It's harvest time at Cornercopia

Students get hands-on lessons about organic, sustainable farming on St. Paul Campus.

By Judy Woodward

It's going to be another bumper crop at Cornercopia, the 5 1/2-acre certified organic, mostly unmechanized, student-run truck farm on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

This season isn't over yet, but last year the land produced 10,000 pounds of produce divided among 130 species, according to farm manager Courtney Tchida. Not bad for a site where everything from weeding to picking off the potato bugs is done by hand by a team of nearly two dozen students and interns, who also supply hoophouses to university dining facilities and sell their produce directly to the public weekly at the campus's own farmers market.

Tchida, the sole permanent university employee at the farm, doubles as the student program coordinator for the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in the U's Department of Horticultural Science, which is also the official sponsor of Cornercopia. She's worked at the farm since 2005, arriving shortly after the project got its start in 2004 when two horticulture students wondered why, on a campus devoted to the study of agriculture, there was no place for students to "grow stuff."

A decade later, Tchida notes that half the farm is given over to student research projects such as an "ever-bearing, day neutral strawberry" that may continue to produce right up until the end of the growing season in mid-October. The public can enjoy the research results of plants like this one even before they reach the stage of commercial production. The ever-growing strawberries will be sold this month at the campus farmers market Cornercopia to 8

SAP Elementary makeover to begin in spring

A $12.4 million remodel will add classroom, more natural light and a lot more to the 63-year-old building.

By Kristal Leebrick

A new cafeteria and main entry, more restrooms, more natural light and an expanded second floor with increased classroom space are on the list for St. Anthony Park Elementary School's $12.4 million remodel set to begin next spring.

Most of the existing interior will be remodeled, but Principal Ann Eaton Johnson wants all past and present families to know this: The mosaic in the school's front entry of the beloved Langford Park spire tree, created and installed by mosaic artist and parent Holly Jordan, art teacher Courtney Olsen and many volunteer parents in 2006, isn't going anywhere.

"It will stay intact. We are not touching it," Johnson said. Representatives from St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and Cunningham Group Architecture presented the schematic design to the St. Anthony Park Community Council on Sept. 8 and at the school on Sept. 19.

The plan is to remove the two portable classrooms at the south end of the school, expand the second floor and add 7,421 square feet of classroom space to accommodate four classrooms in each grade. K-5, and add 935 square feet for a new kitchen and loading dock. The designs also include a new front entrance and a new assembly space. The elementary school was built in 1953 and an addition was constructed in 1974.

St. Anthony Park is a popular school in the district and over the last five years has had a waiting list of students. Enrollment was at 523 students last school year and in the spring 89 students were on the wait list to get in this fall. (Enrollment numbers have not been finalized this fall.)

The school's popularity and the building boom of apartments and condominiums in the southern portion of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood has weighed into the district's decision to add classroom space in the building and bring the school to four classrooms in each grade. Currently, there are three classrooms in each grade except kindergarten, which has four.

School remodel to 13

Trick or treat?

Folks in the 55108 ZIP code area may be in for a treat, or not, come Halloween.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) aims to open the new Como Avenue post office by Oct. 31, but that date could change, according to USPS spokesperson Pete Nowacki. Construction on the new station started in August at the corner of Donwell and Como avenues.

The Como Station post office had been located at 2286 Como Ave. since 1970. It closed in November 2015 after the building was purchased by Frattallone's Ace Hardware, which opened this spring. The storefront at 2309 Como Ave. was once home to Miller Pharmacy, an antique store and most recently the eyewear and eye-care store, Eyedeals.—Kristal Leebrick

National finalist

SAP teacher in running for national science award.

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For event updates.

Residents who volunteer to stuff the cleanup can bring in one load of materials for free. If you want to volunteer, contact District 10, district10@district10comopark.org or 651-644-3889.

Survey shows most Como residents oppose fire ban
Respondents overwhelmingly oppose banning recreational fires in St. Paul, according to a District 10 survey. But many survey participants say there should be more courtesy and education about the use and impact of backyard recreational fires.

District 10’s Land Use Committee conducted the survey after a neighborhood resident contacted the committee about the impact that recreational fires have on her health. Some 502 people took the online survey between Aug. 17 and Sept. 5.

Sixteen percent of survey participants say they support a ban on recreational fires; 81 percent oppose a ban.

Twenty percent of survey participants say they support limiting the number of recreational fires individuals can have in one year; 78 percent oppose such limits.

Nearly two-thirds of survey participants say they have recreational fires in their yard; nearly more than one-third do not. Among those who have fires, more than 99 percent oppose a ban. Among participants who do not have fires, 41 percent support a ban.

Nearly one-quarter of survey participants say smoke from recreational fires has affected them and nearly as many say smoke affects their health. Recreational fires are legal in the City of St. Paul if they meet certain conditions. The challenge is that smoke from the fires travels into surrounding homes and can affect neighbors in the general area. Many survey participants noted that to be good neighbors, residents should burn only clean, dry wood or install a fire ring that uses natural gas. Other comments highlight other themes and contradictions surrounding backyard fires:

* The same fire that allows some neighbors to enjoy their private property prevents other neighbors from enjoying their property—or enjoying nice weather—and instead forces them indoors behind closed windows.
  * Fires can enhance community and friendship for some people but cause health problems for others.

Current laws already outlaw burning trash, construction materials or yard waste, but these laws are poorly enforced.

Many survey participants, including those who support fires, urged neighbors to be more respectful of how fires impact others. They suggested that conflicts should be worked out courteously, face-to-face. Among their ideas: notify neighbors before you start a fire; have fires only during colder times of the year when windows are shut; do not have fires late at night; pay attention to weather conditions—including wind, air inversions, air quality alerts and dry conditions—before deciding to have a fire; and if fires bother you, let neighbors who have fires know that fact.

Como seed library will host seed exchange and more on Oct. 16
It’s harvest time in our gardens, which means it’s time for another get-together with the Como Community Seed Library. The volunteer group is hosting a free fall event on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Historic Streetcar Station.

At the family event, you can learn more about how to extend your growing season, get advice on how to best prepare for next season, and join an exchange of seeds, recipes, skills, canned and fresh harvest, and stories.

Scheduled presenters include representatives from Ramsey County Master Gardeners, Seed Sages and the District 10 Environment Committee. The afternoon includes a make-and-take event

For more information, contact Dawn Lammon by email at Comoseedaves@gmail.com, or follow Como Community Seed Library on Facebook.

Put those dates on your calendar
District 10’s annual Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, and a community forum, dealing with Problem Properties, is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10. Details to follow next month.

You’re welcome to sit in
The District 10 board and standing committees meet monthly, and anyone can participate. To attend, participate and speak or raise concerns, the schedule is as follows:

- Land Use: The Monday before the first Wednesday, 7 p.m.
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety: First Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Board: Third Thursday, 7 p.m.
- Environment: Last Wednesday, 7 p.m.

All meetings are at the Historic Streetcar Station, at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horten.

Falcon Heights
The Falcon Heights City Council meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 207 W. Larpenteur Ave. Contact falconheights.org or 651-792-7600.

