We hope once the animals get acclimated to their new home," Reinartz said. "There will likely be times when visitors will see zookeepers working with the seals and sea lions as part of the show."

Cigale Ahlquist is a Twin Cities freelance writer who is a regular contributor to the Bugle.
At Large: Sarah Reuter, Chad
Chair: Jill Henricksen
Elected to two-year terms: 
members to officer positions.
Nine elected to District 10 Board
Como Community Council
District 10
Como and St. Anthony Park community councils news
District 10
Community Council
Nine elected to District 10 Board
At its in annual elections in April, Como community members vot-
ed in three new District 10 board members, re-elected four incumb-
ents and elevated two current members to officer positions. Elected to two-year terms:
Chair: Jill Henticken
Secretary: Jennifer Nelson
At Large: Sarah Reuter, Chad Smith (new), and Jennifer Victor Larsen

Kuchta leaves District Council 10 for Wisconsin

By Scott Carlson
After nearly six years as executive director of the District 10 Como Community Council, Michael Kuchta has left to become the new town administrator in La Pointe, Wis.
Kuchta starts his new post on June 1, a move that he said gives him the opportunity to take his career in a new direction before he eventually retires.
“His (La Pointe position) is just my next adventure,” said Kuchta, who began his career in journalism and has worked for newspapers, then in labor union communica-
tions before joining District 10 in October, 2015.
“I just want to try something else.”
LaPointe, home to Madeline Is-
land, covers about 43 square miles and has a year-round population of about 300 to 400 people. In the summer season, the town swells to about 3,000 to 4,000 residents plus tourists and visitors.
The Wisconsin town’s outdoor amenities are part of the attraction in taking his new job, said Kuchta, who enjoys biking, canoeing and camping.
St. Paul City Council member Amy Breemdoen, whose Ward 5
territory includes the Como neigh-
borhood, said the District 10/Com-
mo Community Council will miss Kuchta.

Como and St. Anthony Park community councils news

New mascot chosen
After votes from more than 300 Como residents, District 10 has chosen a Como neighborhood mascot: the great horned owl. The council said it is seeking a person who can provide “leadership, vi-
sion and the administrative foun-
dation for the Council, its activists, and its activities.
“The director often is the most
visible representative of the dis-
tric council. An ability to provide
continuity and connections, to or-
ganize and mobilize community
assets, to expand capacity, to nav-
gate systems and personalities and to combine practical and aspira-
tional goals heavily influences the organziator’s success.”
An initial review of candidates was scheduled to begin May 20, but applications are being accepted until the position is filled. To learn more about the position, go to www.district10comopark.org.
Scott Carlson is Bugle managing editor.

New mission, vision statements adopted
At its annual meeting in April, the Como Community Council Board adopted a new mission statement and, for the first time, a vision statement.
• The mission (which is the board’s definition of why the community council exists): We connect and empower each other, creating a compassionate community, cou-
ragously addressing injustices of the past and present and forging a bold and inclusive future.
• The vision (which defines the re-
sult of what the community coun-
cil hopes to achieve): A vibrant, diverse, affordable neighborhood filled with a spirit of kindness and belonging.
For an overview of the board’s activ-
ties during the past year, watch this recording: https://youtu.
be/SUUtC1nSf

It’s nature’s way?
Are you concerned or puzzled by a visible increase of wildlife on city streets?
Adam Robbins, natural re-
sources supervisor for Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, recently told District 10’s Land Use Committee members how the city decodes whether or not to interfere with nature and how residents should react if they encounter wild crea-
tures. He also discussed how res-
dents can help the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities Coyote and Fox Project (https://tccfp.unn.
edu/) track these animals as they expand their urban range.
To view these and other pre-
sentations, check out the District Council’s “This Is A Recording” page at http://www.district10comopark.org/recordings.html

District 10 meetings
Community members are always welcome to participate in Dis-
tric 10’s board and committee meetings.
To obtain links, phone numbers or other access information, send a request by email to: district10@dis-

tric10comopark.org. Or, call 651-
644-3889. Upcoming meetings:
• Anti-Racism Work Group: Wednesday, May 26
• Neighborhood Relations: Tuesday, June 1
• Land Use: Wednesday, June 2
• Environment: Wednesday, June 9
• Board meeting: Tuesday, June 15
All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

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City Files to p. 10
SAP Garden Club tour June 26

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club will host its 20th tour of local gardens on Saturday, June 26. This year’s 10-garden tour will have some different procedures to follow due to current COVID-19 safety recommendations.

Tickets are $15 apiece, can only be purchased online at http://StAnthonyParkGardenClub.com and will not be available on the day of the tour.

Tour start times are scheduled every 15 minutes from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and tour-goers are asked to sign up and pick a starting time. The 10 gardens will be available for viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Maps with starting locations will be handed out 15 minutes before each start time from the St. Anthony Park Library lawn, 2245 Como Ave.

Small groups can begin their tours together provided they observe social distancing from other tour-goers. For further details, check the Garden Club’s website. The gardens are in four clusters. Tour-goers will arrive at a cluster and see two to three gardens before moving to the next cluster. As usual, volunteers and gardener hosts will be available to answer questions and to help manage safety precautions.

The 10 gardens on the tour showcase a diversity of approaches and environments to gardening. St. Anthony Park’s glacially formed terrain is seen in three gardens that feature spectacular views of our ravines. Two more have water features on the crest of a steep ridge that runs through the Park.

Two of the gardens celebrate deep shade, while others offer blooming perennials and pollinator plantings. Seven of the gardens are new to the tour.

Water is a main feature in the garden of Deb Bordsen and Norm Bailey. Submitted photo.

Submitted by Karen Pervo, tour co-chair

Local UCC churches cancel medical debt for needy families

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ and Falcon Heights Unit ed Church of Christ are showing their small congregations can do “big impact” service projects. They recently helped cancel long-standing medical debt of nearly $2,178 households in Minnesota and four other states.

Together, the two UCC churches donated $28,275 that eliminated qualifying debts available for viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gardens are in four clusters. Tour-goers will arrive at a cluster and see two to three gardens before moving to the next cluster. As usual, volunteers and gardener hosts will be available to answer questions and to help manage safety precautions.

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Submitted by Karen Pervo, tour co-chair

Stop Carlson, Bugle managing editor

Honor Your Graduate in the Park Bugle!

Celebrate your graduate’s accomplishment by placing an ad in our July 2021 Park Bugle edition.

Go to: https://www.parkbugle.org/graduation-ads/

The online form is at the top of the page.

• Fill in the fields
• Upload a photo (file name should be student name, 300ppi, jpg or tif format)
• Select size of ad
• Complete payment option

Two size/price options:

$25 = 1 column x 1.625" $45 = 2 columns x 1.625"

All ads will be printed in black & white.

Deadline: Wednesday, June 9, 2021

ST. ANTHONY PARK GARDEN CLUB

Saturday, June 26

morning and afternoon

rain or shine

ADVANCE TICKETS: $15.00 (NO DAY-OF SALES) at www.STAnthonyParkGardenClub.com

With the challenges of shade, hillsides and small spaces, these 10 gardens create artful urban oases.

