



Seminary's legacy

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Turning 30

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July 2025

Luther Seminary plans to sell entire campus site

By Scott Carlson

Luther Seminary announced its board of directors has voted unanimously to sell its entire campus site in St. Anthony Park and “begin shifting to a more flexible model.”

In a news release dated June 10, seminary representatives said, “Luther Seminary will initiate a process to seek new space in the Twin Cities area that aligns with its needs going forward and helps maintain the seminary’s enduring commitment to ensuring Christian leaders.”

“Our mission to educate leaders for Christian communities remains as vital and necessary as ever,” Luther Seminary President Robin Steinke said in a statement. “To remain sustainable over the long term, how we fulfill this mission will be transformed going forward. “Seeking new space and shifting to a more nimble model will allow us to steward our resources more effectively and serve students and learners from all walks of life.”

Luther Seminary anticipates remaining on its current campus, which abuts Como Avenue, through the 2026-2027 school year. In the meantime, they will look for new space that will better meet its needs around teaching, learning, scholarship and community — including an ongoing commitment to “strategic, periodic in-person learning.”

Angie Hanson, a 2006 master’s graduate from Luther Seminary, said the institution’s intentions to sell the campus “breaks my heart.”

“When I started in 2004, it was a vibrant community, with students attending classes, sharing meals and having deep and meaningful conversations,” Hanson told the Bugle. “I met my husband in the library and got married in the chapel in Northwestern Hall.

“But over the past 20+ years of being a neighbor, I’ve watched the seminary turn into a husk of its former self, reflecting both a move toward online learning and the general decline in ELCA membership and mainline denominations in general,” said Hanson, who lives in St. Anthony Park just a few blocks from the seminary. “Students are mostly gone, buildings are abandoned, and it feels empty and dead.

“The sale of the remaining campus is sad, but it is a loss I’ve been mourning for years,” Hanson added.

The seminary’s intentions to sell the entire campus is the latest in a several-year saga by the religious institution to try and reconfigure its space needs because of a declining on-campus student enrollment.

The seminary’s board of directors first approved a future sale of the 15-acre Lower Campus in May 2018 as part of an overall campus



Luther Seminary representatives are looking to sell its entire campus. Photo by Janet Wight.

redesign, with the goal of reinvesting the proceeds from the sale to support the seminary’s mission.

But since then, at least two different redevelopment plans have stalled with one disrupted, in part, by changing general business market conditions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this year, the seminary contracted to sell its lower campus parcel to Edina-based developer Lifestyle Communities.

Lifestyle Communities is a developer of multifamily, active-adult and senior housing and is well known to St. Anthony Park. It previously built the Zvago Coop-

erative, an active-adult community located next to Gullixson Hall at the east end of the seminary campus.

Asked how the latest sale announcement affects the seminary’s current discussions with Lifestyle Communities, spokeswoman Rachel Farris said, “At this time, we don’t anticipate that the announcement will impact plans for the Lower Campus.”

In a statement, Ramsey County District 3 Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey said he was sad the seminary will be leaving the neighborhood.

Luther Seminary to p. 5

Milton Square sold to local investors group

By Scott Carlson

The long-time owner of Milton Square has sold the storied retail and apartment complex in St. Anthony Park to a group of local investors who aim to continue preserving its existing legacy.

The parties announced the sale on June 3. Terms were not disclosed.

According to its buyers, Milton Square’s nearly 27,000-square-foot space will continue to house a curated mix of small businesses, including boutiques, wellness services and neighborhood cafés — all set within the property’s iconic European-style setting.

The new ownership group is led by Ned Rupp, Spencer McMillan and Mark Battles — all raised in St. Paul, and lifelong friends, with an enduring appreciation for St. Paul’s architectural heritage, according to the group’s news release.

“Our collective vision centers on continuing Milton Square’s legacy as a vibrant local destination and neighborhood fixture,” the buyer’s group said, “while ensuring its long-term sustainability for future generations.”

In the same news release, seller

Heather O’Malley, speaking on behalf of her family, reflected on the building’s long legacy of community stewardship:

“My mother, Mary Ann Milton, purchased Milton Square in 1957 with a vision to create something

Milton Square to p. 8



New owners of Milton Square are pledging to retain its storied legacy. Photo from Milton Square website.

CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 10 Community Council

Annual ice cream social

Every year, the District 10 Como Community Council plans our Ice Cream Social, featuring free ice cream, live music, meet-and-greets with neighborhood organizations and activities for children and families.

This year's event is scheduled for 5:30 to 8 p.m. on July 11 at the Como Park Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway N. Because parking is limited, community members are encouraged to walk, bike, roll, car-pool or take public transportation.

Interested in helping plan or volunteer? Fill out our interest form, attend a meeting (listed in the next column), or contact the organizer at organizer@district10comopark.org.

To find out more, go to District10ComoPark.org/IceCreamSocial.

2025 Lake Como cleanups

Join us for our 2025 Lake Como Cleanups! These community events, held in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District, focus on the shoreline and Lake Como itself.

The next lake cleanup is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8. The final one for 2025 is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 20.

District 10 provides trash-grabbers, rakes, buckets, nets, trash bags and nitrile gloves for those

who need them. Or, feel free to bring your own gear.

Registration is not required, but it helps to plan and communicate if changes come up. For more information, check out District 10's website at District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. You can find meeting details at District10ComoPark.org.

- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 2
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public and include time for community members to bring topics for discussion. It's a great way to stay informed, ask questions and connect with neighbors — everyone is welcome!

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

District 12 Community Council

District 12 expands task force to include Luther Seminary Upper Campus Development

The St. Anthony Park Community Council is expanding its Luther Campus Task Force to address the future of both the Lower Campus at 1501 Fulham St. and the Upper Campus property at 2481 Como Ave.

This expansion follows the news



Neighbors planting, pedaling and building community at the May 24 Community Activity Day at Westgate Commons Park, hosted by SAPCC District 12 and supported by the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund. *Photo submitted by District 12 Community Council.*

that Luther Seminary is selling the Upper Campus, making it available for potential development in 2027-28.

As of this issue of the Bugle, Lifestyle Communities has a purchase agreement for the Lower Campus, with development expected to begin in 2026-27.

With the Upper Campus now being put up for sale, District 12 is adjusting the task force's mission to ensure both properties are handled with community input. The community council wants to ensure that neighbors have a say in planning how these spaces evolve.

"We want to ensure that as development moves forward, the voices of St. Anthony Park residents are heard and considered," said Kenny Niemeyer, co-chairman of District 12 Land Use Committee. "This is an opportunity for us to guide the

redevelopment process and make sure it reflects the needs and desires of the neighborhood."

If you are interested in serving on the expanded task force or want to stay informed, please email info@sapcc.org for more information.

Coming: St. Anthony Park Community Garage Sale

The District 12 Community Garage Sale is just around the corner, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5 and 6. Neighbors are invited to register early for what promises to be a great weekend of treasure hunting and community fun.

In 2024, there were 15 garage sale locations across the neighborhood,

and District 12 hopes to make this year's sale even bigger. The sale will span multiple locations throughout St. Anthony Park, offering everything from household items and furniture to vintage finds and collectibles.

"We love seeing how this event brings people together," said John Maurer, District 12 treasurer and Equity Committee member. "It's not just about buying and selling — it's about creating connections within the neighborhood."

To register your garage sale or to get more information about the event, visit sapcc.org/sale.

Upcoming meetings

District 12 encourages neighbors to attend monthly committee meetings, available in-person and online. Learn more and get involved at sapcc.org.

- **Land Use Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, July 3
- **District 12 Board:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, July 10
- **Environment Committee:**
7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23
- **Transportation Committee:**
7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29
- **Equity Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, July 31

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.



On May 24, neighbors gathered for the first Community Activity Day of the summer at Westgate Commons Park—a new initiative supported by the University of Minnesota's Good Neighbor Fund and organized by the St. Anthony Park Community Council. The day began with planting flowers and plants around the park, followed by an afternoon of safe cycling activities focused on our younger neighbors. *Photo submitted by District 12 Community Council.*

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SCAN FOR MORE

U golf course's pending sale prompts debate

By Anne Holzman

The announcement in early June that the University of Minnesota would close and sell the Les Bolstad Golf Course set off conversations all over the north metro. But no place was more intensely interested than the city of Falcon Heights, within whose municipal boundaries the golf course lies.

The news did not take the city entirely by surprise. The Falcon Heights City Council adopted a Snelling and Larpenteur Corridor Development Study last November which noted that the university had floated the property as an “opportunity site” that might soon come up for sale.

The property is designated Area 1 in the study, with two options for laying out a mix of residential, commercial and public use (green space) zones. If not rezoned, the current public land designation

would revert automatically to single-family residential.

The area to be sold includes the driving range and holes south of Larpenteur, which the corridor study did not anticipate. Not included in the sale are the golf training area, the Elizabeth Lyle Robbie stadium or the campus radio tower and station. Ramsey County owns the area occupied by Gibbs Farm.

The golf course parcel to be sold is 141 acres, a significant fraction of Falcon Heights's territory. The small city, which also includes the state fairgrounds and university research fields, struggles with a limited tax base.

Ramsey County and Roseville Public School District 623 also stand to benefit from an expanded tax base depending on development choices.

“We have a lot of work to do to figure it out,” Falcon Heights City Administrator Jack Linehan told

the Bugle shortly after the news broke, “but we have the proactive work we’ve done as part of the corridor study... that will help guide development.”

The city of Lauderdale lies along the border of the Bolstad course. Though it does not contain any of the land up for sale, Lauderdale residents and businesses will be affected by development there, especially along the city's eastern edge on Fulham Street. City Administrator Heather Butkowski said they'll rely on “a good relationship with Falcon Heights” to channel any concerns.

The day after the sale plan was announced, the Lauderdale City Council welcomed Ramsey County board representative MaryJo McGuire for a routine report that turned to a discussion about the golf course sale. She noted the county owns roadway bordering the site and therefore will have “a seat at the table” for planning.

City council member Jeffrey Dains asked, “Could the county purchase some of the land as a park?” He noted that the northwest corner of the county does not have much park space.

McGuire admitted that’s “a popular idea” but said the interest in expanding the tax base “might supersede a park.”

Lauderdale Mayor Mary Gaasch said that while Falcon Heights holds sole authority in zoning the site, she expects Lauderdale residents will participate in opportunities for public comment.

Gaasch also noted the state Legislature has been looking at proposals to limit public comments on proposed developments. She wrote in an email to the Bugle, “If citizens would like to have a say about development in their own community, they need to let our legislators know that it is critical we keep this public feedback.” ■



Submitted photo from University of Minnesota golf course.

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer who covers city government news for the Bugle.

Senior apartment project proposed on Amber Flats site

By Anne Holzman

Developer MWF Properties has secured preliminary support for a 110-unit senior housing development in place of the parking lot west of Amber Union.

The plan includes underground parking for the proposed new building, which would be adjacent to the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Snelling avenues.

At its May 28 meeting, the Falcon Heights City Council approved

MWF's request to apply for Ramsey County affordable housing funds for the site, which MWF was under contract to purchase from Buhl investors. Buhl dropped its pursuit of a similar housing plan last fall.

Although the application appeared on the consent agenda and therefore had no formal discussion, Mayor Randy Gustafson introduced MWF representative Marty O'Connell after the measure was approved.

O'Connell explained the county

funding is the first of several steps needed to cover “a significant financing gap” in the proposed project. He said he expects to spend 2025 lining up financing and approach the city with zoning and related requests in 2026.

Richfield-based MWF has projects under way or completed around the metro area, including in Burnsville and Maple Grove.

