In a bid to protect local businesses from being priced out of their spaces and to promote small businesses in community-owned real estate, the Creative Enterprise Zone in south St. Anthony Park has just created a real estate investment cooperative.

Dubbed the Taproot Investment Cooperative, the for-profit real estate investment cooperative, will allow individuals and businesses to collectively invest in real estate for the benefit of their community and to receive a modest return on their investment, officials said.

“CEZ’s mission to protect creative entrepreneurs in the neighborhood means that we need more community-controlled real estate where they can do their work, without risk of displacement,” said Renee Spillum, CEZ board chairwoman and head of its Real Estate Committee.

“Taproot will be an essential partner in bringing our community’s resources in alignment with our values — allowing individual neighbors to invest in the community stability that makes this a wonderful place to live,” Spillum said. “When you invest in the buildings that house the small businesses where you shop, you can truly be a part of an interdependent community where we all thrive together.”

Sherm Eagles, a co-founder of the new real estate cooperative, agreed, noting, “The idea is to create shared community control of real estate that takes the best practices from the private sector and applies them in a values-first approach that prioritizes small business-stability, equity, access to space for creative entrepreneurs and environmental stewardship.”

The Taproot cooperative is modeled after one that formed about a decade ago in northeast Minneapolis, Eagles said. He added, “The idea is to democratize real estate investment so that many people making a relatively small investment can join together to make a difference in their own city and neighborhood and to actually be able to see that difference for themselves.”

Each Taproot member will have a say in decisions-making on how the assets of the cooperative will be invested and will know the details about each investment and choose if they wish to join in each investment. Eagles said.

Now that the cooperative is established the next step is recruiting members and preparing for an initial investment opportunity.

“We hope such an opportunity will occur within Taproot’s first year,” Eagles said.

The founding group will serve as the initial board of directors until a members meeting is held during the cooperative’s first year, thereafter members will elect a board to manage the cooperative.

Founding members of the real estate cooperative are Eagles, long-time St. Anthony Park residents Ann Juergens and Marty Rudy, and small businesses owners and workers in the Creative Enterprise Zone: Jennifer Cloener of Graham Upholstery, Jill Pavlak of Urban Growler, Nolan Morice of Line Break Media and Nkuli Shongwe of Nexus Community Partners.

Eagles explained, “We hope to take creative real estate investment so that many people making a relatively small investment can join together to make a difference in their own city and neighborhood and to actually be able to see that difference for themselves.”

Eagles added, “We believe that by creating a way to raise capital from more people living and working in the area, as well as others who support our creative small businesses, we can bring more buildings under community-based ownership, keep commercial and industrial space affordable and prevent displacement of our small locally-owned businesses.”

By cooperatively making a collective investment, the personal risk of making financial investments can be mitigated while still earning a return on the investment, Eagles added.

By Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

**Housing trends signal persistent seller’s market for spring**

By Christie Vogt

The real estate market likely will remain in sellers’ favor this spring given low inventory, rising prices and higher interest rates.

“It’s still very much a seller’s market,” said Colleen Healy, a real estate agent with Keller Williams Integrity Real Estate in Roseville.


Home prices are climbing significantly, Benedict said, which means that “for anyone who wants to sell, now is the time to do it.” Sellers are likely to receive multiple offers or at least generate a very strong, competitive offer, he added.

Over the past two to three years, Benedict has observed the spring market shifting earlier in the year. Whereas the traditional market would see strong activity from April to October, now the day after the Super Bowl seems to coincide with a surge in market movement.

“It truly felt like someone flipped a switch this spring,” Benedict said, noting that what felt like work-in-a “dead market” suddenly turned into seeing “multiple offers on almost all property styles and types.”

This “new norm,” Benedict said, seems to hold steady through the Fourth of July when inventory tends to catch up with the buyer pool. Currently, inventory is “very low,” he said, noting that on March 24, for example, there were only 15 active home listings across Bugle neighborhoods.

Healy, who grew up in St. Anthony Park, also noted that inventory is down in St. Anthony Park, Como Anthony Park Community Council; he said, “Supporters of the CEZ helped raise the capital necessary to purchase this building.”

Eagles asserted, “We believe that by creating a way to raise capital from more people living and working in the area, as well as others who support our creative small businesses, we can bring more buildings under community-based ownership, keep commercial and industrial space affordable and prevent displacement of our small locally-owned businesses.”

By cooperatively making a collective investment, the personal risk of making financial investments can be mitigated while still earning a return on the investment, Eagles added.
District 12 Community Council

Apartment community meals

The District 12 Equity Committee wants to connect with neighbors in apartment communities through-out north and south St. Anthony Park.

With the help of a Neighborhood Partnership grant, the Equity Committee plans to host community meals to help neighbors get to know one another and to connect the District 12 council and other local organizations to the areas’ renting neighbors.

Community Council Volunteer Hub

The St. Anthony Park Community Council Volunteer Hub is up and running. If you’re looking for ways you can contribute to your neighborhood, check out the volunteer opportunities at the SAPCC SignupGenius page signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44a9a92aaafcc52-kasota.

Visit sapcc.org/volunteer for access to both the hub and database. Look across the top of the page for tabs that lead you (as an individual or a group) to garden and neighborhood cleanups, serving community meals, delivering free and reduced priced boxed produce to neighbors and much more.

Information on this page will continue to change and update. For monthly reminders, consider signing up for the District 12 volunteer database.

District 12 upcoming meetings

St. Anthony Park Community Council committees discuss a variety of issues at their monthly meetings. Visit the council’s website at sapcc.org to learn more.

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 upcoming events and meeting changes, follow along on Facebook @St.AnthonyParkCommunityCouncil.

• Land Use Committee:
  7 p.m., Thursday, May 4, and
  7 p.m., Thursday, June 1
• District 12 Board:
  7 p.m., Thursday, May 11
• Environment Committee:
  7 p.m., Wednesday, May 24
• Equity Committee:
  7 p.m., Thursday, May 25
• Transportation Committee:
  7 p.m., Tuesday, May 30

Submitted by Jessica Willman, District 12 community organizer.

District 10

Community Council

Pick Up & Party event May 13

The Como Community Council will host its second annual Pick Up & Party event at Orchard Rec Center, 675 W. Orchard Ave. Whether you come with your neighbors or to meet your neighbors, all are welcome.

The activities begin at 2 p.m. with a neighborhood cleanup from Front Street to Como Avenue and Dale Street to the railroad tracks. Check in at the rec center for your supplies and the location to start your pickup.

After the cleanup, neighbors will meet back at the rec center at 3:30 p.m. for a grill out, kids crafts (including build-your-own bird houses), yard games, community organizations and more. All are invited to this free event.

Other upcoming District 10 events include an annual ice cream social at the Como Streetcar Station in July and a Harvest Festival in the Tilden Park area in October. Get involved in planning an event in your sub-district, or ANY of the sub-districts, at our Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings.

Community garage sale coming

District 10 is once again coordinating a community garage sale weekend from Thursday, May 18, to Sunday, May 21.

If you would like to be included in the District 10 map (embedded in its website), please fill out the Como Community Sale form with your information before May 11.

Sign up and/or view the sale map here at District10 Como Park.org/garagesale.

Get involved: Lake Como cleanup

District 10 is planning its first 2023 Lake Como cleanup for Tuesday, May 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. These events, in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District, focus on the shoreline care and lake maintenance.

District 10 provides trash grabbers, rakes, buckets, nets, trash bags and nitrile gloves for those who need them. Or, feel free to provide your own gear.

Registration (before May 22) is not required, but it helps plan and communicate if changes come up.

Register and find out more at District10ComoPark.org/cleanup.

District 10 meetings schedule

All District 10 board and committee meetings are open to the public and time is allotted for community members to bring topics for discussion.

• Environment Committee:
  6 p.m., Wednesday, May 3
• Neighborhood Relations Committee:
  7:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 3
• Land Use Committee:
  6 p.m., Tuesday, May 16
• D10 Board Council:
  7:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 16

For further details, go to District10ComoPark.org.

Submitted by Shevek McKee, District 10 Como Community Council executive director.
By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights has opened its registration for summer youth programs and is planning a May 20 get-together at Curtiss Field as a final opportunity to sign up before registration closes on May 25.

The May 20 event will include games and free ice cream from 4 to 6 p.m. Details for the “Spring Together” event will be posted on the city’s website. The contact for summer programming is Kelly Nelson, kelly.nelson@falconheights.org.

The special kick-off comes as the city hopes to spur enrollment in summer programming this year.

Last fall, the city hired consultant and former Sheriff Matt Bostrom’s report noted a “lack of alignment” between residents’ priorities for policing and their perception of the Sheriff’s Office services.

