COVID-19 crisis impact:
Festival cancellation, business slowdowns

By Scott Carlson and Maja Beckstrom

For the past 50 years, the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival has been a signature event in early June, drawing hundreds of spectators to the neighborhood to see dozens of artists and vendors in a fundraiser that also benefits the local community library.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has painted a jarring picture for this year’s arts festival. Organizers in mid-April canceled the 2020 event. They blamed uncertainty over whether Minnesota’s “shelter-in-place” restrictions aimed at thwarting the spread of the COVID-19 virus still would be in effect on June 6, the planned date for the festival.

“The permits and planning required to hold the festival on June 6 are quickly becoming difficult to predict,” organizers said.

“Such an event is organized by volunteers and benefits the summer programs of our St. Anthony Park Library, as well as the work of nearly 70 artists. Because of the density of the artists’ booths and the crowd, the Festival draws, it is safer for all to cancel,” said Terri Banaszewski. “To qualify, a small business must demonstrate a significant reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 related challenges. We encourage everyone to apply to the SBA to take advantage of these unprecedented times.”

Meanwhile, local businesses are suffering in the wake of the state’s shutdown.

The loans are forgiven by the SBA if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest or utilities.

“If you don’t have an option of opening up in the near future, the loans are available to everyone,” said Heath O’Malley, owner of Milton Square.

Auction, Scholastic Book Fair and Plant Sale all have been scrapped.

“We are hopeful to pick up where we left off in the fall,” said SAP School Association President Lauren Renner. Meanwhile, local businesses are suffering in the wake of the state’s shutdown.

“Unfortunately, during this crisis, Milton Square is not able to schedule for any events in the upcoming months,” said Heath O’Malley, owner of Milton Square.

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The downturn comes in what is normally a busy spring real estate season.

“Typically, there are at least 100 transactions this year because sellers are so nervous they couldn’t contemplate the possibility of a closing,” said Terri Banaszewski.

“Closing the real estate deal?
Don’t shake my hand!”

By Maja Beckstrom

Any other year, Steve Townley would be in the middle of the busy spring real estate season.

Townley, a RE/MAX agent who has worked for decades in the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood, says home-for-sale inventory is down 25 to 30 percent. The downturn comes in what is usually the busiest selling time of the year for real estate agents—spring and summer.

Homeowners are holding off on putting their houses on the market, unless they have an urgent need to sell, Townley said.

“They’re concerned about strangers walking through their home, potentially touching surfaces and shedding coronavirus,” he said. At the same time, many buyers are skittish because of financial uncertainty.

“We’ve already lost a couple transactions this year because buyers either lost their jobs or got so nervous they couldn’t contemplate the possibility of a closing,” said Steve Townley.

Real estate agents, like Steve Townley, are taking a variety of precautions in carrying out their business these days. Photo credit Steve Townley RE/MAX Results office.
Como Lake cleanup, zoo parking and more

District 10
Community Council Como Lake set for cleanup treatment

The Capitol Region Watershed District plans to inject aluminum sulfate into Como Lake in May to fight growing levels of phosphorus, which are three times state limits and the main reason for smelly algae blooms in summer.

Aluminum sulfate, more commonly known as “alum,” reduces phosphorus by converting it to a dense, stable compound that algae can’t use. The compound is commonly used to treat drinking water and can be found in baking powder and stomach antacids.

For up to 10 days, barges will inject furrows of the white alum below the surface. As alum descends, it begins a series of chemical reactions that capture phosphorus in the water and locks up phosphorus settled at the bottom.

Alum is the second tactic being tried this spring to re-balance the lake’s ecosystem. In April, the Watershed District injected fluridone, a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm hired by the city. Although parking itself would turn a profit, the revenue gain would not offset the income lost from sources such as voluntary admission donations, food and souvenir purchases, tickets to Como Town amusement rides and fundraising, according to the consultant’s projections.

“Some version of paid parking has been a topic in Como Park for many years,” says Michelle Fuhrer, director of the Zoo and Conservatory. “It was our intent to gather accurate data to inform decisions. The feasibility of this as a revenue source shows it would not be a long-term benefit to the city.”

Opponents said charging for parking would compromise the Zoo and Conservatory’s long legacy of free access where visitors are admitted regardless of their ability to pay.

District Council considering election options

The Como Community Council is likely to vote May 19 on whether to allow 2020 board elections to occur by mail, online, in person over an extended period of time, some combination of all three—or to simply delay in-person elections until after the state lifts its ban on public gatherings.

Under District 10’s bylaws, elections were supposed to occur on April 21 at the Community Council’s annual meeting. The board postponed the meeting and elections to comply with Minnesota emergency mandates aimed at combating the spread of Covid-19. Changing voting procedures requires a change to the District 10 bylaws, which the board had intended to discuss at its regular April meeting.

Any proposed bylaws changes will be posted on the District 10’s website well in advance of the May meeting at: www.district10.comopark.org.

Metro Transit plans fewer stops on Route 3A

This summer, Metro Transit intends to eliminate four stops along the 3A Como Avenue route. Transit spokesman Karysa Jackson said the changes are part of system wide streamlining that eliminates low use stops to increase speed and reliability for routes overall. The stops being eliminated are:

- Como and Albert, which averages three riders a day
- Como and Arona, which averages six riders a day
- Como and Winston, which averages four riders a day
- Como and Fifield, which averages 10 riders a day

Jackson said the stops likely will disappear. Ramsey County reconstructs Como Avenue between Hamline and Raymond/Cleveland avenues this summer. Notice of the last dates of service will be posted on buses and at the phasing-out stops.

Call or video in to D10 Meetings

District 10 board and committee meetings are continuing. But, for now, they are happening online rather than in person. Renters, homeowners and other community members are welcome to participate, either through video conference or by phone.

To obtain links, phone numbers or other information to join a meeting remotely, send a request by email to district10@district10.comopark.org. Or call in your

City Files to p. 14
St. Anthony Park man, 95, is a dedicated walker

By Scott Carlson

As Minnesotans “shelter-in-place” and embrace “social distancing,” many of them are turning to walking as one diversion to general quarantine measures.