Falcon Heights City Administrator Jack Linehan told the council his staff is “excited” to be working with MWF on the project. He said

the company has “a lot of experience in the market.”

Linehan later told the Bugle that the plan would likely require a fresh planned unit development (PUD) process because of changes to the configuration of units.

“There’s still a long journey,” Linehan said, “but steps so far look positive.”

Buhl bought the pair of properties, on the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Snelling avenues, from the city in 2019 and renovated the two existing buildings. Buhl

named that project Amber Union in honor of the original use as the headquarters of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association.

Buhl still owns Amber Union and contracts with Halverson Blaiser Group to manage the property.

The site now proposed for development by MWF has long served as overflow parking for the neighboring buildings. ■

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



Developers of Amber Union (pictured above) have dropped plans to build an adjacent senior project called Amber Flats. A new developer, MWF Properties, is pursuing a similar senior housing plan on the Amber Flats site. Photo from Lou Michaels—Bugle archives.

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COMMENTARY

Land of 10,000 farmers markets

Fresh food, flowers and more are never far away

By Bill Brady

Farmers markets are sprouting all over the Park Bugle coverage area this summer. Depending on your energy level, you could practically walk to one, nearly every day.

On Tuesday, check out the one at Corpus Christi Church on Fairview and County Road B. On Wednesday there's the MidCity Farmers Market on Raymond Avenue, featured in this month's Transition Town column on page 15.

And on Thursdays, there's the new kid on the block: the Como Park Farmers Market at the corner of Hoyt and Hamline avenues, across from Chelsea Heights Elementary School. You may have noticed the sidewalk signs around the neighborhood drumming up interest since its opening day in mid-May.

"We are so happy that it's here!" exclaimed Katie Graves as she grabbed a bag of produce from vendor (and Hastings farmer) Ma Lao. Katie, who lives three blocks away, has been to the market almost weekly, partly because of the fresh vegetables and partly because



Bryan Utecht offers a pork sample to Roseville's Jan Kahout. His dad, Chris, is one of about 20 regular vendors at the Como Park Farmers Market. Photo by Bill Brady.



Hastings farmer Ma Lao packages up fresh produce for shopper Katie Graves at the Como Park Farmers Market. Photo by Bill Brady.

her 3-year-old son, Hugh, "loves the cheese curds."

Hey, there's something for everyone. And every "something" is local.

"All products must be grown or produced within 100 miles of St. Paul, which means we are still waiting on some of the vegetable tables," said Lindsay Stauner of the St. Paul Farmers Market/Growers Association, manager of the fledgling venture. "When we are completely full, we'll have about 20 vendors."

The market was the brainchild of Como Park Lutheran Church, on whose parking lot it resides. The congregation has a long history of food ministry outreach, including financial support for the Every Meal program at Chelsea Heights to feed food-insecure students on weekends.

"We've been in conversation for the last year to discern what more we could do," explained Sue Brogger, the church's coordinator for Kitchen, Hunger Ministries and Events.

"We have this big parking lot at Hamline and Hoyt. It has been used for food drives, and we hosted a block party last year to engage with neighbors. But here was a way to bring in more food resources on a regular basis."

On one recent week, those resources included home-grown pork, locally roasted Columbian coffee, steamed momos, popcorn and—to extend the market's bounty beyond its physical boundaries—free organic seeds, courtesy of the Como Community Seed Library.

As with all markets run by the St. Paul Growers Association, the Como Park market has a matching program for folks who receive benefits from SNAP, the U.S. Government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Every \$10 from a SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer account turns into \$30 to spend at the market.

The Como Park Farmer's Market is open Thursdays from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m. through Oct. 30. ■

Bill Brady is the Bugle copy editor.

COMMENTARY

A word to readers who "love the Bugle"

By Helen Warren

Managing editor Scott Carlson invited me to address Park Bugle readers as I complete six years on the Park Bugle board, the maximum term of service permitted in the board's bylaws.

Over that period, I've had frequent conversations with Bugle readers at community gathering spots. Many occurred at the Bugle booth at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival or in Langford Park after the 4th in the Park parade.

Far and away, the most frequent comment is, "We love the Bugle." While I take satisfaction in the consistency and fervor of this affection, I'm also uneasy about it.

Here's why: Generally, we love what is familiar and predictable. We love what strongly resonates with us.

So, I worry that this love affair with the Park Bugle indicates a sameness or stagnancy that can actually make it more difficult to achieve our mission: "To strengthen our community by providing local news and stories that transform readers into neighbors."

The difficulty is easier to understand when you examine U.S. Census data for our service area. The 2020 Census counted 33,553 people living in the neighborhoods of St. Anthony Park (9,951), Como (15,962) and the towns of Falcon

Heights (5,369) and Lauderdale (2,271).

Census figures indicate that people of color make up 24.6% of the population, nearly one quarter of our neighbors. I wonder how well the Park Bugle covers their experiences and achievements.

When you look at income, at least one third of residents in our service area earn more than \$100,000 annually; more than half \$75,000 or more. Fewer than 9% of residents live below the poverty line.

However, some 30% of households are described as "cost burdened," meaning their housing costs equal more than one third of monthly income. I wonder how well we cover the challenges of folks who are not as affluent, who can't afford to eat out frequently or shop in our retail establishments.

What are the opportunities to get to know people who don't resemble our immediate neighbors? I get to know some of them when I deliver groceries to elders in rental properties or take them to medical appointments as a volunteer with St. Anthony Park Seniors.

Conversations at the front door or in the car give me insight into lives I don't live but might someday. How can the Park Bugle provide more opportunities to learn about the sizable group of our neighbors who are not white or affluent?

Perhaps we think about these

folks when we weigh policy or electoral choices. But it's not the same as reading about their lives or talents in the pages of the Park Bugle.

Policy discussions about "the working poor" or "racial minorities" often flatten them into a demographic or income category. What we have in common usually emerges only in conversations or personal accounts at the heart of community journalism.

Here's where those readers who "love the Bugle" can help.

Think about a "familiar stranger," a person you encounter regularly but don't know well. Someone you are curious about but haven't engaged in a substantial conversation. They may not be residents, but there they are, behind the counter or in the kitchen or the shop. Their efforts weave into the life of our community.

Ask them about an article you liked in the Park Bugle. You may have to grab a copy from the rack and show it to them.

Or mention a Facebook post and show it to them on your phone. That's a way to start a conversation you can continue the next time you see them.

You may learn something about them you didn't expect. And they will learn something about you, that you "love the Bugle" and want to share it with them. The initial



Helen Warren.
Photo from Bugle archives.

reaction may not be strong; it takes people a while to warm up.

But it could be that what the Bugle does for people who "love" it can also reach people who have no idea that it exists.

The immediate aim is to start a conversation, not suggest story ideas for Bugle writers.

But if the conversation continues, you may learn something about the "familiar stranger" that prompts you to contact the editor, Scott Carlson, at editor@parkbugle.org. ■

Helen Warren lives in St. Anthony Park and is the immediate past presiding officer of the Bugle board of directors.

COMMENTARY

Luther Seminary's legacy is significant

By Zev Radziwill

Luther Seminary has been a long integral part of St. Anthony Park whose presence has been deeply woven into the fabric of the community.

For more than a century, the seminary has contributed to our neighborhood's educational, cultural and communal development. Its influence is felt across generations, and its impact on the character and values of St. Anthony Park will always be an important part of the community's foundation.

While the decision to sell the campus is definitely a loss, we hope that Luther Seminary will remain in the neighborhood in some form and always be a part of the welcoming atmosphere that defines St. Anthony Park.

As you may know, Lifestyle Communities has a purchase agreement for the lower campus at 1501 Fulham Street.

Now, since news that the seminary's upper campus is also up for sale, we at District 12 Community Council are curious to see who may be interested in that parcel of the property, too.

As development for the upper campus moves forward, we anticipate learning more about potential developers, and we will engage with them in the same way we have recently begun engaging with Lifestyle Communities — ensuring



Luther Seminary has had a long-lasting presence in St. Anthony Park. Photo by Janet Wight.

the community's voice is heard throughout the process.

The upper campus area is unique for many reasons, not least because of its position at the heart of north St. Anthony Park — sitting atop a hill with sweeping views of the surrounding neighborhood. This neighborhood has always been a small, close-knit educational hub — one that has been central to the fabric of the community.

The site offers an amazing mix of green space, historical buildings and natural features that many residents feel very strongly about preserving. It has played a key role in shaping the neighborhood's character.

In response to this news, St. Anthony Park Community Council

District 12 is expanding our Lower Campus Task Force to also include the upper campus development.

The task force's role will be to ensure that both sites are developed in a way that respects the character of the area — and addresses the needs of our neighbors. We're taking this proactive approach to make sure the community remains central to these discussions.

We'll be hosting several public forums on both the lower and upper campus sites as the projects progress. In addition, SAPCC's Land Use Committee will be conducting surveys and other outreach efforts to give residents an opportunity to share their thoughts in multiple ways.

We want everyone in the com-

munity to have the opportunity to participate and voice their opinions on how these spaces should be repurposed.

We've also learned a great deal about this area through the Zvago

co-op development process. Many of the concerns raised during that development — such as traffic, green space and preserving neighborhood character — are still top of mind as we consider how best to move forward.

We're fortunate that trusted community members, including Sherman Eagles and Roger Purdy, who were involved in past projects, have agreed to join the Luther Campus task force. Their experience, along with that of other task force members, will be invaluable as we address the future of both the lower and upper campus sites.

Please feel free to reach out to us at District 12 if you have any further questions or need additional information. ■

Zev Radziwill is executive director of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council.

Help us tell stories that matter!

Send your story ideas or news tips to editor@parkbugle.org

Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. We appreciate when writers and readers submit articles early.

Please remember publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days.

Bulk drop-offs of the paper are usually completed two to three days after publication.

August

Copy/ad deadline: July 9
Publication: July 22

September:

Back to School

Copy/ad deadline: Aug. 13
Publication: Aug. 26

October:

Food and Drink Guide

Copy/ad deadline: Sept 10
Publication: Sept 23

Luther Seminary from p. 1

"Luther Seminary has been a pivotal steward in our community for over 100 years," McMurtrey said. But he added, "I respect their decision as they seek a new space to meet their needs."

"This transition also presents a unique opportunity for what's to come," he continued. "Although the city is the land use authority for this property, I am looking forward to working with neighbors, city and state partners, and

the residents of St. Anthony Park to ensure that we hear their ideas, concerns and questions.

"I believe we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to usher in new development that meets the needs of our community and ensures we are building an affordable, sustainable and thriving neighborhood for generations to come." ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Park Bugle.

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Events to commemorate the life of Philando Castile

By Amelia Colwell

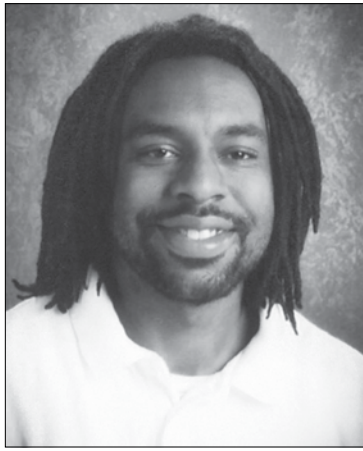
Two upcoming events will commemorate the anniversary of Philando Castile's death and invite community members to come together in the spirit of unity.

On Sunday, July 6, the community is invited to a candlelight vigil in the Philando Castile Peace Garden from 8:35 – 9:00 p.m., marking the date, time, and place he was killed. The Philando Castile Peace Garden is located on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights, near the north entrance to the Minnesota State Fair.