Featuring native plants, water features, bee- and pollinator-friendly gardens and sustainable landscaping for shade and sun.

Tickets will have timed entry for COVID spacing.

Benefits U of M horticulture scholarships & public gardening. FFI: www.STAnthonyParkGardenClub.com

ST. ANTHONY PARK PATH SALE

Saturday, June 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Corner of Como & Luther Place (across from Speedy Market)
• Seededs edibles, perennials and annuals plus houseplants
• Handmade 5" tomato cages and other gardening items
• Hostas and Siberian Iris grown at SAP library garden

Masks & distancing required for volunteers & shoppers. Checks encouraged. Cash & Venmo/PayPal accepted

Presented by St. Anthony Park Garden Club

$45 = 2 columns x 1.625”

$25 = 1 column x 1.625”

Not to scale

Congratulations! We are so proud of you! We love you! Wishing you all the best on the next adventure in your life! We love you! Wishing you all the best on the next adventure in your life! We love you!
E D I T O R I A L

From the Desk of the Editor

By Scott Carlson

Exaggerated demise

In the late 1880s, American novelist Mark Twain allegedly said, “Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated.”

Today, the same thing may be said about America’s newspaper industry. While the newspaper industry is under intense pressure from other media, a significant number of papers have folded shop in the past decade, it’s a great exaggeration to say newspapers are dying or that no one reads them anymore.

Some of these same persuasive thoughts were running through my mind as I was preparing to participate last month on a virtual panel with two other local journalists (Tesha Christensen of the Midway Monitor and Kelly Smith of the Star Tribune) for the Como Community Council’s Sunday speakers series. Our panel discussion was titled “Old Media Navigate a New Era.”

Some pundits tend to characterize newspapers as “old media” that aren’t keeping up with the times or readers’ preferences. But the real truth is that newspapers are more relevant than ever, with scores of them having adapted to the times by running impressive websites and investing in digital communications.

In her slide presentation during our panel discussion, Tesha noted that people of all ages continue to read newspapers, both in print and online. For example, people in Generation Z (those born between 1996 and 2006) are more likely to read print only rather than digital only, according to data from Vivicad.

And “cross-platform reading is consistent across all generations.”

Meanwhile, it is undeniably important that newspapers as providers of straight news and information are playing a major role today in our democracy, especially in an era of increasing political turmoil. However, despite all of the challenges of the difficult past year, the Bugle is enjoying strong community support. That is something to celebrate as we near the time of our annual board meeting, which will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on June 2.

We will tell you more about our annual meeting, about the strategic planning we have undertaken in the past several months and where we see the Bugle heading in the near- and longer-term future.

Send payment to P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108

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Upcoming Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. As always, we appreciate when writers and readers submit their articles early. Aside from breaking news, most articles need to be submitted ahead of the scheduled deadlines.

Please note our publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days. Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town are usually completed in two to three days after publication.

Issue

July 2021

August 2021

September 2021

Publication

July 16

August 14

September 11

L E T T E R S

Impact of energy fuel choices

How energy is created and distributed impacts us all. That said, it does not impact us all equally.

Burning fossil fuels to create energy is unhealthy. What is less publicized is how our energy choices impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities. Numerous studies note that BIPOC communities are exposed to greater pollution, directly based on the energy choices we make.

Then there is the cost of energy. We all want cheap energy and smaller energy bills. What is less publicized is that many studies show that because of BIPOC communities have higher energy burdens while their white counterparts. BIPOC families are often burdened by the double burden, which adds to their overall economic stress.

These issues impact St. Paul residents and students in the Saint Paul Public Schools. It may seem odd to connect these issues to a school system. But I do so to highlight efforts being taken within the SPPS community to address these issues. Let’s take them one at a time.

First, staff, students and community members are working on gathering support to encourage SPPS leaders to create community solar gardens at SPPS schools. These efforts would take steps toward cleaner SPPS communities and help the pocketbooks of SPPS families.

Currently, more than 800 people have signed the solar schools petition, including 200 plus students. You can sign the following link: https://(forms.watch?v=iRwSn6zX_lU)

Second, the Saint Paul Federation of Educators, West Side Community Organization, and the Eastside Freedom Library held a school board candidate forum that highlighted the issues of climate, pollution and sustainability.

Potential future board members (and one current one) discussed plans on how SPPS could embrace renewable energy and do it in a way to benefit our students and families most at risk.

These are positive steps, but to make his happen, we need SPPS leadership to hear our voices, that the time now is to lead on climate, racial and economic justice. We need you. Thank you.

Tom Lucy, Como Park

Handicapped parking needed

It’s grand to see St. Anthony Park merchants and restaurants starting to flourish again. But . . . there’s a group of potential customers who need action by the business owners to flourish again. But . . . there’s a mighty parking need within this south side of the city. The library has one for its clients.

But the one that used to exist on the west side of Milton Square has long been crossed out. Why? For Como Avenue shops, how about one near the hardware store, where there’s already a wide curb cut from previous uses of those buildings? Hope the St. Anthony Park business owners will respond with action aimed at this need.

Mary Mergenthal

St. Anthony Park

Push for solar energy

Because climate change demands local as well as national and international action, and because the St. Paul Public Schools plans to spend more than $500 million on school facilities over the next five years, five local organizations are joining together to urge the district to make greater use of solar and other emerging forms of energy. We invite you to join this effort.

Mary Mergenthal

St. Anthony Park

PARK BUGLE • JUNE 2021

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Next deadline: June 16, 2021
Publication date: June 29, 2021
Distribution: 5 to 10 business days

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

Opinions expressed in the Bugle by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc. Copyright 2021, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

Currently serving on the board are: Josh Becerra, Rosann Cahill, Liz Danielson, Betsy Carlson, Barb Hawes, Liz Rendahl, and board member Merry Rendahl.

Steve Plagens, Mary Mergenthaler, Liz Danielson, Barb Hawes, Steve Plagens, Merry Rendahl, Kristin Wiesma

Mary Mergenthaler

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VOICES: Michelle Xiong

Michelle Xiong is finishing her junior year at Como Park Senior High School. She identifies as Asian American.

Michelle enjoys video games and art. After high school, she plans to attend college to pursue a degree related to human resources. Michelle and her family requested that her photo not be included with this column, a request the Bugle has honored.

Q: Michelle, how are high schoolers talking about recent racially motivated violence (like the Georgia mass shootings targeting Asian Americans or local shootings of Black individuals)?

A: Many teenagers are using social media to get their ideas and thoughts across nowadays. Two of the most notable social media platforms used are Instagram and Twitter. On these platforms, you’ll find many young people using or participating in hashtags and trends that are typically designed to spread awareness of social issues—including, but not limited to, racially motivated violence. Teenagers also don’t seem to shy away from protests addressing social issues.

Q: What was it like for you on the day Derek Chauvin was convicted?

A: I was at home doing schoolwork, just like any other day for me. But I knew it was a very stressful and relieving day for many people. I found out that Chauvin was convicted after logging onto Reddit, a popular forum website, and saw articles about the trial being shared and linked across the platform.

