Brasel’s murder reverberates in community

By Gustav Demars

The death of Michael Brasel, who family members say was shot while interrupting a young intruder breaking into his wife’s car on the morning of May 6, has brought public safety to the forefront of the minds of many in the St. Anthony Park community.

Despite Brasel’s tragic death, St. Paul crime statistics indicate the neighborhood remains a relatively low crime area.

Some residents attend- ed a recent public meet- ing of the St. Anthony Park Community Council to voice con- cerns about crime and safety in the neighborhood. St. Paul Police Department West District Watch Commander Stacy Murphy and Patty Lammers, a city crime prevention coordinator, attended the meeting, providing crime statistics and answering at- tendees’ questions.

Lammers said when witnessing potential criminal behavior, it’s important to be aware of the situation.

“The most important thing is you and your family,” Lammers said. “Cars can be replaced, purses can be replaced—that’s just stuff. You’re the most important thing. So trust your gut if you don’t feel comfortable going out into that sit-

uation. Stay where you are. Just be a good witness and call us.”

As of June 1, city police data shows 35 officially re- ported crime incidents in St. Anthony Park this year, down from 91 at the same time last year.

Notably, auto thefts are down 60% and larceny and theft offenses are down 57% from the same period in 2022. Police also reported only two assault offenses in 2023, down from 11 in the first six months of last year.

Despite recording two homi- cides in the past two years, St. An- thony Park has seen fewer than many other neighborhoods in the city. In March 2022, a little over a year before Brasel’s shooting, St. Anthony Park saw its first homi- cide since 1997, according to police spokesperson Alyssa Arcand.

So far in 2023, St. Paul has re- corded 16 homicides across its neighborhoods.

St. Anthony Park Community Council Board member Cambray Crozier said the most outstand- ing effect she’s personally seen on the community is how widely the tight-knit community has grieved Brasel’s death.

“I think the grief around the loss of someone of his stature in the commu- nity, and the many roles he played and the meaning of those roles—like being a dad, a hockey coach, a neighbor and a long-time resident—also means he had a breadth of relationships,” Crozier said. “So that loss was felt and compounded in many differ- ent parts of the community.”

Crozier said the rarity of an event like Brasel’s shooting makes it hard for the community to grapple with its cause and what can be done to prevent similar crimes from hap- pening in the future. She said she’s heard thoughtful conversations about different aspects of public safety, such as creating a welcom- ing community and look out for each other, and law enforcement presence.

“I think that’s been the biggest thing I’ve reflected on—that at the community level, all of those elements are important and can have influence and impact on one another,” Crozier said.

Methodology: St. Paul Police De- partment provided official data sent to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and FBI as a part of the National Incident-Based Reporting System, which collects detailed and stan- dardized crime data on a national scale. Year-to-date crime data for St. Anthony Park for 2022 and 2023 runs through June 1 of each year.

Gustav Demars is a fourth-year journalism student at the Univer- sity of Minnesota’s Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Commu- nication. He is participating in the Bugle’s student journalism intern program with the university.

SAP Spirit award renamed, winners announced

By Julie Drechsler

The spirit of the Park Award, given by the St. Anthony Park Commu- nity Foundation, annually recog- nizes an individual or individuals who have demonstrated extraor- dinary dedication to the community. Starting this year, the honor will be known as the Michael Brasel Spirit of the Park award. And the 2023 Spirit award honorees are Alisa Mee and Mary Mergenthal, with Sophia Moore winning the Jon Schumacher E2 Scholarship.

Our foundation was deeply saddened by the tragic death of Michael Brasel and would like to honor and recognize his dedica- tion and love of the community. Michael will not be forgotten by our community.

(Editor’s note: Brasel died of gun- shot wounds on May 6 as he inter- rupted a car thief in front of his family’s St. Anthony Park home. He left behind a wife and two children along with countless people who knew him as a friend, youth hockey coach, residential carpenter of histori- cal buildings and a freelance artist of many genres.)

Mee: a “true gem”

Well known among St. An- thony Park families, Alisa Mee has been described as “a true gem, bringing joy to hundreds of kids each week.” Alisa, a library asso- ciate at the St. Anthony Park Li- brary, provides weekly story time which is a highlight for many SAP families. She provides engaging, enter- taining and educational stories and activities supporting early literacy and encouraging a love of reading for our local children.

Alisa worked to ensure that Covid did not disrupt this impor- tant social and educational oppor- tunity, moving it to a hybrid model, conducting it outside as weather permitted. Although perhaps best known as the library storyteller, she is also an accomplished musi- cian and has been a key supporter of the arts and literacy within our local schools.

Mergenthal: a “gift to the community”

Meanwhile, “a gift to the community” is how people de- scribe Mary Mergenthal. Mary Mer- genthal, who has worked tireless- ly for decades for the community.

Mary has contributed in nu- merous ways to St. Anthony Park, having served as editor of the Park Bugle and still continuing today as the paper’s obits editor.

Further, many of Mary’s contri- butions occur through her involve- ment at SAP Lutheran Church. She is a passionate advocate for refugee families, supporting her church’s relief efforts on behalf of more than 60 families from the late 1970s through 2018.

More recently, people would know Mary from the series of history lectures at the church that have been extremely popular, pro- viding insight into the past.

Both Alisa and Mary embody qualities that make them worthy of this award.

Alisa Mee

Mary Mergenthal
District 10 Community Council

Annual ice cream social July 14
The District 10 Neighborhood Relations Committee will hold its annual ice cream social from 5:30 to 8 p.m. July 14 at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway.

Besides free ice cream, the event will also feature live music, meet-and-greets with neighborhood organizations and activities for children and families. To help plan or volunteer at this event, fill out a volunteer interest form, come to our Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings (first Tuesdays), or reach out to organizer@district10comopark.org. Learn more at district10comopark.org/IceCreamSocial.

Thanks, volunteers! District 10 Como Community Council is giving a shout out to all the community members who have stepped up to volunteer for various events and initiatives.

Volunteers have made possible a Blairard Breakfast at the North Dale Recreation Center, two Como Zoo blood drives, Earth Day Como Cleanup, pick up and party at Orchard Recreation Center, the Como Garage sale and the Lake Como Cleanup season in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District.

For more volunteer opportunities this year, check out District 10 at info@district10comopark.org.

Self-guided Como tree trek
If you missed the District 10 Environment Committee’s Tree Treks, where community members can learn how to identify and appreciate the multitude of different tree species living in Como Park, the self-guided tour is now available anytime. The Tree Trek program has created and installed Tree Tags on numerous trees around Como Park for self-guided tree treks. Find out more at district10comopark.org/tree-trek.

District 10 community meetings
D10 board and committee meetings are open to the public.

• Land Use Committee: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, Aug. 1
• District 10 Board: 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, Aug. 15
• Environment Committee: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2
• Neighborhood Relations Committee: 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 2

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. For meeting details, go to district10comopark.org.

Submitted by Shevek McKee, District 10 Community Council executive director.

District 12 Community Council

St. Paul bike plan
St. Paul Public Works is updating the city’s bike plan. Major emphasis is on planning for connected, separated bike paths throughout the city so people who are not current bike riders feel safe enough to ride with less danger from cars.

Public feedback is being gathered through July, and the City Council may vote on the plan later during the month. Comments can be made about priorities or locations for needed infrastructure on an interactive map: tinyurl.com/mapbikeSP and the full draft plan can be found at stpaul.gov/bikeplan.

You can hear a presentation from the plan’s author about the St. Anthony Park particulars at the next District 12 Board meeting on July 13. The meeting is on Zoom, and the presentation will start around 7:20 p.m. (link at sapcc.org/event).

Rain gardens on Raymond
In June, some members of the Ramsey County Master Gardeners assisted the Environment Committee with maintenance of two community rain gardens along Raymond Avenue.

New native plantings are planned for the garden at Raymond and Ellis in 2024 with grant support from the Capitol Region Watershed District.

Community storm drain adoption
The Mississippi River could use our help! The storm drains in our neighborhood empty unfiltered into the river, so it is vital to keep leaves, sediment, trash and pet waste out of the drains.

You and your family can lend a hand by adopting a drain (go to minnadopt-a-drain.org to pick and name your drain) and by stencil-ing the reminder, “Keep ‘em Clean, Drains to River,” around storm drains in south St. Anthony Park from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 16. For more information and to sign up online, go to sapcc.org.