Come to the Fall Fete!
Residents are invited to a new city event, the Falcon Heights Fall Fete!, which will be held Thursday, Oct. 13, 5 to 7 p.m., at Community Park, 2030 Rosedawn Ave.

The Fete! will include a bounce house, family-friendly crafts, games and treats. Come explore the park, paint a mini-pumpkin, jump in the bounce house and meet your fellow Falcon Heights residents. For more information, contact City Hall, 651-792-7600.

Inclusion and Policing Task Force updates are posted on city website
Falcon Heights residents and community members are encouraged to follow updates from the Falcon Heights City Council regarding the Falcon Heights Inclusion and Policing Task Force, as well as the Tri-City Work Group with the City of Falcon Heights and City of St. Anthony. Updates are posted on the Falcon Heights website, falconheights.org, as they become available.

Contact Sarah Chambers, 651-792-7600 or sarah.chambers@falconheights.org, with questions, comments or concerns.

Laureldale
The Laureldale City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Laureldale Library, 1891 Walnut St. Contact walnutlaureldale novo.org or 651-792-7650.

Meet the candidates on Oct. 4
The League of Women Voters will host a Laureldale City Council candidates forum on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. at Laureldale City Hall.

Farmers Market is third Thursday
The last Lauderdale Farmers Market of the season will be held Thursday, Oct. 20, 4 to 7 p.m. at Community Park, 1885 Fuller St.

If you have garden surplus to sell, there is no charge to be a vendor. Please contact Susie at LauderdaleFarmersMarket@gmail.com or 651-329-8401 for an application.

Help needed at Lauderdale party
The annual Avondale Halloween party will be held on Hallowe’en, Monday, Oct. 31, 5 to 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Set up for the event will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 28-30, 12 to 8 p.m. Set up includes decorating, building and decorating a spooky maze, filling candy bags, setting up tables and chairs, and more. On the night of the event, volunteers are needed to hand out candy bags, grill hotdogs, serve food and beverages, and clean up at the end. Many helpers are needed.

Sign up to volunteer at signup.com/go/SKAM8p.

St. Anthony Park
The St. Anthony Park Community Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at a different Learning Center, 2395 University Ave. To find when council committees meet, go to www.sapcc.org or call 651-448-5992. The council offices are located at 2395 University Ave., Suite 300 E.

Run for District 12 council
District 12’s board election will be held in early November and the council is seeking candidates. You can apply on the St. Anthony Park Community Council website at sapcc.org/board-applications. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 10.

Voting will be open online from Wednesday, Nov. 2, to Sunday, Nov. 6. Voting tables will be set up at Twin Cities Farmers Markets and at Hampden Park Co-op on Friday, Nov. 4. District outreach coordinator Cailin Rogers will also host a “Coffee with Cailin” where attendees can vote at Workhorse Coffee on Nov. 4, 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Election results will be announced the week of Nov. 14.

Raymond Avenue update
The third phase of the Raymond Avenue traffic-calming project will go to the end of November. The avenue will be closed near Park Drive and Como Avenue until then, then the road will be opened for the winter. Construction crews will be back in June to finish the project.

During construction, the Raymond Avenue detour is Highway 280.

Food equity report coming soon
District 12 will be publishing a food-access-and-equity report from our research partnership with CURA at the University of Minnesota soon. District staff members are excited to share the information with the community and take steps forward on creating equitable food access.
By Roger Bergerson

Lauderdale man's new book looks at history of horse-mounted bands

There was something about the photograph he saw all those years ago that struck a chord with Bruce Gleason.

The image was that of a member of the band of the Queen of England's Household Cavalry Life Guards, and in addition to the pomp and circumstance it conveyed, there was added appeal. The fellow in the photograph was playing the euphonium, a small tuba, and young Gleason did, too, in the University of Minnesota Marching Band.

The photo of a well-trained musician serving under the historic traditions, uniforms, gallant music and well-bred horses of a mounted band planted itself in my mind, where it stayed for three decades," Gleason says.


Bruce Gleason in his writing studio. Photo by Roger Bergerson

The Lauderdale resident is a music educator and historian long associated with the University of St. Thomas Department of Music. Gleason also serves as artistic director of the Owatonna (Minn.) Symphony Orchestra and is senior choirmaster for Diamond Lake Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He explains that when the Crusaders arrived in the Holy Land in 1095, they encountered Islamic military forces using kettledrums mounted on various beasts of burden.

Panel will discuss ways to improve policing in Falcon Heights on Sept. 29

A group of Falcon Heights residents called Falcon Heights We Can Do Better will host a panel discussion on setting a new direction for policing in Falcon Heights on Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St.

Panel participants will discuss the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, racial equity, police training, policing models and residents' roles in improving policing. This discussion is intended to help inform the work of a proposed Falcon Heights citizens' work group on community policing.

Panel participants will include Melvin Carter Jr., retired St. Paul police sergeant and founder of Save Our Sons (SOS), an organization that works with at-risk African-American young men; Mindy Geiling, former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, who will present findings from the Roseville Area League of Women Voters' study on policing in Falcon Heights and neighboring suburbs; Teresa Nelson, legal director, American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota (ACLU); and Jeff Martin, president, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), St. Paul. Sarah Greenman, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University, will moderate the panel.

Falcon Heights We Can Do Better is a group of residents who began meeting in July after Philando Castile was shot and killed in Falcon Heights by a St. Anthony Police officer on July 6.

"What brought us together is frustration with the lack of responsiveness from our city council," said We Can Do Better member Paula Mielke. The group meets weekly and includes a past mayor and city council member. In August, the group submitted a resolution for a Falcon Heights task force to be formed to review current and explore other policing models.

The Sept. 29 panel discussion is intended to help inform the work of the proposed citizens' work group on community policing.—Kristal Lebrick

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The Park Bugle is a nonprofit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues. 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 neighborhoods, and encourage community participation.

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Welcome to the Bugle editorial pages, the place where we exchange ideas and opinions. We encourage community participation on this page, but we retain the right to edit letters and commentary for clarity and brevity. Letters should be kept to 400 words or fewer and comments should be 800 words or fewer. Send your comments or letters to editor@parkbugle.org.

Letters

A lesson on reverse mortgages

Dear neighbors:

Financial planning for seniors is a critical preparation as we reach retirement age. For homeowners with equity built up over the years, that home is their own real estate trust fund. Over the long term, homes increase incrementally in value, and they certainly outperform current returns on savings accounts and certificates of deposit.

Homes with good equity are eligible for reverse mortgages, which can be tapped into as we get older and savings diminish. Many people outlive their life savings. “I didn’t expect to live this long!” is too often heard.

Condominiums are eligible for reverse mortgages. Co-ops are not. Ask your banker. For those of us who do not need to manage our life savings for the long term knowing that we might run out of money; a condominium purchase is the better choice than a co-op, especially if we can transfer equity from the sale of our condominium to the new property. It is a safer investment in our future.

By Adam Granger

A few months ago, we had to summon an ambulance to our house. My wife, Renee, had a sudden back pain—caused by an infection, as it turned out—and I left her screaming in pain whenever she moved in any direction.

