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April 2020

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 scenario, 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



Sandra Weise, owner of
The Finnish Bistro

options to continue as take-out and delivery businesses.

Elizabeth Tinucci, owner of Colossal 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 people.

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 kringle,” 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 Tacos 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.

“Thank you to so many people 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. Mim’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 some 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.

Other businesses

Tom Spreigl, owner of Speedy Market, plans to “stay open as long as possible and as long as products last.” He is focusing on cleaning the store regularly and thoroughly, to meet the CDC guidelines, and “to keep everyone healthy and employed.” However, store hours may be limited in the near future, he said.

Meanwhile, Spreigl is working to keep the store as well stocked as usual, although some product shortages may be inevitable.

“As long as it’s safe, please come in,” Spreigl said. “And take care of each other. If you see we only have two packs of toilet paper left, just take one.”

For customers who are concerned about exposure to COVID-19, Speedy Market is taking phone orders and offering curbside pickups.

Spreigl reflected, “I’ve been working in this business for over 40 years and I’ve never seen this kind of chaos. I feel confident that we’ll be able to get through this and supply the neighborhood. I’m grateful to have such a good staff who is stepping up and I’m grateful for this neighborhood.”

Although co-owners Peggy Merrill and Janet Haugan have temporarily closed their shop, they have taken other steps to continue doing business. In an email dated March 24, boreal said it is taking business calls between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and

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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, alcove studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units with none larger than 1,000 square feet, said Jim LaValle, principal for TJL Development LLC.

Early designs show a 60-foot-tall, E-shaped building. LaValle

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 Brewster St., expects to build a new middle school and outdoor playground beginning this July on land it owns southwest of Brewster and Pascal streets. A skyway over Brewster 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

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CITY FILES

Como and St. Anthony Park community council news

District 10
Community CouncilSholom 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/tmwp7jo>. 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.district10comopark.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/.”

Bandana Square from p. 1

capacity. The proposed project would expand capacity to 2,400 students.

The new building will have 42 classrooms and a gymnasium. Related construction will eliminate some classrooms in the cur-

rent buildings in order to expand the cafeteria, add more commons space and expand administrative space.

The school expects to seek \$22.5 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds through Saint Paul's

Housing and Redevelopment Authority. ■

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



A view of the proposed apartment development looking northwest from roughly Energy Park Drive and Bandana Blvd. Rendering courtesy of Momentum Design Group.

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TRANSITION TOWN

This is one of a series of occasional columns from Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood-based group working for a local response to climate change, a smaller carbon footprint and a stronger community. You can find out more about Transition Town at www.TransitionASAP.org.

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 inhabiting compost piles. With enough native plant diversity, you’ll have very few pest insects. If you choose different varieties of plants that bloom consistently, they’ll provide the balanced diet bees need throughout the season, helping keep their immune systems strong.

Native bees: Our local heroes

We’re all aware that honeybees—originally imported to Minnesota by European settlers—are in steep decline. Less well-known are the hundreds of *native* bee species suffering from decline. And it’s these native bees and other native pollinators that sustain our woodlands, prairies, deserts, wetlands and bogs. Native bees pollinate many plants that honeybees can’t, being better suited



Bombus perplexus, native bumble bee on anise hyssop. Photo by Margot Monson

to certain flower structures. Bumble bees pollinate tomatoes, blueberries, eggplants, potatoes and cranberries, as well as flowers like turtlehead, bottle gentian and shooting stars.

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 bees 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 at least some 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 (Helianthus), Summer Jewel Pink and Purple Fairy Tale Salvia and Envy Zinnia.

Avoid chemically treated plants and seeds. 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

Pollinators to p. 15

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The Park Bugle is a monthly non-profit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, 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 readership communities and encourage community participation.

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EDITORIAL

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 short-lived 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 restaurateurs 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 our latest commitment 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 germane 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.

Issue Copy and ad deadlines Publication

Issue	Copy and ad deadlines	Publication
May (Home & Garden Guide)	April 15	April 28
June (SAP Arts Festival)	May 13	May 26
July	June 17	June 30

A local business appeal amidst the coronavirus pandemic

By Scott Carlson

Amidst the fast moving and uncertain parameters of the COVID-19 virus on our local community and the nation at large, a St. Anthony Park businesswoman is urging residents to do what they can help our many neighborhood businesses weather the storm.

Heather O’Malley, the property owner of Milton Square, sent the following letter to the Bugle on Wednesday, March 18 with an appeal to patronize local shops:

Dear Neighbors,

As we attempt to navigate the rapidly evolving environment associated with the virus, we stress

the safety and health of our loved ones. Our first priority is for everyone to take appropriate steps to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and ensure our entire community remains healthy.

Our second concern is the well being of our neighborhood small businesses. The restrictions that have been put in place could severely harm the viability of these businesses. Our small business owners already work from home or their car and during family events.

They work 24/7, they don’t clock in or out. They work weekends, nights and holidays. They only receive benefits that they create. They survive only on your patronage.

Small business owners need your support—so they can provide for their families, to buy groceries, antibacterial wipes and toilet paper.

Before you order from Amazon, please consider our local small businesses. Most have online shopping opportunities. Or call them directly and purchase a gift card for future use.

Hair or Skin Care:

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Turning Heads Salon

Take out meal options:

nicostacobar.com

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windingtrailbooks.com

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thelittlewineshoppe.com

Expert legal or mental health & wellness:

lizpierce.com

Quopsychotherapypllc.com

Let’s be patient and kind as we navigate through this new territory.