After reading the news, I shared it with my friends. I felt that Chauvin’s being convicted of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter was fair and just, and my friends were on board with those thoughts.

Q: Have you been treated differently or unfairly because of your race or age or sex?

A: It’s hard to remember any specific situations where I was treated badly enough to warrant keeping a memory of it. All of my life, I’ve gone to schools with diverse student bodies, so I don’t think I’ve ever been treated differently because of my race. Can’t say the same for some people I know though.

But there definitely have been times where I’ve been ridiculed for my nationality, which is American. This usually only happens when interacting with foreigners. The most recent incident was when someone told me “I probably had five brain cells” after I disclosed that I was American. It wasn’t that serious, but I thought it was pretty funny.

On a more serious note, getting discriminated against because of age seems to be somewhat a common thing that happens to many people. I remember often thinking I was unimportant because I’d be ignored or brushed off when talking to adults when I was younger. It was likely because a lot of adults forget that kids will more often than not be forever impacted by the interactions they’ve had. I’ve also seen older folks be discount(ed) too.

Q: If you could coach the Como Park High School neighborhoods to be more racially sensitive, what lessons would you share?

A: I remember learning about the “Ten Stages of Genocide” a couple years ago. It’s interesting because it organizes such a menacing concept into only a few stages that I think the average person can easily comprehend.

It’s a good way to make sure you’re not doing anything that could lead to extreme prejudices. These stages can be applied to just about anything or topic, whether it be a certain race, age, sex, nationality, a certain hobby or literally anything else. (Editor’s note: For information on stages of genocide, check out this website: https://genocideeducation.org/resources/teaching-guides/)

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

Know of someone who would be an interesting subject for Voices? Please email sarah.clark@gmail.com or Bugle editor Scott Carlson at editor@parkbugle.org.

Join our Bugle annual meeting June 22!

Editor’s note: This news post is from Gabrielle Lawrence, the outgoing chairperson of the Park Bugle board of directors:

First, a big thank you for your wonderful financial support this year! The generosity of our community members has given our little newspaper a huge boost and has truly been a bright spot in this challenging year.

The Bugle Board took the opportunity during this year of Covid to execute a deep dive into the purpose of our newspaper, clarify our mission and develop a plan for the future. How will we accomplish this? Well, we’ve got a dynamic vision and strategic plan!

And we want to make sure that you have a chance to hear about it.

To that end, we invite you to attend a Bugle Annual Community Meeting (virtually), at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 22.

• Brief annual Bugle business meeting that keeps The Bugle healthy and strong; elect the slate of new board members and officers and approve the budget for the coming year.

• Unveiling of the Bugle’s Vision and Strategic Plan. We’ll share the bold and important work for this coming year.

• We welcome Clay Christensen, the Bugle’s Birdman of Lauderdale, as our guest speaker on the topic, “In Defense of Crows.”

We hope you will tune in. Please RSVP to editor@parkbugle.org and you will receive a link to the meeting.

Thank you again for your part in building a strong Park Bugle, our community connector!

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Reflections of a former U of M regent

By Rick Beeson

Serving as a regent of the University of Minnesota since 2009 has been a life experience and a great honor for which I am deeply indebted. In serving the state’s only land grant and flagship research university, I found the responsibility was humbling and frankly one which I had to grow into despite a history of volunteerism. Regents’ work often carries an institutional feel. Policies, plans, budgets and analyses are the regular duties of governance. In fact, my two priorities of setting systematic duties of governance. In fact, more is and should be expected of us in our public handling of them and in devising systemic solutions for the people of the state of Minnesota. I expect the four new regents elected in March will bring fresh perspectives and energy. Thank you for entrusting me with your University of Minnesota.

Rick Beeson is executive vice president for corporate development at Sunrise Banks and this spring concluded his term on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

COMMENARY

Summertime and the reading is good!

By Sue Costello

June is the time of year when the outside welcomes you with its sights and sounds. Nothing is as sweet as sitting outside, soaking up the Minnesota summer warmth, a slight breeze at your back with the faint scent of flowers in the air.

So, this is the perfect time to sit down at your favorite spot with a new book or an old favorite. Here are some books to consider for your reading enjoyment:

“Wolf Kill (A Sam Rivers mystery)” by Cary J. Griffith is scheduled for release on June 15. This is the fourth book from Griffith, who has also written “Gunflint Burning,” “Lost in the Wild” and “Opening Goliath.” This book has been recommended by fellow local authors William Kent Krueger, Brian Freeman and Peter Geyte.

This mystery-thriller is about Sam Rivers, a wildlife biologist who is a special agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He returns home to Duluth, a town in northern Minnesota, after his father’s mysterious death. Upon his return he investigates a bizarre wolf attack, conspiracy, family secrets and evidence of murder.

“I’ve never read a book that evokes the fierce winter landscape of the North country better than ‘Wolf Kill,’” says William Kent Krueger, a Como Park resident and Edgar-Award-winning author of “This Tender Land.”

Meanwhile, fans of historical fiction can look forward to the June 29 release of “The Personal Librarian” by acclaimed authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

This is the story of Belle da Costa Greene, who is hired to curate a collection of books, artwork and rare manuscripts for a newly built library. Belle, a fixture in New York City society and a powerful person in the art and book world, has a hidden secret that she is trying to protect at all costs.

“The Library Journal calls “The Personal Librarian” “an excellent piece of historical fiction that many readers will find hard to put down.”

In the category of young adult fiction is “Instructions for Dancing” by Nicola Yoon that is scheduled for a June 1 release. This is Yoon’s third novel.

A teen disillusioned about love thinks that love doesn’t last. She meets a boy who is everything she isn’t. Discover if he can change Evie’s mind about love. Is love worth the risk?

In the category of juvenile fiction are two new books:

- “Dinosaurs Before Dark Graphic Novel (Magic Tree House)” by Mary Pope Osborne, adapted by Jenny Laird and illustrated by Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews.

- “Chirp!: Chipmunk Sings for a Friend,” written by Jamie A. Swenson and illustrated by Scott Maassen. This beautiful picture book celebrates friendship and is scheduled for release on June 29.

Whatever books you choose to read this month may you enjoy them and let them take you away on a new adventure.

Sue Costello and her husband Rick Gahl are owners of Winding Trail Book, an independent book and gift store in St. Anthony Park’s Historic Milton Square. For information on these and other books at Winding Trail Books go to http://winding-trailbooks.com.

BOOKS PREVIEW

Coming soon in early June!

TIMOTHY FULLER

Dawn, at home in the neighborhood
New Homes! All American transformations
651.485.9277

Mary Pope Osborne, adapted by Jenny Laird and illustrated by Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. For release on June 15, this book is the retelling in graphic novel form about 8-year-old Jack and his little sister and their adventure back to an ancient time zone where they see dinosaurs.

- “Chirp!: Chipmunk Sings for a Friend,” written by Jamie A. Swenson and illustrated by Scott Maassen. This beautiful picture book celebrates friendship and is scheduled for release on June 29.

