International Institute breaks ground for expansion

By Scott Carlson

The International Institute of Minnesota in June broke ground on a $12.5 million headquarters expansion that will enable the nationally acclaimed nonprofit to annually serve an additional 500 new refugees and immigrants in its workforce training programs.

The institute’s enhanced presence at 1694 Como Ave. will serve as a welcome and education center for immigrants and refugees, institute officials said.

“We are grateful for all of our supporters that have helped make this expansion possible,” institute executive director Jane Graupman said in a statement. “Even before the pandemic, the institute experienced a significant increase in demand for our services.”

The institute achieved several milestones in 2020, surpassing 25,000 refugees resettled since 1974, and assisting in 15,000 citizenship applications being filed since 2001. As baby boomers age out of the workforce, new immigrant Americans are becoming essential in helping buoy Minnesota’s labor market and economic vitality in the global marketplace, institute officials said.

Meanwhile, the headquarters expansion includes a 16,000 square-foot wing containing six new classrooms, interactive training labs, a welcoming lobby and gathering spaces for clients and their families, according to an institute news release.

Currently, the existing 18,000 square-foot building is being re-modeled to maximize use of space, ensure accessibility and flexibility for future use. All remodeling and expansion work is expected to be completed in 2022.

The institute’s expansion project is being funded by a $3 million state bonding appropriation, private and corporate foundations, and individual donors. The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded $1 million to the project, including a $750,000 program related investment and a $250,000 grant.

Other major contributors include the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Hardenbergh Foundation, HRK Foundation and Saint Paul Foundation.

“The International Institute of Minnesota has a tremendous track record of helping new Americans achieve stability and quickly become contributing members of the workforce, particularly in the much-needed healthcare professions,” Otto Bremer Trust co-chair and trustee Charlotte Johnson said in a statement. “By substantially increasing the institute’s facility, the organization will be able to double the number of workforce program participants annually.”

Founded in 1919, the International Institute of Minnesota’s programs and services for immigrants and refugees include workforce development, employment training, immigration and citizenship services, refugee resettlement, English language classes and a college readiness academy.

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

4th in the Park festivities return with... some protocols

By Scott Carlson

After a one-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 4th in the Park festival with its annual live parade for July 4th is set to return.

But event organizers say this year’s parade will be smaller as one part of an overall scaled-down festival. They will be implementing several protocols to minimize any potential COVID-19 problems.

“4th in the Park is doing a very condensed version of the 74th annual celebration this year,” said Emma Seeley, a 4th in the Park committee member. “It’s all pretty last minute as we didn’t start planning until the Covid restrictions loosened.”

Seeley released the schedule of July 4th events.

Action from a prior year’s 4th in Park’s July 4 parade. Photo submitted by 4th in the Park.

8 a.m. Langford Park races
Registration at Langford Park Recreation Center ($10 for adults, $5 for 15 and under). Races start at 8:30 a.m.

2 miles: Divisions for men, women and masters (age 40 and older).

11 a.m. Grand parade begins
Proceeding from Luther Place, down Como Avenue to Langford Park via Knapp Avenue. This year’s...
District 10 Community Council

McKee new executive director

Shevak McKee is the new executive director for District 10. He succeeds Michael Kochta, who left the post after five years to become town administrator in LaPointe, Wis. McKee has extensive experience in district councils and community engagement. He served as chair of the Capitol River Council in District 17 from 2019-2021 and was involved in the South East Community Organization for a decade before that.

McKee said he is looking forward to getting to know the community, making new connections and joining District 10’s existing efforts to expand equity and inclusion.

Ice cream social and ComoConnect July 9

District 10 Como Community Council will host its fourth annual ice cream social after a hiatus last year due to the Covid pandemic. This free event will be held at the historic Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway N., from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Friday, July 9.

This year’s event will include ice cream malts from the Kiwanis Club with non-dairy options too, live music from local performers and the unveiling of the council’s new mascot, the great horned owl, with an art contest and a live owl from the University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center.

The ice cream social will include ComoConnect: The Neighbor-hood Resource Fair. The event is meant to connect Como residents with local services, information and resources. Representatives from local organizations such as the Como Friends, Saint Paul Public Library and the Saint Paul Tool Library will be present with give-aways and information.

Tree Trek tour revived

The Como Community Council’s Environment Committee recently held a guided tour of the unique tree flora in Como Park. This event, designed to help community members identify and appreciate plant life in the park, featured new signage identifying more than 15 tree species in Como Park.

The Tree Trek program was established in 2011 by Chet Mirocha, who was a member of the Environment Committee. After Chet died in 2019, his daughter, Minnesota Master Naturalist Stephanie Mirocha, renewed the tour for Como residents.

More tree tours are planned for the summer. To learn more, please visit the Como Community Council website.

Anti-Racism Work Group

The District 10 Anti-Racism Work Group meets monthly with the goal of achieving systemic change toward equity in the community.

This spring, the committee released a statement on the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, acknowledging that district councils “have traditionally been led by and served the interests of white homeowners” and that “there is more work to do. As an organization, we see this first anniversary of George Floyd’s killing as a time to re-dedicate ourselves to creating a Como that is truly home to all.” For the full statement, go to the District 10 website and Facebook page.

The Anti-Racism Work Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. to discuss and act on equity issues in our community. Among current issues is a proposal regarding rent stabilization.

Upcoming District 10 Meetings

Renters, homeowners and other community members are always welcome to participate in District 10’s board and committee meetings. To obtain links, phone numbers or other access information, send a request by email to district10@district10comopark.org. Or, call 651-644-3899.

Upcoming meetings:

• Neighborhood Relations: Tuesday, July 6
• Land Use: Wednesday, July 7
• Environment: Wednesday, July 14
• Board meeting: Tuesday, July 20

District 12 Community Council

District 12 committees discuss a variety of issues at their monthly meetings. Below are updates on recent topics and events. Visit the District 12 website at sapcc.org to learn more. Join the conversations by emailing jessica@sapcc.org for meeting links.

Land Use Committee update

This spring, the District 12 Land Use Committee discussed new and ongoing developments that expand housing access to the arts and office space in the neighborhood. The committee also talked about measures to hold developers accountable to city ordinances.

Committee members are contacting other St. Paul districts along the light rail Green Line to find out more about what development goals and design standards our districts share and would like to see implemented along this vital, key city thoroughfare.

