



Revamp of 35W and Highway 36 gridlocked

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Beloved SAP science teacher retiring

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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park
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parkbugle.org
June 2024

MidCity Kitchen Farmers Market coming to St. Anthony Park

By Kinsey Gade

MidCity Kitchen plans to host a farmers market on Wednesdays starting June 5 in its parking lot in south St. Anthony Park.

MidCity Kitchen, 693 Raymond Ave., is a culinary and small business incubator for entrepreneurs, chefs and artists to showcase their talents and explore innovative ideas, said Samuel West, owner of MidCity Kitchen since September 2023.

The farmers market will usually run from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. West plans to have a combination of live music, food trucks, emerging farmers that are being trained by the Minnesota Farmers Market Association and people who are producing at MidCity Kitchen, as well as a variety of Minnesota food producers.

“The goal with MidCity Kitchen, along with the farmers market, is to create a celebration of local foods,” West said.

Zev Radziwill, executive director of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council, said MidCity Kitchen was a natural fit for the area.

“My hopes are that it will draw more people from inside and outside the community,” Radziwill said. “I believe it will really showcase south St. Anthony Park, but it will take a community to make it successful.”



Samuel West seeks to create “a celebration of local foods” at MidCity Kitchen. Photo by Kinsey Gade.

Plans for the market were set in motion after a letter of recommendation was unanimously approved and subsequently unanimously ratified by the SAPCC on April 11.

District 12 Community Council acknowledges that food equity is a critical issue in the neighborhood and hopes the farmers market will provide better and more affordable produce to the community, Radziwill said.

West said, “We are not officially a food desert, but I think you could make the argument that we are.”

The south St. Anthony Park area is one of the fastest-growing areas

for residents in the Twin Cities, Radziwill said.

Currently, St. Anthony Park has a population of 11,016, a growth rate of 4.22% and a population increase of 19.32% since 2020, according to the U.S. Census.

West said he hopes the farmers market will eventually be successful enough to expand and temporarily take space in the street on days it is open for business. There are also plans to make the market zero waste by implementing a 365-day composting facility.

SNAP-EBT cards will be accepted at the market and will convert

\$10 of SNAP-EBT to \$20 of market bucks, West said.

“Whether you’re a busy professional or a family in the neighborhood, you could come here, listen to music, get some produce and grab a bite to eat from a food truck,” West said.

For more information on MidCity Kitchen’s activities, visit them at midcitykitchen.com or follow them on Facebook. ■

Kinsey Gade is a junior at the University of Minnesota majoring in journalism and French. Kinsey enjoys baking, yoga, writing and reading.

SAP Community Foundation names Brasel youth winner

By Julie Drechsler

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has chosen The Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities program as the inaugural recipient of its Michael Brasel Fund for Youth grant.

A \$2,500 grant will be awarded at the SAP Arts Festival in early June to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization to support its youth mentoring and free arts programs.

The foundation last summer established its youth endowment fund to honor Brasel, who in early May 2023 died of gunshot wounds as he interrupted car thieves in front of his house.

“With Michael’s love of art and mentoring so many of the young people he coached, it seemed like the perfect fit for our first grants,” said Julie Drechsler, foundation executive director. “We know that mentoring can make such a big difference to the life of a young person.”

The foundation wanted to turn a community tragedy into something positive, Drechsler added. “The new fund is an impactful way to honor and remember a dedicated community member while making a difference to young people in the Twin Cities. We couldn’t let his love of St. An-



thony Park and young people be forgotten.”

Each year, a nonprofit organization serving youth of St. Paul and Minneapolis will be chosen to receive a grant from the fund.

“The fund already has over \$60,000 and we’ve had great community support,” Drechsler said. “But we have an ambitious goal of

Brasel Fund to p. 6

CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 10 Community Council

New in 2024:

Neighborhood Cleanup Kits!

The District 10 Community Council, in partnership with the Capital Region Watershed District, is now offering Neighborhood Cleanup Kits for community members or organizations to borrow to lead their own cleanup events.

Each kit includes trash grabbers, vests, bags and gloves.

Plan a cleanup in your neighborhood, even if it's just your own household, or add one to your annual block party this summer.

To reserve a kit, email kits@district10comopark.org. Reserve one kit for any event or two for a larger cleanup. For more information, check out the District 10 website at: District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup#kits.

Next Lake Como cleanup

The next Lake Como cleanup, which focuses on the shoreline and lake, is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon.

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 is not required, but it helps us plan and communicate if changes come up. For more information go to District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup.

Como Homo Hangout: June 30

It's time for the fourth annual Como Homo Pride Celebration, which recognizes Pride Month.

Join us at the Como Pavilion for social activities, kids crafts and games, community connections and much more. If you want to help plan Pride activities, contact the district organizer at organizer@district10comopark.org. For updates, check out district10comopark.org/ComoHomo.

Annual Ice Cream Social: July 12

Every year, the District 10 Community Council plans our Ice Cream Social, typically featuring free ice cream, live music, meet-and-greets with neighborhood organizations and activities for children and families.

The event is scheduled for 5:30–8:00 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park, 1224 Lexington Pkwy N. Due to limited available parking, please consider walking, biking or carpooling to the celebration.

This event is still being planned. If you're interested in helping plan or volunteering at this event, fill out a volunteer interest form, attend a community meeting or contact our District organizer at organizer@district10comopark.org.

District 10 meetings schedule

- **District 10 Community meetings:** 7 p.m., Wednesdays, June 5 and 18 and July 3.

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. Meeting details are at District10ComoPark.org. All District 10 community meetings are open to the public and include time for community members.

Submitted by Shevek McKee, District 10 Community Council Executive Director.



(L to R) Dustin McHenry, Emily Resseger, Mary Thelen and Eva Hanson from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization provided volunteer muscle for the 2024 Kasota Ponds spring cleanup.

District 12 Community Council

Kasota Ponds cleanup recap

The 2024 spring cleanup of Kasota Ponds proved successful as a crew of volunteers collected about 55 bags of trash and recycling, 12 wooden boards and dock pieces, six tarps, two tires, a propane tank and many other random items.

Volunteers on April 13 included people from Rapids Foodservice, WestRock, Avalon School and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization staff. Sponsors and supporters included the City of St. Paul, Commercial Railway, NAPA Auto Parts, Speedy Market, Hampden Park Co-op and Workhorse Coffee Bar.



The Kasota Ponds spring cleanup yielded some 55 bags of trash, along with tires, tarps, a propane tank and other debris. Photos submitted by District 12.

Walk around Highway 280

Join the District 12 Transportation Committee on Tuesday, June 25, for a walk around the southern part of Highway 280. Meet at the corner

of Cromwell Avenue and Territorial Road at 6:30 p.m.

Hear about what used to be there, discover the effect the highway currently has on people who live nearby and experience its reality as the neighborhood does every day.

Help us answer the question: As MnDOT rethinks I-94, how should this part of Highway 280 be adapted? The walk will last about an hour.

Upcoming meetings

District 12 committee meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending a committee meeting, please RSVP at

bit.ly/sapccvolunteer. By RSVPing, you will receive an agenda and Zoom link before the meeting.

- **Land Use Committee:** 7 p.m., Thursday, June 6
- **District 12 Board:** 7 p.m., Thursday, June 13
- **Environment Committee:** 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 26
- **Transportation Committee:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 25
- **Equity Committee:** 7 p.m., Thursday, June 27

Submitted by Hailey Dickinson, District 12 Outreach and Communications Coordinator.

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MnDOT pauses North Gateway plan for 35W

By Anne Holzman

A plan to add a paid lane to Highway 36 and reconfigure the interchange at Interstate 35W just north of Lauderdale is on hold pending further traffic studies.

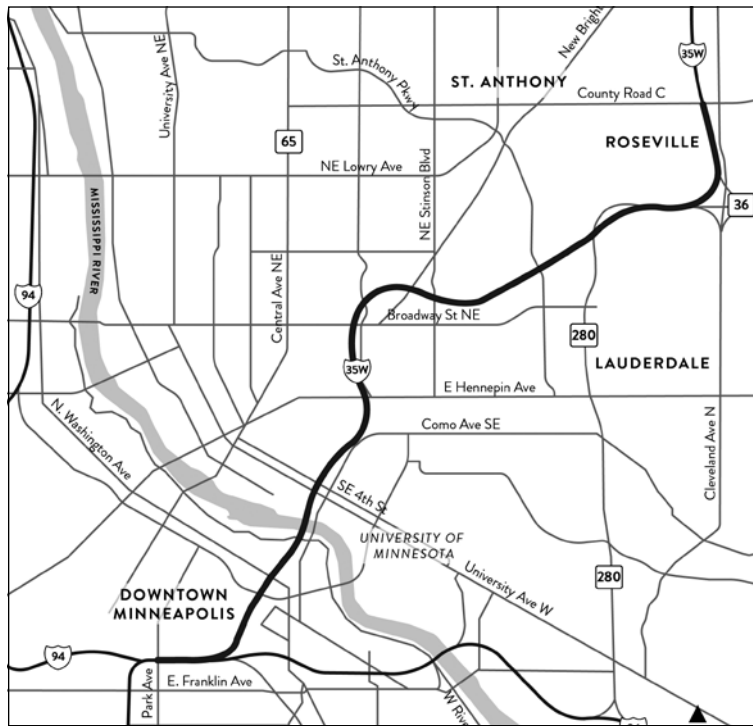
State highway officials ended the North Gateway study in 2023 with a report recommending a fresh study be done given the changing traffic patterns following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Gateway corridor comprises the roadway, bridges and interchanges of Interstate 35W from Park Avenue in Minneapolis to County Road C in Roseville.

The study began in 2018 with traffic patterns and projected growth at that time. According to the report published in 2023, “The study team realized that congestion, one of the primary needs of the corridor, was perhaps not growing as fast as predicted.”

The study also turned up more concern about bike and pedestrian access than officials had anticipated.

