



Spring Lake Park History and Memories



Spring Lake Park Logo designed by
Ann Sandell - 1969



Spring Lake Park Logo redesigned
in 1976 for the Bicentennial

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK 1953 - 2003

Celebrating 50 Years of Community

This year, 2003, Spring Lake Park celebrates its 50th year of incorporation. This is a good time for all its citizens to reflect on our heritage.

This publication reflects Spring Lake Park's history, its growth in housing, parks, playgrounds, roads and highways, water and sewer. It also mentions the city leadership, civic groups, special civic events and community memories.

As we celebrate Spring Lake Park's 50th Anniversary as a city, we can look to the future out of its experiences of the past. People built this city and people will continue to make our city great.

We take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Spring Lake Park 50th Anniversary Committee, and the many citizens and organizations that have contributed their time and efforts to make this an unforgettable occasion.



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO SPRING LAKE PARK LUMBER & VADOS BAIT SHOP

Spring Lake Park Lumber Company and Vados Bait Shop have been with the City of Spring Lake Park since the beginning — helping build a strong foundation for the business community of Spring Lake Park.

Congratulations to these two outstanding Spring Lake Park businesses that have sustained throughout the past 50 years.

50th Anniversary Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Don Busch
Marilynn Forsberg
Ross Johnson
Don Masterson
Jay McCluskey

Barb Carlson
Frances Frank
Bill Larson
Dick Mazanec
Alice Prokott

Nancy Downey
Fred Harris
LuAnn Larson
Paul McCarron
Gene Rafferty

STAFF FACILITATORS

Barb Nelson, City Administrator
Marian Rygwall, Park & Recreation Director
Sharie Linke, Recreation Program Coordinator

RESOLUTION NO. 03-16

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

WHEREAS, the City of Spring Lake Park was incorporated on December 31, 1953; and,

WHEREAS, 2003 is the year of Spring Lake Park's 50th Anniversary; and,

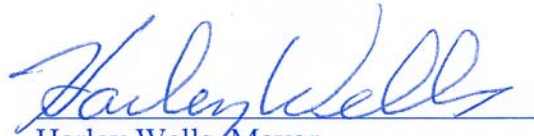
WHEREAS, Spring Lake Park has been blessed with good leadership, strong fraternal organizations whose mission has been to contribute to the City's well-being and dedicated citizen participation; and,

WHEREAS, Spring Lake Park has a wonderful heritage of retaining its small town atmosphere through its citizens sense of community; and,

WHEREAS, pride in Spring Lake Park is engendered through communion with the past; and,

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the past and the potential future of the City should be celebrated by the entire City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Spring Lake Park do hereby join in proclaiming the days of June 7 and 8, 2003 as Spring Lake Park's **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**, and invite the people of this community to participate in our City's celebration, paying tribute to the past and rededicating themselves to a strong and bright future.


Harley Wells, Mayor

ATTEST:


Barbara L. Nelson, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

The foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember Mason

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Councilmembers Mason, Carlson, Hawley, Nelson and Mayor Wells

And the following voted nay: None

Whereupon, the Mayor declared said resolution duly passed and adopted this fifth day of May, 2003.

History of Spring Lake Park

From the late 1930's to the early 1950's, the area called Spring Lake Park was an area bounded to the west by the Mississippi River, north to the farm area of Blaine Township, east to the Turtle Lake area, and south to Columbia Heights, in other words, the Spring Lake Park area encompassed all of Fridley Township, part of Blaine, and Mounds View.

Spring Lake Park got its name from one of Bronson-Erickson Real Estate salesmen. Due to a leakage from the St. Paul water work's water main, between Wood Lake and Osborne Road, (Spring Lake), the salesman thought it to be a spring fed lake and called it Spring Lake.

A few pioneer citizens resided in the area, most of them owning large lots with cows and horses. Others were farming, but after World War II, when the American suburban expansion began developing, residential area and business places grew by "leaps and bounds".

In the early 1950's the Village of Fridley incorporated almost the entire southern part of Fridley Township. The north part of the township and parts of Mounds View, and Blaine tried to incorporate by means of a referendum, but it failed. The Village of Fridley tried to annex the remainder of the township. It also failed.

In December of 1953, the northern part of the township and a small part of Mounds View Township (that portion of Ramsey County) incorporated by a referendum, the portion of Ramsey County was included because the fire department was located there and it bore the name Spring Lake Park.

The first election of village officers was held in January 1954. At the time of incorporation, the population was approximately 960, with an incorporated area of 1,280 acres. Today, Spring Lake Park's population is 6,672.



Spring Lake Park Village Hall
8429 Center Dr. 1959-1977



Spring Lake Park Community Center
1301 81st Ave. NE 1977-Present

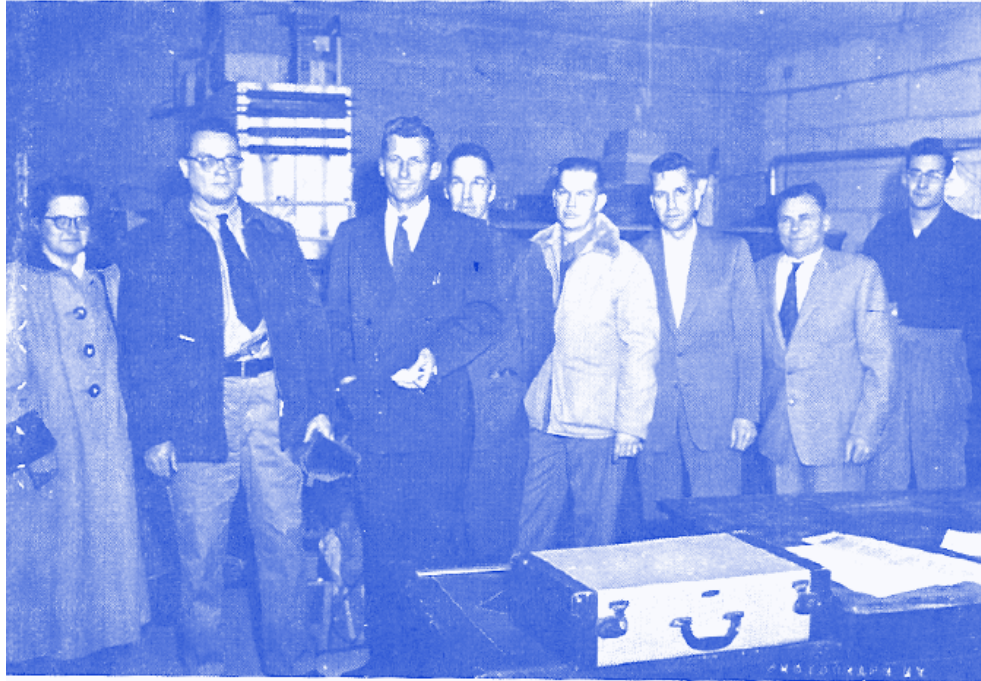
The first village council meeting was held in the Kinney Building which is presently J's Pizza. The next meetings were held in the Fire Department building, then Kraus Hartig VFW Hall, the Spring Lake Park High School, and later in the Village Offices located at 8429 Center Drive NE.