For 95-year-old Paul Quie, the routine of daily walks is nothing new. In fact, you might even call that practice a cake walk for him. “Without this exercise, I probably wouldn’t be alive,” he said, noting that daily walks have helped maintain leg strength and slowed the advancement of neuropathy in his feet.

For his walking routes, Quie is a regular circulating in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. He enjoys the solitude of walking there, strolling along with his walking sticks three miles per trip.

And not just taking short walks, but usual jaunts ranging up to 90 minutes, covering upwards of three miles per trip. Quie loves walking and credits that daily practice for his longevity. “Without this exercise, I probably wouldn’t be alive,” he said, noting that daily walks have helped maintain leg strength and slowed the advancement of neuropathy in his feet.

Quie said he has done lots of walking along with his Minnesota State Fairgrounds Falcon Heights. He has enjoyed the solitude of walking there, straddling along with his walking sticks and sometimes pairing up with his son David.

Before becoming a walker, Quie was a runner starting in his son David.

For 95-year-old Paul Quie, running was not only a diligent runner but a challenge and before long was his most favorite places to take walks.

More recently, Quie said he has dropped back to jogging when distance running became too much of a grind, and then took up daily walking at about age 70.

“St. Anthony Park is a perfect location for walking,” he said, adding that the campuses of Lutheran Seminary and University of Minnesota-St. Paul are among his most favorite places to take walks.

His marathon journal included three trips to run in the Boston Marathon.

“Paul Quie embraced that challenge and before long was not only a diligent runner but one competing in marathons. His marathon journal included three trips to run in the Boston Marathon.

“I did 14 marathons in under four hours after age 54,” Quie said. A few years later, Quie dropped back to jogging when distance running became too much of a grind, and then took up daily walking at about age 70.

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By Scott Carlson

Covering COVID-19 pandemic

In the past three months, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a stranglehold on America, casting a long dismal shadow over our daily lives. In many communities, our hospitals’ ICUs are at the breaking point handling scores of sick and dying patients. Millions of our fellow citizens are unemployed. Government solutions seem unattainable.

And some of the simplest pleasures of life—from gathering with friends at our favorite restaurants to attending sport events and movie theaters—seem distant and elusive.

We note in this issue of the Bugle that the coronavirus has forced, for example, the cancellation next month of St. Anthony Park’s beloved annual Arts Festival. But through it all, people are pressing forward with grit and creativity. We share stories of how administrators and teachers are carrying forth online learning for students. See specifically our reports from writers Sarah CR Clark and Eric Erickson how our public schools have embraced “distance learning.”

Meanwhile, our local businesses—from restaurants and retailers to banks and hardware stores—are adopting new tactics to stay afloat. Whether they survive will depend on what we, as the local community, do to support them. Whether it is buying gift cards, ordering takeout or taking advantage of various curb-side pickups; there many options to help us at this difficult time.

For our part, the Bugle offered discounts to our display advertisers this issue to help them publicize their businesses and keep their names in front of the public. A key initiative has been to give them a boost by offering ads on our Bugle website’s home page. It’s also part of our push to make our website more viable. To see what our Bugle is doing, go to https://www.parkbugle.org/

Home & Garden section

Although there has been an abundance of gloomy news, the arrival of spring means it’s Home & Garden time in this issue of the Bugle. Check out our stories on vegetable gardening, employing “laagna” gardening and “fairy gardens.”

Bugle fundraising update

The Bugle’s goal for 2019-20 is $52,000. As of April 18, we have received $49,010.00.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed thus far, especially for those of you who have made two or more contributions. And for those who have not made a donation, it is still not too late. Everyone’s help is greatly appreciated and plays a major role in keeping the Bugle strong and able to continue operating.

You can make an online donation at https://www.parkbugle.org/. Click the green DONATE button on the home page and scroll down. Or send a check to Park Bugle, P.O. Box 8216, St. Paul, MN 55108.


Upcoming Bugle deadlines

Here is a reminder on our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. As always, we greatly appreciate when writers and readers submit their articles early. Aside from breaking news, most articles can be submitted ahead of the scheduled deadline.

And again, our publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Distribution of the paper should occur the next two to two six business days. Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town could be slightly delayed because our distributor is taking steps to ensure the delivery people are safe during the coronavirus challenge.
Pursuing good works sans crowds?

By Dave Healy

The crowd.

Its anonymity can be appealing. Consider: lost in the crowd, far from the madding crowd. One follows the crowd at the risk of autonomy and individuality. In some cases, we’d rather stand out from the crowd.

One can get in with the wrong crowd. (Is there a right crowd?)

A more recent form of crowd: crowdsourcing—a particu-
lar kind of outsourcing whereby the responsibility for providing information or answers is dele-
gated to large groups. The prac-
tice reflects a concept sometimes referred to as “the wisdom of the crowd,” an idea that’s not new but that’s gained greater prominence in the Information Age.

Aristotle is sometimes credit-
ed as the first person to describe the notion: “It is possible that the many, though not individually good men, yet when they come together may be better, not in-
dividually but collectively, than those who are so.”

Individuals in a crowd need not be “good.” But crowd wisdom is most reliable, the experts say, when a crowd is diverse, and when its members render their judgments autonomously rather than when influenced by those around them. Such crowds don’t assemble; rather, they are assembled—by others seeking their collective wisdom.

With crowdsourcing, then, people need not voluntarily join crowds. Aggregators can create out of the disparate data that accumulates relentlessly and exponentially in cyberspace.

Virtual crowds can be wise even if the members have no con-
tact—indeed, especially if they have no contact.

What about physical crowds?

They offer benefits, such as pro-
tection. An individual fish is less vulnerable in a school than alone. On the other hand, phys-
ical crowds can attract attacks, as mass shootings demonstrate.

Crowds amplify our emotions, sometimes for good (singing in a group, cheering at a sporting event, applauding at a concert) and sometimes for ill (mob violence). Crowds create peer pressure: It’s hard to sit during a standing ova-
tion or kneel during the national anthem. We do things in a crowd we might never do alone.