Falcon Heights is one of seven north metro suburbs currently receiving police services under contract with the county, but the others are not immediate neighbors. This has led to strained negotiations over who pays for a squad car to traverse the distance into the city and how many hours of each day the city needs its own staff and car.

Bostrom concluded that Falcon Heights does not fit the same model of the other cities and should not continue in the shared contract. He suggested that Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office officials that he’d charge them for some police services over the years.

In 2020, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher told Falcon Heights officials that he’d charge them for additional coverage the following year, then revised his estimate after the State Fair dissolved its force and picked up a contract with the Sheriff, charging the budget math. The State Fair has since reinstated its police department but still has a variety of contracts with surrounding jurisdictions.

He said the commission has decided that Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office is not providing adequate coverage and has led to strained negotiations some police services over the years. This has led to strained negotiations over who pays for a squad car to traverse the distance into the city and how many hours of each day the city needs its own staff and car.

Bostrom concluded that Falcon Heights does not fit the same model as the other cities and should not continue in the shared contract. He suggested that Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office might be willing to consider an independent contract.

The contract for policing in Falcon Heights has been in flux ever since the city’s relationship with St. Anthony Police broke off after police killed Philando Castile during a traffic stop in Falcon Heights in 2016. The city settled on a contract with the Sheriff in 2017. The city has also contracted with Roseville for some police services over the years. In 2020, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher told Falcon Heights officials that he’d charge them for additional coverage the following year, then revised his estimate after the State Fair dissolved its force and picked up a contract with the Sheriff.

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Park Bugle

May 2023

Editorial

By Scott Carlson

A heartfelt thank you

When was the last time that some-

one expressed a heartfelt “thank you” to you?

I am not talking about a perfun-
tory, casual or obligatory thank you.

No, I am talking about an in the-

ten, deep sincere thank you that is full of reflective thought and gratitude.

Earlier this spring that’s what Tom Spreigl, the longtime co-

owner of Tim & Tom Speedy Market did. He posted an in-depth note you

note on Facebook, celebrating

his 45 years in the grocery

business by thanking all of the people who have made that possible.

What follows is the bulk of Tom’s note of gratitude. It’s a celebration of his longevity and role in the Buggle community.

Speedy Market officially became Tim & Tom’s Speedy Market at 7 a.m. March 8, 1995.

Tom writes:

"It dawned on me recently that apart from March 8th being the 28th anniversary of Tim and I taking over Speedy Market, the month of March also marks 45 years since I began what ended up being my career at Speedy Market 8 even on Rice Street and Jessamine.

With all of these anniversaries and careers, it seemed as good a time as any to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the numerous people in my life who have made this dream possible.

First, I need to thank Tim. Thank you for being the best business partner and friend I could have asked for. You can’t do much in this business alone, and if you don’t have the right people with you to accompany you on this journey, you probably won’t make it far.

I’m glad and fortunate to have been able to do this with Tim for 32 years, with 24 of those years as business partners. A special thanks needs to be given to Tim’s wife, Ma-

ria, for putting up with the endless hours Tim spent with the store.

I know you and we will contin-

ue to enjoy their much deserved retirement.

Without the help and guidance of Tim’s mother and father, Bet-

ty and Emmet Faakos, Tim and I wouldn’t have been able to serve the St. Anthony Park neighbor-

hood and beyond. They played a major role in helping us get the deal done and open the doors. I am sincere and heartfelt thank you to them.

An eternal and unending thank you to my parents, Herb and Marion Spreigl. They laid down the foundation for everything, making me the per-

son that I am today.

Sadly, they weren’t able to see my success as a business owner, but mostly importantly my job as a husband and father. Though they may not be here to witness it, I know that they would be proud of your youngest son and look down with smiles and pride at what I’ve accomplished. Thank you for everything.

A special thank you should also be extended to an important person in my life, my Aunt Margaret. She was such an important figure as a source of wisdom and comfort.

Your light meant so much to me.

Thank you.

The tapestry of Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market is not woven with

out the strong fabric of the people that help us maintain the business and keep the day to day operations running smoothly. There are so many to men-

tion, but I am grateful for them all.

A very special thanks to Jesse Ross who was so vital to helping manage the store and was able to help maintain the daily grind of the store, especially if I were to ever be “out of town” for a few days.

Thank you — you truly left your mark in the Tim and Tom’s legacy. I hope you are having a great time in Alabama with your wife Lindsey and son Rocco.

The current staff is continuing our goal of excellent customer service and a pleasant shopping experience every time you walk through our doors. I am happy to say the future is very strong for Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market.

I would like to thank Al Zim-

merman for doing an exceptional job of keeping the deli and meat department going strong and al-

ways going above and beyond the call of duty. With his ideas and diet skill, he will continue to build upon our famous deli program and help achieve what we thought could only be achieved in the halls of our
grocery dreams. Thank you Al, words cannot express my gratitude.

When Tim decided to retire, we brought on Glen Wadie to take on over cutting meat responsibilities. Together, Al and Glen continue to build upon what Tim started.

I’m fortunate to be able to work with my sons Jake and Ted. It can often be said that the best part of working in a family business is working with your family while the worst part of working in a family business is working with your fam-

ily. I wouldn’t wish to be on this journey with any other people, and I am happy to have them by my side.

They look forward to continuing to help maintain the Speedy Market.

I am so proud of them. Thank you to Jake, his wife Rebec-

ca, and Ted for helping continue my dream.

The relationship between a store and the neighborhood it operates in is a symbiotic one. None of this would be possible without the dedication, love, passion and commitment this neighborhood has given us over these years. They continue to believe in us, support us, give us ideas, as well as spread the word about the special culture and en-
vironment we have cultivated in this beautiful neighborhood in St. Paul. Thank you Tim & Tom’s Speedy Market for everything you have given me and my family over these years.

We wouldn’t be where we are now without you.

But last not least, I need to thank

the foundation of our family — my kids, the best friends I’ve ever had in this world, the love of my life for 42 years, Jackie. None of this would be possible without her.

I don’t think I’ll ever be able to thank you enough for always be-

ing there by my side every step of the way as well as the sacrifices you make and continue to make so I can live out this dream. It is only by action and my commitment to what we’ve been built together that I can express how much you mean to me. Thank you for always being there for me. I know I will always have you in my corner. I couldn’t do this without you. I love you.

I look forward to many more memories ahead and to the bright future that lies ahead for both Saint Anthony Park and Tim and Tom’s Speedy Market.

Thank you! From the bottom of my heart.

Tom Spreigl

Letters to the Editor

By Al Doherty

A good idea described perfectly

I am glad to hear that the greeting card fundraiser has do-

nated over $3,300 to “Stand With Ukraine.” Thank you to the Bugle for sharing our story in your De-

cember 2022 issue to raise aware-

ness of our project.

Special thank you also to our wonderful neighborhood busi-

nesses, boreal and The Little Wine Shoppe, for promoting and sell-

ing our cards. Finally, thank you to our neighbors who supported this fundraiser with their purchases.

Evgenia Burchak, the artist who created the artwork for the cards, also sends her words of gratitude from Ukraine to every-

one who stands with Ukraine.

Karen Hovland

St. Anthony Park

Funds for Ukraine

I am grateful to report that our greeting card fundraiser has do-

ated over $3,300 to “Stand With Ukraine.” Thank you to the Bugle for sharing our story in your De-

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ness of our project.

Please note our publica-

tion dates represent when the newspapers go out for deliv-

ery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days.

Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town are usually completed two to three days after publication.

June:

SAP Arts Festival Guide

Copy/ad deadline: May 10

Publication: May 23

July:

Graduation recognition

Copy/ad deadline: June 14

Publication: June 27

August:

Copy/ad deadline: July 12

Publication: July 25

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community news and promotes

the exchange of ideas and opin-

ions in these communities. The

Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood communi-

ties and encourage community

participation.

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Romaine Cahail, Michelle Christianson, Barb Hawes, Steve Plagens, Jane Turk, Helen Warren, Kristin Wierman, Dinna Winter.
Bell Museum names Menninger interim

By Sarah CR Clark

The Bell Museum appointed Holly Menninger as its interim executive director effective April 17. The Falcon Heights resident and Bell Museum staffer succeeds Denise Young who recently resigned as Bell director to head the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Menninger accepted an invitation from University of Minnesota’s leadership to serve as interim director while the search for a permanent director is underway. Part of the University of Minnesota, the Bell Museum is Minnesota’s official natural history museum.

“I appreciate their confidence in me,” Menninger said of the museum’s leadership team. “It’s really an honor to be able to do this. Denise is leaving very big shoes to fill. She was an extraordinary leader.”

