Cleveland Avenue Phase 2 begins

By Anne Holzman

The Ramsey County project reconstructing Cleveland Avenue has entered Phase 2, the last half of a planned two-year project that adds bike lanes, sidewalks and multi-use paths along Cleveland between Larpenteur and Como avenues.

The $9.3 million project will upgrade stormwater and sanitary services, extend the east side sidewalk north to Larpenteur, add bike lanes and reconfigure parking.

Street lighting will be updated along the entire stretch. The bus stop on eastbound Larpenteur at Cleveland will be moved from the east side to the west side of Cleveland to improve accessibility.

Phase 1 stretched from Como Avenue to Buford Street. Major construction was completed last summer, but it still needs sidewalk paving, boulevard restoration and the final layer of street paving, according to Nick Fischer, county project leader.

He said the good news is that unlike last year, they are not seeing supply chain issues slowing down the work. Nevertheless, Fischer said, “This is a good sized to-do list and will take until mid-summer.”

Phase 2, begun in April, will re-peat the Phase 1 sequence of utility work, road reconstruction and finishing. This phase has also involved Metro Transit in designing the new bus stop at Cleveland and Larpenteur.

Traffic detours

Through traffic is being detoured west onto Highway 280 between Larpenteur and Como for the duration of the project. Local traffic will have limited access along Cleveland in the coming months, depending on construction needs.

Fischer said the county has been working with the Bell Museum, which has a delivery entrance on Cleveland Avenue. The museum’s main parking lot entrance on Larpenteur will not be affected.

The gym and pool on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus will be accessible for the usual summer programming. Fischer said, but the parking and drop-off area will at times be devoted to one driveway instead of the usual two.

University of Minnesota athletic facilities manager Eric Loonis said they’ll run a full schedule of camps and events on the St. Paul campus but families should plan for traffic disruptions.

“The university will coordinate with the county and their contractor and send out information to participants as the work progresses,” Loonis said.

The university’s Campus Circulator buses are being detoured, with stops closed at the St. Paul Student Center and nearby Lo- netta Hanson, assistant director at Parking and Transportation Services, said, “The bus will stop eastbound on Buford and Eckles by Coffee Hall. Signs are posted at alternative stop locations.”

Metro Transit bus route 87 will have temporary stops and detoured routes based on Cleveland closures, using Gortner Avenue as the north-south alternative. Riders can stay on top of bus route changes by checking the Alerts tab on the Metro Transit website.

On the Ramsey County website, anyone concerned about the project can subscribe to email updates. There is a page for Cleveland Avenue Reconstruction that lists updated traffic impacts, and concerned residents can call to report problems. Check it out at: ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/ current-roadwork/2022-road-construction-maintenance/cleveland-avenue-reconstruction

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities freelance writer who covers governmental news for the Bugle.

Brasel shooting death rocks SAP community

The tranquility of St. Anthony Park was torn asunder May 6 when Michael Scott Brasel died of gunshot wounds as he interrupted car thieves in front of his home.

The death of Brasel, 44, was widely felt throughout the community. He leaves behind a wife and two children along with countless people who knew him as a friend, youth hockey coach, resident carpenter of historic buildings and freelance artist of many genres.

In a statement, the St. Anthony Park Community Council expressed its condolences to the Brasel family.

“Thankfully, gun violence is a rare occurrence in St. Anthony Park,” the District Council said. “It is, however, a deeply felt traged-edy wherever it occurs. Mr. Brasel had deep, long-time roots in St. Anthony Park and the grief at his death is shared widely.”

Brasel’s obituary said Michael “touched countless lives by being the guy that ‘always showed up and did what he said he would do.’”

 Called by many names, including “Sweet Prince” by his mother; Michael Brasel was known for “the biggest smile, quirkiest sense of hu- mor, the best laugh, and a zest for life that changed every one who knew him.”

The obituary notice continues: “Michael was raised in St. An- thony Park, attending St. Anthony Park Elementary School, Murray Junior High School and Cretin Derham Hall High School, where he first met Hilary (later to be his wife) in freshman year. He studied at Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where he obtained a degree in illustration.

After Hilary and Michael mar- ried, they settled a few blocks from his childhood home in his beloved St. Anthony Park to raise their own family. He job as a residential carpenter on historic and unique homes in St. Paul and Minneapolis, with Gollikar Construction, let his... “His greatest gift was his ability to make people laugh whenever they needed a pick-me-up. He approached each day with a sense of adventure and a zest for life that inspired everyone around him. He was always there for his friends and family, offering a helping hand or a warm embrace.”

A flower memorial was built along the sidewalk at the Michael Brasel house. Photo by Lou Michaels.
St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 10
Community Council
Midway Parkway Gardens
Seeking Volunteers
Please join District 10 this summer for planting, weeding and community building. All are welcome! Here are dates and locations:
Arona and Midway Parkway • Spring plant and weed: 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 3 • Group weeds: Second Wednesday 7 p.m. June 14 and July 12 • Group weeds: Fourth Saturday 10 a.m. at June 24 and July 22 • Questions: Contact Jennifer Victor-Larsen at jennifer@larsentag.com
Hamline and Midway Parkway • Group weeds: Second Wednesday at 5 p.m. June 14 and July 12 • Group weeds: Fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. June 28 and July 26 • Questions? Contact Molly O'Rourke at mollyfo.rourke@outlook.com
Como LGBTQ+ pride event
The Como Community Council will host the annual Como Homo Pride event at the Como Pavilion Lakeside. While the Council is more than happy to help organize the event, it is always looking for LGBTQ+ neighbors who want to plan events, pages, community building activities and food.
Contact organizer@district10comomopark.org if you’re interested. Watch for updates at district10comomopark.org/ComoHomo.

Como Park Annual Ice Cream Social - July 14, 5:30-8 p.m.
Every year, the District 10 Neighborhood Relations Committee plans its ice cream social, typically featuring free ice cream, live music, meet-and-greets with neighborhood organizations and activities for children and families. The event is held at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Because parking is limited, organizers encourage community members to walk, bike, roll, car, pool or take public transportation. This event is still being planned. If you’re interested in helping plan or volunteering at this event you can fill out a volunteer interest form, come to our Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings (first Tuesdays), or reach out to organizer@district10comomopark.org.
Learn more at district10comomopark.org/IceCreamSocial.

District 10 upcoming meetings schedule
D10 board and committee meetings are open to the public and include time for community members to bring topics for discussion.
• Environment Committee: 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 7
• Neighborhood Relations Committee: 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, June 7
• Land Use Committee: 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 20
• D10 Board Council: 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 20
District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Place). For meeting details go to the District 10 website at district10comomopark.org.

Kasota Ponds cleanup
The St. Anthony Park Community Council is looking to connect with neighbors in apartment communities throughout all of St. Anthony Park. With the aid of a Neighborhood Partnership grant, the Equity Committee will be hosting community meals to help neighbors get to know one another and connect the council and other local organizations to local renters.
So far, the Equity Committee is planning meals at Seacl Hi-Rise, Union Flats and 808 Berry, and would like to plan a few more.
If you live in an apartment in St. Anthony Park and would like us to host a meal in your community, please email jessica@sapcc.org or call 651-649-5992.
For times, locations, and how you can volunteer, please visit sapcc.org/communitymeals.

District 12
Community Council
Apartment Community Meals
The District 12 Equity Committee is looking to connect with neighbors in apartment communities throughout all of St. Anthony Park. With the aid of a Neighborhood Partnership grant, the Equity Committee will be hosting community meals to help neighbors get to know one another and connect the council and other local organizations to local renters.
So far, the Equity Committee is planning meals at Seacl Hi-Rise, Union Flats and 808 Berry, and would like to plan a few more.
If you live in an apartment in St. Anthony Park and would like us to host a meal in your community, please email jessica@sapcc.org or call 651-649-5992.
For times, locations, and how you can volunteer, please visit sapcc.org/communitymeals.