What happens when simply being in a crowd is dangerous? That’s a question we’ve had to confront in recent weeks. First, we were advised to avoid groups larger than 250, then 50, then 10. Nowadays, if we’re good citizens we practice social distancing: no handshakes, no hugs, no human contact. Standing out from the crowd isn’t an assertion of indi-
viduality; it’s a survival skill.

Can we provoke one another to love and good works without assembling ourselves together? Can we avoid crowds without crowdsing our compassion, gener-
osity, kindness?

To quote someone many of us remember, “Yes we can.”

We can deliver meals, sing from our balconies, purchase gift cards, support charities, share ideas and resources, write letters. We can keep the faith.

Yes, we can!

Dave Healy is former editor of the Bugle and lives in St. Anthony Park.

By Brian Clark

Real estate from p. 1

Townley said, “Deals are tougher to close these days.”

For the people still in the mar-
etic, logistics are complicated. Open houses have been canceled, and potential buyers are viewing properties by appointments to ensure they don’t overlap with other potential buyers. There is much greater use of online photo-
grams and video tours. Some ap-

appraisers will not appraise homes that are currently occupied.

Townley thinks buyers may start putting in offers on homes they ha-

even if they haven’t even seen in person and com-
hined their first walk through with the building inspection.

“But that’s also going to make a transaction less certain, when you accept an offer if someone hasn’t physically seen it,” he said.

Townley also has had to get cre-


ative to get paperwork signed. He’s had three closings involving sellers as few people present as possible, seated 6 feet apart and wearing masks, Townley said. Buyers and sellers are in different locations and don’t meet.

“The old idea of a closing where everybody shakes hands at the end—and you pass keys across the table and talk about the neigh-
bors—and all that stuff is gone,” he said. “Everything is remote. There’s almost no face-to-face contact. There is no closure at a closing.”

Maja Beckstrom is a journalist/writ-
er and a resident of St. Anthony Park.

Commentary

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Barbara Swadburg
651-271-8919
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Home schooling takes on a virtual, new meaning

By Sarah CR Clark

In a dramatic turn of events, St. Paul Public School communities went straight from cancelled school days due to the teachers’ strike to state mandated school closures in a bid to slow the spread of Covid-19.

As families abide by Gov. Tim Walz’s stay-at-home order, students are doing school via “distance learning,” while their parents and guardians suddenly find themselves home, too. It’s a new way to carry on that school is challenging for teachers, parents and students alike.

“None of us have really processed any of these changes yet,” St. Anthony Park Elementary Principal Karen Duke said in the first days of the new schooling arrangement. While parents are learning how to direct their children’s learning at home, teachers and administrators have encountered challenges in preparing to provide distance learning for students.

“I have felt woefully unprepared, sorrowful at the loss of personal relationships, food, physicality, friendships,” said Andrea Kisch, a fourth grader at SAP Elementary.

Students and parents also miss teachers. Andrea Kisch is mother to Jamie Kisch, a fourth grader at SAP Elementary. She has been available to help them since Jamie entered kindergarten, I’ve volunteered in her classrooms,” Andrea said. “I’ve thought to myself that I went into the wrong profession. I love being at the school and working with students. But distance learning opened my eyes. I’m not cut out to be a teacher!”

“Teachers and kids are really craving personal connection,” Duke explained. As of the writing of this story, the schools planned to slowly introduce group meetings through Google Meet, where classes can meet with each other in real time. “We love and miss the kids,” Duke said.

Students and parents miss teachers

Both students and parents also are missing teachers. Andrea Kisch is mother to Jamie Kisch, a fourth grader at SAP Elementary. “Ever since Jamie entered kindergarten, I’ve volunteered in her classrooms,” Andrea said. “I’ve thought to myself that I went into the wrong profession. I love being at the school and working with students. But distance learning opened my eyes. I’m not cut out to be a teacher!”

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Caring Professionals Homecare

Do you know a loved one that could benefit from homecare services? If so, we can help! Getting set up with homecare is a process that we are more than happy to help you with and answer any questions that you may have.

Additionally, you can have a family member or friend hired on with us to provide the services for you. If you do not have anyone that can work for you, we have trusted employees we can match you with until we find the right fit.

Call our office today for more information!
By Lois Braun

Food gardening reduces the need to go to the grocery store and enables us to get outdoors and be productive. It also can be cathartic for those who enjoy physical work.

But what if your only patch of ground is lawn, weeds, or (gasp) creeping Charlie? The thought of digging it up by hand may be too overwhelming, especially if it’s rocky.

What else to do? Smother the weeds out!

Smother mulch gardening, aka “lasagna” gardening, uses thick layers of compost on top of cardboard or newspaper to starve the existing plants of sunlight. The cardboard blocks the light while the compost weighs it down and is the planting medium. Eventually the cardboard rots away and you won’t be able to tell the difference between a garden prepared this way and one prepared by digging.

While the lasagna method works best done months before planting, I had success doing it after I moved into a house in late November, then used this method the following spring and planted right away. It performed way beyond our expectations.

Supplies

First, assemble what you need. 1 scavenge for cardboard, such as what is available from the dumpster at the Co-op. A single thickness is enough, but it needs to overlap to completely block light. The larger the sheet, the better, and holes should be blocked with more cardboard. It’s best to remove packing tape, but don’t sweat it. If you can’t find cardboard, newspaper also works, but needs to be at least a quarter inch thick.

Next, figure out how much compost you’ll need. It should be at least 3 inches deep, preferably 4 inches. Do the math based on the square footage of your plan. A 3-by 18-foot bed, for instance, is 54 square feet. At the recommended 3 inches of depth, you will need a half cubic yard, the amount you get from 3 inches of depth, you will need a square footage of your plan. A 3-inch thick.

Cardboard, newspaper also works, but don’t sweat it. If you can’t find it after the wind blows it away)

newspaper (wetted so you can pick it up if you have one. Or share a paid-delivery from a service like Kerns Landscape Resources with your neighbors.