Meanwhile, Bell Museum’s associate director of public engagement and science learning, Jenny Stampe, will temporarily fill Menninger’s job as director of public engagement and science learning while Menninger serves as Bell’s interim executive director.

Young’s seven-year tenure at the Bell Museum included moving the museum to its new facility at 2088 Larpenteur Ave., significant growth in both visitors (+$2,000 annually) and budget (+$5.5 million), the creation of a statewide engagement team and the museum’s 150th anniversary year.

Menninger said her role will be “to continue the good work of the Bell Museum. We’re in a really great place and it’s an exciting time here. We are coming out of a strategic planning process and so we’re looking ahead to the next five years. We have a lot of exciting things coming down the road and my job is to keep that momentum going.”

Menninger is a trained entomologist and “a science communicator by passion and practice.” She earned her doctorate from the University of Maryland in ecology. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Menninger moved to Minnesota from North Carolina in 2018. She has worked at the Bell Museum since then as director of public engagement and science learning.

Menninger said of that position, “I’ve led the team that is responsible for onsite experiences at the Bell Museum. So that’s our exhibits, our planetarium and our K-12 and public programs. We are the largest department within the museum and our team is responsible for all those exciting things that make people want to come to the museum and connect and learn new things.”

Looking ahead, Menninger said, as interim director, she wants to, among other things, connect with audiences statewide, to lean more deeply into the Bell’s science work and work with curators. She is also looking forward to what this interim position means for her career. “I’m excited by this challenge and this opportunity to really grow and develop as a leader,” Menninger said.

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is regular contributor to the Bugle.

By Judy Woodward

Every month, the reference librarians at the Roseville Library receive dozens of questions from the public. Here are a couple of interesting queries we recently received:

Q. Is it possible for the library to get me an article that is behind the Star Tribune’s paywall? I hate to pay for a whole subscription when I just need one article.

A. The library has digital archives of the Star Tribune going back many years. Try clicking on the Newspapers option under the Digital Library tab on our homepage rclreads.org.

We offer separate databases covering historical newspapers and more recent issues. You can also access most of our newspaper archives remotely, as long as you have a library card registered in our system. The service is free. Talk to a librarian by phone, online or in person, if you want help in searching for the exact article you need.

Q. How do you choose your books? I’m surprised that you don’t carry more titles by my favorite author.

A. Ramsey County Library seeks to provide the community with a collection that meets informational, educational and recreational needs within the limitations of space, staffing and budget. We have several criteria for choosing books for our collection. But we always keep in mind the interests, needs and desires of the public we serve. For that reason, we welcome suggestions for purchase from the public. If there is a book or other material that you think we should have in the collection, you can submit a suggestion on our website here: rclreads.org/suggest-a-title.

We can’t promise that we will be able to purchase every title that is recommended to us, but we guarantee that we will review every suggestion carefully, according to our selection policy. If you’d like to learn more about how we choose our materials, you can read our Selection Policy on the website here: rclreads.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/82/2019/11/Policies_Collection-Management-Policy-Final-2017_0.pdf

Judy Woodward, who lives in St. Anthony Park, is a reference librarian at the Roseville Library. 2180 N. Hamline Ave. The library’s general phone number is 651-724-6001.

ASK THE LIBRARIAN

Have you ever heard of a will being contested after a loved one has died? What happens if there is a will that needs to be contested? What happens if there is no will?

A. A Will is not enough. A will may be contested if there are any doubts about the testator’s capacity to make a will or if the will is not in proper form. A will is not required to distribute a deceased person’s property. A deceased person’s property may be distributed by a deceased person’s spouse, children or other legal heirs as determined by law.

If you have questions about what will happen to your property after you die, you should consider creating a Last Will and Testament. A Last Will and Testament can specify how you want your property to be distributed. A Last Will and Testament can be contested if there are any doubts about the testator’s capacity to make a will or if the will is not in proper form. A Last Will and Testament is not required to distribute a deceased person’s property. A deceased person’s property may be distributed by a deceased person’s spouse, children or other legal heirs as determined by law.

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School news around town

Compiled by Sarah CR Clark

Murray Middle School

Murray Middle School students performed Matilda, Jr. in March. Photo courtesy of Stefanie Folkema.

“Matilda, Jr.” a Success

After four years without a performance, the Spring Musical Theater was back at Murray Middle School with the staging of “Matilda, Jr.” More than 50 students were involved in performing, singing, dancing and operating sound and lights. A stage crew of students created sets and props and handled transitions during performances. Just over 800 tickets were sold for the three-performance production.

Theater advisors Todd Rogers, Maddie Helmen and Erin Dooley; Crew advisor Megan Steinhoff; and Tech lead Carrie Bittner give a huge shout-out to all students and much appreciation to family volunteers and all who came to support the program by attending a performance.

Submitted by director Erin Dooley.

SAP Elementary School

Citizen Science: The Tulip Test Garden

Last fall, St. Anthony Park science teacher James Schrankler assisted the students in Ruth Krider’s first and second grade class with planting 30 red emperor tulip bulbs. The planting was part of a continuing international citizen science project called Journey North Tulip Test Gardens.

More than 900 St. Paul Public School students planted a total of 1,400 tulip bulbs across 23 different school sites in the fall of 2022, according to Josh Leonard, education director at St. Paul Public School’s Belvita Outdoor Educational Lab. Students across North America, from Texas to Alaska and Canada, plant the same species of tulip and compare when their tulips emerge and bloom.

Students observe the “Green Wave” on Journey North’s online map (journeynorth.org), which shows tulips emerging in southern latitudes as early as January and those in Minnesota generally emerging two months later, Leonard explained.

With data going back to 1998, students can also explore climate trends over time, explained Leonard, as well as the effects of the Urban Heat Island phenomenon. Schrankler’s students watched for the tulips’ emergence and blooming and reported that activity on Journey North’s website. Tulips in SAP’s Test Garden began emerging on April 6, according to Schrankler.

“I came in over spring break to check on them,” he said. “Only three emerged on that date. However, by April 10, all 30 had emerged!”

“There are so many learning opportunities that this project has to offer!” Schrankler said. “The data the students are collecting, along with other schools’ data, is valuable to scientists as they look at the impacts of global warming.”

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Host a young educator from Europe

The intern program at TC GIS serves a fundamental part in its mission to provide an innovative education of the whole child through German immersion. Interns are native, German-speaking young adults training to become teachers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. They are integrated into every grade level at TC GIS and provide more than 6,000 additional hours of classroom support for our school’s students each semester. The interns’ positive impact and intercultural engagement extends into the community as every intern lives with a volunteer host family. The opportunity for interns to be immersed into everyday U.S. life benefits both the intern and their host families.

Our Como neighbors are welcome to host, too! Interns come in two phases: late August through late January, and February through mid-June. To learn more about hosting an intern, visit tcgis.org/host-an-intern.

The TC GIS Community Garden

The TC GIS Community Garden is a 14.5-foot by 17.5-foot plot at the District 10 Como Community Garden near the State Fairgrounds. TC GIS community members sign up for slots throughout the summer to do light gardening such as pulling weeds and watering plants.

Volunteers begin planting seeds in May and each year some of our harvest is donated to the Keystone Midway food shelf. Last year, TC GIS donated over 24 pounds of produce! This is the TC GIS Community Garden’s fourth year.

Submitted by Mary Zimmerman.

Avalon School

New Online Program

Avalon School advisor Kevin Ward has announced that Avalon will be adding a 9-12 grade online program beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

According to Ward, the program will be flexible and entirely project-based with no online classes. Online students will have the option to meet in-person on Fridays with staff for among other things, a variety of learning activities.

Online students will have the option to participate in Avalon’s extra-curricular activities, such as sports, theater and robotics.

In an email to the Bugle, Ward said the online program would be “supportive of students who are doing PSEO (post-secondary enrollment options), have a job, and/or are taking care of children.”

Sarah CR Clark is a regular contributor to the Bugle.
Como spring musical hits the stage

By Eric Erickson

Como’s Theater Department performed four energetic shows of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” from March 17 to 21. Audiences enjoyed Friday’s opening night, followed by a Saturday matinee and Saturday evening performance, concluding with a Tuesday afternoon show for students and staff during the school day.

Producer and music director Siri Keller, with director Suzanne Myhre and choreographer Maija Kelly, said it was an honor to work with such a dedicated cast and crew.

Keller said that the directors and choreographer wanted students to explore new skills without judgment. “We wanted to push these new artists forward into characters, songs, set and lighting designs that forced them to think inwardly as much as they did outwardly.”