The first year, village administrative business was done in the Village Clerk's residence located at 8457 Sunset Road. In 1955 through 1959, John Conde's residence, then Village Clerk, served as the village office until October of 1959 when rented office space was acquired at 8427 Center Drive. In 1964, the city purchased that area plus space at 8429 Center Drive. Offices and Council Chambers were built and the city remained there until late in 1977 when they moved to the existing City Community Center at 1301 81st Avenue NE.

Spring Lake Park Becomes a Village

December 31, 1953

Spring Lake Park was finally recognized as its own village on December 31, 1953. The election of officers took place at the Kinne Building, now J's Pizza, on Saturday, January 16, 1954 from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. The following people were elected:



Pictured above are the first elected officials of the Village of Spring Lake Park. From left to right: Laura Brandt, Treasurer; L.W. Kutschied, Constable; Stanley Dahlmeier, Mayor; Nels Moller, Trustee; Charles Porter, Trustee; Milo Schroeder, Trustee; Leo Renspie, Justice of the Peace; Dick Zabel, Justice of the Peace; (Not pictured is H.M. Roberts, Clerk; Wallace Taylor, Assessor; Wesley Cox, Constable.)

Present City Council 2003



HARLEY WELLS

Mayor
Feb. 1990 - Present
Councilmember
Jan. 1985 - Jan. 1990



JEANNE MASON

Councilmember
Jan. 1983 - Present



BARBARA CARLSON

Councilmember
Jan. 1991 - Present



TIMOTHY C. HAWLEY

Councilmember
Jan. 1999 - Present



ROBERT NELSON

Councilmember
Jan. 2001 - Present

Spring Lake Park Mayors



STANLEY DAHLMEIER
Jan. 1954 - Feb. 1961



MILO SCHROEDER
Feb. 1961 - Dec. 1961



RICHARD ZABEL
1962 - 1963



ARNOLD HOLZ
1964 - 1969



DAVID BALLSTADT
1970 - 1980




DON MASTERSON
1981 - 1989



HARLEY WELLS
1990 - Present



Mayors and Milestones

<p><u>Stanley W. Dahlmeier</u> 1/6/54-2/6/61</p> <p>Incorporated as village</p> <p>1954 William J. Fleming retained as Village Attorney</p> <p>Developed city codes</p> <p>1956 built liquor stores on/off sale</p> <p>1958 Bonestroo & Assoc. become village engineers</p> <p>1959 Village started renting office at 8427 Center Dr.</p> <p>1954 natural gas franchise awarded</p>	<p><u>Milo C. Schroeder</u> 2/6/61-1/5/62</p> <p>1961 city water installed</p> <p>1961 bought land for Able & Terrace Parks</p> <div></div> <p><i>Spring Lake Park street scene in 1958</i></p>	<p><u>Richard M. Zabel</u> 1/5/62-1/6/64</p> <p>1962 bought land for Sanburnol Park</p>	<p><u>Arnold J. Holz</u> 1/6/64-1/5/70</p> <p>1965 purchased first snowplow</p> <p>1965 North Suburban Sanitary Sewer District</p> <p>1965 sanitary sewer went in</p> <p>1965 Tornado hits Spring Lake Park</p> <p>1967 first hockey rink at Able Park</p> <p>1968 second hockey rink at Terrace Park</p> <p>1968 University Liquor on/off sale</p> <p>1969 Civil Defense siren installed</p> <p>1st City flag and logo</p>
<p><u>David A. Ballstadt</u> 1/5/70-1/5/81</p> <p>1972 created Housing and Redevelopment Authority</p> <p>1975 red, white, and blue water tower</p> <p>1976 third hockey rink at Sanburnol Park</p> <p>1976 codification of city ordinances</p> <p>1976 resurvey of Fairview addition under HRA</p> <p>Osborn Senior Apartments</p> <p>1977 new City Hall building</p> <p>1977 \$350,000 bond issue passed for park improvements</p> <p>1974 C. Hadley retained as City Attorney</p> <p>1975 Jeff Carson retained as City Attorney to present</p>	<p><u>Don Masterson</u> 1/5/81-12/31/89</p> <p>1981 organization of Council procedures</p> <p>1981 completion of Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Public works building and firing range expansion</p> <p>1985 Pay Equity</p> <p>Converting Laddie Lake Inn to Rise</p> <p>1985 sold on/off sale liquor store</p> <p>1985 built off sale liquor store</p> <p>D.A.R.E. Program</p> <p>New City logo</p>	<p><u>Harley Wells</u> 1/1/90 - Present</p> <p>1990 new beach house at Lakeside Park</p> <p>1991 Spring Lake Park Lions Club planted 87 trees at Lakeside Park</p> <p>1994 City Hall police expansion</p> <p>1995 lights installed at Terrace Park west ballfield</p> <p>The Cottages senior housing</p> <p>Oakcrest Senior Housing</p> <p>Townhouse development Spring Villa - 81st and McKinley</p> <p>Spring Pines - 79th and Highway 65 Service Drive</p> <p>Park Heights - 79th and Taylor</p> <p>Carring Oaks - Osborn and Middletown</p> <p>1997 city street reconstruction project with curbs</p> <p>Expansion of Sanburnol Park project-Morgan</p> <p>2003 Water Treatment Plant</p>	

Spring Lake Park Council Members

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the men and women who served the citizens of Spring Lake Park as members of the City Council:

Ballstadt, David
Balthazor, Ray L.
Busch, Donald
Cadillac, Dan
Carlson, Barbara
Conde, John
Coulthart, Roger
Dahlmeier, Stanley
Fitzgerald, Alan
Frank, Don
Gilbertson, Dr. Victor
Goggins, Dan
Gustafson, Jack
Hawley, Tim

Herman, Jack
Hollom, Jim
Holz, Arnold
Johnson, Alice
McCarron, Paul
Madigan, Tom
Marolt, Frank
Mason, Jeanne
Masterson, Donald
Mathiowetz, Don
Mengelkoch, James
Miller, Bill
Moller, Nels

Nelson, Robert
Olson, Bruce
Porter, Charles
Prokopowicz, Stanley
Rampy, Thomas
Reme, Irv
Roberts, H.M.
Schroeder, Milo
Small, Philip
Tautges, Tom
Vick, LeRoy
Wells, Harley
Wolens, Richard
Zabel, Richard

Spring Lake Park City Administrators



H.M. Roberts, Clerk
Jan. 1954 - Aug. 1955



John Conde, Clerk-Treasurer
Aug. 1955 - Dec. 1970



Richard Krantz, Adm. Asst.
April 1968 - June 1969

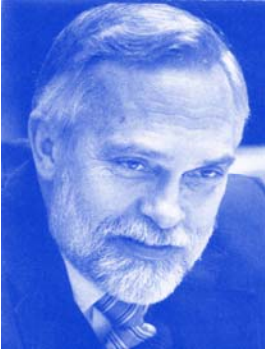


Donald Busch, Adm. Asst.
July 1969 - Dec. 1970
Clerk-Treasurer
Jan. 1971 - July 1995



Barbara L. Nelson
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
April 1995 - Present

Council Members Who Became Legislators / County Commissioner



State Senator Don Frank 1937-1995

Don would say, while pointing to a sign on his desk, "What is there about the word "NO" you don't understand?" Don Frank was his own man. His decisions on public policy issues were based on what he felt best served the public interest and his constituents. He cared not if it created a political firestorm. Don did what he thought was right not what was politically expedient.