“Public engagement in the study area revealed the importance of ac-



I-35W North Gateway study location map. Map from dot.state.mn.us.

cessibility, connectivity and comfort for those walking or bicycling on bridges,” the report notes.

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials told the Lauderdale City Council in January 2022 that the purpose of the study was

to identify projects that should be ready to go when funding became available. The deteriorated condition of the 47 bridges in the study area would likely draw the quickest attention, they said, and they

wanted any planned bridge work to accommodate long-range needs.

The plan was to propose a new layout that would handle more traffic. But by 2023, traffic patterns had changed enough to raise doubts about the projections on which the study was based.

Instead of moving forward to design and environmental review, MnDOT suspended the study and offered the report as a “framework” for future planning.

Built gradually during the 1960s and 1970s, the North Gateway area has been pieced together and could use an overhaul of visual design along with infrastructure updates, the report states.

MnDOT official Christina Perfetti told the Bugle in April that 35W is not due for repaving. “However, we have a number of bridges that are scheduled to have maintenance work done in 2031,” she said,

including the Highway 36 bridge over 35W.

Asked about the connection with Highway 280, Perfetti said that while the North Gateway study doesn’t directly address that, MnDOT has resurfacing and bridge repair planned for 2026.

“The pavement on 280 is nearing the end of its service life and is due for repairs,” Perfetti said, adding, “MnDOT is still planning on making changes to the intersection of Broadway and 280 between 2026 and 2028.”

Interested readers can request a copy of the North Gateway report by email at Christina.Perfetti@state.mn.us. ■

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights and Lauderdale government for the Bugle.

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

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

Another year down

With the imminent arrival of summer, the Bugle is also closing out its 2023-24 fiscal year.

We begin fiscal 2024-25 on July 1, paying homage to our 50th anniversary issue. Our July issue will mark the first of several stories over the next few months looking back at the history of the Bugle.

One of the Bugle's most distinguished contributors, Adam Granger, will review some of his most memorable columns. With his ties to the old Prairie Home Companion radio show, Adam typifies what makes St. Anthony Park so special: It's a community where people know one another as neighbors and feel a close bond to them.

There will also be stories from other notable Bugle contributors

over the years including former editors like Dave Healy, Mary Mergenthal and Judy Woodward, long-time writer of the "Ask the Librarian" column.

St. Anthony Park is a community with a rich history of civic longevity. Besides the Bugle marking its 50th anniversary; the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival (which is set for June 1) will celebrate its 55th this year and the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation is already 25 years.

Another community institution, the St. Anthony Park Library Association, is marking its 90th anniversary. The library serves as the hub for many kid and adult community activities.

These days the Bugle is endeavoring to chronicle more information and news from Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. Currently, Anne Holzman is our

chief freelance reporter for Falcon Heights and Lauderdale government news. But we also welcome other community news. Please send your news and story ideas to editor@parkbugle.org.

Eye on the prize

As I write this column, I am recovering from eye surgery.

On May 9, I had cataract surgery and a partial corneal transplant performed on my right eye from an expert team of doctors at the St. Paul Eye Clinic.

I am grateful that four days out from the operations, my surgery appears to be successful with my vision getting better each day.

The seeds for my surgeries were planted back in 2000 when I was playing tennis and got hit in the face with a tennis ball. The tennis ball struck and crushed my right eye, causing severe internal bleed-

ing, a corneal abrasion and a corneal cataract.

After quick medical treatment and two weeks of restrictive activity to prevent further internal bleeding, I returned to work about two weeks later, lucky that I avoided going blind. After several weeks of recovery, I regained most of my vision, although it was somewhat diminished.

In the years following my accident, my eye doctor kept a close watch on my right-eye cataract. It remained stable for many years until it started significantly growing in the last two or three years.

Then, about a year ago, the eye doctors told me I also had something called Fuch's dystrophy. My corneal cells were growing discolored and starting to make normal vision more difficult.

I procrastinated on whether to have the corneal transplant. As with any transplanted tissue, there is always the risk of infection and rejection.

But friends who have had this surgery encouraged me to proceed with it, attesting to the surgery's high success rate that immensely benefited their vision.

I am grateful for all of the people who played a part in advising me, praying for me and those in the medical team who operated on my eye.

Meanwhile, I will be on medical leave until May 30. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

Come to Bugle annual meeting

By Helen Warren

The board and staff of the Park Bugle warmly invite readers to attend our annual meeting on Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m. The annual meeting will be held at the Ciceron offices located at 2412 Valentine Ave W. in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

At the annual meeting, the Park Bugle Board will elect new officers, adopt its budget for 2024-25 and confer with readers about suggestions for improving coverage. This

year, we will also celebrate the Park Bugle's 50th anniversary.

As we close out the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Bugle board also bids farewell to Kristin Wiersma and Rosann Cahill as they complete their terms. Both provided key strategic guidance and abundant energy. Please come to toast Kristin and Rosann and thank them for their efforts.

The annual meeting is public because the Park Bugle is a community enterprise. Its mission, "to turn readers into neighbors" is best

fulfilled when readers and supporters confer directly with the Park Bugle's board and staff.

If you are feeling unsure about attending, invite a friend to accompany you.

For more information or encouragement to attend, please email Helen Warren, Park Bugle Board President, at hbwarren65@gmail.com. ■

Helen Warren lives in St. Anthony Park and is chairperson of the Park Bugle board of directors

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rethinking a golf course

The University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course in Falcon Heights uses almost four times as much water per year as the U's agricultural fields: 23 million gallons. That's more than half of what the neighboring city of Lauderdale uses in a year!

In 2023, the course spent \$18,000 on gasoline. At \$3.50 a gallon, that's equivalent to a car driving more than 116,000 miles.

Sixteen pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are used on the course, including Daconil Ultrex, which is fatal if inhaled and may cause cancer or organ damage through prolonged or repeated exposure. Another pesticide, Gallery 75 DE, is likely to kill aquatic organisms if spilled in waterways.

Some looking at a golf course see attractive grass and trees. But what does it take to maintain such grounds? As the climate changes, how much more water will be required?

As habitat is imperiled around

the world, is it wise to maintain a golf course that contributes greenhouse gases, pollutes water sources, harms wildlife and negatively affects human health?

On the other hand, the golf course could be reimagined as a carbon sink, a water purifier and regulator, and a sanctuary for wildlife. Imagine the area planted with native prairie grasses and plants, their roots sequestering carbon in the soil. Imagine the golf course returned to woodlands. It would store 75 tons of carbon per acre.

Haven't our city leaders been looking for more areas to plant trees? This 135-acre course could serve that purpose. Imagine a wildlife sanctuary; imagine the birds, pollinators, amphibians, small mammals and reptiles that could find habitat there.

How many other golf courses are in a ten-mile radius? Thirty-seven.

The U of M asks its students and staff to acknowledge that its campus is located on the "traditional, ancestral, and contempo-

rary lands of Indigenous people." What is the purpose of a land acknowledgment?

Please consider the land occupied by the Les Bolstad Golf Course. Please consider our collective, outsized impact on the environment.

Please take a moment to complete a short survey, developed as a project of Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park with a U of M Sustainability Internship. Use the QR code below, or visit bit.ly/UMNgolfsurvey.

Mark Robinson and Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park



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Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. We appreciate when writers and readers submit articles early.

Please remember publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days.

Bulk drop-offs of the paper are usually completed two to three days after publication.

July: Graduate Recognition

Copy/ad deadline: June 12
Publication: June 25

August:

Copy/ad deadline: July 10
Publication: July 23

September:

Copy/ad deadline: August 8
Publication: August 20

COMMENTARY

Seeking to serve in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla

By Barry Reisch

Having followed years of Israel's oppression and occupation of Palestinian land, I was not surprised when on Oct 7, 2023, the lid finally came off the pot.

Knowing how well we have armed Israel, things were going to get really bad for Palestine.

Israel's response is vengeance and hatred with Hamas as its excuse. Indiscriminate killing, especially of innocent children and women, has been heart-wrenching for me. The deliberate destruction of homes, hospitals, water, aid, etc., has been nothing short of inhumane.

Since last Oct. 7, I have put my life on hold to work on stopping the madness. On March 29 I was given the opportunity to board the Freedom Flotilla Coalition's challenge of the Israeli siege and deliver 5,500 tons of aid directly to Gaza.

After being accepted to go, I learned about possible scenarios—such as arrest, harassment, communication being stolen, being killed—and began to waffle. But I continued to process the possibilities and it took all the courage I could summon to get on that plane.

Meeting and getting involved with people from all over the world with at least 40 countries represented and multiple languages all here for the same reason was the highlight of the trip for me.



The flotilla cargo ship in Istanbul. Photo by Medea Benjamin.

All to help especially the children. Many were there with children and loved ones left behind and I myself leaving babysitting responsibilities and loved ones worried about me.

But we all were doing it because we don't want a world to grow up in where genocide is okay.

We were told three different times that the trip was delayed. With each postponement I had

to recommit myself. These delays were put in place in part by Turkey, who was being pressured by the U.S. government to not allow boats to sail.

On what would have been the fourth opportunity to board, we were told that due to pressure from Israel, Guinea Bissau had pulled its flags from two of the boats and made impossible demands for allowing their reuse.



Former FBI agent-turned-activist Coleen Rowley (far left) and commentary writer Barry Reisch (center right) in Istanbul as they waited in vain for permission to enter Gaza to deliver aid to war victims. Photo submitted by Barry Reisch.

getting called again later to come back and try again.

Since 2008 Freedom Flotilla Coalition has sent 15 flotillas to Gaza. The boats will sail again.

Please call the president, Congress, Senate, State Department and demand they allow the release of the Flotilla and provide safe passage directly to Gaza.

— Barry Reisch, FFI Freedom Flotilla Coalition ■

Barry Reisch lives in St. Anthony Park and is a retired carpenter and building inspector. He is also a Vietnam veteran, former national president of Veterans For Peace and has been active in the anti-war movement in the Twin Cities and beyond for more than 30 years.