Cast members included Roman Rivers, Genevieve DeGaetano, Emerson Spencer, Liam Donegan, Ellen Chinema, Xee Lee, Cec Hawkins, Koda Karan, Par’ix Battee, July Paw, Jonathan Newman, Corry George Summers, Dua-zong Xiong, Lillian Mae, Lucia Rosewell and Ywa Hay Paw.

The crew consisted of Kaya Solheid, Freddy Gray, Vi Eich er, Maggie Fuller, Bella Becerra, Bean Bougie, Linnea Common, Charlie Dahl, Lila Kopp, Charlie McCabe, Lisa Truong, Clara Dunne, Ana Como, Millie Huth and Lily Pettiford.

History Day
Eleventh grade U.S. History students Paw Gay Say and Zariya Ge meda won the first-place prize for their website at the St. Paul Regional History Day competition. Their highly organized and well-researched project, which focused on the impact of Anne Frank’s Diary, advanced to the Minnesota State History Day finals at the University of Minnesota on April 22.

Seniors vs. staff basketball
The traditional seniors versus the staff basketball game in front of the student body to end the last day of school before spring break produced smiles, laughs and memories. The 30 students who volunteered to represent the class of 2023 and the 30 staff members who stepped up to play produced an entertaining extravaganza (which at times may have lacked basic basketball fundamentals!)

Advanced Placement exams
It’s AP exam season with subject-specific tests being administered from May 1 to 12 across the nation. Collectively, Como students are slated to take hundreds of exams covering content from 15 different courses with a goal of showing what they know and potentially earning college credit.

Prom
The 2023 Prom for Como juniors and seniors will be on May 12 at the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. This year’s theme is a Masquerade Ball.

This report was compiled by Eric Erickson, a Como Park Senior High School social studies teacher and regular contributor to the Bugle.
My birding buddy

My son, Andrew (Drew) passed away in early February of this year. He’d been suffering for a year or two with temporal frontal degradation. It took him at the age of 57. I didn’t realize that he’d become my birding buddy until we’d done several surveys and trips together.

We began at Afton State Park on a May day in 2000, looking for a white-tailed kite. One had been reported there a few days earlier. The white-tailed kite is a bird of the California coast, southern Texas and southern Florida. So, it’s a very rare visitor to Minnesota.

I liked Afton and thought I’d head out there and wondered if Drew would be interested in going with me. He was just getting out there and wondered if he’d be interested in going with me. Villa Maria was a former girls school overlooking the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. It was a great birding trip. Over the years, Drew found 38 lifers the first year he came along separate rooms after that. Drew found 38 lifers the first year he came along with me. Villa Maria was a former girls school overlooking the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. It was a great birding trip. Over the years, Drew helped me with the technology of playing owl calls when I led the owl walk there at sunset.

Drew and I shared a room the first year, in 2005, but one of us snored a great deal, so we had separate rooms after that. Drew found 38 lifers the first year he came along with me. Villa Maria was a former girls school overlooking the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. It was a great birding trip. Over the years, Drew helped me with the technology of playing owl calls when I led the owl walk there at sunset.

Drew and I did an annual owl survey west of the Twin Cities around Howard Lake in early April from 2008 to 2018. We were assigned a 25-mile route, an old frog survey route. We’d stop every half mile, get out of the car, wait for the car noises to subside, then reflect up on their bellies.

One year, as we stopped at the second-to-last survey point on the route, a couple of farm dogs came barking down to the road. Drew was concerned about getting out of the car.

I told Drew that a farmer friend of mine told me that what you do is open the door just a crack and put your hand out under the bottom of the door, let the dogs sniff your fingers, then you’ll be just fine. Drew suggested that I do that on my side! I told him that the dogs were on his side. He tried sticking out his fingers from the bottom of the car door, and it worked! We got out, the dogs rubbed up against us, allowed us to pet them. I was kind of surprised!

Drew and I did a Breeding Bird Survey for several years. That’s a survey to see what birds are using an area for breeding. Look for nest building, pair bonding, gathering nesting materials and the like.

Our route was out by Litchfield, about 50 miles west of the Twin Cities. We had to be out there before sunrise. It was interesting to listen to bird songs as the day was just dawning.

Some birds were already in full song. Others were just getting the rust out of their pipes, tuning up. We got to know what birds to expect at certain spots. We were assigned a 25-mile route, stopping every half mile and looking and listening for any and all birds.

Drew and I once went down to Kearney, Nebraska, to see the sandhill cranes on migration. It was March, very cold! Drew had brought foot warmers for his boots, but somehow had put them into his boots incorrectly.

On the hike out to the blind his feet began to get really hot. He had to stop and take the foot warmers out of his boots just so he could walk. The blind was right next to the Platte River. We reached it in the dark and could just barely see hundreds of sandhill cranes standing in the water, still sleeping with head tucked under a wing, as chunks of ice drifted by.

As the sun rose, the cranes began to stir. Finally, small groups would take to the air. Then they all lifted off, calling to one another. It was an awesome experience. I miss my birding buddy, my son. I always will. It was great while it lasted.

Clay Christensen, a longtime birder, lives and writes in Lauderdale.

Breeding bird survey sunrise. Photo by Drew Christensen.
Connecting well-being with landscaping

By Kathy Henderson

A few years ago, homeowners taking on a landscaping project would have probably thought about appearance, function, practicality, maintenance and cost. While those words are still applicable, words like biodiversity, environmentally friendly and sustainability have recently been entering landscape planning conversations and actions.

Jean Larson, of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, would add one more: well-being.

Home gardening and landscaping are direct links to well-being, said Larson, who noted research studies show how engagement with nature increases both human health and nature’s well-being.

While planting a yard and garden for biodiversity (i.e. bee and pollinator friendly) is a win-win for all the critters that share a habitat, Larson said people are learning they don’t have to compromise on beauty for biodiversity.

“Intentionally designing your landscape with pollinator plants provides a rich palette of options with both annuals and perennials,” she said.

Further, planting diverse masses of pollinator friendly flowers also makes sure that something is blooming in your garden right through October, according to Hiawatha Supply in Minneapolis, a University of Minnesota Extension educator since 2014.

However, Weisenhorn also stressed that the key to growing pollinator friendly flowers — one’s that will thrive and not just survive — is to first understand your soil.

Get a soil test and amend it accordingly, she advised in last spring’s “Talking with U of M” column.

The University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory recommends soil testing every three to five years and offers soil tests for $39. Details are available at soiltest.cfas.umn.edu/testing-services/lawn-garden.

80/20 rule. Larson advocates the “80/20 rule,” which is “80% of the landscape is rich, green, biodiverse plantings with 20% hardness — this is a simple way to design for a richer healing experience.”

When considering the 80% of your landscape — the living things such as plants and flowers — keep in mind that the St. Anthony Park Garden Club’s annual plant sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, on the lot at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place (across from Speedy Market).

When it comes to that 20% of hardness — the non-living elements of pathways, borders, rocks and woodchips around the planting area, retaining walls, plant containers, patios, lighting and yard art and decorative items — there’s a variety of local sources for materials and resources.

Budget conscious. Tight budget? Look to what’s available for free at the Ramsey County yard waste collection.

For example, Ramsey County’s Midway yard waste site at 1943 Pierce Butler Route has compost, while sites in Arden Hills and the East Side have compost and wood mulch.

Master Gardener booths are scheduled on various days and times at the collection sites, too, usually starting in May. Find an updated schedule on the Ramsey County webpage ramseycounty.us.

The Minnesota Tool Library’s Minneapolis location — main floor of the Thorp Building, 1620 Central Ave. N.E. — will host a free, open-to-the-public Tool Library Fix-In: Garden Tool Edition on Sunday, May 21, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Members of the fee-based Tool Library cooperative can check out yard and garden tools for free at its Minneapolis site or a recently established 800 Dale St. N. location. An inventory list and membership information can be found at mttoolibrary.org.

There are also landscape design videos and guides available on the University of Minnesota Extension website extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden as well as at the Minnesota State Horticulture Society’s Resource Hub link northerngardener.org.

Broader selection. Looking for a broader selection of materials than what might be available at a yard waste site?

Whether adding to or starting up a hardscapes project, check out the materials (river rocks, pea gravel, mulch, soil blends, compost and so on) and the costs to pick up or have them delivered by bulk suppliers such as Kern Landscape Resources, 955 Albert St. N. at Pierce Butler Route, kerlnlandscape.com or Hiawatha Supply in Minneapolis hiawathasupply.com.

Wood mulch seems remarkable! At least that’s the impression one gets from the long list of attributes in the Minnesota State Horticultural Society’s Northern Gardener e-news: placing a layer of wood mulch around your plants lessens the opportunity for evaporation, suppresses weeds, prevents runoff and erosion, prevents soil borne diseases, insulates roots from weather fluctuation, adds organic matter to your soil and gives a lovely, finished appearance to your landscape. Alternatively, you can also use native plants as living mulch or green mulch to fill spaces between plants.