Equity Committee update

The Equity Committee heard a presentation in May from the Housing Equity Now St. Paul group regarding a proposal for rent stabilization. The committee is working on ways to get educated about and support affordable housing in our community.

The Equity Committee also hosted a community meal at Union Flats using Innovation Fund grant monies from the city. It hopes to host more dinners around District 12.

Finally, the committee has been working on goals and priorities for the rest of 2021 in a bid to make our community a warm and welcoming place for all people. District 12 residents are welcome to join in the discussion at the next Equity Committee meeting.

Environment Committee update

Environment Committee members are working on several projects this summer. They are actively assisting with the 100 Trees Initiative in south Saint Anthony Park, led by Ben Shardlow, board member of the Creative Enterprise Zone.

Several volunteers helped move gravel into one of the three beds and will be helping transplant trees. Volunteers are needed to help with the care and transplanting of these trees. See the District 12 website for more information.

Also, new hatching logs installed in Kasota Ponds this winter are now hosting turtles and birds. Stop by the ponds to see the wildlife taking advantage of these logs on sunny days. Send your pictures to SAPCC to be in our newsletter!

Meanwhile, a public art sculpture that was funded by recon-struction of Como Avenue has been installed at the corner of Como and Carter avenues. It is called the Langstroth Kiosk, named after Lorenzo Langstroth, who was the father of American beekeeping.

District 12 opposes Highway 280 speed increase

Committee members collaborated on a draft resolution opposing a possible increase in the speed limit on Highway 280.

Members of the SAPCC Transportation Committee and Environment Committee are concerned
Luther Seminary renews quest on land sale

By Scott Carlson

Luther Seminary is trying again to sell its lower campus property. The Seminary, in late May, announced hiring Wayzata-based Inland Development Partners in a new attempt to sell its 15.5-acre parcel on the southern end of its educational campus for housing.

In a statement, the Seminary said it “remains committed to selling the lower campus for additional mixed-use housing, including affordable housing, and is in a solid position as the search for the right buyers continues.”

Currently, there are no specific proposed development plans.

“We are pleased to work together with IDP as we pursue the sale of the lower campus,” said Luther Seminary President Robin Steinke. “We continue to believe the lower campus is a historic opportunity in the heart of the metropolitan area and the need for more housing is endorsed by community partners.”

The Seminary’s partnership with Inland Development comes after its prior contract with Master Properties expired this past winter amidst that developer’s having suffered numerous delays with its proposed project during the COVID-19 pandemic. Master Properties project, which it unveiled two years ago, called for building up to 450 to 500 units of new housing—from market rate family units to co-op housing for seniors—while preserving the campus’ 19-acre Brock Woods natural open space.

After Master Properties’ purchase agreement with the Seminary lapsed, the religious institute was free to entertain talks with other developers about the campus redevelopment.

The Seminary said that teaming with Inland Development gives it a firm “with decades of real estate development experience” that will be able to focus on the steps needed to obtain community and government support, create individual building sites…and support Luther Seminary’s efforts to sell those parcels to the entities that will build on them.”

“Our existing relationships in this category along with our experience working on large, complex projects with multiple entities will serve Luther Seminary well,” IDP partner Kent Carlson said in a statement.

As this process continues, the Seminary said its lease of Stud Halls former dormitory to Ramsey County for a temporary shelter to house homeless people has been extended through May of next year. Luther Seminary has slowly been selling underused portions of its property for several years as its campus needs have diminished due to changing program needs.

Not all students live on campus anymore nor are all of them maintaining full-time class schedules.

In 2014, the Seminary sold five apartment buildings on Eustis Street to Greenway Village. Senior housing developer Ecuemun bought 1.6 acres at Luther Place and Como Avenue in 2015 to build Zevgo. A 49-unit co-op, HealthPartners purchased 4.5 acres of land across from its Como Avenue building in 2016 to build a replacement clinic. Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

Knotweed battle moves to yards

By Anne Holzman

The masses of Japanese knotweed that snarled Seminary Pond in Lauderdale a few years ago have been mostly eradicated, leaving the next stage of the struggle against the invasive species to private properties adjacent to the pond.

Ramsey County officials have used several techniques, including herbicide applications, to fight the knotweed problem on county lands. The Ramsey County environmental specialist, Andy Moffatt ventured that the city of Fulham Street and north of West Hoyt Avenue. At a recent meeting, Townsend said that although a contractor doing survey work reported seeing the knotweed patch in 2017.

A company hired by the county applied Rodeo and Trycera herbicides, then county staff and Conservation Corps interns followed through the knotweed’s roots came loose as the knotweed's roots came loose from the soil and emergency plantings were needed to replace them. Townsend said that although he has spotted native wildflowers poking through where the knotweed used to be, including Jack-in-the-pulpit and Rodeo nearer to the water, he tries to avoid using herbicides because of their danger to other species, the pernicious nature of knotweed doesn’t leave him many alternatives. But he added that knotweed in yards, which typically are “just lawn,” can more easily be dealt with by smothering the weed.

Townsend urges property owners near Seminary Pond to get in touch with him for help fund the eradication project, which has been mostly eradicated, leaving the next stage of the struggle against knotweed in yards, which typically are “just lawn,” can more easily be dealt with by smothering the weed.

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By Scott Carlson

Weathering the Covid pandemic

“How could getting a haircut turn into such a big deal?” I wondered to myself. Normally it wouldn’t be. But plenty of people couldn’t help but notice the change in my appearance after my trip to the barbershop on May 27. It was my first haircut in almost 15 months. Sitting in the barber’s chair, in the span of 20 minutes, I went from a wannabe-looking rock star to nearly a bald camp-appearing recruit. I called my hairdo the “Covid cut,” a hair-cutting and trum- ming that came after I decided it was safe again to get a haircut in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially, I cautiously proceeded to extend my social and business errands as Covid vaccines became available and mask wear- ing mandates and other social restrictions eased off. My slow re-entry into the world was due to not knowing whether the danger of freely circulating in public was really subsiding.

Additionally, I couldn’t forget that my mother died of complica- tions of Covid in May, 2020. Her death grimly reminds me that more than 600,000 other Ameri- cans have suffered a similar fate.

During this past year, the Bugle has devoted extensive cover- age on the pandemic with some 30 stories chronicling the impact that COVID-19 has had on, among others, nursing homes, schools, churches, retail shops, restaurants, bars and community recreation programs.