Send your news or story ideas to editor@parkbugle.org

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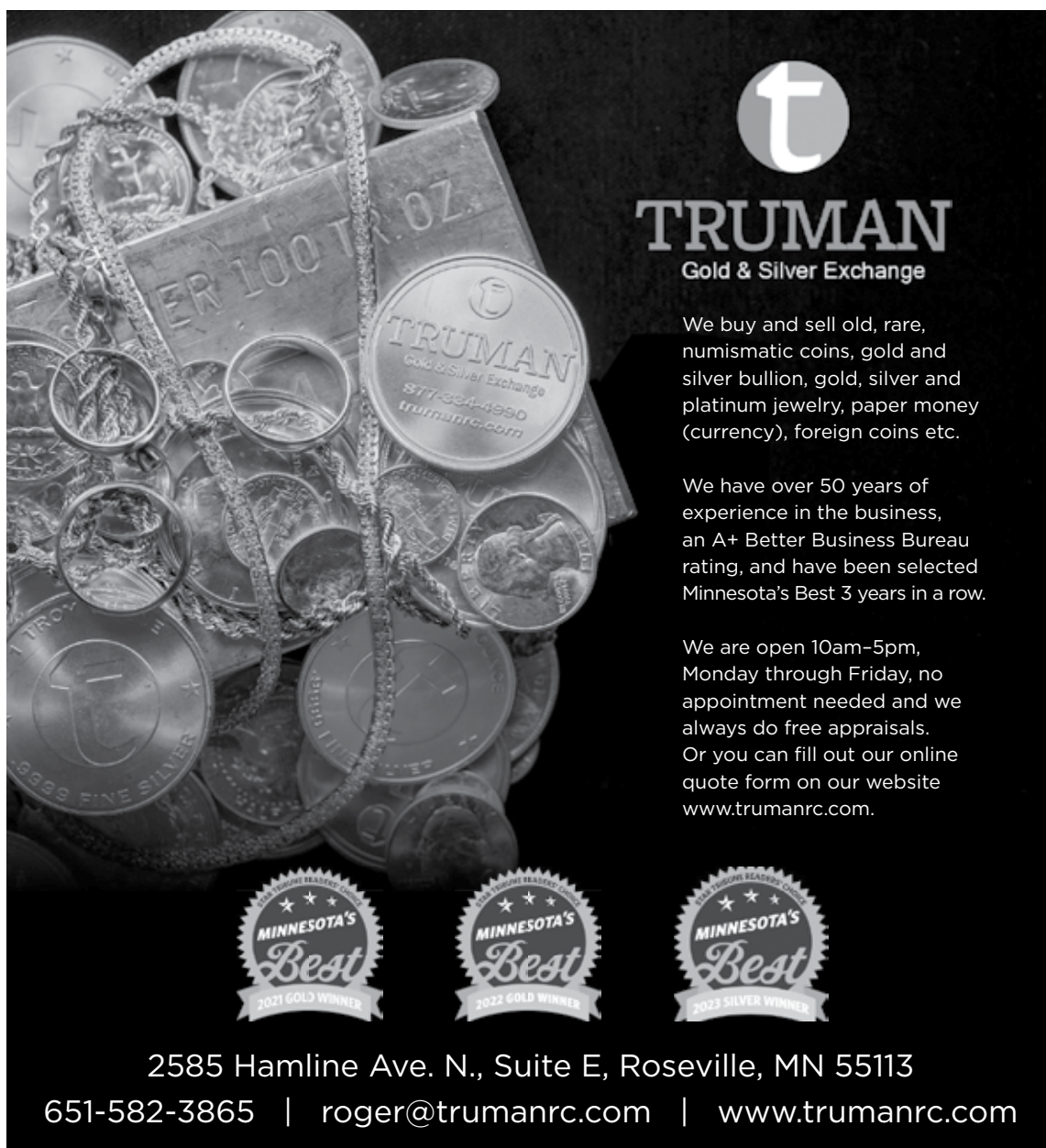
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SAP Elementary's Schrankler is retiring

By Sarah CR Clark

James Schrankler, St. Anthony Park Elementary's nationally recognized science and engineering teacher, is retiring at the end of the current school year.

Beloved by fellow staff members and students, Schrankler's retirement is bittersweet news.

"Mr. Schrankler makes fun activities into learning opportunities," said fifth-grader Erik Bollman, "His openers always wow me!" (Schrankler is known for beginning his lessons with attention-grabbing, curiosity-inspiring opening demonstrations.)

Third grader Lars Clark said, "After Mr. Schrankler retires, I'm going to miss some of his science experiments and Eggbert, an egg with a face drawn on that is the test subject in a lot of different things. Mr. Schrankler is fun and cool and I'll miss him."

Schrankler has taught at St. Anthony Park Elementary for 21 years and within St. Paul Public Schools for 39 years. During his years at SAP Elementary, Schrankler hosted 20 science fairs (missing only 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions) and 60 grade-specific

Science Nights for students and their families.

"I have always been so impressed by how the St. Anthony Park community comes together and rallies around our kids," Schrankler told the Bugle.

In the summer of 2018, Schrankler received the highest recognition for a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, in Washington, D.C.

St. Anthony Park Elementary Principal Karen Duke noted, "Mr. Schrankler's magic is that he cultivates in kids a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world. He helps them see that we are all scientists when we ask questions, collect information and interpret what we found. He teaches science that is accessible to everyone and still academically rigorous. We will all miss him."

Besides teaching at St. Anthony Park Elementary, Schrankler has written science and engineering curricula, coached educators and has taught post-secondary classes at the University of Minnesota, Dual Language Immersion Schools, the Minnesota Grow Your



James Schrankler greeting parents and students outside St. Anthony Park Elementary School, where he has been a fixture for more than two decades. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

Own Teacher licensure program and Concordia University.

In retirement, Schrankler said

he plans to continue teaching some post-secondary classes among a long list of other activi-

ties including spending time with his family.

"My family has started a foundation in my youngest daughter's name (Laura), who passed away at the age of 25 in July of 2022 from sudden cardiac arrest," Schrankler said. "Our foundation raises funds to award scholarships for graduating seniors at her high school. I look forward to spending more time working on the foundation mission and to grow our partnership with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program."

Reflecting on his career Schrankler said, "Being a science specialist in an elementary school is simply the best teaching job there is anywhere. I would not have changed one thing about my career path from the district to the schools where I have taught.

"I can't thank the community enough for the support over the years. I have always felt supported by our community in everything I have done. SAP is an amazing place." ■

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

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Brasel Fund from p. 1

\$250,000. Money raised goes into the endowed fund, which builds principal and the invested income is used for the annual grant."

People interested in supporting the annual grant program can send donations to SAP Community Foundation, PO Box 8038, St. Paul, MN 55108 or through the Foundation's GiveMN page, givemn.org/organization/Saint-Anthony-Park-Community-Foundation. ■

Julie Drechsler is the executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.



The first grant from the new Michael Brasel Fund for Youth is going to Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities. Photo provided by St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

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SCHOOL NEWS

June 10, last day of school for St. Paul Public Schools

Compiled by Sarah CR Clark

Murray Middle School

Submitted by Principal Jamin McKenzie

Minnesota History Day state and national contests

Thirty-four students represented Murray Middle School at the Minnesota History Day State competition on Saturday, April 20, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Eleven students won honorable mention and seven won topical prizes: Scout Murch Gordon (Minnesota's Laws and Courts prize), Ingrid Bollman (Africa Studies Prize), Maeve Callahan-Schreiber (Educational History), Susie Elewell (Memorial Prize), and Charlie Anderson, Peter Laska and Emmett Loth (Minnesota Experience Documentary Prize).

Four History Day projects from Murray students have advanced to the History Day National Competition June 9-13 at the University of Maryland: Sylvia McRoberts for her website *Courage and Grit: Virginia Hall, the Spy who Helped Win World War II*; Scout Murch-Gordon for her exhibit *Griswold v. Connecticut: Legalizing Birth Control*; Charlie Anderson, Peter Laska & Emmett Loth for their documentary "The Seven Countries Study"; and Maeve Callahan-Schreiber for her documentary "Sunny Days: A Turning Point In Children's Television."

Principal Jamin McKenzie said Murray's Most Valuable Historian (MVH) Award has gone to **Paloma Dashevsky** for her performance on Dolores Huerta.



T. Mychael Rambo, an internationally known actor and performer, completed his artist-in-residency with SAP Elementary first-graders in April. Students, led by Rambo, delighted families with their recitations of original poems, movement, call-and-response and other performing skills. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

Murray social studies teacher Carrie Newman said the MVH Award is given to a student whose project shows historical integrity, perseverance and creativity.

"Paloma not only did an amazing job with her performance, she was also chosen by the Minnesota History Day program to be filmed, as her performance was incredibly powerful," Newman said.

St. Anthony Park Elementary

Submitted by Principal Karen Duke

Running Club

SAP Elementary's Running Club was a rousing success again this year, with more than 200 runners in grades 1 to 5 participating. Runners trained twice a week, running together after school. A culminating 1-mile race was scheduled for May 15.

Principal Karen Duke said family members, volunteers and staff helped in making the program

successful, adding, "a big thanks to physical education teacher Karen Paulsen who keeps the event running strong!"

Pre-K program returning

Nature Discovery Pre-K will be back at SAP Elementary next fall, also serving three-year-olds.

During the 2023-24 school year, the pre-K program served about 25 four-year-olds, about half of whom are enrolled at SAP for kindergarten in the fall of 2024.

Duke said, "We hope to continue to grow the program."

Avalon School

Submitted by Tim Quealy, program coordinator

Staff nominated for award

Three teachers from Avalon School were nominated for The Minnesota Charter School Leadership Award in March. Carrie Bakker, Gretchen

Sage-Martinson and Nora Whalen are all founding staff of Avalon, a St. Paul charter school that opened in 2001.