The Peace Garden is accessible by the Route 61 bus line, and parking will be available at Good Acre, located at 1790 Larpenteur Ave. West in Falcon Heights.

This free event will be held rain or shine, and battery-operated candles will be provided.

Valerie Castile, Philando's mother and community activist, will speak, and a pastor will offer



Philando Castile. Submitted photo.

a prayer. The microphone will then be opened up to the community for sharing.

Castile said, "I want to know: what have you done for community as a result of the loss of Philando? His death should never have happened. The candlelight vigil is not about me — I want to know how his death has affected you."

On Monday, July 7, a Unity BBQ open to the public will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on the lawn of Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. West. The event's goal is to bring community members together in unity, conversation and social connection.

Of the event, Castile said, "Unity in community keeps me going. It helps me to know that out of this tragedy of the death of my son, there is still hope, love and understanding. I want to show you love in universal ways — through food and music. We are all spiritual beings going through a human experience. Everything you see in me was in Philando."

(In a traffic stop on July 6, 2016, Philando was shot and killed by a police officer.)

Live entertainment will include a DJ, emcee, dance groups, vocalists and spoken word performance artists.

Food and beverages will be pro-



A candlelight vigil will be held from 8:35 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 6 at The Philando Castile Peace Garden in remembrance of the St. Paul man who was slain by a police officer on July 6, 2016 in Falcon Heights. Submitted photo.

vided free of charge and will include Logan's Catfish food truck featuring catfish, fries, coleslaw and corn, in addition to water and juice.

Community organizations will staff a table at the event, and there will be art activities for kids.

Parking will be available at Falcon Heights City Hall and nearby side streets. ■

Submitted article from Amelia Colwell, a local freelance writer.

SAP Community Foundation 2025 grant winners

By Julie Drechsler

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation's annual grant program provides vital funding for local schools and community groups, and also helps support local events and activities in the neighborhood.

This year's grants will again support a range of activities and initiatives, allocating \$48,500 across 16 organizations. Funding categories include the arts, environment, physical activity and participation, education, community engagement, aging in place and positive youth development.

Being able to provide small grants to local community organizations remains a key function of the foundation.

In 1999, when the foundation began the annual grant program, it awarded a combined total of \$8,000 to five local organizations. Since then, the foundation has awarded more than \$1.1 million in community grants.

Cornerstone grants a new category

This year, the foundation has introduced a new category of grants, a pilot program for key community organizations. We are calling them SAP Cornerstone Grants, which are three-year operational grants.

We wanted to ease the burden of grant writing for some of our key community organizations that we traditionally support each year. We have chosen the Park Bugle, Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, Creative Enterprise Zone and SAP Area Seniors for this funding.

All four organizations provide essential services and benefits to our community and we are thrilled to provide guaranteed operational funding of \$2,500 for the next three years.

Programs and initiatives that we funded this year include:

Community grant winners:

- **The Schubert Club:** Julie Himelstrup Music in the Park concert series.

- **Como Park High School:** Future Medical Professionals Association Club uniforms and medical equipment.
- **International Institute of Minnesota:** English for Work program.
- **Avalon School:** The production of two school plays.
- **Minnesota Urban Debate League:** Debating programs in Central High School, Como Park Senior High School and Murray Middle School.
- **Creative Enterprise Zone:** 2025 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival.
- **SAP School Association:** Fourth-grade puppetry residency and fifth-grade Wolf Ridge trip.
- **Urban Boat Builders:** General operating expenditure.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities:** Community-based mentoring program.
- **Murray Middle School:** School theater program and E2 Program.

- **St. Paul Urban Tennis Program:** Summer tennis and life skills programming at College Park and Langford Park.
- **Children's Dental Services:** Dental care and education, including nutrition education and food assistance referrals.
- **St. Anthony Park Community Council:** Community Garden expansion.

Cornerstone Grantees: (Operational funds)

- The Park Bugle
- St. Anthony Park Community Council
- Creative Enterprise Zone
- SAP Area Seniors

Michael Brasel Fund for Youth Grantee:

- The Sanneh Foundation

Unfortunately, we always receive more requests than we can accommodate. There is so much valuable and inspiring work happening in St. Anthony Park—we would like to support all the requests, but we assess each submission against the funding criteria, alignment with



the foundation's mission and impact of the program.

Funding for the grants come from the foundation's four endowed funds, the Gerald R. McKay Family Music Fund, The Environmental Education Fund, the Andy Boss Fund and the newest fund established in 2023, the Michael Brasel Fund for Youth.

Interested community members can donate to the St. Anthony Community Foundation through the GiveMN page, the website or through the annual giving campaign. ■

Julie Drechsler is executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Como Park High School news

By Eric Erickson

Debate en Español champions

The Minnesota Urban Debate League (MNUDL) has been providing programming, resources and coaching to high school and middle school students in the Twin Cities for over 20 years.

Recently that programming expanded to include a Spanish debate league. Participants conduct their research and debates fully in Spanish. Participants improve vocabulary and fluency while increasing critical thinking and other skills that debate teaches in any language.

The debating en Español has been a game-changer for Como Park students **Juliana Carrion** and **Andres Carrion**. As a team, they developed both pro and con arguments about Amazon Rainforest management policies and competed against teams from other schools.

In this year's culminating event,

a qualifier for the 2026 National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the Carrion duo emerged as the champions. They will represent Como at the National Championships next spring in Boston at Harvard University. Expect more on this development next year!

Celebrating the class of 2025

Como's seniors had a whirlwind of activity during their last week of high school.

Tuesday, May 27, was Senior Dedication Night in the Como Auditorium. Families gathered to witness their soon-to-be graduates honored on stage for academic awards, scholarships, leadership, service, department awards and athletics.

College tuition scholarships from community partners and sponsors ranged from \$500 to \$16,000 and were awarded by Wallin Education Partners, Blaze Financial, Paitich #forthekids

Foundation, Como STEM, Get Ready Student Success, Rice St. Athletic Club, Travelers Edge, St. Paul Youth Services, Robert Street Business Association and the Como Park Schultz Scholarship.

The last day of school for seniors was Friday, May 30, which included picking up caps and gowns for graduation and enjoying the annual Senior Picnic hosted by the Como Park Booster Club.

Monday, June 2, was a memorable, fun-filled day as the class of 2025 experienced Valleyfair Amusement Park together. The event was supported by donations and the booster club.

The following day was the moment the seniors had all been waiting for: Graduation.

The seniors walked across the stage at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul to receive their diplomas on the evening of June 3.

Kirk Morris, assistant superintendent for St. Paul Public



Como Park Senior High School faculty gather in the Cougar Forum after their final staff meeting of the 2024-25 academic year. The faculty include administrators, counselors, social workers and teachers. Photo submitted by Eric Erickson.

Schools, noted that Como's seniors are part of history — the largest high school class ever in the United States with approximately 3.9 million graduates. (Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) ■

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

School news around the town

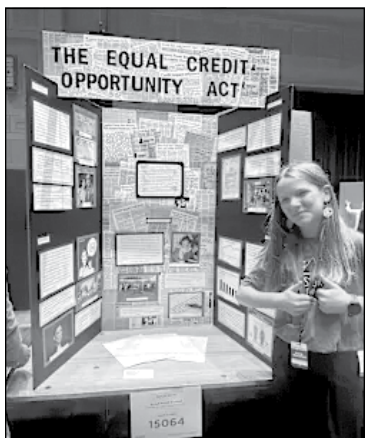
Compiled by Janet Wight

Murray Middle School

Submitted by Stefanie Folkema

State History Day

Thirty-seven Murray Middle School students, contributing to 22 projects, participated in State History Day on April 27 in Minneapolis. Many of these students either earned awards or advanced in the competition.



Scout Murch-Gordon earned a spot to National History Day in Washington D.C. Submitted photo from Murray Middle School.

Scout **Murch-Gordon** qualified for Nationals for her exhibit on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Charlie Anderson, **Peter Laszka** and **Emmet Loth** earned third place for their documentary on The Right to Clean Water.

Five students won Topical Prizes: **Hazel Collins**, **Maja Johnson**, **Mary Grace Lindsley**, **Felix Mortensen** and **Rohan Stebleton**.

The following students advanced to the final round and received honorable mentions:

- **Erik Bollman** for his documentary on Goodridge v. Dept. of Health
- **Javier Cerda**, **Robinson Courtney** and **Ja'Mel Williams** for their website on the National Parks
- **Ethan Dotzauer** for his exhibit on Racial Covenants in the Twin Cities

- **Sylvie McRoberts** for her website on Esther Peterson
- **Felix Mortensen** for his exhibit on the Great Hinckley Fire
- **Rohan Stebleton** for his website on the Hormel P-9 Strike
- **Julia Umut-Bejarano** for their website on the Love Canal

Teacher retirements

With the close of the 2024-2025 school year, two long-time Murray teachers are among the latest faculty retirees in the St. Paul Public School District. They are science teacher **Tim Chase** and English teacher **Liz Curran**.

Thank you for your service and good luck to you both.

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

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Kristin Anderson named Brasel Spirit of the Park winner



Kristine Anderson. Bugle archives.

By Julie Drechsler

The St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has named resident architecture historian Kristin Anderson as its 2025 Michael Brasel Spirit of the Park winner.

The annual award is given to a neighbor who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication for service and commitment to the community. Nominations are made by fellow community members.

Anderson, who is a newly retired

professor from Augsburg College, has been presenting a free monthly program on the history and architecture of St. Anthony Park for the past three years.

Anderson will ride in the 4th in the Park parade and will be presented her award during the formal program at the bandstand following the parade.

Community members, who nominated Anderson for the spirit award, noted she not only is knowledgeable about local history but

presents passionate, articulate, entertaining and engaging talks and tours.

Kristen had overwhelming support by her fellow community members for this nomination.

Hours of research occur before each talk or walking tour, Anderson investigates the history of each building, often searching through old building permits, photos, maps and history books to find the information she needs for her presentations. She provides a snapshot into

the early days of the settlement of St. Anthony Park, a view that many residents are unfamiliar with and are able to enjoy in these free lectures and tours.

Anderson's commitment to tell the story of our community is remarkable gift to our neighborhood. ■

Julie Drechsler is executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

parkrun program coming to Como Park

By Janet Wight

parkrun, an international organization that promotes free weekly 5k events throughout the world, is coming to St. Paul's Como Park.

These events emphasize wellness, inclusivity and community, welcoming anyone who would like to participate—from dog walkers to elite runners and everyone in between.

Como Park parkrun will be the fourth location in Minnesota, joining ones already established in Chaska (Courthouse Lake), Cottage Grove (Hamlet Park) and Eagan (Thomas Lake Park).

The first Como Park parkrun is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 26. Subsequently, the fun runs will be held every Saturday morning, year-round. Cancellations due to conflicting events or severe weather will be announced online when necessary.

Founded in London in 2004, there are now over 2,500 parkruns worldwide including nearly 90 in the United States.

Jeremy Wight, a long-term resident of the Como neighborhood, has spearheaded the launch of the Como parkrun.

As a new member of the District 10 Como Community Council, Wight had been contemplating various ideas for community building. He stumbled upon the parkrun website while researching bicycling and running routes.

As a park enthusiast, Wight felt that parkrun would be a perfect fit in Como Park.

"Retirement gave me an opportunity to look around for ways to contribute to our community," Wight said. "This one stood out."

After contacting Nate Damro, parkrun regional ambassador, Wight learned he would need to obtain permission from the City

of St. Paul to establish a parkrun in Como Park. He also needed to submit names of at least 10 volunteers who would agree to actively participate in the rollout.

Wight circulated announcements on Facebook pages, running groups, the District 10 newsletter and neighborhood groups to gauge community interest. He quickly received feedback from enough interested volunteers to fulfill this requirement.

