New housing projects opening in south St. Anthony Park

By Scott Carlson, Christie Vogt and Janet Wight

Nearly 600 new apartment units are coming online this summer in south St. Anthony Park, representing a burgeoning addition of new housing in the area’s Creative Enterprise Zone district.

Apartment complexes new to the scene are: Moda on Raymond, The Mason and Midline Apartments. The new housing comes on the heels of other residential complexes arriving within the past five years including The Ray, Milberry Apartments and Legends of Berry.

Bill Anderson, a resident of south SAP since the 1980s and a member of the District 12 Community Council, said the influx of hundreds of new residents in recent years has been a transition but, on the whole, a good one.

“Have there been challenges with the new development?” Anderson asked. “For sure, primarily the noise and disruption of construction, and increased traffic.

“But we’ve handled those.

“We’ve been predominately rental for a long time, so the new units on University are not the change for us that they might be for another neighborhood.

“Where I live on Cromwell Avenue here are five multi-family apartment buildings within half a block that have been here for decades,” Anderson noted.

Meanwhile, here’s an overview of the newest apartment developments in south St. Anthony Park:

Moda on Raymond

Kraus-Anderson broke ground for its 220-unit, five-story apartment complex in the spring of 2021. The project is located at the northeast corner of Raymond and University avenues. Construction is expected to be completed Aug. 1.

Property manager Kyrell Hawkins said Moda will have a mix of studio, alcove, one- and two-bedroom apartments with monthly rents ranging from $1,210 to $2,475.

The development’s amenities will include a rooftop patio, club room for neighborhood meetings, business incubator space, a food canteen, food mini-mart, pool and a 24-hour fitness center.

Hawkins said Kraus-Anderson considered the site attractive for a new apartment complex because of its central location between Minneapolis and St. Paul and its close proximity to the light-rail metro system.

For further information, contact Hawkins at Kyrell.Hawkins@villagegreen.com.

The Mason

The Mason is a stylish, new apartment building located at 2424 W. Territorial Road in south St. Anthony Park. Except for exterior painting and completion of the courtyard, the facility is move-in ready. Construction began in March 2021 and its first tenants arrived on June 1.

The five-story building comprises mostly studios, alcoves and one-bedroom apartments totaling 203 units. Larger floor plans including one-bedroom plus den, two-bedroom plus den and sizeable three-bedroom layouts are also available.

Monthly rents range from $1,250 for a 431-square-foot studio to $3,750 for a three-bedroom, two-bath apartment on the top level encompassing 1,480 square feet. A variety of floor plans are available for immediate lease.

The broad selection of apartment sizes and styles in the contemporary building is expected to attract many types of tenants, from students to seniors.

Sheb Wold, property manager at The Mason, said that the location is ideal. “The site offers residents great transportation options including easy access to the METRO Green Line, bus lines, freeways and major arterial roads.” She noted that Territorial Road is quieter than University Avenue, yet it is convenient to shops, restaurants, breweries and bike and walking trails.

Amenities at The Mason include a coffee bar, billiards room, maker space, business center, fitness center and sauna.

Pat Thompson named Spirit of the Park winner

By Christie Vogt

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation has named Pat Thompson as the recipient of its annual Spirit of the Park Award.

Since 2007, the foundation has solicited nominations from the community with the goal of commemorating neighbors who have “demonstrated a high level of dedication and service to St. Anthony Park,” said Julie Drechsler, the foundation’s executive director.

Thompson is involved in numerous community initiatives, including serving as a founding member of Transition Town – All St. Anthony Park, a co-chair of St. Anthony Park Community Council’s Transportation Committee, the board secretary of Creative Enterprise Zone and secretary of the St. Anthony Park Community Garden Club. She also volunteers in the Saint Anthony Park Library garden and adopts seven bus stops each winter along Raymond Avenue where she clears snow for transit users.

Most recently, in response to the news that 167 trees may be removed from Cleveland Avenue to accommodate a road project, Thompson said she had been spending nearly all of her time trying to ensure the project was delayed and restructured in order to save more trees.

Originally from rural upstate New York, Thompson has lived in Minneapolis since 1986. In 1993, she moved to south St. Anthony Park from Minneapolis and has lived in her current home in the Park since 1996.

Since retiring in 2014 from a career as a graphic designer for nonprofit organizations, Thompson has been dedicating her time to volunteering in the community, typically working on projects connected to climate change.

“We face this existential threat,“ Thompson said.

Pat Thompson. Submitted photo.
How you can get involved:

- Dig through your old photos! Share pictures of our neighborhood from the past. We are especially looking for old photos of businesses, street scenes, homes or schools that used to be here and are now gone.
- Help us find neighbors to interview. Suggest a family member, friend or neighbor who has lived in the District 10 community for most of their lives. Help us interview them or we can help with the interview to get their memories saved.
- Design a walking tour. Keep us healthy and fit while we are walking past interesting houses, pieces of art or cool institutions.
- Research and write a story. Help research buildings, institutions and past events that have shaped our community. Do you have old documents about the history of Como Elementary or Tilden School? Have a story about the old corner store or garden nursery in your neighborhood, know a house that had interesting or famous folks living there, share them with us!
- To contribute or get involved reach out to history@district10comopark.org. Watch for updates on district10comopark.org/history.