So, in the midst of a lot of death and sacrifice, even being able to do some of the littlest things, like in pre-pandemic times—having a haircut—seems like a significant victory. Still, since this past spring, I have also returned to doing a few other things. I am playing indoor ten- nis, eating out and worshipping in church, all without wearing a mask.

In this issue of the July Bugle, we share more stories of community resilience in the midst of the pan- demic. Bugle freelancer Eric Erickson tells how this difficult school year abruptly ended in June but that graduating seniors at Como High School found a way to hold a special celebration. And freelance Sarah CR Clark shares the story of how the Durkee family started monthly concerts on their front lawn as a way to support musicians during the Covid period and offer up a recreational breather for their neighbors.

Let’s hope these stories are signs of better things to come. And here’s hoping that I won’t have to wait 15 months for my next haircut! ■

Report on progress of learning models between student, parent, family, teacher and administrative leaders, along with predictive stu- dent outcomes based on race.

Going into the fall, I intend to learn from Covid-19 and focus on identifying actionable data to drive decision-making. I want to pro- mote a more effective and rapid reciprocal communication system. I want to promote learning programs and curriculum such as language immersion and eth- nic studies that can be used in our students’ homes and school lives.

I want to listen to and learn from families, students and edu- cators from throughout the city. You are welcome to write to me at jim.vue@spps.org.

Jim Vue

Vice-chairman

St. Paul School Board
Welcome new Bugle board members!

As the Bugle begins the 2021-22 fiscal year, I offer a hearty, “Welcome,” to the newest members to our board of directors: Beth Breidel, Cindy Schwie, Michael Smith and Helen Warren.

- Breidel has been reading the Park Bugle since moving into their family’s first home in Como in 1993. They moved to St. Anthony Park in 2002 and kept reading the Bugle! Beth has been deeply involved in the community, first serving at the Midway Chamber of Commerce and now as the director of events for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce where her work puts her in contact with, among others, many nonprofit organizations. Beth and her husband Marty have raised their two daughters in St. Anthony Park.

- Schwie is a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities who loves technology and recently retired after 15 years at Apple Inc. A former projects manager for the Friends of the Parks and Trails, Cindy currently manages Pedaling Repairs, an eco-friendly home repair business, with her husband Ward. Among her many interests are hiking, biking, knitting, promoting human rights and environmental concerns and spending time with friends and family members and her St. Anthony Park grandchildren.

- Smith lives and works in St. Anthony Park. In 2019, he bought the Carter Avenue Frame Shop from his father, Tim Smith. Michael began working at Carter Avenue Frame Shop in 2016, then became a 25 percent owner a year later. Michael chanel studied criminology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and worked for Hammer Inc., a non-profit housing and service organization that provides support to individuals with disabilities.

- Warren’s commitment to the Bugle is rooted in family; both her parents were Associated Press editors. To pursue her interests in journalism and education, she taught college classes in media, public address and women’s studies. Eventually, Helen led grant seeking and administration at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, at Macalester College in St. Paul, and at St. Olaf College in Northfield. In March of this year Helen re-tired as director of institutional giving at Minnesota Public Radio. Warren has lived in St. Anthony Park with her partner, Joyce Halverson, since 2005.

Scott Carlson, Bugle managing editor.

4th in the Park from p. 1

parade is a condensed version that will include color guard, neighborhood units and children’s specially decorated bikes, trikes and wagons. But no one will be throwing out candy to parade spectators, one of several Covid protocols.

12 p.m. Bandstand program

Following the parade, a short program including music by Light of the Moon with special guests Dave Lee and Gordy Myers, and a performance by spoken word artist Desdamona will take place at the Langford Park bandstand.

Scavenger Hunt!

Pick up a copy of the list at Speedy Market the day of the 4th or it will be posted on the 4th in the Park’s website and Facebook. All participants who complete the scavenger hunt by 5 p.m. will have their names put in a hat for a gift certificate to their favorite neighborhood business!

For more information on the scavenger hunt, the committee’s Covid safety plan and map of the parade route, please go to 4thinthePark.org.

Typically, the 4th in the Park’s usual, annual day-long holiday celebration, which includes games and music, has attracted upwards of 5,000 people. But last year, organizers held a largely virtual festival, including a virtual parade.

Fourth in the Park organizers said they hope their annual event next year, its 75th anniversary, will be back to normal. “We hope to return to our usual, full scale parade and all-day park events,” Seeley said.

Scott Carlson is Bugle managing editor.

Winding Trail Books & Gifts

2 Year Anniversary — Saturday, July 17th

2230 Carter Ave.
Suite B
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 414-9431
www.windingtrailbooks.com

Winding Trail Books & Gifts

Author Signing:
3:30-4:30 Kat Kelle Yang & Jon Teschner
1:00-2:00 Craig Griffith & Allison Mamo
Wine Tasting, Used Book Sale & More
Please Join Us in our Celebration!

4th in the Park from p. 1

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors

OARS: Older Adult Resource Series

Technology for Older Adults and Those They Care For

Virtual live presentation by experts and vendors of products and services to facilitate healthy and safer living.

Medication administration, communication, and tools that enable a remote family member to be notified if/when a loved one needs assistance will be discussed with time for Q & A. Those registered receive contact info if/when a loved one needs assistance will be discussed with time for Q & A.

Call us to get the Zoom link!

Please Join Us in our Celebration!

www.sapaseniors.org | 651.642.9052

2140 Hoyt Avenue West
Can’t find your dream house? A find in fantastic Saint Anthony Park! 4 bedroom, 2 bath, hard wood floors, private and serene with a fire, wooded back lot being sold together. Embrace this home on its huge lot or live next door as you design and build your forever home. A rare opportunity not to be missed.

Options, options, options!

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In SAP, music concerts in the front yard

By Sarah CR Clark

As it turns out, Kim and Paul Durkee's front yard makes for a great outdoor concert venue. Beneath the sparkly lights strung between white oaks, music groups like GB Leighton, Swingin' on a Star and Jeff Ray and the Stakes have recently performed for a steady crowd of 130 neighbors (give or take 20) gathered on Grannahm Street.

"There is nothing better than live music, especially during Covid," Kim Durkee said. "I know it helped me survive it and so many others have said the same. It has been a breath of fresh air for so many and it is such a family affair; kids running around, people dancing and enjoying themselves."

The Durkees, who are great lovers of live music, have hosted 10 Front Lawn Concerts with four this past fall and six in the spring of this year. (They also host a music festival at their cabin each summer, this year's will include seven bands over two days.)