Don started his public service career on the Spring Lake Park Planning Commission in 1970. In 1971 Don was elected to the Spring Lake Park City Council. He served in many capacities there, including that of liquor commissioner. His recurrent question at many council meetings, when a project was proposed, was "how much will it cost?"

1972-1992

While looking across the desk, at a lobbyist, in his State Senate office

He carried this fiscally conservative approach to government spending with him when he was elected as a DFLer to the State Senate in 1980. He was a respected member of the State Senate serving as Chair of the Metropolitan Affairs Committee. He is best remembered for his advocacy of the seat belt law. Don left the Senate in 1992. Sadly, he died of a heart attack in 1995.



State Representative Alice Johnson

She moved on to the City Council, where she was involved in helping to establish the pay equity, and recycling programs in Spring Lake Park. In 1986 as a DFLer, she was elected to the first of seven terms in the Minnesota Legislature. At the Legislature Alice was a strong advocate for education and children's issues serving on the Education Committee K-12, and as the DFL lead on K-12 Education Finance. Alice was also a member of the powerful Transportation, and Ways and Means Committees. Membership on these committees put her in a position to see that our city and school district were always treated fairly in the distribution of State aid. Alice was a good friend of the veterans, and is a member of the Fridley American Legion Auxiliary She always supported bills involving veterans issues, including the Gulf War Bonus. If you needed something done at the Legislature, Alice Johnson, was the "go to person".

1984-2000

Alice began her public service career on the Spring Lake Park Planning Commission in 1982. In 1984

In 2000, Grandma Johnson decided she wanted to spend more time with her grandchildren and her new husband, Richard Jefferson, a former State Legislator. Spring Lake Park lost a good legislator when Alice decided not to seek re-election.



State Representative/County Commissioner Paul McCarron

1968. In 1969, he moved on to the Spring Lake Park council. While there he served on the newly formed Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council, and as a trustee of the North Suburban Sanitary Sewer District, forerunner of the Metropolitan Sewer District. In 1972, Paul was elected to his first of five terms, in the Minnesota Legislature, in a newly formed legislative district, which included the city of Spring Lake Park. By 1980, he had become one of the most respected and powerful legislators in St. Paul, serving as Chair of the Elections and Reapportionment Committee charged with the responsibility of redrawing all the Minnesota Legislative and Congressional District lines to conform with the 1980 Federal census. One of his major achievements as a legislator was being the Chief Author of a welfare reform bill, known as HF 1. In 1982, Paul decided he could best serve the people of Spring Lake Park, and Anoka County by seeking the office of County Commissioner. He was elected to his first of six terms on the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. With his years of legislative experience he immediately became one of the leaders in shaping County policies, like the reorganization of county government in 1991. McCarron spent his 20 years on the County Board managing the County's Legislative programs. He is best known as being the spokesman for the development of the "NorthStar Corridor" Commuter rail system which would run from St. Cloud to Minneapolis. He retired as Commissioner in 2003.

1969-2003

Paul's 33 year public service career started on the Spring Lake Park Planning Commission in 1968

Spring Lake Park City Development

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

In the early 1950's Highway 10 and Highway 65 were both two lane highways. The intersection of the two roads was controlled with 4 way stop signs. University Avenue (Highway 47) was also a two lane highway.

The original internal streets of Spring Lake Park were constructed of an oil based bituminous aggregate with rolled curbs. With the construction of sanitary and storm sewers in 1965-66, 99 percent of the streets were rebuilt using asphalt surfacing and shoe form curb.

In 1999-2004, streets are being rebuilt using recycled asphalt for aggregate base and new bituminous surface. Concrete curb and gutters are being installed on all streets.

Throughout the years, sidewalks were built in school walking areas. For the most part, liquor store funds were used to pay for these sidewalks.

WATER

Well #1 and a pump house were built in Terrace Park in 1961. The first water tower was constructed in Able Park in 1962. Water lines were laid in the boulevards throughout the city. Water lines were added as housing and businesses were developed. A second well was added in 1965, the third in 1970 (this has been abandoned), a fourth in 1982, and the fifth well in 1998. The second water tower was built in 1980 at the north end of Arthur Street near Highway 10.

SANITARY SEWERS

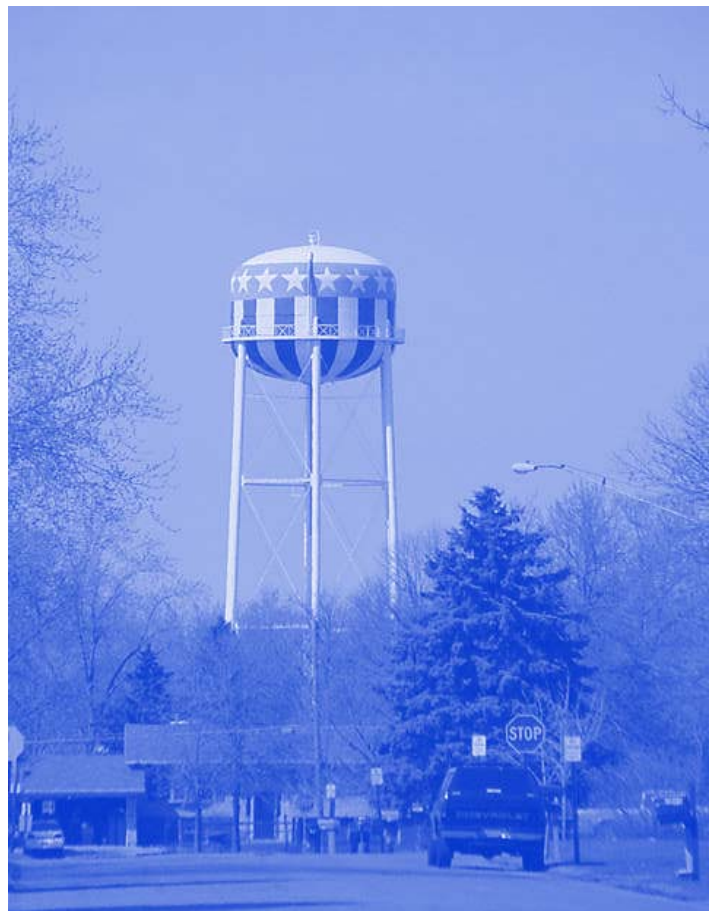
During the mid-1960's, the North Suburban Sanitary Sewer District was formed. They built main sewer trunks from this area to lines in Minneapolis. This allowed Spring Lake Park to build the much needed sanitary sewer system throughout the entire city in 1965-1966. These sewer lines were extended as needed for development.

STORM SEWERS

Storm sewers were constructed in 1965-1966. They were placed in areas determined to have the most need. Storm sewer lines run through Fridley to the Mississippi River. Extension to the original systems have been added as needed.