Avalon teacher Tim Quealy noted that for these three teachers, "This year marks their 20th year of graduates!"

According to mncharterschools.org, the award recognizes people who have "demonstrated ongoing organizational and academic leadership, professionalism, innovation, and community engagement."



Twin Cities German Immersion School students celebrated Earth Day by helping with neighborhood cleanup. Pictured are fourth-grade students cleaning the walkway around Como Lake. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Submitted by Paige Yurczyk, communications and outreach director

Eighth-grade Capstone Exchange program

Thirty-seven TCGIS eighth graders completed their 17-day exchange program in Germany during May.

"Students returned with wonderful stories and experiences of daily life as a teen in northwestern Germany," Yurczyk said,

Besides attending school and traveling with host families, students visit local farms and historical sites (like the castle Burg Benthheim), and toured the city of Münster.

Yurczyk explained, "TCGIS has three partner schools in Gronau, Ochtrup and Schöppingen, Germany, near the German-Dutch border. Last September, TCGIS eighth graders hosted 38 German teens from these schools, and this

spring's two-week visit concluded this year's Capstone exchange.

"The TCGIS Capstone Exchange is the culmination of nine years of language-learning for TCGIS students and an enriching opportunity to put all of their hard work and learning to use in real-life situations in Germany"

Yurczyk said TCGIS has one of the largest back-to-back exchange programs in the U.S. This year, a total of 74 TCGIS and German students participated. The 2025 program is expected to serve more than 100 students, including up to 60 students from the TCGIS. ■

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a Bugle freelance writer covering schools.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Como Park High School news

By Eric Erickson

Voter Registration

The League of Women Voters (LWV) collaborated with senior AP Government leaders to educate fellow students about voter registration for 18-year-olds and pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds. The senior leaders visited tables during lunches to help classmates complete the voter registration process and discuss how crucial voting is in our democracy.

“Working with the student volunteers was extra wonderful,” said LWV organizer Chris Schnieders. “They energetically moved through the crowd with professionalism and enthusiasm. They set the standard, making a significant contribution to our goal of increasing voters in Minnesota.”

Robotics success

The Como robotics team, known as BEASTBot 2855 in the robotics world, concluded its “best season ever,” according to its coaches. Given their participation in two regional events for the first time in program history, and reaching the semifinals in both, it’s hard to argue.

After a successful showing in Duluth at the Northern Lights Regional, BEASTBot concluded

its season at the 10,000 Lakes Regional in Minneapolis, reaching the final four and finishing just shy of reaching the world championships in Texas.

Led by several resourceful and intelligent seniors, the team’s taste of success is expected to motivate the underclassmen to work harder and reach an even higher level next year. There are plans to study computer coding and computer-aided design (CAD) over the summer.

The team is also building more practice robots and continuing to raise money to ensure the team can participate in multiple regional tournaments in 2025.

AP Exams

After a year of rigorous college-level learning, Como students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses took exams during May for their subject-specific courses.

Collectively, students completed hundreds of exams covering content from 14 different courses taught at Como, with the goal of showing what they know and potentially earning college credit.

Prom and graduation

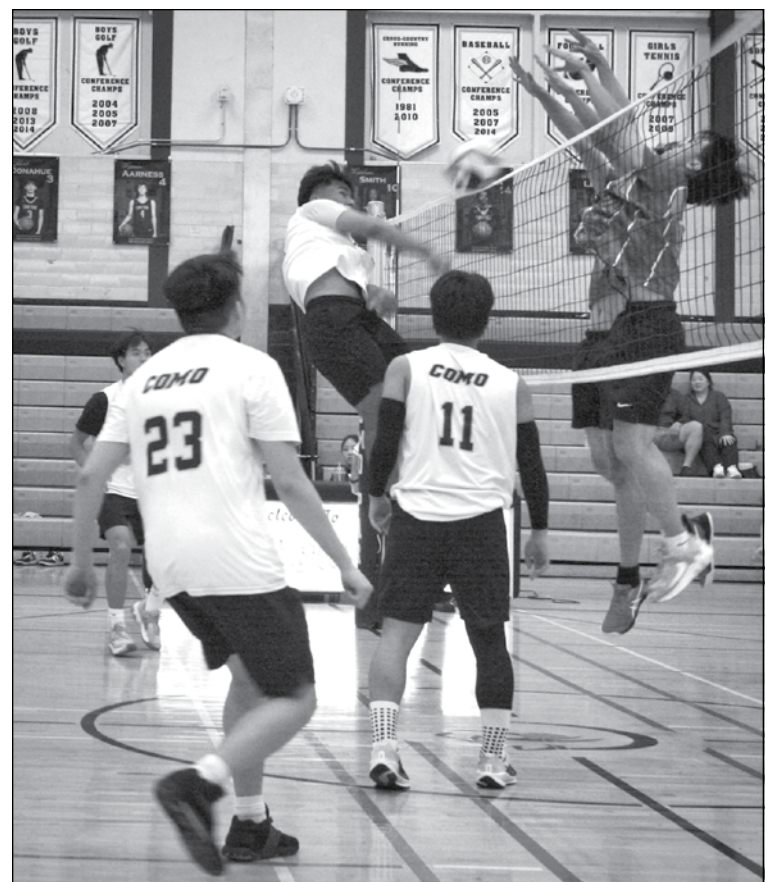
After completing AP exams, Como Park juniors and seniors celebrated the 2024 Prom on Friday, May 17, at the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul.



The Como Robotics team reached the final four at the 10,000 Lakes Regional, a competition with more than 60 teams. Photo by Michael Fischer.

The commencement ceremony for the Como class of 2024 will take place downtown St. Paul in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium on Wednesday, June 5, at 8 p.m. The final day of school for ninth, tenth and eleventh graders is June 10. Staff will close out the academic year on June 11. ■

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School and a regular freelance contributor to the Bugle.



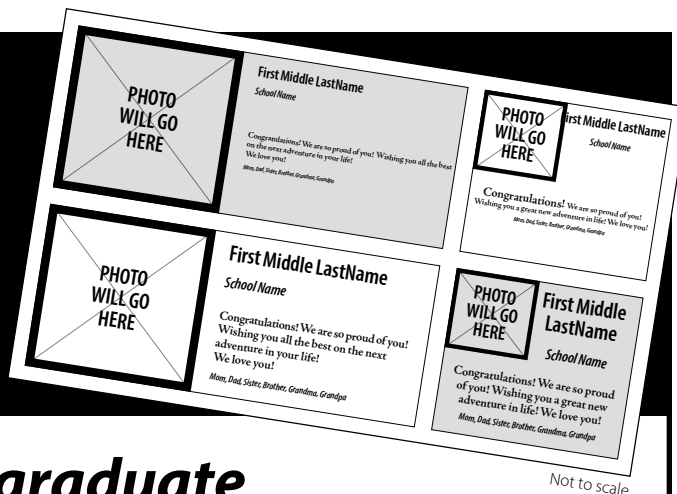
Boys Volleyball serves up a winner

The boys volleyball team at Como Park Senior High is having a banner season, posting a 9-1 record with five games to go as we went to press. Above, junior Soe Reh spikes the ball in a match against Harding High as teammates Kwai Lay Lo (#11) and Rooney Yang (#23) look on.

At press time the boys were tied for 1st place in the Central Division of the Minnesota Boys High School Volleyball Association. This is the final year of “club” volleyball before it becomes a Minnesota State High School League-sanctioned sport in 2025.

For more Cougar sports news, go to page 20. Photo by Lou Michaels.

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ST. ANTHONY PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

SAP Arts Festival three featured artists

By Janet Wight

The 55th annual St. Anthony Park Arts Festival will fill the neighborhood with arts galore on Saturday, June 1.

This year's one-day celebration will feature more than 50 juried artists on and near the grounds of the neighborhood library along with musicians, a community plant sale and a giant used book sale.

The featured artists for 2024 are Anna Stark, Warren Slocum and Melinda Wolff.

Anna Stark



Self-taught oil painter Anna Stark specializes in photo realism. She paints nostalgic objects such as vintage candies, gaming consoles and pop cans

with an eye for detail.

In 2020, Stark began teaching herself to create paintings that resemble photographs.

Frequently, people attending art fairs pass by her booth assuming that her intricate paintings are actually photographs. Once they realize that they are looking at oil paintings, they are frequently surprised.

"I am going for that wow factor," she said. "I am also going for a three-dimensional look."

Her aim is to pull on the heartstrings of potential customers, she explained. She also paints colorful floral arrangements.

From a young age, Stark enjoyed being a crafter and creating art. She attended the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley but focused on film and photography.

Painting is a new medium that she has been exploring for the past few years, be-



Truly Madly Deeply by Anna Stark.

ginning with watercolors, then moving to acrylics and finally graduating to oil paints. She has spent thousands of hours perfecting her craft and it is now starting to pay off, she said.

Growing up in Richfield, Stark's home was filled with oil paintings created by her great-grandmother. She always admired those paintings. Now that she is an oil painter herself, she feels a close connection to her great-grandmother.

Prices for Stark's original artwork range from \$150 to \$3,000. Prints, magnets and stickers are also available, ranging in price from \$4 to \$20.



Pink Ring Pop by Anna Stark.

Her advice to budding artists? "Paint what is in your heart and what brings you joy," she said.

Stark attended Columbia College Chicago and majored in marketing. She is employed full-time at a local nonprofit agency in addition to her roles as an artist and mother of three children.

She is not afraid to admit that her goal is to be famous and to be known around the world. For more information, or to view Stark's art, visit artbyannastark.com.

Warren Slocum



Jukebox by Warren Slocum.

New Richmond, Wisconsin, artist Warren Slocum specializes in mirrors and stained-glass windows in a variety of styles, shapes and sizes.

"My glass work includes traditional leaded glass techniques, as well as innovative use of new procedures, to make both my stained-glass windows/mirrors and my kiln-produced cast/fused designs, all of which are original," according to a statement provided by Slocum on the festival website.