Sixty years ago, ambulances were made out of station wagons. They slapped a couple of lights on the roof, stuck a garage inside and wrote “ambulance” on it and that was pretty much it. Not so today. This vehicle had more lights than the Ginni, all of them strobing to save their lives (or, actually, someone else’s). It was huge, blocking off our street. Four paramedics piled out of it and ran into our house. If it sounds as if I’m deifying this as a success and overkill, I’m not. We were glad for this big dramatic unequivocal vehicle and, once we had literally knocked out my wife with fentanyl, three of them carried her and one opened door.

At some point in this terrible scene, I wondered—in the strange and inappropriate kind of thought one often has in the midst of trauma—what the neighbors were thinking. I’m sure the ones who know us thought, “Oh, no! What’s wrong with Adam and/or Renee?” But, to the half of the neighbors who don’t really know us, I imagine we were “that old couple,” as in, “What’s going on out in the street, honey?” “There’s an ambulance. It’s that old couple on Blakely Avenue.” “Oh.”

Now, I’m guessing that most old people are hauled around in ambulances than young, and isn’t that the way we want it? An octogenarian’s death is not a tragedy; a teeneger’s isn’t. But it gives me pause to realize that Renee and I are now in what I think is the most vulnerable demographic. I mean, we’re not really old—I’m barely 67 and Renee is nearly a year younger, for gosh sakes—but numbers don’t lie and there we are.

I’ve lived in eight decades, and on paper that begins to look a lot like that octogenarian whose passing we were observing a few lines ago. Of course, as with all age groups, there are healthy and unhealthy seniors, and I like to think we fall into the former category. Plus, we’ve got genes on our side. With a few dramatic exceptions, our forebears regularly made it into their late 80s and above, an attribute from which we benefit but for which we can claim no credit.

The upshot is that, in actuarial terms, Renee and I should have a couple of decades of reasonably good life ahead of us.

She spent five days in the hospital while other hospital staff got the infection under control. Simply being in a hospital makes one look 10 years older, and you can tack onto another seven if you’ve got tubes and wires sticking out of you. So, Renee, who normally looks 15 years younger, actually pretty much looked her age lying in her bed at Regions.

Please know that I’m not making light of aging and dying. I have just come from visiting my old friend Larry Cohen for the last time. Larry was mayor of St. Paul in the early ’70s and lived a good, long, productive, worthwhile life. A great guy. I was one of 100 friends who visited him in his hospital bed in his living room, and his children and grandchildren were all there as well. He had a good send-off—equity drawn on a life well-lived.

I met Larry 10 years ago when I started attending monthly dinners as part of an Old Farts group. There are about 10 of us, all men, but it’s not a “men’s group.” When the group started, I was the youngest member. Now, several deaths and a few new members later, I fall somewhere in the middle-aged-wise.

Renee and I had just returned from a Prairie Home Companion cruise to Alaska, for which I was Old folks to 5
League of Women Voters to host Senate Districts 64, 66 candidate forums in October in St. Paul, Falcon Heights

The League of Women Voters St. Paul will hold legislative candidate forums for Minnesota Senate Districts 64 and 66 in October.

A forum with the District 64 candidates, incumbent Richard Cohen, DFL, and Republican Ian Baird, will be held Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul.

A forum with District 66 candidates, incumbent John Marty, DFL, and Republican Carolyn Jass, will be held Monday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Falcon Heights City Hall council chambers, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.

You can find out more at the League’s website, www.lwvmn.org.

The League of Women Voters St. Paul is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and neither supports nor opposes a political party or candidate.
Como poet has two new books

Como Park resident Brian Beatty published a book of poetry in August and has another one coming out in late 2016 or early 2017.

_Coyotes I Couldn’t See_ was published by St. Paul-based Red Bird Chapbooks. The limited-edition collection includes lyric and narrative poems written and published over a two-year period. The poems originally appeared in print and digital publications in the U.S., Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland, as well as in digital brochures on the website of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and in Motionpoems’ 2014 “Arrivals and Departures” public art project showing short films on the facade of the historical Union Depot train station in downtown St. Paul.

_Coyotes I Couldn’t See_ is available from the publisher’s website, www.redbirdchapbooks.com.

Brian Beatty moved to Minnesota in 1999 and to St. Paul in 2015. He self-published a humor collection, _DUCK_, in 2009 and has performed as a comedian and storyteller.

Burden, horses among them, to rally their troops and intimidate the enemy.

The raucous din had the desired effect and the Europeans were sufficiently impressed to adopt the practice themselves. Their cavalry bands down through the ages gradually evolved to brass instruments such as trumpets and horns, as did the young U.S. Army following the War of Independence.

Gleason initially focused on European mounted music and he traveled to a half-dozen countries in Europe and the Middle East to observe bands still in existence there. He subsequently wrote a series of journal articles on the European tradition, but found no takers when it came to publishing a book.

He had also researched and published articles about the mounted Army bands in America and decided that maybe that was the book. He broadened and deepened his study, from the founding of the bands, through the Civil and Indian Wars, on to their later National Guard counterparts.

Historically, musicians were regarded as noncombatants and kept out of harm’s way, Gleason noted. However, Gen. George Custer placed the band at the front of his soldiers when heading into conflict.

Fortunately for the band members, on the eve of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Custer decided he needed their horses for possible remounts the next day. They were among the few federal troops to survive the battle.

The tradition of mounted bands in the U.S. Army sputtered to an end by the start of World War II, as horses generally were replaced by mechanization. Gleason also says that in the turmoil and emerging issues of the time, people cared less for that type of ceremonial showmanship.

Gleason interviewed nine former U.S. Cavalry musicians who served in Army and National Guard units between 1929 and 1941 in order to document those final years.

And this time he found a publisher: the University of Oklahoma Press, which specializes in military history.

“I was naive about how long all this would take,” he said.

Roger Bergerson writes about history and community news regularly in the Park Bugle.
Residents petition for review of Zvago project

By Kristal Leebnick

A group of St. Anthony Park residents filed a 171-signature petition to the Minnesota Water Quality Board, urging a closer look at the potential impact of Zvago, a 49-unit co-op planned to be built in the hillside at Luther Place on former Luther Seminary property.

The petition is requesting an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, which would trigger “a more careful analysis of the impact of the Ecmoen project on the site, focused on issues of permanent and irreversible damage to and destruction of natural, historic and archaeological resources,” St. Anthony Park resident Kristin Anderson said in an email. Anderson, president of the board of directors of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, submitted the petition to the Water Quality Board on behalf of the signers.

The project is also currently being reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a requirement as the developer plans to use federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) financing and the development will sit next to two sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bockman Hall, built in 1902, and the Old Muskego Church, built in 1844.

The petition also addresses the three houses, all built in the early 20th century, which will be demolished for the project. The houses and surrounding landscape features have been identified as contributing resources to a potential historic district “because they reflect the seminary’s early development and expansion to become the largest theological training institution for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” the petition states.

Plans for the senior housing co-op include 49 one- or two-bedroom units, ranging from 952 to 1,953 square feet. The three-story building will include underground and surface parking.

The project was first introduced in September 2015 as a 60-unit co-op at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place. Neighborhood opposition resulted in a revised site plan that moved the building to the property just behind the current parking lot.