For those not needing a bulk-size order, Kendall’s ACE Hardware on Dale Street at the Dale/Como intersection is a familiar and conveniently located place to find bag-size mulch, top soil and grass seed. It’s the place that people in the neighborhood depend on to pick up their basic landscape equipment and supplies, ranging from flower setters to wheelbarrows or to have their lawn mower blades sharpened.

Owner Josh Kahlhamer also carries the EGO brand of cordless landscape equipment — lawn mower, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers, chain saws — which he says are gaining in popularity for low noise level and lighter weight.

Kahlhamer, who bought the business from his father, Kendall, in 2017, maintains his father’s slogan of “the friendliest store in town” and has no plans to ever change the store’s name.

Landscaping to p. 11

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is why I like cacti and succulents. "I could not believe the diversity of orchids that Minnesota had its own orchid nursery (Orcid Limited in Plymouth). "I went out there and met the owner and explored this greenhouse full of orchids," Bloyer said. "I could not believe the diversity of them! Aside from their flowers, they have their common names are things like Central or South America. According to Bloyer, most orchids bloom in the fall and at the time of this interview (the spring) most of their family's collection were no longer blooming. And yet, the green patterns of orchid species there are about 28,000 species of orchids, making the "Orchidaceae" family the second largest botanical family in the world. Bloyer explained, "The more I got to know about orchids, the more it made sense that there were lots of types that were appealing to me because it's such a huge family of plants."

He further explained that while some orchids can grow above the Arctic Circle, Antarctica is the only continent where orchids do not grow. Some orchids grow in soil (and are referred to as "terrestrial"), some grow on other plants ("epiphytic"), some even grow underground ("subterranean"). "Though orchids are not super abundant, they are very widely adapted to different niches and habitats," Bloyer said. "In places like Central or South America where you have lots of elevation, in one valley there will be a bunch of one type of orchid and in the next, a bunch of another, just because of microclimates.

Minnesota is home to 43 species of native orchids. Bloyer confirmed, "They're all terrestrial and their common names are things like, coral root, ladies tresses and lady slippers." While he doesn't have a favorite spot for finding wild orchids, Bloyer remembers seeing yellow lady slippers at Jay Cooke State Park and purple fringed orchids in the St. Croix River Valley. For more information on Minnesota's orchids, Bloyer recommends the book "Orchids of Minnesota" by Welsly Smith.

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.
Farm bill discussion at The Good Acre

By Scott Carlson

Minnesota U.S. Sen. Tina Smith recently gathered at The Good Acre on Larpenteur Avenue with local farmers and industry leaders to discuss challenges that farmers of color are facing and strategies for Congress to support them in the upcoming federal farm legislation. Smith’s visit on April 5 to the Falcon Heights-based food hub was part of statewide listening sessions the senator is hosting across Minnesota to prepare for the farm bill. The Good Acre, a local non-profit that works closely with BIPOC (Black Indigenous and People of Color) farmers, is a Falcon Heights-based food hub.

The list of guests included:
• Moses Momanyi – Dawn2Dusk Farms, Cambridge
• Metric Giles – Urban Farm and Garden Alliance – Twin Cities
• Rodrigo Cala – Cala Farm and Part of Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC)
• Jane Windsperger – Organic Farm, Oglive
• Robert Lor – My Little Garden
• Farhio Khalif – Somali American Farming Institute
• David and Patra Wise – NativeWise Farm, Sawyer
• Angela Dawson – 40 Acre Co-op, Sandstone
• Lucas Humblet – Marine on Saint Croix (Native farmer)

Smith has been a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee since she took office in 2018 and has worked to ensure farmers of color in Minnesota have equal access to federal agriculture programs. She has introduced legislation to address the impacts of historical discrimination on BIPOC farmers such as the “Justice for Black Farmers Act” and recently secured $2 million in federal funding for the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers program.

In a press statement, Smith’s office noted, “There is a great disparity today between white farmers and farmers of color. The number of black farmers in the U.S. has dropped dramatically over the past century. Today, 98 percent of all farmland in the country is owned by white owners.”

Support Local Farmers

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Do the most good with your food purchasing power. Join The Good Acre’s Farm Share program and get 18-weeks of fresh, locally grown produce starting in June!

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Each office is independently owned and operated.
You may have noticed a red barn-type building on Larpenteur Avenue at the edge of the University of Minnesota campus in Falcon Heights, not far from St. Anthony Park.

What you might not know is that the building, The Good Acre, is the largest non-profit food hub in Minnesota and plays a key role in connecting food and people in our state. Its work is more critical than ever as unprecedented disruptions in our food system and supply chain continue.

I believe we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a better food system. As we have seen during the multiple crises of Covid, climate change and racism, connecting food that is grown here with people who live here is critical to increased food security for all. True food security means we have a reliable food supply in our community, growers are paid equitable prices for their harvest and people have access to the most nutritious food possible in every place where they connect with food.

By partnering with anchor institutions such as food banks, schools, and healthcare organizations, The Good Acre, also known as TGA, is uniquely positioned to increase local food productivity and strengthen our food system. But we know a robust, thriving system takes all of us. As the ground begins to thaw, there are three ways you can help create a food future that works for everyone in our community:

1. Join TGA’s Farm Share: Subscribe to our community-supported agriculture program. Farm Share is one of the best ways that we put our mission into action. Tastes good, does good. Sign up at thegoodacre.org.

2. Donate: Support Hmong, black and other farmers of color to increase their earnings, create more jobs, help them flourish through our grower support programs and ensure that fresh local produce is shared with area food banks and to people who are food insecure, thegoodacre.org/donate.

When the food system works for everyone, small growers and food entrepreneurs can create more jobs and grow their own wealth. This is especially meaningful for those who identify as black, Hmong, indigenous, LGBTQ+ and women. Successful business ownership is one of the few ways to create generational wealth.

Last year was TGA’s busiest yet, with more than $3.4 million spent with Hmong, black and other farmers of color and food producers across all of our programs. When food growers and makers get fair market prices and access to larger markets, their farms and businesses thrive.

The Good Acre is the largest non-profit food hub in Minnesota and plays a key role in connecting food and people in our state. It’s work is more critical than ever as unprecedented disruptions in our food system and supply chain continue.

Volunteers and staff box up rhubarb for Farm Share pick-up. Photo courtesy of The Good Acre.

The Good Acre: Building local, equitable food systems

By Theresa McCormick

The Good Acre: Building local, equitable food systems

Shop a wide variety of annuals, perennials, herbs, and veggies!
Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18
8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Langford Park

All proceeds to benefit St. Anthony Park Elementary School

The Good Acre

St. Anthony Park School Association

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LION Event and tour of The Good Acre

Join the Local Investment Opportunities Network, also known as LION, on Saturday, May 6, at The Good Acre, 1790 Larpenteur Ave. W., for a 5 p.m. tour and a 6 to 7:30 p.m. gathering. People are welcome to join one or both.

LION is a Transition Town—All Saint Anthony Park initiative connecting local, sustainable business opportunities with everyday people like you as a strategy to localize our economy, shifting our money from large, profit-driven corporations to businesses within our community. RSVPs are encouraged but not required at lion@transitionasap.org. Light snacks and beverages provided.
sale listings was down to two from four, although the price per square foot decreased to $198 from $202. “Because inventory is lower in all three of these locations, even though the interest rates are higher, the demand is still there,” Healy explained.

Across the Twin Cities, there is only a 1.3-month supply of inventory, the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors (SPAAR) reported on March 15. That means if all prospective buyers stopped searching and bought a property, the market would be out of inventory in 1.3 months. Typically, four to six months of supply indicate a balanced market, according to SPAAR.

Looking at data from 2018 to 2022, median sales prices for the area have shown strong growth. “On average, we’re seeing $80,000 to $90,000 swings in just a four-year span,” Benedict shared. “That is incredible. That’s a lot of equity for someone to have, too.”

In Benedict’s experience, some buyers focus too heavily on interest rates. “In the grand scheme of things, they are still in a much better position buying now versus waiting and hoping that rates come down or hoping that prices come down,” he said, “because at the end of the day — yes, there will always be some corrections — but values have historically only gone up and never come back down.”

As for sellers, although they have the upper hand, Healy stressed that pricing is still important. “During the COVID housing boom… it was crazy what houses would sell for,” she said. “Houses now really do need to be priced well to move.” Homes that sit tend to sell lower than if they were priced correctly at the outset, she added.