Additionally, he makes his own wood frames out of oak. Aluminum and rounded copper frames are also options, he added.



Deco Vee Mirror by Warren Slocum.

Slocum's website, frontiernet.net/~dooda, includes examples of his handiwork. Custom work is available upon request. "The substitution of colors, alteration of dimensions, and many other factors influence the final outcome of pieces..." he explained.

Melinda Wolff



The rich and varied hues of exotic and domestic woods are featured in the bold necklaces designed by artist Melinda Wolff.

Using scrap pieces from her husband Brian's woodworking shop, Wolff creates necklaces, earrings and bracelets with sustainability in mind, she said, with a price range of \$30 to \$300.

No stains or dyes are used when creating the jewelry. Instead, the pieces are coated with resin, which accentuates the natural beauty of the wood, she said.

Growing up in Woodbury, Wolff and her sisters spent hours in the backyard immersed in nature, where her early imagination and creativity took shape, she explained. These early experiences provided her with a "really beautiful appreciation for Mother Nature," she added.



Essence necklace by Melinda Wolff.

"I've always been an artist even when I was a little kid. I would always be drawing or coloring," she said.

Wolff graduated from the College of Saint Benedict, majoring in studio art while focusing on ceramics, jewelry and painting. She has also explored watercolor and stained glass.

After college, Wolff worked in creative fields as well as in the corporate world. About eight years ago she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a full-time artist. It has been her labor of love ever since.

Wolff relishes the process of creating art. "Seeing my creativity brings joy to the people that see my work," she said.

Her handiwork led to the Best in Show award for jewelry at the Lakeville Art Festival, and she also received an honorable mention at the Eagan Art Festival.

In her spare time, Wolff enjoys visiting Minnesota state parks and tent camping with



Inspiration necklace by Melinda Wolff.

her husband, accompanied by their dog Walter. She also enjoys reading mysteries and other genres and she has a "crazy knack" for finding four-leaf clovers, she said.

Her suggestions to artists just starting out are applicable to many pursuits. "You don't have to know everything in order to start creating. Everyone is a beginner at some point," she said.

"Don't stop because of a rejection," she added. "Try to learn from it and keep going." She also recommends making friends with other artists.

Wolff's jewelry is available at a variety of boutiques and galleries throughout Minnesota. To learn more visit melindawolff.com.

Visit sapfest.org for more information, a detailed schedule, a festival map or to make a donation. ■

Janet Wight lives in the Como neighborhood and is a regular Bugle freelance writer.

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ST. ANTHONY PARK 55TH ARTS FESTIVAL



Directory of artists, music and activities June 1

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- 77 MehndiMadeMemories

* 2024 Featured artist

Music Lineup

- Library Stage**
- 10 AM Dan Chouinard & Ann Reed
 - 11 AM The Hampden Rounders
 - Noon Barrel Flash
 - 12:45 PM SAP Foundation
 - 1 PM Granger's Moonshine
 - 2 PM The Northerly Gales
 - 3 PM Ted Olsen and Friends
 - 4 PM Pig's Eye Jazz Band

Seminary Stage

- 10 AM Ava Levy
- 11 AM Too Many Tonys
- Noon Minnesota Bluegrass Band
- 1 PM Duskers
- 2 PM The May North
- 3 PM Sun Wave Mountain Cave Band
- 4 PM Luke LeBlanc

Food Vendors

- Lemon Heaven
- Tibet Momo
- Best Way Gyros
- Carnaval Mexican Grill
- Abogados Café Coffee
- HomeTown Creamery
- Eggroll Queen
- Mabel's Old-fashioned Kettle Corn
- Diventuri Concessions

All Day Activities

- Book Sale**
Library, lower level
- St. Anthony Park History Tent**
Booths 52 & 53
- St. Anthony Park Original Artwork Map Auction**
See the art inside the History Tent
- Boy Scout Climbing Tower**
Luther Lawn
- Terra Firma Lawn Games**
Luther Lawn

Scheduled Activities

- Story Time: Crankie Storytelling (for all ages) with Alisa Mee**
10 am-11:30 am
Library Garden
- Beer & Mead Tent**
12:00-4:15 pm
Library Garden
- SAP Foundation Presents 1st Michael Brasel Grant**
12:45-1:00 pm
Library Stage

Community Booths

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Sending love on a heartbreaking anniversary

The first weekend of May marked one year since the murder of Michael Brasel, shot as he interrupted an auto theft outside his St. Anthony Park home on Chilcombe Avenue.

In remembrance, several neighbors created a block-long sidewalk chalk-art installation on the side of the street where

his widow, Hilary, and sons Oliver and Miles live. Among the contributing sidewalk artists were Kati Bruhn (top right photo) and daughters Mae (far left) and Josephine (center).

Brasel, a residential carpenter and popular youth hockey coach, was shot early in the morning of May 6, 2023, when

he noticed two teens breaking into Hilary's car and tried to intervene. Months later, 17-year-old Kle Swee was sentenced to 25-and-a-half years in prison for the killing, and 18-year-old Ta Mla pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting, resulting in a 15-year sentence. ■



Photos by Lou Michaels



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EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Art Shows

All that Glitters is...

An exhibit of landscapes on gold by Bob Schmitt of Laughing Waters Studio during regular store hours at boréal Art Loft, June 1-28, at 2276 Como Ave. Schmitt will be at the Art Loft from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, June 1, 8 and 15. Check with boréal for opening reception date. shop.boreal.life.

Witaj! Polish Art Showcase

The Clifford Place Collection of contemporary Polish artists presents a gallery selection of posters and original art from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays during June at Vandalia Tower, 550 Vandalia St. A seminar, "Polish Posters in MN—A Note from The Collectors," will be offered at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 1, followed by a gallery reception from 4 to 8 p.m. Art details: cliffordplacecollection.com.

Solar tour

Does going solar make "cents" for you? Come to Peace Lutheran Church, 1744 Walnut St. in Lauderdale at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 8, and find out. Peace Lutheran is sponsoring a free walking tour of three solar installations (all within three blocks of the church). After the tour, return to Peace church for refreshments and conversation. Solar owners will be available to answer questions and provide first-hand information.

Next Chapter Booksellers

Look for three visiting authors with a Minnesota connection at the Next Chapter Booksellers during June: J. Ryan Stradal in conversation with Kate Gibson, Monday, June 10; Joe Friedrichs, Wednesday, June 12; and David Housewright, Tuesday, June 25, 6 to 7 p.m. at 38 Snelling Ave. S.

Community sing

Musician Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed will lead a community sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 17, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. All singing abilities are welcome. Free.

Gibbs Farm

Gibbs Farm: Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., opens for the season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays beginning May 25. Guided tours are of-

fered on the hour or visit on your own. \$10-\$5; free for children 3 and under and RCHS members. rchs.com/gibbs-farm/visit-us.

Como Park

Groovin' In The Garden:

The annual summer music series returns from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 5-July 24, in front of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr. Free. comozooconservatory.org.

Senior strolls:

Self-guided walk through Como Zoo and the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. 9-10 a.m., Sunday, June 9, and Tuesday, June 18. Admission is free, but reservations required: comozooconservatory.org/como/senior-strolls.

Beauty and the Beast:

Staged by the Rosetown Playhouse at 7 p.m. on July 11-13 and July 19-20 and at 1 p.m. on Sundays, July 14 and 21, Como Lakeside Pavilion, 360 Lexington Pkwy N. Tickets, \$10-\$20, available at the door or online at rosetownplayhouse.org.

Dock & Paddle's Summer Series

The annual summer performance series' schedule at Como Lakeside Pavilion can be found online at dockandpaddle.com.

Summer Solstice

Midsommar

Enjoy the longest day of the year as the American Swedish Institute celebrates Midsommar from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Make fresh-flower head wreaths (purchase kits), sing songs, listen to live music and dance around the midsommarstång (maypole). Advance tickets: \$6-\$15; free for ages 5 and under. Walk-up tickets: \$18 per person. asimn.org.

Summer Solstice Solar Observing

Noon-1 p.m., Thursday, June 20, Bell Museum, 2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. Celebrate the longest day-

light period of the year with solar telescopes and learn why the amount of daylight seen changes throughout the year. This event is included with regular admission: \$12-\$15; free for Bell Museum members, University of Minnesota students and Indigenous peoples. bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Juneteenth

University of Minnesota Juneteenth Celebration

The University of Minnesota will host its third annual block party and commemorative march from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

This free event centers on the theme of "We Are the Noise: The Echoes of Our Ancestors." Vendors, speakers, workshops, poster showcases, storytellers, musicians, performers, DJs, roller skating, books, free food, free haircuts, art-making, a bouncy house, a petting zoo and more. Details at juneteenth.umn.edu.

Historic Fort Snelling Juneteenth tours

Learn about the early Black communities, free and enslaved, in what would become the state of Minnesota, and about the African Americans newly arriving during the Civil War.

Tours at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 19, at 200 Tower Ave. (junction of Minnesota Highways 5 and 55). Admission \$8-\$12; free for children ages 4 and under, MNHS members, Native Americans and veterans. mnhs.org/events/1622

Women's Drum Center

Drum Basics: 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 10, at 2242 University Ave. W. Note: This class starts an hour later than previous Drum Basics classes. Drums are provided. \$15. Register at womendrumcenter.org.

Minnesota Youth Symphonies

Audition for the 2024-2025 season: Noon to 6 p.m., Friday, June 14, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at Macalester College, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, 130 Macalester St. S. There is a \$52 audition fee; fee waived for viola, horn, trombone, tuba, string bass; need-based scholarships available.

Summer String Camp: Open to violin, viola, cello and bass players. No audition is required. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 24-28, at Messiah Episcopal Church, 1631 Ford Parkway. The fee is \$425; reduced fees are available.

Camp details and registration at mnyouthsymphonies.org.