The local musicians set up their own sound systems and get tips from spectators that average about $1,000 a concert.

"Most say they have never gotten paid so much money," Kim Durkee said. "We have a very generous neighborhood."

Neighbor Amy Cram Helwich and her family have attended all 10 Front Lawn Concerts. Helwich said she especially appreciates the community connection the concerts offered during the pandemic-time of physical distancing.

Helwich said the audiences included "a small pack of girls, safely running up and down the blocked street, occasionally begging for cookies that Kim and other neighbors baked, enjoying the freedom of being kids. As parents, we were able to breathe for a moment, to release the tension of balancing school and work at home and enjoy visiting with friends while listening to the music."

Another neighbor told the story: "We said this was our last one, but we'll probably do some more in the fall," Paul Durkee hinted.

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.
Debra Root wins regional award

Debra Root, a nutrition services assistant at Falcon Heights Elementary School, has been named the Midwest regional employee of the year by the nonprofit School Nutrition Association.

The association, with 49 state affiliates, works to ensure children have access to healthy school meals and nutrition education.

Honorees are recognized for their influence in the quality of school meals through custom service, an interest in young people, creativity, participation in professional development among other attributes, according to a School Nutrition Association news release announcing the award.

Root, who has worked for Roseville Area Schools (which include Falcon Heights Elementary School) for 27 years, was honored in a virtual event on May 5.

“Debra’s dedication to her students and colleagues makes her an exemplary candidate for this special award,” Minnesota School Nutrition Association President Mary Jo Lange said in a news release. “Her longevity in the field shows her passion for school nutrition and for ensuring that no child in her community goes hungry.”

The state association news release notes Root’s role in taking care of students’ needs, particularly those with special dietary requirements; creating attractive meals for staff, increasing the number of grab-and-go meals; and emphasizing professional development.

Root earlier was chosen the Minnesota School Nutrition Association state employee of the year, making her eligible for the national honor.

Lauderdale utility work planned this summer

Minor street closures are expected throughout Lauderdale this summer and possibly into the fall as the city sealcoats streets and updates sewers.

The City Council approved a little over $50,000 on May 25 for Allied Blacktop, the low bidder on the sealcoating project. Sealcoating will be applied to most Lauderdale utility work planned this summer.

City sealcoats streets and updates throughout Lauderdale this summer likely starting in July.

The sewer lining project, awarding the approximately $209,000 contract to Visu-Sewer Inc. The sewer lining project is expected to be done in fall, with minor disturbances to traffic.

Root, who has worked for Roseville Area Schools (which include Falcon Heights Elementary School) for 27 years, was honored in a virtual event on May 5.

Root was expected to do the work. As a result, the city put the project out for bids that storms in Texas and elsewhere had temporarily driven up the cost edly higher low bid of $320,000 in April. The explanation, at the time, for that much higher low bid was that storms in Texas and elsewhere had temporarily driven up the cost of doing the work. As a result, the city put the project out for bids again.

Meanwhile, the council also approved a sanitary sewer lining project, awarding the approximate $209,000 contract to Visu-Sewer Inc. The sewer lining project is expected to be done in fall, with minor disturbances to traffic.

This was the second round of bidding on the sewer lining project after the city received an unexpectedly higher low bid of $320,000 in April. The explanation, at the time, for that much higher low bid was that storms in Texas and elsewhere had temporarily driven up the cost of doing the work. As a result, the city put the project out for bids again.

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This was the second round of bidding on the sewer lining project after the city received an unexpectedly higher low bid of $320,000 in April. The explanation, at the time, for that much higher low bid was that storms in Texas and elsewhere had temporarily driven up the cost of doing the work. As a result, the city put the project out for bids again.

Root, who has worked for Roseville Area Schools (which include Falcon Heights Elementary School) for 27 years, was honored in a virtual event on May 5.

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Como High concludes its most unusual school year

By Eric Erickson

Analysis

While the fourth quarter of the 2020-2021 school year at Como Park High School progressed with in-person learning and without any school-wide COVID-19 closures, it was tough to beat the heat.

Como High was equipped to handle the heat wave of early June—which saw temperatures soaring into the 90s—thanks to the school's remodeling and installation of new air handlers and chillers. But too many students across St. Paul suffered in buildings that lack air conditioning for classrooms at 76 degrees.

Fortunately, the Cougar Class of 2021 wrapped up its academic year without any school-wide COVID-19 closures, in-person learning and without end-of-year events for the word of 2020-2021—events for students at Como.

The abrupt ending was another in a series of “unprecedented”—the word of 2020-2021—events for St. Paul Public Schools.

The seniors celebrated in the sun on the school’s grassy baseball outfield. Classrooms at Como were transformed into the indoor all-night event.

In the end, however, when graduation was finished, joyful smiles were shared and captured in photos that will be treasured forever—pictures revealing a bit of normalcy to end a school year that was anything but normal.

Eric Erickson, who teaches social studies at Como Senior High School, is a regular freelance contributor to the Bugle.
For high school graduating classes, 2021 has been a strange and stressful school year. This year’s seniors endured a second year of disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were a continuation of “shelter in place,” social distancing, mask mandates and hybrids of in-person and virtual classes. Many students struggled to get through the monotony of the tough year. But by the fourth quarter of the school year, things began to look up. At Como Park High School things progressed to in-person learning, and, without any school-wide COVID closure. There were a senior barbecue and in-person graduation this year. Still, the year abruptly ended with classes shutting earlier in June than scheduled because of the extreme summer temperatures.

Through it all, graduates and their families have been creative. For that resiliency, the Bugle salutes the classes of 2021.

We are proud to announce the graduation of our daughter Amanda—Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Arts (Studio Art and Art History).

We are so proud of your hard work and wish you the best with opening your new gym.

We are so proud of you! Onto bigger and better things!

We are so proud of you! Congratulations Gemma! We’re so proud of you! On to bigger and better things! Love, Mom, Dad, & Sebastian (Olivia, Ludovica, Scamp, & Hudson)

We’re so proud of your academic achievements and most of all your caring, loving, humans. Congrats on your graduation! Love, Mom and Dad

Nora….you are the icing on our wonderful, dynamic family. We are so proud of you! Mom, Dad, Lily and Joe

Congratulations, Ruby! We are so proud of you and can’t wait for all the adventures that await you at Colorado College! Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Lucy! We’re so proud of you and can’t wait for all the adventures that await you at Colorado College! Love, Mom and Dad

We love you the best with opening your new gym.