Como Park annual ice cream social

The District 10 annual ice cream social, planned by the Neighborhood Relations Committee, is set for 5:30 to 8 p.m., July 8, at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. The event will feature free ice cream, live music, meet-and-greets with neighborhood organizations and activities for children and families.

Due to limited parking, participants are encouraged to walk, bike, roll, car-pool or take public transportation to the social. Bring your neighbors!

Interested in volunteering at this event? Contact community organizer Jessica Willman at organiz-er@district10comopark.org. Find out more at district10comopark.org/IceCreamSocial.

Upcoming meetings

Renters, homeowners and other community members are always welcome to participate in District 10’s board and committee meetings. You can join them by video conference or by phone. To obtain links or other access information, send a request by email to: district10@district10comopark.org.

Ice Cream Social

The District 12 Community Council Transportation Committee celebrated the placemaking projects that have been happening this past spring on Territorial Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony, Creative Enterprise Zone mural tours, Evie Electric car demonstration, crafts, games and more.

The highlight was the addition of the new mural at the Murphy Riggings building, 2299 W. Territo- rial Road. Created by Kara Goeden, the artist who also designed the painting on Seal Street, the mural draws in both detailed and large-scale focal points.

Special thanks to the AARP Community Challenge grant and the city of St. Paul’s Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grant for funding this and many other projects on Territorial Road.

Brightside volunteers needed

Brightside Produce, a local organization offering at-cost produce to corner stores, is looking for volunteers each Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help pack and deliver their pay-what-you-can produce boxes.

The more volunteers that serve the program, the more Brightside can serve more community members who need fresh produce. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact jessica@sapcc.org. The SAPCC Equity Committee would like to build a team of volunteers who can pack regularly (once a month or more).

Ice Cream Social

The District 12 Community Coun- cil ice cream social is scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, at Hampden Park, 990 Hampden Ave. Come to build community.
Next Level TWF expands

By Janet Wight

Next Level TWF (Training Wellness Fitness) is a south St. Anthony Park fitness center serving the local community.

Owned by recent college graduate Jonathan Swenson, the studio opened in June 2021. Only a year later, Next Level fitness has expanded into a larger suite in the refurbished Wycliff building, 2327 Wycliff St., Suite 155, featuring a 4,300 square-foot workout area that is primarily a free weight dominant gym with Torque Fitness equipment.

Services offered include personalized step-by-step exercise programming, basic nutrition, personal training and athletic development. Everyone interested in learning about fitness, improving their health or advancing their knowledge of training should consider joining the gym, Swenson said.

Swenson said his goal is to provide an affordable, safe and comfortable space for individuals of all fitness levels. Although it can be intimidating to begin a strength training program, it is exactly what most people lack, he added.

Swenson grew up in St. Anthony Park and attended Central High School. During this time, he gained experience as a youth soccer coach at Joy of the People, a youth soccer organization in St. Paul. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and pre-health professions from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

After considering other professions, Swenson realized that helping people reach their fitness goals was his primary career passion. He welcomes anyone who is uncertain about weightlifting to try his approach, which combines personalized guidance, encouragement and support.

Three affordable membership tiers are available. The Open Lift level provides access to non-reerved equipment along with a convenient virtual option.

The Next Level membership includes a customized exercise plan along with a reserved 30-minute time slot for the weightlifting rack and barbell. Swenson teaches clients how to properly use the equipment in order to maximize safety and results.

The Next Level Pro tier provides a wide range of benefits including detailed weekly coaching, and testing and tracking with specific challenge goals to ensure continued progression.

Open Lift memberships are available for $35 to $45 per month. Next Level and Next Level Pro tiers are available for $135 to $170 for a 3-month term (averaging $45 to $57 per month.)

Most clients come in twice per week for workouts, Swenson said, which can easily align with work, school or family responsibilities. He added that plenty of progress can be achieved at this commitment level. For example Markus and Lisa Welk have been members since last
From the Desk of the Editor

By Scott Carlson

Tree protest takes root, then dies

As the Bugle went to press for July, the petition of whether more than 150 trees would get axed to accommodate road reconstruction in St. Anthony Park came to a grinding halt. On June 11, several hundred citizens marched on Cleveland Avenue to protest Ramsey County’s plans to begin June 14 to take down the first trees along Cleveland Avenue, from Como Avenue to Buford avenues, as part of the construction project. "Many residents are distressed about the possible loss of so many mature trees," said Margaret Monson, a St. Anthony Park resident and one of the marchers.

Meanwhile, the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council filed a request on June 13 with the state Environmental Quality Board asking for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet on the project. Specifically, the council asked that "the removal of any trees as part of the Project—not commence and/or continue until a final determination is made on the present petition."

However, the next day, June 14, the council proceeded with the project and began taking down trees. A week later, the Ramsey County Board rejected the citizens’ EAW petition, declaring that its legal counsel said the project was not required to undergo an environmental review because, in part, it was too small in scope. However, this project generated such a public outcry that Ramsey County was remiss in not keeping the neighborhood better informed on changing plans for the project. In a word — dropped the country dropped the ball.