Whatever books you choose to read this month may you enjoy them and let them take you away on a new adventure.

Sue Costello and her husband Rick Gahl are owners of Winding Trail Book, an independent book and gift store in St. Anthony Park’s Historic Milton Square. For information on these and other books at Winding Trail Books go to http://winding-trailbooks.com.

The Bugle is possible because of your support. Give to support the Bugle now!

Donate online: www.parkbugle.org or send a check to: Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108

Looked at the same art for too long?

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PARK BUGLE  June 2021

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St. Paul, MN 55108
Local businesses find that sustainable is attainable

By Allie Rykken

Transition Town-All Saint Anthony Park focuses on individual action and community strength. As a part of that group, I want our neighborhood to demonstrate what personal action can do on a collective scale.

But a large part of our neighborhood identity comes from our institutions and businesses. How can we support them to make sustainable practices that are good for the earth, community and the bottom line? I believe most people would choose the earth-friendly option, given the right resources.

But who has time to dig into all of the specific resources that could help our local businesses transition toward efficient energy and infrastructure, waste management, water conservation, landscaping, transportation and work culture? Well, apparently, I did! And my research led me to create a website called www.attainable-sustainable.org. With help from fellow volunteers at Transition Town-ASAP, we launched the affiliate website in May.

For example, Btrecycling.com offers free consultations on waste management and recycling, with grants up to $10,000. Xcel, MnTPAP, EnergySmart and EnerChange offer free energy assessments and audits, rebates and financing. And you can quickly assess your water use at Watercalculator.org.

I also wanted to hear what people are already doing, and this has shaped a storytelling section of the attainable-sustainable.org website. Visit the “Stories” page to read about initiatives happening close by. Here are a few from our local breweries:

- **Urban Growler Brewing Co.**, 2325 Endicot St., provides fully compostable take-out containers, pollinator-friendly landscaping (partnering with the local Wildflower Project) and a farmers market in their parking lot.

- **Bang Brewing**, 2320 Capp Road, started the Organic Brewers Alliance, created a delicious cream ale out of perennial grain Kernza® and offers returnable bottles. Buy at the brewery (or at retailers like the local Little Wine Shoppe) and trade the bottles back next time. Visit for yourself to see their efficient barn-like taproom and native gardens.

Meanwhile, local and sustainably focused businesses often find ways to integrate climate action with social action. They include:

- **The Good Acre**, 1790 Larpen St., partnered in their parking lot, which teaches homeless youth job skills. There is also a hip-hop dance studio and free work spaces.

- **Bro-Tex**, 800 Humphrey Ave., participates in a form of recycling that used to house the Pirtek Company. The owners made extensive energy-saving renovations including adding insulation and replacing the roof, fixing up the bricks, replacing lights with LEDs, insulating the boiler and pipes and installing rooftop solar.

With extra space in their building, Landbridge’s owners invited other socially conscious business and nonprofit tenants to join them. Now the “Universe Buildings” are home to groups like Monarch Joint Venture, which researches pollinator habitats, and Elpis Enterprises, which teaches homeless youth job skills.

Several years ago, Landbridge moved into the sprawling complex that used to house the Pirtek Company. The owners made extensive energy-saving renovations including adding insulation and replacing the roof, fixing up the bricks, replacing lights with LEDs, insulating the boiler and pipes and installing rooftop solar.

Send grains from Dual Citizen Brewing Company in St. Anthony Park help feed the chickens at TunTum BlackHill Farm in Webster, Minn. Right, Patrick Kessler of DCBC makes a new friend. Photos courtesy TunTum BlackHill.

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Como, Murray students advance to National History Day

By Eric Erickson

From more than 15,000 students across the state who submitted History Day research projects at school level events, just 60 advanced through regional and state competitions to ultimately represent Minnesota in National History Day.

That elite group of 60 includes five Como Park High School students who are alumni of Murray Middle School, and one current Murray student.

Como freshmen Kai Sackreiter, Alice Wagner-Hemstad and Zach Bollman, along with Como junior Soren Sackreiter advanced to nationals in the senior division’s group website category for their elaborate and topical project “For the Love of Learning: MECC and Communication Through Educational Technology.”

Como junior Taylor Fairbanks qualified in the senior division’s individual exhibit category for her well-researched and insightful digital display of “A Fight For the People’s Land” which examines and chronicles the formation of the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

Murray sixth grader Ayla Bornsztein is going to nationals in the junior division’s individual website category. Her project is titled “We can (ALL) do it: Communicating Women’s Empowerment from WWll to Today.”

National History Day is traditionally held at the University of Maryland in the summer. But because of the pandemic, nationals will be virtual for the second year in a row.

Nevertheless, that reality hasn’t dampened the spirit and pride of the local qualifiers. The group has collaborated and exchanged ideas on how to improve their projects before nationals. Final submissions were due May 18.

Virtual NHD events begin in mid-June with the final awards ceremony on June 19.

School news briefing

St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Plant Sale

The St. Anthony Park School Association plant sale was a smashing success with the annual event raising $17,000 for the elementary school this year.

Nia Anderson, SAPSA treasurer, reported, “It was one of the most successful fundraisers we’ve had in recent memory. It goes without saying that this is a meaningful amount of money. In a typical year, this would have been about 25 percent of SAPSA spending for the school year.”

In a typical year, SAPSA funding supports, among other things, the school library, artist-in-residence programs, tutoring and extracurricular student activities. This year, most SAPSA funds provided fall school supplies to all St. Anthony Park families during distance learning.

Staff farewells

St. Anthony Park Elementary School will be saying farewell and congratulations to five retiring teachers and staff.

“We hope to be able to find a way to honor and bid farewell to them, along with the others who have left SAP during the pandemic of the past year and didn’t get a proper farewell,” said Principal Karen Duke.

Leaving June 2021:
- Cathyllyne Erickson, first-grade teacher
- Susan Fredrickson, fifth-grade teacher
- Jane Novak, school clerk
- Courtney Oleen, art specialist

Leaving October 2021:
- Kim Jeffers, first-grade teacher
- Eric Erickson, a social studies teacher at Como Park High School and a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

Murray Middle School

History Day Celebration

Since 2006, Murray Middle School students have participated in History Day projects and research.

The theme for 2021 has been “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.” This year, students rose to the occasion and 41 students qualified for the state contest with 31 projects.

Murray students proceeded to collect 8 honorable mentions, 6 state finalists, 3 topical prize winners and one National History Day Qualifier. This is the seventh consecutive year that a Murray student has qualified for National History Day. (See related story above on page 8 of the June Bugle).

—Sarah CR Clark

SAPS plant sale coordinators Lauren Renner, Summer Martins and Anita Stevert take a quick break while setting up for this year’s sale.

Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

The preschool students of St. Anthony Park Community Nursery School spent the year studying water. One of the projects included a sculptured titled “Garbage Shark” which represents ocean pollution, particularly plastic. Photo courtesy of the nursery school.

The Como-Murray contingent plans to view the livestream together in the company of their supportive teachers and families.