You’re our daughter Amanda—Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Arts (Studio Art and Art History).

Love, Mum, Papa, Gracie & Samuel

Love you, Mom and Dad and the whole fam

Congratulations, Ruby! We are so proud of you and can’t wait for all the adventures that await you at Colorado College! Love, Mom and Dad

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Congratulations to Avalon’s 2021 Graduates!

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!
Raven is a former ship some new books to consider for during this hot month. Here are ques and parades.

July is the month for pools, barbe-

tion executive director.

Extended by popular demand:

in a small Zoom ceremony with board members, Murray Middle School science teacher Tim Chase and Schumacher, former founda-
tion executive director.

Repeat on George Floyd series

Farmer, will lead

in zoology and botany. After finish-
ning her doctoral degree, she built a

diction. It is a story of a family and

virtual workshop series on “So you

You tax day: 07/06/21). This book for ages

For further details on registering

vary.

The book tells the story of Spen-
cer: madam, maven, mother.

The very true story of Linda May Spen-
cadence and discussion. Enroll-
ment is limited. To register for this
online series, call the library at 651-724-6001.

Good acre class

to have what she thinks will

dered to have what she thinks will

8 to 10 a.m. on July 24.

Good Acre class

The Good Acre, a nonprofit food

by Eliza-

ut and what it will cost her. The story
tells of a princess in exile who has a

by Max Lang (Publish date: 07/06/20).

Fox & 1: An Uncommon Friend-

ship by Catherine Raven (Publish date:

July 23, 2021). This is a children’s

You tax day: 07/06/21). Raven is a former
National Park Service ranger with

d a doctorate in biology and degrees in

ology and botany. After finish-
ing her doctoral degree, she built a

tiny cottage on an isolated piece of

Montana land. While living there

she taught remotely and led field

classes in Yellowstone National

Park. This book is her memoir about

her relationship with a wild, red

fox who began to visit her every

afternoon. Raven developed a

friendship with the fox and looked

forward to the daily interaction.

“Fallen Woman” by Allison Mann

with Linda May Spencer and Emily

Jean (Publish date: 07/20/21). Mann is the award-winning true crime co-author of “The Girls are

Gone” and “Fallen Woman,” which is the true story of Linda May Spen-
cer: madam, maven, mother.

The book tells the story of Spen-
cer’s days in the world of prostitu-
tion hidden in storefront saunas

and health clubs in St. Paul. This is

her struggle with the city and her

struggle with her persistent drug ad-
diction. It is a story of a family and

finding the strength to go on when you

have fallen as far as you can go.

“Six Crimson Cranes” by Eliza-

beth Lim (Publish date: 07/06/20).

This is a young adult fiction novel for

kids ages 12 and older. Inspired by

East Asian folklore, the book tells the

story of a princess in exile who has a

secret of forbidden magic that runs

through her veins. The story tells of

how she chooses her path along the

way and what it will cost her.

“Summer and July” by Paul Mossi-
er (Publish date: 07/06/20).

This book, for kids ages 10 to 13, tells the story of a 12-year-old pre-
paring to have what she thinks will

be the worst summer ever. With

her mom working and her dad in

Europe, the summer isn’t looking
good until she meets a surfer girl.

This is a love story that touches on var-
ious issues including divorce, family,
coming of age and sex and gender.

“Grumpy Monkey Freshly Squeezed” by Suzanne Lang, illus-
trated by Max Lang (Publish date:

06/29/20). This is a children’s

graphic novel geared to children ages 5 to 8.

The Grumpy Monkey series has a
brand new look but in in a dif-
ferent format. Normally written as

a picture book, the new book is in

graphic novel form. The graphic

novel is about how to handle life’s
ups and downs.

“The Very Hungry Caterpillar’s Forest Hide & Seek: A Finger Trail Lift-the-Flap Book” written and illustrated by Eric Carle (Publish date: 07/06/21). This book for ages up to 3 gives little children an introduction to woodland friends as The Very Hungry Caterpillar moves through the forest. Play hide and seek with this lift-the-flap book.

See Castillo and Rick Galan are owners of Winding Trail Books, an independent book and gift store in St. Anthony Park near historic Mil-
ton Square. For information on these and other books at Winding Trail Books go to http://windingtrailbooks.com.
The Fourth R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—Restart

By Michala Zien

In St. Anthony Park, lots of people support recycling, so it would seem that the plethora of recycling businesses in the neighborhood would be considered a good thing. But that isn’t always the case. Living and co-existing together as residents and recyclers is not always easy. So, is there a way to make this partnership work?

Amongst these businesses we have in the Bugle territory are WestRock, a paper recycling company in south St. Anthony Park, Tech Dump on Vandalia Street is great option for electronics recycling, while Metro Metals on Doswell Avenue west of Highway 280 fills a similar role as a metal recycler.

Our neighborhood is also home to Rohn Industries on Hersey Street, a paper-recycling consolodate, and Rolander, a concrete recycler, on Capp Road. And Ramsey County waste sites take our yard waste and kitchen scraps. All of this makes St. Anthony Park what the Recycling Association of Minnesota calls home.

So what’s the problem?

While recyclers provide a beneficial service, several factors make it seem like a necessary evil both for companies and neighbors.

Just last year, for example, a large pile of scrap metal at Met- ro Metals sparked a fire, blew smoke that could be seen from as far as downtown Minneapolis.

Truck traffic is another point of contention. The reality is that recyclables need to be transported and the most efficient way to do that is by truck, often traveling over concrete. With that comes increased traffic, more runoff into local waterways and more noise.

On top of that, residents complain that WestRock’s operations cause foul smells, and they are concerned about air quality. They also note that trash from the site can sometimes be seen blowing through the streets.

Recycling companies themselves also feel the negative aspects of being so close to residential neighborhoods. For recyclers, it can feel thankless to provide a necessary environmental service while hearing complaints about things that are not always in their control.

Even truck drivers have a hard time doing their job so close to a residential area. They have schedules to meet and (like most of us when we’re driving) may not think about people sleeping or working or conversing in the homes they drive past. The drivers didn’t ask the truck to be loud, they don’t think about the emissions. They have jobs to do.

What’s the solution?

If we get to know one another—residents and recyclers alike—we may be able to live in greater harmony. When community members honor the long-term benefits of recycling, and recyclers show they’re listening to their neighbors, we can restart those relationships.