District 12 Community Council organizer Jessica Willman said the ultimate number of trees to be removed took neighbors by surprise in spite of the fact that many participated in early phases of the county’s planning process. (Originally, some 60 to 70 trees were envisioned for removal.) "Overall, the 676 trees (or 162, in the best-case scenario presently) are nowhere close to the number the community originally was told during the Community Engagement period in 2019," Willman said. "This has been a huge disappointment to the Community Council and the St. Anthony Park community at large, and, we are told, generated more constituent contact to Ramsey County than any other issue in recent memory." Pat Thompson, a District 12 council member, agreed, saying, "I think this whole thing has been damaging to Ramsey County’s reputation in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood, and that is not good for anyone, because they have an important role to play.”

According to an email to interested citizens from Ramsey County, trees north of Buford Avenue will not be removed until 2023. That leaves time for continued evaluation of whether more trees can be preserved.

The email also states that in response to community concerns, the commitment to plant new trees was raised from 55 to 70. For its part, Ramsey County has cited damage to roots during construction, as well as the viability of the trees, as public safety concerns about why some trees needed to be cut down.

In the final analysis, I believe that public buy-in to the project is important. As the county forges ahead with its work on Cleveland Avenue it has lost an opportunity to build goodwill with the neighborhood. And that lost opportunity comes at a time when public confidence in government seems to be flagging.

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle. Bugle freelance Anne Holman contributed to this report.

Citizens marched on June 11 to protest the planned removal of more than 150 trees along a stretch of Cleveland Avenue in St. Anthony Park. Photo by Lou Michals.

SAP Lutheran church kicks off Dwelling Place program

By Sarah CR Clark, Commentary

When I’m not writing Bugle articles, I like to honor of the helping a small but mighty committee organize programs for children and families through St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

However, our newest program is not just for children or families. No matter your age or faith, this is not just for children or families. It is a program for everyone. We, the Education Committee at SAPLCC, are excited to announce our summer program, The Dwelling Place, that will focus on housing and homelessness. This all-generations program will take place from June 26 to July 30. The four Wednesday evenings in July on the lawn outside of the church, which is on the corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place. In case of inclement weather, we will meet inside the church.

Each evening of the Dwelling Place will include time for a picnic dinner, bringing your own or have a pre-ordered boxed dinner from Colossal Café. Pre-order those on the registration page. There also will be a guest speaker whose work is involved in local housing, and a related hands-on activity for all ages. At the Bugle’s press time, we have confirmed speakers from Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and the International Institute of Minnesota, with a couple others in the works.

We are welcome to attend any and all of these events and with Colossal Café for activities and with Colossal Café for meals. There is no cost for the program if you provide your own meal, otherwise boxed dinners will be $12 each.

Our church’s Education Committee was inspired by ongoing neighborhood discussions about housing and homelessness to create The Dwelling Place. And because the SAPLCC congregation loves to gather intergenerationally, we’re really looking forward to The Dwelling Place and hope to see you there.

Sarah CR Clark, who is regular free lance contributor to the Bugle, lives in St. Anthony Park and is a member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Free concert

On Wednesday, July 20, beginning at 7 p.m. (after the week’s regular programming) The Dwelling Place will host a free live concert (also on the lawn, unless the weather chases us into the church building) featuring the duo Blu Kani (youtube/FGynrnB4TVk). A free-will offering will be taken during the concert to support programs at the International Institute of Minnesota.

Upcoming Bugle deadlines

You’ve just received the July Bugle. But the Bugle staff is already busy planning for August and beyond.

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. As always, we appreciate when writers and readers submit their articles early. Please note our publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days. Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town are usually completed two to three days after publication.
I’m a practicing artist and art teacher in the St. Paul School District. I’ve always loved being creative and making original work. My upbringing was constantly in flux. I’ve got a large family, and often I used drawing and painting as a way to escape some of that instability. As I grew up, so did the content of my work. Rather than ignore the struggles of racial inequity, crime and poverty that I saw, I found that by drawing comic book characters and fictional universes, I began to embrace them and use them as springboards for my art.

I graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2018 with my art degree (go Huskies!) and moved back to the Twin Cities in 2009. Living back in Minneapolis as an adult gave me a more mature perspective of inner city dynamics, and I resolved to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Having little brothers, I’ve always enjoyed working with youth, and felt that was the most tangible way I could contribute. I began substitute teaching throughout the metro in 2020. After bouncing around in temporary gigs, I found a full-time position in St. Paul, where I’m currently teaching both middle and high school students.

Working with older students, I’ve become aware of just how many come from even rougher neighborhoods than I did. The stories that I’ve been fortunate enough to hear include homelessness, deaths of friends and family, self-harm and mental health issues. As a face that happens to look like a majority of the student body, I’ve been able to engage in a dialogue with them.

For me, it’s important that students see art as an integral part of a healthy community. As a practicing artist myself, I make art right alongside my students.

Many of my works include relatable motifs: in a print series, “Repercussions,” a person wearing Air Force One sneakers steps on a man’s head. In “Knock Knock,” an oil pastel piece, police officers, depicted as night terrors, carrying a no-knock order in one’s hands, rouse a young Black man from his bed. “ADIDAS Yeezy Bus Runner” is a surrealist commentary on our Black culture’s general lack of financial literacy.