Westgate Commons Park survey
Do you live or work near Westgate Commons Park? The first phase of development is nearing completion and the SAPCC and the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department want to know what other amenities neighbors and park users would like to see. Funding from the University of Minnesota’s CURA community-based research program will allow graduate researchers Eagi Oezcelik to survey neighbors.

Survey findings will be shared at the opening celebration of the park, held in conjunction with District 12’s second annual ice cream social on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Time to test your soil
This is a great time of year to test your soil, whether it’s for your lawn, garden, or a future gardening area. The University of Minnesota Soil Test Lab is a reliable, close place to have your samples analyzed. Check out the details at soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/testing-services/lawn-garden.

Board members sought
The District 12 Community Council has open seats. Contact kathryn@sapcc.org for more information or visit sapcc.org. Also, the District 12 Equity Committee needs new members to help organize events. It has been focusing on tenant rights and food equity. The committee meets via Zoom the last Thursday of every month.

District 12 upcoming meetings
St. Anthony Park Community Council meetings discuss a variety of issues at their monthly meetings. Visit the 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. Board committee meetings are:

• Land Use Committee: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 6, Aug. 3
• District 12 Board: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13
• Transportation Committee: 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 25
• Environment Committee: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 26
• Equity Committee: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 27

Submitted by Jessica Willman, District 12 community organizer.

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news
Milton Square lands Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop

By Janet Wight

St. Anthony Park is the new home to Minnesota’s only store exclusively devoted to fly fishing. Established in 1978, Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop has been owned and operated by Robert and Rhea Hawkins since 2013. The store moved to its current location in Milton Square in May.

All kinds of gear are available at the shop including waders, boots, rods, reels, lines, packs and bags, flies, boxes, and fly-tying accessories. “If it’s not related to fly fishing, we don’t carry it,” Robert said.

A grand opening at the shop is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 7. Robert said anyone interested in fly fishing should stop by and learn more about the challenges and rewards of this popular hobby. A sizeable variety of eye-catching flies are on hand. Some have been created by Robert and local fly fishing enthusiasts. The remainder were imported from large overseas manufacturers located in Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Fly-tying classes are held at the shop throughout the year. Robert added.

Teaching is an integral part of the shop’s mission. Flying Fishing College is offered from April through September at a cost of $120, which includes all necessary gear. The course consists of a Thursday evening class coupled with a river outing the following Saturday. Additionally, private casting lessons and guided trips may be arranged.

Fly fishing requires significantly more knowledge, technique and finesse than regular fishing. There is a knowledge and technique required to make it a difficult skill to master, Robert explained. Many people associate fly fishing with mountainous western states, but there are over 100 great trout streams within a two-hour drive of the Twin Cities metro area, Robert said.

Lakes are also suitable for fly fishing. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, Pike, muskie, bluegill and crappie are all found in this region, he added.

Young professionals seeking a challenging new pursuit have been drawn to this hobby in recent years, that contributed to its rapid growth during the pandemic, he said.

Before purchasing the store, Robert and Rhea had been looking for a change and a new opportunity. Robert, an experienced fly fisherman and guide, is a native of Bozeman, Montana, while Rhea is from St. Cloud. They initially learned about the opportunity to acquire Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop from a friend.

Prior to the move to Milton Square, the store had been located in a building on Vandalia Street in an industrial area with limited parking. The recent relocation to Milton Square was intentional.

“We always wanted to be in St. Anthony Park.” Robert said, “This is our favorite neighborhood in St. Paul with its own little downtown,” said board chairperson Catherine Reid Day.

“We are happy that he has agreed to take on the official head role,” Reid said in a statement. “He and his team have done remarkable work to navigate the pandemic and keep the store strong and resilient throughout it. Their hard work and dedication have allowed us to continue to grow our sales and membership.”

Robert, an experienced fly fishing guide and fly tyer, is the new general manager of the Hampden Park Co-op. During that time, he served as the grocery manager, assistant general manager and interim general manager.

Matt Hass is the new general manager of the Hampden Park Co-op.

Matt Hass is the new general manager of the Hampden Park Co-op. Photo courtesy of Hampden Park Co-op.

Robert Hawkins is the owner of Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop, which recently moved to Milton Square. Photo by Janet Wight.

Robert said he appreciates the walkability of the area and the opportunity to attract new customers who are shopping nearby.

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

Hampden Park Co-op has new general manager

By Scott Carlson

Matt Hass, a familiar face at the Hampden Park Co-op, is now officially the store’s general manager.

The co-op’s board of directors recently named Hass to the post after he had been serving as the store’s interim general manager, said board chairperson Catherine Reid Day.

“We are happy that he has agreed to take on the official head role,” Day said in a statement. “He and his team have done remarkable work to navigate the pandemic and keep the store strong and resilient throughout it.”

Hass joined the co-op staff in 2005 and has served as its produce manager, grocery manager, assistant general manager and interim general manager. During that time the cooperative expanded, bought the building that is its home and the cooperative expanded, bought the building that is its home.

Hass earned a bachelor of sciences degree in microbiology from the University of Minnesota. He worked in public health and biocatalyst research until he started volunteering at the Hampden Park Cooperative.

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.
By Scott Carlson
Student interns for the Bugle

This month marks the start of a new program between the Park Bugle and the University of Minne-
sota School of Journalism & Mass Communication. We are employ-
ing student journalism interns to write news stories for us.

The program has been long in the making and more recently brought to fruition. Our partner-
ship will give university journalism students practical experience and allow the Bugle to expand its community outreach.

Bugle board member Michelle Christianson and I recently met with University of Minnesota ad-
djunct journalism professor Seth Richardson and Becky Borg, J school assistant director for exter-
nal relations, to draft guidelines for the student intern program.

Our plan is to take up to two student-written stories per month for the foreseeable future. Our partnership will help expand the Bugle’s breadth of coverage and en-
able the J students to gain critical experience, writing samples and mentorship assistance.

By Laura Adrian
Student interns for the Bugle

During July, the Bugle is having a social media contest.

Our theme is “Gratitude,” and we are inviting readers to send up to three photos that relate to this theme.

As a mindfulness teacher, I of-
ten contemplate how people can focus their attention in ways that cultivate positivity. Unless we in-
tentionally step back and notice what there is to appreciate, we of-
ten focus on what’s lacking and what’s missing.

One of the initial presentations I delivered to a local corporation was on the power of gratitude and its potential to enhance mental well-being, reduce stress and in-
crease happiness.

Additionally, gratitude fosters a sense of belonging, trust and appreciation, thereby improving relationships. Moreover, grati-
ude has the remarkable ability to strengthen community bonds and promote a sense of unity. It also
boots self-esteem and self-worth, enabling us to recognize our own strengths and accomplishments when we acknowledge the posi-
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By Laura Adrian
Student interns for the Bugle

The Minnesota legislature re-
cently passed the Democracy for America Act, which allows 16-
and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote and dramatically increases the likelihood they’ll become life-
long voters, resulting in a stronger democracy.

By Scott Carlson
Student interns for the Bugle

When more Minnesotans can and do vote, we underpin and strengthen a democracy that’s re-

ductive of our communities, di-
verse and multicultural wonders.

Because of this legislation, I’m proud to live in Minnesota where our political leaders are empower-
wd more communities to use their voice by voting.

Lauren Witt
(Lauren Witt lives in St. Paul and is advocacy chair of the Minnesota Society for Public Health Education.)

Not only will people submitting the top photos receive exciting prizes, but they may also be fea-
tured on our social media channels and in the print edition of the Park Bugle. The winners will be selected based on creativity, originality and overall impression.

Celebrate the lens of gratitude and the beauty it brings to our community. We look forward to seeing your submissions!

Laura Adrian is the social media coordinator for the Bugle. You can reach her at laura.adrian@park-
bugle.org.

Bugle deadline

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 publica-
tion dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days. Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town are usually completed two to three days after publication.

August: Copy/ad deadline: July 12 Publication: July 25

September: Copy/ad deadline: Aug. 9 Publication: Aug. 22

October: Food and drink guide Copy/ad deadline: Sept. 13 Publication: Sept. 26

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Distribution: 5 to 10 business days

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participation.
Wakeup St. Paul DFL!!

By Jon Schumacher

On Sunday, June 11, I attended the St. Paul DFL convention as a non-delegate. This is an important election year for the city with all seven city council seats and four of the seven school board seats being decided.