Whether buying or selling, Benedict said he encourages people to look at the big picture. “There’s never a perfect time to buy. There’s never a perfect time to sell. Focus on your goals,” Benedict advised. “Focus on what you are after, what you’re trying to get out of this. The rest will kind of fall into place.”

Christie Vogt is a St. Paul-based freelance writer and a regular contributor to the Bugle.
Hosting healthy spreads for spring socials

By Jenni Wolf

It’s May and we are finally hitting our stride with springtime! For many of us that brings more socializing, hosting others at our homes and more gatherings like Mother’s Day brunches, graduation parties and wedding showers.

Wondering what to serve? Consider these tips for putting together a tasty and balanced spread at your next celebration that everyone can enjoy:

Consider your guest list. Eating styles are diverse and can look different for everyone.

A good first step is to assess your guest list and identify if any dietary restrictions need to be considered. If so, adjust your menu to include a wider variety that all can enjoy — or ask your guests to share one of their favorite dishes.

I also like to use parties as a way to try some new recipes. I am not vegetarian. But I might take a hosting opportunity to prepare a new vegetarian dish as it will serve my vegetarian guests and give all of us carnivores a low-risk opportunity to branch out!

Think about the food groups. Nothing new here, and if you’ve read my column before, you know I like to keep it simple. Grains. Protein. Fat. Produce. Take a look at your menu and make sure you can identify each of these somewhere on it.

You don’t have to put a boring veggie tray on the table, but maybe you make a veggie-filled quiche or set out veggie toppings for walking tacos! Having the whole gang present helps to ensure a satisfying meal so you don’t keep grazing on the chips and dip.

Pick a theme. It can feel overwhelming to decide what to include on the menu. Selecting a theme helps to automatically narrow down your choices.

Brunch is common for Mother’s Day, try a taco bar for a graduation party or host a charcuterie-filled bridal shower. Put out a variety of dishware. Have some small plates, large plates, bowls, etc. Offering different sizes of dishware encourages guests to use what might best match their hunger level and lets them know they can go back for more and that everyone doesn’t have to eat the same amount.

Spring charcuterie party board: A themed-snack board is an easy and fun way to include a balance of food groups, with something everyone will enjoy. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

Be realistic about quantities. Remember food is a fun part of celebrating and gathering, but it is not the only part. It can be easy to “over-do” the food and end up with more than you need.

While leftovers are welcomed, having an excess of food can promote overeating. Loop back to your guest list, consider if your gathering happens over a regular mealtime or is more of a snack situation and then estimate how much food you will need to allow everyone to try everything.

Chances are everyone won’t, leaving room for guests to have seconds of what they might really enjoy.

And if the food runs out, well there is more time to focus on connection and being together. It is also much easier to clean up when there are fewer leftovers!

Hosts eat first! The hardest tip to put into practice, in my opinion. As a host it can be easy to be in tune to everyone else’s needs, making it hard to recognize and honor your own.

Make sure you grab a plate along with everyone else so you don’t wind up hungry and prone to overeating when everyone goes home.

Jenni Wolf, a registered dietitian, writes about food and nutrition for the Bugle.
Literary Bridges Reading series

This month's roster promises a wide-ranging, yet interconnected group of poets: Marion Gómez, Lynette Reins-Grandel, Mohib Soliman, Claire Wahnmanholm and Bryan Thao Worra. May 9, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Chapter Book-sellers, 38 Snelling Ave. S.

Tuesday with a Scholar series

The Ramsey County Library's free Tuesday with a Scholar virtual series continues. Registration for the Zoom sessions, each taking place from 12:30 to 2 p.m., is required, 651-724-6901 or on the library website rclreads.org.

The sessions are:
- May 16: Curt Brown, author and Star Tribune history columnist, will share five stories from his talk on “Diverse Stories from Minnesota Past.”
- May 23: Alfred Marcus, author and professor, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, will talk about “When a Nation Grows Old: The Implications of Global Demographics.” Find out what the divide between “young” and “old” means for the economy and the political future of Minnesota, as well as the nation.
- May 30: Deborah Appleman, author and professor, Carleton College, will talk about “Culture Wars in the Classroom.”

After registering, a confirmation email will be sent, and on the scheduled Tuesday morning, a Zoom link email will arrive.

Library program videos are also posted about a week after the original program takes place. Look for the Library Program Video link under Events and Classes.

Marjorie McNeil Conservatory

The annual Mother’s Day Bonsai Show will feature unique bonsai plants that are privately owned. There will also be members from the Minnesota Bonsai Society available to answer questions. Saturday, May 13, and Sunday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2235 Como Ave. Drive, free, although small donations accepted, 651-487-8201; comozooconservatory.org.

Como Quest: Wild Conservation

The Como Park Zoo & Conserva-tory will host an after-hours event for adults (age 21+) with conserva-tory talks, family activities, concessions and cash bar. Thursday, May 4, 6:30 to 9 p.m., at 12225 Estabrook Drive. $45, reservations required: 651-487-8201; comozooconservatory.org.

SAP history series concludes

The 2022-2023 inaugural St. AnTHONY Park history series concludes with a presentation at 7 p.m., Tues-day, May 9, at St. Anthony Park Lu-thерan Church, 2232 Como Ave. The May program will feature a panel presentation, with audience participation to allow attendees to share memories of their time in St. Anthony Park. The church has been sponsoring this free monthly series since fall last year. If attending online, please contact mary.mergenthal@gmail.com for a Zoom link for this presentation, if you do not have it from an earlier month.

The SAP history series resumes in September. Watch for details in the August issue of the Bugle.

Bell Museum

Storytime: Star Party: Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to noon and noon to 1 p.m. “Star Party” children’s book author Polly Carlson-Voiles and illustrator Consie Powell will host.

Open Sunday: Saturday, May 20, 10 to 11 a.m. Open birding wel-comes all experience levels and offers a short, guided experience on a drop-in basis. Events are free with regular admission: $12-29, free for Bell Museum members and University of Minnesota students (with ID). 625-4555, bellmuseum.umn.edu.

St. Anthony Park Library

The St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave, will be closed Thurs-day, May 11 for staff training and Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day holiday. Programs this month include:

Family Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11:15-11:45 a.m. Join for stories, songs and puppets in the library’s auditorium. Family storytime is designed for children ages 0-5, their caregivers and siblings. No registration required.

Fun Lab: Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Drop in anytime to hang out and make cool stuff at Fun Lab! Featuring crafts, science experiments, engineering projects and more. This STEAM drop-in program is designed for ages 7 to 11. No regis-tration necessary.

Paw Parade: Saturday, May 13. Read to Enzo from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Read to Sadie 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. The two friendly dogs love to sit and listen to stories. Geared for youth ages 5-12, each single reading session is 15 minutes with each dog. The time limit is to ensure that the reading time will be available to all children who want to participate.

Saturday Family Storytime: May 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Storytime, an interactive learning opportunity to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun, takes place in the Children’s Section. Registration not required. Recommended for ages 2-5 accom-panied by an adult.

Book Sale Donations: Saturdays, May 6 & 20, 10:30-3:30 p.m. Drive up to the Carter Avenue side of the library and drop off your donations of new or gently used books, DVDs, movies and CD audio books for the St. Anthony Park Library As-sociation’s annual book sale (June 2-3). Volunteers will be there to assist you.

Adult Book Club: Monday, May 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join library staff and fellow book lovers in the li-brary’s auditorium for lively con-ver-sation and refreshments. No registration required but stop in or call the library at 612-642-0411 for more information or to pick up a copy of the book.

English Conversation Circle for Adults: Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. with the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice in the low-er level auditorium. All levels of English learners are welcome. No registration required.

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Journey to Holy Land is unique trip

By Michelle Christianson

When a group of us from St. An- thony Park Lutheran Church and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church were briefed in 2019 on our upcoming trip to Israel and Jordan, none of us could have guessed that our trip wouldn’t happen until Feb- ruary of this year.

Each time we planned to leave, Covid struck again. I think we all were holding our breath until we actually got on the plane on Sun- day, Feb. 26.

After a relatively short flight to Newark, New Jersey, and long wait in that airport, we boarded our plane to Tel Aviv. We shared the 10-hour flight with quite a few re- turning Orthodox Jews, who distin- guished themselves by their apparel and by their prayers near the end of the flight that helped prepare us for our visit to the Holy Land.

Israel is a place where three re- ligions meet, where ancient civi- lizations lie under steep hills and where political conflict is endemic. I left with a great appreciation for the varieties of devotion. Muslims called to prayer five times a day, the varieties of devotion: Muslims where political conflict is endemic.

Our group then drove to Bethle- hem, where we saw The Shepherd’s Church and visited a cave where shepherds kept their sheep.