The public comment period for HUD’s Section 106 review will close Friday, Sept. 30. Find out more at portal.hud.gov. Click on “State Info” at the top menu, then click on “Minnesota.” Information about the Zvago review is in the lower right-hand side of the page.

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Alongside less surprising seasonal fare like winter squash, pie pumpkins, Brussels sprouts and possibly kale, chard and collards. For Tchida, the pleasure of observing the growing process takes "I stay in touch with them on Facebook even after college, and it's great to see years later that students are still growing things in their own gardens," she says.

One student who plans to put the skills she acquires at Cornercopia to use in later life is Ashley Osten, a senior Health and Wellness major, who spent this summer working as an outreach intern giving tours to visitors, ranging from pre-schoolers to incoming University of Minnesota freshmen. Osten says her career plans include "bringing the farm to the school" when she becomes a health teacher. "I wanted to learn how to run a community garden," she says.

No pesticides are used at Cornercopia and, while Osten says farm practices are scrupulously followed. "The nutrient-rich soil and crop rotation prevents bugs," she says. Planting certain flowers and clover rotation prevents bugs, and crops "like potatoes and the beans add nitrogen to the soil for the potatoes." One additional rule? "We use the farm as our living lab," she says. In addition to bee farming practices, "we focus on marketing and … we teach creative strategies like season extension," which can bring reliable deliveries of organic local produce to happy customers in Minnesota despite our relatively short growing season.

This fall, the U will partner with the nonprofit food hub Good Acre in Falcon Heights to put up three "high tunnels." These commercial-scale hoop houses will each be 90-by-30-feet, covered with plastic sheets and hard to miss those driving by on Larpenteur Avenue. The structures will protect the crops inside from frost well into late fall, "and one of them will belong to the Cornercopia students," says Grossman.

Grossman is proud of Cornercopia alumni like Ben Boo and Brian Noy, who have gone on to agriculture-related careers. Noy has Minneapolis that uses volunteers to bring the farm to the school" when she becomes a health teacher. "I wanted to learn how to run a community garden," she says.

One student who plans to put the skills she acquires at Cornercopia to use in later life is Ashley Osten, a senior Health and Wellness major, who spent this summer working as an outreach intern giving tours to visitors, ranging from pre-schoolers to incoming University of Minnesota freshmen. Osten says her career plans include "bringing the farm to the school" when she becomes a health teacher. "I wanted to learn how to run a community garden," she says.

No pesticides are used at Cornercopia and, while Osten says farm practices are scrupulously followed. "The nutrient-rich soil and crop rotation prevents bugs," she says. Planting certain flowers and clover rotation prevents bugs, and crops "like potatoes and the beans add nitrogen to the soil for the potatoes." One additional rule? "We use the farm as our living lab," she says. In addition to bee farming practices, "we focus on marketing and … we teach creative strategies like season extension," which can bring reliable deliveries of organic local produce to happy customers in Minnesota despite our relatively short growing season.

This fall, the U will partner with the nonprofit food hub Good Acre in Falcon Heights to put up three "high tunnels." These commercial-scale hoop houses will each be 90-by-30-feet, covered with plastic sheets and hard to miss those driving by on Larpenteur Avenue. The structures will protect the crops inside from frost well into late fall, "and one of them will belong to the Cornercopia students," says Grossman.

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Grossman is proud of Cornercopia alumni like Ben Boo and Brian Noy, who have gone on to agriculture-related careers. Noy has worked for three years for Urban Ventures, an organization in South Minneapolis that uses volunteers to grow produce for the urban market and operates "a mobile farmers market truck," that brings fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income city neighborhoods. He's in charge of all aspects of the farm-to-market operation and says his time at Cornercopia was good preparation. "At Urban Ventures, we have kind of the same conditions as at Cornercopia. It's mostly people new to farming trying to grow things on a small scale," Noy says.

Boo has chosen a different entrepreneurial path. The 2014 grad is the co-founder of Mighty Axe Hops, which he describes as "one of the few commercial hops farms in the state." This year, Boo and his partner raised $4.6 million to bring an 80-acre hop farm into cultivation. Boo says that the challenges of running a complex, market-driven agriculture business call on some talents he didn't learn at Cornercopia. For example, he's already signed the delivery contracts for the as-yet unplanted 2017 crop. But he thanks the U's program for giving a suburban Plymouth-raised guy like himself his first taste of the possibilities of agriculture. "I got to have a pretty good farm experience while living in the Twin Cities and going to school," he says. "I didn't even have to sacrifice my social life."

***

The St. Paul Campus Farmers Market will be open Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. outside the Food Science and Nutrition Building on Commonwealth Avenue through mid-October.

For more information visit cornercopiafarm.blogspot.com.

When she's not writing about community news, Judy Woodward spends her time as a reference librarian at the Roseville Library.

** Students from a variety of disciplines work on the farm. Shown here at the farm's produce stand on a recent Wednesday are Kalley Guerdet, a senior in Environmental Science Policy and Management, Angie Tomlinson, a senior in Food Systems; and Jorie Shapiro, a senior Nutrition manager. Photos by Kristal Leedrick

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** Cornercopia is located on the St. Paul campus.
Garage homes were once a Como Park phenomenon

You may have noticed them here and there in the northwest Como area, small houses situated much farther back from the street than their neighbors.

Some of these probably were the “garage homes” of a century ago, the idea being that their owners would build and live in them until they could afford a main house on their property. For one reason or another, some never got around to building the big house.

Following World War I, St. Paul had an estimated 100 garage homes with one of the largest groups of them clustered around the Hoyt Avenue and Chelsea Street intersection.

Technically, the homes were in violation of the city’s building code—a garage wasn’t supposed to be a long-term domicile—but times were hard and officials such as J.M. Clancy, commissioner of parks, playgrounds and buildings, tried to be understanding.

“We have had unusual conditions during the war and after it,” he told the St. Paul Daily News in July 1921. “Regulations that might have been highly proper at other times might work injury to some people if enforced too strictly. Most [of these people] are thrifty,” Clancy said. “Indeed, the very fact that they have the courage to take a small place like they do, is evidence of their desire to improve themselves. If some other people lived within their means, they would be better off.”

C.A. Hausler, city architect, was in charge of building inspections at the time. He told the newspaper that he was trying to discourage the construction of garage homes, but acknowledged that there was only so much he could do “once a family has taken up its abode in one of the miniature homes.”

To obtain a building permit, he noted, sewer and water connections were required.

In that summer of 1921, a garage home had just been completed at Huron Street and Hoyt at a cost of $90 and two others were planned. And another home was under construction in a hayfield across Hoyt, even as the harvest went on around it.

Albert Larson, a carpenter, owned one of the garage homes and his wife told the newspaper reporter that she liked it just fine. “We lived in a flat and paid $47.50 rent,” she said. “The landlord wouldn’t fix the place at all. It didn’t even have a cupboard. We moved out here and we like it much better.”

“We have one room, 20 x 20 [feet], and another 10 x 10 [feet]. So we have lots of room. The material cost $400 and my husband did all the work,” she noted.

“So, you see, our little home didn’t cost a great deal. And then it is all ours. That is something.”
Dogwood Coffee settles into St. Paul

Coffee shop plans to expand food menu and introduce new brews this month.