District 12 upcoming meetings
St. Anthony Park Community Council committees discuss a variety of issues at their monthly meetings. Visit the council’s website at sapcc.org to learn more.
All meetings are hosted via Zoom. Meeting times are subject to change.
For ongoing updates and meeting changes, follow along on Facebook/St.AnthonyParkCommunityCouncil.
• Land Use Committee: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 1 and 7 p.m. Thursday, July 6
• District 12 Board: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 8
• Environment Committee: 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 28
• Equity Committee: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 29
• Transportation Committee: 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 27
Submitted by Jessica Willman, District 12 community organizer.
Reflections on a tragedy close to home

By Helen Warren

I live 3½ blocks away from where Michael Brasel was shot and killed on Saturday morning in front of his St. Anthony Park home on Chilcombe Avenue.

On the morning after he died, I turned my sheepdog Malone toward Chilcombe, a route we seldom take on our morning walks. It wasn’t curiosity that drew me. I needed to go there because the assault altered my equilibrium, my sense of my surroundings.

I headed toward Chilcombe to feel the ache, to walk toward the hard truth that I could die as Michael did, in front of my home, approaching a stranger.

The place where it happened looked entirely normal. The crime tape was gone. A few flowers and candles graced the sidewalk. If I didn’t know better, I might have guessed that neighbor children had held a secret meeting there.

After a moment or two, Malone tagged on the leash again and I turned him toward home. We walked a few blocks. I turned back to look toward Chilcombe and saw my neighbor Judy walking toward me. I remembered that Judy was friends with Nancy Brasel, who lived across the street from us on Commonwealth. It was hard for Judy when Nancy died in 2010. Nancy was Michael’s mom.

Like me, Judy had taken herself to Chilcombe Avenue to get her bearings after the devastating news. Judy said, “Beth told me about Michael last night, but I couldn’t quite believe her.”

“Nancy was my best friend,” she continued. “We walked everywhere together. Michael grew up playing with my kids.”

Judy’s words meant Michael was no longer a stranger to me. As a child, he ran down the sidewalks I walk every day. He likely played in the quiet street under silent trees budding new leaves.

When Michael was grown, he chose to raise his children 3½ blocks away. Judy and I walked back to Commonwealth together. When we reached my driveway, I looked into Judy’s face.

“It’s a hard truth to hold all by yourself, Judy. Let’s hold it together.”

She nodded but didn’t say anything. Then she made her way up the sidewalk to her home. We won’t want the story to end by yourself, Judy. Let’s hold it together.

Let’s listen to the stories and help each other grieve.

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

A poem remembering Michael Brasel

At the candlelight vigil, Sarah C.R. Clark, who was a neighbor of the Brasel family for 13 years, shared her poem “Song of our neighbors.” She dedicated the poem to “all of my neighbors” but especially the Brasel’s wife Hilary and sons Oliver and Miles.

“Song of our neighbors”

thwack! thwack!
the song of our neighbors rang out
for at least two winters before I recognized
thwack! thwack!
the sound of hockey sticks slapping icy packs into
thwack! thwack!
backyard goals, glowing under strings of lights
perussion warming the winter
thwack! thwack!
down the block in summer
dinner drifting through screen-windows
during practice serenades the street,
we step from our kitchens, outside
to be nearer the crickets
and we feel it, the
breath-holding we
rang out
the song of our neighbors
thwack! thwack!
the song of our neighbors singing out
here, we are more than
house numbers
street names yard signs
blaring
we are our kids on scooters
thwack! thwack!
we are the dogwoods,
black codgers
we are those walks to
Speedy Market
we are cringler, wild coyotes
thwack! thwack!
we are Cooper’s hawks
crying, and
even the ridiculous turkeys
tonight we are a 2009
orange dodge challenger
without a driver
…
and we feel it, the
breath-holding we
do when one of us is missing
that rending silence
defeaning
…
in our longings for harmony
for neighbors
for a heartbeat
thwack! thwack!
thwack!
do you hear it?
echoing off your house
and mine,
in here?

thwack! thwack!
singing out
we belong to each other
we belong to each other

Candlelight vigil for Michael Brasel

On Friday, May 12, family and friends of Michael Brasel gathered for a candlelight vigil at Langford Park to remember Michael, who was shot to death on the morning of May 6 in his front yard trying to thwart a break-in of his wife’s car.

Speaking at the vigil were Hilary Brasel, widow of Michael, (left) and Gretchen Hopeman, co-chairperson of the vigil.

Youth hockey players came to the vigil to remember their coach.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter (above) spoke at the Michael Brasel candlelight vigil on Friday evening, May 12 at Langford Park.

Photos by Lou Michaels.
**Park Bugle**

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**From the Desk of the Editor**

By Scott Carlson

Haunted by bad choices

When I returned home this past weekend from a church retreat in Wisconsin, I was feeling relaxed and refreshed. But after I unpacked and got caught up on our local news, I learned of a tragic event that occurred close to home, leaving me feeling sick in the pit of my stomach. St. Anthony Park resident Michael Brassel, 44, was shot dead in his front yard Saturday morning by an assailant attempting to break into his wife’s car.

At a time when escalating gun violence is gripping our nation, the Brassel murder is a sobering reminder that none of us is immune from such crime and no place is absolutely safe.

St. Anthony Park with its quaint shops, tree-lined boulevards and old-time public library is generally a quiet, deep neighborhood not accustomed to such violence.

At the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council board meeting on May 11, two St. Paul police officials said that generally the crime rate in the St. Anthony Park area is low.

In fact, across the entire city, overall major crime in certain categories, including murder, is down 35 percent for the first four months of this year compared with the same period a year ago, they said.

For example, St. Anthony Park had logged 97 thefts for the first four months of 2023, down from 122 for the same period in 2022, said Stacy Murphy, St. Paul Police Department District West watch commander.

Still, Murphy acknowledged that people’s feelings about their personal safety may be at odds with what is happening with the state of crime statistics. After Brassel’s murder, “I am sure people (in St. Anthony Park) are scared,” she said. Patricia Lummers, St. Paul Police Department crime prevention coordinator, told District 12 board members that citizens, no matter where they live, they need to take precautions to safeguard themselves. “Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to where you are.”

For example, if you hear trouble in your neighborhood, consider calling 911 first, before you do anything that could put yourself in harm’s path, Murphy and Lummers said.

Sadly, it turned deadly for Brassel when he confronted his assailant. Of course, he could have never imagined his action would lead to that.

But if we could turn back time for Michael Brassel, I am sure it would have been a new beginning.}

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**Bill Brady joins the Bugle**

By Scott Carlson

With the June issue of the newspaper, we welcome Bill Brady as the new copy editor for the Bugle.

Brady, of Falcon Heights, succeeds Betsy Carlson, who has retired from the part-time post after 10 years at Cargill and 12 years at the University of Minnesota in editing for Hamline University’s Cen
er for Global Environmental Education and for Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul (on whose board he currently serves).

Bill also has roots in Bugleland. His son played hockey in the Lang
feed Park program and is a regular attender of the St. Anthony Park Fourth of July parade and picnic.

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**Join the Park Bugle board of directors!**

By Scott Carlson

The Park Bugle has been serving the St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, and Como Park neighborhoods for almost 50 years.

We are looking for folks with enthusiasm and creativity to help shape the future of this wonderful resource. Do you have fundrais

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**Park Bugle annual meeting June 27**

The Park Bugle board of directors will hold their annual meeting on June 27 via Zoom.  