Finally, we went to Yad Vash- em, the Israeli Holocaust Muse- um. Two hours barely scratched the surface of what we could see. They had pictures, writings, mu- sic and videos of survivors talking about their experiences — all very moving.

I ended my visit with a trip to the children’s memorial, a darkened room, with points of light all over, and a voice reciting the names, ages and a voice reciting the names, ages.

The travel group from St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church gathered with guide Sami in front of the Treasury at Petra. Nancy Plagens was on the camel. Photo by Michelle Christianson.

After our pastoral contingent: Gary Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. Our guide was born there and lived most of his 70 years there.

After that, we went to Nazareth, where we visited a recreated first century village and a that had been built on top of what was said to be the synagogue that Jesus attend- ed. We also saw the Church of the Annunciation, a beautiful 20th century church with depictions of people from countries around the world. That night, Gus played his oud (lute) for us and some danced. On Friday, we arrived ear- ly at the site of the Sermon on the Mount. It was moving to see people from all over the world, singing and enjoying the beauty of the place overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

From there we went to the loca- tion of the feeding of the 5,000 and where Jesus was supposed to have appeared to the disciples at the edge of the Sea. From there we drove to Capernaum, another site that has had multiple churches built on it and that is said to be where much of Jesus’ ministry took place.

The next day, March 4, we left for Jordan — a new guide, new bus and new driver. After a long drive, we stopped at the Jordan River, where there are seven churches commemorating Jesus’ baptism (though sites close to each other also claim to be where it happened). After a service at the Lutheran church there, we took another long drive, to Mount Nebo, where Moses is said to have first seen the promised land. Again, there were many countries represented in the groups visiting there.

Our hotel at Petra was a welcome sight for weary travelers. We had the first of our buffet dinners and a much-needed night’s sleep.

On the flight home, I really to travel first to Megiddo, an ancient city built on an ancient city, and so on, (representing more than 30 civilizations). It’s amazing to see something that old and to re- alize that you are walking where people walked thousands of years ago. Then we drove to the kibbutz Nof Nosaros, on the Sea of Gali- lee, where we had a boat ride and a short service with communion on the boat.

The next morning we toured the kibbutz and learned about how it was established as a commune. Our guide was born there and lived most of his 70 years there.

The next day was a very full one.

We started at the Muslim sec- tion of the Old City, at the Dome of the Rock. Beautiful mosaics cover the outside of the building, but we couldn’t go inside because none of us were Muslims.

In the Christian section, we saw St. Anne’s Church, the Holy Sepul- cher and the Via Dolorosa, all filled with visiting pilgrims from many countries.

In the Jewish part of the city, we visited the Wailing Wall, which is divided into one part for men and one for women. Three faiths, one city. One explanation for the order that we did things is that we had to go through security (the only place in the Old City where we had to do that) to get to the Wailing Wall, so it was the last thing we did.

Our group then drove to Bethlehem, where we saw The Shepherd’s Church and visited a care where shepherds kept their sheep.

Finally, we went to Yad Vash- em, the Israeli Holocaust Muse- um. Two hours barely scratched the surface of what we could see. They had pictures, writings, mu- sic and videos of survivors talking about their experiences — all very moving.

I ended my visit with a trip to the children’s memorial, a darkened room, with points of light all over, and a voice reciting the names, ages.

The next day with a moonscape-like view out the back of the hotel. A unique site Petra, a UNESCO World Her- itage site, is like nothing any of us had seen before. On Sunday, we walked 2½ miles downhill to the temple at the end of the road, through the narrow Siq (main road into the city and a canal), past the Treasury and alongside gorgeous sandstone walls, carved by humans, wind, earthquakes and rain into tombs and intriguing formations.

Some of us climbed up to the higher elevations to see more evi- dence of the long gone civilizations that used that place as a center of commerce and defense for the Nabataeans (an Arab tribe) and the Romans before being abandoned.

Did I mention that it was down- hill going in? Of course, it was up- hill on uneven ground and heaved Roman paving stones all the way back. My husband and I were happy to sit and have some ice cream at the top!

On Sunday, March 5, we left Jor- dan after a somewhat scary border crossing (Israeli soldiers with guns everywhere), stopped in Jericho and arrived outside of Jerusalem.

We viewed a breathtaking pan- orama of the city from the Mount of Olives and then walked the Palm Sunday route down a nar- row, winding path to the Garden of Gethsemane. Our beautiful ho- tel, just outside the Old City, was a welcome sight.
Native dancers, bonsai show and more coming to Gibbs Farm, Como Park Zoo and Bell Museum

By Janet Wight

With summer on the way many fun and free or inexpensive events are on the calendar at Gibbs Farm, the Bell Museum and the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory. Here is a rundown of some of the highlights over the next few months at the three educational and recreational venues in Bungalow land:

Gibbs Farm

Director Sammy Nelson provided a breakdown of the scheduled activities at Gibbs Farm, which is a branch of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

Opening day will be held May 27 with an emphasis on family friendly entertainment. Farm animals will be on hand and assorted activities will be offered including crafts and guided tours. Friday orchard chores, scheduled from 10 a.m. until noon on May 19 and June 16, are suitable for all ages and skill levels. Participants will perform tasks in the heritage apple orchard.

Themed summer day camps will be held beginning in June, featuring half-day options for children ages 4 through 13. Bell Museum Interim Director Holly Menninger described the upcoming events at University of Minnesota Bell Museum, including several programs scheduled for Saturday, May 20. Sensory Friendly Saturday will be held between 8 and 10 a.m. Guests with sensory sensibilities will enjoy special programming including a planetarium show (pre-registration required). Guided bird walks, led by members of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union, will take visitors through the museum’s outdoor learning landscape and adjacent natural areas between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Birnoculars will be available.

Spotlight Science, the regularly scheduled series held during the academic year, will highlight plant biodiversity. This program, held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., will allow visitors to connect with faculty, researchers and graduate students from the University of Minnesota. Ojibwe and D/Lakota Indigenous astronomy will be the focus of the Native Skywatchers Kapemni Dance performance. This motion media dance experience will feature storytelling and interactive animation at 2 and 3 p.m.

The Bell Museum will celebrate Pride Month on June 3 with another Spotlight Science presentation. The scientific contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals from the University of Minnesota will be featured from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

This summer, Augsburg professors Kristin Anderson and Courtney Law Office.

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SAP history tours this summer

By Mary Mergenthal

This year’s St. Anthony Park history series at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church wraps up in May, and due to its popularity, more opportunities are planned.

This summer, walking tours of historic areas are planned. Then, beginning in September, St. Anthony Park Lutheran will sponsor a second year-long series, focused on the neighborhood’s residential architecture. More information on that is to come in the Bugle’s August edition.

This summer, Augsburg professor Kristin Anderson will take her neighborhood history series outdoors, offering the series of walking tours. Folks are invited to follow along in cars, if mobility is an issue.

There will be six different tour programs, scheduled every two or three weeks. Each tour will be offered three times: a Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the following two weeks. Each tour will be of duration 4 hours. Tours will perform tasks in the heritage apple orchard.

Audio system costs generously supported by St. Anthony Park’s Courtney Law Office.

There is a suggested $10 donation for each tour. Reservations are required. For more information and to sign up visit KristinAnderson.org/events.

Mary Mergenthaler lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former editor of the Bugle.

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MAY 2023 • PARK BUGLE

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This month in “Lives Lived” we remember, among others, a deco- rated WWII veteran and a former banking professional.

Oria Brinkmeier

Oria Brinkmeier, 96, died from cancer on Jan. 29, 2023. He was born on his family’s farm in 1927, in Lester Prairie.

Oria was raised on a farm with- out electricity, running water or indoor plumbing and frequently plowed the fields with oxen when he was young.

Oria attended Concordia Col- lege in St. Paul, with his time there he was young.

He moved to St. Anthony Park to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota, where he rented a room in the home of Laura and Jennie Berge on Carter Avenue, across from the St. Anths- on Park Library. The Berge sisters became such lifelong treasured friends, that even one of Oria’s daughters was named after them.

Oria loved the neighborhood, and had fond memories of eating lunches at the soda fountain in Miller Drug Store between his classes at the University. He earned a Ph.D. in philosoph- y in 1967 from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and a juris doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1974. Oria had a long career in higher education, working as both an administrator and professor. He spent his last 21 academic years at Normandale Community College, retiring in 1993.

While in graduate school, Oria met and married Myrna Winke- lmann in 1963. Oria and Myrna raised their three children on Val- entine Avenue.

After Myrna’s death in 2003, Oria returned to the Brinkmei- er family farm in Lester Prairie, where he farmed, raising row crops and a small herd of cattle until his death. During his retirement, Oria served his community teaching AARP driver safety courses and participating as a member of the McLeod Cooperative Power board of directors for the past 18 years.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother Albert and Myrtle Brinkmeier, wife Myrna Brinkmeier, sister Romona (John) Horman and brother-in-law Russ- sell Johnson.