City permission was the next major hurdle. Although attempts to establish parkruns in many large cities have hit roadblocks, Health and Fitness Specialist Katie Foss, with St. Paul's Department of Parks and Recreation, was on board right from the start. Her support paved the way for prompt written approval from the city.

Participants and volunteers need

to register just once online to receive a barcode which may be used at any parkrun location around the world. In fact, parkrun tourism is alive and well in the Twin Cities area, with regional and overseas travelers joining locals at these area events.

Each 5k finisher will have the opportunity to have his or her barcode scanned and paired with a finishing token that will provide an electronic record of participation.

Volunteers will manage the weekly parkrun events. A minimum five are needed each week to fill the required roles. Como Park parkrun will endure only if enough volunteers come forward to make it a sustainable community event, which is the ultimate goal.

"We'll have some challenges ahead," Wight said. "What if there are too many conflicting events? How can we keep it thriving



during our long winters? But other parkruns have succeeded and we can too."

Another important component of the parkrun experience is the chance to socialize at an after-event coffee hour. Participants and volunteers will be invited to gather at Dock & Paddle located in the Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Visit parkrun.us to learn more about volunteering or to obtain additional information.

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle. Jeremy Wight, event director for Como Park parkrun, is her husband.

Milton Square from p. 1

enduring and beautiful—a place where independent businesses could thrive and neighbors could gather.

"It has been a great honor to carry forward her vision. I'm grateful to see the next generation of thoughtful local owners stepping in to preserve and care for this historic treasure."

O'Malley assumed ownership of Milton Square when her mother, then 85 years old, retired in about 2010. Milton Square's current eclectic mix of tenants includes Nicos Taco's & Tequila Bar, Mari-gold, Yes! Yes! Vintage Boutique, Tax Cat Consulting and Almost Heaven.

Designed in 1909 by architect Franklin Ellerbe, Milton Square is known for its Tudor Revival architecture, charming courtyard, and beloved collection of independent shops, professional offices and cafés.

The property has been a neighborhood anchor for more than a century. Milton Square was Frank Ellerbe's first commission. He would later go on to form Ellerbe & Co., a notable international architectural firm, which would turn into Ellerbe Beckett.

"I have been a lifelong admirer of Milton Square; I fondly remember going to Muffuletta growing up," said Ned Rupp, speaking on behalf of the buyer group. "We're honored to serve as its next stewards."

"This is a very special place— not just architecturally, but in the daily lives of neighbors and visitors. We look forward to supporting the existing tenants and continuing the property's legacy as a cornerstone of the community."

O'Malley said that an essential condition of selling Milton Square was for new buyers to honor the current character of the mixed-use development, including its focus on supporting small business development. She noted she had many offers to buy the property and revamp or tear down the current structure, but those offers were not acceptable.

O'Malley told the Bugle. "This is a unique property and a rare gem and creation in St. Anthony Park. I wanted to find a group of people or a buyer who wanted to keep it the way it is. I am very pleased that I found this (buyer's) group."

Rupp told the Bugle he wants to

maintain Milton Square's character just as O'Malley and her family did for 68 years. "We hope to do the same," he said.

The transaction was brokered on behalf of the seller by Jim Kenney, Kevin Peck and Jeff Hart of Suntide Commercial Realty.

Milton Square was built in three phases, starting with the Como-facing building in 1909, former Bugle editor Mary Mergenthal recently wrote for Kristin Anderson's monthly SAP architecture history series. Today, Milton Square totals 26,865 square feet, occupying nearly 1 acre at 2244 Carter Ave.

Mergenthal noted, "The structure facing Carter Avenue was built in 1912, and the middle building facing the courtyard was added in 1914. Each of the first two buildings included apartments on the upper floors, retail space at street level and community halls on the lower level." ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle. This article includes background material from a previous issue of the Bugle.

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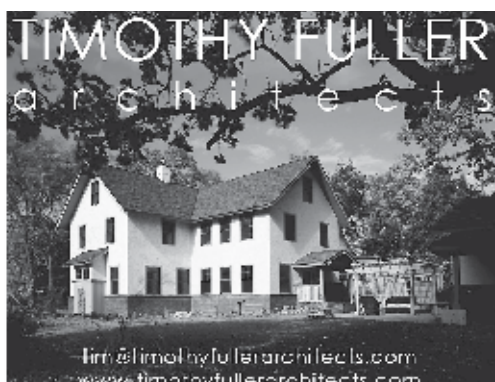
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Reflections from the Como Class of 2025

Editor's note: The Como class of 2025 experienced the challenges of most high school students, balancing the demands of classes with new opportunities and responsibilities coming into view. In the following essays, Como graduates Vincent Anderson, Giselle Sanchez-Esparza and Levi Kallhoff reflect on their high school experiences.



Vincent Anderson

Before coming to Como, I never really cared about which high school I would be attending. I thought that every school would be the same, that it wouldn't matter which one I choose.

But now that I've graduated, I can only imagine having attended Como Park.

Back when I was a freshman, I rarely did any other activities apart from school. But with the many different activities to choose from and a push from people around me, I was able to find something that I enjoy: a sport I was passionate about.

With time and effort, I became a two-time all-conference player and senior captain on the boys tennis team. Something I never would have thought was possible before.

However, my accomplishments weren't just from my efforts alone. I have had so many people, from teachers and coaches to teammates and friends, supporting me. And this is what I love about Como.

There is no shortage of people who are willing to help you. As a student and athlete, I was expected to do my best, but when times got tough, I was able to reach out to others for support.

Through attending Como Park, I was able to challenge myself by taking AP (Advanced Placement) and CIS (College In the Schools) classes. These classes were able to give me a little taste of what college may feel like.

While taking these classes, we were assigned college level or near-college level work, while still being in high school classes. With that, I pushed myself, and also prepared for work in college.

Additionally, through my AP Government and Politics class, 18 students including myself were given the opportunity to take a trip to Washington, D.C., and im-

merse ourselves in the history and functionality of our government. On this trip, through the Close Up Foundation, we had the privilege of meeting with our representative and senator, meet other students from across the country and expand and deepen our understanding of politics and different perspectives.

Being a student at Como, although experiencing many normal ups and downs, has been wonderful. I have made so many wonderful connections with friends, teachers and coaches, and have learned many things that will be useful as I progress through life as an adult.

I am truly grateful to Como and all of the staff that have influenced who I am today. ■

Vincent Anderson will be attending the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.



Giselle Sanchez-Esparza

I am incredibly grateful for the people, communities and experiences Como has brought into my life.

When I came to Como as a freshman, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't have any built-in friendships from middle school, and while I was excited for a fresh start, I was also scared.

As a shy, timid 13-year-old, I worried about how I'd make friends. Thankfully, sports gave me an outlet — not just to stay active, but to meet new people.

Over the past four years, soccer has been more than just a sport. It gave me a chance to play the game I love while surrounding myself with amazing people. The soccer com-

munity at Como truly feels like a family and I'm forever grateful for the memories we created.

Playing on a professional soccer field had always been a dream, and thanks to Como, my teammates and I made it come true with our Mayor's Cup Match at Allianz Field. I'll always cherish my time on the team and the friendships I built, watching my teammates grow from the shy freshmen I first met into the confident leaders they are now.

I also stepped out of my comfort zone and tried something new — softball. I didn't know what I was getting into, but it ended up teaching me valuable lessons, both on and off the field. Even though I didn't start off strong, I learned that with hard work and determination, you can succeed at anything.

Without my teammates and coaches from both sports, I wouldn't be where I am today.

I want to specifically shout out our athletic trainer, Lindsay Knight. She became like a second mom to me throughout my athletic journey. I truly don't think I'd be standing on two feet without her. Thank you, Lindsay!

Academically, Como gave me the chance to challenge myself. I took multiple AP classes like American History, Government, and Psychology that helped me figure out what I enjoy learning while building my time-management and study skills. One highlight was our AP Government trip to Washington, D.C., where I learned to be open-minded and listen to different perspectives on politics and life.

But the most important thing I learned was the value of strong friendships. Through my classes,

I built relationships with both teachers and students that I'll never forget — especially my

advisory group and our amazing teacher, Julia Mohn. Thank you, Ms. Mohn, for being such a posi-

tive role model for all of us. We love you more than you'll ever know!

Overall, I'm incredibly thankful for everything Como has given me over the past four years. I'll always carry these experiences with me and will forever cherish the amazing people I've been lucky enough to call my friends. ■

Giselle Sanchez-Esparza will be attending St. Olaf College.

Levi Kallhoff



I am proud of the person that I have become over the past four years.

I am a better student, a harder worker and a more well-rounded person leaving Como than I was coming in.

While my development required a lot of effort from me, I have been blessed with a meaningful support system to guide me through high school and beyond.

One thing I am grateful for in my Como experience has been that I have been set to succeed after I leave. One of my goals going into high school was to utilize accelerated classes to earn free college credits.

In the last four years, thanks to my teachers, counselors and other support, I have been gifted plenty of opportunities to achieve my goal and saved thousands of dollars in college.

One example of success was how I was able to get CNA (certified nursing assistant) certification. My counselor knew that nursing is my dream career and was able to set me up with a program to get my CNA training through Saint Catherine University.

Not only did I get college credit through the class, but I was able to pass my certification test. Thanks to Ms. Thao for thinking of me and

that opportunity, I have been able to take the next step to getting my dream job.

In my four years at Como, I have grown academically, but I think that how I have grown socially is even more impressive. When I stepped into school my freshman year, I was leaving behind over a year of isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To say my social skills were rusty is a vast understatement. Despite that, I was able to build connections with people who have grown to be some of my closest friends. My friends are by far the greatest reason that I am a happier person now than I was four years ago, and why I am confident I will thrive in college.

If I were asked to give one piece of advice to someone going into high school, I would tell them to join extracurricular activities. Joining Como's ultimate frisbee team and theater tech crew have set me up to succeed after high school.

I have learned valuable lessons about working on and leading a team, time management and com-

munication. Those skills will not only help me in college but in the professional world after that.

Joining extracurriculars has also helped me diversify my friend portfolio, letting me meet

people who weren't in the same classes as me. My high school experience would not have been the same if all I did was go to class then go home, and I know it sure would not have been better.

While high school has felt like a grind at times, now that I am done it feels like a blur.

I am blessed to look back without regret as a better person than when I began. ■

Levi Kallhoff will be attending Creighton University.

“My high school experience would not have been the same if all I did was go to class then go home, and I know it sure would not have been better.”

– Levi Kallhoff

“... I learned that with hard work and determination, you can succeed at anything.”

– Giselle Sanchez-Esparza

Graduation time for seniors at Como Park High School



Graduation for Como's class of 2025. Members of the senior class at Como Park Senior High School walked across the stage at Roy Wilkins Auditorium on June 3 to receive their diplomas. Photos submitted by Eric Erickson.



Congratulations 2025 Graduates!