After you assemble your supplies:

1. Spread out the cardboard or newspaper (wetted so you can get the compost on top of it before the wind blows it away)
2. Spread the compost
3. Shape your beds.

Then you can plant right away, though it’s better to wait a couple of weeks for the cardboard to soften enough from moisture so the vegetable roots can penetrate it.

What to plant?

Generally, this deep mulch method works best in the first year with transplants or large-seeded crops, such as corn, beans, squash, and potatoes (especially good the first year). These have enough energy stores to be able to send a strong root down through the cardboard layer.

Small-seeded crops like lettuce and carrots are a little trickier the first year. That’s because, counterintuitively, pure compost can be difficult to keep moist enough in the seed zone for good germination, especially at the shallow depths where small seeds are planted.

But small-seeded crops can still be grown with consistent watering until they’re established. A trick is to place two or three sheets of newspaper on top of the seedbed, weighted down on the corners, to keep the surface moist until they emerge. Just be sure to check frequently and remove it as soon as the seedlings start to emerge!

Why I don’t till

After reading all of this, you may think that starting a garden the old-fashioned way, by renting a sod-cutter and rototiller, would be less work. But tillage isn’t natural, necessary or sustainable.

While tilling does incorporate oxygen into the soil and stimulates microbes to break down organic matter and make nutrients available to crops, repeated tillage depletes organic matter very quickly and disperses the nutrients released in the process to the air or water. Farmers and gardeners make up for this by constantly replacing nutrients with manures or synthetic fertilizers.

The lasagna system builds soil the way nature does, layering undisturbed soil with organic matter, brought into the ground by earthworms and other soil organisms and root growth. Once established, large amounts of imported fertilizers aren’t needed, and the soil stays loose, eliminating the need for all that digging.

And weeds aren’t a problem, either, because their seeds are buried deeply. A few will sneak in at the edges or when seeds blow in on the wind, but as long as you get those out while they’re small, weed control in a no-till garden is a cinch, and gets even easier with each year.

Lois Braun gardened for 19 years at the St. Anthony Park Community Garden and in a “guerrilla garden” she developed behind her apartment building, before she and her partner bought a home three years ago in Falcon Heights with lots of space for gardening. She works at the U of M developing hybrid hazelnuts, a native woody shrub, as a new perennial crop for Minnesota.
Planting, growing tips for rookie vegetable gardeners

By Mary Maguire Lerman

Victory Gardens!  For the first time in decades, a bumper crop of rookie gardeners is gearing up to dig in the dirt and raise some of their own food. Just as was the practice during World Wars I and II, the nation is ripe for a new gardening army.

Today, national seed companies have never seen this kind of response to grow Victory Gar- dens, with many nearly sold out of their seed stock! Given the surging interest in vegetable gar- dening, I will explain how to cre- ate a successful garden on your first try, using both plants and seeds. (Note: If you are not suc- cessful the first year, rarely will you try again.)

Keys for success

The key is in site selection and soil preparation. If vegetables are your goal, full sun is ideal to get to requests. It may not be fun, but you can turn that into a family game. You can do this over several days. Tell your family that you are hunting for archaeological dig or treasure hunt. Each child (with the appropriate tool) can dig in their designated area with a parent assisting. Have a yardstick avail- able and tell them the hole needs to be 18 inches deep. Explain that while digging, they need to check for unusual items such as rocks and bottles. Put those items in a box for later examination. The soil needs to be piled around the outside edge of the garden. This is a project that can be done over several days or weeks.

The goal is to get the soil dug without exhausting the partici- pant. In the evening hours, the family adults may want to “seed” items for discovery the next day. This way the children will be ex- cited each time they go out dig- ging. You can sit down at the end of each session and create a story with the items from the box.

Once the area is dug and soil placed around the perimeter, get everyone in the deep hole and take a family photo. You want to have photos of the entire garden construction process.

We are blessed in our com- munity to have Kern Landscape Resources https://www.kernland- scarping.com/ which has the best soil amendment and mulch. The address is 935 Albert St. N., St. Paul (Pierce Butler Route).

It is called Organic Growers Mulch. I refer to it as their OMG- OMG as you will be amazed what it does for gardens. This is a light, flufy mulch of 50 percent composted cow manure blended with triple-shredded pine bark. The cows are raised with neither hormones nor antibiotics. If you have a truck or trailer or rent one, you can drive over to pick up a half yard or yard.

However, with COVID-19 social distancing rules in place, you must order online and specify when you are arriving. No one is allowed to leave their social distancing rules in place, you must order online and specify when you are arriving. No one is allowed to leave their truck or trailer or rent one, you can drive over to pick up a half yard or yard.

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Maeve Gudmastad’s fourth

By Sarah CR Clark

While walking in the neighborhood, have you noticed tiny tea sets on miniature tables waiting for magical party guests to arrive? Or paths of moss leading to pint-sized twig forts, too tiny even for a mouse?

Spring is the season when children use their imaginations and begin tending “fairy gardens,” hoping to welcome magic into their yards.

This spring is seven-year-old Maeve Gudmastad’s fourth fairy-gardening season. In the winter she keeps her fairy garden warm inside her house. But as soon as spring arrives, she moves it outside.

“I put furniture in the hole in the backyard tree for the fairies,” Maeve said. “I put food out for the backyard tree for the fairies,” Maeve said. “It seemed perfect for a little door, so my mom bought a door for it. I started putting little things inside the door, tiny furniture or little messages. I believed there were fairies that might get my messages.”

Eventually, Maeve has added paths, fire pits and little seats that she made from rocks and sticks. The preschool she once attended takes annual walking field trips to observe Maevy’s fairy garden.

“I feel happy watching people admire it,” she said. Over the years her garden has grown to include flowers, chairs, lamps, a pond and a little fence. This spring she plans to expand her fairy garden to other levels and areas of the yard, “I am imagining making a tiny staircase down the rocks.”

More than just welcoming fairies and magic, fairy gardens offer children many learning moments. Preschool teacher Martha Duer said, “The process of building fairy houses (and gardens) requires children to think about how what they are building can be used by a small creature. They are thus, taking their ideas of what they would like or need in a magical home and garden and translating that into something tangible using a variety of creative materials.