Care and love,
Heather O’Malley
property owner-Milton Square

LETTERS

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 gravely 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 per-

son 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. Sens. 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 some-

one 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] approvals and let the process move forward. It clearly makes sense to something this old with something newer, better, stronger and safer. Line 3 was built in 1968 and needs to be replaced.

Almost one third of all oil shipped into the U.S. comes through Minnesota. It’s coming here by train or pipeline. Pipelines 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

Bugle seeking new board members

The Bugle has been an institution in St. Anthony Park and beyond for more than 45 years!

We are looking for folks with enthusiasm and creativity from Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Como Park and St. Anthony Park to join our board of directors and

help us shape the future of this wonderful resource.

Fundraising experience? Social media ideas? Ideas for some fun and inclusive summer events? With ice-cream? We have openings on the board and also on a couple of ad hoc, time-specific

work groups. Come join us! Learn about the neighborhood and meet interesting people!

For more information, please contact Beth Magistad, bethmagistad@gmail.com or Gabrielle Lawrence, gabriellelawrence@gmail.com. ■



The Park Bugle is seeking new members to join its board of directors. Come help us continue our vibrant community newspaper. Photo by Gabrielle Lawrence.

The Coincidental Do-gooder

By Adam Granger
Commentary

Years ago, I wrote a script for "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show touting a supposed new MnDOT program: Adopt-a-Highway Plus.

As a subscriber to this plan, you not only agreed to pick up litter on your assigned stretch of the road, but to do all other necessary maintenance, up to and including stripe-painting, road-grading and resurfacing. My tongue in cheek program encouraged you to "Do your part to help shrink our bloated highway department budget" and explained that commercial-grade equipment would be available for a reasonable rental and that MnDOT would even sell materials to you for "less than you'd pay in stores."

In a case of my life imitating my art, I undertook a modified version of this program on my walking route last summer. It started innocently enough, with my picking up trash along my way, something that many people routinely do. But then I started noticing—and being increasingly irritated by—other blights, particularly graffiti, tags and stickers.

Over the ensuing months, I accumulated an arsenal of removal materials: chemicals, scrapers, rags and—for when removal isn't possible—an assortment of institutional-colored spray paints. I removed or covered graffiti and stickers along the length of my walk route: Blake Avenue to Raymond Avenue to Energy Park Drive to the U of M transitway and then for a mile down the transitway.

I cleaned graffiti off of transitway signage, removed tags from

the metal railing on the bridge over the railroad tracks, scoured paint off the stop sign on Robbins at Manvel, painted over tags on the Highway 280 piers, scrubbed spray paint off of the old stonework under the Raymond Avenue trestle and cleared all of the utility poles and signage along the west side of Raymond Avenue.

The railing on the steps leading up to the transitway from Robbins Street was so blighted that I simply repainted the whole thing. Some days, I took clippers and loppers and trimmed brush and tree branches back from the sidewalks.

I realize that there are questions of legality regarding my campaign. So, let me say that I did all of this in broad daylight, making no attempt to conceal my actions. I was seen cleaning, scraping, repainting and clearing by hundreds of people, some of them official.

One day, I had just finished painting over a small tag and turned to find, literally ten feet behind me, two police officers watching me from their car. I shrugged, spray paint can in hand, with a "cuff me" look on my face, and they smiled, gave me a thumbs up and drove off.

I know that there are city, university and utility personnel whose job it is to do this maintenance, but I doubt that I am putting anyone's job in jeopardy by my scabbing. And anyway, I've created more work than I've saved these people over the past 30 years, prevailing upon them regularly to do bigger or more dangerous removal jobs, to which requests they've generally responded promptly.

An unfortunate singular excep-

tion is BNSF Railroad. The official word, straight from a supervisor's mouth, is that budget cuts have reduced their bridge crew size, and they no longer remove graffiti from railroad property unless it is obscene or offensive.

Learning this, I took my extension ladder out one afternoon last August and, with my neighbor spotting me on the ground, climbed up and painted over a large white tag on the north face of the Raymond Avenue trestle. It had been bugging me for months!

Let's get back to the title of this piece. Why coincidental? And why isn't this just an 800-word pat on my own back? Adam the Great making the world a better place? Well, it's coincidental because I'm not doing it for the world. All of the actions I've described have been strictly for my own benefit.

If, collaterally, others see the cleaning and clearing I've done, great, I'm very pleased, and you're welcome. But I'd bet the farm that no one besides me has noticed.

I'm not meaning to sound like a beleaguered housekeeper here; on the contrary, the nice thing about my egocentric motivation is that it's fine if no one else appreciates the results of my efforts. It's not a thankless job; I thank myself every time I take a walk.

If you find yourself inspired by my coincidental good deeds, there are plenty of available slots in the Adopt-A-Walk-Route Plus program. Let me explain how the program works: Oh, wait. I just did. ■

Adam Granger is a musician, teacher and writer and 32-year resident of St. Anthony Park. He last wrote in these pages about turning 70.

Bugle springing closer to fundraising goal

The Bugle's annual fall fundraiser is springing ever so close to our goal.

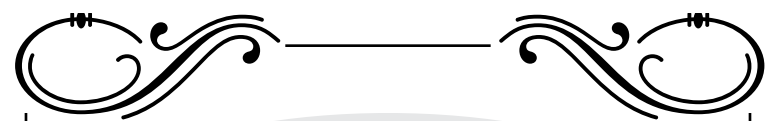
The Bugle's goal for 2019-20 is \$52,000; as of March 18, we have received \$47,468. That is nearly \$3,000 up from our last report on Feb. 12.