First, it’s important to recognize the positive impacts of the service that recycling companies provide. In a general sense, we need them in order to reach our goals. Currently, we have a 50 percent overall recycling rate in Minnesota. And, Ramsey County hopes to boost that participation rate to 75 percent by 2030. Without our neighboring recycling facilities, seeking to reach that goal would be much harder.

So, each recycling business has a lot to offer. Tech Dump, for example, accepts computers, printers, TVs, household appliances and gaming and entertainment systems as well as other electronics.

Michael Russelle, a member of the St. Anthony Park Community Council, pointed out the benefits of having a place nearby to bring these hazardous items and the statistics of the company seem to agree.

According to Tech Dump CEO Amanda LaGrange, her company has processed 35 million pounds of tech waste since it opened in 2011. The positive environmental impacts include less need for mining, fewer toxins in the waste stream and obviously less tech scrap products in landfills.

Meanwhile, Tech Dump has social benefits, too. For example, Tech Dump employs previously incarcerated people who struggle to find jobs. And the company recently partnered with Ramsey County to provide necessary tech items to nearly 900 county residents who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and business shutdowns.

WestRock also plays a big role in bettering the environment. The company receives 65 percent of all recycled paper in Minnesota, taking in 1,100 to 1,200 tons of paper every day. It turns this into coated recycled board for items such as Kleenex boxes and cereal and pasta packaging, as well as corrugated cardboard, all of which is 100 percent recycled and recyclable.

While we can do better at appreciating our recyclers and the work they do, recyclers can also do better at appreciating residents, whose recycled products make it possible for them to be in business. They can try to be good neighbors.

Tech Dump said it is open to receiving complaints but, so far, has not received any, noting its business doesn’t create external noise or any negative environmental impacts. CEO LaGrange said she appreciates her company’s location near public transportation and a variety of businesses and people.

At WestRock, general manager
LIVES LIVED

This month we remember a 96-year-old native of St. Antho-
ym pound of tea with the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, at Lambeth Palace in the U.K.

Clare Allyn

Clare Jane Campbell "Clare" Allyn, 78, formerly of St. Anthony Park and University Grove, died May 21, 2021, her life shortened by a 13-year battle with dementia.

Clare was born in Denver, Colo., on Jan. 15, 1943, to Mary Newton Campbell and Lawrence C. Camp-
bell. Her mother sadly lost her life following childbirth. Clare was raised by her beloved aunt Lou-
ise "Mom" Baker for most of her childhood in Keenesburg, Colo., and attended high school in Den-
ver, Kansas City and Aztec, N.M.

Clare moved to Minnesota in 1961 to attend the University of Minnesota. She went on to teach middle school English and special education in the Roseville School District for her entire career.

Since 2008, Clare lived under the loving attention of elder care specialist Lee Roark, surrounded by loyal caregivers who protected her health and enriched her quality of life. That level of care continued when she moved to Caroadelet in 2014.

In addition to daughters Julie and Rachel Allyn and one grand-
son, Clare is survived by her former husband, Richard Allyn. A grave-
side service at Lakewood Cemetery will be announced for this sum-
er. Memorials in Clare’s memory would be welcome to Planned Par-
thood of Minnesota and the Alz-
Kathryn Felion

Kathryn Marie “Kitty” Knoblauch Felion, 96, died May 1, 2021, at her home in Erie, Pa. She was born in St. Paul, the daughter of Marcellus Knoblauch and Justine Knoblauch of St. Anthony Park.

The middle child of three chil-
dren and the only girl, Kitty dis-
played a unique talent at a young age of being brought folks together with her childhood girls club, “The Sil-
ver Spider Secret Society” and for entertaining folks with her role as the Monkey in a Minneapolis ra-
dio production of “Little Ol’ Annie.”

Kitty followed her mother’s path by dedicating her life to civic engagement, serving on the boards of directors for many arts organi-
izations, most notably the Board of Directors of ‘The Barber National Institute from 1970 until her retire-
ment in 2020.

Kitty attended her mother’s alma mater, College of St. Tere-
sa, in Winona, where she served as senior class president of 1947. She remained active in the alumni associa-
tion and planned class re-
unions for her college as well as her high school, Murray class of 1943.

After graduating from St. Tere-
sa, Kitty moved to Toledo, Ohio, where she worked as a social work-
er for Catholic Charities. She later returned to Minnesota to teach ju-
ior high school in Stillwater, where she was selected by the American Service Committee to represent Minnesota in an exchange teacher program between the U.K. and the United States in 1933-1934.

During her stay in the U.K., Kitty had the honor of being one of five invited teachers to have tea with the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, at Lambeth Palace. The Queen Mother told her she had a lovely hat and Kitty kept that hat for decades. After her death, she still had the dress she wore then.

After her return from Europe, Kitty married Thomas R. Felion, a decorated WWII veteran, at Cor-
pus Christi Church on June 11, 1955, in St. Anthony Park.

They lived briefly in Duluth before moving to Erie, Pa., for the first time. Thomas became assistant administrator of St. Vincent Hospital, where Kitty served as a lifelong member of the Saint Vincent’s Women’s Auxiliary.

Tom and Kitty moved to Marsh-
field, Wis., where they started the hospital auxiliary at Saint Joseph’s Hospital. After productive years in Marshfield and then a move to Bat-
tle Creek, Mich., where Tom was involved in the St. Luke’s building project, the couple moved back to Erie in 1969 where Tom went to work at St. Vincent’s Hospital and they spent the rest of their lives in Erie.

While back in Erie, Kitty was active in, among other things, the Board of the Erie Playhouse, the Board of Directors of the Erie Civic Ballet and the Erie Arts Council.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Kitty was preceded in death by her daughter Margar-
et, brother Harry Knoblauch and his wife Josephine, her son-in-law Lt. Co. William Knoblauch and his wife Priscilla, Joseph Knoblauch and his wife Margery, and son-in-law Lt. Co. William Bradford Davis. Kitty’s survivors include seven other children: Mary Fran Felion (Michael Domach), Michelle Felion-Davis, Matthew Felion (Catherine Smith), Madeline Felion, Monica Felion, Martin Felion (Jackie), Marc Felion (Fausto Fernandez).

Rose Grégoire celebration Aug. 8

A celebration of life for Roseanne Grégoire will be held from 4 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 8, at the Waban Picnic Area, Shelter C, in Minnehaha Re-

Community Worship Directory

During the current health crisis, services and events may be canceled. Please check websites for updates.

CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS
2090 Hiawatha Avenue, 651-721-7444
www.centennialumc.org
Worshiping online
Find us on Facebook: Centennial SAP in this together.

MISSION ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1040 Como Avenue, St. Paul, 651-773-6325
info@missionopc.org, www.missionopc.org
Dr. Michael Seufert
Worship Services: 10:30 a.m. 10:00 p.m.

ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
2233 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371
Web, Facebook, & Twitter: saplc
Handicap-accessible
Pastor Jill Rode and Pastor Daniel Roen
Fusion Worship: OnLine or InPerson (Visit Church At Home at saplc for all links)

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
Reconciling in Christ Congregation, 1463 Victory St. N., St. Paul, 651-499-0350
For online worship & summer outdoor services visit www.sttimothylutheran.org

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
7304 Walnut Street (at Ione), Lauderdale, 651-644-5440
www.peacelausdalke.com
Worshiping online. Recording available on website. Reconciling in Christ Congregation. All are welcome. Come as you are.

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2329 Emerson Street (at Chanhassen), 651-466-7773, www.sapcc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and person and via Zoom Meeting (ID 455-247-398)
Christian Tradition • Progressive Faith • All Are Welcome.

ST. CEILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
3357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4902
info@stceiliasmn.com, www.stceiliasmn.org
Handicap-accessible
Pastor John M. Hofstede
Saturday 9:30 a.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. and Weekend Mass online (on our website)

ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3120 Carter Avenue (at Chanhassen), 651-645-3008
www.stmatthewsmn.org, Facebook: stmatthewsmn
The Rev Blair A. Popon, Rector
Sunday worship 10:30 a.m in College Park
We also offer online worship and study groups

$250 OFF
THE PURCHASE OF ANY BURIAL LOT OR CREMATION Niche
Expires July 31, 2021
ROSELAWN CEMETERY
303 W. Larpenteur Ave., Roseville, MN 55113
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651-489-1720 • www.roselawncemetery.com

Sharon Kaster
Sharon Kaster, 81, died June 8, 2021. She grew up in St. Anthony Park and graduated from Murray High School in Min-
nesota. She was confirmed at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

She worked as a medical techni-
cian at the University of Minne-
sota, where she met her husband, Robert Kaster. They were longtime residents of Plymouth, where they raised their four children.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years and her mother, Irene Gammill. She is survived by her children, Julianne Kaster, Anthony (Amy Miller) Kaster and Christopher (Deborah) Kaster and seven grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 12 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Medi-

Ernest L’heureux-Thomaz
By Judy Woodward

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

Q. Am I able to use my Saint Paul Public Library card for the Ramsey County Library? I’d like to be able to login and reserve things online. Is this available?

A. All Twin Cities library systems have agreed to honor each other’s library cards. So, yes you can use your Saint Paul Public Library card with the Ramsey County Library in Roseville and other locations.

Tech Dump recycles a wide range of electronics. Photo by Michala Zien.

Q. How do I find books by author rather than title?

A. If you’re of an age to remember the old card catalogs, which were sometimes divided into different physical sections for authors, titles, and subjects, you’ll be happy to learn that finding materials nowadays in our online catalogs is much easier than in days past.

Transition Town from p. 11

Mike Gunderson is trying to better understand concerns he has heard from residents. The most common question is about the smell from the recycling plant.

Gunderson acknowledges the plant yields an unpleasant smell but adds that the business operates under a permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the smell doesn’t adversely affect air quality. WestRock also hopes to minimize the plant’s smell by using a cooling tower.

The company and residents have demonstrated they value open lines of communication. Before the pandemic, WestRock provided tours of the plant and many residents appreciated the opportunity to see the operations. The company is eager to offer these again once it is safe post-pandemic.

Can art help?

Erik Pearson, an artist who lives near WestRock, said that after looking at the plant’s blank wall on the Vandalia Street side for years, he became increasingly curious about the daily operations that go on behind it. As an artist, Pearson saw an opportunity to bring that to the outside.

After receiving a grant from the Knight Art Challenge to pursue this project, Pearson got matched to the outside. He saw an opportunity to bring that to the outside. He saw an opportunity to the Arts of the Vandalia Street just south of University Avenue, inspired by the history and recycling processes of the plant.

Appreciating WestRock’s efforts to support this project, Pearson believes the company understands the importance of being more connected to the community, and he hopes that his artwork illustrates that.

What’s next?

Do you have ideas for restarting the recycling effort in Minnesota? What’s next?

Please see the transitionasap.org for July meeting details. You just might be the person to make this world a wee bit better.

Michala Zien was an intern with TT-ASAP in spring 2021 and just graduated from the U of M in May. Previously she has been a guide at the Bell Museum, done research at the Bell Museum, done research at the Bell Museum.

We're happy to announce our new class: Walk With Ease

Create a routine to stay active and healthy! You’ll learn from a certified instructor a safe and enjoyable way to make walking part of your everyday life while helping you increase balance, strength and walking pace.

Group will meet for nine weeks at Como Lake on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 am starting on August 4.

Ask me about my 3-page tip sheet for winning in multiple offer situations and Keller Mortgage’s zero lender fees with $1,000 credit at closing.

Ready to sell?

Ask me for a detailed market analysis of your home and a net proceeds spreadsheet. Most of my seller clients start preparations 3-6 months in advance. Call or email to discuss your next move!
Focus Smith is a graffiti artist who identifies as Lakota and Navajo. He was a featured muralist at Chroma Zone's Bang It! Mural Meet in May 2021.

Although he is from the Black Hills, through his art, Focus will remain a part of the south St. Anthony Park neighborhood for years to come.

The Bugle talked to Focus while he was "painting a medicinal mural," commissioned on a private garage near Twin Cities German Immersion School in the Como Park neighborhood.

Q: What messages do you hope the art you're making today will convey?

A: The way this world is now, well... there's another world that existed. It was all very simple and tied in with the whole idea of honoring and respecting the land. The land is where we got our first teaching from—and it showed us how to learn, grow and share with one another.

A: People will keep talking about against the land. People don't have anything to fight for. People support that.

Q: You call Rapid City 'home'?

A: I would call "home" the Black Hills. But for the sake of everyone else and mental connectivty, I would say it's OK to use the word "Rapid." Again with the idea that you get into those things that existed. It was all very simple well... there was another world that existed.