Neighbors of Alden Square Park

All events take place at 1160 Gibbs Ave., are free and open to all ages and pet friendly.

Game Night: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13. Play table games, badminton, volleyball, croquet or cornhole. Bring a snack to share.

Barrel Flash concert: 7 p.m. Friday, June 28. Music reflects folk traditions of the U.S., U.K. and Ireland. Sweet Fruci's ice cream truck will drive by. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors' calendar for May. Unless specified, registration is not necessary.

In-person activities include:

- **Walk with ease:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays in June. Meet at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N. Call the office to register.

- **Tai Ji Quan:** Moving for Better Balance. 2 to 3 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June at The Legends at Berry, 777 Berry St.

- **Luncheon:** Pizza Lucé. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, at 2851 Snelling Ave. N., Roseville.

- **Concert in the Park:** Music by Swingin' on a Star. 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, at Lauderdale Community Park, corner of Pleasant Street and Roselawn Avenue W.

- **Handiwork Group:** St. Anthony Park Public Library. 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, June 13, at 2245 Como Ave.

- **Game day:** 10 to 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 25, at Centennial United Methodist Church, St. Anthony Park Campus, 2200 Hillside Ave.

Hybrid: Call 651-642-9052 for Zoom link.

- **Caregiver Support Group:** 10 to 11 a.m., Thursday, June 6. In-person meeting at Centennial United Methodist Church, St. Anthony Park Campus, 2200 Hillside Ave., or via Zoom.

- **Grief and Loss Group:** 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, June 6, at 2200 Hillside Ave. or via Zoom.

Virtual: Call 651-642-9052 for connection instructions.

- **Poetry class** with Dave Healy: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 6.

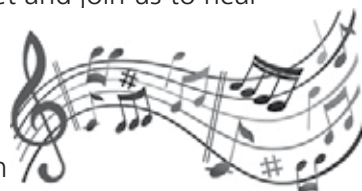
- **Lunch Bunch:** Noon to 1 p.m., Wednesdays, June 19.

Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a freelance writer for the Bugle.

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors

Concert in the Park

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and join us to hear a concert by **Swingin' on a Star**, a group that plays the joyous music of the Great American Songbook. All are welcome to sit, listen or dance!



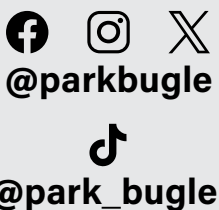
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TRANSITION TOWN

This is a monthly column from Transition Town — All St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood-based group working for a local response to climate change: a smaller carbon footprint and a stronger community. Learn more about Transition Town at TransitionASAP.org.

Neighbors sow seeds for the future Part 2 — The SAP Community Garden in the 21st Century

By Chris Kelly

Part 1 of this history, in the May Bugle, ended in 1998 with the future of the St. Anthony Park Community Garden in question. The lease for its land, owned by BNSF Railroad, was under threat.

Could the land be purchased? Responding to pressure from organized community members and elected officials, BNSF came to the table to discuss selling the land to the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Acquiring the garden land

Heather Worthington, then the council's executive director, led the negotiations with BNSF.

"Railroads were not in the habit of selling their right of way," Worthington said. "That took months and months. I just remember all we did was go to meetings with them over and over and over again to get them to sell us the property."

Meanwhile, the gardeners cobbled together funding through city programs, neighborhood fundraisers, grants and gifts.

City Councilmember Jay Benanav kicked it off with a \$40,000 challenge grant from the city, which local roofing company Etel & Franz matched.



From the beginning, Sherm Eagles and Sue Conner of St. Anthony Park have been inspirational leaders in the Community Garden. Midwest Home & Garden featured them in their August/September 2000 issue.

State Representative Alice Hausman held a fundraiser at her home, where community members

dropped off personal checks. Additional grants came from the city's Capital Improvement funds and local charitable organizations. In total, the community raised nearly \$160,000 toward the purchase of the land.

Worthington was impressed by how the community rallied around the project. "I was handling the business transaction but was in constant admiration of the creativity that [gardeners] brought to the community building," she said. "What was beautiful about

Garden Plots Afoot for May

One hundred garden plots, 15 by 20 feet, will be available this spring to District 12 residents for a \$10 fee. 4. All gardeners, particularly beginners, are encouraged to attend a seminar on gardening before the start of the season.

APPLICATION-AGREEMENT FOR GARDEN PLOT

Return to: District 12 Council Gardens
2380 Hampden Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55114

Application will ONLY be accepted by mail. One per household.

Check or money order for \$10 must be enclosed, made payable to District 12 Community Garden Account.

I request 1 plot 2 plots handicapped access

As a gardener I am beginning intermediate experienced

I will serve on the following committee(s):

Composting Education Finance
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Check
M.O.
Plot #
Do Not Write

The garden's original application form was published in the March 1982 Park Bugle, when plots were \$10 per season. Today the cost is \$40 per season. All 95 available plots for 2024 have been sold. *Park Bugle archive.*

that garden is it was a project that had universal support. People really came together—that is the best of us right there."

In the end, the railroad and council came to terms around a reduced parcel that would preserve the garden, but not enable the larger park project the gardeners had hoped for. BNSF even made an in-kind donation of land to make up the funding gap for the total appraised value.

By June 1999, the SAP Community Garden had become the first in the Twin Cities to own its land: a great victory in securing the garden's future, safe from industrial or residential development. Says Benanav, "I was obviously happy for the community and pleased that I could be part of something that will be there for a long, long time."

Persevering

Acquiring the land resolved a major threat to the garden, but it wasn't the only threat. The grit and

determination of the garden volunteers would be tested again in the years to come.

In 2006, the City of St. Paul announced plans to extend the Pierce Butler Route. The city's map showed a line running right through the garden space to link up to Highway 280.

The SAP Community Council rebuffed this effort in a resolution against the extension, prompting city and state representatives to declare that there was no active proposal for a west extension of the route: another victory.

By the 2010s, the SAP Community Garden was an established local institution, celebrating 30 successful years. It was a stop on annual garden tours. There was a waiting list for the 98 plots, with an annual lottery. The cost had risen to \$30.

But in 2013, smooth operations hit a snag when the Ramsey County assessor reclassified the land, removing its tax-exempt status even though the council is a nonprofit organization. Paying taxes as agricultural land would have made the plots prohibitively expensive for many gardening families.

The council and gardeners rallied to fight for tax abatement based on the charitable purpose of food donations coming out of the garden to local food shelves.

Feeding the community

For decades, local families and their neighbors had been enjoying fresh produce from these garden plots. As any gardener knows, it is hard to calibrate what you grow to what you can eat and preserve in a season. The garden encouraged growers to donate excess produce to Keystone Community Services' Midway food shelf.

After the tax reclassification, the gardeners formalized this system. Three of the plots were now dedi-

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Neighbors sow seeds for the future from p. 14

cated to growing vegetables for the food shelf (in addition to what gardeners were donating out of their own plots).

Lois Braun set up those first plots and has continued to plan the rotation and grow seedlings every year since.

“We focus on plants that are easy to grow and popular. The veggies that have to be harvested frequently are more challenging, but they also tend to be the vegetables that the community finds hardest to get and are also the most appreciated.”

As with all garden efforts, volunteers organize the growing, harvesting and donating. Today, food donations go to the Seal Hi-Rise Sunday Table, with more than 1,300 pounds of produce given last year.

“The people who are receiving the vegetables are right there and express their appreciation right there, in real time,” Braun says, describing how good it feels to make the donations.

Looking to the future

The 40th anniversary of the SAP Community Garden passed during the pandemic with little fanfare. But the volunteers and council can't rest, as there is always more to do.

The water system failed in spring 2022 and was replaced in time for



A logo for the Community Garden used in the early years. *Park Bugle archive.*

the growing season through heroic efforts of gardener (and irrigation professional) Joel Kreller.

The trees along the back fence reached their end of life and started falling over, prompting their removal in 2023, thanks to gardeners' reserve funds and another generous gift from Ettl & Franz. Something new needs to replace those trees to buffer the neighborhood from the railway. Planning has already started, with discussions of native edibles—perhaps fruit trees and bushes, or pollinator-friendly plants?

So, don't be surprised if you feel that tap on your shoulder—the gardeners will be rallying the community once again to help keep the northern border of south SAP green, growing and a center of community for years to come. ■

Chris Kelly is a St. Anthony Park resident and Community Garden volunteer.



Sunset at the garden in peak season. *Photo courtesy of Chris Kelly.*

This two-part history is based on decades of coverage by the Park Bugle as well as interviews with garden leaders. Transition Town—ASAP thanks the Park Bugle for 50 years of neighborhood-based journalism.

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In May, your donations will support the **St. Anthony Parks Art Festival**. Learn more about the festival at **sapfest.org**.

*Home Equity Line of Credit –The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is variable and based on an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with the Prime Rate (the index) published in the Wall Street Journal. As of March 13, 2024, the variable rate for home equity lines of credit ranged from 8.50% APR to 9.50% APR. The rate will not vary above 21.75% APR, applicable state law, or below 5.25% APR. No closing cost special is for new money only. No closing cost promotion is valid from April 1 – September 30, 2024. Property insurance is required. Rates are subject to change. All loans are subject to credit approval and compliance with underwriting standards.


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PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: James Luby

By Gwen Willems

What are the characteristics of a good apple breeder?

Professor James Luby, an expert in fruit-crop breeding and genetics, told me, “Breeding any type of tree is a long-term endeavor—start young, be curious and stick with it!”

That’s exactly what Luby has done. Since being hired in 1982 by the University of Minnesota’s Department of Horticultural Science based on its St. Paul campus, Luby has contributed to the university’s ranking among the top three university-based apple-breeding programs in the nation. (The other two are Washington and Cornell).

Why is Minnesota so good?

Luby attributes it to cold weather and emphasizing the taste of a good apple.