“Qualifying for nationals is validation of our hard work,” Soren Sackreiter said. “But the research process and skills you develop last past History Day.”

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Violin repair is music to Smith’s ears

Mike Smith sits at his workbench inspecting a violin that has had its varnished top removed. Dozens of chisels and other hand tools are lined up within his reach. Violins and violas are suspended overhead. Racks of string bases crowd the room. All need some type of repair or adjustment.

Smith, the sole proprietor of John Michael Smith, Luthier LLC, has been repairing and restoring stringed orchestral instruments in the Twin Cities for 41 years, including 35 years in the basement workshop of his St. Anthony Park home.

After earning music degrees from East Carolina University and Ohio State University, Smith began his instrument repair training at a Columbus, Ohio, violin shop. He also worked on instruments and bows owned by the then-principal bassist of the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra.

After arriving in the Twin Cities in 1980, Smith worked at House of Note, a stringed instrument shop in St. Louis Park, before opening his home business.

Word-of-mouth recommendations spurred Smith’s growing business. Rarely is restoration or repair work recognized in music competitions, as are instrument makers. Yet, people who do such work have to gain the confidence of those who own the instruments—especially expensive or historically important ones—before they are entrusted with them.

“Your reputation is everything as far as other people telling people you’ve done good work,” said Smith, 67, a native of the Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Va., area.

Smith’s clients run the gamut from professionals in the Minnesota Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to 4-year-old kids with one-sixteenth-size violins, he said. But the past year has been like none other. COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 forced rehearsals and concerts of all kinds to be put on hold. School ensembles had to adapt to follow state guidelines. Smith’s business fell 75 percent, he said.

“I think on the other side, because (musicians) weren't working, they didn’t have any money. That played into it,” he said. “And students weren't playing in orchestras and not practicing as much.”

To make matters worse, Smith, a string bassist, was also among the musicians idled by the pandemic restrictions. He has been a string bassist for the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and summertime Minneapolis Pops Orchestra each for 41 years. Since 2000, he has been the principal bassist of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

But vaccines have hastened this way of life. Smith doesn’t foresee orchestras or audiences returning to pre-COVID-19 sizes until 2022.

“Most musicians are chomping at the bit to play again,” Smith said. “But there’s certainly hesitation about being on stage with everyone—especially with the wind instruments spreading aerosols.

“But vaccines have hastened people’s confidence in feeling safe. Gradually, if everyone is vaccinated, we can get more people together safely.”

Cigale Ahlquist is a Twin Cities freelance writer who is a regular contributor to the Bugle.
Falcon Heights from p. 1

to reclaim the property before the end of the city’s 20-year debt service period.

At the May 5 City Council workshop, Thongvanh said he was pursuing a similar arrangement with the University for a new park building, although costs will likely be several times higher after a 30-year interval.

Thongvanh said he hopes the city can cover about half the construction cost from existing capital improvement funds while the rest would be covered by issuing tax abatement bonds, with debt service adding to the city’s property tax levy.

University of Minnesota Assistant Vice President Leslie Krueger has been working with Thongvanh to craft a new agreement.

“The University is in the process of updating its Twin Cities Campus Master Plan,” Krueger told the Bugle, “but the administration does not envision proposing a change in the land use for this parcel as part of the planning process.”

Meanwhile, Falcon Heights staff and park commissioners had visited facilities at Roseville’s Autumn Grove and Lexington parks, and at the Cedarholm Community Golf Course.

Thongvanh said the Cedarholm golf course building is too large and expensive to serve as a model for Falcon Heights, but the other two Roseville park buildings are good examples of what it might build. He said he will recommend more meeting space and less kitchen equipment, because Roseville staff told him that caterers increasingly bring their own equipment.

Thongvanh said one important feature of a new park building would be to have greater electrical capacity for caterers and other services. Other tentative plans would include a warming area for winter skaters.

Council members noted the Parks Commission has asked that a year-round rink structure be installed, which would add a couple of weeks at the beginning and end of each winter season.

City Council members asked about the timeline and bidding process. Thongvanh said there are two ways to approach bidding: lowest bid, which brings the project in at the lowest possible cost; and best-value, which allows the city to consider values such as supporting local businesses at possibly higher cost.

He said large projects typically tend to be done by lowest bid.

Anne Holzman covers Falcon Heights and Lauderdale government news for the Bugle.

District 12 Community Council

New Community Organizer
St. Anthony Park Community Council has announced it and District 10 Como Community Council have hired Jessica Willman as their new community organizer. Jessica lives in the Como neighborhood with her family and comes to the district council with a passion for cross cultural community engagement, especially with underrepresented groups, said Kathryn Murray, District 12 executive director.

In her shared position with District 16, Willman is looking forward to helping Como and St. Anthony Park be places where all voices are heard, Murray added.

SAPCC June meetings
• Equity Committee: 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 28
• Land Use Committee: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 3 and July 1
• Board Meeting: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 10
• Transportation Committee: 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 29
• Environment Committee: 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 23

All meetings are hosted via Zoom. Meeting times are subject to change. If you want to attend a meeting or have questions about joining a committee, please email Kathryn at kathryn@sapcc.org for the link.

Submitted by Kathryn Murray, District 12 executive director.

City Files from p. 2

Whenever possible, agendas and other relevant documents are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website: www.district10como.org

Submitted by Michael Kuchta, outgoing District 10 Community Council executive director.

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The building at Falcon Heights Community Park has sustained weathering. Photo by Cigale Ahlquist.

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Who gets to vote?
The League of Women Voters-St. Paul chapter will present a Zoom webinar on June 29 from 7 to 8 p.m. titled “Who Gets to Vote?” Presenters will provide context on changes to voting/election laws, the impact that they have on those who administer the elections as well as those who may be affected by the changes. The program is free and open to the public.

For further details and to register, go to the League’s website at (www.lwv.org).

Como Woodland Outdoor open house
Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom group has scheduled an open house from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., June 12, at the southwest section of Como Park at 1221 Wynne Ave. Meet at the Kilmer Fireplace to start your walk.

This event is free, but reservations are needed, so please RSVP with committee chairperson: teri.heyer@gmail.com.

On the day of the open house there will be three stations with advisors providing information about CWOC plants and animals at the 17-acre site. The complete guidebook of the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom is available online at comowooodlandoutdoorclassroom.org

Como Woodland Advisory Committee members hosting the information stations include: Joan McKeenan, professor of biology and environmental science at Aoka-Ramsey College, Beit Forsberg, University of Minnesota Extension educator, and Teri Heyer, a program specialist with the US Forest Service.

Seniors activities
The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors is planning virtual “lunch bunch” sessions from noon to 1 p.m. on June 9 and 23.

Other virtual activities planned in June include:
Guitar concert with Dave Lee
Monday, June 7
10 a.m. (call office for connection instructions)

Piano concert with Elizabeth Lee
Monday, June 21
10 a.m. (call office for connection instructions)

In addition, the Caregiver and Bereavement support groups continue to meet the first Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

For further details on registering for the lunch sessions or any of the other activities, please call the seniors office at 651-642-9052.