By Alex Lodner

Dan Anderson and Greg Hoyt, owners of Dogwood Coffee, wanted to create something different when they started their company in October 2010.

Anderson, a St. Anthony Park resident, began his voyage into the coffee world as a hobby and a passion. “I was a home roaster,” he said recently at Dogwood’s newest shop at 825 Carleton St. “I loved all the nuances and variables of coffee. It’s always different, you can never conquer it, which makes coffee a fun adversary.”

When Anderson was introduced to Hoyt, who had extensive experience in the commodity coffee business, Anderson was in commercial real estate, but it seemed like a good time to pursue their mutual interest in high-quality coffee wholesaling and retailing.

“We take the approach of striving for the highest quality in every step. From studying the chemistry of milk and heat and sugar development and how that interacts with our coffee, we really want all those nuanced notes to shine in every cup,” Anderson said. “We have a stewardship mentality of bringing the best of what is possible in this coffee, what these amazing producers work so hard toward, to the public. The producers we use care so much and we should carry that level of effort all the way through.”

It’s all about making a little extra effort. Or a lot.

Dogwood carefully sources its beans under the watchful eye of director of coffee Stephanie Ratanas, then roasts the coffee in Northeast Minneapolis as well as in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Canadian connection is relatively new, brought on by the challenge of meeting demand from our neighbors to the north.

“It’s pretty tricky for U.S. roasters to send their coffee to Canada,” Anderson explained. “We learned through experience that even when you do everything right, the product can get held up in customs for a couple of days, and that doesn’t work well if a shop that is expecting beans on Monday doesn’t get them until Wednesday.”

Producing in Canada allows Dogwood to more reliably serve the needs of their customers there. “It also enables us to be more competitive price wise,” he said.

Sourcing the highest quality beans and perfecting the roasting process is only half the battle. As is the case with any artisan product, educating the customer is the other half.

“I genuinely believe if a customer tries our cappuccino, it might be smaller than they are expecting, or the milk might not be as hot, but once you try it you see the difference those details make,” Anderson said. “It’s not the overly frothed, overly bitter coffee they might be used to.”

“I think hospitality is so important, to make everyone feel welcome,” he continued. “Sometimes this type of coffee can come off a little intimidating. We are not saying that the coffee they’ve liked in the past is wrong, rather we are trying to meet people where they are, make them comfortable, let them try it our way.”

Just like it took a while for the dining public to connect with the locally sourced, ultra-seasonal, higher priced items on their plates at restaurants, it might just be a matter of time for the everyday coffee drinker to become accustomed to this type of high-end, high-quality approach to their cup of Joe. Or not.

“Maybe we are not for everybody, but everything we try to do is in a warm and engaging and authentic way,” Anderson said. “Our spaces are a natural collection of the relationships and connections we’ve made.”

Anderson has gotten to know the folks at Loll Duluth, who crafted the custom furniture in the cafe, and Dogwood’s roasting facility is by Minneapolis designer Blu Dot, who supplied the softer chairs that anchor the space. Even the wall hangings are connected to the community, including work from local, and world-renowne, photographer Alec Soth.

“It sounds cheesy, but I look around the space and I see relationships,” Anderson smiles.

As the new shop finds its footing in the community, Dogwood is planning a few exciting developments. While they already carry pastries from Rustica Bakery, which is owned by Hoyt, the menu will be expanded in October to include sandwiches featuring meats from Lowry Hill Meats on Rustica breads and vegan options from the Herbivorous Butcher in Northeast Minneapolis.

“We want our food to be at the level that we try to have our coffee"
Karta Thai, which currently has two popular locations in Northeast Minneapolis and Columbia Heights, will soon join the new Park 24 development in the heart of St. Anthony Park. The new eatery will be located next to the upcoming Knock’s Chocolates and Nuts and will be a welcome addition to St. Anthony Park’s restaurant scene.

Karta’s Minneapolis locations have garnered many fans over the years for unique items such as crispy Thai lobster rolls, Thai beef jerky and seasonal specialties like pumpkin curry served in a carved pumpkin. The menu, which will be similar to its other two locations, includes seasonal produce sourced from local farmers’ markets.

“Most everything we use is fresh, not frozen,” said owner Terry Spotts. “We have a tiny freezer, but we get as much as we can from local farmers.”

Spotts is looking forward to being a part of the community, which he called “such a friendly little town” and hopes for a late fall opening.—Alex Lodner

Lots of changes are coming to the Como Avenue business area this fall, including the opening of Minneapolis restaurant Karta Thai.

MidModMen+Friends celebrates four years + more on University

MidModMen+Friends, a one-time pop-up shop at 2401 University Ave., is celebrating its fourth anniversary three and three-quarters years longer than expected when they signed a three-month lease on the vacant storefront.

Four years ago, to the sound of construction crews outside building the Green Line, Neal Kielar and friends opened MidModMen+Friends, a retailer of vintage modern home décor that has become a destination for shoppers, said Kielar, the store’s creative director. “We’re part of a major shift in shopper preference happening across categories. There’s a big embrace of things that have seen some life.”

MidModMen cleans and restores each item it sells in the store. “Our customers can just take things home and enjoy them,” Kielar said.

The store’s anniversary events will kick off Oct. 13 through 16 with discounts throughout the store, special offerings and cake. You can look for anniversary details at MidModMen.com and on Instagram and Facebook.

While you’re helping the store celebrate, check out the mini-exhibit of art by Carina Eugenio, a visual artist and visual-arts educator from Minneapolis currently living in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The exhibit includes five selections from the series “Abstracting Memories from 2003,” which Eugenio created for the 2015 P-NOISE Festival in Copenhagen. Each original mixed-media work incorporates beading, embroidery, watercolor and ink on paper and vellum. The pieces are framed and available for purchase, along with other work from the artist.

Carina and her husband, Josh Selen, are the owners of Driftwood Community Arts, which was housed on Raymond Avenue in 2013. Eugenio brings collections to MidModMen each year to present and sell.

In other news, MidModMen’s Kielar has joined the advisory board at the Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Design, on the St. Paul Campus.
Virginia Killmier

Virginia Rose Killmier, 95, of Falcon Heights, Apple Valley and Grandhomestead in Lutsen and was many county and state honors in Chicago in 1937. A 4-H Club member, winning many county andstate honors in sewing, bread-making and Junior Leadership, as well as a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago in 1937. A 4-H Club Leader for 15 years, she won the Golden Clover award for leadership.

She served as office manager for Killmier’s Northern Nurseries in Falcon Heights and Apple Valley. She moved to Lake Superior west of Grand Marais, and operated a Federated-listed bed-and-breakfast, Killmiers on the Water, for 10 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marion Killmier; parents, Rosa and Homer Massie; brothers, Howard (Linnnea) and Philip (Auneda) Massie; grandson, Andrew Killmier; and daughter-in-law Penny Killmier.

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Awards included a Guggenheim Fellowship and Fullbright Scholarship. He volunteered at the Science Museum of Minnesota for 22 years as a writer.