“Our goal in apples has always been to deliver a wonderful eating experience for the consumer,” Luby said. “That involves a crisp, juicy texture and pleasing sweet-tart flavor.

“However, to be successful, a new variety also needs traits that make it profitable for a grower,” he added. “So, we are also selecting for good annual production, disease resistance, freedom from defects such as cracking, and ability for fruit to have excellent quality after weeks or months of refrigerated storage.”

Luby’s interest in genetics goes back to biology class in high school. He also worked on his uncle’s farm in the summers. Upon starting college at the University of Wisconsin, he landed his first job there with an oats breeder but developed an allergy to oats, so looked at other interesting crops.

Luby’s job includes teaching horticulture classes and leading the



James Luby’s expertise in crop breeding and genetics has helped make the University of Minnesota’s apple breeding program one of the nation’s best. Photo provided by James Luby.

team breeding apples, grapes and berries at the Horticultural Research Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, where the university orchards are located.

Under Luby’s direction, the fruit-crops breeding program has introduced and commercialized 27 cultivars of apples, wine grapes, blueberries, strawberries and other fruits.

The results of the university’s 115-year-old apple-breeding program include the introduction of Honeycrisp, SweeTango, Zestar!, First Kiss, McIntosh and Haralson, which was named after Charles Haralson, the first superintendent at the research center, then known as the Fruit Breeding Farm.

I have fond childhood memo-

ries of eating Haralson apples in delicious strudel, pies and other pastries made from the apples we grew in our backyard, about 15 miles west of the research center.

There are difficulties in doing this work in Minnesota.

“The weather is one of the biggest challenges but necessarily one we can do much about,” Luby said. “All kinds of weather conditions can affect the amount and quality of fruit—winter cold, drought, frost, hail and so forth. We can respond to some of these conditions and it is always good to see how our experimental selections respond to the various extremes.”

Climate change also brings challenges such as “selecting for later bloom to avoid spring frosts, ability to ripen fruit in hotter conditions and resistance to diseases that become more prevalent.”

There are many rewards in Luby’s work. “I have really enjoyed working with the graduate students to solve some of the mysteries of how genes control the traits for which we are breeding,” Luby said. He sometimes uses examples from the breeding programs to help stu-

dents understand how new varieties help fruit growers offer higher quality fruit or improve food safety or environmental sustainability.

“Plant breeding students,” Luby said, “are often very interested in how the breeding of long-lived perennial crops like fruits that are

directly consumed by people contrasts with the breeding of annual grain crops that are usually processed for human consumption or used for industrial products.”

Asked what he would like to see in the future, Luby said, “I think that apples will have a more interesting assortment of flavors combined with the crisp, juicy texture that people seem to love.

“New apple varieties will also need to require less labor, since that is becoming a critical limiting factor in production. This will mean more efficient harvest—perhaps even machine harvest—and tree growth habits that minimize the amount of time needed for pruning.”

Although the Horticultural Research Center does not offer tours, the arboretum has a relatively new exhibit area—a modern orchard with all the varieties from the university over the years.

Luby also encourages people to stop by the arboretum’s Apple-House to see and buy different varieties. It is located 1.5 miles west of the Arboretum’s main entrance on Highway 5 and is open from September through December. ■

Gwen Willems lives in Falcon Heights and is a Bugle freelance writer.



The famous Honeycrisp, a result of the University’s breeding program. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

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Library Corner
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LIBRARY CORNER

Carter Avenue Frame Shop sponsors St. Anthony Park map

By Eli Dahmah

With the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival approaching, Michael Smith, owner of the Carter Avenue Frame Shop, wanted to find a special way to support the annual summer festival.

A friend of Smith recommended he contact Stefanie Kiihn, a local artist who creates hand-drawn maps of various St. Paul neighborhoods, and commissioned her to draw a map of St. Anthony Park. Kiihn created a map for Smith to frame and auction off in support of the arts festival.

Kiihn said she enjoyed looking into the history of St. Anthony Park to create the map.

“What I like to do is dig into the history of neighborhoods to get a sense of how they have changed over time,” Kiihn said. “So, with the St. Anthony Park map, it was exciting to see the differences from pre-development to what it is today.”

Anna Gaseitsiwe, owner of The Makery and director of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, said

Smith contacted her to see if they would be interested in featuring the piece at the festival.

“A few months ago, Michael asked if we would be interested in this. He told us he had already commissioned it,” Gaseitsiwe said. “We got together and talked about how we could incorporate this map into the festival.”

Gaseitsiwe said she managed a history tent at another festival when she lived in Washington, D.C., and was excited to use that experience to feature the SAP map and the neighborhood history.

“This year is really exciting because it is the 55th anniversary of the arts festival, the 50th anniversary of the Bugle and the 90th anniversary of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association,” Gaseitsiwe said. “It just felt like the map could serve as an anchor for this history booth.”

Gaseitsiwe also created a timeline banner with the help of some community members to showcase the history of the neighborhood. The tent will also feature a book of stories, photos and illustrations

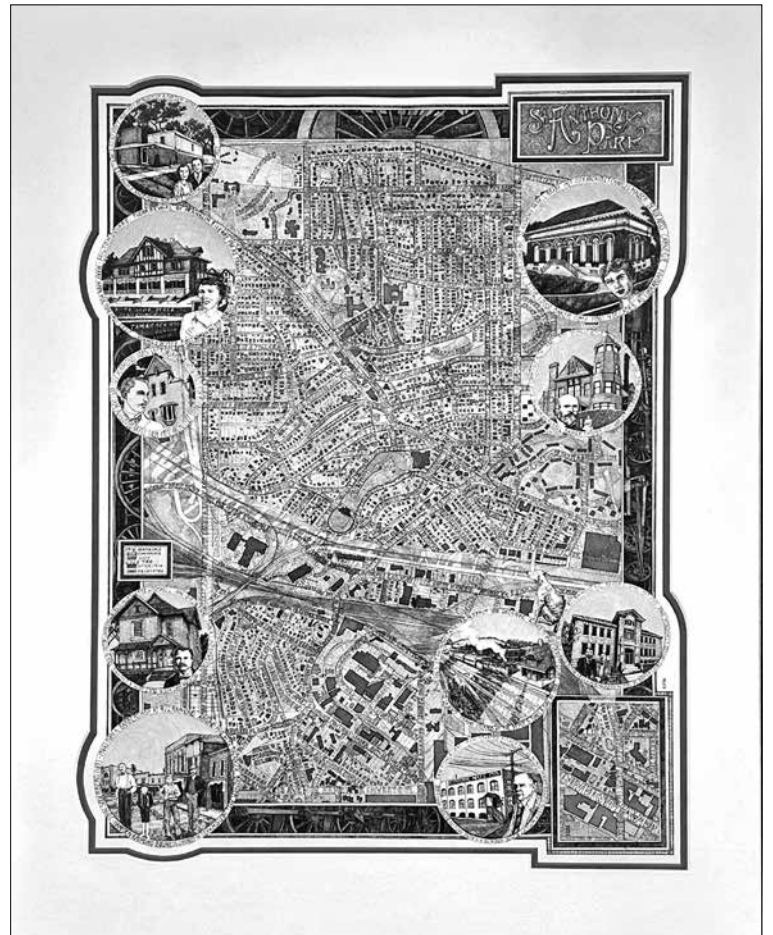


To be a part of the online auction for the hand drawn map, scan this QR code to to place a bid. All proceeds support SAP Library Branch Association programming.

from community members in St. Anthony Park.

Kiihn will be at the festival and will have prints of the map available for purchase. All proceeds from the auction of the original framed map, as well as a portion of the proceeds from the print sales, will be used to support the festival. ■

Eli Dahmah is a journalism student at the University of Minnesota and an intern writer for the Bugle.



Stefanie Kiihn's map is framed and hanging in the Carter Avenue Frame Shop. Photo by Eli Dahmah.

St. Anthony Park Library events

St. Anthony Park Library's June calendar contains Arts Festival special events and familiar favorites. The library is located at 2245 Como Ave., and unless specified, registration is not required.

Please note the library will be closed Wednesday, June 19, in recognition of the Juneteenth holiday.

Arts Festival special event

Crankie Storytelling in the Garden
10 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 1, in the library garden. Crankies are story scrolls that are hand-cranked from one side of a viewing box to another. The stories will be drawn from nature and suitable for children and adults of all ages. Note: In the event of rain or excessive wind, the Crankie event will be canceled.

St. Anthony Park Library Association used book sale



10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1. Bag sale 3 p.m. Saturday. Proceeds from the book sale support library programs such as Storytime, FunLab and the Thursday Forum, as well as help fund facility improvements and landscaping projects.

Ongoing programs

Storytime in the Park



10:30 to 11 a.m., Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18 and 25, at College Park, 2223 Carter Ave. Bring a blanket and get ready for stories, songs, rhymes and puppets. Storytime is designed for children ages birth to 5 year olds, their caregivers and siblings. In the case of inclement weather, storytime will be held in the library's auditorium. The decision to relocate to the library will be made by 9:30 a.m. on storytime days and posted to sppl.org/calendar.

Fun Lab!

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 5, 12 and 26, in the library's auditorium. This is the time to hang out and make cool stuff — art, crafts, science experiments, engineering projects and more. This STEAM drop-in program is designed for ages 7-11. The first Wednesday of every month is always LEGO!

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo

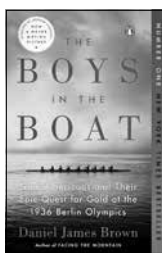
10:15 to 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 8. Young readers ages 5 to 12 have the opportunity to read to Enzo, a friendly dog who loves to sit and

listen to children reading stories. In order to give all children time to read, reading sessions will be limited to 15 minutes. Call the library at 651-642-0411 or stop by the circulation desk to register your young reader.

English Conversation Circle for Adults

4 to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Join the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English language practice at the library. All levels of English language skills are welcome.