HOUSING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>HOUSING UNITS</u>
1953	960	
1960	3,260	790
1970	6,417	1,549
1980	6,477	1,992
1990	6,533	2,343
2000	6,772	2,756
2002	6,672	2,800



Spring Lake Park ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

In 1954, the offices of the City Clerk and City Treasurer were separate. The offices were combined during the late 1950's, creating the elected position of part-time Village Clerk-Treasurer. This position changed from an elected office to an appointment by the City Council in 1970 when the City, by state law, became a statutory city. At that time, Spring Lake Park chose to be a Plan A city, the most common plan of statutory cities. A Plan A city has a mayor and council with administrative and legislative authority being their ultimate responsibility. However, in 1968, the City Council created the position of full-time Administrative Assistant, hired Donald B. Busch (who was formerly a Council person) and delegated the administrative responsibilities of the City to Mr. Busch. In 1970, title of Administrative Assistant was changed to City Clerk/Treasurer and remained so until 1995 when Mr. Busch retired.

The City Clerk-Treasurer is a central figure in any city government, with a wide variety of duties and responsibilities. Not only does the Clerk execute many of the city's governmental functions, but he/she also usually supervises the daily administration of city business, such as keeping all official documents and records, writing correspondence and maintaining all financial records. The City Clerk also has several statutory duties outlined in Minn. Stat. 412.151, subd. 1.

In 1995, upon Mr. Busch's retirement, the Administrative Assistant, Barbara Nelson, was promoted to the newly created position of Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer. The position of the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer, must be ministerial because state law, does not permit City Councils to delegate legislative discretion. Therefore, the responsibilities of the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer include the supervision of all employees, including the Police Department which had previously reported directly to the City Council, accounting, preparation of reports, factual determinations, and the execution of Council policies. The Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer may not hire or fire employees nor make purchases and let contracts unless the Council sets standards governing this action.

As with most other departments of the City, with the exception of the Police Department, there has been very little expansion of the City staff. The Administration Department is comprised of the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer, Building Official/Fire Marshall/Code Enforcement Officer, Accountant, Executive Secretary, Payroll/Assessment/Building Clerk, Utility Billing Clerk, Special Projects Coordinator (which includes Recycling and Cable TV responsibilities), Receptionist and a part-time Code Compliance Specialist. This is an increase of only two full-time employees over the past 40 years.

Spring Lake Park MUNICIPAL LIQUOR

In 1956, the Spring Lake Park Bar and Lounge was established by the City Council not only to help defray the city's tax levy, but more importantly to control the sale of liquor in Spring Lake Park. This store was expanded twice over the years before being sold in 1985.

Being that the above store was so successful, the City Council built a second bar and lounge at 8299 University and named it University Park Bar and Lounge. This store was also sold in 1985. The city sold both stores because of the high cost of liquor liability insurance due to the ownership of the bars.

In 1985, the Central Park Warehouse Liquors (off sale only) was built and opened. Liquor store funds were used not only to build sidewalks but to help defray the annual tax burden of the city properties.



Central Park Warehouse (Offsale) located at 8101 Highway 65 NE.



University Park Bar and Lounge was located at 8299 University. Sold in 1985.



Pictured above is the Spring Lake Park Bar and Lounge in 1964. Sold in 1985.

Spring Lake Park POLICE DEPARTMENT



DAVID TOTH

Chief: Oct. 1997 - Present
Officer: May 1980 - Sept. 1997



BRUCE PORTER

Chief: June 1987 - Oct. 1997
Officer: Sept. 1967 - May 1987



OTTO LIND

Mar. 1967 - May 1987

WESLEY COX

Chief: Feb. 19, 1957-Jan. 15, 1958

C.F. MUIR

Chief: Jan. 1966 - Aug. 1966

DONALD KONZ

Chief: Jan. 15, 1958-Jan. 18, 1960

PAUL GREY

Chief: Jan. 18, 1960-1965

There are some gaps of time when Spring Lake Park didn't have a Chief and the Mayor served as acting Chief.

The Spring Lake Park Police Department began in 1954 with two constables who worked part-time and were called at their home by mobile telephone. In June 1965, the department came under civil service. By 1966, there was a full-time chief and five full-time employees. March 1967, Chief Otto Lind was hired and the force was expanded to seven full-time officers and one part-time clerk. The department had two equipped squad cars.

The current Spring Lake Park Police Department consists of 13 employees; the Chief, two sergeants, one investigator, one school liaison, six patrol officers and two clerical staff. The department currently has seven police vehicles.



*Pictured above is the original
Spring Lake Park Police Department*



*This picture, taken in November of 1994, shows the
Police Department expansion of the City Hall.*

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View FIRE DEPARTMENT



NYLE ZIKMUND
Chief: May 1995 - Present



RON FAGERSTROM
Chief: May 1966 - Apr. 1995

VOLUNTEER CHIEFS

Charles Zimmermann	Feb. 1944 - Oct. 1945
James Lipski	Oct. 1945 - July 1946
Theodore Wedge	July 1946 - Aug. 1952
Jack Brama	Aug. 1952 - Apr. 1957
Roy Gale	Apr. 1957 - Apr. 1966

The Spring Lake Park, Blaine, Mounds View Fire Department was formed on January 17, 1944. Starting small with two trucks and 15 men. It continued to grow, keeping pace with the growing community and its ever increasing needs. In 1970, the fire department had a 66 firefighters, nine fire fighting vehicles and three stations. Now, in 2003, it has 62 firefighters, 14 fire fighting vehicles and five stations.



SBM Fire Station One - 2003

Spring Lake Park PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



MARIAN RYGWALL
Director: June 2000 - Present



JAY MC CLUSKEY
Director: April 1971 - May 2000

The Spring Lake Park Parks and Recreation Department was established in 1971 with Jay McCluskey as director. Under his leadership, acquisition and development of park land was implemented, including coordination of funding with Spring Lake Park Lions Club and Spring Lake Park Jaycees. The Lions funded projects at Lakeside Lions Park and the Jaycees at Able, Terrace and Sanburnol parks. In addition, the Shade Tree Disease Program was initiated. The department also established recreation programs for all ages including the popular youth co-rec softball, after school activities and evening adult recreation programs.

Marian Rygwall joined the Parks and Recreation Department staff in 1978 as a Program Specialist. Throughout her years of service, Marian has continued to enhance and improve the wide variety of program offerings to the residents of Spring Lake Park. As director, she works closely with community groups such as the Lions and scouts as well as individuals making private donations to improve the quality of parks within the city. These cooperative efforts are most evident at Lakeside Lions Park which has received many outstanding improvements over the last several years. The Recreation Department staff continues to develop programs to fit the ever changing population within the community.



Pictured above are members of the Lakeside Lions Club who funded and helped build the bridge at Lakeside Lions Park.

Spring Lake Park PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



TERRY RANDALL
Director: 2000 - Present

JIM VICKARYOUS
(Photo Unavailable)
Director: 1996 - 2000

The Public Works Department currently has six employees, 17 pieces of major equipment and is responsible for the general maintenance of the city's sewers, water, streets and park maintenance. Seasonal duties include maintaining city parks, playgrounds, ballfields, ice rinks and buildings in addition to plowing, sanding and salting streets in the winter.



GARY PETERSON
Director: 1992 - 1996

During the early years of Spring Lake Park, the individual council members were given areas of responsibilities such as liquor, parks, streets, water and sewer. They supervised these operations through direct contact or through the city clerk.