Because the city council endorse-ments were decided at the ward caucuses, this year’s convention was dedicated solely to the school board. The delegates numbered 145, surprisingly low for a party that delivered over 36,000 votes to their candidate for the 2021 mayoral race. Of more concern was that 420 people signed up at the ward caucuses this spring to be delegates, but only 25% of those actually showed up at the convention.

Now back to Ward 4. In the DFL sys-tem, the more voters that show up, the more delegates your ward gets

Drive-through coffee proposal rejected

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights has denied a re-quest from the developer of Am-ber Union, so development there could end before she could consider it. This is an important election year for the city with all seven city council seats and four of the seven school board seats being decided.

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Correction

A story in the June 2023 issue of the Bugle incorrectly stated the new address of Cat & MEWspedent. The new address is 278 7th St. E in St. Paul 55114.

Under Falcon Heights city code, only banks can have drive-throughs. Granting the proposal would have entailed amending the code.

The City Council considered Buhl’s request at a special meeting on May 3. Council member James Wassenberg, who had attended the Planning Commission hearing, said neighbors wanted a coffee shop without the drive-through, but that such a place might not be econom-ically viable in that location.

Deaneow said Caribou, Investors, also owns the adjacent parcel that currently serves as overflow park-ing. That parcel is not covered by the Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) district that covers Amber Union, so development there could add to city revenue.

Buhl principal Peter Deanovic brought the coffee drive-through proposal to the Falcon Heights Planning Commission in March. After a public hearing at which neighbors expressed concerns about pedestrian safety, traffic and air pollution, the Planning Com-mission recommended denying the request.

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Sixteen groups awarded SAP Community Foundation grants

By Trinity Tatman

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has awarded $41,200 in grants to support the programs and activities of 16 local nonprofit organizations and community groups. Part of the foundation’s funding will also support creating a volunteer engagement hub in 2022-2023. The foundation has funded $13,200 for its Community Grant stream and $30,100 for the Volunteer Engagement Coordination Grant stream, which seeks to develop a sustainable volunteer ecosystem in the St. Anthony Park community, Foundation executive director Julie Drechsler said in a statement.

This new Volunteer initiative comes after the Foundation consulted with community partners and identified a need to increase volunteerism and coordination in the community, Drechsler said.

Every year, the foundation funds local non-profit organizations and programs that support the community in the arts and music, education programs for youth and adults, physical health awareness, and community engagement.

One of the best parts of my role is to be able to contact applicants and let them know that the Community Foundation is able to support the great work they are doing in St. Anthony Park,” Drechsler said. “These community organizations and groups do so much for our local community, supporting St. Anthony Park to be a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable community for all.”

Programs and initiatives funded for the current fiscal year include:

- Schubert Club Julie Himmelstrøm “Music in the Park” series.
- Exodus Lending: Creating a pathway from economic exploitation to affordable credit.
- Saint Anthony Park Areas Seniors: Funding for general operating support.
- Keystone Community Services: Meals on Wheels and food shelf delivery.
- Saint Anthony Park Community Council: General operating support.
- Saint Anthony Park Elementary School Association: SAP data project: Phase 2.
- International Institute of Minnesota: Providing community-based experiential learning opportunities for adult English language learners.
- Park Bugle: Funding for general operating support.
- Saint Anthony Park clergy and leaders: ‘North and South Together’ community meal and volunteer engagement.
- Urban Boat Builders: Apprenticeship program for underserved youth.
- Creative Enterprise Zone: General operations support.
- Children’s Dental Services: Critical dental care and vaping, tobacco and substance abuse preventive education for 600 Murray Middle School students.

The initiative funded by the current fiscal year from the Volunteer Engagement Coordination Grant fund includes:


Grantees appreciate community support. Some grantees expressed gratitude for the foundation’s long-lasting support. The Minnesota Urban Debate League, a program with Augsburg University which provides academic programming to 1,200 students in the metro, takes the standard debate format and adapts it to the celebration including several food truck options and the kid’s zone on the south end of the park which will include ponies, a gaga ball pit, an inflatable obstacle course, and races! New this year, live music at the bandstand will last until 6pm to help soundtrack your day with some fantastic local bands.

We’re excited to celebrate the 76th anniversary with you! Well be continuing with some recent additions to the celebration including several food truck options and the kid’s zone on the south end of the park which will include ponies, a gaga ball pit, an inflatable obstacle course, and races! New this year, live music at the bandstand will last until 6pm to help soundtrack your day with some fantastic local bands.

The 4th in the Park is put on by The Fourth in the Park Committee and sponsored by The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, and YOU!
When I arrived in Pittsburgh in 2007, Richard Florida and author Carnegie Mellon professor, had already left. But the ideas from his book *Rise of the Creative Class* (2002) were being implemented throughout Pittsburgh. This was particularly true in the neighborhood that I moved into, Friendship.

Years earlier, Friendship had fallen into disrepair, and the main thoroughfare that ran alongside one of its borders, Penn Avenue, still needed significant attention. There was a 12-block section that had some particular public spaces, and two nonprofits decided to target the area as a zone for artists. In 2008, Jeffery Dorsey, Penn Avenue arts district manager and my neighbor, told the Pittsburgh Post Gazette that artists were being used to jumpstart revitalization “because artists are connectors.”

Later, in 2011, urban change agent and developer Eve Picker sought to add more artists to the next neighborhood across Penn Avenue, Garfield. The task was more challenging, with 400 vacant properties.

Picker set a goal that 6% of the neighborhood’s residents should be creative workers. According to the project’s website, “Six percent is the number, the tipping point. If a neighborhood can get that many creative workers, it becomes an attraction in its own right.” This idea ran parallel with Richard Florida’s writing. As Picker, Dorsey and others worked to add more creative places along Penn Avenue to the glass-blowing center, dance studios, art galleries, theaters and performance spaces already there, an upscale restaurant suddenly appeared next to new combined office space.

Then came a coffee shop, a grocery store, two hotels—a half a mile down the road—a sliver of space from the transit center.

The biggest prize was a large Google office in an abandoned Nabisco factory on Penn Avenue with matching luxury apartments across the street in a development called Bakery Square. Despite this success, activists and residents living in the neighborhoods were concerned they would soon be squeezed out by higher rents.

The Green Line in S. St. Paul has spurred transit-oriented development in south St. Anthony Park.

Before I left in 2016, those concerns grew and reached a crescendo in March when Michelle Martin of NPR visited Pittsburgh and convened a panel for an event titled “Reinventing the American City” at the August Wilson Center. Change agent Eve Picker was on the panel to meet her critics. One panelist, photographer and MacArthur Fellow Lanny Ruby Frazier, said that city planners had focused too much on attracting “creatives.” She argued that the city needed to start paying attention to the working class and address the segregation between the working class and creative class by creating programs to benefit both.

Richard Florida may have moved to Toronto, where he still lives and writes, and I imagine he was all ears. In 2017, he told The Guardian that there was a “dark side of our urban revival,” which his book *The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class—and What We Can Do About It,* would address.

These ideas were on my mind when I spoke to my friend Erik Pearson, an artist who lived and worked within 100 hundred yards of the Raymond Avenue Green Line light rail stop in S. St. Paul’s south St. Anthony Park for more than a decade.

During that time, the listed starting price for rental units Pearson’s apartment building doubled. Erik recalled for me how in 2006 he first saw the sign for artists’ lofts while driving on University Avenue and decided to move in. “It was so exciting…having a studio where you are,” Erik said. “I built a community of friends, we all did the art crawl together. (But) once the light rail came, we were always worried about the studio space. … You look at a lot of the apartments going up and you see the prices and you wonder how affordable they are.”

Apartment rentals in general in this south St. Anthony Park area are now 10% higher than St. Paul as a whole, according to a Market Summary Report on Zillow.

“If it is Sotoho?” I asked Erik. Sotoho in Manhattan was once a declining manufacturing neighborhood with rents going down that was completely revitalized after the artists moved in. “On a different scale, but basically the same thing—that’s the joke among artists, enjoy it while you can,” Erik said.