Q: Tell me a bit more about the work you're currently doing in the Twin Cities.

A: Originally, I came for Chroma Zone's Bang It! Mural fest. The founder of Bang It! and Spray-finger (Ed's note: Sprayfinger is a local graffiti arts educational program), Peyton Scott Russell, asked me to paint a mural and teach some classes at Sprayfinger. I decided that while I was here, during the daytime, I could go out and paint. Luckily I've had a lot of really cool people support that.

I went to George Floyd Square and I was arrested as one of the land defenders who shut down the highway whenever President Trump tried to come up to the Black Hills. We shut down the highway because his coming was a grievous act of violence against us—coming to the land that was given to us and then taken away.

In May 2021, 24 indigenous kids went missing from the county I come from. You don't hear anything about that on the news. And recently another native man was shut and killed by the Rapid City Police Department. Two days after that, on a video, one of our affiliates witnessed a sheriff slapping a native woman on the mouth because she wouldn't shut up. That's where we live. That's why it's called "Racist City" or "The Deep North." This stuff happens and no one does anything. There's a deep ache there. You can feel it.

That's why I appreciate when anyone stands next to me. I've watched countless allies get tired because it takes a lot of stamina. I've watched people crumble, not because they're weak, but because they try to focus... to focus... follow him on Instagram @Fecicurrent or learn more about his community building work at www.thriveuniltd.org.

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle. Know of someone who would be an interesting subject for Voices? Please email sarah.cr.clark@gmail.com or Bugle editor Scott Carlson at editor@parkbugle.org.

LSS Companion Services are in need of Volunteers 55+

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Lives Lived from p. 12

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jeanne Thomas and Patricia Yaw. He is survived by his parents, Geri and Tim Thomas, siblings, Mike, Dan, Chris (Jenny), Dave (Sandra) and Jenny (Kevin) Kurtzman, grandpa Dave Thomas, and fiancé, Nicole Williams. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, July 26, at 11 a.m., at St. Anthony Park Catholic Church, with a visitation one hour prior. A private interment will follow. Memorials preferred to American Cancer Society, 2040 Johnson St. N, Minneapolis, MN 55404, or American Heart Association, 7272 Hanging Moss Road, PO Box 10007, Atlanta, GA 30348.

City Files from p. 2

that faster traffic will, among other things, increase noise on and off ramps. Their resolution was approved unanimously by the District 12 Board of Directors at its May meeting. At the Bugle’s press deadline, representatives from MnDOT were expected to attend the Transportation Committee’s June 29 meeting to answer questions about the speed limit proposal and listen to resident concerns. Neighborhoods surrounding communities and members of other interest groups were expected to attend as well.

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He was a trained concert pianist and accomplished mechanical engineer and business owner. He was a trained concert pianist and accomplished mechanical engineer and business owner. He was a trained concert pianist and accomplished mechanical engineer and business owner. He was a trained concert pianist and accomplished mechanical engineer and business owner.


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City Files from p. 2

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By Eric Erickson
Sports news and analysis

For the Bugle community, we offer a snapshot of the spring sports season and what eight programs generated at Como Park Senior High.

Track & Field
The Cougar boys team produced a solid third place finish in the St. Paul City Conference. Sophomore Charlie Power-Theisen emerged as a dominant force in distance events, becoming the city conference champion in both the 1,600 and 3,200 meters.

Senior Shukur Bati took second place in the city for the 3,200 meters. Junior Rais Jaffer earned second place in the 300-meter hurdles and third place in the 110-meter hurdles. The relay team of Owen Finlay, Mohamed Aboushanab, Liam Schwie and Dary Nelson earned bronze medals for their third-place finish in the 4 x 400 meters.

The Cougar girls team maintained their consistent third-place standing in the city with contributions from senior leadership and talented newcomers. Freshman Ellery Tenisson was the city champion in the triple jump while also taking third place in the 100-meter hurdles.

Senior Abang Cham excelled in field events finishing second place in the shot put and third place in the discus.

Como girls relay teams were reliable point producers, with three combinations collecting third-place bronze medals: Addie Anderson-Loupe, Laila Diaz, Sophie Warner and Mia Trifillette-Simons in the 4 x 800 meters; Ruby Kosiak, Audrey Power-Theisen, Taylor Fairbanks and Amorie Northington in the 4 x 200 meters; Ronnie Porter, Alice Wagner-Hemstad, Greta Seppanen and Tenisson in the 4 x 100 meters.

The season concluded in the heat of the Section 4AA Meet. Remarkably, the Cougars combined for 28 personal records and four relay-season records.

Softball
Head coach John Fischbach passed the 400-win career mark during the final season of his three-decades leading the Cougars. The 2021 team was pleased to be the group helping Fischbach earn that milestone victory, a highlight moment during a season in which Como finished with an overall record of 9-8.

In the St. Paul City Conference, Como placed third with a 4-2 record. The team was led by seniors Morgan Nichols, Bella Proper and Emille Hanson, along with junior Jada James, who served as the team’s everyday pitcher.

Badminton
Although fewer students participated in badminton this season, the results improved as the season progressed. In team competition, Como had a 4-8 record in the city, 7-10 overall.

Como senior Nag Poe reached the state semifinals of the individual singles tournament, duplicating the path she took in 2019 as a sophomore. This time after losing in the semifinals, Nag Poe bounced back to win the third-place match in straight sets and bring home the bronze medal.

Girls Golf
Como finished in fourth place out of the seven schools in the city conference. The girls enjoyed playing a full season outdoors in the spring sunshine (and a few cold, cloudy days).

Freshman Michelle Wang was the medalist (best score) in four dual meets and earned All-Conference honors, placing third overall in the St. Paul City Meet. Vang followed that up by advancing to the final round of the section tournament.

Boys Golf
Como finished in fifth place during the regular season and improved its scores in the conference tournament to take the fourth place. Murray-Perrymore won the conference crown along with junior Otto Ganser both hit above .400 and earned honorable mention.

Adapted Bowling
The format was different this season with all meets being virtual. Teams went to local sites to bowl and then reported their results. A composite scoring average is calculated and adjusted for the state competition.

The end result was a positive experience with teammates, and exciting results for Como’s bowlers. Freshman Nekia Klaibour finished in third place for the girls tournament. Sophomore Connor Tester and senior LaDonn Dryer teamed up to take third place in the doubles competition.

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