Rec centers, camps
After a hiatus last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is bringing back summer classes and camps at its recreation centers including Langford Park, North- west Como and North Dale.

Registration is underway at all three rec centers. For information on Langford Park call 651-298-5765, North Northwest Como at 651-298-5853 and North Dale at 651-558-2239. Further information can be found at https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers

Tuesday Scholars talks
The Ramsey County Library’s virtual Tuesday Scholars talks continue in June with all programs running from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join local academics and experts as they share their knowledge on a variety of topics.

To register for any or all of these online talks, visit the Ramsey County Library website https://www.rclreads.org/ or call 651-724-6000.

Here is the lineup of speakers:

June 1 Turnout: Joan Growe’s Legacy Star Tribune editorial writer Lori Sturdevant will discuss how long-term Secretary of State Joan Anderson Growe made Minnesota the state that turns out to vote. She is the co-author of “Turnout: Making Minnesota the State That Votes.”

June 8 Biden Encounters the World: Foreign Policy in a New Era Thomas Hanson, a diplomatic consultant and former U.S. Foreign Service officer, will discuss how America’s foreign policy has changed in the first 100 days of the Biden administration.

June 15 Women in Politics in the Biden Era Kathryn Pearson, an associate professor in American politics at the University of Minnesota, will discuss the role that prominent women are playing in U.S. national politics today.

June 22 Women in Blue: Race and Gender in the Minneapolis Police Dept.
Dntre Foxel, an associate professor at the City University of New York, will discuss the making of her documentary film “Women in Blue.” The film explores the historical intersection of race, gender and Minneapolis police reform.

Women’s drum class
The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., will offer a class in the gily, the primary traditional instrument of the Dagara people of northern Ghana and Burkina Faso. Alyssa Moffat will be teaching traditional songs and rhythms—no music experience necessary. Registration is required. Standard current Covid protocols will be followed. Classes will begin on June 19 and run for six weeks (skipping the week of July 4th). To register, please contact the Drum Center at info@womensdrumcenter.net.

The Scroll of Isaiah series
Biblical scholar and longtime St. Anthony Park resident A. Joseph Everson and Rabbi Barry Cytron are collaborating on a virtual discussion series titled “The Scroll of Isaiah: Common Ground for Jews and Christians.” The series, conducted through the Ramsey County Library, will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on all four Thursdays in June. Enrollment is limited; please register in advance for the event or call the Library at 651-724-6001.

Everson is professor emeritus at California Lutheran University. Cytron served as professor and chaplain at Macalester College before his retirement.

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By Dave Healy

The pandemic has affected behav-
or in sometimes surprising ways. One activity that’s increased no-
ticably is people going through household articles and deciding to unload some of them.

What to do with the stuff?

If you’re a subscriber to SAPark, you can post a message with the subject “Curb Alert,” followed by a description of the things people will find in front of your house, apartment building or in the alley by your garage. Such items are then free to the first person(s) to pick them up.

SAparks is a listserv, an automat-
ed mailing list that enables a sub-
scriber to send an email to the entire list. The software was developed in 1984 and initially refined in 1986. It’s since undergone several updates.

Listsvs were once ubiquitous in the business world as a way for professionals to network. They’re less common now in the age of Twitter, and other social media. But they haven’t disappeared.

SAparks was started in 2001 by St. Anthony Park resident Sherm Eagles. He had accompanied a church group overseas and was looking for a way for the group to stay connected with one another after their return.

“Told some research and found out about listsvs,” Eagles said. “I set one up for our church group and then started thinking it might be a way to connect people in the neighborhood where I live.”

Eagles has been SAPark’s moder-
ator throughout its existence. The list started small and grew slowly. Currently, the listserv has about 1,300 subscribers. Although it’s billed as free for and about St. Anthony Park, anyone can join.

Eagles reviews a new subscriber’s first post before it goes to the list in order to determine if the subscrib-
er is a real person.

Thereafter, because participants mostly do a good job of policing themselves, Eagles is able to mod-
erate SAPark with a light hand. Occa-
sionally, he’s felt obligated to step in and “Let’s move on.” He does so only if he feels that the list is devi-
ating from its purpose, which is to foster productive exchanges.

SAparks doesn’t have a formal list of rules. But as moderator, Eagles adheres to several principles.

“Participants need to maintain civility,” he said. “The focus should be on issues rather individuals, and on topics of local interest. SAPa-
rk is not a forum for political ad-
vertising or endorsing particular candidates.”

In the last year, curb alerts have been the most common topic on SAPark. But there are also other recurring ones:

- Anybody else? Anybody else: Noise that strange smell this morn-
- Recommendations: Anyone know a good pediatrician, or dentist or painter?
- Unsual sightings: owls, foxes, coyotes, turkeys.
- Heads up: construction projects, public meetings, sales, events.
- Complaints: noise, wood-burning smoke, unshoveled walks.
- Missing/Found: dogs, cats, cell phones, keys.

SAparks is also a forum for dis-
cussing local issues. The proposal to develop a large chunk of Luther Seminary property with multi-unit housing, including the possible loss of Birkwood Woods, drew impas-
sioned comments. More recently, the appearance of a large tent in College Park prompted vigorous discussion of appropriate respons-
esc to homelessness.

Eagles noted an increase during the last year in appeals to help oth-
er people.

“Tis neighborhood has always been characterized by a strong service ethic,” he said, “and recent events have really highlighted that.”

Listsvs are vulnerable to mis-
haps. One is the person who in-
tends to send a private message but inadvertently sends it to the entire list. Another is a violation of the listserv’s moral rules, but that’s rare on SAPark. Eagles has never had to kick someone off.

“Several years ago there was a guy who was obviously using the list to promote his own views, which he sometimes did inap-
propriately. I emailed him sev-
eral times without really getting through to him, but he dropped off before I had to do anything more substantial.”

Besides individuals, a variety of groups make regular postings to SAPark in order to inform resi-
dents about meetings, events and services. Katharine Tondra, pro-
dium director for St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, regularly uses the listserv to keep the neighborhood informed about SAPAS services and activities.

“I don’t know what we’d do without SAPark,” she said. “It’s a great way to reach people. Almost every time we post something, we get a response. It’s one of the pri-
mary ways our neighborhood uses to make conversations.”

For Eagles, moderating SAPark has been a labor of love, a 20-year volunteer gig. Is there a post-Eagles future for SAPark?

“There’s no formal succession plan in place,” he said, “but I don’t worry too much about it. If the neighborhood finds our listserv valuable, I’m confident that others will emerge to keep it going. But I don’t have any immediate plans to retire as moderator.”

To subscribe to SAPark, send an email to this address: SAPark@groups.io.

By Judy Woodward

Every month, the reference li-
brarians at the Roseville Library receive dozens of questions from the public. Here are any of the more interesting queries we re-
cieve recently:

Q. It’s just taken almost a year to develop the Covid-19 vaccines, and that’s supposed to be a world record. I’ve heard that the fastest previous vaccine ever brought to market took about four years. What was that vaccine and when was it developed?