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 Mitton
Dennis & Turid Ormseth
Amy Schneider Purdy
Daniel Rebek & Mary Raeker-Rebek
Scott Roste
Dan & Linda Severson
Mark & Alexa Umbreit
Jay Weiner & Ann Juergens
Mary Zorn



*April showers bring
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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SCHOOL NEWS

SAP Elementary School sets Read-a-thon records

By Sarah CR Clark

St. 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 their goal of 220,000 minutes.

The students also raised \$12,500, breaking previous fundraising records for the event. "It was a wonderful success," Duke said. "I am so proud of the students for all of the reading."

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 quieter as kids switched from loud playing to quiet reading.

While the 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, so I had to take them off," Duke said. "This



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. Photo by Yesenia Anderson.

is probably the closest I'll come to the real Olympics, and it was a thrill!" ■

Sarah CR Clark is a resident of St. Anthony Park and a regular contributor to the Bugle.

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.

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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

good old-fashioned carnival games together with community and school camaraderie," said Alex Bollman, a lead organizer of the Spring Carnival and the father of two SAP Elementary School students.

Easy dinner options will be

available at the carnival along with popular snacks such as snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy.

The gym will be full of mid-way-style games including mini golf, hockey shots, bottle lift and pop and cake walks. New this year: A raffle of gift baskets assembled by SAP Elementary families. Other activities will include face painting, a green-screen photo booth, duck pond and button making.

Also, the school's Spring Book Fair will occur in conjunction with the Spring Carnival. Bollman added, "With the completion of the construction project at school and the playground available, we're hoping to incorporate some more outdoor activities."

Besides being a community celebration, the carnival is a major school fundraiser. This year's fundraising goal is \$7,500. The event is organized by the St. Anthony Park School Association and is supported by more than 185 volunteers. ■

Sarah CR Clark

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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 also discussed policy with staff and legislative aides for Minne-



Como AP Government students spent six days in Washington D.C. from Feb. 23-28 as participants in the national Close Up program. Photo by Eric Erickson.

sota'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-New York, present

the Green New Deal resolution. Ocasio-Cortez's presentation was inspiring for several students, who support the legislation.

Throughout the week, Como students participated in policy discussions and simulations in workshop groups with peers

from across the nation and beyond. One hundred fifty students represented California, Texas, Louisiana, Utah, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, as well as Puerto Rico and Panama.

The annual trip to Washington, D.C., for Como AP Government students is supported by student and school-sponsored fundraising activities. The Como Park Booster Club, Rice St. Athletic Club and Friends of Como Athletics also are significant contributors.

Fifty-seven cadets from Como's Marine Corps JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps) spent the weekend of Feb. 21-23 at Camp Ripley in Little Falls and Camp Shamaineau in Motley. The winter Cadet Leadership Camp included evaluations in the standards of cross-country skiing, ice wall climbing, rock wall climbing, hiking, horseback riding, winter survival skills, zip lining, broomball and sledding. Cadets

meeting or exceeding standards in those or any of the other five activities earned a Distinguished Military Training award.

Family and Consumer Science teacher Courtney Gbolo is a semifinalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award. Of 134 nominees, 36 were selected as semifinalists.

Gbolo teaches culinary arts and has developed an international cuisine course that incorporates knowledge she gained through a grant to study at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris.

"Teaching CTE (Career and Technical Education) classes provides students with real-world opportunities to explore career paths," 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.

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Warde wins Bugle's 10th Annual 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.

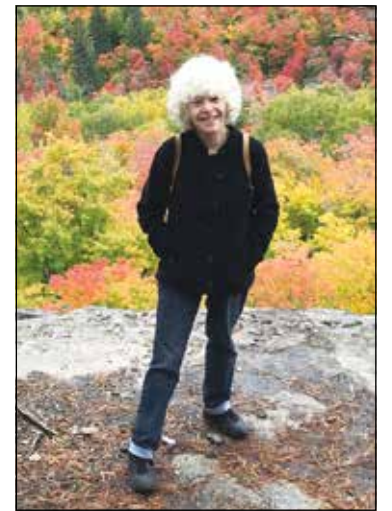
This is the third time that Warde has won our annual contest that is held in April during National Poetry month. She also won in 2016 with her poem "Ashes to Ashes" and in 2013 with "The Seven Months That Aren't Winter."

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:



Susan Warde

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 ArcticThaw 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 wisped 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
swell and settle of the sea, but I'll take
our river any day. It's going places.
In its brown determined hustle toward
the Gulf, it sweeps the ice away and
plants along its banks a muddy spring.

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 piercings of the soil; the Mississippi's brown determined hustle toward the Gulf. I like impending spring described as winter's "dissolution," that word connoting both a chemical process—ice 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 swallowing 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.
Upflowing, 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.
Strong currents
Reflected in the clouds,
Forming. Reforming.
Clouds, fluffy and soft some days,
Dark and powerful on others,
Giving way their load,
Gently moistening each petal, or
Pouring down life-giving vitality in sheets.
Pouring down on Bluff Country's
Own native ditch lily.
Along the journey,
What is not Exquisite in its Essence here?
Where is Peace, if not here?

Healy's review: Where is peace? It is evocatively bodied forth in this poet's lyrical descriptions of the natural world. It's even found in a ditch, where lilies bloom. I like the references to gravity, both explicit—water falling—and implicit—the eagle, defying gravity as it ascends on helium wings.

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."



The Biafra wall mural can be seen at the Bro-TEX building in south St. Anthony Park. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

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.