Wyatt Ambriz

Como Park Senior High School

Wyatt, we are so proud of you! You work so hard and have great ambitions! Hold onto that! Stay funny, kind, compassionate and love others always!
Love you! Dad, Mom, Hayden and Vivian



Margaret Carlson

Concordia University-St. Paul

Congratulations Margaret on your master's degree in education from Concordia University-St. Paul!
With pride and joy, Dad and Mom



Martha Boyt

Central High School

You turn the world on with your smile, and oh how much better we are for it!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Sam



Charles & Vincent Anderson

Como Park Senior High School

You guys did it! Best wishes as you make your way in the world and may the odds be always in your favor. We love you!
Love, Dad, Mom & Brothers



Aksel Isler

Saint Paul Academy and Summit School

Aksel, your creativity, humor & sharp mind light up every room! We can't wait to see all the adventures that await you in high school & beyond. Keep being exactly who you are — the world is lucky to have you!
Congratulations! Love, Dad and Mom



Felix Kirsch

Great River School

Congratulations, Felix. Stay curious and adventurous!
We love you, Mama and Dada



Jack Harlan Anderson

Murray Middle School

Congratulations on your 8th grade graduation, Carboy! We love you and are so proud of you. Everyday you amaze us with your humor and spunk.
Love, Dad, Mom & Brothers



Gwen McRoberts

Central High School

Congratulations Gwen McRoberts, Central High School '25! We're so proud of all you've accomplished and excited for your next chapter at St. Olaf.
Love always, Mom, Dad & Sylvie



Caleb James Nietz

DeLaSalle High School

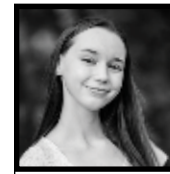
Congratulations Caleb! We're so proud of you. Excited for what's next!
Love, mom and dad



Adam Pfaff

Central High School

Adam – Remember how you used to spend hours setting up those super cool domino runs or perfecting a ridiculous trick shot? Never lose that.
We love you tanto tanto, Mom and Dad



Ingrid Ostby

St. Paul Public Online High School

You did it! We're so proud of you and can't wait to see you shine in Madison.
So much love – Mom, Dad, and Gus



Amelia Orezza Robinson

Central High School

Dearest Mimi — we're so excited to see where the next chapter in your life leads (and to also have all the ice cream to ourselves)! Congrats!!!!!!
XO, All The Z's And O's



Elena Purcell

Augsburg University

Congrats Elena! We are so proud of you. We can't wait for your next adventure!
Love, Mom and Dad



Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

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Congratulations 2025 Graduates!



Giselle D. Sanchez-Esparza

Como Park Senior High School

Congratulations, G! We are so proud of you and everything you have achieved! "No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind." — Taylor Swift
Love, Mom, Dad, Isa, Santi, Remy, Rogue, Mittens, & Socks



Maisy Root

Great River School

Maisy, You love this world with creativity and courage. Can't wait to see how life beckons you.
Love you, Mom & Dad



Nora Anne Thomey

UC Berkeley

Congratulations beautiful girl! Your care, empathy and interest in others will benefit all of us; especially communities in need!
Your family, friends and neighbors



Rane Roste

Central High School

Proud of you Rane! Congrats on graduation and have fun at Coastal Carolina in the fall!
Dad and Mom



Martha Torstenson

University of Minnesota

Congratulations, Martha, on earning your PhD in Ecology. Kudos to Allison Shaw for guiding your thesis and to your committee, including Sarah Hobbie!
Love, Mom and Dad



Isabella Severt

Great River School

We are so PROUD of the good head on your shoulders and your heart for all things family!
Love, Mom and Dad, Sam and Gigi



Sylvia Turk-Themes

SAP Elementary School

Congratulations, Sylvia! You are so creative, courageous, clever, kind, hilarious, and truly yourself. We love you and could not be more proud of you.
Love always, Dad, Mom, Lynx, and Luna



Ellen Schroeder

Central High School

SAP, Murray, Central, and next up, UW-Madison. Congrats and good luck!
Love, Mom, Dad & Will

Como School 2024-25 highlights

The school year at Como Park Senior High has come to a close, and with it, a year full of standout moments. Here are some highlights from the year.

Como Cultural showcase: The Student Council organized a showcase to celebrate the school's diversity. Dancing, singing, and a fashion show in the auditorium entertained families and peers.

"We wanted to create a space where students could show others pieces of their cultures," said advisor Allison Hartzell. Groups chose their own music and wore cultural clothing.

Cultures represented on the stage included Burmese, Burundi, Congolese, Ethiopian, Hispanic, Hmong, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Nigerian, and Somali.

AP Government class in action: Seniors in AP Government facilitated a school-wide mock election in November. Over 700 students voted in the auditorium.

Fifteen AP Gov students also served as election judges citywide after training from Ramsey County Elections staff.

Marine Corps JROTC: Como's cadets hosted their annual Devil Dog Drill Competition on Dec. 14. Eight JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) schools from the Midwest competed in a

dozen events throughout the day. Cadet Sergeant Nally See, a junior at Como, earned the Best Unit Leader Award.

One act play: Three successful performances of "The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet" took place in December. Co-directors were choir teacher Huy Tran and English teacher Michael Youle.

Mayor Carter at NAAPID assembly: On Feb. 10, Como marked Na-

tional African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) with a student-led event featuring choir performances, cheerleaders, student readings, and speeches.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter shared messages emphasizing the strength of the Como community and the essential role parents and other stakeholders play in supporting students. ■

Compiled from Bugle reports.

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Apsan	Davon	Inaaya	Louis	Olivine	Siyam
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Autumn	Eleanor	Isabelle	Mai-Yah	Rajmatia	Toivo
Ava	Elijah	Ivan	Mark	Ramona	Tucker
Ayan	Andrew	Jakob	Matilda	Rayan	Vivian
Bennett	Felix	Joanna	Matilda	Raymond	Warren
Blake	George	June	Maymuna	Ruby	Yonis

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Forever Green Day observed at U of M's St. Paul campus

By Kathy Henderson

Since when did the University of Minnesota start growing umbrellas?

That might have been your thought on May 28, if you happened to drive by the U's agricultural fields that border the St. Paul campus along Larpenteur Avenue at Fairview or Cleveland avenues.

In fact, those umbrellas weren't growing out of the ground but were being held by people attending the first Forever Green Field Day, which was open to the public.

An estimated 225 people turned out on a miserably cold and rainy afternoon, demonstrating people's strong interest in the Forever Green Initiative or just their curiosity about what is growing in those fields.

The Forever Green Initiative is co-directed by Nick Jordan and Mitch Hunter, both of the University's Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics — and both St. Anthony Park residents. It was co-founded by Jordan and the late Don Wyse in 2012.

In developing new crops, the initiative is recognized for its comprehensive approach that combines basic scientific research with crop commercialization efforts. It is a research endeavor of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, or CFANS.

With umbrellas up and sturdy boots on, groups of students, researchers, farmers, scientists, interns, community members, entrepreneurs and nonprofit and agribusiness representatives eagerly boarded buses or found seats on tractor-pulled field wagons in anticipation of tramping through soggy fields to get a bird's-eye look at the cover crops growing there.

Trailing after their U guides, the visitors encountered plants with recognizable names such as sunflowers and hazelnuts, as well as the not-so-familiar ones: Kernza®, silflower, domesticated winter penycress and winter camelina.



University of Minnesota research scientist Lois Braun led a Forever Green Field Day umbrella parade through a St. Paul campus agricultural research field on May 28. Photo by Jan Geisen.

Avid home hobbyist gardener Jenny Offt took the day off work to be there. Like many nearby St. Paul campus residents, she had driven by, walked by, and even walked through the agriculture fields, often wondering what was planted there — and why.

In finding answers, Offt said she became absorbed in the sustainability connection of clean water, air, soil health and product. She also grew in admiration for the perpetual curiosity of the scientists, with their patience and trial-and-error commitment.

"It's as if they're thinking, 'Well,

that didn't work, but if we just tweak this' ... The enthusiasm, energy and friendliness of presenters and participants made me feel as though I was a part of something visionary," Offt said.

Between field excursions, the Leatherdale Equine Center's Barena Arena provided refuge from the rain, hosting displays, refreshments and vendors.

During the welcome program,

Jordan expressed gratitude to people — and to plants — and enthusiastically advocated that "crops can change the world." Hunter, noting so many new crops under development, described the U as the "cradle of the future of agriculture."

Dan Rusoff of Eat Your Heart Out Catering in Falcon Heights reported his food service business gave away 240 winter rye brown butter chocolate chip cookies and

10 gallons of Hazelnut Horchata beverage during the event. Other Forever Green-inspired snacks and drinks from EYHO included bars, sumac-dusted popcorn, lemonade and sparkling elderflower.

To learn more about the U's Forever Green initiative, visit forevergreen.umn.edu. ■

Submitted by the International Institute of Minnesota.

New SAP history walking tours set for July and August

By Mary Mergenthal

Back by popular demand, St. Anthony Park resident historian Kristin Anderson will be leading two new neighborhood architecture walking tours this summer.

The first set of tours features houses and parks in the area around Scudder, Raymond and the "pilgrim" streets, including Brewster and Priscilla. The second tours are focused on alleys in the northeastern section of the neighborhood.

Each tour will be offered three times. The dates for the Scudder-to-Alden Park tours are July 10, 12 and 15; and the alleys tour will be offered on August 14, 16 and 19. In each grouping, tour times are Thursday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on the following Tuesday evening, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Suggested donation for each tour is \$10 and reservations are required. For information and to sign up, visit KristinAnderson.org/events, or email to Kristin.km@gmail.com.



House on Brewster in the early 20th century. Photo from a private collection, used by permission.

Generous support towards the purchase of the audio system is being provided by St. Anthony Park's Courtney Law Office.

Mary Mergenthal lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former Bugle editor.



At the Forever Green Field Day at the U of M St. Paul campus, PhD student Chase Krug shows off silflowers. Photo by Jan Geisen.

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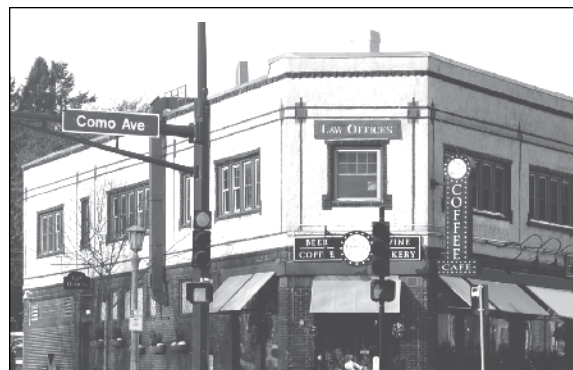
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Library Corner
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LIBRARY CORNER

SAP Library building update still underway

By Scott Carlson

Due to a delay in repairs and maintenance, the re-opening of the St. Anthony Park Library building at 2245 Como Ave. is not expected until early August.

Previously, officials hoped to see it re-open by mid-July.

Check the library's website for exact date and other upcoming events (rclreads.org).

In the meantime, there is a variety of events scheduled at nearby libraries (sppl.org).

Rita La Doux, chairperson of the SAP Branch Library Association board, said the library repair work must be carefully handled because the building is on the National Historic Register. "Therefore,

any work on the building must be in compliance with historic preservation standards," La Doux said.

For example, the building's outdoor hand railing, or balustrade, was in need of repairs due to years of damage from wear and tear and winter salt, she noted. "The balustrade was showing rust at the base."

Since the library maintenance and repair project began in early April, a construction crew has been working on the balustrade for weeks, La Doux said. "They have stripped it, sanded it down, and are putting on fiberglass. This is very detailed, careful work that takes time and patience."

In a recent news release this spring, library officials said the repairs are necessary to ensure

the building is safely accessible to all patrons.

"The lower-level entrance does not meet accessibility standards due to the steep slope of walkway," said library spokeswoman Rebecca Ryan. "Additionally, water collects at the base of the walkway near the building and, at times, enters the building's lower level. The stairs to the main entrance need routine maintenance and repair."

Money for the project is being provided by the City of St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget. ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle. Bugle freelance writer Kathy Henderson also contributed to this report.



Heavy equipment has dug up the grounds around the St. Anthony Park Branch Library as the facility undergoes repairs and maintenance work. Photo by Kathy Henderson.