There will be a brief update on the work of the Bugle along with a short business meet

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**Upcoming Bugle deadlines**

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 on 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.

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**Bugs fund update**

Thank you for your financial support as the Bugle strives to produce great journalism that informs readers and supports the communities of St. Anthon

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**Park Bugle**

JUNE 2023
Lauderdale considering options for Eustis Street

By Anne Holzman

Officials in Lauderdale are considering whether to accept ownership of Eustis Street on the steep slope south of Larpenteur Avenue.

In exchange Ramsey County, which currently owns the strip, would add a sidewalk and cover construction costs when they repave the street as scheduled in 2025. The city would accept responsibility for maintenance going forward.

If the city turns down that proposal, the county will upgrade drainage, improve the intersection at Larpenteur and repave the road, charging the city cost-sharing fees of about $600,000. In that case, they would not add a sidewalk. The park would be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

This scenario is emerging in the wake of neighbors campaigning for years to have a sidewalk installed along the stretch, which connects Lauderdale to the Route 3 bus stop at Como and Highway 280, as well as to St. Anthony Park amenities.

Ramsey County has rejected the sidewalk proposal because of safety hazards and the difficulty of meeting disability access requirements.

Last fall, Ramsey County recruited engineering students from the University of St. Thomas as to propose solutions to the site’s steep grade and drainage problems. They came up with four alternatives, including a sidewalk on either the east or west side of the street, bolstered by retaining walls.

This past February, county engineer Alan Maxwell appeared before the Lauderdale City Council to introduce the plans. Neighbors were invited to an open house on March 7, where they could vote on the plans.

At its March 28 meeting, the council discussed reactions from the open house.

Council member Jeff Dains said he hears “over and over” about Eustis Street and knows people who walk down that hill to catch the bus.

City Administrator Heather Butkowski reminded the council that Metro Transit plans for Bus Rapid Transit Line H may affect Route 3. Mayor Mary Gaasch said, “All the votes were for the sidewalk options.” But the council agreed that the open house format had not allowed for a clear explanation of comparative costs, so Maxwell came back to the council on April 25 with the $600,000 estimate and cost-sharing details.

City Administrator Heather Butkowski told the Bugle in early May that city staff and council will revise their long-term financial plan this summer and decide on the ownership question. They need to decide how to proceed on the project by late 2024, when the county will put the project out for bid, assuming that it remains a county road.

Either way, Butkowski said, the county will go ahead with the work in 2025.

Anne Holzman is a Bugle freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights and Lauderdale government news.

ASK THE LIBRARIAN

By Judy Woodward

The reference librarians at the Roseville Library receive dozens of questions from the public each month. Here are a couple of interesting queries we received recently:

Q. I have an old children’s book from my grandma. For sentimental reasons I would like to have it repaired. Do you know of a local place that can do such a repair?

A. There are several book binderies in our area that specialize in repairs of sentimental keepsakes like yours. To get some possible names in your vicinity, try googling the statement “book binding” with your ZIP code. Or call the library at 651-724-6001 for more suggestions.

Q. I am looking for a book club to join. Do you have any resources that might help me find one?

A. The Ramsey County Library offers many book clubs, both in-person and online, serving a wide range of reading interests. From mystery to history, we have something for you—and maybe for your child, as well. You’ll find more information about our book clubs, as well as a link to upcoming meetings, on our website: rclreads.org/rc-book-clubs.

Still looking for more information? Or maybe you’re thinking about starting your own book club? Try our Book Club in a Bag feature, which offers 10 copies of a book, discussion questions, background information about the author and more. You can learn more about this program at: rclreads.org/book-club-in-a-bag.

Judy Woodward, who lives in St. Anthony Park, is a reference librarian at the Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. The library’s general phone number is 651-724-6001.

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Marigold bottle shop opening at Milton Square

By Scott Carlson

Look for Marigold, a non-alcoholic bottle shop, to take residence during June at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park.

Proprietor Erin Flavin hoped to open the new store at the former digs of The Wine Shop by the time of the annual St. Anthony Park Arts Festival on June 3.

“It’s a beautiful space,” said Flavin, who also owns the Honeycomb hair salon at 35th Street and Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis.

Flavin said she intends to pick and choose items for Marigold that will excite the SAP neighborhood, all part of the social movement aimed at giving people the freedom to not drink alcoholic beverages at home or particularly at parties or other social gatherings.

Some of Marigold’s offerings will include non-alcoholic drinks made by local craft breweries.

Flavin said her store will be a research project to “see what people are excited about.”

One part of the Marigold experiment that might raise some eyebrows is that the shop will carry some cannabis products.

“It (cannabis) won’t be our main focus,” Flavin stressed. “But it is something I want to make available and provide a more mild introduction to the product.”

Flavin added her store won’t be a “head shop,” noting she will be offering low-level cannabis products that can help people cut back or eliminate alcohol consumption from their lives.

“I know it’s a change,” Flavin said, “But I hope people keep an open mind.”

Flavin said she wants to help people who may be struggling with their sobriety. She noted her own drinking started becoming a crutch to deal with stress, particularly when Covid hit and she found few, if any, outlets to socialize with other people.

Flavin called herself a “functioning alcoholic” whose only hobby was drinking when she wasn’t working or taking care of her family.

After she realized that drinking was taking control of her life, Flavin called herself a “functional” and was excited about taking control of her life, and choosing items for Marigold that will excite the SAP neighborhood, and choose items for Marigold that will excite the SAP neighborhood, and provide a more mild introduction to the product.

By Scott Carlson

Another life for cat boutique

By Scott Carlson

If a cat has nine lives, as the old saying goes, then a successful retail cat shop must be destined to survive for at least a second go-around.

After opening last September in St. Anthony Park’s Milton Square, Cat aMEWsement is already heading for a bigger, new location.

This month the cat-themed boutique is picking up its feline treats, novelty toys, handmade items and other cat-themed goods and relocating operations to 228 7th St. East. Owner Nikki Christopher will take 1,650 square feet at her Lowertown venue, an increase from her current St. Anthony Park digs of 1,150 square feet.

Christopher said Cat aMEWsement needs the additional space for its steady and growing business.

“This (Milton Square) has been a really great place to incubate,” Christopher said. “I am more and more now a destination store. If a cat has nine lives, as the old saying goes, then a successful retail cat shop must be destined to survive for at least a second go-around. People come from all over to come here.”

Christopher said that going into business for herself has been a dramatic career shift. Prior to opening Cat aMEWsement, Christopher was a professional harpist and private music teacher. But after getting divorced, she looked for a new career that could support her.

“I knew I was making a new start,” Christopher told the Bugle last fall, “and I decided to do something that’s absolutely ridiculous, silly and fun.”

For this longtime lover of felines, starting a cat-themed boutique was the answer. Christopher told the Bugle’s Christie Vogt she launched the business after achieving success with running a kiosk featuring cat gifts at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Last year, an opportunity arose in Milton Square: Studio Karlor, a boutique and gift shop, was looking for a sublet tenant, and owner Nikki Christopher, owner of Cat aMEWsement. Photo by Lou Michaels.

Christopher said that going into business for herself has been a dramatic career shift. Prior to opening Cat aMEWsement, Christopher was a professional harpist and private music teacher. But after getting divorced, she looked for a new career that could support her.

“I knew I was making a new start,” Christopher told the Bugle last fall, “and I decided to do something that’s absolutely ridiculous, silly and fun.”

For this longtime lover of felines, starting a cat-themed boutique was the answer. Christopher told the Bugle’s Christie Vogt she launched the business after achieving success with running a kiosk featuring cat gifts at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

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Pah Meh earns Como Athena Award

By Eric Erickson

The St. Paul Area Athena Awards honor one female high school senior from each East Metro high school.