While I’m happy to know my work resonates with my students, the most visceral of my art has been developed over the past two to three years, as a response to the shifting landscape caused in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the ensuing civil unrest. I’m 27, in a place where I’m healthy enough to absorb and process much of what I’ve seen. I have 10th graders who have created art addressing this same content and more—all from personal experience.

Eventually, I hope to attend graduate school to earn my MFA. I’d like to continue dialing my scope of practice in, and improve my technical artistic ability. For right now though, I feel I’m exactly where I need to be, and will continue using art as a tool to help students engage with their culture, and engage themselves.

Pat Thompson from p. 1

Pat Thompson said, “I just want to do what I can do.”

Thompson developed an interest in plants during college and through freelance work with environmental and social justice nonprofits. While working full time and raising a child, she also became an active volunteer with the plant sale at the Friends School of Minnesota. Thompson said it wasn’t until she retired that she had sufficient time to become more involved in St. Anthony Park. “I feel really humbled,” Thompson said, “that there are people working in this neighborhood for a lot longer than me doing a lot of stuff who have never won this award.”

Drechsler said Thompson is “an amazing community builder and leader. She’s passionate. She’s humble… She’s just really well-deserving of the Spirit of the Park Award.” In addition to her numerous ongoing commitments, Drechsler said that Thompson’s campaign to save Cleveland Avenue trees is particularly timely for this year’s award. Commenting on her activities, Thompson said she suspects that much of her drive to serve comes from her parents who were engaged community members themselves.

Her father Bill, for example, was a network manager for the American Radio Relay League, a member of the county planning commission and an active participant in local politics. Thompson’s mother Betty was also involved in politics and served as a Girl Scout leader, among other volunteer roles. She was also elected to the Twin Cities School District board of education.

Pat Thompson to p. 12

“Knock, Knock,” an oil pastel depicting a young Black man’s night terrors. Submitted by Arch Jones.
Queue up for self-service at Speedy Market

By Dave Healy
Commentary

We call them lines. Brits call them queues. They’re what we stand in while waiting.

For most of us, lines are a necessary evil, part of the price we pay for living in cities. It’s become easier to avoid lines in some areas of life. There aren’t any at amazon.com or at a host of other sites where one can shop and transact business of every kind. But even denizens of cyberspace still sometimes find themselves in line. And once there, the motivation usually is to get through as quickly as possible.

Merchandisers, recognizing that not all queues are created equal, have devised ways to speed things along by separating the sheep from the goats. One strategy is the “10-items-or-fewer” line, invented to ease the frustration of shoppers who only stopped in to get a couple of things but find themselves behind someone stockpiling for the impending apocalypse.

Another way to accommodate shoppers with only a few items is the self-checkout line. This approach is a continuation of a development that began in 1917, when Clarence Saunders opened a Piggly Wiggly grocery store where customers could take items off shelves themselves. Previously, you told a clerk what you wanted, and that person brought your items to the counter.

Now at the grocery store we roam the aisles ourselves and sometimes even bag our own stuff. And in some stores we can check out quicker as possible. Merchandisers see this as a way to ease the frustration of shoppers who only stopped in to get a couple of things but find themselves in line. And once there, the motivation usually is to get through as quickly as possible.

But even denizens of cyberspace sometimes even bag our own stuff.

We’re typically there for a quick meal, and one strategy is the self-checkout line. This approach is a continuation of a development that began in 1917, when Clarence Saunders opened a Piggly Wiggly grocery store where customers could take items off shelves themselves. Previously, you told a clerk what you wanted, and that person brought your items to the counter.

Now at the grocery store we roam the aisles ourselves and sometimes even bag our own stuff. And in some stores we can check ourselves out without a cashier’s assistance.

Coming to Speedy Market

That option will soon be available at Tim & Toni’s Speedy Market, 2310 Como Ave., in St. Anthony Park. According to store manager Ted Spreigl, an additional checkout line dedicated to self-service will be operational by mid-July.

Spreigl said the impetus to add self-checkout at Speedy came from NCR, the company that manages the store’s register system. The front of the store will be reconfigured to accommodate three lines instead of the current two, and one will be self-checkout. The goal, said Spreigl, is primarily to give shoppers an additional option, especially those who have only a few items. “During the lunch rush we get a lot of customers who might buy only a sandwich and a can of pop,” Spreigl said. “They want a quick in and out.”

Spreigl said he sees self-checkout as another step in making Speedy Market more friendly for shoppers. “They approached us last summer about being a test case for self-checkout at a smaller store,” he said.

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A community garden’s roots, and its gifts

By Sue Conner

Any summer day, if you’re going south on the railroad bridge on Raymond Avenue, turn west onto Robbins Street just south of the bridge. There, spread out along the tracks, you will see an urban garden paradise! Smack in the middle of the city, you'll find...well, you'll need to see it to believe it. You may see gardeners working their plots or visiting each other.

How did this garden get here?