St. Anthony Park Library events

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Temporary closing extended:

Due to a delay in repairs and maintenance, the re-opening of the St. Anthony Park Library building at 2245 Como Ave. has been moved to early August. Previously, officials had hoped to see it re-open by mid-July.

Check the library's website for exact date and other upcoming events at rclreads.org. In the meantime, a variety of events are scheduled at nearby libraries at sppl.org.

Holiday closing:

All St. Paul Public Libraries close early at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, and are closed on Friday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day.


Summer reading programs Summer Sparks

The St. Paul Public Library's summer reading program for children and teens continues through August. Participants keep track of their reading and complete activities at their own pace. Register at any SPPL or at sppl.org/summer.

Summer Reading at Ramsey County Library

The Ramsey County Library's summer reading program for children (On the Hunt for Good Books) and for teens (Tales from the Cryptids) continues through Aug. 9. Learn more at rclreads.org/news/kids_summerbreak. ■

Compiled by Kathy Henderson, Bugle freelance writer.



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Thank you to all of our festival partnerships and donors!
Your dedication and support is what allows these community events to continue year after year.

Thank you to the SAP Branch Library and its staff, Luther Seminary, Zvago, and The Emily Program for generously sharing their spaces and utilities — helping our festival grow with more art, music, and neighborhood memories.

Thanks also to SAP Lutheran Church for the cookies, hospitality (and more!), and to Centennial United Methodist Church for parking and providing shelter in a storm.

Special thanks to the community booths and activities — for bringing fun and learning to the celebration, and for being at the heart of our neighborhood spirit.

And finally... A huge **thank you** to the 56th Arts Festival Committees: Phil Abrahamson, Rebecca Ammerman, Josh Caron, Christina Chung, Kim Chung, Nate Killam, Rita LaDoux, Laura Mays, Abby McGovern, Jeremy Petersen, Alex Prince, Paul Swedenborg, Rebecca Tetlie, Rachel Tranberry, Michelle Imbritson, Bob Zalanik and the SAPBLA board members

For a list of all our wonderful Arts Festival volunteers and sponsors, please visit sapfest.org.

See you again the first Saturday in June 2026!

EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

MidCity Farmers Market



Foxtail Farm has organically grown vegetables and plant starts. *Photo by Reba Batalden.*

4 to 8 p.m. every Wednesday until Sept. 24, at 693 Raymond Ave. (MidCity Kitchen parking lot). Features locally grown produce, artisanal foods, handmade goods, ready-to-eat food trucks, live music, and more. EBT/SNAP and Market Bucks accepted.

Neighbors of Alden Square

Alden Square Park, 1169 Gibbs Ave. **Dunquin (Celtic heritage music) and summer potluck:** 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 11, at Alden Square Park, 1169 Gibbs Ave. Bring a dish to share and a personal beverage and chair or blanket, plus a tip for the band.

Women's Drum Center

Drum Basics: 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 14, at 2242 University Ave. W. Explore both hand and stick drumming utilizing easy, energizing exercises to build skills. The focus is on having fun. Instructor: Jo Klein. Drums provided. \$15. Register at womensdrumcenter.org.

Gibbs Farm

Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life: 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. Noon to 3 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Guided tours available on the hour, \$10-\$5; free for children 3 and un-

der and members. Free parking. Details at rchs.com/gibbs-farm.

Community Sing

Join pianist, accordionist, storyteller and vocalist Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed for a sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 21 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave, St. Paul

Transition Town - All St. Anthony Park

Westgate Commons Volunteer Day: As part of the ongoing Plant & Pedal Days, neighbors are invited to help garden and care for the community from 10 a.m.–noon and 1–3 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, at Westgate Commons Park, 717 Berry St. Additional volunteer days are planned for Aug. 23 and Sept. 27.

Bell Museum

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. See website for regular museum hours and registration: bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Solar observing: Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, July 12, 19 and 26. Drop in to safely observe the sun at the museum's outdoor solar station.

Minnesota Unearthed: 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturday, July 12. Explore Minnesota's geology, Indigenous stories, atlatl demos, canoe building, and the planetarium show "Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge."

Star Party: Hands-on activities, demonstrations, special planetarium shows: 9:30 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, and 9 to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. Free with regular museum admission; registration required.

Hot Magma Summer: Tuesday, July 15, through Saturday, July 20. Drop by during regular museum hours to find out how volcanic activity shaped Minnesota — and

the Earth — into what is seen today. Planetarium show "Supervolcanoes" recommended for ages 8+.

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily at Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive. Free. A voluntary donation of \$4 for an adult and \$2 for a child is appreciated. comozooconservatory.org.

Sunset Affair: 5:30 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 17. Reservation deadline July 1. Reception, tours, silent auction and dinner. \$250.

Senior Strolls: 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, and 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Special time reserved for adults ages 55+. Online registration is no longer required.

Groovin' In The Garden: Outdoor concerts and activities from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays in front of the conservatory. Free. Refreshments available for purchase.

• **Leslie Rich & The Rocket Soul Choir,** Belfast-born singer-songwriter fronting a three-piece rock band, July 2.

• **Salsa del Soul,** high-energy Latin dance music. July 9.

• **Jellyjacket,** all-star Minnesota rock 'n' roll band, July 16.

• **Favourite Girl,** Katy Vernon leads a female-powered rock band, July 23.

• **School of Rock,** St. Paul and Plymouth student house bands, July 30.

Music Monday: 9:50–10:30 a.m., 10:50–11:30 a.m., and 12–12:40 p.m. on Monday, July 7. Jack Brass Band leads a second-line jazz parade through the zoo.

Orchard Odyssey: 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 27. Explore orchards in the greenhouse. A horticulturist will share insider tips. Register. Adult program: \$30.

Wildlife Rescue: Tales of Conservation: The interactive outdoor exhibit of 12 life-sized, climbable animal sculptures continues through Labor Day. Each sculpture represents a species that was once on the brink of extinction but made a comeback due to conservation efforts.

Sunken Garden: Summer Flower Show continues through Sept. 14. Bromeliads, hibiscus and citrus featured among an assortment of tropical annuals.

Como Town: Rides and attractions at this family-friendly amusement park next to Como Zoo are open for the season. Find details online at comotown.com.

Dock and Paddle

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N.

• **Community Band,** Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4, and 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29.

• **Capri Big Band,** 7–8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

• **Initials Game Live,** 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Thursday. A free weekly trivia game with prizes.

Find the full summer music and entertainment schedule online at dockandpaddle.com.

Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors offers a mixture of in-person and virtual activities during July. Unless otherwise noted, registration is not required. For more information, call 651-642-9052 or email sc@sapaseniors.org.

In-person activities include:

Pound Fit: A full-body drumming workout from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at Centennial United Method-

ist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Limited class size—call the office or email to register.

SAIL: Stay Active and Independent for Life: exercise class for balance, strength and flexibility: 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays, July 14, 21 and 28; Wednesdays, July 16, 23 and 30; and Fridays, July 18 and 25, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Call the office or email to register.

Game Day: Coffee and board games: 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22 at 2200 Hillside Ave. W.

Handiwork Group: 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 10, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Bring your own supplies and drop in to socialize with your neighbors.

Lunch outing: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 2. Meet at La Casita, 1925 Perimeter Dr., Roseville. Call the office or email to register.

Equal Portions: Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Catered luncheon and presentation. \$15. Register by July 11.

Poetry Group: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 18, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W.

Lauderdale "Day in the Park": 5–8 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, at Lauderdale Community Park, 1885 Fulham St. A community celebration featuring a 4-H pie social fundraiser, kickball game, outreach by St. Anthony Park Area Seniors and opportunities to sign up as a volunteer.

Virtual:

Lunch Bunch: Socializing and BINGO. Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23. Call the office or email for Zoom link. ■

Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a freelance writer.



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TRANSITION TOWN

This is a monthly column from Transition Town — All St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood-based group working for a local response to climate change: a smaller carbon footprint and a stronger community. Learn more about Transition Town at TransitionASAP.org.

Ode to our neighborhood farmers market

By Justa Heinen-Kay

The MidCity Farmers Market is open for its second season in south St. Anthony Park.

To ring in the season, here are three reasons to love having a local food and craft market in your neighborhood, and why you should support it this year:

Bolster our local food system

Eating local is one of the best ways to stay grounded in your community. Local veggies are always in season and bursting with nutrients.

Eggs from happy chickens taste better and are a more ethical option than the factory-raised alternative. Plus, supporting small-scale farmers in our area will make our community more resilient in the face of climate change, supply-chain disruptions and other aspects of globalization.

The MidCity Farmers Market is hosted in the parking lot of MidCity Kitchen, a commissary kitchen where small-scale food producers can become licensed to manufacture packaged food items.

Several vendors make their products in the onsite kitchen, creating a hyperlocal production economy that directly benefits community members. Some examples include DarkSide Snacks, a branch of BrightSide Produce that creates upcycled fruit- and veggie-based snacks, with the proceeds going toward their mission of eliminating food deserts; Deli Colombia, which cooks mouth-watering arepas; and eQuality Ice Cream, a nonprofit that employs adults



At the MidCity Farmers Market, visitors are welcome to bring their dogs as they shop for fresh foods. Photo by Mindy Keskinen.

with intellectual disabilities to provide paid work opportunities and create meaningful community connections.

Support small-scale entrepreneurs

Farmers markets are about more than just veggies. They're often the first place a new small-business owner can field-test products with customers, whether they're baked treats, handmade jewelry or freshly made egg rolls.

Many MidCity vendors are recent immigrants or people of color, and every vendor has a story behind their products. Often the motivation for starting their own business is about sharing their culture.

For instance, Blue Horn Tea

founder Yubi Hassan wanted to share his Somali grandmother's family tea recipe and the sweet memories sparked by her particular blend of spices.

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Vang Heritage Farm has veggies and flowers according to season. Photo by Mindy Keskinen.

Justa Heinen-Kay, PhD, MBA, is a social entrepreneur, educator and biologist passionate about creating more equitable and sustainable communities. A founder of the MidCity Farmers Market, she is co-director of BrightSide Produce, a nonprofit that improves access to affordable fruits and vegetables in the Twin Cities.

Plan your visit

Where and when

693 Raymond Ave., St. Paul, every Wednesday, 4–8 p.m., rain or shine, now through Sept. 24.

How to get there

The market is a block and a half south of University Avenue on Raymond Avenue. Walking and biking are encouraged. Bike racks are on site. Metro transit: Take the Green Line to Raymond Station, or the bus (87, 63, or 67) to the University and Raymond stop.

Driving is also welcome and there is ample street parking around the market. An accessible permit spot is available in the Avalon School parking lot off Raymond Avenue.

How to pay

Most vendors accept both cash and cards, and some also accept app-based payments like Apple Pay or Venmo.

The market is also authorized to accept SNAP/EBT and Market Bucks: to use your EBT card, swipe it at the Market Info or BrightSide Produce booth. Every \$1 of EBT gets matched with \$1 Produce Bucks and \$1 Market Bucks, tripling your spending power on staple food items.




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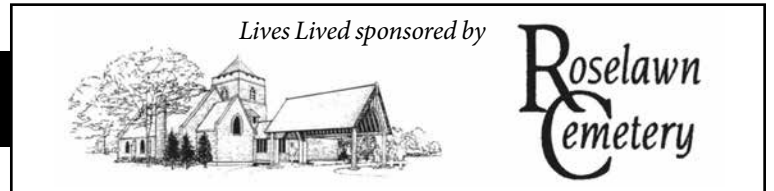


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Agnes Dynes

Agnes M. Dynes (née Rogers), 87, died May 27, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Buzz; her parents; and sister, Jackie. She is survived by her children, Mary, Joseph, David (Jennifer), Patrick (Jennifer) and Anne (Jason); seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; sisters, Rose (Paul), Bernice, Eileen, Sue (Stan), Betty; and brother-in-law, Allan.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Church of the Holy Childhood, with interment at St. Canice Calvary Cemetery, Kilkeny, Minnesota.