CHUCK RUNDLE
Director: 1978 - 1992

In February, 1972, the city council hired Chuck Rundle who supervised all the Public Works Department. During the early 70's the city did not have garage space and all vehicles were parked across the street from City Hall in the liquor store #1 parking lot. The city eventually rented garage space along Center Drive.

When the city built the Spring Lake Park Community Center in 1977, garage space was provided and a few years later, a second garage plus a firing range for the Police Department was built.

Early Spring Lake Park Businesses

Listed are some of the beginning businesses in Spring Lake Park. Wherever possible we have traced the origin of the information used here. We take this opportunity to thank all businesses who have been a part of our growing community.

1940: Jack Brama's Gas Station: Jack Brama's Mobile Station stood on the corner of Sunset Road and Hwy 10. His station handled oil changes, winter change-over, battery charging and he also took fuel oil orders. Jack had special discount cards for steady customers.

1941: Moller's Plumbing: Nel's Moller was an experienced plumber who assisted people in plumbing needs of all kinds. (Sewer and water, hydraulic heating and water heaters.) As this was the first plumber in our area, he was the one who brought plumbing inside most of the older homes.

1943: The Church of St. Timothy's was located at Plaza Blvd. It was to be a temporary basement church. Most of the work on the church was done by volunteers. Bill Gallagher and his two sons, Jack and Dick, they dug the basement with a team of horses. It was dedicated in 1944. The church served the community until the end of the Korean War when the land was then sold. The basement became The Bailey's Dance Hall. The land was then sold again. In 1964 The First State Bank Of Spring Lake Park was opened on the property.

1945: Laddie Lake Inn: The oldest original structure in Spring Lake Park was the one-time Laddie Lake Inn on 85th and Central Ave. In 1945 Jack Ness bought a little gasoline station/grocery store from the Spangter family. They bought it from Schaners. The little house on the lake had been built for them by their parents as a wedding present. Mr. Ness converted it into a Pine Room. It was a popular meeting place for the Civic Club. One hundred yards south of the Inn is a foundation of an old tavern, States Inn. Legend has it that Ma barker and her gang hid out with their kidnapped victims, Hamm and Bremer, in the 1921's. When the F.B.I. started to close in on them they burned the tavern down and fled. Mr. Ness had his restaurant until 1974. A church group used it as a counseling center (King's Ransom). It was sold and is now Nicklow's.



Laddie Lake Inn

1947: Zabel's: Martha and her husband came to the area long before this. They bought Brennen's cabins, grocery store and trailer park, (which is still there on Sunset Road) and at that time they were the dispatchers for the Fire Department.

1949: Vados's Bait Shop: John and Madelyn Vados started and ran their business on Hwy 65 from their house with a few minnows, then expanded in 1989 making it an outlet to dealers in Minnesota and shipping bait out of state. They also supply biological specimens to schools and biology supply houses. Their nephew Gordy Vados took over the business and then sold it to the present owners Greg Fisher and Eric Stokes.

1952: Spring Lake Park Lumber Company: SLP Lumber Co. on Plaza Blvd. was first owned by Evert Dailey and George Herda. They then sold it to Buzz Franzen. This business supplies everything in lumber and building supplies to individuals and contractors to be used for building the community.



The original Spring Lake Park Lumber Company building.

1956: Dalberg Builders, INC: This company on 80th and Hwy 65, was formed by Samuel and Genivieve Dalberg. This company served the area during the housing boom by building hundreds of homes.

1956: The Spring Lake Park Insurance Agency: Located on Center Dr. It was owned by George Herda and Mr. Jamison, and in 1985 Andy Hereid bought the agency. Mr. Herda passed away in February of 2003.

1958: Isaacson's: They began their business in Columbia Heights in 1952, expanded over the years and offered a full line of household appliances, dishwashers, air conditioners, televisions and stereo's. They were located on Center Dr. The building now has numerous businesses located there, such as Quarve Contracting, M.J. Lodermier Construction, Trades Mark Remodeling, Minnkota Metals and Roofing, Tech One Motor Sports, North American Framing, and Dynaline INC.

1959: The Laddie Lake Motel - Apartments: The address was 1075 Hwy. 10 and they were built by Stanley Dahlmeier originally as an apartment complex, particularly for new teachers and summer tourists. It is now living quarters for Rise employees.

1960: Comstock & Davis, INC: The offices of Comstock & Davis are on Co. Rd J. They are an experienced consulting engineer and land surveying company. They are consulting engineers to a number of municipalities and also work throughout the metro district and out of state. They are experienced in platting, replats, location survey, staking boundary surveys, topographic survey, etc.

1961:Hy-Way House Motel: The Hy-Way House Motel on Hwy 10, was built by Stan Dahlmeier. It was owned and operated by Carl and Vi Blomberg. It is a comfortable, well-equipped complex. All rooms are suites. At this time and place they had the only heated swimming pool in the area. It is owned now by Mian Ahmed.

1962: Market Center: Harold Rosen and Herman Jeffy purchased The old Adams Drug Store that was on the corner of Plaza Blvd. and 85th Ave. (Mr. Adams would lock up his store and walk two blocks east to go deer hunting.) In 1963 they bought the old Johnson's Red and White Grocery. They continued to expand until they were offering the community a Mini - Dale Shopping Mall. Many businesses have changed over the years in this complex. Now it is Checker Auto, Doc's, and Doug's TV and Appliance.

1963: J's Pizza and Family Restaurant: J's Pizza located on Hwy 65 was originally a gas service station and was known as the Kinne Building. It was also the home of the Crier newspaper. It was owned by The Lokens in 1982. Jim Loken sold it to Gene Doherty , and he in turn sold it to the present owners Lori Enderle and Martha Shina. They are a full -service restaurant specializing in Italian food.

1964: First State Bank Of Spring Lake Park: The charter for the operation of the bank was granted by the State of Minnesota for opening on February 12, 1964. The first Directors and Stockholders of the Bank were R. R. Kreusek, Charles S.Settle, Robert M. Dickman, Willard A. Olson, Donald H. Gregerson, George Herda, and Stanley W. Dahlmeier. Don Stien was the first president of the bank. It was bought by Norwest Banks and then sold to Wells Fargo Bank.

1964: Arthur Jallo DDS: Dr. Jallo owned a complete dental clinic building next to the Laddie Lake Inn on Hwy 65. It was sold in the early '70's. The complete building now houses many businesses such as The Lotus Garden, Insty-Prints, The Flower Shoppe, Lincoln Pawn & Jewelry of SLP.

1970: Custard Cottage: Owned by Auggie Spitzer. The first drive-in restaurant in Spring Lake Park was located between the bank and the old SLP Municipal Liquor Store - +On and Offsale.

1970: Excel Dental Studios: It was originated by Jerry Nelson and George Halverson. They outgrew two previous locations before locating here. The primary function of a full -service dental studio (dental lab) is to manufacture, for a dentist, by prescription only, full dentures, removable partial dentures, individual permanently cemented metal and porcelain crowns and bridgework.