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Diary of SPPS teachers' strike

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

cancelled 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. ■

Photos and text by Sarah CR Clark.

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 would like to help wherever possible," Merrill said.

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 calm towards ourselves and others."

The Cakir Snyder family, sim-

ilarly, 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 office-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 Butkowski 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 out 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. ■

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THE BIRDMAN OF LAUDERDALE

by Clay Christensen

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 communicate with its partner. You can often hear the mate drum back in response, to 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 thwacking.

The **downy woodpecker** is the smallest of our woodpeckers. It's a bird with a white tummy, black and white wings, and a white patch on its back that supposedly resembles down, hence its name.



Downy woodpecker. Photo by Harris Mallory.

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,

short vowel sound. They also do a whinny, 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 hairies, 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 hairy is said 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.

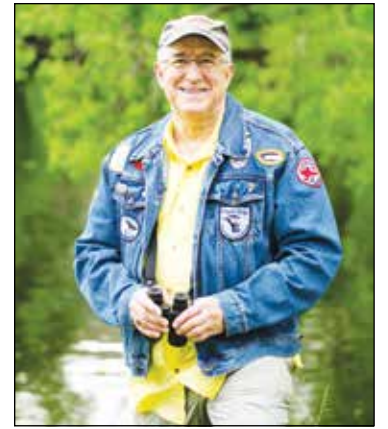
The **red-bellied woodpecker** is one that often confuses folks. Years ago, when bird identification was done over the end of a gun barrel, this bird was first identified "in hand." And when you can fluff away the body feathers on the stomach, you'll see a pink/red down against the skin.

Sometimes, if you're looking up at a red-bellied woodpecker

perched above you, and it's a breezy day, you can see that undercoat of pinkish down. Both the male and the female have bright red on the back and top of the head; the male's red patch starts at its bill and is larger than the female's. The red on the female's head starts at the top of the head and goes back. The red-bellied is just a bit larger than the hairy woodpecker. A red-bellied woodpecker will often vocalize along with its drumming, giving a "chuck-chuck" or a loud "churr," which helps me recognize its drumming.

When I first heard of a woodpecker named the **yellow-bellied sapsucker**, I almost lost it! I thought the name was made up. It sounded like something I would have yelled at a grade school bully on the playground. And then I saw the bird. It's a good-looking bird about the size of the hairy woodpecker with a white stripe down its folded wing. The male has a red throat; the female's is white.

This woodpecker makes an area of small holes on the trunk of a tree in spring. These are called sap wells, holes that collect sap. Insects come to taste the sap, get stuck, and make a handy snack



Clay Christensen. Photo by Chase Vanderbilt.

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 **piledated woodpecker** is our largest woodpecker. It's the size of a crow. The piledated woodpecker's drumming rhythm is distinctive. It's a solid whacking 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 piledated 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! ■

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EVENTS AROUND TOWN



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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.

SAINT ANTHONY PARK LIBRARY

2245 Como Avenue
All events and classes take place in the Saint Anthony Park Library auditorium unless otherwise noted. Note: The library will be closed Thursday, April 23 for staff training. For more information about upcoming programs, please call the library at 651-642-0411 or visit www.sppl.org/calendars

Special Events and Classes

- **Thursday, April 2**
Petite Concert
10:30-11:15 a.m.
Petite Concerts Inc. will present a 30-minute experiential musical event for young listeners! From newborns to preschoolers, the concerts are informative, interactive and local. It's a fun-filled musical experience with an opportunity to discover instruments after the concert.
- **Thursday, April 2**
Teen Library Council movie: "A Quiet Place"
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Teens, enjoy snacks and a movie at the library! Scheduled movie is A Quiet Place, an apocalyptic thriller. Rated PG-13.
- **Thursday, April 2**
Vietnamese conversation group
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Gather for a fun and friendly hour of conversation led by Vietnamese speaker. For native speakers or anyone interested in learning, speaking, or practicing Vietnamese. All are welcome. Drop-in at any time. No registration required.
- **Monday, April 6**
Middle School Book Club
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Book discussion for sixth- and seventh-grade students. Please register and pick up a copy of the book at the Information Desk.
- **Thursday, April 9,**
Senior Cinema: "Judy"
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Thirty years after starring in "The Wizard of Oz," beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband. Run time: 118 minutes. Co-sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors
- **Thursdays in April (April 9, 16, 30)**
Mindfulness Meditation
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Practice mindfulness meditation during three sessions led by an experienced instructor and student of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. Thich Phat Duyet will guide meditation and discussion sessions. Registration is required.
- **Friday, April 10,**
Northern Clay Center workshop
11:30-1:30 p.m.
Short hands-on introduction to the rewards of making art. Learn basic hand building and glazing techniques. Make mugs, bowls, plates, vases, treasure boxes, whistles, animal sculptures and other objects not yet dreamed of. Type of projects based on age, ability and interest. Registration is required.
- **Wednesdays in April (April 15, 22, 29)**
Memoir Writing for Adults
2:00-3:30
Susan Cook will lead this five-week class on how you can begin or continue to write your legacy stories. Share your stories in a friendly setting. No writing experience needed and topics may vary from week to week. Bring writing materials to class: notebook, pen, laptop, or tablet. Bring something larger than a journal or diary to write in. Registration is required and limited to 15 participants.
- **Wednesdays in April (April 15, 22, 29)**
Writing Table
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Come join fellow writers for silent time to work together and support one another in writing. Work on your own project or use writing prompts from Transition Town's Mimi Jennings on the Read Brave topic of climate and nature. No registration necessary. Program is co-sponsored by Transition Town.
- **Thursday, April 16**
Legal Senior Issues
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Learn all about wills, power of attorney, and health care directives. This class is ideal for seniors without estate plans or wills. Liz Pierce, a local attorney with more than 35 years of experience in wills and estate planning, will lead the class. Co-Sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors.