This year’s recipient from Como Park is Pah Meh, who played soccer, volleyball, badminton, softball, and wrestled while achieving a 3.6 grade point average.

Beyond those credentials, Pah Meh earned 12 credits from St. Paul College through Como’s Academy of Finance Business Certification program. She will transfer those credits to Metro State University with plans to major in business.

Thirteen years ago, Pah Meh and her family migrated from a refugee camp in Thailand to St. Paul. She did not know any English upon arrival. Her home language of Karenni is still spoken at home, so you can add becoming bilingual as another noteworthy accomplishment.

“It took me a while. I didn’t get the hang of English until I got to middle school,” Pah Meh said. “Reading, writing, and everything was just hard for me, but I kept working at it.”

By the time Pah Meh reached Como as a freshman, she had years of experience in overcoming challenges. As a result, trying a new sport was relatively easy.

And she kept trying new things—having fun and contributing to all her respective teams. She started freshman year as a soccer player and proved to be a strong defender, but she also had an interest in volleyball. Both are fall sports and eventually a choice had to be made.

While most high school athletes would choose a starting role on a varsity team over a junior varsity (JV) position, Pah Meh was not motivated by perceived status. She opted to play JV volleyball as a senior.

During the winter of her junior year, Pah Meh tried wrestling. She learned a lot and liked the physical challenge.

She was a two-time letter winner on Como’s badminton team, which plays in the spring, but decided to try softball for her final sports experience as a senior. She’s currently playing in the outfield for the Cougars’ varsity team.

“I’ve had fun playing lots of sports,” Pah Meh said. “Sports motivated me and kept me active and made me a better student. They’ve helped me communicate better and have more friends. It’s made me more confident. “When I make a mistake, I learn from it. And keep going.”

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

Pah Meh won Como’s Athena Award and will attend Metro State University next fall. Submitted photo.
School news around town

Compiled by Sarah CR Clark

Twin Cities German Immersion School
Accepting Enrollment for 2023-2024
Twin Cities German Immersion School has class openings for the 2023-24 school year in all grades. Enrollment is open to any child who resides in a Minnesota school district; German language proficiency is not a requirement to enroll.

Research has shown that second language proficiency has a positive effect on first language skill development and that immersion students perform as well as or better than students in a monolingual setting. TCGIS offers individualized German support to students who join in later grade levels. If you are interested in enrolling, please visit tcgis.org, email info@tcgis.org, or call 651-492-7106 for more information.

TCGIS eighth graders travel to Germany
Fifty-four eighth graders from TCGIS departed for their two-week Capstone exchange trip to Germany on May 21.

The Capstone exchange is the culminating immersion experience offered to all eighth graders at TCGIS, representing the largest and is gaining support from across the state. "The idea took off like a rocket and is gaining support from across the state," For her part, Olsen said, "The music students were ecstatic that they were a central part in our successful campaign. It has helped them to realize their value as creative thinkers, collaborative learners and community members. This experience has shown students the potential of being engaged community citizens."

On May 3, the final 485 musical instruments had been adopted. Olsen said. Repairs were being made at Cadenza Music, 149 Snelling Ave.

Olsen told the Bugle that due to generous supporters, "Every single instrument has been adopted in under two weeks! What is even more astounding is that there were enough donations to the general instrument repair fund for the Murray Music Program to repair every instrument we brought to Cadenza Music and more, for a couple of years!"

Murray’s “Adopt-an-Instrument” fundraiser attracted media attention too, gaining recognition from the Star Tribune and KARE 11 television. To support Murray’s Music Department for future repairs and improvements, please visit givema.org/organization/ MurrayPTO.

Murray students at State History Day
Thirty-five Murray students participated in State History Day, presenting a total of 24 projects at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus in late April. Nineteen of those projects gained awards.

Two Murray students advanced to the National History Day Competition at the University of Maryland (College Park) on June 12 and 13, 2023.

Sofia Patronski will present her individual project entitled, “Rachel Carson: A Frontier for the Environment.” Patrick Tennison will present his individual documentary, “Spongining: A New Frontier in Tarporn Springs.”

Compiled by Sarah CR Clark, Bugle freelancer

Get your Spring Cleaning scheduled now. Keeping a clean home ensures good health.
The 54th St. Anthony Park Arts Festival will fill the neighborhood with arts galore on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s festival will feature more than 60 juried artists, an extensive used book sale hosted by the St. Anthony Park Library and a plant sale.

New at this year’s festival: An expanded festival area including a portion of Luther Seminary’s lawn (corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place), which will host more family activities; a second stage for live music and expanded food and beverage selections.

The featured artists for 2023 are Amy Von Bergen (pottery), Paul Georgieff (forged kitchen knives) and Jennifer Levernier (metal jewelry).

Amy Von Bargen is a potter from Minneapolis who hand builds each piece she makes from stoneware slabs. “After learning how to throw pots on the wheel, it was my first attempts at hand-building that really got me hooked on clay,” Amy said in her artist’s statement. “Suddenly I could make more interesting shapes and use lots of texture on the clay.”

All of Von Bargen’s pottery is fired to 2,200 degrees, resulting in durable, functional pieces.

In contrast to the supple clay that Von Bargen uses in her pottery art, the medium of artists Paul Georgieff and Jenny Levernier is hard metal—but each uses it in totally different ways.

Once upon a time, knives—kitchen knives, hunting knives, fish filet knives, even professional chef knives—were thought of in terms of functionality. Brown handle. Black handle. Two or three metal rivets. Today, while still producing functional products, artists like Paul Georgieff have taken their distinctively designed knives into the art marketplace.

Georgieff, will, according to the SAP Arts Festival website, be showing “a collection of unique paring knives, chef’s knives, and nakiris (Japanese vegetable cleavers). The knives will be clad in a variety of handle materials, including curly mango wood from Hawaii and domestic black walnut and maple.”

Finally, the festival will showcase the work of Minneapolis-based jewelry artist Jenny Levernier, a familiar name to those who admire handcrafted jewelry and follow art fairs and craft council shows.

While her name may be familiar, her jewelry design is anything but static. Levernier continually expands her repertoire with innovative styles and materials. In her artist statement, Levernier describes how her “current work focuses on combinations of stones; colors and patterns I feel go well together. “More than matching in the traditional sense, I complement and contrast elements creating my vision.”

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

Sarah Clark and Kathy Henderson are regular freelance writers for the Bugle and live in St. Paul.
A directory of artists, music and activities June 3

2023 Artists

Ceramics
50 Amy Von Bargen*
36 Chuck Smith
26 Heidi Van Schooten
15 James Bottomley
23 John Steger
61 Sarah Lenz
32 Susan Koehler
29 Susanne Redfield

Fiber & Wearable
33 Barbara Geurink
18 Cindy Brown
39 Manella
34 Nancy Hawbold
25 Neng Yang
44 Sharon Cherny
55 William & Linda Sumner

Glass & Enamel
28 Mary Ila Duntemann
40 Warren Lenz

Jewelry
68 Alison Reitsma
17 Amy Pogue Brady
48 Ann Aas
22 Erin Smouse
53 Jenny Levernient*
66 Lise Spence-Parsons

Mixed Media
10 Louise Payack-Guillou
30 Mary Best
38 Mary Gohman
64 Melanie Lieb
43 Robert Hale
31 Sky Kahmann
57 Sue Hammes-Knopf

Music Lineup

Library Stage
10 AM Sweet Rhubarb
11 AM Phil Rukavina
Noon Dan Chouinard & Ann Reed
1 PM Granger's Moonshine
2 PM Ted Olsen & Joe Strachan
3 PM Cas & Leroy
4 PM Pig's Eye Jazz Band