1971: Rise INC: Rise was Incorporated and opened it doors on August 2, 1971. the building was a garage and office for a telephone company. The mission of Rise hasn't changed since 1971. Rise supports people who have disabilities and barriers to employment by attaining their personal measure of safe and affordable housing, vocational achievement, self-sufficiency, and belonging to a community. Rise is dedicated to building a community which is more accepting of all its citizen's and we support the development of creative partnerships with businesses, government agencies, and the general public to meet this objective." Rise has served over 11,000 people since 1971. Spring Lake Park was selected as the initial cite for Rise because of its centralized location for people to be served.

1972: Spring Lake Park T.V. / The Flower Shoppe: The SLP TV on Hwy 65 offered a full-line of high quality radio, stereo and television merchandise and gave away roses with most purchases. It is now the full service Flower Shoppe, offering plants and flowers for all occasions. The owner Mary Lou Box is most gracious and accommodating to everyone.

1972: Park Auto Body: Fred Harris and Ron Knealing shared a partnership in this business located on old Central Ave. They had a great motto: "If you wreck them, we'll correct 'em." This business was sold in September 1992. Fred is now enjoying his retirement.

1973: Jerry's Floor Store: Jerry Truman was the first owner of Jerry's Floor Store on Hwy 10. After opening their first business here in SLP they have expanded to other stores throughout the Twin-City area. Dawn Iverson is the present owner.

1974: Central Rental: On Osborne Road: Woody and Woody Timo, Jr. owned and operated a warehouse full of merchandise to rent and sell such as trucks, trailers, party goods and home owner contractor equipment. Woody Sr. passed away in 2000.

1976: Aggressive Industries: Aggressive Industries on Sunset Road has specialized in rotational molding equipment using the most advanced designs on the market. They have other divisions throughout the area.

1979: Central Center for Family Resources: Spear-headed by Lee Carlson, Central Center for Family Resources began in a small office at the Spring Lake Park Community Center in 1979, serving 50 families. Their purpose is family counseling, identifying the needs of troubled juveniles and their families through short term counseling, assisting schools, churches, social service agencies and law enforcement agencies to fill the gaps in services rendered to juveniles and promoting family educational services. They are now located at 1485 81st Avenue NE in Spring Lake Park and are servicing over 3,000 families per year.

Spring Lake Park Area CHURCHS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

CHURCHES

The following churches serve the residents of Spring Lake Park and surrounding communities.

Emmanuel Christian Center (Assemblies of God) 784-7777

7777 University Ave. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Founded in 1963 / Moved to Spring Lake Park in 1988
Current attendees: 3500 per weekend

Spring Lake Park Baptist Church 784-3697

8498 Sunset Road N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Founded in 1941 / Current membership: 350
Day Care Center for 35 years

Church of the Resurrection (Episcopal) 784-3330

8001 University Ave. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Founded in 1961 / Current membership: 113

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 786-1706

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
7700 Monroe St. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Founded in 1959 / Current membership: 590

Prince of Peace Lutheran School

7700 Monroe St. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Pre-school-grade eight serving approx. 100 students.

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church 717-7364

(Co Rd. 10 and Pierce)-Spring Lake Park, MN
Moved to Spring Lake Park in 2003

Pleasant View Deaf Assembly

7901 Pleasant View Dr.-Spring Lake Park, MN
763-784-1043 tty / 763-784-1049 voice

Church of St. Timothy (Catholic) 784-1329

(St. Timothy's was founded in 1942 and originally was located on the current Wells Fargo Bank site. In 1954, the church moved to its current location at 707 89th Ave. NE in Blaine.)

AREA MEDICAL FACILITIES

The following medical facilities, although not all located in the City of Spring Lake, serve the residents of the community.

Allina Medical Clinic Coon Rapids 763-780-9155

9055 Springbrook Dr. -Coon Rapids, MN
Family Practice, Specialties and Urgent Care

Fridley Medical Center 763-785-4500

7675 NE Madison St.-Fridley, MN
Full range of physician services

Health Partners Spring Lake Park 952-967-7966

1415 81st Ave. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
Full range of physician services

Unity Hospital 763-236-5000

550 Osborne Road N.E.-Fridley, MN

Unity Professional Building

500 Osborne Road N.E.-Fridley, MN
Next Unity Hospital-A variety of clinics and practices

St. Mary's Health Clinic 690-7029

7777 University Ave. N.E.-Spring Lake Park, MN
(Emmanuel Christian Center) Clinic every Th. 2 to 6 P.M.

Spring Lake Park TOWER DAYS CELEBRATION

The Spring Lake Park community celebration, know today as Tower Days, began in 1972 with many activities scheduled around the beach area at Spring Lake. The celebration ceased in 1974. In 1975, the City Council commissioned a group of community residents to rejuvenate the community celebration for the Bicentennial in 1976. The commission worked very hard and raised enough funds to have our water tower painted after Old Glory with stars and stripes in red, white and blue. After painting the water tower, the committee decided to use it as the theme for the community celebration. Since that time, the celebration is referred to as Tower Days. Traditionally, the celebration kicked off with the Grand Day Parade followed by many community activities — golf and softball tournaments, family fun night, street dances and senior 500 tournament. A royalty fashion show and coronation of new royalty concluded the celebration until 2000, when the royalty portion of Tower Days was no longer included.

Today, Tower Days is focused on family activities that include a parade on the Thursday of Tower Days, a parent child mini-golf tournament, softball tournament, senior citizen activities, and an all-day celebration at Lakeside Lions Park featuring entertainment, games, craft fair, bingo, ice cream social, car show, pie-eating contest, demonstrations and a big fireworks finale. Most activities are free with the purchase of a Tower Days button. The focus is on family fun and civic pride. The Lions, VFW, and Scout groups, along with city residents, council members and staff work together to provide a great community celebration.



Spring Lake Park Girl Scouts participate in the Tower Days Parade on June 6, 2002

Spring Lake Park School District 16

The Spring Lake Park School District-District #16- consists of all or part of the cities of Blaine, Fridley and Spring Lake Park and has a total population of approximately 25,000-people. The School district covers an area in excess of 11,500 acres and encompasses more than eighteen square miles.

Independent School District No 16 was created by the merger of three “common” or rural school districts on June 4, 1954, when the Anoka County Commissioners approved the merger of these three districts, thus establishing School District No 47 (In 1955 all the State Education laws were recodified. All districts were renumbered by counties. District 47 became District 16, effective July 7, 1955). The primary purpose of this merger was for the creation of a high school.

Early in 1954 there were approximately 910 students in grades 1 – 12 living in the area now encompassed by District 16 boundaries. High school - age students attended Anoka, Columbia Heights, and Minneapolis Marshall high schools. Today, in 2003, the district serves approximately 4,250 students

Funds to build a new high school were out of reach. The district was befriended by Representative John Nordin. Representative Nordin believed an area that needed and desired a high school should be assisted in that effort. Through his leadership an enabling act was passed that would give financial assistance to the building of a high school.

On July 6, 1954, the communities involved voted in support of a \$750,000 bond issue passing the issue 386 to 11. December 14, the same year, the people again voted 457 to 1 in favor of buying a 40 acre, centrally located tract of land on which to build the school. (By locating the school in Spring Lake Park the district would be eligible for transportation reimbursement for Fridley and Blaine students. The District would not have been eligible for these funds if the high school was built within the same village.) The public support of both issues concerning a community high school was very impressive.