- **Saturday, April 18**
Wee Beasities
1:30-2:30 p.m.
The local Gregorian Singers will present an hour-long choral concert of poems set to music about birds, bugs and imaginary animals. Part of the program will be interactive, teaching simple bird calls, then putting them together in a grand chorus. Some of the music will include works by local composers. The concert, for people of all ages, seeks to highlight the natural world around us.
- **Monday, April 20**
Teen Library Council
4:30-5:30 p.m.
Have ideas on how to make the library better for teens? Come to a meeting to find out more about joining the Saint Anthony Park Teen Library Council. Snacks provided!
- **Saturday, April 25**
Citywide Spring Cleanup
9:00-11:30 a.m.
This family-friendly, community-focused event is designed to engage citizens, neighbors, and friends to clean up parks and neighborhoods. Meet in front of the library at the corner of Como and Carter to pick up litter that has recently become uncovered by melting snow. Supplies, bagels, and coffee will be provided! Co-Sponsored by Transition Town and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation.
- **Saturday, April 25**
Mama Miti Read-Aloud
1:00-2:00 p.m.
This will be a family-friendly reading of the book "Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya" by Donna Jo Napoli and a puppet show script adapted from the book by Eric Kugler. Seeking kids and adults for parts large and small, on stage and behind the scenes for a production of the puppet show this summer! Part of the Saint Paul Public Library's Read Brave Program, co-sponsored by Transition Town - All St. Anthony Park.

Ongoing Events and Classes

- **Mondays**
Funday Monday
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Hang out with your friends every Monday after school. Play games, listen to music, make art, do homework, and much more! Program is intended for teens.
- **Tuesdays**
Baby/toddler storytime
9:30-10:00 a.m. and 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Storytime geared for babies and toddlers ages 0-2, but siblings are welcome. Storytime includes stories, songs and puppets. Children of all activity levels are welcome.
- **Tuesdays**
Seniors free exercise program: Exercise based on the Arthritis Foundation
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Enjoy fun, gentle exercises for adults, led by a qualified instructor. Co-sponsored by the Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors.
- **Wednesdays**
English conversation circle
4:00-5:30 p.m.
If English is not your first language, come and practice in casual conversation. All are welcome. Come when you can.
- **Fridays**
Preschool story time
10:30-11:00 a.m.
Story times feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. Children of all activity levels are welcome.
- **Fridays**
Senior free exercise program: Chair yoga
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Enjoy fun, gentle exercises for adults, led by a qualified instructor. Co-sponsored by Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors

ST. ANTHONY PARK AREA SENIORS

(651-642-9052)
At press time, this organization had cancelled all group activities until further notice. Please call to see if any of the following activities for April are still on.

St. Anthony Park (SAP) Library

- (2245 Como Ave.)
- **Tuesdays in April (Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28)**
Exercise class
2:30-3:30 p.m.
- **Fridays in April (Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24)**
Chair yoga
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Centennial United Methodist Church

- (2200 Hillside)
- **Wednesdays in April (Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)**
Exercise class
10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Blood pressure clinic**
11:30 a.m.-noon
- **Fridays in April (Apr. 10, 17)**
Game Day
10:00 a.m.-noon
- **Wednesdays and Thursdays in April (Apr. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30)**
Census help for Seniors
Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon

Lauderdale City Hall

- (1891 Walnut St.)
- **Mondays and Thursdays in April (Apr. 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30)**
Apr. 2 & 6
Tai Ji Quan Exercise class
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Seal Hi-Rise

- (825 Seal St.)
- **April 14**
Blood pressure clinic
3:00-3:45 p.m.

ST. PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION

Langford Park Recreation Center
For more information, call 651-298-5765 or visit www.stpaul.gov/landfordrec

- **Mon., April 6-May 11**
Tumbling
5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 3-6
- **Fri., April 10**
Theme Parks Junior Engineering
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., ages 5-8
- **Fri., April 10**
Painting & Pastries
1:00-2:30 p.m., ages 10-16
- **Wed., April 15-May 6**
Paw Patrol Art Classes
6:00-7:00 p.m., ages 1.5-4
- **Fri., April 17**
Parents Night Out
6:00-10:00 p.m., ages 4-12
- **Mon., April 20**
Mastering Student Loan Debt
6:30-7:30 p.m., Adults
- **Tues., April 21-May 5**
Introductory Vegetable Gardening
6:00-8:00 p.m., Adults
- **Thurs., April 23-28**
Spring is Blooming with Color-Preschool
6:15-7:15 p.m., ages 3-5

NORTHWEST COMO RECREATION CENTER

For more information, call 651-298-5813 or visit www.stpaul.gov/northwestcomorec

- **Tues., April 7-28**
Golf Class
2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 5-8
- **Thurs., April 9-30**
Spoken Word
2:15-4:15 p.m., ages 7-11
- **Thurs., April 9-30**
Volleyball Class
2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 7-11
- **Fri., April 10**
Jedi & Imperial Droids Robotics
12:00-3:00 p.m., ages 6-11
- **Tues., April 14-19**
Artist Workshop Spring
2:15-4:15 p.m., ages 7-14
- **Fri., April 17-May 8**
Graffiti Street Art
2:15-4:15 p.m., ages 7-12
- **Tues., April 21**
Building Dreams
2:15-3:15 p.m., ages 5-8
- **Tues., April 21**
Dollar Power
3:30-4:30 p.m., ages 9-12
- **Sat., April 25**
Parents Night Out
6:00-9:00 p.m., Ages 6-12
- **Fri., Jan 7-May 29**
Open Gym
2:00-3:30 p.m. (Ages 11 & Under),
3:30-5:30 p.m. (Ages 12-17)
- **Tues./Thurs. Monthly**
Taekwondo
4:30-6:00 p.m., ages 6-21

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Adopt-a-drain to protect natural waterbodies

Want to improve water quality in the Mississippi River or a nearby lake? Then Adopt-a-drain!