Erik leaves behind a large, 3,900-foot square foot mural at the entrance to the WestRock plant that produces recycled board off Vanda’s green street in the neighborhood. It depicts the history of the place since its beginning in the early 1900s. You can also see his work online (erik-pearson pixels.com) or at Lasenbro Arts in Lasenbro, Minnesota. I also spoke with Catherine Reid Day, who helped found the Creative Enterprise Zone in 2009 as a community-based effort in south St. Anthony Park to be a counterbalancing force to the displacement of creative studios during the construction of light rail on University Avenue.

“The area is significantly changed because it is a textbook example of transit-oriented development,” she said. She noted the many success in the area’s recent development, including: greater transportation access, more housing, different kinds of housing (including workforce housing such as The Ray) and some warehouse and manufacturing converting to creative studio spaces (BroTex).

However, according to Richard Florida’s most recent book, rapid price increases in a neighborhood are driven by a scarcity of resources, especially around transit that provides proximity to the urban core, major universities, parks and other green spaces, all factors south St. Anthony Park provides in spades.

Alarmed, I reached out to Flor ida by email and asked what the next steps for the neighborhood should be.

• Supplement housing and/or income to bring more of the middle class back to south St. Anthony Park!

• Devote energy to making the area around the train stops affordable for all, including service workers and middle-class families?

“I think both strategies have merit,” Florida said. “I think the second is the better of the two, but it probably makes sense to go for both.”

I couldn’t find anywhere anywhere where Florida said he was giving up on the original idea—that artists and other cool creatives can spearhead the revitalization of a neighborhood and may be deserving of special treatment. He’s also not saying that success in any way should be punished. He’s just advocating for enabling more transformative neighborhoods with all levels of the middle class.

In late May/early June, I attended the Strong Towns/CNU confer ence in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference offered numerous ideas to tackle the scarcity of mid dle-class housing, including an idea forwarded by one engineer to build more luxury housing to take some of the demand off middle and lower priced housing units, preventing high-income individu als from feeling the need to bid up prices as they search for housing anywhere in the neighborhood.

The ideas discussed at the conference didn’t just apply to the problems found in high-status neighborhoods, however. The challenges of building the middle class in what may be currently lower status neighborhoods was also discussed.

The most powerful speaker on the topic was Majora Carter from the South Bronx. There, she is a business owner and developer and believes that in lower status neighborhoods, cities should em ploy talent retention programs like those used by corporations to en courage existing residents to stay and build wealth.

If there were incentives for starting the type of businesses everybody wants in a neighbor hood—like cafes, bars and farmers’ markets—a city would be helping to build the middle class instead of engaging in poverty maintenance which can lead to a downward spiral of services and make residents want to move away.

Whatever form it takes, there is an urgent need for us to continue to work on this problem, lest our middle class, which provides the balance and stability the world needs right now, finds itself hav ing to move away from the very places it calls home.

John Horchner is a professional writer who lives in St. Anthony Park.
Twin Cities German Immersion School

Enrollment open for 2023-24 school year

Twin Cities German Immersion School still has spots open for the 2023-24 school year in kindergarten and fourth through seventh grades. Enrollment is open to any child who resides in a Minnesota school district. German language proficiency is not required to enroll.

TCGIS offers individualized German support to students who join us in later grade levels. Visit tcgis.org, email info@tcgis.org, or call 651-492-7106 for more information.

German professional soccer team visits TCGIS

Prior to their game against Minnesota United on June 28, German soccer team 1. FC Kaiserslautern spent an afternoon running drills and playing soccer with TCGIS students at McMurray Field. This was the third time a professional German soccer club visited Twin Cities German Immersion School. Hertha Berlin visited in 2019 and S.C. Paderborn visited the school in 2022.

New pre-K nature program coming to SAP Elementary School

By Sarah CR Clark

St. Paul Public Schools is launching a new pre-kindergarten program based out of St. Anthony Park Elementary School starting in September.

Called “Nature Discovery Pre-K,” the program will provide three hours (Monday-Friday) per week of nature-based learning with licensed teachers to students who are 4 years old by Sept. 1. Extended day and after-school care options provided by SPPS Discovery Club will be available.

“Nature Discovery Pre-K” will follow the SPPS calendar and cost between $489 and $975 monthly with the extended day and afterschool care options. Financial assistance may be available to qualifying families for half-day Pre-K class only, according to the program’s website.

Anthony Walker, SPPS director of community education said, “We will also have dedicated outdoor learning space on the SAP Elementary campus and look forward to collaborating with Langford Park to use the green spaces available there.”

“Right now is for students to spend approximately 50-75% of their instructional time outdoors,” Walker said. He noted this will vary by season and weather conditions.

Preschool programs that embrace nature and the outdoors aren’t new to the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. SAP is already home to two successful, long-running community preschools whose cause of its location, which is home to high-quality open green space and an existing school forest. The school has classroom space for community members. “We might welcome a new neighbor!”

Kerrin Flanagan, co-director and teacher at the co-op preschool said, “We are so happy to have even more options for families of young children in our neighborhood! No program is perfect for all families, so it is great to have another option for community members.”

Asked why SPPP chose St. Anthony Park as home for the Nature Discovery Pre-K, Walker said, “Because of its location, which is home to a wonderful open green space and an existing school forest. The school has classroom space for the program and creates a potential growth opportunity to connect pre-k students to the school.”

At the time of publication, all three programs had spots open for fall registration. See these three programs had spots open for fall registration. See these websites for more information: sapkeepschool.com, sapcnc.org, sapkidscape.com, and spps.org.

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular contributor to the Bugle.
Diana Brown named new principal

By Eric Erickson

A leadership change is taking place at Como Park High School.

Starting in July, Diana Brown is the new principal for the high school, succeeding Kirk Morris, who has become an assistant superintendent with St. Paul Public Schools.

Brown’s appointment came after a candidate selection process and interviews by a committee of Como stakeholders.

Brown served as an assistant principal at Como for the last two years working alongside Morris, who has been Como’s principal since 2020.

The winner is chosen by the Mur-
Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

Stella Anderson
Central High School
Way to go T T! We can’t wait to visit you in Denver and are excited to see what comes next for you at DU. We love you and are so proud of you! Love, Mama, Papa, Gigi, and the dog dogs.

Ingrid Jacobson
University of MN - School of Public Health
We are so very proud of you!!!
Mom & Dad

Pierce Baum
Highland Park Senior High School
Congrats Pierce! We are so proud of you! You will do great things! Keep reaching for your dreams! Love your Mom and Dad.

Isabella Rose Becerra
Como Park Senior High School
We are so proud of you Bella! Go make your dreams come true! Love, End, Gigi, Maggie and Irene.

Greta Kloos
Montclair Academy
Congratulations Greta! We are so proud of you and look forward on your adventures ahead. Love always, Mom & Dad.

Vi Eicher
Como Park Senior High School
Vi Eicher graduated from Como Park Senior High School, Summa Cum Laude, June 2023. Congratulations on starting Emory University, Atlanta! Love, Mother, Jeff, Kristen, Michelle, Shelly, Grandpa, Greg, Aunties, Uncle John and families.

Noah Douglas Sullivan
Como Park Senior High School
Noah, you bring joy and laughter wherever you go. We are so grateful you swung into our world. Love always, Mom & Dad.

Charlie Fisher
DeLaSalle High School
Congratulations Charlie! You’ve accomplished so many amazing things these last four years. We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Henry, and the family.

Russell Sweet
University of Oregon
Congratulations on your Master of Music in Music Performance on multiple woodwinds, and on the notable new music that has been written for you! Love, Mom, Dad, Kenna, mascul-keone.

Adam Gaudio
Como Park Senior High School
Adam, when you graduated from preschool you wanted to be a scuba diver. Sorry we never took you scuba diving. We love you! Marco & Dad.

Jack Swenson
Central High School
Congratulations Jack! We are very proud of you and look forward to what you accomplish next! Love from Mom and Dad.

Sig Isaacson
Como Park Senior High School
Congratulations Sig! We’re so proud of you and can’t wait to see what your future holds. Love from Mom and Dad.

Sabina Eicher Zink
University of California, Santa Cruz
Graduating Summa Cum Laude
Congratulations!
Love, Mom, Dad, Will & Avery
Hannah, Sam, Justin, Garrett, Pat, Project Hone, Aunties, Uncle John and families,
Dad & Scuba Divaower.