“The materials present children with challenges in fine motor control and creative and imaginative thinking,” Duer said, adding she has also used fairy gardening to teach teamwork and cooperation.

The idea behind that garden was to give the children a shared goal and project to aid in building cohesiveness within a group where there were some challenging social dynamics brewing,” Duer said. She reported that through tending the garden together, the children learned about empathy, compromising, negotiating and being flexible.

Both Maeve and Maisy want children to know that tending a fairy garden is an ongoing adventure.

“You can’t just set it up and leave it,” Maisy said. “You have to check in on it, weed it and get things out of the water and stand up things that have tipped over. You have to place the buildings and things in a way that works with the shape of the yard. Things break every year and you have to fix them or throw them away.”

Maeve agreed, noting, “I always have to keep (my garden) because the fairies are really special and they need me.”

The girls also believe that fairy gardeners do not need to buy any pre-made fairy things, but that handmade features are perfectly acceptable. “You just have to use nature and anything you can find,” Maeve explained. “You can reuse stuff.”

Maisy concluded, “It doesn’t have to be complete in one summer. You can keep expanding it.”

Sarah CR Clark is a resident of St. Anthony Park and a regular contributor to the Bugle.
**Comomo principal shares thoughts on distance learning in COVID-19 times**

By Eric Erickson

In mid-March, educators across Minnesota followed the executive order of Gov. Tim Walz to begin preparing for distance learning. At Como Park High School, staff intensively developed and modified academic content for an entirely new form of online instruction and delivery.

Classes resumed on April 6. There were many smiles shared among students and teachers in virtual classrooms via video conferencing on the Google Meet platform. Despite expected glitches and frustrations in navigating new systems, the initial implementation of distance learning proved relatively successful for Como staff and students.

Q: How do you feel Como’s students and families have responded to the educational disruption and the shift to the distance learning format?
A: Our students are amazing. The understanding, patience and gratitude for all we are doing have been consistent.

Q: From your administrative perspective, what would you consider to be some early successes with teaching and learning for Como staff and students?
A: There are so many. I have received messages from students, offering pre-orders for chicken pot pies—like "I did it! I was able to use Google Meets"—to larger celebrations of the plan SPPS has put in place for technology access and meal access. Our students and staff are communicating the gratitude that they are back in school and reconnecting. The success of our work relies on our relationship, so our celebration most certainly includes being back in session.

Q: Are you, as the building principal, handling the stress of the educational disruption?
A: This certainly is a stressful time for all of us and for many reasons. Besides worrying about our school community and planning, we are all worried about the news, our health, the health of family and friends. However, I believe all of us are using that to fuel our planning for our students and to deliver creative, engaging academic content and support to all our learners.

Q: During this unprecedented time, is there a message about Como you would like to share with a larger community?
A: It is important to me that our community knows how committed we are to support our learners. The uncertainty of the past few weeks and of what is to come makes me grateful that I am a part of the Como Park Senior High community. Our students, families and staff are the heart of our community. Together, we are rising to the challenge.

Eric Erickson is on the faculty of Como Park High School where he is a social studies teacher.

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**FRATTALONE’S ACE HARDWARE**

While most storefronts along Como Avenue are closed, those considered essential businesses remain open, like Frattalone’s Ace Hardware.

“We’re saying ‘Welcome to Frattalone’s how can we help you from 6 feet away?’” said co-owner Mike Frattalone. Staff are regularly wiping down surfaces and doors handles with a bleach solution and have the option of wearing gloves and masks, he said. The store also installed a plastic shield between customers and the cash register.

“We never thought we’d do that, but the moment we put the sneeze guard up we had people saying, ‘that’s great, let’s do it,’ he said.

Sales are relatively good, he said. Customers are buying our bleach, alcohol, disinfecting wipes and masks. There are temporary shortages, but new supplies arrive four times a week.

“Some masks are appropriate for health care workers, and we’re giving them the first run on them,” he said.

The store also has an “up-tick” in paint sales and lawn and garden supplies as people stuck at home take on house projects. He encourages shoppers to come into the store singly rather than in pairs or groups and to take advantage of ordering in advance and new curbside pickup.

“When things reopen, I think people are going to feel much more comfortable shopping close to home,” he added. “I think this is an area where people really want to support their local businesses.”

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle, Moja Beckstrom is a journalist/writer and a resident of St. Anthony Park.

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Sunrise bankers are working remotely from home to review and verify documentation and submit applications to the SBA along with cleaning products back there. “We’re working, 12-hour days, rotating staff in to cover the shifts,” she said. “There’s just that much work to do. It’s unprecedented.”

Meanwhile, most regular banking services continue despite the closed lobbies. Drive through banks have been “crazy busy,” since Sunrise consolidates drive through banking at two locations, including the Como Avenue branch. Tellers from all locations are being rotated through shifts so work is spread around.

“It can be stressful as far as they’re dealing with cash which is dirty,” she said. “So they’re all suit up and are wearing gloves and have all the sanitizing and cleaning products back there.”

**Colossal Cafe**

Restaurants have been hard hit by the shutdown order, but most neighborhood eateries are still offering takeout, including Colossal Cafe. During the first week after the shutdown, owner Elizabeth Tinucci experimented with offering pre-orders for chicken pot pies.

“The response was so amazing that we had to call in three people to help us in the kitchen,” she said. “We thought we’d sell 100. And we sold something like 400. This neighborhood has given us nothing but immense support.”

Colossal now offers a small, changing menu of items that can be picked up cold on Thursday and Saturday and heated up at home. Still, takeout orders have only replaced a tiny fraction of the restaurant’s revenue. Of the 47 people Tinucci used to employ at the Como Avenue and Grand Avenue locations, she’s only hired back three people full time and three people part time.

Tinucci was approved for a small business loan through Sunris Banks and is sorting out how it will be spent on other specified expenses, including rent and utilities, but not, for example, on restocking food.

Tinucci is paying employees’ health insurance through May. But even if she could dramatically expand takeout, she can’t safely squeeze more people into the kitchen.