This program relies on volunteers to keep trash out of storm-water drains near where they live. A couple of 15-minute sessions, twice a month is all it takes.

Won't this be just a drop in the bucket? So far, more than 100 tons of debris have been kept out of our waters by the nearly 6,000 residents who have cared for their 10,000 adoptees.

And these aren't nameless portholes to the storm sewer system. Sir-Drain-a-Lot, Myrtle, Chuck, Flo, Purple Drain. You can name your drain!

The program began in 2014 with support from the city of Saint Paul, the Capitol Region Watershed and the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University. It's now in 75 cities.

Learn more at Adopt-a-drain.org, find orphan drains near your address, and sign up! You'll receive tips on how to clean safely and you can upload your stories and photos. ■

Submitted by Michael Russelle, a St. Anthony Park Community Council board member and a member of District 12's Environment Committee.

LIVES LIVED

The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge as a service to our communities. Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.

A pioneering ecologist, one woman who 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. Anthony 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 on its 25th anniversary. Tester helped found the U's Department of Ecology, Evolution 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 Itasca 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, Clarence; and son Leo. She is survived by children Stephen (Judy), Virginia, Anne (Jim) Lethert; 11 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and daughter-in-law Kermine (Ed) Sandin.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 2 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Calvary Cemetery. Memorials preferred to

Fairview Hospice, whose wonderful care the family gratefully acknowledges.

Joan Chaffin

Joan (Fox) Chaffin, 90, died Feb. 23, 2020.

She was preceded in death by her son Anthony and brothers George, Dick and Greg. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Bob; children Pamela, Michele (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 Senior Living in Roseville and HealthPartners Hospice. Memorials preferred to Catholic Charities of St. Paul. Her memorial 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 (Frovold) Halvorsen in Greenwald, 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 Northern, 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 minister 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 parents, one brother and seven sisters. 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, sister Stella Ann and brothers-in-law Richard Huhta and Merlin Olson. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Laura; children 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 elementary librarian in the Duluth school system from 1967 to 1994. He then enjoyed being a winter Texan for 18 years. His retirement activities included reading, playing with his grandchildren and then his great-grandchildren. He had a wonderful sense of humor 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 Lutheran Church.

Alice Hultmann

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

She was preceded in death by husband John and daughter Mary. She is survived by daughters Ruth Ann (Tony) Yocum, Virginia (John) Ehlen 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) Clemens 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 Maternity of Mary Church.


Floyd Klein

Floyd J. Klein, 86, died Feb. 15, 2020. He was preceded in death by wife Jolie and parents Herman and Emma. He is survived

Lives Lived to p. 14

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Community Worship Directory

*During the current health crisis, services and events may be canceled.
Please check websites for updates.*

❖ **CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS
2200 Hillside Avenue, 651-633-7644
www.centennialumc.org
Sunday Contemporary Worship: 10:00 a.m.
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(plus the coffee is REALLY good)

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**
2323 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371
Web, Facebook, & Twitter: SAPLC
Staffed nursery available—Handicap-accessible
Pastor Glenn Berg-Moberg & Pastor Jill Rode
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Soup Supper 5:00-6:30 p.m. (*free will offering*)
Wednesday Lenten Worship (Holden Evening Prayer):
7:00 p.m.

❖ **MISSION ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
1040 Como Avenue, St. Paul, 615-771-0125
info@missionopc.org, www.missionopc.org
Dr. Michael Seufert (we have a new pastor!)
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship Services: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Fellowship Lunch and Service: 2:00 p.m. first Sunday
each month, nursery available

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford)
651-646-7173, www.sapucc.org
Faith formation for all ages
Sunday School & Adult Forum: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Christian Tradition • Progressive Faith • All Are Welcome

❖ **NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
965 Larpenteur Avenue W., Roseville, 651-488-5581
www.newlifechurchroseville.org
Project Home: April 1-30
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Education for All: 11:15 a.m.
Resurrection Authenticity: April 5
EASTER Service: April 12
Housing Crisis and How We Got Here:
April 19 and 26

❖ **ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502
www.stceciliasp.com
Handicap-accessible
Saturday Mass: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

❖ **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA**
1744 Walnut Street (at Ione), Lauderdale, 651-644-5440
www.peacelauderdale.com
Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
All are welcome. Come as you are.

❖ **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
2136 Carter Ave. (at Chelmsford), 651-645-3058
www.stmatthewsmn.org, Facebook: [stmatthewsmn](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsmn)
The Rev. Blair A. Pogue, Rector
We are currently not holding services to prevent spread of COVID-19. We do have weekly online study groups and a weekly sermon video. Please visit our website or contact the office for more information.

To add your place of worship to the directory, contact Paula Mielke at 651-492-4143 or paula.mielke@comcast.net

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 1989 and is now serving her 16th term. If ultimately re-elected, her term would begin before any legislative redistricting occurs after 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.

She continues to serve on the council's Environment Committee as a community member.