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Como Park Senior High School
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Graduating Summa Cum Laude
Congratulations!
Love, Mom, Dad, Will & Avery
Hannah, Sam, Justin, Garrett, Pat, Project Hone, Aunties, Uncle John and families,
Dad & Scuba Divaower.
Congratulations Levi! We are so proud of your hard work, caring heart and adventurous spirit! Onto the next adventure! Love you, Bob and Shari

Owen Root
Canaan River School

Owen, you navigate life, curious, reflective, seeking the good & brave to go deep. Can’t wait to watch the adventure unfold. Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations Xander! We’re so excited to see you grow at UM this next year in their BFA program for acting. Love, your family

Congratulations to our Wolf Pack 5th Graders

You came through this unforgettable year with flying colors!

W e are so proud of you and the adventures that await you in Duluth!

Love, Ron, Bob, Jonathan and(Phyl)-

“Your mountain is waiting. So... get on your way!”

“Yo u’re off to great places! Today is your day! You’re off and never will be the same...”

– Dr. Seuss

Here’s to new adventures... Onto the next adventure! Love you! Mom, Dad, Kelvin and Morgan

Congratulations Oliver! We’re so proud of you. We love you! –mom, dad and tweaking

Congratulations Emerson! We’re so excited to see you grow at UM this next year in their BFA program for acting. Love, your family

It’s your 5th grade year. Today is your day! You’re off and never will be the same...

– Dr. Seuss

Lara, we are so proud of you earning your Biology/Environmental Studies degree! You will go far. Women in STEM will help save the world! Love, Mom and Dad

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

You came through this unforgettable year with flying colors!

W e love you and our graduates have indicated their confirmation of enrollment to their selected post-secondary educational institution this fall.

89% of our 2023 graduates have been accepted to at least one college or university. 70% of our graduates plan to pursue their degree.

96% of our graduates will graduate from high school on time.

65% of those with college plans will be attending a 4-year institution

74% of those with college plans will be attending a 2-year institution

65% of those with college plans will be attending a 2-year institution

2-year institutions: 41% of those attending college will be attending a 2-year institution

Military: 4.3% of those with post-secondary plans will be joining the military

Out-of-State: 5% of those attending college will be attending a college/university out-of-State

2-year institutions: 41% of those attending college will be attending a 2-year institution

• 1-year or less: 33% of those attending college will be attending a 1-year institution

3-year institutions: 36% of those attending college will be attending a 3-year institution

Workforce: 30% will be joining the workforce

Vision Statement: As a community we stretch for the horizon to attain a diverse community bound together by our commitment to prepare our young people to become caring, productive citizens in a dynamic and changing world.

Mission Statement: To provide a rich learning environment that challenges and supports all students in finding and developing their own gifts and continuing the journey to reach their potential.

Congratulations! Xander! We’re so proud of you and wish you the best at the University of Minnesota next year!

We are so proud of your hard work, caring heart and adventurous spirit! Onto the next adventure! Love you, Bob and Shari

We love you, Bett. Mom, Dad, and Lucy

We are so proud of your hard work, caring heart and adventurous spirit! Onto the next adventure! Love you, Bob and Shari

We are so proud of you! We love you! –mom, dad and tweaking

We are so proud of you! We love you!

We are so proud of you! We love you!

We are so proud of you! We love you!

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”

– Eleanor Roosevelt

St. Anthony Park Elementary School
Saint Paul Public Schools • 2180 Knapp Street
Office: 651-293-8735 • www.spps.org/santAnthony

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Reflections from the Como Class of 2023

Caitlyn Coyle
For me, the thought of graduation is bittersweet. The last four years have been difficult at times but also very rewarding. When I think about my time in high school, the pandemic obviously comes to mind. Trying to navigate the abrupt end to my freshman year and distance learning in 10th grade was a struggle. Every day felt monotonous, with all the different Google Meets and assignments blending together. I also felt very lonely and isolated. I have always been someone who prefers meeting people in person to talking on the phone, one who prefers making friends with people who would become my best friends or next to people who I’ d never talk with again.

From there, the “firsts” kept on rolling. First tooth lost in school, first time being sent to the principal, first homework, first research assignment (on blue whales). I didn’t really realize it at the time, but somewhere between all these “firsts,” some “lasts” started slipping in. Last time being walked to school by my parents, last clay sculpture in art class, last recess. Some “lasts” I was sad to let go, like my last talent show telling jokes with my best friend. Some I was glad to be rid of, like our last time standing at school concerts and singing for the crowd. Some were probably for the best (middle school dances!).

The beginning of high school sports was a big “first” for me; the memories and friendships I’ve made during my senior year made something I had fun at and enjoyed doing going to again. The activities I experienced and the connections I made during my senior year made it the best year of school I’ve had. Reflecting on the past four years, I recognize the struggles that the pandemic put me through. But I also recognize all the incredible things I got to do and how grateful I was to be able to do them. With graduation and college in the fall, I am excited for what the future holds. But I am also sad that this current chapter has to end. Caitlyn Coyle will be attending the University of Iowa.

Sig Isaacson
Almost 13 years ago, I rolled my monogrammed backpack through the main doors of St. Anthony Park Elementary and into the kindergarten room for the first time. This was the first of many “firsts” to come, and it marked the start of 13 years of assignments, of picking at the school lunch, of sitting next to people who would become my best friends or next to people who I will never talk with again.

With the return of normal activities, I felt my motivation for school come back as well. School became something I had fun at and enjoyed going to again. The activities I experienced and the connections I made during my senior year made it the best year of school I’ve had. Reflecting on the past four years, I recognize the struggles that the pandemic put me through. But I also recognize all the incredible things I got to do and how grateful I was to be able to do them. With graduation and college in the fall, I am excited for what the future holds. But I am also sad that this current chapter has to end. Sig Isaacson will be attending the University of Wisconsin.

Jesiah Mason
As I entered my freshman year of high school, I was full of anticipation and anxiety of the unknown, yet I was determined to make friends and have fun. I was enrolled in the Academy of Finance curriculum and as a JROTC cadet. I bonded with my peers as we began to navigate the triumphs and tribulations of our high school experience, or so we thought.

I was distracted by the news of a teachers strike, so the insidious diffusion of the COVID-19 virus didn’t grab my attention until it entered the U.S. The trepidation of the pandemic intensified my anticipation of my high school experience as I attempted to prepare for the impact of the pandemic on my physical and mental health. Due to my inclination to academically succeed, I was highly motivated in my classes and maintained that momentum as we shifted from in-person to online learning.

What I struggled with the most was online learning was the overwhelming sense of boredom about my education. Since I’m a hands-on learner, starting at a screen was not my best learning setting.

My social skills plummeted too. Socializing with students was challenging and I’m grateful for making friends pre-Covid. Otherwise, the pandemic would have devastated my mental health. The isolation impacted my ability to socialize with others, so when we finally transitioned back to in-person learning, I felt kind of like a freshman again. However, I remember my feelings of boredom during the pandemic and sought to socialize and have an exciting rest of my high school experience.

Within JROTC I participated in extracurricular activities as well as Academic Bowl and drill teams. I even achieved the chance to compete twice in the national Academic Bowl competition in Washington, D.C.

Ironically, I also got to travel to D.C. during senior year with my AP Government class in order to learn about our democracy in action instead of competing.

Additionally, I learned a lot about leadership and compassion through JROTC, and rose to the rank of major and became the commanding officer of the program.

Although my high school experience wasn’t what I anticipated it would be, I can confidently say that the adaptability and optimism I gained will be helpful for the next chapter of my life. Jesiah Mason will be attending Augsburg University.
What would you name the new snow leopard cub at Como Zoo? Photo courtesy of Como Zoo & Conservatory.

If you had the chance, what would you name Como Zoo’s new snow leopard cub? The opportunity to name this rare species could be yours if you place the winning silent auction bid during the Como Friends annual Sunset Affair: stargazing gala on Thurs., July 20, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at Como Park Zoo & Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive.

Deadline to buy tickets is July 1. For more information visit comofriends.org/events/sunset-affair.

Even if you don’t make the winning bid, the fundraising gala promises up-close encounters with animal ambassadors, fascinating talks from Como Zoo’s keepers and horticulturists and the chance to bid on other amazing, only-at-Como, animal-related items. All proceeds will support improvements and operations of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, and its education and conservation programs.