Meanwhile, summer and fall remain complete unknowns. Even if restaurant restrictions are lifted in May, she said she won’t reopen at full capacity overnight and it’s unlikely customers will feel comfortable dining in close quarters with strangers in the near future.

“I am confident we’ll make it through the crisis,” she said. “But what we’ll look like might be different. It’s hard to imagine having a crowded bar or counter again. Will people want our servers wearing masks? Will that be most safe? Will handling paper menus be safe? We just don’t know what will be the ‘most safe’ for people in the future, even when we’re cravinig time together and the bustle of a restaurant.”

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**Principal Stacy Theien-Collins.**

Principal Stacy Theien-Collins.
MAY 2020 — PARK BUGLE

By John Horchner

We'd been researching and visiting dog shelters for two years and I'd had enough. When my wife was out of town visiting her mom in Russia and then a friend in Pittsburgh, I entered my 8-year-old son to do research with me on the Internet. We entered traits we wanted in a puppy and came up with a short list of breeder's homes within an hour.

Two breeders were in contention for our puppy purchase. The first one was a Texan, who had a Norwich Terrier that he offered to fly to us for some 200 dollars. The second breeder was in Indiana, only an eight-hour car trip away to see her Lowchen. I decided this breed would fit my family, a dog that is playful and free of potential genetic ailments. Plus, I wanted my son to see where puppies come from.

On the drive down to the breeder's home, my son and I felt bad hearing Philly whimper as we drove out the driveway knowing this would be the last time we would see the rest of her pack.

I stopped at the PetSmart in East Claire, Wis., two hours before we reached home and did a Facetime chat with my wife. My son gave away our surprise with a big smile. We panned the phone camera to show my wife and her friend an image of tiny, tiny Philly crossing the snowy parking lot.

Back at home, I spent the first night in the basement sleeping next to Philly, who was in her snuggly new crate. The daily routine included taking Philly outside for overnight pony breaks, a bit of a nuisance in the wake of early snow. Not surprisingly, this routine left me with the droopy-eyes complex that is common to parents of newborns.

In the early weeks, Philly was biting a lot and, at one point, I contacted a pet behavioral psychologist from Minnesota.

Unbelievably, someone from her staff got right back to me with full pricing for the initial consultation and assurances that Philly's behavioral issue could be addressed. The assistant also mentioned the possible use of medication.

I recoiled at that suggestion, knowing the over-medication craze that is sweeping America. I figured we could weather Philly's biting tendencies and seek out answers on the Internet to address this problem.

We enrolled Philly in puppy classes and the instructor encouraged age appropriate play with other dogs in the class as well as in our neighborhood. The thought of setting up playdates became a new source of anxiety. Luckily, a neighbor across the street had gotten a puppy a few weeks earlier. Setting up puppy playdates is much like setting up playdates for the kids.

Outdoor play was not without its problems. One day, we let Philly roam a bit and this led to her first visit to the veterinary emergency room at the U of M-St Paul campus.

"Something's stuck in her throat," I said to the skeptical admission clerk as the dog bounced around in the waiting room behind me. I filled our HIPPA forms out and made sure my wife was listed a contact in case her results needed to be shared with someone else. In less than 10 minutes, I was able to take her home and monitor her there. Within an hour, I helped her dislodge whatever it was by turning her upside down.

Today, Philly is displaying some serious behavior. Tuning me out when called, willfulness and making some bad choices in her eating habits. She's developed a taste for rabbit poop nuggets that have been frozen by the Minneso-ta winter.

Despite this gross behavior, I still feel Philly is entitled to bask in human comforts like the couch. YouTube videos, the fire-place, warm bedding and lots of company whenever possible.
A former University of Minnesota history professor, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and a longtime banquet server at the Saint James Hotel are among the people we remember in this edition of “Lives Lived.”

John Munholland

John Kim Munholland, longtime resident of St. Anthony Park and later University Grove, died March 29, 2020. Known to family and friends as Kim, he finally succumbed to a hemorrhagic stroke he had been valiantly fighting since November.

Kim was born in 1934 in Long Beach, Calif. He spent his youth—during the golden years of California—living in the sunshine with his friends sailing, surfing and playing golf. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School with honors, Kim went on to Stanford University where he majored in history. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, he married his Berkeley sweetheart and Long Beach resident Anne Hazlehurst.

Following their wedding, he and Anne headed to Air Force Officer training in Texas. He was later stationed in Omaha, Neb., as a Photographic Intelligence Officer at the Strategic Air Command base.

After his service, Kim returned to his passion to study history. He received a Ph.D. from Princeton University and then landed a tenured position at the University of Minnesota in the History Department upon graduation. He specialized in Modern European History with a focus on France during World War II. He and his family spent many years on various research opportunities living in France.

After formal retirement, Kim continued his research and academic life. His most recent interests included the relations between France and the Americas in the South Pacific. He was a teacher at the University of Minnesota for the Honors and Continuing Education Programs until just prior to his stroke, as well as a resident scholar for Smithsonian Tours, most recently on two tours in France this past September.

Kim is survived by his wife of 63 years Anne, sons Chris (Krisyn), daughter Sophie (John Porter) and three grandchildren. He was predeceased in death by his parents, John Earl and Dorothy Munholland.

Private family burial with memorial services to be announced.

Dennis Beck

Dennis M. Beck, 84, died April 5, 2020. He loved his family, friends, and Lauderdale. Due to current circumstances, a detailed notice will be published later.

Pamela Brooks

Pamela Brooks, 66, of St. Anthony Park, died March 14, 2020. She attended St. Anthony Park Elementary and Murray High School. She earned a degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota and later her occupational therapy degree from the College of St. Catherine.

In 1976 she married Greg Brooks. They had three children. She cherished time spent with her family and friends. She also extended this love to the people she helped during her 30-year career as an occupational therapist, re-habilitating those who were struggling to get back on their feet.

She enjoyed the simple things, like a good Brandy Manhattan and the shores of Lake Superior.