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 prime motivator for her effort. "I knew, I needed to run, 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 candidates, she has met experts on climate change whose voices she believes should be heard at the Capitol.

"The demographics of this district have changed significantly," said Ness, who is married with two children. "I'm running to flip the model of representation to be more inclusive."

Ness, who worked at Minnesota Public Radio as a fundraiser and now works for an offshoot of the radio network that processes donations and funds rides for seniors, cites fundraising 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 redraw 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."

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 consults with people from across the state, "Everybody knows what I'm able to help them with."

Hausman, who currently chairs the Housing Committee,

added, "That is where I'll continue to redouble my efforts."

She also serves on the Transportation Committee and would like to get another daily Amtrak train to Chicago. She seeks continued investment in Metro Transit, especially buses, she said, "and we have to make it clean and safe."

As of press time, the DFL endorsing convention for Senate District 66 has been postponed until at least some time in May, a delayed cause by the current coronavirus crisis. Ness and Hausman both said they would abide by the endorsement. ■

Sidebar: Brett Rose is running for House 66A as a Republican. He lives in Roseville with his spouse and one child. His website cites "dealing with the economy" as a key issue.

Lives Lived from p. 13

by children Steve, Nancy Strom, Tom, Patty (Don) Thiets, John and Paul (Deb); eight grandchildren; siblings, Roland (Millie) and Dorleen (Joe) Kessler; and special friend Karen Erickson.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 21 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Eleanor Luedtke

Eleanor Ann (Ullman) Luedtke, 83, died Feb. 25, 2020. She was preceded in death by husband Hugo, daughter Sandy, great-grandson Matthew, brother Robert and son-in-law Dale. She is survived by her children Pam (Wayne) Iserman, Jeff (Hope), Cheryl (Wayne) Brown, Debbie Johannessen (Dennis McNaughton); eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held March 3 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

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 Kumba, Cameroon.

She worked as an R.N. at Lyngblomsten and Comforts of Home nursing homes. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years Norbert and brother John Henning. She is survived by brother Tom Henning (Elaine) of New Ulm, four children, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Margaret's life was scheduled for March 28 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.

M. Edward Nicholson

M. Edward Nicholson, 84, died Feb. 11, 2020. He was born July

20, 1935, in Minneapolis to Edward and Evelyn Nicholson.

Edward was the owner of Campus Bikes in Minneapolis and Midwest Bicycle Supply in St. Paul for 60 plus years. He was the last of four siblings.

Edward will be dearly missed by his wife of 32 years, Catherine Holtzclaw, CPA; children Edward "Ted" Nicholson, Andrew "Andy" Nicholson, Tanya (Andrew) Adair and Erik (Anne) Holtzclaw; and eight grandchildren.

His funeral was held Feb. 22 at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ with burial at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. Memorials may be made to the Falcon Heights UCC Foundation.

Christian Poser

Christian T. Poser, 20, died suddenly Feb. 17, 2020, at home.

Christian is survived by his mother, Leisa Poser, grandparents Scott and Polly Heaton and grandfather Daniel Poser. He was the nephew of Heidi and Adam Kimmer. His father, Michael

Johnson and grandmother Toni Johnson also survive him. He is also survived by many very dear friends who loved him dearly.

His memorial service was held Feb. 24, 2020, at Como Park Lutheran Church. His kind personality, selflessness and smile that could melt the sun will be so very missed! Memorials are preferred to the family.

Aloise Smith

Aloise "Posy" Smith, 85, died March 7, 2020. She was the daughter of J. Seneca and Rose Jones. She was preceded in death by siblings Etheldreda Radulescu, Daniel Jones, J. Grandel Jones, Maryanne Simes and dear friend Carl Eidnes.

Posy grew up in St. Anthony Park, attended the University of Minnesota and raised her family in Edina. She is survived by four daughters: Pamela (Mike) Latanision of Chanhassen; Penny (Jim) Smith of McLean, Va.; Paula (Eames) Gilmore of Eden Prairie; Patrice (Louis) Friedman

of New York, N.Y.; and seven grandchildren.

Posy had a great sense of style and believed in the power of lipstick. She was an avid sports fan and enjoyed cheering for her teams. Posy 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 to Posy.

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

Timothy Stoffel

Timothy Lee Stoffel Sr. died March 9, 2020. He is survived by his children, Lisa (Jon) Becker, Nick (Autum), Tim Jr. (Tara), Mike (Elly) and 12 grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 19 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Francis Wethern

Francis "Frank" Wethern, 97, died Feb. 21, 2020, at the Minnesota 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, Terri (Ray) Finn, Bern (Sherri), Philip, Clare, Marge, Anita (Tony) Deutsch, John (Amy) and Lorraine; 25 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and brother Gene.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 27 at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to the Minnesota Veterans Home.

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Pollinators from p. 3

immune systems. Take extra care to choose chemical-free trees and shrubs, as their sources are harder for sellers to track. Visit www.pollinatorfriendly.org under "Habitat and Gardening" for lists of local suppliers of untreated plants.

Participate in Lawns to Legumes. A growing number of our local boulevards have been converted from grass to flowering plants. (Mine after three years is still a work in progress, as I figure

out which plants can evade the grazing wild turkeys.)

During the 2019 legislative session, several of us worked to pass the **Lawns to Legumes** bill that is now providing funds and guidance for homeowners to convert conventional lawns to pollinator forage, which includes flowering perennials, trees and even fescue that can be mowed. Visit BlueThumb.org to apply for funding and learn about choices that produce flowers, attract pollinators and fix nitrogen, eliminating the

need for fertilizers. More details are on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources website under "Lawns to Legumes."