Activities

Book Sale
Library, lower level

Bouncy House
Centennial UMC

Immersive Art Garden
Milton Square

Boy Scout Climbing Tower
Luther Lawn

Terra Firma Lawn Games
Luther Lawn

SAP Community Foundation
Kids Art Tent
Bistro Parking Lot

Chalk Art
Centennial UMC

Library Story Walks
Library

Tent Talks 11 am-3 pm
At individual artist tents

Dual Citizen Beer Garden
Noon-4:15 pm
Luther Lawn

CEZ Mural Bus Tours
11 am-2 pm / leaving on the hour
Centennial UMC Parking Lot

Tarot Reader
Noon-4 pm
Lindbergh

Carpe Diem Healing Elements
CEZ Live Muralist & Graffiti
Artist Demonstrations 3-5 pm
Luther Lawn

Community Booths

1 Transition Town
2 The Park Bugle
3 SAP Community Council
4 Community Homestead
5 SAP Area Seniors

Food Vendors

71 Lemon Hevan
72 Kraz Foodahait
73 Blue Loon Concessions
74 ShaveCrave
75 Summer Lakes Beverage
76 Best Way
77 Lakes Hawaiian Ice
78 Krustyz
79 Diana's Dough
80 Tibet Momo

Plant Sale
Como & Luther Place
(across from Speedy Market)
Hostas, Iris, Perennials, Annuals, and Houseplants
Saturday June 3, 9 am - 1 pm
Checks encouraged. Cash & PayPal accepted
Visit www.StAnthonyParkGardenClub.com for details

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• Hear the MIN Mandolin Orchestra at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
• Visit the Annual SAP Garden Club Plant Sale on the lawn.
• View the Congregational Art Show.
• Learn about the Dwelling Place. (intergenerational summer program)
• Enjoy indoor plumbing and air conditioning.

We look forward to seeing you at the Art Festival 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Avenue
www.saplc.org
S T. A N T H O N Y P A R K A R T S F E S T I V A L

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Free in store Wine Testings are back!
During Arts Festival, June 3rd, 1-4 p.m.
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3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m.
Free in store Wine Testings are back!
The gardens that will be part of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club’s garden tour will remain a mystery until the tour takes place on Saturday, June 24.

While the garden locations are kept secret, what is known is that tickets are $15 and are available only online at stanthonyparkgardenclub.com/garden-tour.html. There is no charge for children ages 0 and under.

When you buy your ticket, you’ll also be able to select a timeslot. Tour start times are scheduled every 15 minutes from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The tour closes at 3 p.m.

As in previous years, the tour map and brochure should be picked up at the tables on the St. Anthony Park Library lawn, 2245 Como Ave. Prior to their scheduled tour time, garden tour guests can pick up a map that shows the garden locations, provides a brief description of each garden and includes some basic garden etiquette guidelines (please, service animals only). Typically, guests visit each garden for around 15 minutes.

The 11 gardens on the tour are situated in four cluster areas. While the tours are self-guided, garden club volunteers and Master Gardeners will be at each location, ready to answer questions (“What is that plant?”), point out garden features or offer advice for personal garden projects.

“St. Anthony Park is known as a wonderful walking and bike-riding neighborhood,” said tour co-chair Karen Pervo. However, she added that your vehicle may still be useful to get you from one cluster area to another.

In addition, she advises that while others may not be. When it comes to locations and pathways, always assess your own ability; and use your own best judgment.

The St. Anthony Park Garden Tour has a reputation for going beyond offering patches of pretty flowers.

“The gardens here are dramatic and interesting,” Pervo emphasized. One reason is why the gardeners in this neighborhood make use of the area’s unique natural ravines.

“Gardenscapes can be up on a high hill or scaped down,” Pervo explained. Another feature is the variety of specialty and ecological gardens, such as water gardens, native plant and pollinator gardens, rock gardens and gardens that incorporate both edibles and flowers.

A third reason is that this garden tour celebrates neighborhood connectivity.

“The gardens are real people’s gardens, typically self-planted and self-maintained by the homeowner,” Pervo said. For example, one gardener with a focus on providing a family friendly garden of edibles said tour guests should not be too surprised if they encounter a child’s plastic tool or garden tool half hidden amidst the hydrangea bushes.

Funds raised from ticket sales go to scholarships, pay the garden specialists who lecture at the club’s May meeting and provide funds to support community beautification projects, such as the garden on the grounds of the St. Anthony Park Library. The club’s May meeting, scholarship funds were awarded to University of Minnesota plant science student Ava McCune.

This is the 10th time the club has hosted a garden tour since 1999. The fundraiser takes place on odd-year biennial summers. Most gardens on the tour do not belong to a garden club member.

Garden Tour Strategies

While no one at the St. Anthony Park Garden Club’s May 2 meeting would reveal the locations of gardens on the tour prior to June 24, they were willing to share their garden tour strategies. Here is some advice from club members:

Let’s start with Pervo who offered the practical: Consider scheduling your time to start mid-day when others may be taking a lunch break. Being a hat and member to apply sunscreen.

“Look for the whimsical garden art and planters,” said Colleen Healy’s advice. Along with her fondness for creativity, Healy also noted that, “This is a neighborhood with lots of shade, so I am interested in what people are planting in shady areas of their yards.”

“There are so many plants featured,” said Ann Soed. “I used to think that there was only one kind of hosta plant. Now I know there are many varieties!”

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How gardeners combine edibles and flowers interests Wayne Sisel, who is also on the lookout for what gardeners are doing with steep slopes and other unique yard topography.

Retired Master Gardener Ann Stout enjoys seeing the different visions people have for their gardens and how their gardens are organized.

Rick Sundeen had a smile on his face when he said his garden tour strategy is to look for walnut trees — leaving one to wonder if that was the lead-in to some kind of garden code or joke. Turns out that he is serious about that quest.

Sundeen finds the area beneath the walnut tree on his property a challenge to plant, and thus is on a mission to seek out what plants may be thriving beneath other walnut trees in the neighborhood.

Molly Reinemann of St. Peter, who was a guest at the club’s meeting in May, said her garden tour strategy is to “Think ahead of time about what you want to change or add to your own garden and then look at how others have done that.”

Club membership chair Vereena Larson appreciates how excited people on the tour get about gardens — and then join the club. She notes that membership is a bargain at $20. And one of the perks is that after the garden tour event day, the club volunteers have their own exclusive tour and host a pot luck.

A final garden tour strategy comes from Jean Larson, manager of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and a University of Minnesota professor teaching therapeutic horticulture this summer. Larson, who could easily provide a long list of all the health benefits that come from observing gardens, instead offers a succinct strategy: “Have fun!”

She also suggests, “Take a notebook and make sure your phone is charged — you’ll be taking lots of notes and photos as you get ideas from others with the same passion for plants as you.”

Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a freelance writer for the Bugle.
Six strategies to save at the supermarket

By Jenni Wolf

Pretty sure none of my friends would be surprised when I say that browsing the Sunday grocery circulars with my dad was one of my favorite childhood activities. Yes, indeed, I was clipping coupons and scouting sales before I even had any money to spend! With the recent rise of food prices, saving money at the supermarket is on my mind more than ever.

Here are six strategies to help you save:

1. Identify your staples. It is good to have variety, but stocking foods you don’t use often and that will sit in your pantry is taking up dollars that could be put towards an item you use on the regular. Don’t keep or buy inventory of things you “might” need one day.