He was an avid runner. His goal was to run the same distance as he’d run around the world, and he accomplished that goal. He carefully noted his distances with each run.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Torkild and Marthe (Blegen) Kommedahl, and siblings, Beret, Clifford, Vivian, Marion and Ruth. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Fay; sons, Kris (Elsa); daughters, Sin (Lisa Bradley) and Loi (Mike) O’Neill; and three grandchildren, Rikke, Anne-Marthe and Sander.

A Celebration of Life was held Aug. 18, at University Baptist Church.

Ben Pomeroy

Benjamin Adams Pomeroy, 75, died Aug. 26, 2016, at his home surrounded by family, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ben was born July 23, 1941, grew up in St. Anthony Park, was an Eagle Scout, graduated from Murray High School ’79, served proudly in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Ben retired in 2007 from US Bank, where he worked as a technical program manager. He loved the solitude of the outdoors, spending many a night during his retirement years camping under the stars while visiting as many of our national parks as possible and traveling to Alaska to see this great country of ours.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Margaret Pomeroy. He is survived by a brother, Sherwood (Sharon); sisters, Cathy and Dawn (Darrell) Hewitt; grandchildren, Michelle, Jennifer (Dan) Wolff, and Heather (Bob) Barr; their mother, Julie; and two great-grandchildren, plus furry friends Walter, Penny and Lucy.

A celebration of his life was held at Long Lake Regional Park, New Brighton, on Sept. 16, with inurnment at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.

Richard Rust


Richard attended the University of Illinois, receiving his Ph.D. and became professor of soil science at the University of Minnesota in 1956, retiring in 1989, but also continuing as professor emeritus for a time.

He was an avid gardener; he kept busy canning tomato salsa, pickles and jams to give. His backyard was a patchwork of orchard, plum and apple trees. Gatherings of family and friends were always sweetened by his homemade pies.

He was a former member of his church for 60 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Laura; and son James (Joanne). He is survived by his daughter, Deanna; sons, Robert, Richard J. and Mark (Jaye); two granddaughters, Nicole and Nathan (Emily); and a great-granddaughter, Evelyn. Surviving siblings are sisters Corleen and Marilyn, and brothers Dale, Edward and Albert.

His memorial service was held on Aug. 27 at Emmaus Lutheran Church.

Harriet Smith


Harriet started her career as a piano bar player in the early 1960s at the Hopkins House and did a stint at the Purple Turtle in Washington, D.C. She entertained six nights a week at the Regency Plaza Hub Cap Club in downtown Minneapolis for 20 years before retiring in 1999.

She shared her gift of piano and song at many rest homes, family gatherings and special events, singing to the very end, her caregiver, Margot, seeing to that. She was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Melissa Collins; and ex-husband, Raoul Smith.

She is survived by her children, Perry (Mary), Randy (Karen) Collins, Colleen (George) Emrkin, Shawn (Pamela) and Corrina Smith; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brothers, Mel (Helen), Ron (Jeanné) and Fred (Anna Mae) Vagle; and ex-husband, Dennis Collins; as well as her music family.

Her family thanks the staff at Lyngblomsten Care Center for the extraordinary care and love she received while living for nearly six years. Also, a special thanks to you to MacPhail Center for Music. Harriet’s life was celebrated Sept. 8 at Lyngblomsten Chapel, with interment at Lakewood Cemetery.
The school had four classrooms in grades K-3 through the 1990s and into the early 2000s. Before the institution of full-day kindergarten, the school had four half-day kindergartens, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, operating out of two classrooms. The four kindergarten classes would then funnel into four first-grade classes. Class sizes increased in grades 4-6, and those grades accommodated three classrooms each.

In 1995-96, enrollment at St. Anthony Park was at an all-time high of 670 students. In 1996-97, enrollment decreased to 628. Over the next few years enrollment continued to decrease, reaching 374 in 2005-06. In 2006, the year that SPPS instituted free full-day kindergarten at all district schools, the enrollment began to increase. Since the 2010-11 school year, the school has accommodated more than 500 students each year. The district has set the enrollment cap after the remodel at 640.

Johnson said she is excited about the remodel. “It will be a beautiful space. It will be a bigger space with bigger classrooms and more uniform classroom sizes. All but one classroom will have windows.” The classroom without windows will have skylights.

Teachers at the school collaborate in each grade, and the consistent classroom sizes and additions will allow the school to keep the grades together, Johnson said.

St. Anthony Park’s redesign is part of a $484 million five-year plan to upgrade and build in the district. Building construction funds represent 4 percent of the district’s overall budget. By law, building funds—which are funded through the sale of bonds, capital loans or the Alternative Bonding Program—cannot be used for other funding categories such as the general fund, which pays for teacher salaries, transportation and other teaching and learning needs. Increases to the building construction funds do not decrease the general fund, according to the SPPS website.

Construction will begin in June at the end of this school year. Some work will be done while school is in session in 2017-18 school year, Johnson said, but there will be no work done during the school day. The project is projected to be completed at the end of summer 2018.

Find out more about the project at www.spps.org/Page/23085.
1 SATURDAY
C Gibb's Farm Apple Festival, Gibb's Farm, 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $6 adults, $5 seniors and $3 kids 3-12 and older. For more information, call 651-642-9052.

3 MONDAY
Middle School Book Club, grades 6-8, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. October’s book is “The War That Saved My Life” by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Copies are available at the library loan desk.

4 TUESDAY
St. Paul Farmers’ Market, every Tuesday in October, 8 a.m. noon, Church of Corpus Christi parking lot, 2136 N. Fairview Ave., Roseville. Baby and toddler story time, 10-11 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. Free.

5 WEDNESDAY
English-Consumers Circle, every Wednesday in October, St. Anthony Park Library, 4-5:30 p.m. St. Anthony Park Book Club, “Conversations” by Jenneva Mintwood, St. Anthony Park Library, 6:30-7 p.m.

6 THURSDAY
Creative Support Group, first Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m. Brunswick Support Group, first Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m. Parishioner story time in Maudslay Chinese, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m.

7 FRIDAY
Parishioner story time, every Friday in October, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Walk-in at the Langford Park gym 1-2 p.m. every Friday. Free and ages 11 and older.

8 SATURDAY
Adios Canarica (and Friends!) in concert, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m. Please see our suggested donation of $15.

9 SATURDAY
All the Way You, 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., 6:30-8 p.m. Free. 

10 MONDAY
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors lunch outing, Funks Days, 2131 Snelling Ave., St. Paul, 11 a.m. Call 651-642-9052 for more information.

13 THURSDAY
Learn Chinese Folk Dancing, an exercise class for adults, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free.

17 MONDAY
Community Sing, Olson Couples Center, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. First, but a few will be posted for our music lovers even to make the songs possible. Children welcome. Co-sponsored by the District 12 Community Council.

19 FRIDAY
SAPPS Game Day, City Gables, 10 a.m.-noon.

20 THURSDAY
Preschool story time in Mandarin Chinese, Community Arts Exchange Community Center Friendship, 1250 Filet Ave., 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Snacks, games, and fun for the whole family. First come first serve. Registration required by calling 651-642-0411.

22 SATURDAY
Blues for Kids, St. Anthony Park Library, 1-2 p.m. Workshops in guitar, harmonica, piano, and vocals and blues history. Registration required by calling 651-642-0411.