Memorials preferred to Holy Childhood Church or Our Lady of Peace Hospice and Home Care.

David Fait

David C. Fait, Air Force Veteran and member of the Local 10 Sheet Metal Workers Union, died May 12, 2025.

David will be remembered for his creativity, artistic woodworking, love of fishing, volunteer spirit and gentle humility. The family extends heartfelt thanks to special friend Colleen Kroona, the staff at St. Anthony Park Home, and Health Partners Hospice for their care in David's last months.

He was preceded in death by infant children Susan and Paul. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lorraine; children Sandra Blake, Thomas Fait (Martha), Mary Kay Kaiser, and Steven Fait (Lisa); eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at Church of the Holy Childhood, followed by interment with military honors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to Habitat for Humanity.

Kenneth Gowdy

Kenneth "Ken" E. Gowdy, 88, of Roseville, died May 8, 2025. He was born May 23, 1936, in Hibbing, to the Rev. Vernon and Lois (Cook) Gowdy, the second of five children.

He graduated from Duluth's Denfeld High School, and went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree at UMD (1958); a bachelor of arts and theology from St. Paul Bible College (1960); a bachelor of divinity from Bethel Theological Seminary (1963); and a doctorate from Fordham University (1979).

Ken served as pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in St. James, Manitoba, (1963-'65); assistant professor at Nyack Missionary College, N.Y. (1965-'68); social worker for Youth Development, Inc., East Harlem, NYC (1968-'69); associate professor of Sociology, Bethel College, St. Paul (1971-'93); and bus driver, Metro Transit (1993-2002).

Ken married Shirley Benson in 1958, and together they raised four daughters. Ken was a lifelong learner and a gifted and beloved teacher, impacting his children, college students and many adult learners in Bible studies and book discussion groups. He saw himself as a midwife to his students' growth and discoveries.

His Christian faith, his love of the Bible, and his and Shirley's lifelong search for how to live as the people of God in contemporary U.S. society were central to his life. Ken lived his life with compassion and integrity, sought justice for all and was a careful steward of God's creation.

He and Shirley tried to live simply, so that others could simply live. He sought self-knowledge and wasn't afraid to live with unanswered questions.

Although intellectually focused, Ken developed and shared practi-

cal skills such as painting and roofing. Upon retirement, he enjoyed Bible study, golf, Sudoku and washing the dishes at the end of each day. The family's favorite quote of his: "Every meal deserves a desert." This wise and loving man will be missed by his family, church community and many others.

Ken is survived by his wife; four daughters: Rebecca Emmons (Robert); Christine Gowdy-Jaehning (Mark), Sharon Gowdy Wagener (Fred), and Sarah Lempia (Bryan); six grandchildren; three siblings: JoAnne Weaver, John Gowdy (Shirley) and Kathleen Kramer (Donovan); and three siblings-in-law: Marilyn Benson (Tim Wulling), Orland Abel, and David Benson (Sally Anne).

A memorial service was scheduled at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ at 1 p.m. on Fri., June 27. Please direct memorials to The Land Stewardship Project, St. Anthony Park UCC.

Anders Himmelstrup



Anders Himmelstrup, 88, died May 2, 2025. He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1936. He and his wife Julie lived in St. Anthony Park for 55 years, moving to North Oaks six years ago.

As a youth, he was principal cellist with the Danish Youth Orchestra, which performed in Denmark, Holland and England. After completing his high school education in Denmark, Anders enrolled in the Royal Danish Academy of Art and began a four-year apprenticeship in lithographic art at Aller Press, a leading publisher in Nordic countries.

He graduated from the academy

in 1958 and on a fluke was offered a job on a Danish international cargo ship departing two days later. He traveled the world serving the ship's captain and officers, but he got to see the world, including Saudi Arabia, India, Singapore, Thailand and China.

Emigrating from Denmark to Canada in 1959, Anders worked as a lithographic artist and played cello in the Toronto Conservatory Orchestra. There he met Julie, his wife of 64 years. Julie and Anders moved to St. Paul in 1963 and lived in St. Anthony Park where they raised their daughters Lisa and Kari.

Founder and co-owner of Graphic Systems, Inc., in Minneapolis for 36 years, Anders was an artist, cellist, inventor, chess player and world traveler. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many.

In the late 1990s, he set up his first studio, turning his full attention to painting after retiring in 2006. His first book, "Himmelstrup: 10 Years of Painting and Sculpting," was published in 2012, the second, "Painting and Sculpting" in 2020.

In other pursuits, Anders invented and patented a color analysis device which he sold to 3M. Diagnosed with diabetes at age 30, he also invented and patented an insulin pen injection device.

Anders served as a board member and long-time supporter of Music in the Park Series (now part of Schubert Club), the Dale Warland Singers, and the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation. He was a devoted hospice volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul.

An avid reader, he started a men's book club in St. Anthony Park. Anders also enjoyed playing tennis with neighbors at College Park

and at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. He enjoyed a good glass of wine and meals at Muffuletta. He was an accomplished chess player and competed in tournaments in the Twin Cities and New York City. An adventurous spirit, he flew glider planes at Stanton Airfield near Northfield.

A true Dane, Anders' dining heaven included sandwiches made with six kinds of herring, roast beef with remoulade, and Grav-lax Salmon on rye bread, chased, of course, with a glass or two of Aalborg Aquavit.

Anders is survived by his wife Julie; daughters Lisa Himmelstrup (Daniel Liljedahl) and Kari Himmelstrup (Jacqueline Arroyo); three grandchildren; and sister Marianne Rohrberg of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Special thank you to Anders' caregivers in the Arbor at Waverly Gardens in North Oaks.

Anders' memorial service was held June 20 at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Donations preferred to Schubert Club (schubert.org) or St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ (sapucc.org).

Erika Hovland-Bahij

Erika Christine Hovland-Bahij, 52, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., died June 6, 2025. Born on July 24, 1972, to Keith and Karen (Newell) Hovland, St. Anthony Park, Erika lived a life that was a testament to kindness, curiosity, her faith and a deep commitment to those she loved.

A memorial service will be held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave, July 12. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with a service at 11 a.m. Full obituary is scheduled for the August Bugle.

Lives Lived to p. 17

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Lives Lived from p. 16

Patricia Mullen
Patricia Clark Mullen, 82, died June 3, 2025. She was preceded in death by husband James; son Michael; parents John and Elizabeth Clark; siblings Jack Clark, Virginia Fobes, Mary Marble, Margaret Opatz, and Kathy Clark. She is survived by children James, Elizabeth and Patrick (Arji); grandson James; and many family and friends, all of whom she adored.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 10 at Church of Saint Cecilia, with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. ■

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power.

They are messengers of overwhelming grief and unspeakable love.

— Washington Irving



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Tim & Tom's Speedy Market turns 30

By Sarah CR Clark

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Tim & Tom's Speedy Market, which observed that ownership milestone on May 10 with a neighborhood party and many sales in the store.

The day's festivities included food trucks, a petting zoo featuring Paul Hueg's (of Park Service) friendly baby goats and prize drawings.

"We are so grateful to be able to serve the St. Anthony Park community and beyond," Speedy said on a social media post the day of the party. "These 30 years have been incredible! The best is yet to come."

Co-founders Tom Spreigl and Tim Faacks bought the building at 2310 Como Ave. on March 8, 1995, from Schroeder Milk Company. Schroeder operated a Speedy Market from the location which was co-managed by Spreigl and Faacks since 1987.

"In about '92 or '93, Schroeder decided they wanted to get out of the convenience store business, which is what this store used to be, a convenience store," Spreigl explained during a recent interview. "This store was the oddball in the whole Speedy Market portfolio," Spreigl said. "The rest of the Speedy Markets were straight convenience stores, most of them with gasoline."

But not 2310 Como Ave. Spreigl described how Schroeder Milk Company was nonunion in a time when St. Paul and Minneapolis had strong grocery unions, therefore Schroeder couldn't sell their milk to unionized grocers. Rather, Schroeder served independent grocery markets and convenience stores.

Spreigl said, "When the mom-and-pop stores started retiring, in our case it was the Blombergs, Schroeder purchased a handful of those shops. At one point, Schroeder had two or three grocery stores with meat departments, and this store was the last one of those."

Spreigl remembers the scene of Schroeder's Speedy Market from 1981. When he was an assistant manager, "They had sawdust on the floor, the butcher would be in the back smoking a cigarette and cutting steaks with a saw. There were always barrels of lutefisk."

In the early '90s Spreigl and Faacks worked to improve the store, preparing for it to sell, when a family acquaintance suggested to Spreigl that he buy it.

"I laughed," he recalled. "Probably three weeks later I said to Tim, 'Harry said we should buy this place.' And he laughed just like I had."

However, thanks to the wise counsel of Faack's dad, Spreigl's good record keeping, and their previous success as co-managers, Tim and Tom purchased the store from Schroeder after a couple of years of negotiating.

"Why name it Tim & Tom's Speedy Market?" Spreigl asked. "Because we didn't have the money to put up new signage. So, we just added our names to it."

Co-founders Spreigl and Faacks owned and operated Tim & Tom's Speedy Market together for 24 years, until Faacks retired in January of 2019. During those years, the co-founders offered a wide variety of products with the purpose of figuring out what would stick.

"We would just try things," Spreigl said. Things like the sandwich card program, which began in 1996 with a new heater case and roller grill.

Eventually that was followed by a Trudeau-branded baking oven for baking bread and cookies. And readers might also remember Speedy's hand-dipped ice cream cart on the front patio, between the years of 2011-2016.

The idea for Speedy's garden center was born on the tarmac at MSP airport. Spreigl's plane was delayed due to thunderstorms so he started talking to the person sitting next to him. That person, it turned out, worked at Bailey Nurseries' tree farms.

"He asked if I'd ever thought of having a garden center. And I said, 'Well, I've always been kind of interested in that.' By the next summer we were selling plants and learning how to water them and cover them on frosty nights. My wife ended up being the flower person here for a long time."

Spreigl is grateful for how his wife, Jackie and Faacks' wife, Maria, supported both families and also the store.

"Before Tim and I actually bought the store, my wife Jackie had to be on board. And she was.

The owners, past and present, of Tim & Tom's Speedy Market pause during the store's 30th anniversary party on May 10, 2025. From left to right: Jake, Ted, Tom Spreigl, Tim Faacks
Photo by Sarah CR Clark.



I was here six days a week for six years at least, so everything else fell to her," Spreigl said.

All the long hours paid off for Tim & Tom's Speedy Market. The store was named Best Neighborhood Grocery in City Pages 2018 Best of the Twin Cities issue.

The following year, the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation named Spreigl and Faacks recipients of the Spirit of the Park Award in 2019 and Mayor Melvin Carter proclaimed July 4, 2019 Tim Faacks and Tom Spreigl Day.

Spreigl's sons, Jake and Ted, both spent a significant amount of time growing up at the store. Jake recalls one specific time, "I cashiered for the first time when I was in second grade, for Bring Your Child to Work Day."

Tom remembers a kind cashier named Mary, who was willing to show Jake how cashiering worked that day. Jake followed her to the front of the store and Tom went back to filling produce.

Eventually, Tom realized he hadn't been called to the front of the store to assist with cashiering like usual. So, he decided to check on Mary and Jake.