The story of the St. Anthony Park Community Garden begins in 1981 when the area was a full of rubble, concrete and all sorts of junk. Some neighbors had a vision, inspired by the District 12 Community Council’s composting project on part of the site, which it was leasing from Burlington Northern Railway. Seeing greater potential, the neighbors planned and worked together, coordinating with the Council and businesses nearby. Beginning with clearing and amending the soil, they established 23 garden plots in 1982. By 1983 they had 50. Now there are 96, cared for by over 200 gardeners. Since 1999, the site has been owned by the council, thanks to a grassroots campaign aided by grants from the city of St. Paul and Franz Roofing along with donations from neighbors and neighborhood businesses.

There are many stories to tell of the efforts and cooperation, and the occasional silliness as this garden grew. The gift of the garden is to today’s gardeners, to neighbors who bike and walk by, to families who show their children bees, butterflies, green beans and tomatoes, to the big city that breathes a bit easier. This gift is from neighbors and gardeners of the past who were willing to give of time, energy and, yes, funds. And the gift is from the gardeners of the present who step up when it counts. Here’s one example.

A gardener-entrepreneur turns local hero

When the garden’s water supply was turned on by the city this May, we quickly realized that there was a leak. We knew that our 35-year-old system was wearing out; we had been warned two years ago. The original installers had said that they would need to bring in a truck to replace the system and it needed to be done when the gardens were not in operation. Yikes! It was high season, with plots ready to plant. Now what? Enter Joel Kreller, a second-year community gardener and owner of a local company, Go Wild Outdoors Irrigation. We called Joel and asked if there was any other way to do the job. Joel said yes, he could use a trencher and hand shovel. But spring is crazy time for irrigation businesses. He was working dawn til dark, then staying up late doing paperwork. What a deal!

But Joel did the unimaginable for the Community Garden. He and a colleague started that Saturday, working into the evening, then continued on Sunday until almost midnight. They got it done! And we now have a Cadillac system. Before, if we needed to make a repair, we had to climb into a manhole and shut down the whole system. Now, thanks to Joel’s two-valve rebuild, we can turn off half while we fix a problem. And the valves are in secure boxes near the source, above ground. What a deal!

The garden’s operating costs are covered by its plot fees, $30 annually, but many gardeners over the years have given extra donations to the garden’s reserve fund, make a check out to SAP Community Garden. Send it to SAP Community Garden, in care of Susan Conner, 2269 Luther Place, Unit 302, St. Paul, MN 55108. Interested in a plot? Check the District 12 Community Council’s website in February 2023: SAPCC.org/community-garden.

Show some garden love

To donate to the garden’s reserve fund, make a check out to St. Anthony Park Community Garden. Send it to SAP Community Garden, in care of Susan Conner, 2269 Luther Place, Unit 302, St. Paul, MN 55108. Interested in a plot? Check the District 12 Community Council’s website in February 2023: SAPCC.org/community-garden.

*Offer valid to persons with no prior checking relationship with SPIRE in the last 12 months. $100 minimum deposit required to open a Free Checking account. $5 minimum deposit required to open a Saints or Teen Checking account. See the list of many more extraordinary volunteers at sapflx.org

Thank you from the Arts Festival planning team: Co-Directors Tance Anderson & Deanna Seppegn, Libby Bux, Cari Collins, Jennifer Culver, Rita La Doux, Allie Rykken, Kay Soren, Michelle Taylor, Rachel Trabrody, Bob Zalewski

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Relax as we plan your stress-free vacation!

Make an appointment to stop in. Ask us about tailoring an itinerary for you. Call or stop by our experience creating travel itineraries.
Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

Seiji Eicher
St. Olaf College
Congratulations Seiji on your Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. We love you and are very proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, and Honey

Gunnar Jacobson
Concord Academy
Congratulations Gunnar! We love you and are very proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, and Honey

Otto George Ganser
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations, Otto! We’re so proud of you!

Aksel Isler
St. Anthony Park Elementary
What a joy and a privilege it’s been watching you grow, dear Aksel. We’re incredibly proud of the young man you are and can’t wait to see you shine in middle school. Congratulations on graduating from St. Anthony Park. We love you very much! Onward, to the next adventure.

Sebastian Kruse
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations Sebastian! We are so incredibly proud of you! Excited to see the wonderful things that await you!

Zoltan Lohse
University of Minnesota
Congratulations, Zoltan! We are so proud of you, and we’re looking forward to visiting you when you are in Italy for grad school!

Isabella Jazmin Sanchez-Esparza
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations! We are so proud of you and are eager to see what comes next. Doritos will miss you.

Soren Sackreiter
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations, Soren! We are so proud of you and are very happy for you.

Dylan Aarness
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations Dylan! We are so happy for you and all that you have accomplished. Your adventure at the UMN will be a great one.

Max Baum
Highland Park Senior High School
Max, congrats on your graduation! You have worked so hard and we are so proud of you! May you go out into the world and shine your light! You will do great things!

Jude Breen
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations, Jude! Your hard work and insatiable curiosity got you this far, and we are so proud of you! Excited to see the path you decide to take!

Grace Commers
McGill University (Montreal, Canada)
Congratulations Grace! We believe that you have great gifts to offer the world, and we cannot wait to see what you do with them. Love – Mom, Dad, Willa, Henry, and all of your best beloved people

Gavin Dobson
Central High School
Congratulations, Gavin! We’re so proud of you and can’t wait to see the path you decide to take!