2. Be willing to try different brands. In our house I have the mantra, “try it once, and then you’ll know.” Sometimes a generic-branded item is not as good as the name brand, sometimes it’s way better, and sometimes it’s “good enough” because of the cost-savings. I remind myself that if I don’t like the Aldi-branded Oreos, I can go back to buying Nabisco. But if I do, I could be saving myself over 50% each time I buy them! It’s worth the “risk” to me to try and see.

3. Consider price per unit. Not everyone wants to whip out their phones to calculate unit prices, but doing so can save you a lot of money over time. You can also check the product price tag, which often will have the price per unit already noted on it, making it easy to compare brands and sizes on the shelf. It is often assumed a bulk package is always more economical, but sometimes it’s actually more expensive or the same price as a smaller-sized package. Yes, I am that person in Costco on my calculator—and you’d be surprised how many things are not actually cheaper there. Which leads me to my next tip.

4. Embrace the two-stop shop. Learn what stores sell your family’s grocery needs at the most affordable prices and then prioritize purchasing those items there. I know not everyone has time to shop multiple stores, but this can be another major money-saver. For example, I love the co-op. But if I bought all my produce there, I’d overspend my budget before month’s end. I stick to buying bulk goods there, like spices and grains, and get my produce mostly from Aldi or the farmers’ market.

5. Plan meals around your current food inventory and supplement with a smaller, weekly shop. Yes, you still have to purchase groceries that week, but your bill will likely be lower as you’ll be using that can of tomatoes already in your pantry rather than buying a duplicate.

6. Temper your urge to stock up on sales. My favorite tip to remember, is: If it’s on sale, but you don’t need it and you do buy it, you are not saving money. You are spending money!

For example: Cashews are on sale at the co-op. You have a bag at home. You buy a bag. You save $5 on that bag, but now you just spent $10 you weren’t planning to spend. Oh, and remember, things will go on sale again. Most products and stores actually have a sale cycle; if you pay close enough attention you might even be able to figure it out!

Jenni Wolf, a registered dietitian, writes about food and nutrition for the Bugle.
boreal Art Loft
boreal Gifts & Goods will host an artist’s reception for Emily Cheskic, its June Art Loft featured artist. An opening reception is Friday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m. at Como Ave. The exhibit features landscape paintings, quilts and nature or botany-themed bohemian enamel jewelry, which reflect Cheskic’s interest and educational background in botany, botany and forest science.

The exhibit runs June 2–29 during regular boreal hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday–Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday.

4-H pie and ice cream social
The Northern Lights 4-H Club is bringing back its popular pie and ice cream social on Friday, June 2, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Luther Seminary grounds (corner of Como Avenue and Luther Place). Pie, 53¢, pie with ice cream, $3. Also, beverages, $1. The St. Anthony Park Community Band will provide music.

SAP Arts Festival
The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival kicks off summer fun with a celebration of community that includes art, music, family activities and an outdoor library storytime. The St. Anthony Park branch library book sale (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) and the St. Anthony Park Garden Club’s plant sale (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) are annual favorites. Food is available for purchase. Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Como and Carter avenues. Details at saparts.org.

Conservatory senior stroll
Como Park’s Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at 1225 Estabrook Drive hosts two free seniors strolls for ages 55 and older daily on the lawn. Advance online registration is required with selection of either a 9 or 9:30 a.m. start time on Wednesdays, June 7 and 21, at comoconservatory.org/como-senior-strolls.

Gibbs Farm
Summer Saturday hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., return in June to the Ramsey County Historical Society’s Gibbs Farm. Pathways to Dakota Pioneer Life at 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W. Fridays, noon to 1 p.m., begin June 23. Guided tours are offered on the hour. Admission: $5-$10. Free for children ages 3 and under and RCHS members. For details see Discover Gibbs Farm at rchs.com/gibbs-farm.

Summer music Groovin’ in the Garden: Friday and Saturday concerts are returning from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays during June and July to the grounds in front of Como Park’s Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive. Bring your own blanket and food or purchase food and drinks on site. The summer music series kicks off Wednesday, June 7, with the Innocent Reggae Band. The June and July schedule is online at comoconservatory.org/como-groovin-in-the-garden-2023.

Shake Your Sillies Out! Playtime: Fridays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Story, stretching, movement and lots of fun for children ages 5 to 10 accompanied by an adult.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo or Sadie: Saturday, June 10, 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Youth ages 5 to 12 are welcome to read to two friendly dogs that will be in the children’s room. Registration is not required; however, each child’s reading session is limited to 15 minutes, which ensures that as many children as possible will have the opportunity to read to Enzo or Sadie.

Saturday Family Storytime: Sat., June 11, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join the St. Anthony Park Library on the last Saturday of each month for songs, stories, crafts/activities and social time with other families in the library’s auditorium. Best for toddlers and preschoolers, caregivers and siblings.

Adult Book Club: Monday, June 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join library staff and readers in explaining the library’s auditorium for lively conversation and refreshments. Stop in or call the library at 651-642-0441 to reserve a copy and prior pick up a copy of the book.

English Conversation Circle for Adults: Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Join the University of Minnesota’s Broschek Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice at the library. All levels of English language skill are welcome.

SAP Garden Club
The St. Anthony Park Garden Club hosts two fundraisers in June that help support the gardeners, churches, libraries and other landmarks.

June 20: Lori Sturdevant, retired Star Tribune editorial writer, author and columnist who has written about Minnesota government and politics since 1987, will present “A Look at the Minnesota Legislature 2023,” an overview of the accomplishments and shortcomings of the recently concluded session.

June 27: Timothy R. Johnson, the University of Minnesota’s Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Law and nationally recognized expert on U.S. Supreme Court, will present “A Look at the Supreme Court Term 2022-23,” providing insights and analysis of some of the most important issues of our time.

A confirmation email is sent to all registrants, and a Zoom link email will arrive on the scheduled Tuesday morning.

Age-Friendly University Day
The University of Minnesota Age-Friendly University Day will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, June 12, at the McNamar Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E. on the Minneapolis campus.

The agenda includes a keynote presentation, panel discussion, and mini-sessions. Learn about organizations and resources for older adults including the Osher Life-Learning Institute (informal, non-credit) and the University of Minnesota’s Osher Senior Citizens Education Program (curriculum), both offering some classes and courses on the St. Paul campus. Continental breakfast and lunch included. The event is free but registration required at stup.univ.edu/events-calendar/age-friendly-university-day-registrants.

Seniors activities
The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors will hold a mix of in person and virtual activities in June. In-person activities include:

• Lake walk: Fridays, June 2, June 9, 16, 23, 30, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., meet at the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lincoln Parkway. Registration required: 651-642-9052 or email cpc@apaseniors.org. Donations accepted, but not required.

• Grief and loss study group: Wednesday, June 7, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

• Senior self-defense: Krag Maga training: Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., meet on the lawn at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

• Socialization: Thursday, June 15, 3 to 5 p.m. on the lawn at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. or on stream at facebook.com/aporation.

Virtual events include:

• Caregiver community gathering: Monday, June 26, 11 a.m. to noon, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

June hybrid presentation:

• Senior legal planning with Liz Pierce: Thursday, June 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., or stream on facebook.com/aporation.

Read with Enzo or Sadie: Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at St Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo or Sadie: Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at St Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo or Sadie: Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at St Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

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The Como Pops, a local band of professional musicians, has been delighting concertgoers of all ages at the Como Lakeside Pavilion for 70 years. And the musical ensemble is back for another series of summer concerts.

The group’s June 11 concert will feature music representing diverse customs and traditions including ragtime, Spanish music and June-seventh themed selections.

Como Pops concerts focus on music that appeals to seniors. Programs include a variety of genres including show tunes, Dixieland jazz and “a lot of good old patriotic stuff,” according to longtime Pops band director Tim ten Bensel. Sing alongs, a crowd favorite, are an important component of each concert, he added.