A. One night in 1963, the young daughter of American micro-
biologist Maurice Hilleman was born, complaining of a sore throat and swollen glands. In addition to being a con-
cerned father, Hilleman was per-
haps the most prolific inventor of vaccines in American history. He quickly realized that his daughter had mumps, a common childhood illness of the era, which was nor-
mally mild in children but could have devastating effects on people who contracted the illness in adult-
hood. From a swab of her daugh-
ter’s throat, Hilleman was able to isolate the mumps virus and de-
velop a vaccine against the illness.

Four short years later, in 1967, the mumps vaccine was licensed for distribution—a world record that stood until the current pandemic. The virus strain used in the devel-
oped vaccine was named for Jeryl Lynn, after Hilleman’s daugh-
ter, and it is still used in vaccine production today.

Mumps may have been Hille-
man’s fastest accomplishment, but it was far from his only triumph. Hilleman and his team invented more than 40 vaccines, which protect against illnesses ranging from measles and whooping cough to hepatitis. He invented a vaccine that saved hundreds of thousands of lives in the 1957 flu pandemic, and no doubt he’d have been hard at work battling the Covid virus today, were he with us.

Maurice Hilleman died in 2005 at the age of 85. (Internet Resources)

Q. Is there a way I can see a list of the books I’ve checked out in the last year or longer?

A. If you have an account at the library, you can print a list of titles you’ve borrowed. One book per page.

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All about the northern flicker

By Clay Christensen

I was walking my pup, Rocky, through the neighborhood the other day when he made a necessary stop. While he was busy, I looked around and saw a beautiful yellow feather on the ground.

The feather was about six or seven inches long and its shaft was brilliant yellow. I identified it as from a yellow-shafted flicker. I left it on the ground for someone else to discover, picked up after Rocky and headed across the street.

Just then, my friend, Quentin, came running out of his house toward us waving a feather in his hand. It was yellow, about three to four inches long.

“Yellow-shafted flicker!” I said. “Knew you’d know!” he replied.

I told him there was another feather just over by those birch trees. He went and searched and returned holding one feather in each hand. He was pretty excited.

The yellow-shafted flicker is one of two subspecies of the northern flicker. It’s the version we see, found east of the Rocky Mountains. The other subspecies, the red-shafted flicker, is found west of the Rockies. There’s an overlapping area between the two ranges.

Pete Dunne, a famous bird writer, notes that at some point in the calendar year, flickers are found virtually everywhere in North America.

The northern flicker is a ground foraging woodpecker (they really like ants!), the third largest woodpecker (they really like ants!), the third largest woodpecker in North America after the corn borers, a help to the fortunate farmer. They also eat a variety of berries, including poison ivy, bayberry, wild black cherry, hackberry, frost grape, flowering dogwood, blackberry, raspberry and sumac.

Flickers seem to have a generous tolerance of humans. They wait quite a while as someone approaches before flushing. Dunne reports that a flicker, attacked by a hawk, usually waits until the last second, with the hawk in swoop, before it dodges quickly to the other side of the limb.

And not all birds migrate north or south. In 1982, 10 or more flickers took a boat to Europe, one disembarking in County Cork, Ireland. I like to think it was for the Guinness. But maybe they Googled ants in Ireland and learned there are more than 31,000 species in Ireland compared with only about 1,000 in North America.

“Let’s eat!”

Clay Christensen lives and writes in Lauderdale, Minnesota.

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Northern Flicker. Photo by Linda Krueger.

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A past Falcon Heights teacher who was honored by the White House for teaching and went on to Presi- dential Scholars and a former mecha- nical engineer are among the people we remember in this edition of “Lives Lived.”

Lynnette Hansen
Lynnette Madeline Hess Hansen, a lifelong St. Anthony Park resi- dent, died April 21, 2021. She was the daughter of Larry (Laurence) Hess and Jeanette (Brecht) Hess. Lynnette, born in 1955, grad- uated from Murray High School in 1969. She obtained a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from Saint Cloud State University and a master's degree in education from University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She married her husband, Rich- ard Hansen, on Dec. 27, 1977. They had been married 44 years at the time of her passing. Lynnette was generous, compassionate, fun and spiritual, and her love impacted so many of those around her. Besides her parents, Lynnette was predeceased by her brother Lin- don and sister Mary Ann. Survivi- vors, besides her husband Richard, include her children and in-laws Jacob, Mary Pat, Sarah and Hannah and her grandchildren, four grand- children, one sister Larradine, and one brother Lonny (Sue). Memorials to celebrate Lynnette’s life may be made to a charity of do- nor’s choice.

Glen Hanson
Glen Willard Hanson, 77, died May 6, 2021. He was a minnesota National Guard veteran and a re- tired mechanical engineer. Glenn was a 1965 graduate of Murray High School and studied at Dunwoody Institute in Minne- apolis. He worked as a mechanical engineer at Hammel, Green and Abrahamson for 40 years before re- tiring. Glenn's pride was his family, his profession and his faith. Glenn is survived by his wife of 53 years Lavonne, son Brent (Sig- rid) and Scott (Karrah) and three grandsons.

Robert Kohnen
Robert J. Kohnen, 86, died April 22, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Helan, wife Ka- tie, brothers John and Richard and sisters Carol and Margie. Survivi- vors include daughters Debra and Michelle (Billy) Lawrence, three grandchildren, sisters-in-law Judy Kohnen and Elaine Vincent and brother-in-law Keith Smith. Memorial Mass was celebrated May 6, 2021, at Holy Childhood Church, with inurnment at Calva- ry Cemetery. Memorials preferred to the American Heart Association.

John Nyberg
John Nyberg, 84, Falcon Heights and Palm Springs, Calif., died on April 9, 2021. Born in 1936 on a farm near Cambridge, Nyberg attended high school in Parkers Prairie, Minnesota. He went on to receive three degrees from the Uni- versity of Minnesota, a bachelor's degree in music, a master's in mu- sic education and a doctorate in musicology. John taught in Roseville and in schools in California and Switzer- nia as well as in Germany and Oki- na, Japan. He received the first Christa McAlifi Fellowship and was named Distinguished Teacher by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. His love for music brought him many op- portunities to direct church choirs and college and community musi- cal theater. He was especially happy in church and piano and enjoyed playing accordion cafe music. After retiring in 1999, John and wife winters in Palm Springs, Calif. He was an art lover and was a decent at the Palm Springs Art Museum for 20 years. He traveled the world with friends and family and especially loved return trips to Italy and Switzerland.

Andrew Schippel
Andrew Peter Schippel, M.D., Jr., 41, died April 22, 2021. Andy served in the Falcon Heights Fire Department and in many hospitals in Minnesota. He was preceded in death by his mother Amelia Ann Schippel (née Abrahamson), stepmother Mary Theresa Schippel and grandmother Dore- thy Belle Ruth. He is survived by his wife of 26 years Laura Marie (née Anderson), four children, his fa- ther Andrew Peter Sr., five brother- s, father- and mother-in-law Doren and Linda Anderson and best friend of 40 years, Brian Roettger.