Maicha Dragseth
Anchial Charter School
Maicha, we are so incredibly proud of you! Your hard work and unwavering curiosity got you this far, and we will never stop being so proud of you.

Love, Mom and Dad
Como class of 2022 celebrates graduation

Seniors from the Class of 2022 and their families were busy celebrating accomplishments in early June. Graduation took place on June 7 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul.

Senior Ikram Mohamed served as the hostess for the ceremony, and senior Cece Ler provided the student address and senior guidance counselor Becky Mendoza gave the staff commencement address.

The Como band performed the processional, choir members sang the national anthem and Principal Kirk Morris conferred the diplomas.

The annual senior barbecue was hosted by the Como Park Booster Club during the seniors’ last day of school on June 3. The festive celebration on a warm, sunny day was a well-earned memory for the class of ’22 who endured so much missed time together during the pandemic. – Eric Erickson

Como graduates toss their caps in the air after the conferring of diplomas at Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Photo by Lisa Sackreiter.

Congratulations to our Wolf Pack 5th Graders from St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Abdulkhaliq Caio
Abdulkhaliq Calvin
Addis Ababa Caroline
Addis Ababa Charlotte
Addis Ababa Charlotte
Addis Ababa Claire
Addis Ababa Alice
Addis Ababa Andrew
Addis Ababa Andrew
Addis Ababa Annabelle
Addis Ababa Arif
Addis Ababa Benjamin
Addis Ababa Candace

Congratulations to our Wolf Pack 5th Graders from St. Anthony Park Elementary School

You come through this unforgettable year with flying colors!

Abdulali
Abdulali
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
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Addis Abeba
Addis Abeba
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Congratulations to our retiring staff . . .

Both Dustin and Kelly Nelson

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This year’s recipient is Nadia Philips who is studying wheat diseases at St. Anthony Park Garden Club for upcoming events.

Congratulations to our Wolf Pack 5th Graders from St. Anthony Park Elementary School

You come through this unforgettable year with flying colors!

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Sixteen initiatives win SAP Community Foundation funding

By Julie Dreschler

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has awarded $32,000 in grants to support the activities and initiatives of 16 local non-profit organizations and community groups for calendar 2022. The foundation’s latest grants are spread across several categories including education, youth programs, the arts, environment, economic development, aging in place and community building.

I have been so impressed with the quality of programs that our local nonprofits and community groups are bringing to enhance the vitality of our community. (Editor’s note: The 2022 grant awards came on the heels of the foundation announcing last fall that it had awarded $35,650 to support 14 programs and initiatives.) Programs and initiatives that were funded for this year are:

**Arts and Culture**
- Saint Anthony Park Branch Library Association: 2022 Saint Anthony Park Arts Festival
- Schubert Club: Julie Himmelstrup, Music in the Park Series
- St. Anthony Park Elementary School: SAP Elementary Artists-In-Residence

**Community building**
- Park Bugle: Building Familiarity: Initiative for South Saint Anthony Park
- Creative Enterprise Zone: SAP/CEZ Community Engagement

**Economic Development**
- Saint Anthony Park Community Council: Equity Committee Food Program Support
- Exodus Lending: Eliminating Predatory Debt & Creating Safe Alternatives for Minnesotans

**Education and Youth**
- International Institute of Minnesota: Community-based experiential learning opportunities for adult English Language Learners
- Urban Boat Builders: Job training apprenticeship program

**Environmental**
- Minnesota Tool Library: Crafting in Community
- Tech Dump: Tech Dump Greens

Funding for the annual grants is made possible from the Gerald R. McKay Family Music Fund, The Environmental Education Fund and the Andy Boss Fund. Interested community members can donate to the foundation through its GiveMN page, annual giving campaign or website.

Submitted by Julie Dreschler, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

**Speedy Market from p. 6**

more accessible and adaptable. He emphasized that the two cashier lines will remain and said the new setup will not change staffing levels or affect customer service.

“We think self-checkout will benefit both customers and employees,” he said. “Cashiers as well as customers get frustrated when lines are long. This development should improve things for everyone.”

Dave Healy lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former editor of the Bugle.
By Eric Erickson  
Sports analysis

At the section 4AA meet, he duplicated his seventh place medal in the 1600M race at the state track meet. Photo by Eric Erickson.

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1/2 cup butter & 2 cups brown sugar

Warm the above two items in a pan until sugar is melted, when cool add:

2 eggs
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2 tsp vanilla

Mix together and bake in a shallow pan for 15-20 minutes at 350°. It is done when a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean.

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Compo Park Spring Sports Summaries

Sports analysis

For the Bugle community, we offer a snapshot of the spring sports season at Como Park Senior High.

Track & Field: Como junior Charlie Power-Theisen concluded an exceptional season in the state meet where he earned the fifth place medal in the 3200M and the seventh place medal in the 1600M. Power-Theisen qualified for state in style by racing to victory in his two distance events at the section 4AA meet. In becoming a two-time section champion, he duplicated city conference titles from the previous week’s competition.

Remarkably, Power-Theisen set personal records in each successive meet. His 3200M (2:30 mile) time at state was 9:30, and he clocked in at 4:27 for the 1600M (1 mile) at state.