Ten Bensel said he would like to track down Hmong and Somali music too in order to showcase these local cultures at a future concert. The Bugle recently spoke with Jim to learn more about the ensemble and its upcoming concerts.

Prior to Jim’s tenure as director, Max Metzger led this cherished institution from 1953 to 2005. Jim explained that Max wanted him to become the next director giving him his musical conducting experience and support from band members.

Before assuming this role in 2007, Jim was a euphonium player in the band for 25 years. He also plays trombone and viola. Currently, the ensemble is strictly a concert band with only woodwinds, brass and percussion. Previously, the group included strings as well.

Most of the band members are rather elderly, Jim said, and they have even had musicians in their 90s!

“We are a professional group, some of the finest of the professional players,” Jim said.

All Como Pops musicians are members of the Twin Cities Musicians Union. Originally, St. Paul members were part of Local 30, while Minneapolis members were in Local 73. The two have now merged to create Local 30-73. Jim has built a community of musicians during his stint as director. If a position needs to be filled, Jim simply asks current members for recommendations.

Meanwhile, the ensemble’s rehearsals are 45 minutes prior to each concert. Band members have the opportunity to pick up the music a few days in advance, so during rehearsals they primarily review new pieces. All of the musicians are highly experienced, so they are able to heavily rely on sight-reading.

Earlier in his career, Jim was a professional musician and music educator. He is still busy as a freelance composer and is active in the Minnesota State Band, the Golden Valley Orchestra and the St. Anthony Civic Orchestra.

Jim said conducting the Pops ensemble helps keep his skills sharp, he explained.

Meanwhile, Eileen McLaughlin, Jim’s wife, creates the printed programs and assists with the concerts.

Additional summer concerts

In addition to the June concert, the Como Pops are scheduled to play at the Como Lakeside Pavilion on July 4 and August 13. All concerts begin at 3 p.m. with free admission. Donations are appreciated and accepted at any of the concerts. Checks payable to Springboard for the Arts (with Como Pops written on the memo line) may be mailed to Como Pops, c/o Tim ten Bensel, 3428 St. Paul Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55416. Or, donations may be made online at springboardforthearts.org.

Janet Wight, a resident of Como Park where she lives with her husband and daughters, is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

St. Anthony Park walking tours continue

By Mary Mergenthal

After three enjoyable mid-May tours of Commonwealth Avenue, history presenter Kristin Andersen will continue her popular walking tours to other locations in St. Anthony Park throughout the summer.

In early June, walkers, bikers and a few drivers will visit the historic manufacturing district at Raymond and Hampden avenues. Dates: Thursday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 6, 6 to 8 p.m.

In later June, walkers, bikers and a few drivers will visit the historic manufacturing district at Raymond and Hampden avenues. Dates: Thursday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 6, 6 to 8 p.m.

In early July, participants will see Langford Park homes. Dates: Thursday, June 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; or Tuesday, June 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

In early July, participants will see Langford Park homes. Dates: Thursday, June 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; or Tuesday, June 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

In early July, participants will view Clarence Johnston’s architecture in St. Anthony Park on Thursday, July 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; or Tuesday, July 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

In August, participants will visit the University Grove on Thursday, Aug. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; or Tuesday, Aug. 29, 6 to 8 p.m.

Partial support for the tour audio system has been donated by SAP’s Courtney Law Office.

There is a suggested $10 donation for each tour, and reservations are required. Andersen is an art history professor at Augsburg University and a resident of St. Anthony Park.

Visit KristinAndersen.org/SAP-Tours for more information and to sign up. Tour size is limited. Reservations are coming in quickly.

Mary Mergenthaler lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former editor of the Bugle.

By Janet Wight

The Como Pops is a summer musical institution. Photos submitted by Jim ten Bensel.
The least-dense parts of the city vary by location: a residential lot zoning, the proposed rules still While simpler than the current decades, and our current zoning they've been lost in the past few times called “missing middle” to mean towering buildings or 200- nearby and use the transit system. It's because lots of people live or subways arrive every five minutes, it’s because lots of people live near and use the transit system. And more density doesn’t have to mean towering buildings or 200- unit complexes. There’s a happy medium, some- times called “missing middle” housing or gentle density. St. Paul used to have more of these types of small multi-unit buildings, but they've been lost in the past few decades, and our current zoning too often prohibits their return.

What are the proposed changes? While simpler than the current zoning, the proposed rules still vary by location: a residential lot could have up to three units, or four, or six.

• The least-dense parts of the city would allow three units per lot for most of each block, and up to four units at corners.
• Areas that now allow duplexes, triplexes or fourplexes could have four units anywhere on the block.
• Six units would be allowed within an eighth of a mile of light rail or bus rapid transit routes (cur- rent or planned), and also in des- ignated neighborhood nodes. In Bugleland, the nodes are the north SAP business district, Westgate, Raymond/Universi- ty, Como/Snelling, Lexington/Larpenteur, and Lexington/ Front.
• These multiple-unit lots would also allow for cottage clusters and townhomes: good options for elders who want to downsize within the city or possibly any- one with accessibility needs.

The new zoning rules wouldn't force anyone to do anything, but they'd allow people to do more things with their own property. Once rules change, people make choices and I think that over time Saint Paul will have more housing. Small-business people… or maybe you Some small-scale developers— who own just a few build- ings or lots—have been waiting for this kind of opening to build triplexes, fourplexes, or cottage clusters. I heard several of them speak at the Planning Commission hearing. The current, more-complex zoning rules put them at a disadvantage relative to large developers who can pay for lawyers or staff experts. Or maybe your house was built for a large single family, but these days there aren't as many families who need that much space. The new zoning would let you convert it to a duplex “by right,” without having to seek variances. I'm excited to see St. Paul consider more freedoms like these, greater housing stock flexibility and more room for neighbors we don't know yet. As a first-time homebuyer I wanted a duplex, but few were available. Today, I see a chance for more housing choices, for busi- nesses to have more customers nearby, and for thriving neighbor- hoods to be connected by fi- nancially sustainable transit that will work for us all in this world of climate change.

Pat Thompson coordinates projects related to sustainable land use and transportation for Transition Town—ASAP.

Can you see your house from here? Find your block's current zoning and its proposed new zon- ing on the interactive map at tinyurl.com/NewSPZoning.

The city's FAQ about the proposed changes is at tinyurl.com/SPZoningFAQ.

“Gentle density” is key to sustainability

By Pat Thompson

In about half of St. Paul, a residential landowner can build only one thing: a single-family house. Under recent updates, that house can be accompanied by an accessory dwelling unit, or ADU.

But those limits may soon change with zoning rules pro- posed by city staff and heard by the Planning Commission in April. If approved by the City Council, the new rules will simplify residential zoning while allowing at least three housing units on any lot in the city.

Why does this matter? As Sherman Eagles wrote for Trans- ition Town in the January 2022 Bugle, allowing for more neighbors is a climate solution.

People living nearer to each oth- er supports walkable neighbor- hoods. It lets us replace car trips with walking, shortens commutes, and strengthens the local market for goods and services.

It also makes transit systems fi- nancially viable. If you've been to any location where trams, buses or subways arrive every five min- utes, it’s because lots of people live near and use the transit system. And more density doesn’t have to mean towering buildings or 200- unit complexes.

There’s a happy medium, some- times called “missing middle” housing or gentle density. St. Paul used to have more of these types of small multi-unit buildings, but they've been lost in the past few decades, and our current zoning too often prohibits their return.

What are the proposed changes? While simpler than the current zoning, the proposed rules still vary by location: a residential lot could have up to three units, or four, or six.