Pamela is survived by her husband of 43 years, Greg; children Ben, Andrew (Armanda) and Caitlin (Andy) Hooper; sisters, Mary Hokanson Wedin, Karla Hokanson and Cynthia Hokanson Durham; and seven grandchildren. A celebration of her life will be held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, March 20. Memorials are preferred to the charity of your choice.

Dale Connolly

Dale A. Connolly, 86, died March 31, 2020, after a year-long battle with cancer.

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in horticulture from the University of Minnesota. After participating in the U.S. ROTC program, Dale entered the U.S. Army as a 2nd lieutenant and became a captain before retiring in 1962. He was a 30-year landscape design instructor at Dakota County Technical College and an active volunteer and board member of the Como Park Conservatory.

Dale was a longtime member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church where he sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and helped beautify the sanctuary on holidays.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Delores Connolly. He is survived by Alrene, his wife of 65 years; children Bruce (Debra), Brian (Pam), Brent (Kate), Beth (Tim) Thompson, Barb (Tom) Koch and Barrrett (Jill); 16 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

Special thanks to the HealthEast Hospice team and Touching Hearts at Home.

A celebration of Dale’s life will be held at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Como Park Conservatory or the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

Robert Evander


Bob served as a military intelligence officer training in Texas. For this service, he was awarded the Silver Star for valor.

Bob served as a software engineer at several large corporations before retirement. Bob was known for his vibrant, gentle and generous spirit and for his ability to see the positive in everyone and everything. He was, among other things, a volunteer at the Minnesota VA Medical Center.

Evander is survived by his wife Mary Ann; sons Jeff and Greg (Renee); stepchildren Paul (Melissa) Moskalik and Andrea (Roderick) Morris; and seven grandchildren. He and Mary Ann were active members of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church where he served in leadership roles.

A memorial service will be scheduled when it is safe to gather. Memorial contributions in Bob’s honor may be made to St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church or to the family.

Karen Lawson

Karen Lawson, 74, died March 17, 2020, after a brief battle with cancer. She was born in Little Falls in 1945, and moved to St. Paul as a child. She graduated from Murray High School in 1963.

Karen moved to Red Wing where she was a bartender and later a banquet server at the Saint James Hotel for many years before retiring in 2008. Karen embraced the small joys in life and was an uplifting companion to those who were her friends. Karen loved to travel and lived (briefly) in Paris, France.

She was preceded in death by her parents Emma (Olson) and Calvin Allen, and brothers Roger and Robert.

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.

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For more information, contact Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 651-644-1650.
Lawyer Ruth Whittles. Her husband William Whittles and sister-in-law Ruth Whittles were survived by son Frank (Gwendolyn) Evans, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, brother Melander, daughter Jean Evans (Ron Mace), and daughter Sarah Lawson. She was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years Clifford, granddaughter Gay Latimer, and daughter Lynn (Wilkens). Ruth was a valued temp employee during tax season at the IRS. She was in a weekly bowling league until age 87, quitting only when the lanes were torn down. She was regular at water aerobics at the Eastside YMCA until age 97. A patient instructor, many a friend and younger neighbor remembered learning to water-ski on the St. Croix River with Cliff at the wheel and Ruth coaching on shore. She was a wonderful seamstress, upholsterer, and knitter. Many learned to knit and purl under her tutelage. Countless infants have worn her layettes and signature booties with pink or blue trim, the ones that couldn’t be kicked off. Her sweaters were treasured. Dresses, alterations, draperies, upholstery, all were expertly sewn.

There were no better neighbors than Ruth and Cliff on West Cottage Avenue where they lived for 62 years. Ruth lived her last year of life at Sunrise Assisted Living in Roseville where she could often be found at the community jigsaw puzzle table. Her family offers special thanks to the caring and compassionate Sunrise staff, who Ruth loved and appreciated. At age 16, in an English class assignment entitled Autobiography, Ruth wrote, “How can the life of a seemingly ordinary person like me be interesting? I am not very old and haven’t really lived...I hope I may someday create one perfect piece of work to contribute as a reminder of my existence.” That wish was fulfilled not by one, but by countless contributions to the health and welfare of others. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

## Juergens wins Graven Public Service award

The Minnesota State Bar Association has named Ann Juergens, a long-time St. Anthony Park resident, the 2020 winner of the prestigious David Graven Public Service Award.

The association’s annual award is given to a Minnesota lawyer who “best exemplifies the high standards of the profession in combination with a commitment to public or community service.”

The award is intended to recognize and encourage public service among lawyers.

Juergens, a national authority on tenant-landlord law, has been a professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law since 1984, co-director of the school’s legal clinics, and an advocate for renters, unemployed workers and consumers throughout her career.

Previous winners of the Graven Public Service Award include former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Kathleen Blatz and former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer.

Ann Juergens.

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**Community Worship Directory**

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Sun, Sept 20, 2020

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Sun, Oct 11, 2020

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David Finkler, cello

& Wu Han, piano

with Nikolai Borchers, Paul Huang

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newlifechurchroseville.org

Sunday online services: 10:00 a.m., see our website or Facebook page

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peaceatlaaderdale.com

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Plant sale benefit for first responders, order by May 20, pickup plants on May 23

The Pollinator Plant Sale, held at the Temple of Aaron the past five years, has been rescheduled for another location since the temple is closed due to COVID protocols. And net proceeds from this year’s sale will go to the St. Paul Fire Foundation to buy personal protective equipment for our first responders.

The Saint Anthony Park Garden Club and St. Anthony Park Community Council are jointly sponsoring the online plant sale with drive-through pickup to be held in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood on May 23. No on-site shopping will be allowed. Plants from the Pollinator Plant sale are grown by two nurseries that sustainably raise their plants without using any neo-nicotinoid insecticides. Neonicots are responsible for a large decline in our pollinator populations. So, you can rest assured the plants you put in your garden will not harm pollinators when they come to harvest pollen or nectar. Plus, all the plants sold are grown and delivered following COVID guidelines.