Overall, the Como boys team placed third in the conference. With dozens of individuals registering top-five finishes, competitive teams in every relay and senior leadership and youthful energy to produce a 4-2 conference dual and a fifth place medal in the city meet and a seventh place medal in the 1600M race at the state track meet. Photo by Eric Erickson.

Softball: The Cougars came together with a combination of senior leadership and youthful energy to produce a 4-2 conference record with 10 wins and 7 losses. All Conference players included senior captains Jada James and Tenia Childs along with sophomore Desiree Vang and Murray seventh grader Lilly Coyle. Senior captain Annaya Bonds earned honorable mention as did junior Kayla James and Murray eighth grader Izzie Hernandez.

Jada James hit eight home runs this season, bringing her career total to 15 and setting the program record. The most memorable game was a 21-20 playoff victory over Harding, in which the Cougars trailed by a dozen runs before winning in walk-off fashion.

Badminton: The Como badminton team finished fourth in the St. Paul City Conference, behind Johnson, Washington and Highland Park.

Como senior PaNu Lee elevated her game in the individual state tournament, upsetting Johnson’s top player in the quarterfinals to reach the semifinal round. After losing in the semifinals to the eventual state champion, Lee bounced back to win the third place match in straight sets to bring home the bronze medal.

In doubles competition, senior Gay Nee Thaw and junior LahSher Wah concluded their long partnership by advancing to the state quarterfinals.

Boys Golf: A young and developing group was led by Como freshman Sonom Vang. The Cougars defeated Harding in a dual meet with Vang taking medalist honors.

In the conference meet, Vang earned All-Conference recognition with his fourth place individual score.

Girls Golf: The Como golfers connected and improved through the spring and took third place in the conference standings, which was their best finish in the St. Paul City during the past five years. Sophomore Michelle Vang was the medalist in many dual meets and repeated as an All-Conference selection.

Murray eighth grader Robin Engman Phiri earned honorable mention.

Boys Tennis: With 15 first year players in the program, the Cougars posted a conference record of 2-4 at the varsity level and 3-12 overall. Seniors Quang Bui and Isaiah Cooper were All-Conference players. Seniors John Oo and Hsar Lay Moo were honorable mention as was Swedish foreign exchange student Hugo Borg.

Baseball: Como’s record was 3-6 in the city conference and 5-10 overall. The two non-conference victories over St. Anthony Village and St. Paul Academy stood out as peak performances.

Senior Peter Wengler had a .475 batting average and was selected All-Conference. Senior Damian Perryman hit .432 and was also chosen All-Conference. Four Cougars earned honorable mention including seniors Otto Ganser and Aiden Bittner-Eddy and juniors Gabe Napieralaja and Levi Nichols.

Boys’ Volleyball: With a 10-1 regular season record in Minneapolis club volleyball association, the Cougars qualified for the state tournament (scheduled for June 15-16 as the Bugle went to press.)

Senior captains Mona Tia Xiong, Pa Reh and Mark Reh consistently guided Como teams to victories over taller teams.

Charlie Power-Theisen passes a competitor during the final lap of the 1600M race at the state track meet. Photo by Eric Erickson.

Boys: Volleyball: With a 10-1 regular season record in Minne- sota’s club volleyball association, the Cougars qualified for the state tournament (scheduled for June 15-16 as the Bugle went to press.) Seniors Mona Tia Xiong, Pa Reh and Mark Reh consistently guided Como teams to victories over taller teams.
Como Park High School News

By Eric Erickson

JROTC cadet attends Flight Academy
On June 10, Alex Le completed his junior year at Como with the No. Academic ranking in his class. Two weeks later, he began training at the U.S. Naval Summer Flight Academy.
Le earned a full ride, $25,000 scholarship to the challenging program held at Delaware State University. Beyond the classroom, Le's academy training will include over 15 hours of solo flights.

When Le begins his senior year at Como, he already will have a private pilot's license from the Federal Aviation Administration.

WCCO-TV News produced a feature story in May about Le and his noteworthy accomplishments. Le said he's excited for the aviation opportunity, but also a little nervous about solo flights. Le said he has been studying flight manuals and mentally preparing for the adventure. It's a unique chance to propel his career path before even taking on his senior year at Como. Le said he plans to apply to the Air Force Academy and dreams of being an aerospace engineer for NASA or Boeing.

Concerts in the Neighborhood
For their spring concert in late May, the Como choirs performed outside at the Como Lake Pavilion. Choir Director Siri Keller wanted the year-end concert to embrace spring in the neighborhood.
The free concert was attended by families and friends of choir members and the general public.

Meanwhile, members of the Como Band, under the direction of Philip Fried, Ph.D., presented a concert in the school auditorium on May 26. Guests were treated to popular music that included selections from musicals such as “Les Misérables” and films including “Star Wars.”

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

By Sarah CR Clark

Murray Middle School principal McKenzie wins U of M honor

The University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts in late May honored Murray Middle School Principal Jamin McKenzie with the Civitas Community Partner award.

The Civitas Award is given to community members and/or organizations that partner with the CLA “for the betterment of society,” according to CLA officials. Two local organizations were also recent Civitas Award winners: the New Housig from p. 1

For further information or to contact one of the property representatives, visit The Mason’s website at themasonsonmap.com.