High school students, grades nine through eleven, began attending high school in the Woodcrest building in 1955. High school students moved into the uncompleted high school in December 1955. Seniors completed their senior year at the schools where they had started. The high school was dedicated on April 28, 1957. The first graduating class was also in 1957.

The following is a chronology of school construction, additions, and renovations that took place after the early history of the district.

- 1950 Blaine Elementary (rented to Anoka County for a period of time and later sold) This facility is now SBM Fire Station #2 and Calvin Christian Academy.
- 1950 Woodcrest Elementary (Reconstructed in 1965-66)
- 1957 Spring Lake Park Junior High School (now Community Services/Alternative School)
- 1958 High School Gymnasium-Auditorium
- 1960 Jr. High School Addition (To High School Building)
- 1964 District Office/Board of Education Building
- 1966 Woodcrest Elementary Reconstruction
- 1966 Kenneth Hall Elementary
- 1966 High School Addition
- 1967 Westwood Elementary
- 1967 High School Addition
- 1970 Park Terrace Elementary
- 1973 Westwood Jr. High (now Westwood Middle School)
- 1973 Swimming Pool – High School
- 1976 Fine Arts Center – High School
- 1998 Additions to Middle School, High School; Renovations/updating of all schools

The current value of buildings and grounds is approximately \$26.5 million dollars with the annual total budget approximately \$39 million.

A large amount of the success of the school district goes to a school board that has been remarkably stable through the years, a sign of confidence from the community, as well as a very stable administration. The district has had only four superintendents:

- Mr. Holtz 1954-1955
- Mr. Edward Knalson, 1955-1976
- Dr. Chris L Huber, 1976-1997
- Dr. Donald Helmstetter ,1997 - Present

Other assets included Parent Teacher Associations at all of the elementary schools and Parent Advisory Committees at the secondary level; a dedicated, talented, well-trained and conscientious staff. Although the community is much more diverse than it was in 1954, it continues to be very supportive of education.

District 16 has a long and proud history. Its students have won conference, state, national, and even world academic championships.

Today, the “farms and unusable land “ of District 16 are vibrant and thriving communities and home to the National Sports Center, Minnesota Medical Enterprise Park, Medtronic, Cummings (Onan), Unity Hospital, Anoka County Human Services Center, Northtown Shopping Center, USA Cup—the largest youth soccer tournament in the world, 3M Championship, and the PGA tour’s world class TPC golf course.



Tornado Hits Spring Lake Park

MAY 6, 1965

May 6, 1965, the area's communities were hit by a tornado. Two people were killed and one-third of the property in Spring Lake Park was destroyed. Through a wholehearted effort by all of the community, the village was rebuilt. The following is an account of the tornado and the communities response.

On May 11, 1965, a referendum had been scheduled to vote on the installation of storm sewers. People, particularly those on high ground, had contended they weren't necessary. After the tornado, the polling places, the election and the questioning need were all blown away.

Storm Hits Mounds View, Fridley, Spring Lake Park

The Record – May 12, 1965

The fastest growing area in the state was delivered a stunning blow last Thursday when a series of four tornadoes cut through four communities.

Fridley, Spring Lake Park and Mounds View took the brunt of the damage while Blaine had a lesser amount. Whipping, sucking winds, followed by driving rain and giant hail made thousands homeless and wiped out a large share of the areas' industry and commerce.

Four different twisters touched down in the area, each cutting wide swaths. Death, pain and total destruction of property filled their paths.

Two of the area's largest employers, the FMC Corporation with a payroll of 2000 and Midland Cooperatives with 800, were badly damaged. Several other industries were struck which may affect the employment picture for the region.

Retail business and other commercial enterprises suffered huge losses. Many stores and two shopping centers were completely knocked out.

Government buildings and property sustained millions of dollars in damage. School districts in Fridley and Spring Lake Park were the hardest hit with the cost estimated at \$10 million.

Private utilities were seriously damaged. Sixteen thousand phones were placed out of service. Electric power, and natural gas service was interrupted for as long as a week to some areas.

The greatest damage in terms of personal loss was to the residents. In Fridley, 425 homes were totally demolished and another 1099 damaged.

Spring Lake Park had 149 homes totally destroyed and 147 damaged. About 30 percent of the residences were affected.

In Mounds View, 88 homes were totally destroyed and a hundred more damaged. Mounds View had the highest fatality total with five, while Fridley and Spring Lake Park each reported two deaths.

Hundreds were injured. All local emergency facilities were taxed to the maximum. The new Mercy Hospital was pressed into full scale service.

The National Guard was activated and four units totaling 500 men were sent to the area. The affected regions were sealed off from sightseers and opportunists.

Hundreds of volunteers were called upon to aid. First they assisted with the wounded, later in the search for the missing. For days, volunteers have assisted with clean-up.

Volunteers with special skills and training were overtaxed. Volunteer firemen gave every available hour. Civil Defense personnel from the affected communities and Columbia Heights worked endlessly.

Amateur radio operators set up a communications network and manned several stations for five days. Taxi drivers volunteered their vehicles.

The less skilled donated thousands of hours in labor – cleaning debris, guarding buildings and directing traffic.

Public employees have had little rest since the storm. The Minnesota Highway Patrol set-up a command post in Spring Lake Park. When officers weren't on regular patrol, they have served to direct traffic and serve as guards in the disaster area.

Anoka and Ramsey county sheriff's departments were pressed into immediate service with the first work of the big blow. First in aiding victims and later in coordinating of activity, the sheriff's deputies have been most busy.

Local police provided much of the early emergency service in aiding victims. They have constantly served in the capacity of guarding the region. Cooperation between communities was outstanding.

Municipal maintenance and utility crews were pressed into overtime duty. All equipment has been kept in constant use. First streets were opened and later the general clean-up was begun.

School employees, students and many volunteers have aided in getting school buildings cleaned-up and supplies salvaged. Only a few days of school will be missed because of the efficient action.

Hundreds of persons have donated equipment and materials to aid in getting the area back on its feet. Heavy equipment, dump trucks, front-end loaders and plain old fashioned shovels have been offered.

The Red Cross and Salvation Army were some of the first on the scene and have yet to leave. They are providing meals for volunteers, clothes and other supplies for victims and a place to stay for the homeless.

Utility companies sent in extra crews. Eight hundred telephone workers were involved. Northern States Power brought in crews from as far as Wisconsin.



Home of the Gepharts - 81st and Jackson



Looking east from Able St. at 81st - the rubble of a home.

Esprit de Corps ***The Record – May 19, 1965***

Dauntless, intrepid, Promethean are probably the best words to describe the citizenry of Fridley, Spring Lake Park and Mounds View who are now busy rebuilding their communities. These gallant, fine spirited people are, more than ever, determined to develop outstanding places to live and raise their families.

These communities are to be commended for their desire to start again after a blow that would discourage many weak hearted places. Their interest in quickly re-opening the schools and willingness to help others in need are other signs of well directed towns.

Leadership exhibited by elected officials during time of crisis was stupendous. Mayors and councils put in countless hours in several cases at the expense of their regular employment. Their effectiveness was colossal. They provided for maximum relief to the suffering and straight forward direction for all concerned.