27 THURSDAY
St. Anthony Park Elementary School Fall Festival, 5-7 p.m.

28 FRIDAY
Co-ed Dance Circle, Women’s Dance Center, 6:30 p.m. $10 at the door. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Dance partners provided.

30 SATURDAY
Sunday Afternoon Book Club, “The Call on the Bells” by Paula Hawkins, Micabook, 1-3 p.m. All are welcome.

30 SATURDAY
St. Anthony Park Area Senior Mondays and Wednesdays, Lyndale City Hall, 2-3 p.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Anthony Park Library, 2:30-3:30 p.m. [Closed; will be on held on Fridays, Oct. 7 and 21]

Conco Pank/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights 9th Square Senior Apartments, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Falcon Forest Senior Apartment, 11 a.m.-noon

FREE SENIOR BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS
Conco Pank/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program: Third Thursdays, Auburn Place Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.

Fourth Thursdays, Falcon Heights 9th Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-noon

Saint Anthony Park Area Senior Mondays and Wednesdays, Lyndale City Hall, 2-3 p.m.

VENUE INFORMATION
Auburn Place Senior Apartments, 635 W. University Ave., Falcon Heights 9th Square Senior Apartments, 1550 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Lyndale City Hall, 1891 Weber St., 651-651-0300

Micabook’s Books, 2230 City Park Ave., 651-646-5506

Olson Couples Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fellows St.

St. Anthony Park Library, 224 Como Ave., 651-642-0411

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 223 Como Ave., 651-645-0371

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave., 651-646-7173

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Como Ave., 651-645-3958

Women’s Club Center, 2242 W. University Ave., 651-645-9978

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One coupon per customer.
Not valid with other offers.
Rom Glade (Owner)
Como Clinic hosts community conversation on gun violence

HealthPartners will host "Gun Violence as a Health Issue: A Community Conversation" on Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Como Clinic, 2500 Commonwealth Ave. Participants will discuss what we can do individually and together to make our communities safer. The conversation will be led by Heather Forrest, M.D., and Bill Doberty, Ph.D.

Langford Park Hockey online registration is now open

Children ages 13 and younger can register for Langford Park Hockey now at langfordparkhockey.com. Play levels include PeeWees, for those born July 2, 2003, to June 30, 2005; Squirt, for those born July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2007; Mite, for those born July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2009; and Mini-Mites, for those born July 1, 2009, or later. Mini-Mites skate free this year.

Contact Scott Hamilton at scott@langfordparkhockey.com for more information.

SAP Lutheran hosts Sunday morning forums in October

All are welcome to join members and friends of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church for thought-provoking forums each Sunday at 10 a.m. The church is at the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place. Enter by the door off of Luther Place (and the seminary parking lot) to come right to the classes. Or enter by the Como Avenue door to enjoy coffee and fellowship first.

Oct. 21’s forum will offer continued discussion on America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege & the Bridge to a New America, a book by Christian activist Jim Wallis. Copies are available in the public library and in the church library (in the Fireside Room). Copies will be available for purchase at that session or from the church office in advance for $15. Price support is available for those who wish to own a copy but are unable to afford it.

Member Hal Draper has produced the film The American Protestant Experience. On Oct. 9, he will use the session on Native American genocide and slavery to talk about American exceptionalism and manifest destiny.

A DVD on Church World Service will be shown on Oct. 16. Many from the parish will walk on the annual Crop Walk that afternoon to raise money for Church World Service to aid people in need nearby and all over the world.

Suicide Prevention will be the topic on Oct. 23. Janet Benz of the Christopher Benz Foundation will discuss what we can do individually and together to make our communities safer. The conversation will be led by Heath Forrest, M.D., and Bill Doberty, Ph.D.

Langford Park Hypnosis online registration is now open

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Old sports Crossword puzzle answer from 7

CRUST FO C I A L E L
NORTH LI AR NOTE
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Neighbors from 15

Vandalia Tower, 550 Vandalia St.; and Interact Center for Visual and Performance Arts, 1860 W. Minnehaha Ave.

The hours for the crew are Friday, Oct. 14, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 15, 12-8 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 16, 12-5 p.m.

Stephanus Lutheran to host annual sauerkraut supper

The annual Sauerkraut Supper hosted by the Men’s Club at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafolk Ave., will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, 5 to 7 p.m., at the church. Supper will include pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, bakery bread and a dessert, all served family style. This traditional dinner has been served at the church for more than 50 years.

Cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 5 to 12. There is no cost for children under 5. For more information, call the church at 651-228-1486.

Roseville Library launches book club for historians, history buffs

The Roseville Library History Book Club will meet monthly with eminent area historians as they lead conversations about their favorite titles. Enrollment is limited to ensure an intimate discussion experience. Extra copies of the books are available at the Roseville Library, 2380 N. Hamline Ave.

The club will meet on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Roseville Library Board Room. On Oct. 19, participants will discuss Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin by Timothy Snyder. Macalester Professor Peter Weisenmuller will lead the discussion.

On Nov. 16, the group will discuss The Boy in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1935 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown. Jim Stewart, History Professor Emeritus from Macalester, will lead the discussion. Participants must register separately for each discussion. Sign up at www.rclreads.org or call 651-724-6001.

YMCA’s Wedgewagon, Du Nord garage sale set for Sept. 29-Oct. 1

The annual YMCA Camps Wedgewagon and du Nord Fall Garage Sale will be held Thursday, Sept. 29, to Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Merchandise Mart on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Admission is free. The sale will be open on Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday for the Bag Sale. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

Roseville Tipped & Uncorked will feature beer, wine, food and music

The third annual Roseville Tipped & Uncorked craft beer, spirits and wine fest, will include 21 brewers, three cideries, two Minnesota wineries and eight local distilleries.

The event will take place, Friday, Sept. 30, 6-10 p.m., at the Roseville Skating Center on County Road C just west of Larpenteur Avenue. Music will include headliner GB Lighthorn. Go to pourourparks.com to learn more about the event.

Dogwood from 10

at,” Anderson said. “I can’t talk about the importance of quality sourcing our coffee.” Look for these window signs, they are popping up at wwww.rclreads.org or call 651-770-1231.

The coffee shop has large windows overlooking Studio on Fire bought the building, it was a great opportunity to come here,” Anderson said.

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Soccer: The world’s game is now St. Paul’s game

Mayor Chris Coleman has seen his share of high school soccer games. His son played in the St. Paul City Conference at Highland Park High School, which brought the mayor to the sidelines of the city school soccer fields, including Como Park.

I was privileged to serve as the Como Park boys soccer head coach for 10 years, culminating with our team’s 2013 state championship in my final season leading the program.

The joy and pride that undefeated Como Candy state championship team brought to our school and community was special beyond words. From the roars of fans in the Metrodome, to the victory reception at school and the ceremonies in the weeks and months that followed, Como soccer felt the love.

Mayor Coleman came to visit our state championship team in the school library to declare Nov. 7, 2013, “Como Park Boys Soccer Day” in St. Paul. His proclamation highlighted our achievements, including previous city and section championships, spiked with a fresh state title.