Shirley Thom
Shirley Thom, 96, died April 30, 2021. Shirley was also known as “Nanny and Nanny Shirley.” She was preceded in death by parents Bessie and Otto Klober, sister Do- lores, brother Roger, beloved hus- band Arthur and son Richard. In the words of her family: “We lost an amazing woman. Strong, independent, loving, kind and the matriarch of our family. She had such beautiful cursive writ- ing, and wrote two self-published books about herself and her family. She wrote many letters to the edi- tor, while compiling comic strips and newspaper articles, which she mailed to friends and family: “She worked at Minnesota Chemical, Northwest Airlines and as a teacher’s aide at Greenbush Park School. In her later life, 90, she vol- unteered at Como Zoo, which clear- ly became her favorite job of all. She loved family camping, summer trips to the farm in South Carolina and going to Myrtle Beach. She had a gift for gab and never met a stranger that she didn’t act like she’d known forever. She nur- tured friendships, had a generous spirit and wanted everyone to feel wel- comed and loved. She touched so many people. She was a pioneer ahead of her time.” She was very open-minded to non-traditional families. She had such strong faith in God, love of family and saw the good in everyone. She met the love of her life, Artie, when she was 13 and he was 15. She took the train at age 18 by herself from Minnesota to Florida, where Arti- ce was stationed with the Navy, to meet him at Fort Pierce for their wedding. She was deeply thanked by Lyngblok- sten and Allina Hospice caregivers.
Lives Lived from p. 14

for loving care of Shirley near the end of her life. Shirley was survived by her chil-
dren, Linda (Jack), Pam (Frank) and Dan (Jen), nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Me-

morial services were held at Como Friends or Emmaus Lutheran Church.

John Tobias
John “Toby” Tobias, 75, of Lino Lakes, passed away, originally from Falcon Heights, died May 1, 2021. He re-
tired from Northwestern Bell/US West after 33 years. Toby was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years Cynthia, chil-
dren Dale, Tiffany, Robin and their mother Leatha Wold; step-daughter Kelly; and four grandchildren. Long-standing MSRA member. A special thank you to the staff at Eagle Crest, The Heath and Arbor and Brighton Hospi. Memorials preferred to Peace Paws of Minne-
sota or lbda.org.

Joanne Voves
Joanne Elaine Voves, 67, died April 15, 2021. She grew up in Falcon Heights, attended Holy Childhood Elementary School and graduated from Murray High School (class of ’71). She participated in the-
atre, synchronized swimming and a summer exchange program in Belgium in 1970. After completing a registered nursing program in 1977, Joanne worked for several years at MMC and the VA Hospital, earned her bachelor’s degree in marketing from Metropolitan State and taught one year in a surgical tech program at Anoka–Hennepin Vo-
cational Technical College. From her childhood home she could hear the Minnesota State Fair, which was where she met the love of her life, her husband Brad, in 1977. Married for 43 years, they could travel the country in their camp-
er and journeyed together around the world. Joanne, a woman of wit, inde-
pendence, kindness, strength and
and determination, will be remem-
bered as, among other things: an
actor (Corcoran Park Players), fiber expert (knitting, weaving, needlework, crochet), artist and crafts maker, animal lover and traveler.

She is survived by husband Brad; children Angelo, Alex and Peter; three grandchildren, siblings: Jim, Mary and Patsy. A family gathering has been held. A larger gathering at Wabun Park (Pavillion A) is planned for 1 p.m. on July 31.
Morgan Nichols wins Athena Award

By Eric Erickson

From Langford Park Rec Center to Como Park High School, Morgan Nichols has always enjoyed athletic activities as they changed with the seasons.

Growing up as a multi-sport athlete, Nichols embraced the opportunities to excel in high school sports in which she had experienced, and also had the confidence to try new things when opportunities arose.

That athletic versatility, combined with leadership and academic excellence, led to Nichols’ being named the Como winner of the annual Athena Award.

The St. Paul Area Athena Awards honor one female high school senior from each East Metro high school. With 10 varsity letters in five different sports and a weighted grade point average of 4.5 obtained in Advanced Placement college-prep courses, Nichols embodies the spirit of the honor.

While all recipients are talented multi-sport athletes, it’s quite unusual for any high school student athlete to letter in five different sports. How Nichols accomplished something so unique started locally at Langford and took an interesting turn within a global pandemic.

A hop, skip and jump from her Scudder Street home across Como Avenue to St. Anthony Park Elementary and the rec center, Nichols played soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball. A deeper interest in basketball and volleyball led her to participate in traveling club teams for those sports.

At Murray Middle School, Nichols played volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter and softball in the spring while continuing club volleyball and basketball. That pattern extended into high school with five varsity letters in those sports during her first two years. She contributed to a conference championship in softball as a freshman and never stopped developing as a player and leader.

Softball coach John Fischbach explained that Nichols’ attributes now include being a role model to younger players, like she used to be. “Morgan just jumps right in and helps the less experienced girls out,” Fischbach said. “Morgan is always positive and upbeat. She’s responsible, reliable and very trustworthy. Always open to listening to her teammates and to giving them advice. She’s as good a captain as you could ask for.”

In volleyball, Nichols was the Cougars most valuable player as a sophomore. It was after that successful season when she decided to focus on club volleyball through the winter and drop basketball. But it turned out to be only a temporary departure from winter school sports.

Nichols tried something new as a junior and joined the Como Nordic ski team. There was a learning curve and a step back from being a star, but she enjoyed the outdoor activity, stuck with it and became a varsity skier during her senior season.

“I ended up switching and playing new sports mostly because I wanted to experience these other sports that I had never played before,” Nichols said.

“Sports have always been a fun way to escape school stress for me, and for my last years in high school I decided I wanted to make sure I was having a fun time with whatever I decided to play.”

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic took away the physical and social outlet that sports provide Nichols and countless other high school athletes. It wiped out the entire spring season of 2020 and altered the sports calendar and schedules for the 2020-2021 school year.

The original state high school league plan for 2020-2021 was to play volleyball in the spring since there was uncertainty about indoor sports. As a result, Nichols wasn’t in the Como gym for volleyball practices when the school year began.

She filled the void by trying another new sport, picking up a racquet and joining the Como tennis team. Teammates noted that the energy level and enthusiasm increased with Nichols on the courts. She became a valuable doubles player and was the Como recipient of the Jeanne Arth Sportsmanship Award.

Regardless of the sport, there’s a consistent theme when coaches and teammates talk about Morgan Nichols. Besides being talented, she’s unselfish and makes her teammates better.

Assistant volleyball coach Bekah Hausman said, “Morgan was a very vocal leader on the court. Her high energy was definitely a key factor to our success. Her natural athletic ability made her a player we could move around to positions we needed her in and could depend on.”

As her high school career winds down, Nichols reflected on her experiences, “I really appreciate the welcoming community for Como athletes. Every time I joined something new, I found the coaches and athletes were my favorite part of the program.”

Nichols will be leaving the neighborhood next fall to attend Western Washington University in Bellingham and major in mathematics.

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