Fourth in the Park celebration

The 4th in The Park is a fun-filled community celebration with many events and activities. These include: a 4- or 2-mile distance run starting at 8 a.m., a parade at 11 a.m. (down Como Avenue to Langford Park), bandstand program and food trucks at noon, tournaments and kids activities beginning at 1 p.m., and live music from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Langford Park bandstand, 98 Langford Park.

Also, kids can ride their decorated bikes, trikes or wagons as the parade finale.

Music includes: Pig’s Eye Jazz Band, 1 to 2 p.m.; Good Morning Bedlam, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.; Art Vandelay, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and Light of the Moon Trio, 4:45 to 6 p.m. Details and map at 4thinthepark.org/resources/NeighborhoodLetter2023.pdf. Run registration, and fees at raceroster.com/events/2023/7465/ langford-races.

Women’s Drum Center

The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., is offering hand drum basics, a beginning hand drum class, on Monday, July 10, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Class members will play djems to explore pulse and rhythm. No drumming experience necessary. Drums are provided. Cost is $15 per person. Register at womensdrumcenter.org.

Summer music Groovin’ in the garden: Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., on the grounds in front of Marjorie McNeely Conservatory; 1225 Estabrook Drive. Free outdoor concerts and activities. Bring your own blanket and food or purchase refreshments there.


Como Lakeside Pavilion: The St. Anthony Park Community Band will be on stage at the Dock & Paddle on Tuesday, July 4, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1560 Lexington Parkway N.

Music is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change.

• Ray Covington Music. Sunday, July 2

• Stan Bann’s Big Bone Band, Sunday, July 9

• Fridley City Band, Monday, July 10

• North Star Chorus (barbershop chorus), Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 to 7 p.m.

• Capri Big Band, Tuesday, July 18

• Minnesota Sinfonia, Summer Classic I, Wednesday, July 12

• The Good News Big Band, Monday, July 17

• Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble, Tuesday, July 18

• Dirty Shorts Brass Band (New Orleans-style brass band), Wednesday, July 19

• Fleetwood Mac’s (The Music) Choir, Thursday, July 20

• Hopkins Westwind Concert Band, Sunday, July 23, 7 to 8 p.m.

• Legacy (traditional and contemporary Irish tunes), Monday, July 24

• Twins Cities Show Chorus, Tuesday, July 25

• John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Sunday, July 30

• The Minnesota State Band. Wednesday, Aug. 9

Performances:

• Classical Actors Ensemble presents William Shake-speare’s Much Ado About Nothing. Friday, July 7, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., free but register to receive updates and weather alerts at classicalactorsensemble.org/products.


• View the Dock & Paddle calendar at dockandpaddle.com/calendar.

St. Anthony Park Library

There’s an assortment of summer-time favorites on the July calendar at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Unless specified, registration is not required.

The library is closed on Tuesday July 4.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo or Sa- die: Saturday, July 8, 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Youth ages 5 to 12 are welcome to read to the two friendly dogs that will be in the children’s room. Registration is not required; however, each child’s reading ses- sion is limited to 35 minutes.

Storytime in the park: Tuesdays, July 11, 18 and 25, 10:30 to 11 a.m. College Park, 2223 Carter Ave. Stories, songs, rhymes and pup- petry especially for children ages birth to 5, their caregivers and sib- lings. In case of inclement weather, storytime will be in the library auditorium.

Dungeons & Dragons: Thursdays, July 8 to Aug. 24, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Youth ages 8 and older are invited to join an expert Dungeons & Dragons player to learn how to build a D&D character and find out how the game works. No ex- perience necessary. Come for just one session or attend all six.

Saturday Family Storytime: Sat- urday, July 29, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join the St. Anthony Park Library on the last Saturday of each month for songs, stories, crafts and social time with other families gathered in the library’s auditorium. Best for toddlers and preschoolers, care- givers and siblings.

Fun Lab: Wednesdays, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The STEAM drop-in program for ages 7 to 11 takes place in the library auditorium. Crafts, science experiments, engineering projects, video games and more.

Shake Your Sillies Out! Playtime: Fridays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Story, movement and lots of fun in the library auditorium for children ages 2 to 5 accompanied by an adult.

Adult Book Club: Monday, July 24, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join library staff and reading enthusiasts in the library’s auditorium for lively con- versation and refreshments. Stop in or call the library at 651-642-0411 for more information or to pick up a copy of the book.

English Conversation Circle for Adults: Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Join the University of Minneso- ta Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice at the library. All levels of English lan- guage skill are welcome.

Seniors activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors will host a mix of activities in July. In person activities include:

• Lake walk: Fridays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Meet at the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1160 Lexington Park- way N. Registration required: 651-642-9052 or email scf@ sapaseniors.org. Donations accepted, but not required.

• Exercise class: Tuesdays, July 11, 18 and 25, 2 to 3 p.m. ,Lauder- dale City Hall, 1880 Walnut St. Arthritis Foundation exercises to increase range of motion, mobility and strength. Free, but registration is required. scf@ sapaseniors.org or 651-642-9052.

• Blood pressure clinic: Tuesday, July 18, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St.

Caregiver community gather- ing: Monday, July 24, 11 a.m. to noon, St. Anthony Park Luther- an Church, 2239 Como Ave.

Virtual activities include:

• Chair yoga: Mondays, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

• Caregiver Support Group: Thursday, July 6, noon to 1 p.m.

• Lunch Bunch: Wednesdays, July 5 and 19, noon to 1 p.m.

For more details or connection in- structions call the seniors office at 651-642-9052.

Kathy Henderson is a regular free- lance contributor to the Bugle.
By Christie Vogt

After more than 30 years with the Ramsey County Library, Judy Woodward has retired, at the end of June, from her post as a reference librarian and history programming coordinator at the library’s Roseville branch. It was a role that Woodward seems to have been prepared for since childhood.

“I loved history from the moment I read the Laura Ingalls Wilder books,” she said. Woodward was a self-described “natural” when it came to reading.

“I gotta say, as a kid, I was probably something of a little know-it-all, too, and that’s not the worst preparation either,” she laughed.

Woodward, a St. Anthony Park resident since 1985, also writes the Bugle’s Ask the Librarian column, which will cease when she retires. In 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, an act that provided public libraries with funding to support the state’s arts and cultural heritage. And that provided Woodward with a career.

“That was the genesis of the history programming,” Woodward explained about her Roseville post. With a history degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Woodward said she felt it was “a perfect job” for her, and she relished the opportunity to launch a lecture series.

“Tuesday with a Scholar” is now the main program that Woodward runs, and its timely topics—from classroom culture wars to gun control—regularly draw hundreds of attendees.

Reflecting on the lectures’ popularity, Woodward said: “I think that there are a lot of people like me who really enjoy an engaging, lively, somewhat intellectually challenging speaker series. A lot of people really loved college, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that we all want to go back and take finals or write papers.”

Carol Jackson, a former colleague, noted, “[Woodward] created a community devoted to engaging with Minnesota’s history, arts and culture.” She also spoke of Woodward’s keen sense of which presenters and topics would be a good fit and of her ability to gracefully manage a crowd, especially in the face of controversial subjects.

“She was so good at making people feel that they’re heard, handling the questions and making the presenters feel comfortable,” Jackson said.

Carrie Lyons, Woodward’s supervisor and branch manager, said that because Woodward’s programs have been so popular, people have begun to look to the library for a variety of programs beyond classic offerings like children’s story times.

“Judy’s impact and the popularity of the history programs will offer a public library for a variety of programs beyond classic offerings like children’s story times.,” Lyons noted. In 2022, the library offered more than 100 history programs with a combined attendance of more than 11,000 people.

Woodward also is chairperson of the protested materials committee, a group that evaluates patrons’ requests for materials to be removed from the library’s collection. In this role, she convenes committee members to examine the work and grounds for protest. Woodward then writes a report with the group’s recommendation, which is submitted to the library director for consideration.

“When I do this, I really like to think of this as education,” Woodward explained. “If I could get one principle across—and I think this principle applies in many of the current controversies about banning materials, not just at our library but nationwide—what I always try to explain is that when you come to the library, you have the right to find a huge variety of materials that apply to you. You must understand that we want to have something for everyone. But that doesn’t mean that everything we have is universally acceptable. You are entirely able to make choices for yourself among the materials that we offer; what we can’t have you do is make choices for other people.”

Woodward added, “What I always felt is so important was to treat every complaint with respect, because whether or not you agree with the person you have to recognize that they’re coming from a place of concern.”