Together, we can "bee the change" for the insects and native plants that sustain the planet's ecological integrity. ■

Margot Monson, of St. Anthony Park, is an entomologist and beekeeper who welcomes insect questions. To see more of her pollinator photos, visit TransitionASAP.org/sustainable-food.

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

process has worked. It's clear we need Line 3 and the new route will take line away from the Leech Lake tribal reservation and avoid more environmentally sensitive areas.

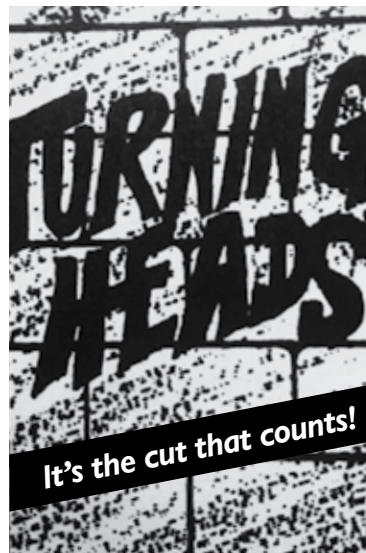
Blocking the replacement line will leave a corroding and cracking pipeline in place, creating a needless risk that should be addressed.

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*



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Como Park High wraps up winter sports

By Eric Erickson

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.

Junior Sully Lucy placed second in the 195 lb. division of the Section 4AA Meet to earn his way to state. Having won the city title in the 182 lb. class as a sophomore, Lucy kept improving in the heavier weight class and peaked in the section tourney.

Also earning medals in the Section 4AA Meet for the Cougars: sophomore Aaron Adekpovi, who took third in the 220 lb. class; senior Simon Heck, who placed fourth at 152 lbs. and ju-

nior Stone Frasl, who placed fourth at 138 lbs.

Both state entrants lost their first-round matches at state. But the reward of getting there will be a goal to shoot for next year.

Boys Swimming

The Cougars finished an exceptional season by collectively posting 30 personal best times in the Section 4A Meet at St. Catherine University.

Out of 12 teams in the section, Como placed fourth overall. As for the specific races, the top three finishers in each event advance to state competition. In the three relay events, Como's personal-best times came close to qualifying.

The 200-yard medley relay team of juniors Kaeden Warnberg-Lemm, Ethan Napierala, Aaron Ramsey and senior Jack Schumacher placed fourth.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team consisting of Napierala, Ramsey, senior Mason Salverda and sophomore Soren Sackreiter also placed fourth.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Schumacher, Sackreiter, junior Mark Remuto and freshman Sig Isaacson produced a fifth-place finish.

In individual races, Isaacson placed sixth in both the 500-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle. Sackreiter was seventh in the 500-yard freestyle. Napierala



Bleah Paw and Sully Lucy both finished second in the Section 4AA Wrestling Meet and qualified for state, while three other Cougars also earned Section 4AA medals. From L to R: Simon Heck, Bleah Paw, Sully Lucy, Aaron Adekpovi, and Stone Frasl. Photo by coach Tiji van der Wege.

was seventh in the 100-yard butterfly. Ramsey finished seventh in the 100-yard backstroke. Schumacher placed eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

With just two seniors graduating from the program, the Cougars are looking to build on their achievements for 2021.

Boys Basketball

As previously reported in the Bugle, new Cougars coach Donnell Gibson inherited a young team and was focused on building relationships this season. While Como didn't post wins on the varsity level, the team showed resiliency by sticking together and competing against bigger, more experienced opponents. With no seniors in the program, Gibson looks forward to every player returning and improving next season.

Nordic Skiing

A rare season with consistent snow created a memorable experience for the hardy Cougars. Como is one of three St. Paul public schools with a Nordic team. To increase competitive opportunities, they participate in the larger Twin Cities Nordic Conference. The Como boys fin-

ished fifth in the conference and the girls finished sixth.

Senior Alistair Pattison placed ninth out of all individuals in the boys conference meet, earning all-conference status. Sophomore Owen Finlay and senior Nick Jacobsen were consistently the next top finishers for Como throughout the season.

In the girls conference meet, sophomore Saylor Landrum led the way for the Cougars and earned All-Conference honorable mention. Senior leaders Kiersten Howatt and Emma Wolters concluded their skiing careers with steady results to boost Como's team scores.

Girls Basketball

The Cougars conference winning streak surpassed 60 games as the team rolled to its sixth straight city title. Como also made it six straight Twin Cities titles by defeating Minneapolis South in the Twin Cities Championship Game.

In the Section 4AAA tournament, Como defeated Visitation 63-38 in a quarterfinal match-up at home. The Cougars, seeded No. 3 in the section, squared off against No. 2 seed St. Croix Lutheran in an intense semifinal.

With a 62-58 victory, Como advanced to the section final versus No. 1 seed Simley.

The Spartans started four seniors and possessed a significant height advantage over Como's five starting sophomores. But the Cougars battled, displaying their trademark intensity and hustle. In the end, however, the Spartans upended the Cougars 69-53 and their dream of a state berth for this season.

With an overall record of 21-5 and every starter returning, the team is set to compete for a shot at state next year.

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 Asberry 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, Cloey Dmytruk and Makayla Holton, junior Jaylen Smith and senior JaShawna 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 Tennison, Greta Seppanen, Alice Wagner-Hemstad and Taylor Williams plus seventh-grade standouts Clarise Freberg and Elayna VanNett. ■

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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