Adult book club




6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 24, in the library's auditorium. Join library staff and fellow book lovers for lively conversation and refreshments. Stop in or call the library (651-642-0411) for more information or to pick up a copy of the book, “The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics,” by Daniel Brown.

Submitted by the St. Anthony Park Library; compiled by Kathy Henderson, Bugle freelance writer.



St. Anthony Park Branch Library, home of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival. Photo by Eli Dahmah.



St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association

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The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge, on a space available basis, as a service to our communities. Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 612-670-8510.

**Kay Acton**

Kay Merlyn Acton, 92, of Roseville, died March 28, 2024. She was born in Hallock, Minnesota, on Jan. 22, 1932, and lived in nearby Kennedy before relocating to St. Anthony Park with her family during World War II.

She attended Murray High School and the University of Minnesota, where she earned a degree in nursing and began a career as a public health nurse. On Sept. 19, 1953, Kay married Roger Acton, also of St. Anthony Park.

Kay enjoyed meeting new people and learning about different cultures. She was a host-mom to eight foreign exchange students while raising her children. She was an avid traveler, visiting all seven continents, the last of which was Antarctica, where she celebrated her 81st birthday.

Kay was preceded in death by parents, Merle and Nora Johnson; brother, Kurth; and former spouse, Roger Acton.

She is survived by children Cindy Acton, Patty Beaudry, Mary (Richard) Crist, Becky (Tony) Monteforte, and Tom Ac-

ton; Dutch daughter, Afke; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother Wayne (Bonnie) Johnson; and sister, Susan Petropoulos.

Memorials preferred to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

David Fox

David J. Fox, 82, of Falcon Heights, died on April 17, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, August and Helen; sister and brother-in-law, Lois and John Millett. He is survived by his niece Monica Millett.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at The Church of St. Agnes, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Walter Haupt

Walter B. Haupt, Jr., 92, died on April 12, 2024. Wally was born to Walter Sr. and Marcella Haupt on Oct. 8, 1931, in St. Cloud, the oldest of 10 children.

After graduating from Murray High School in St. Paul in 1949, Wally enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and received training in photography. His passion for photography

enabled him to have a long career as head photographer at Gambles and later as the owner of Haupt Photography, Inc.

Wally was preceded in death by his wife Patricia Haupt (d. 1997) and his wife Dolores Haupt (d. 2021). He is survived by his nine children, John (Carole), Patrick (Kathy), Greg (Debbie), Mike (Mary), Joseph (Gina), Ed, Mary Kay (Mark), Jeanne (Kevin) and Theresa (Michael), as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Dolores' family.

Mass of Christian Burial has been held, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Donations may be made to St. Vincent DePaul; Assumption Church, Richfield; or Bridging Minnesota.

Peter Healy

Peter Joseph Healy died April 29, 2024, at LSS Deer Hollow in Shoreview. Peter was the son of Micky and Bob Ferguson of Falcon Heights and John A. Healy III of St. Paul.

Funeral service has been held with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Dr. Alex Lange

Dr. Alex J. Lange, St. Anthony Park, in his 70s, died on April 5, 2024, at home. He was a scholar, gardener, teacher, friend, artist, musician and a true character.

He was born in Heidenheim, Germany, to Dagmar and Adolf Lange, and had an older brother Philipp. The Langes emigrated to the United States and settled in Maryland and then on Long Island, N.Y. His time on Long Island was spent on the water, collecting reptiles, and with the family's beloved wire-haired dachshunds.

Alex moved to Ithaca, N.Y., to attend Cornell University. In Ithaca he found a community and home he would carry with him for the rest of his life.

He received his doctorate from Cornell in nutritional biochemistry. He researched liver enzymes, specifically fructose-2,6-bisphosphate—a regulator of liver metabolism with respect to maintaining normal blood glucose levels.

He published 100 scientific papers that contributed to diabetes research throughout his career. At the University of Minnesota, Alex taught biochemistry and photography, a combination as unique as he was.

Alex is survived by his wife, Alice Shapiro, and daughter, Katja Lange.

A celebration of Alex's life has been held. Memorial donations may be made to MacPhail Center for Music.

Barbara Nelson

Barbara Burgess Nelson, 96, of North Oaks, died April 14, 2024, following a recent episode of COVID-19.

She graduated from Murray High School, attended the University of Minnesota and completed a fashion degree from the Tobé Curburn School of Fashion Careers in New York City in 1948.

Barb was a buyer for Lord & Taylor and Dayton's Oval Room before and after marrying Raleigh Nelson in 1953. Following Raleigh's early career in agricultural product sales, Raleigh and Barb became Burger King franchisees in 1964. In the early years, Barb was instrumental in planning, decorating and staffing the Burger Kings.

Barb was a board member of the Twin Cities Opera Guild for more than 30 years.

She is survived by her sons Gregg (Colleen) and Timm Nelson and four grandchildren.

Barb was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Theresa (Gutzke) Burgess, and sister, Alyce (Stanley) Williams.

Service has been held, with interment at Lakewood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Twin Cities Opera Guild, Minnesota Historical Society or the Presbyterian Homes Foundation.

Mark Stitzel

Mark Philip "Doc" Stitzel, 76, of St. Anthony Park, died April 3, 2024. He was a proud FMF Combat Navy Corpsman.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol; children, Joel (Aleah) and Kim; and two grandchildren.

He is interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



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❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**
2323 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371
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Sunday Worship in-person: 9:30 AM
Live stream on YouTube Channel: bit.ly/3nWjIDD
• SAP Art Fair Open House: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, June 1
• MN Mandolin Orchestra: 11:00 AM, June 1
• Summer Music School for kids starting June 12 (7 weeks)
• Purchase Dinner-to-Go during music school

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford), 651-646-7173
www.sapucc.org
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❖ **ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502
info@stceciliasp.org, www.stceciliasp.org
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Pastor John M. Hofstede
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Weekend Mass online (on our website)

❖ **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
2136 Carter Ave. (at Chelmsford), 651-645-3058
www.stmatthewsmn.org, Facebook: *stmatthewsmn*
Sunday Eucharist 10:30 AM outdoors in College Park
Wednesday Eucharist 12:00 noon followed by lunch

To add your place of worship to the directory, contact Roald Sateren at 651-468-4040 or roald.sateren@parkbugle.org

Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ads are \$1.10 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for \$11 each. Next deadline: June 12, 2024.

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CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

Enjoying the moment

By Eric Erickson,
Sports analysis

Tremendous turnaround for tight tennis team

The turnaround of the Como Park boys' tennis team can be attributed to two key components: a committed effort to improve and a tight bond.

There's a positive correlation between the two. The more time the teammates trained together in the off-season, the stronger their relationships grew.

The results have been remarkable during the spring of 2024. The Cougars compiled an overall record of 8-5 to start the season. Compare that to the previous three seasons in which Como averaged two wins.

Head coach **Kia Yang**, a 2008 Como graduate and current math teacher, has inspired his players. Yang's encouragement to play through the summer and take advantage of opportunities to play in the winter (through scholarships offered by the USTA) has ignited a love for the game.

Assistant coach **Brandon Kuether** and JV coach **Elliot Hicks** have also been critical in the development of young players.

Senior captain **Daniel Klett** and



The Como boys' tennis team on May 6 after securing the inaugural Dumas Cup, awarded to the winner of Johnson vs. Como match. Photo submitted by Eric Erickson.

junior captain **Nolan Rognerud** explained that the coaching trio collaborates to reach each player, know them as a person and build confidence along with their skills.

"They go above and beyond," Rognerud said. "Our coaches are unselfish, show good values on and off the court, and know how to motivate us and guide us in becoming better. As a team, we've got more energy this year and are really supportive of each other."

Bringing energy to complement their improved skills has helped fuel team victories that previously were elusive. A St. Paul City Conference record of 4-1 (at Bugle press time) included a victory over perennial conference power Harding, which Como had not beaten since 2007.

"Beating Harding showed our hard work over the winter," Klett said. "We were ready after a great pep talk, and we out-energized them to bring comfort and confidence to ourselves on their courts."

Como's lineup features versatile players. The team is fond of quoting Kuether's mantra, "There are no singles players or doubles players. There are only tennis players."

There are 23 tennis players in the program. The varsity roster includes seniors **Klett**, **Anthony Landaverde Guillen** and **Keng Chang**; juniors **Rognerud**, **Vincent Anderson** and **Charlie Anderson**; sophomore **Po Soe**; and freshmen **Micah Treiber**, **John Murray**, **Mohammad Zaid Saha** and **Morgan Anderson**.

"Our biggest strength is our depth," said Coach Kia. "We don't have one player who is head and shoulders above the rest. We have six players who are really close skill-wise. The team is also extremely close-knit." Every player has a friend on the team.

"Kia has taught us how to work hard over the years, and Brandon has taught us how to appreciate the hard work we've put in," Klett explained. "And we're doing that. We love being together and enjoy practice, hanging out, playing any chance we get and now—winning more matches!"

Minnesota Vikings honor Schuna
Como senior lineman **Denzel Schuna** played four years of football for the Cougars, leaving a legacy of leadership and spirit. He was awarded the National Football Foundation's Stacey Robinson Award—an honor bestowed upon only two players in the state of Minnesota.

Schuna received his trophy at the Minnesota Vikings' TCO Performance Center on April 14 as part of the Minnesota Football Honors. The ceremony is scheduled to be televised on Bally Sports Network in August during the NFL pre-season.



Denzel Schuna, accompanied by coach Kirby Scull, received the National Football Foundation's Stacey Robinson Award at the Minnesota Vikings' TCO Performance Center. Photo submitted by Eric Erickson.

Coach **Kirby Scull** said Schuna deserves to be honored at this level for the impact he's made as a leader on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

"Denzel's leadership skills and positive energy influenced everyone he came in contact with during games, outreach events and classroom activities," Scull said.

Schuna plans to attend Tuskegee University in Alabama next fall, a renowned HBCU (Historically Black College and University). He plans to be an education major and become a high school teacher. ■

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

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