Reflecting on what she has loved most about her career, Woodward said: “I enjoy connecting people with information so much. I started out as what’s called a reference librarian. That means, you have a question, you come in, and I find the answer. I love finding the answer—I’m a bulldog finding the answer, but also I love the connection with human beings.”

While her early love of reading and history provided clues about her professional future, there was a period when Woodward never imagined such a life for herself.

“I grew up in a time when women were not expected to work … I remember as a kid thinking, men get to choose all these things. But the women have only one thing that they can do: get married and have children.”

But then, Woodward said, “the world did open up, and I think I would have been amazed that it turned out that I really got everything I wanted. I wanted satisfying work and I wanted my family, and I got them both.”

Christie Vogt is a St. Paul-based freelance writer and a regular contributor to the Bugle.
By Gwen Willems

Our neighbor of nearly 40 years, Jim Kielsmeier, is a friendly and unassuming man who with his par- tor wife, Deb, raised three daugh- ters in Falcon Heights.

Jim is a leader who has had a major impact on the internation- al nonmilitary service and ser- vice-learning movement. As he told me, “Don’t underestimate the capability of young people to learn and contribute.”

After studying zoology and ROTC at Wheaton College, Jim’s involvement in service work be- gan when he was stationed in Ko- rea during the Vietnam War and served as a community relations officer working with schools.

To lessen the terrible tension be- tween Korean civilians and Ameri- can soldiers, Jim proposed a model for soldiers to tutor Korean chil- dren in English.

His immediate supervisors nixed the idea, but that didn’t stop Jim. He went over their heads to the commanding general, who accepted the idea. Soldiers, teach- ers, Peace Corps trainers and the Korean press also supported it. The program was ultimately so success- ful that Jim was awarded the high- est noncombat medal a soldier can receive.

Jim continued college at Ameri- can University in Washington, D.C., earning a master’s degree in East Asian Studies. He worked summers with Outward Bound in Colorado, taught and coached football at D.C.’s St. Albans prep school and set up a service pro- gram there, which recently cele- brated its 60th anniversary.

While studying for a doctorate at the University of Colorado, Jim volunteered in public schools to re- duce racial tension through the ser- vice of African American students. Jim’s experience in Korean and Denver schools were the basis for his doctorate in service learning.

Two scholars at the University of Minnesota met Jim and invited him to come here in 1984, guaran- teeing him two months of salary and an adjunct professor position at the U’s St. Paul Center for Youth De- velopment. The rest is history.

The next year, Jim set up the nonprofit National Youth Leader- ship Council (NYLC), and formed and staffed a state commission on community service headed by then Minnesota state Rep. Kath- len Blatz and Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser.

Things started slowly but sped up with the involvement of Gov. Rudy Perpich, who was impressed that Duluth high school students involved in service were twice as likely as their fellow students to want to become teachers.

Perpich proposed the first an- nual National Service-Learning Conference in Minnesota in 1989 and gave opening remarks. As an assistant professor at the UofM, Jim also founded the Center for Experiential Educa- tion and Service-Learning. Jim credits former U.S. Senators Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) for boosting credits former U.S. Senators Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) for boosting the movement by writing legisla- tion to create funding for national and community service.

Although he retired from the NYLC in 2011, Jim remains ex- tremely active in the field, now taking it across borders, organiz- ing service-learning in the peaceful Somali region of eastern Ethiopia to reduce food insecurity.

“Food insecurity is not just about the absence of food,” he told me, “but the absence of capability of the local community to produce it.” Jim assembled a diverse team of Americans to do this work un- der the umbrella of the University Partnership Initiative (UPI). Earlier this year, the UPI team made a preliminary site visit to Ethiopia, hosted by the president of Jigjiga University. One of the team’s premises is that the capac- ity of young people to contribute and to learn while they contribute can be applied to food production.

The UPI team also has ideas for the project beyond agriculture and livestock management, including solar and wind-based energy, rel- ated conservation methods and a tech expo at Jigjiga University to share information on energy options.

Gwen Willems lives in Falcon Heights and is a Bugle freelance writer.
The Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival returns this fall with six new outdoor murals and three days of family-friendly events and pro-
grams in the Creative Enterprise Zone district of the south St. An-
thony Park.

The free, public festival will be held from Sept. 14 to 16. Four local and two national muralists began creating their art works in June.

2023 Chroma Zone muralists are:

- Hend Al-Mansour (St. Paul): hendalmansour.com
- Leslie Barlow (Minneapolis): lesliebarlowartist.com
- Philipo Dyauli (Minneapolis): philipoodyauli.com
- Sydney James (Detroit): sydneyjames
- Max Sansing (Chicago): maxsansing.com
- Wes Winship (Minneapolis): wewinship

Since 2019, the Chroma Zone has been adding outdoor public murals to reflect the creativity hap-

One of the murals at 692 Glendale Street by Muralist Hibaaq Ibrahim. Photo from the Creative Enterprise Zone.

Since 2019, Chroma Zone has produced 43 murals in the Zone; 82% by local artists, 80% by BI-

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Since 2019, the Chroma Zone has been adding outdoor public murals to reflect the creativity hap-
pening in the area, present a more welcoming and inclusive narrative and foster connection in a fast growing mixed-use commercial and residential neigh-
borhood in St. Paul.

Muralists are given walls and the freedom to explore themes and imagery that is meaningful to them.

Since 2019, Chroma Zone has produced 43 murals in the Zone; 82% by local artists, 80% by BI-

The festival is produced by the Creative Enterprise Zone, a city-recognized district non-
profit whose mission is to attract and support creative people and businesses. It is located in the Raymond and University avenue neighborhood of St. Paul.

Submitted by the Creative Enter-
prise Zone.
Chimney Swifts return to St. Anthony Park

By Karlyn Eckman

After the long migration from Peru, the first Chimney Swifts birds this year were spotted overhead on May 5 in our area. You might see them in small groups flying acrobatically while chattering to each other. Swifts are unable to walk and they spend their entire lives flying or roosting inside old trees or chimneys.

Their populations have declined more than 50% since the 1970s, mostly due to removal of large trees in urban areas and the capping of chimneys. They eat winged insects, especially gnats and mosquitoes, and are beneficial for people.

In 2022, the St. Anthony Park Community Council’s Environment Committee received a grant from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation to construct a nest tower. It was built last fall by south SAP resident Bill Delanis, assisted by committee members Michael Russell, Corey Butler, Lisa Haback, Kerry Morgan, Renee Gaither and me.

Val Cervenka assisted with selection and approval of the site at the end of Long Avenue. Signage at the site is the “Life on the Wing” graphic shown below, by Sandy Hokanson (hokansonart.com).

In June, Environment Committee members (from left) Kerry Morgan, Ryan Murphy, Corey Butler and Manu Junemann added the sign at the foot of the finished tower. Photo by Michael Russell.

Volunteers set the foundation for the tower last fall. Photo by Karlyn Eckman.

Chimney Swifts have learned how to survive in close proximity to humans. Originally nesting in hollow trees, they switched almost entirely to masonry chimneys as dead trees were removed from the landscape. Now, the capping of chimneys creates a severe shortage of nesting sites.

Unique Survival Adaptations

Their long claw-like feet and stiff bristles on their tails are used to cling to rough, vertical surfaces. While hundreds or thousands of Swifts may roost in a large chimney, only one nest can be found in any chimney, large or small.

Migration

After thousands of Swifts were banded in the early 1900s, the Swifts’ winter home was finally discovered in 1944 when leg bands from swifts were collected from indigenous people in Peru. After wintering in South America, Swifts generally arrive in Minnesota in late April and leave again in early fall.

Over recent centuries, Chimney Swifts have kept Swifts Flying!

Chimney Swift populations have declined more than 50% since the 1970s. They need more nesting sites and lots of insects!

Ways you can help:

- Plant native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses, which can attract 30 times more beneficial insects than non-natives.
- Avoid using insecticides.
- Allow Swifts to nest in your uncapped chimney but close the camper to keep nestlings from falling into the fireplace.
- Clean your chimney in March before Chimney Swifts return.
- Save historic brick chimneys as roosting homes.
- Encourage your neighborhood parks, schools, and businesses to build artificial nesting structures.