Midline Apartments

Submitted photo.

Construction is now complete at Midline Apartments, a five-story building located at the intersection of University and Hampden avenues. The complex features 154 rental units, approximately 75% that are one-bedroom units with the remaining units studios and two-bedroom apartments.
Bryan Walters, co-founder of M–F 8 A.M.–5 P.M.
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Langford Park celebrates 22 years of Pilates

The Langford Park Recreation Center is offering one complimentary Pilates class in honor of the 22nd anniversary of this program lead by Fran Ouellute. Choose any Thursday now through July 28 for a one-hour, intermediate level class from 11 a.m. to noon. Mats will be provided.

The recreation center is located at 30 Langford Park. Its phone number is 651-298-5765.

Highway 280 partial road closure

Northbound Highway 280 will be down to a single lane at its northern most point through August 29 while crews repair a failed retaining wall on I-35W. A Minnesota Department of Transportation official explained that two concrete retaining wall panels fractured due to drainage problems after heavy rainfall. Road crews began repairing the wall in early June and the righthand northbound lane on Highway 280 will likely remain closed through August, affecting travel onto eastbound Highway 36 as well as northbound I-35W.

Dant family art at boreal loft

The art works of the Dant family will be on display from July 7 to 31 at the boreal art loft, 2276 Como Ave. You can view the art during store hours from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays; and from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Sundays. The Twin Cities-area artists will travel onto eastbound Highway 36 as well as northbound I-35W.

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They were married at St. Anthony Park Congregational Church and moved to Redmond, Ore., where Mary taught art at Redmond High School for 25 years. After Jerry’s passing in 1983, Mary married Chancy Ball in 1986; they were married 35 years. After retirement, they traveled throughout the United States and to many places around the world.

Mary is survived by her husband, Chancy Ball, of Oro Valley, Ariz.; son Max Bliven, of Redmond, Ore.; daughter, Sarah Calif (Mathias) of Camas, Wash.; four grandchildren; sister, Anne Hilton (Robert) of Tucson, Ariz.; and sister Jane Delger (Jens) of Apen, Germany. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Josephine and Arnold Delger, and her first husband Jerry Bliven. If desired, please send memorial gifts to the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy. Arnold D. Delger Fund for Pharmacy Student Leadership, Fund #2355 suggested.

Kevin McGowan

Kevin F. McGowan, died May 27, 2022, at Lyngblomsten Care Center in St. Paul after a brief battle with an aggressive form of skin cancer. Kevin, age 70, was a computer specialist who continued to work even after becoming blind from Retinitis pigmentosa which developed in his 30s. Kevin also survived two kidney transplants. Kevin was born in Appleton, Minn., to Martin and Elizabeth "Betty" McGowan. He graduated from Murray High School and attended the University of Minnesota. He earned a computer certificate from the Minnesota School of Business. During his career, he worked for Cigna Health Care, Legal Decision Systems and Info Span. Kevin sought to remain independent despite his vision loss and worked to help others dealing with the disability. He traveled independently and participated in a bowling league for the blind.

In retirement, Kevin had lived in Tucson, Ariz., and Boise, Idaho, before returning to St. Paul. Kevin is survived by his wife Patricia, his children, Michelle McGowan and Jonathan McGowan and one grandson, all of Bloomington, and four brothers and two sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

A funeral was held June 11, at Lyngblomsten Newman Benson Chapel. Memorials are suggested to Vision Loss Resources, 1936 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Paula Morphew

Paula Jean Morphew, 66, died Dec. 30, 2021, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Richard Auld and her sister Carol Morphew. A Memorial Mass was scheduled June 16 at the Church of St. Cecilia. Special thanks to Lyngblomsten Care Center staff and the Allina Hospice Team who provided thoughtful and supportive care to Paula during the last years of her life. Paula, a lifelong dog lover, preferred donations to ASPCA or your local animal humane society.

Charlotte Nelson

Charlotte Nelson, Roseville, was born May 28, 1922. She was born on Dec. 31, 1924, in Barnesville, to Gladys (Braton) and Paul Morhen, and grew up in St. Cloud with her three sisters.

She met her husband Donald Nelson while they were attending the St. Cloud Teachers College. They were married in 1945 and moved with their three children to Falcon Heights in 1962. Charlotte worked for the Sperry Corporation until retirement, when they relocated to Maplewood.

Charlotte is survived by daughters Renee Scholen (Ken) and Paula Cronquist (Randy), son Bradley Nelson, sister Gwen Scherrer, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald and two sisters Norma Jean and Shirley.

A memorial service was scheduled June 21 at New Life Church in Roseville. Memorials are preferred to the family. Marjorie Ann Zimmer

Marjorie Ann Zimmer, 91, Falcon Heights, died May 17, 2022. Marj was the last surviving and only child of Martin and Elizabeth Zimmer. She is survived by children Jon, husband Edward and son Stevan.

A service is being planned. We’re so lucky to be part of such a community, people who understand that we are all in this together. ■

Sue Conner has been a gardener in the SAP Community Garden since 1983. She and Kristen Olson are now co-coordinators.

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Community Appreciation BBQ

Join us to celebrate the community with live music and food at our Como branch!

Thursday, August 4
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