And the great majority of the plants have blooms attractive to pollinators, such as the 33 varieties of Salvia. Great vegetables ( heirloom tomatoes and more) and herbs are also available. Also available for sale are the perennial Pollinator Pak, each with six 3-inch cells containing a different labelled perennial (most are native plants) to attract a specific pollinator. There are separate pollinator packs for bees, butterflies, Monarch butterflies and hummingbirds. Think about planting an alley pollinator garden this spring.

To view the available plant list and to place an online order, visit: www.StAnthonyParkGar denClub.com. Your order must be placed by May 20. If you have questions, email: sapgsale@gmail.com.

Submitted by Mary Maguire Lerman

Rescheduled concert

The Danish String Quartet concert originally scheduled for May 10 at the St. Anthony Park Unit ed Church of Christ has been re-scheduled. A free lecture program for six-concert season ticket holders will be held at 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at the church. The original concert is now being combined with another one and is scheduled for Dec. 4 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.

Tickets for the original concert date will be honored for the new date, according to the Schubert Club, the music sponsor.

Ask the librarian column

Due to a shortage of space, the Ask the librarian column is not appearing in print. Look for it this month on our Bugle website.

City Files from p. 2

request to (651) 644-3889. Upcoming meetings:

Neighborhood Relations: Tuesday May 5
Land Use: Wednesday May 6
Environment: Wednesday May 13
Board: Tuesday May 19

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website: www.district10como.org.

Submitted by Michael Kachta, executive director of the District 10 Community Council.

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Letters from p. 4
dressing the worldwide crisis of climate change. Climate change is not a “complex issue.” It is as simple as understanding that we must stop the use of fossil fuels to save the planet for future generations.

The truth is that we have the ability to implement an electric grid with wind and solar energy now. According the St. Paul Climate and Resiliency Plan, the City could provide 40 percent of its electricity using rooftop solar. According to the federal Energy Information Administration, the costs of solar and wind are now competitive with fossil fuels and becoming even cheaper. Transportation is the biggest user of petroleum, and that will get us off oil by getting us off the internal combustion engine. With all these opportunities available to us, it is even more ridiculous to look at allowing the creation of any new fossil fuel infrastructure such as Line 3.

So, we know what we have to do. We, as Minnesotans, need to take charge of creating a just and enjoyable clean energy economy and that is what we are doing.

More than 60,000 Minnesotans have signed a petition against Line 3 via comments to the Minnesota PUC.

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Shar Too was born and raised in the Tham Hin Refugee Camp in Thailand before moving halfway around the world to St. Paul when she was 6 years old.

Twelve years later, Shar Too is a shining star at Como Park High School who is being honored for her soccer, badminton and academic achievements and is preparing to be a first-generation college student.

Shar Too's family and countless Karen people had fled persecution from the Burmese military in Myanmar. The journey from camps in Thailand to seeking opportunity in St. Paul has presented challenges for Shar Too and 17,000 Karen (mnkaren.org) along with success. She has maximized her gifts and talents to succeed at elite levels.

One major example: winning Como's Athena Award. The St. Paul Area Athena Awards honor female high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding athletic and academic achievements. One recipient is selected from each East Metro high school.

Another special honor was bestowed upon Shar Too when she was chosen as one of just six female finalists for the St. Paul Downtown Club Lion 2020 Athlete of the Year. The club selected its honorees from all the high schools in Ramsey, Dakota and Washington counties.

Being an unselfish and humble person who doesn't seek attention, Shar Too has downplayed the new awards and many other honors compiled along the way.

While the Athena and Lions Club banquets are unlikely to happen due to Coronavirus concerns, Shar Too has been honored at state-level banquets several times before.

She has been a fixture at the state soccer banquet as a member of the Minnesota All-State team since her freshman year. Through four seasons as an All-State player, Shar Too tallied a St. Paul City Conference record of 73 goals and 43 assists.

Kyle Johnson was Shar Too's coach for her first three seasons of Como soccer. Johnson admires the skills Shar Too developed on her own, within her community and through school. She had no access to pay-for-play club soccer but started turning heads with her goal scoring and Como's team improvement.

My favorite moment came during her junior year,” Johnson said. “As the coach, I scheduled a much tougher schedule and knew the previous two years of her being ranked seventh in the state with 20 goals and second in the state with 25 goals was going to be difficult.

“She was a known player at that point and defenses looked to stop her. She did what any leader would do and put her team first, recording 28 assists, which was fourth in the entire state that year.”

Shar Too's ability to quickly distribute the ball while defenses converged upon her, in order to create scoring opportunities for teammates, revealed the adaptability of an intelligent player.

That same selfless style of play during her senior year last fall brought the Como girls their first city conference championship since 2005.

First-year coach Hussein Mohamed echoed Johnson's praise of the Cougars’ top scorer.

"Shar Too plays for things bigger than herself," Mohamed said. "She plays for her teammates and the community. I was lucky to coach her. Despite breaking many records, she thinks she hasn't done enough and is willing to learn to be better each day."

Shar Too's playing career will continue with the Karen Football Association (KFA).

After stepping down from coaching at Como, Johnson created the KFA with a mission to unite the Karen community around its passion for soccer and promote gender equity. The KFA provides young women and men opportunities to not only showcase how well they play the game, but to also influence youth, other teams and organizations to embrace an equal playing field in society.

To that end, the sweeping KFA programming includes national teams. Shar Too was selected to the national women's team. She looks forward to playing as well as giving back to her community through local events and trainings while she studies at Bethel University.

Beyond soccer, Shar Too had a stellar badminton career for Como. She was the varsity’s rookie of the year as a freshman. She was a key doubles player who helped the Cougars earn third place in both the 2017 and 2018 state team tournaments.

Along with partner Maria Aye Meh, Shar Too added a third-place medal for the state doubles tournament as a sophomore.

"Sports have helped me keep moving. At some points, it was heavy for me and I felt like doing nothing," Mohamed said. "I was motivated to stay in shape and I enjoy being competitive. I enjoy the team bonding. We're like family. My teammates and coaches inspire and motivate me."

"Sports have been a gift," Shar Too said. "And keep doing what you're good at because you never know where you'll end up. Sometimes you end up deserving more than you think."