The St. Anthony Park Chimney Swift tower was constructed in fall 2022 by Bill Delanis with help from members of the St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee. Funding was generously provided by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. The tower serves as both a Swift education site and future nesting and roosting site.

For more information about Chimney Swifts and how to build a nesting tower, go to chimneyswifts.org or mm.audubon.org.
Roger was preceded in death by his great-grandchildren. He also held as well as 11 grandchildren & 12 great-grandchildren. Becky (Tony) Monteforte, Tom Janice, and loving companion, Janice, died June 6, 2023. Born in China to parents, Leslie and Eleanor. He is survived by his partner, Tom Gutz. Roger’s motto was: “When giv- en a choice of doing something fa- miliar over something new, always choose the new.” He was excited to share his knowledge and offer advice, often mixed with humor. Roger was preceded in death by sister Carolyn, second wife ert Anibal (Kim Leiter); and three children Rolf (Carrie Vecchione), Jean, (Lars) Molley, (Scott) Weinberg, Kari (Eric) Ha- gen; 14 grandchildren, brother Fred (Jan) Syrdal; and sister-in- law Carol Erdahl. Roger was born Aug. 6, 1924, to Mabel, and loving companion, Donna. Roger will be remembered ev- ery year when the tulips come up, the lupines bloom and the sumac turns red. A memorial service has been held. Memorial donations may be made to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Patricia Anibal Patricia F. (McNickel) Anibal, 98, was born Aug. 6, 1924, to Mabel (Willmert) and MorrowMcNick- el. She attended Lauderale School and Marshall High School, Minnesota. After graduation, Patricia enlisted in the U.S. Army and was one of two women in her class at the army signal corps radio school. She became a radio mechanic and in- spected radios for the army. She also became a crew member for Air Transport Command, earning her silver Air Crew Member Wings of which she was immensely proud.

After her service, Patricia at- tended MacMaster College and the University of Minnesota, graduating as a registered dental hygienist (RDH). Patricia worked for the U.S. Public Health Service Fluoride Demonstration Team in Louisiana and Michigan. She continued working as a dental hygienist throughout her life. Patricia married John Warner Anibal July 7, 1951, in Minneapo- lis. She loved sharing her interests: sewing, reading, cooking, skiing, traveling, ballroom dancing and square dancing. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leslie and Eleanor. He is survived by his brother, Thomas (Mary Pat) and Richard. A memorial service has been held with interment at Fort Stelling National Cemetery. Me- moral donations preferred to The Special Olympics.

Ellen Erdahl Ellen Marie (Syradal) Erdahl, 88, died June 6, 2023. Born in China to parents, Bill and Mary Jenson.

Mari grew up in St. Anthony Park with adoptive parents Bill and Mary Jenson. She attended St. Anthony Park High School, and graduated from Murray Senior High School in 1976. She was valedictorian of her nursing program, but spent a majority of the career in edu- cating for St. Paul Public Schools. Mari had two children, Joe and Lindsay, whom she supported through all of their activities grow- ing up. She met her partner, Tom- my, in the late ’90s, and they were together for over 26 years until his recent death. Together they have five grandchildren, bowling, rac-
Lives Lives from p. 18

ing and above all camping. They would jump in their camper at any time covering for physicians on leave. He also volunteered with the New York City Mission Society; the Peace Corps in Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria, and Wheelwright, Kentucky; Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey; Mercy Hospital in Anoka, and Group Health Inc. of Minnesota.

A funeral has been held at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Robert Titzier

The couple raised two daughters, a life well-lived and fulfilled a dream of designing and building a north woods cabin.

Bob spent his career as a general practitioner, working for Floyd County Comprehensive Health Program in Wheelwright, Kentucky; Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey; Mercy Hospital in Anoka, and Group Health Inc. of Minnesota.

In retirement, Bob worked part-time covering for physicians on leave. He also volunteered with the New York City Mission Society; the Peace Corps in Lijjua-Ode, Nigeria, and Monrovia, Liberia; Hands on America, in Biloxi, Mississippi (post-Hurricane Katrina); Rural America, in Biloxi, Mississippi. A Celebration of Life was held at Centennial United Methodist Church. Memorials can be sent to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Doctors Dimitrov, Russia; Methodist Mission in India; the Audubon Society; the Sherburne Wildlife Refuge and Wisconsin Citizen Scientists.

He was preceded in death by his wife Miriam; and siblings Charlotte, Claire and Freddy. He is survived by daughters Ann (Eric) Singsaas and Meg (Eddie) Krekeler; two grandchildren and his sister Eileen Wassermans.

A Celebration of Life was held at Centennial United Methodist Church. Memorials can be sent to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Doctors Dimitrov, Russia; Methodist Mission in India; the Audubon Society; the Sherburne Wildlife Refuge and Wisconsin Citizen Scientists.

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Wrapping up Como Park spring

By Eric Erickson, Sports news and analysis

For the Bugle community, we offer a snapshot of the spring sports season and what they produced at Como Park Senior High School.

Ellery Tennison qualified for state with an outstanding time in the 100M hurdles at the Section 4AA meet. Photo by Greta Seppanen.

Track & field: For the third consecutive season, both the girls and boys placed third out of the seven teams in the St. Paul City Conference.

Four girls earned medals at the city meet for top-three individual finishes. Junior Ellery Tennison was the city champ in the 100-meter hurdles and took second in both the triple jump and the 300-meter hurdles. Junior Sahara Hinton won the city championship in the high jump. Freshman Aletha Keizer placed third in the 200-meter while freshman Olga Iteiwe placed third in the shot put.

Five boys earned medals at the city meet. Senior Charlie Power-Theisen repeated as the city champion for both the 1600- and 3200-meter races. Junior Mason Theisen achieved second place in both the 1600 and 3200. The Cougar dominance in the distance events was complete with senior Liam Schwie earning third place in the 3200 while junior Garrett Seppanen took third place in the 800. Senior Emerson Spencer placed third in the 400-meter race. At the Section 4AA Meet, Power-Theisen qualified for state in the 100-meter hurdles. Power-Theisen concluded his career on the podium with an eighth-place state medal.

Softball: The Cougars were a young team which lost more games than it won but created memories with a couple of dramatic come-from-behind wins. The team voted Murray eighth grader Lilly Coyle as the most valuable player on offense. Coyle was also selected all-conference.

Senior Kayla James earned all-conference honorable mention. Junior captain Destree Yang earned all-conference honorable mention and was voted Como’s most valuable player on defense.

Badminton: As an aim of improvement through the course of a season, Como can point to its matches versus Eden Prairie. In March, the Cougars lost 5-2 to their suburban opponent. Two months later in the first round of the state tournament, the Cougars turned the tables and won 7-0 before losing to Johnson in the second round.

Senior all-conference honorable mention players Betty Hebble and Kaya Solheid formed an elite duo for the state double tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals. Team leaders returning to next year’s squad include juniors Xee Lee and Ta’Liyah McNeal.

Girls golf: After repeating as third-place finishers in the St. Paul City Conference featuring Murray middle schoolers playing key roles at the top of the ladder. Eighth grader Micah Treiber was an all-conference selection and eighth grader John Murray earned honorable mention. Other Como players receiving all-conference honorable mention included sophomores Nolan Rogers and Vincent Anderson and junior Daniel Klett.

Baseball: Como improved its conference record from a year ago, finishing 5-5 in a tie for third place. Seniors Frank Barnard, Nic Everson and Gabe Napierala were selected as all-conference players. Everson hit .379 and had 23 RBI. Barnard hit .346 and had 22 stolen bases.

Junior Marcus Heath and sophomore Royal Urman emerged as the team’s top pitchers, and both earned all-conference honorable mention. Junior outfielder Matthew Cornelia made multiple diving catches to anchor the outfield and also earned all-conference honorable mention.

Boys volleyball: With a 12-3 regular season record, the Cougars qualified for Minnesota’s club volleyball association state tournament. After losing their opening contest in five sets to Eden Prairie, the boys won three consecutive matches to earn the 5th place trophy while also being named the best sportsmanship team of the tournament.

Senior leaders who have helped establish such a successful foundation for the Cougar program include Rin Htoo, Hla Kay, Peyton Lee, Ku Reh, Pray Reh, Taw Reh, and Jan Garcia. Pray Reh and junior Baw Reh were named to the all-tournament team. Next spring, boys’ volleyball will be operating as the newest sport sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

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