Perhaps more powerful was the proclamation’s concluding statement: “Whereas we continue Como Park Boys Soccer for uniting the diverse cultures of St. Paul together through the beautiful game of soccer.”

Fast forward to Aug. 19, 2016. In front of an enthusiastic throng of soccer supporters and dignitaries, with the opportunity to formally welcome the Minnesota United (MNUFC) professional franchise to Minnesota, here we stood and in action to be build St. Paul stadium, the mayor spoke of Como soccer again.

Recalling our 2013 state championship team, Coleman spoke of our diversity, the multiple home languages of our players and what we accomplished together.

Coleman finished his thoughts by saying, “To me, that story epitomized what the game of soccer is all about. The game of soccer is the world’s game, and today it’s Minnesota’s game.”

Como connections continue in the capital city with one of our Daly serving as the messenger for MNUFC. Eric Durkee from Como’s class of 2004 is the club’s communications director. Durkee was an elite player in high school and also an exceptional student. I had the pleasure of teaching in Advanced Placement Government and Politics.

Today, Durkee’s role keeps him extremely busy and plugged into a world where communicating the details of stadium deals in his hometown are his daily duties. Adaptable and talented, he’s enjoying representing Minnesota’s newest major league team in the media.

“I couldn’t be more proud to have grown up in St. Paul and to play an active role in helping the community and city I love to fully embrace the sport I love,” said Durkee.

He added that the organic growth of the game in St. Paul has been tremendous. In 2004, neither he nor I could imagine the sheer volume of kids playing soccer for their schools.

This is now my third season of coaching my own daughters and their friends at Murray Middle School. There are 40 girls participating. The Murray boys have more than 50.

Collectively, in the St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS), there are approximately 400 boys and 300 girls playing soccer for their middle schools. At the high school level, numbers are similar for the girls. High school boys in SPPS approach 500 with multiple levels of teams at each school.

Soccer is by far the most popular sport offered in SPPS with participation rates that keep climbing. Nowhere is that more evident than Como. Jonah Fields was my hard-working and loyal junior varsity coach for seven years. Now in the middle of his third season as the Cougars’ head coach, he administers a program with 80 players on four teams.

Fields has taken Como back to the state tournament in each of his first two seasons, remarkably making it four consecutive state appearances overall for the program. Above and beyond getting his teams to play at a premier level by play-off time, Fields has also taken community outreach and promotion of the Como Soccer program to new levels.

Como soccer players volunteer through Northwest Como Rec Center to coach and build
School News

Raising spirits at Como

When Como Park Senior High School students headed back to school on Sept. 6, they were greeted with 11 60-by-30-inch gold-and-black “spirit” banners hanging from light poles that line the road leading to the school entrance. Part of a larger school-beautification project, the task of raising nearly $3,000 for the banners was spearheaded by Como parent Paul Seeba.

“I became interested in doing a project since I felt Como Park High needed a little more curb appeal to match all the great learning that goes on inside there,” Seeba said. “I sincerely believe the community as a whole is enriched when there is a positive attitude toward the local public high school.”

Many local leaders contributed to the project, Seeba said, including St. Paul Public Schools board members John Brodrick, Jon Schumacher and Mary Vanderwert, City Council Member Amy Bahrmoen and her husband, Mike Hahn; Principal Theresa Neal; community member Bridget Paitich in memory of George Paitich; Como parent Ann Commers, and St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, which is just a few blocks north of the school on Victoria Street.

The school held a ribbon cutting to honor the donors on Sept. 6.—Kristal Leebrick

Avalon celebrates 15 years

Avalon School is celebrating in 15th anniversary on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m. at the school, which is located at 700 Glendale St. Avalon invites the community to the event to hear about students’ senior projects, tour the school and join the school community after the event at Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St.

Avalon is a grades 6-12 charter school with 220 students. The school’s focus is project-based learning, and the school is always looking to help students connect with members of the community to explore their interests.

If you would like to learn more, contact Kevin Ward at kevin@avalonschool.org or 651-649-5495 ext. 211.

Welcome back bonfire on Sept. 30

Chelsea Heights Elementary invites the community to a Welcome Back Bonfire on Friday, Sept. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Northwest Como Recreational Center, 1515 Hamline Ave. Gather around a roaring fire with friends and neighbors and toast to a great new school year with a cup of hot cocoa.

Chelsea Heights will also hold a winter-gear giveaway for families in need. All are welcome.

Businesses offer mentoring to Academy of Finance students

Como’s Academy of Finance (AOF) is pleased to be connected with several companies this year to provide group mentoring to AOF students. Group mentors will work in the classroom each month and assist students with their semester projects.

Some mentoring companies will host student presentations of projects, and they include Xcel Energy, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the City of St. Paul, the Travelers and Grant Thornton LLP.

Link Crew welcomes freshmen

Como Park High School’s Link Crew welcomed and hosted Como’s incoming class of 2020 on Thursday, Sept. 1, for a four-hour orientation session. The Link Crew is comprised of 90 juniors and seniors who volunteer to be positive leaders and mentors for freshmen. Faculty advisers for the Link Crew are Maria Cochciarelli and Alison Hartzell.

Homecoming week is Oct. 3-7

Homecoming Spirit Week is scheduled for Oct. 3-7 with dress-up days, coronation of the royal court and a pep fest to recognize Cougar athletic teams. Saturday, Oct. 8, will be Homecoming Spirit Day.

School news to 20
2/20 CARPET CLEANING. Seasonal special! Uv ox / sin, air. 651-635-9228.

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relationships with the youngest players in the community. High school boys and girls recently led fun soccer activities on a Saturday morning under the guidance of Fields and Como girls coach Kyle Johnson. That was followed by “Community Day” where the same Northwest Como youth were invited to see the varsity boys and girls doubleheader at Como.

Then there’s the Mayor’s Cup. Linking Mayor Coleman back to Como, and celebrating the game of soccer at its grass roots level, Fields created the first annual Mayor’s Cup held at Como on Friday, Sept. 16.

The Como girls hosted the Humboldt Hawks for a game at 5:15 p.m. Como Boys followed with a game versus the rival Hawks at 5 p.m. A brand new traveling trophy awarded the winner of each game. Coleman was excited to be on the sideline, watching high school soccer once again, with the new twist of waiting to present a Mayor’s Cup to each winning side.

As it turned out, the mayor and his family were grieving the loss of his mother-in-law and the Friday game conflicted with the funeral. City Councilmember Chris Tolbert stepped in to speak on Coleman’s behalf with a mention of the Mayor’s Cup moving to the Midwest in a couple of years. The new Major League Soccer stadium there would be a fun and fitting stage for this exciting high school rivalry game.

Humboldt will try to earn the prizes when they host the event in 2017. But for the inaugural 2016 games, the Como boys and girls each earned victories to take “The Cup.”

It was another fun day of soccer in the city. Soccer provided the opportunity for people to come together around a shared passion. Through the game, new relationships continue to be developed with others in the community.

We have thousands of kids representing their schools with peers from all walks of life, playing the world’s game right here in St. Paul. Soccer is indeed soothing at Como and throughout the capital city, blessed with the enthusiastic support of St. Paul’s soccer loving mayor.

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