He is survived by son Arelan (Sveta) Brinkmeier, granddaugh- ter of John and Laura Schultz, and sisters Gloria Po- fahl and Georgina Johnson. His funeral was held in Lester Prairie, with burial at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Tim Broderick

Tim Broderick died April 1, 2023. He was a 1973 graduate of Murray High School. His father, Bernie, was a math teacher and hockey coach there. Most recently, Tim lived in Cold Bar, Washington.

He is survived by siblings, Mary Beth, Pat, Cathy and Theresa; his children Brandon and Kelly; 10 grandchildren; and former wife Kimberly Kinder.

His final resting place will be Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Jean Fruscello

Jean Bernhard Fruscello, 81, died Feb. 1, 2023. She graduated from Murray High School. Jean was the daughter of Harold and Ruth (Hanson) Stougard.

Jean served as president of the International Customer Service Association, president of the Ar- zona Classic Thunderbird Club, hospitality chair for Florence Crit- tenton School, a member of the Board of Directors for the Scottsladde Symphony and lobbyed for Arizona to declare the first week in November as Customer Service Week.

She is survived by daughter Jo- ellly Bufalini (Bob), son Jon Ber- nhard (Teri), four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials to Hospice of the Val- ley or American Cancer Society.

Joanne Pedersen

Joanne M. Pedersen died Dec. 17, 2022. She grew up in St. Peter, enjoying horseback riding, swim- ming competitions and canoing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Jo attended Gustavus Adolphus College and graduated from the U of Minnesota in nursing. She had many adventures with her young family while serving in South- east Asia as a missionary’s wife. Returning to Minnesota in 1970, Jo earned a master’s degree and served as a supervisor for Ram- sey County Public Health for 25 years, where she met and married Connie.

Jo was a fierce advocate for any- one in need, volunteering into her 70s for the Red Cross and Health- care for the Homeless.

She was preceded in death by parents Gertrude and Goodwin Olsomann and brothers Donald, Vern and Kristi. She is survived by her wife Connie; four children, children (Jeff) Travis, Kay (Kim) Pedersen and Jon (Ginger) Pedersen; six grandchildren; and “adopted” children, Christie, Rick, Mirelle and Jenny.

A celebration of Jo’s life will take place on May 6 at St. Timothy Lu- theran Church.

Vernon Petersen

Vernon B. Petersen, 96, a former longtime resident of St. Paul, died March 19, 2023, in Ramsey. He was a longtime respected teacher and coach at St. Paul Murray Junior/ Senior High School.

Vernon was a decorated WWII Army Veteran. He fought with the CoC 21st Inf 24th Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, was part of the Philippine Liberation cam- paign and was stationed postwar in Japan. He was a member of the Army Reserves.

Vernon was preceded in death by his wife Violet and grandson Matthew. He is survived by his children Vernon, Lyle (Kathry), Robert (Kimberly), Laurie, Jeffrey (Nga), 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

 Funeral service has been held, with burial at Fort Snelling Na- tional Cemetery. Memorials to Youthprise, youthprise.org.

Patrick Quinn

Patrick F. "Emmet" Quinn, 65, of Burnsville, was born Sept. 16, 1957. He died peacefully Feb. 5, 2023. Emmett grew up in Como Park where he created numerous life- long friendships. He worked 49 years as a stagehand traveling the world, doing a job he loved. Em- mett was always the life of the party and will be terribly missed.

He was preceded in death by par- ents Don and Lorraine and sister Kathy. He is survived by his partner Joe (Ian), children Roy (Stephanie) and Katie (Mitch) Gregus and six grandchildren.

Celebration of life has been held.

Stephen Schultz


He was preceded in death by his parents, William Schultz Sr. and Mildred Schultz and brother, Wil- liam Schultz Jr. in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Memorials to University of Minnesota.

Lives Lived sponsored by Roselawn Cemetery
Holy Land trip from p. 16

and nationalities of the murdered children. Beautiful and tragic.

We had a somewhat disappoint-
ing start to our next day, March 7. Though some really wanted to see the grotto at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, logistics just didn’t work in our favor and we only saw and heard about the history of the churches at that site.

Visiting a refugee camp

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Previewing Cougars spring

By Eric Erickson

Practices for spring sports in the Minnesota State High School League started in mid-March. Most Como teams had three weeks of indoor practices before warmer weather finally melted the winter’s plentiful snow.

As April advanced, competitions increased with games, matches and meets for multiple Cougar teams each day after school.

For a glimpse of each Cougar varsity team, we present this spring sports preview. Schedules and results for all Como and St. Paul City Conference teams can be found at saintpaupsports.org.

Track and field: Many student athletes are trying track and field for the first time this spring and that boosts the combined boys and girls roster to more than 50 team members. The Cougars have produced solid third-place finishes in the St. Paul City Conference for each of the past two years.

That will remain a goal for both the boys and girls teams in 2023.

On the girls side, Ellery Tennis is a top-tier hurdler and triple jumper, Alice Wagner-Hernstad and Greta Seppanen are versatile athletes and leaders of relay teams and Sahara Hinton is one of the best high jumpers in the conference.

The distance events are a strength of the boys team led by cross country runners. Junior Mason Aarnes and Garrett Seppanen, senior Liam Schwie, plus senior captain Charlie Power-Theisen are in top form and ready to score points in the 1600M and 3200M.

Boys Tennis: New courts at Como, donated by retired coach Kathy Dumas, are scheduled to be constructed during the summer. Before that, a young Cougar team will strive to create a memorable season.

Ninth and tenth grade players will form the core of the roster, anchored by No. 1 singles player sophomore Nolan Rognerud.

Baseball: New head coach Ian Zangs is excited to have a good group of senior leaders including Gabe Napierala, Nic Everson and Frank Barnard. The team is emphasizing the need to be flexible and play multiple positions to accommodate a lack of pitching depth.

Veterans and newcomers will be asked to step up and try new things for the good of the group.

Program goals are to improve upon last year’s 5-10 record and to develop younger players. Having a full junior varsity team and schedule should help with that.

Softball: The team’s early season fundraiser created some team bonding and community connections. Players produced Easter egg hunts and baskets for their “Egg My Yard” event with earnings going towards new equipment.

There is positive momentum in the program coming out of 2022 when the varsity posted a 10-7 overall record. This year’s senior captains are Kayla James, Dawn Weins and Par’iz Battie. Junior Desiree Vang will also be a captain.

Callie McDermott will be the Cougars’ new head coach.

Golf: The top of the girls lineup will feature sophomore Genevieve DeGaetano and freshman Robin Engman-Phiri who are both prepared to reach a new level this season.

Other returning players are Rakya Blackwell and Sar Yi.

Sophomore Sonnom Vang will be the No. 1 player for the boys.

He was an all-conference player last year who had a strong showing in the section tournament as well. Juniors Elliot Donahue and Johnavon Hudson are also returning players for the Cougars.

Softball, baseball, and track and field athletes enjoying an early season practice on the Como turf field. Photo by Eric Erickson.

Badminton: The St. Paul City Conference contains the state’s top badminton teams, which means the Cougars will once again share the most challenging schedule possible.

New head coach Kyle Johnson has an eye on building for the future while helping this year’s varsity team reach their full potential.

Of nearly 50 girls in the program, only five are seniors.

Three top seniors are Betty Hebble, LabShah Wah and Kaya Koob. Juniors playing critical roles for the varsity are Xee Lee, Ta’Iyah McNeil and Lisa Truong.

Team goals are to improve fitness and be at their best by the year-end conference and state tournaments.

Boys volleyball: The Cougars will continue to compete in the Minnesota Boys High School Volleyball Association. Momentum is building for the Minnesota State High School League to add boys volleyball as a sanctioned sport.

In the meantime, Como’s squad is working hard to try and match last season’s success. The 2022 team had a 10-1 record for the regular season and advanced to the quarterfinals of the association’s state tournament.

Como alumni Knoob Lewis will coach the team.

Ultimate Frisbee: Another club sport in the spring is ultimate frisbee. Como Park has a long tradition of participation in the Minnesota Ultimate League, but this will be the first spring season competing in the “Open Division” as a co-ed team.

The team is enjoying their spirited practices. They have strong numbers with 28 players and are excited for games. Veteran leaders include seniors Ayden Brudnak, Liv Miller, Vi Eicher and junior Emmett Driscoll.

Eric Erickson covers Como Park Senior High School sports for the Bugle and is a longtime coach of school and youth sports in St. Paul.

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