"I walk up and there are two lines going," Tom continued. "Jake is on one of the tills, ringing customers up all by himself and Mary just shrugged at me and said, 'He's doing really well.'"

"That's better than my story," Ted added with a laugh. "I painted the basement once when I was in high school. As a punishment."

When asked if the brothers had always wanted to make a career of working at the store, both said no.

But, as Ted said, "We're good at it. And we've never not worked here."

"I actually tried a little to discourage them," Tom confessed. "Just because it's a different life."

"I still don't think people know the physical and mental tolls it takes to work in the grocery business," Ted agreed.

"But, it's not like we're saying, 'Woe is me,'" Jake added. "It's just that, even when you're not here, you're still here. You're always on call. There is always paperwork to do, emails to send, and calls to take."

Tom added, "You can generally handle working 12-13 hours in a row, but when you start pushing 17 hours it's a little too much." The store used to be open until 11pm, but closing time moved earlier in 2002.

"Bad stuff starts to happen after 9 p.m.," Tom recalled. "And Covid changed our hours again to what they are now."

"We were here for like, 50 days straight when Covid hit, but I kind of lost track," Jake remembered. "That was crazy, crazy, crazy, crazy." Tom agreed. But the staff of Speedy persevered.

In the spring of 2024, both of Spreigl's sons purchased portions of the store.

A social media post from March 14, 2024, said, "Tom is proud to say that his sons, Jake and Ted, will be purchasing a portion of the store. No, this is not an announcement of Tom's retirement, rather an announcement of the next generation taking a lead in the ownership of the store, ensuring that Tim & Tom's Speedy Market isn't going anywhere and that we will continue to serve the St. Anthony Park community and beyond for years to come."

Tom told the Bugle, "I'm fortunate and lucky to work with my kids. I want folks to know that."

Ted and Jake, in their new roles of co-owners, have already been adding to the store's voice and vision. Three times already in 2025, Tim & Tom's Speedy Market was featured in CBS news segments.

Ted appeared in front of the camera each time talking about the high cost of groceries and how tariffs could potentially affect pricing.

The brothers have also been adding to the store's inventory. Tom explained, "When Ted got here he reached out to Untiedt's for produce and Jake has gotten really into the specialty foods markets. There's so much stuff that I can't even remember it all."

"For the most part this neighborhood is very open to experimentation. They'll try things and you'll find out real fast if they like it or not," Spreigl explained. Some of the best-selling products throughout Speedy's history: milk, coffee, ice cream and their handmade sandwiches.

Spreigl recalled a customer years ago requesting quinoa, before most folks had heard of it. "We found it, began selling it, and then it exploded." Bob's Red Mill brand oats, flours, and more followed the same story.

Ted added, "In those instances we were ahead of the curve. Whereas it took people a little while to realize they liked hummus. And hot sauce didn't sell ten years ago, but now it's selling great." Organic produce and specialty chocolate were other products with higher price points that, at first, put customers off but today are good sellers.

When asked about their future hopes for Tim & Tom's Speedy Market, Ted answered, "I'd still like to see expansion in this space." And Jake, half-jokingly, shared that his biggest hope is for the store to simply stay open.

"There has been no point in history where customers have more grocery shopping options than right now. It's frustrating to see folks get off the bus with full bags from larger grocery stores, especially now, after the big distributor switch we made last year. We're cheaper now than most of those places on a lot of things," Jake explained.

"It can be frustrating," Tom added, "to hear people in the aisles say 'Oh, we'll get that later when we go grocery shopping.' I want to say, 'But you're in a grocery store right now!'"

"I was saying to somebody recently," Ted said, "that what we would love is if, instead of going wherever first and then coming to Speedy for what they didn't have, come here first."

He continued, "Thirty years from now, Jake and I want to be able to reflect and be proud of the legacy we've built upon. We want to continue the long standing and storied history that has made 2310 Como Ave. so successful and one that will be talked about in times beyond our lives." ■

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



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Painting a picture at the SAP Arts Festival



Art vendors, local musicians, community booths and food trucks came together to create a day of fun and activity at the 56th St. Anthony Park Arts Festival in early June. Photos by Laura Adrian, Bugle social media specialist.



It's almost that special time of year again, where you pull out your flag, grab your lawn chair and put on your red, white and blue... **because the annual 4th in the Park parade and picnic are almost here!** Come join us to celebrate the 78th anniversary of 4th in the Park as well as the 51st anniversary of the running races! There will be several food truck options and the kids' zone on the north end of the park including ponies, inflatable obstacle course, and races! 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!*

— SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE 78TH ANNUAL 4TH IN THE PARK —

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>8 a.m. LANGFORD PARK RUNNING RACES
Register online for the 2 or 4 mile race before the 4th at: tinyurl.com/4thRaces2025. No registration day of the race. Races start at 8:30 a.m. \$10 registration fee.</p> <p>10:30 a.m. GRAND PARADE ASSEMBLY
Children's bikes, trikes, wagons, etc. assemble at Ned's Park Service. Bands, vehicles and marching units assemble at Luther Place.</p> <p>11 a.m. GRAND PARADE BEGINS
Proceeding from Luther Place, down Como Avenue to Langford Park via Knapp Avenue. Parade includes color guard, neighborhood units, bands, floats, mascots, music, and more!</p> | <p>12 p.m. BANDSTAND PROGRAM
Following the parade, a program including the Spirit in the Park award winner will take place at the bandstand in Langford Park.</p> <p>FOOD TRUCKS OPEN
Hungry? Eat from a variety of food trucks lined up along Langford Park East.</p> <p>HORSESHOES, VOLLEYBALL & PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS
Registration and check-in is from 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tournaments begin sharply at 1 p.m.</p> | <p>1-4 p.m. PONY RIDES & KID'S ACTIVITIES
All kid's activities are on the north end of the park by SAP Elementary. Kids can go for a pony ride, or take a turn on the inflatable obstacle course!</p> <p>2:30-4 p.m. RACES & CONTESTS
Family fun events for kids of all ages!</p> <p>1-6 p.m. LIVE MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND
1 pm-2 pm: <i>Pig's Eye Jass Band</i>
2:15 pm-3:15 pm: <i>Global Jazz Quartet</i>
3:30 pm-4:30 pm: <i>Triple Fiddle</i>
4:45 pm-6 pm: <i>Light of the Moon Trio</i></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

This event only happens because of the generous donations of our neighbors and businesses! Please give what you are able.

— WAYS TO DONATE —

- There are several easy ways to donate:
- Online at: 4thinthepark.org/donate-now
 - Mail donation to: 4th in the Park, PO Box 8062, St. Paul, MN 55108
 - Drop off donation at the information desk at Sunrise Banks
 - Scan this QR code and confirm "4th in the Park" is listed under Designation



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— WAYS TO VOLUNTEER —

The 4th wouldn't be the same without our fabulous volunteers who make it all happen! Scan the QR code below or visit tinyurl.com/4thVolunteer2025 to sign up for a variety of fun and flexible tasks.





CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

Como track and badminton athletes compete at State

By Eric Erickson,
Sports analysis

This month, we wrap up the last of Como Park High School's athletic results for the 2024-2025 school year.

Track and Field – For the second consecutive season, seven Cougar runners qualified for the state meet by placing in the top two of their events at the Section 4AA Meet.

Sophomore **Charlie Loth** was the section champion in both the 800 and 1,600 meters. Sophomore **Arthur Anderson** was the section champion in the 3,200 meters and finished second right behind Loth in the 1,600. Junior **Hazel Small** was second in the 3,200, giving the Como boys a clean sweep of the distance events.

The longest relay race is the 4 x 800, and Como's team of Hazel Small, fellow junior **Ben Clark**, plus freshmen **Logan Small** and **Matthew Gant** took second place in it and advanced to state.

Sophomore **Tate Prinsen** finished second in the 110-meter hurdles and qualified for state.

Aletha Keizer had an exceptional showing in the section meet with medals earned for the 100 and 200 meters. Keizer combined with sophomores **Kenia Arnold** and **Naijiona Shaw**, and freshman **Molly Zbacnik** in the 4 x 100 relay to earn a third-place podium position at the section meet.



(L to R) Ben Clark, Hazel Small, Logan Small and Matthew Gant qualified for the state meet in the 4 x 800 relay. Photo by Paula Caballero.

The same four girls were conference champions in the 4 x 100 at the St. Paul City finals. Shaw was also the city champ in the 100 meters while Keizer was the city champ in the 100-meter hurdles.

For the fifth consecutive year, both the boys and girls teams finished third out of the seven teams in the city.

In Section 4AA, the boys repeated a third place overall finish out of 13 schools. Tim Kersey was selected the section's coach of the year.

Badminton – The Cougars won the conference championship for the first time since 2002, finishing a phenomenal year with an overall record of 17-4.

Como had a strong run through the state tournament, advancing to the semifinals before suffering a close loss to perennial power

Johnson. The Cougars rebounded to beat Harding, another city rival, to claim the state tournament's third-place trophy.

In the state individual tournaments, **Tsuki Solheid** (a Murray 8th grader) upset the state's No. 1 seed from Edina to reach the semifinals, eventually taking fourth place. The doubles team of senior **Gaolee Yang** and junior **Asta Ket** advanced to the state quarterfinal round.

Softball – The team finished second in the conference with a 4-1 record and 11-9 overall. A playoff victory in the section tournament included an unforgettable rally in the bottom of the last inning to defeat Minnehaha Academy.

All-conference players included **Lilly Coyle**, **Malaya James**, **Ariana Silvero**, **Adriana Adams** and **Isa-**

bel Hernandez. **James** (a Murray 8th grader) led the conference in batting average and **Coyle**, a sophomore, was fourth.

Girls golf – Como placed third in the conference. Junior **Robin Engman-Phiri** earned all-conference, finished as the fourth-place individual at the 18-hole conference tournament, made the cut for the second day at sections and was an exceptional leader.

Junior **Sofia Gonzalez** placed eighth in the conference and earned honorable mention. **Uliana Holiandina** placed twelfth.

Boys tennis – The Cougars were third in the St. Paul City and finished strong with a dramatic 4-3 win over Spring Lake Park in the Section 4AA Tournament before falling 5-2 to Mahtomedi.

Sophomore **Micah Treiber** reached the semifinals of the section singles tournament, becoming the first Como boy to earn a section medal in 10 years. Treiber was all-conference along with senior captains **Nolan Rognerud**, **Charlie Anderson** and **Vincent Anderson**.

Baseball – Team captains were senior **Royal Urman**, and juniors **Mitch Pelzer** and **Vance Ethan**. The three captains also were Como's all-conference selections. They guided the Cougars to a 5-5 conference record and third place in the standings.

The team is quite young and will

graduate only two seniors, **Urman** and **Jeremiah Williams**, who will be missed as role models for the program. The young returning core group gained valuable experience and will continue to develop through the Como Ball summer program.

Boys volleyball – A young Como team competing in the inaugural season of MSHSL-sanctioned boys volleyball struggled to find its footing.

But improvement throughout the spring sparked a remarkable run to the Section 5 semifinals as the No. 10 seeded Cougars defeated the No. 7 and No. 2 seeds before a sensational five-set loss to Roseville.

Senior **Soe Reh** earned all-conference and junior **Stephan Vang** received honorable mention. Captains were **Reh** and junior **Va Lee**.

Boys golf – Junior captains **Henry Simmons** and **Sparrow Lange** helped guide Como to a top three conference finish for the first time in over a decade. Youth propelled the successful season, with Murray 7th grader **Elliot Lueck** taking 12th place in the St. Paul City and all-conference honorable mention. **Dale Engman** was the conference coach of the year. ■

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

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