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• These multiple-unit lots would also allow for cottage clusters and townhomes: good options for elders who want to downsize within the city or possibly any- one with accessibility needs.
This month in “Lives Lived” we remember two people with ties to Murray High School.

Betsy Dueholm
Betsy graduated from Washington High School in 1948 and attended Macalester College. An employee of St. Paul Public Schools for 46 years, she worked at Marshall and Murray High Schools as well as the District Office.
She was preceded in death by husband Clifford; parents William and Julia Driver; brother William; and sisters Ruth Kittelson and Julia Erllitz. She is also survived by children, (Sandra) Barnes and Cynthia (Dr. Eric) Swaunland; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother James Driver and sister-in-law, Louise Driver.
Her funeral service was held, with interment at Elmhurst Cemetery.
Memorials may be sent to donor’s choice.

Arvid Fevig
Arvid O. Fevig, 92, of Lauderdale, died April 16, 2023. He was preceded in death by wife Dolores; parents Oris and Agnes Fevig; and siblings Loren Fevig, David Fevig and Carol Dauner. He is survived by daughters, Julie Connell and Jeni (Bryan) Chamberlain; and two granddaughters.
Funeral service has been held, with internment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

James McTie
James McTie, 75, of Blaine, died March 1, 2023. He was born Aug. 2, 1947, in St. Paul to Lois and James McTie Sr. James graduated from Fort Snell High School in 1965, where he played hockey, football (called by a St. Paul newspaper journalist “Golden-Tied” McTie for a winning field goal kick) and baseball. Football and hockey continued after high school at collegiate and semi-pro levels for James, along with racing twice in the Internatinal 500 cross-country snowmobile race and participating on the racing crew of a friend as they traveled to races locally and to neighboring states.
James attended Bemidji State, but then the U.S. Army called him and he served as a Fervor missing instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 1998 Jim married Kathy Quinn Amato and they moved around to several states as her job required. Upon her retirement, they moved back to Minnesota. Jim was preceded by his parents, brother Mark and his sister Kathleen. He is survived by his wife Kathy, son James P. McTie III, sister Mary and brother Peter.
A funeral service was held, with internment at Fort Snelling.

Carolyn Mohn
Carolyn Ann Mohn, 86, died Feb. 23, 2023. She and her family lived in St. Anthony Park for a number of years.
Born and raised in Red Wing, she graduated from the University of Minnesota. She created Christian greeting cards for Printery House.
A longtime member of Roseville Lutheran Church, she was particularly proud of helping bring arts into the church. She also served on the board of the Restless Leg Foundation.
She is survived by her children Craig (Susie), Steve (Sue) and Sara (Bill), eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband, Carl Mohn and sister, Judy Penniman.
Her service has been held. Memorials to Roseville Lutheran Church or Mayo Foundation.

Frances Swenson
Frances “Vicki” Swenson, 82, died April 10, 2023.
Vicki was born May 10, 1949, in St. Paul. She grew up across the street from Como Lake and lived most of her life in St. Paul. She married Maury on Sept. 10, 1966, they enjoyed dancing polka at local dance halls on the Southside.
Vicki worked full-time for a local union, and devoted her extra time and retirement years to caregiving for their daughter Lynda. Vicki is remembered for her smile, generosity and kind spirit.
She was preceded in death by daughter Lynda Swenson, parents Vincent and Clara, brothers John and Thomas Carroll, sister Marceline Carroll and special family friend Leona Wilson.
Vicki is survived by her husband of 56 years, Maury (Maury), sons John and Tom, two grandchildren, sisters Kathleen Cook and Mary (Michael) Schwizter and sisters-in-law Jeanne (Tom) Carroll, Diane (Patrick) O’Keefe and JoAnn Freckleton.
Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Cathedral of St. Paul, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Our Lady of Peace Hospice.

Raymond Weber
Ray graduated from St. Paul’s Murray High school in 1977 and from Metropolitan State University in 2003. He worked for 35 years in the logistics field.
Ray and his wife, Brenda, en- joyed many adventures traveling in their motorhome across the country. One of his happy places was in the woods with friends and family playing lumberjack. He also loved sitting in a boat catching walleye with his son and friends.
Ray was a member of a Corvette club and enjoyed cruising many miles of backroads with that group. His loss will be felt on the golf course, where he played in a league.
Ray never met a home project he wouldn’t tackle. His craftsmanship is so impressive, voice boiling, ready laugh and large presence were much loved. His absence will be felt by many.
Ray is survived by his wife, Brenda; daughter Rebecca (Corey) Johnson; and son Eric (Erka) Weber. He is also survived by his mother, Mary Weber; sisters Linda (Joe) Haag, Laura (Michael) Monnock, and brother Mike (Tara). Ray was preceded in death by his father, Richard Weber.
A celebration of his life was held.
Memorial donations may be made in Ray’s name to either the Department of Veterans Affairs, in honor of his dad, or Sharing and Caring Hands, in honor of his mom.

This report was compiled by Scott Carlson and Mary Mergenthal.
**Classifieds**

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O.Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ads are $1 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for $10 each.

Next deadline: June 14, 2023.
By Eric Erickson

The Como Park Robotics program got a reboot in 2023 and provided 12 committed students with an opportunity to use their emerging engineering skills. After a few years of inactivity due to Covid-19 shutdowns and distance learning, several highly motivated students expressed interest in bringing back Como’s “BEASTBot 2855.”

Como special education teacher Mike Fischer had coached previous BEASTBot teams, sharing initiatives with former science teacher Donna Norberg. The duo led the team to a Minnesota State High School League state tournament appearance in 2016.

When hopeful students asked Fischer to bring back BEASTBOT, he couldn’t say no. But Fischer also couldn’t do it alone. He agreed to be an assistant coach who would support him.

“If we could make this happen, it’s our responsibility to do everything within our power to make it happen,” Fischer said. “It’s a fun, friendly mixture of people with varying levels of ability and experience who are all part of Como Robotics being open to everyone. “We’ve got a great group,” Buckle said. “We’re grateful for that.”

The students had 12 weeks in January, Como began the “build season.” The students had 12 weeks to create a robot capable of maneuvering around a field to collect cones and cubes in order to stack them in a grid pattern while other robots simultaneously attempt to do the same.

Lovat was a driving force in bringing back BEASTBOT, serving as team captain along with Cobin. She describes the experience as a “resuscitation” of Como Robotics.

“I saw building a robot as a challenge,” Lovat said. “We wondered if we could make this happen. It’s really student-led, which was enlighening. It wasn’t easy doing the work. I mean, we had to build and code a robot! In the end it was fun and rewarding.”

Lovat also explained the value of Como Robotics being open to all. “We wanted a place where all sorts of people with various levels of ability and experience could be working on this. We wanted a space that was safe for learning, and safe for making mistakes.”

Prescott Clark was primarily on the build team. He effectively used machines such as beltsaws, circular saws, sanders, and drills to help create the robot from aluminum, lexiglass and other materials.

While Como’s team is student-led, safety and training are essential. Beyond coaches, mentors were crucial. C.J. Elliott became BEASTBot’s all-around “supermentor” after Cobin’s internet searches and outreach (plus proper vetting).

“C.J. gave us awesome tips that allowed us to improve our robot far beyond what we could have done without him,” Clark said.

Additional valued “supermentors” were David Kramer, who advised on building, and Alex Gottschalk, who provided instruction on coding.

The resuscitated Como Robotics team is a point of pride for all involved. The positive attitude and enthusiasm of the group was on full display at its competition when Como BEASTBot earned the 10,000 Lakes Regional Spirit Award.

“We’ve got a great group,” Buckle said. “It’s a fun, friendly mixture of students who are genuinely interested in learning and interacting with each other and with everyone in the robotics world.”

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School.