Government employees, including national guardsmen, highway patrolmen, sheriff's personnel, local police, maintenance crews, firemen, administrators, clerical help, school staffs and others, all pitched-in. Many an unaccounted overtime hour was contributed without self-concern.

School boards and administrators did a miraculous job of minimizing lost school time and re-establishing school spirit. The students were quick to respond, both in helping and in tolerating difficult conditions without letting them interfere with scholarly goals.

Many outside the affected communities have shown concern for the stricken. These groups include the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Mennonites, veterans organizations, churches, state and national officials, neighboring law enforcement groups, service clubs, amateur radio operators, businesses and interested persons. Their help and aid was appreciated.

We can be sure of one thing these municipalities will be back to near normal in a short time. It is true they will never be the same – they'll be better.

Spring Lake Park CIVIC GROUPS

Throughout Spring Lake Park's history, civic organizations have played a big part in the development of the community. From the very beginning these community groups and volunteers were instrumental in laying groundwork for Spring Lake Park's 50 years of civic pride and community spirit.

The Spring Lake Park Lions Club was chartered on August 28, 1956. Throughout the years, the Lions Club has worked side by side with the City in park improvement projects, support for school and recreation programming, equipment for the police and fire department, funding for special events such as Senior Day in the Park, Valentines Luncheon, and Tower Days. The Lions Club has remained a vital organization within the City throughout its 45 plus years.

Kraus Hartig VFW has been an active community organization in Spring Lake Park for 57 years. They provide service to veterans in the area as well as support many community and school needs. VFW members actively participate in the annual community celebration and provide space for city functions such as the Valentines Luncheon, Santa Breakfast, Seniors 500 Tournament and more.

Other service groups included the Spring Lake Park Jaycees, and Playground, Inc., a group of residents that purchased property and maintained the area now known as Lakeside Lions Park. Throughout the years, Scouting groups are actively involved and play a significant part in the community.

Howard Thorson, longtime resident and original member of the Civic Club (pictured below) said, "the Civic Club had more than 30 members and the members owned the businesses which were the beginnings of the city." He added, "the Civic Club, Lions, VFW and Jaycees were very instrumental in making Spring Lake Park a great place to live."



The picture above, taken Dec. 23, 1959, shows the members of the Spring Lake Park Civic Club. Left to right, 1st row: Jim Kinne, Jack Brama, George Gustafson, Alex Johnson. 2nd row: Felix Barbero, George Gardner, Edward Knalson, John Conde, Jack Ness, Ross Brown, Paul Bengston. 3rd row: Al Coff, _____ Howard Larsen, Harry Scheff, George Herda, _____. 4th row: Vic Johnston, Al Hillsdale, Clint Ratfield, Howard Thorson, Fred DeCoursey, Dick Zabel, Ike Joslyn, Ben Dahl, Nels Moller.

In Spring Lake Park

Tarry here awhile, long enough to see
Spring and Summer, Autumn, Winter,
filled with fun and glee.
Sparkling eyes will greet you, friendly folks will call,
Contented hearts surround you, 'til you're at home with all,

We love it here,
In Spring Lake Park

Blink your eyes, then open wide,
breathe that fresh Spring air
Budding oaks and weeping willows, violets everywhere.
Trodden paths now open, back to the garden plot;
Bright-eyes, carefree children, bounce on in happy trot.

It's Spring again,
In Spring Lake Park

Can't you smell the clover? View the setting sun.
Soon the stars will twinkle, for all who's day is done;
Lakes are ready waiting, picnics, yes, galore,
Hearts are lifted higher, as everyone's outdoor.

It's Summer again,
In Spring Lake Park

Listen to the rustling leaves, the air is crisper now,
Many a home just newly built has proudly made her bow.
Favorite flowers must be picked, pumpkins gathered in;
Summer fun is over and it's party time within.

It's Autumn again,
In Spring Lake Park

Gaze with me a moment out this window pane,
Shadows on the glistening snow, oak leaves still remain,
Peace and quietness is here, to other hearts unknown,
Raptured beauty for us all that praises God alone,

It's Winter again,
In Spring Lake Park

Composed in 1952 when Spring Lake Park was a large
unincorporated area.

By Genevieve Dalberg

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Community Memories

The early residents of Spring Lake Park played a significant part in building the homes, roads and businesses of the community. Their greater contribution, however, was to define the character of this urban “small town”. Many of these longtime residents shared their memories and sincere love of their community on the following pages. The 50th Anniversary Committee hopes that you will read and remember with fondness the early days of Spring Lake Park.

Fran Dahlmeier is truly the “First Lady” of Spring Lake Park as her husband, the late Stan Dahlmeier, was elected as Spring Lake Park’s first mayor in 1954. The Dahlmeiers purchased and developed several parcels of land in Spring Lake Park. They enjoyed politics and actively participated in Spring Lake Park Lutheran Church. Fran recalls that “everybody knew everybody in the early days of Spring Lake Park. There were neighborhood get-togethers. The guys would play cards at the VFW and the kids hung out at the bowling alley on Highway 10. Yes, life was good in the 1950’s even if the wind would kick up a sand storm now and then.”

Howard Thorson worked for Dailey Homes in the late 1940’s. He left for a few years to serve his country during the Korean War. When he returned, the housing industry was booming in the Spring Lake Park and Blaine areas. Howard recalls homes built in the late 1940’s that had three bedrooms and sold for \$9,600. Those same homes are now selling for \$150,000 and above. Howard was a member of the Civic Club of Spring Lake Park made of up 30 members who owned businesses in the early years of the city.

Leonard Pangburn is one of Spring Lake Park’s older citizens. Leonard and his wife bought two lots from Edgar Nelson, on Laddie Lake 57 years ago. The price was \$350 a lot. Leonard set out to build his family a gracious brick ranch style home situated on a knoll, surrounded by trees and a picturesque view of Laddie Lake. There were no roads past the house, so Leonard and Edgar, by driving back and forth through the sand, created the road (Cottagewood Terrace) that curved northward. After fighting long and hard with NSP, electricity was finally brought to Cottagewood Terrace from old Highway 10 (now Coon Rapids Blvd.) even though he had the only house on the road. When asked what they did for fun back in the early 50’s Leonard told of a dance hall and “beer joint” across the lake (Wyatt Concrete now occupies the land.) There was also an establishment called Kings Court which later became Rice Bowl. Kings Court had a questionable reputation as a “boot-legger joint”. Leonard remembers Jack and Stella Ness, who ran Laddie Lake Inn, now the location of Nicklows. The Pangburns shopped at Mrs. Zabel’s convenience store and Brama’s gas station on old Highway 10. A far cry from the Cub and Rainbow supermarkets now located close by. Leonard, an avid collector of antique outboard motors, enjoys his peaceful life on Laddie Lake and sharing all of his memories of Spring Lake Park neighbors, family, and friends.

Dean Sabby lived at 8331 Sunset Road from 1943 through 1967 when his family moved to southern Blaine. Dean had wonderful things to say about Spring Lake Park and its residents, “the greatest, most caring people lived in Spring Lake Park! They still do — very unpretentious people.” Dean recalls the many accidents that occurred at the intersection of Highway 10 and Highway 65 (only 2 lane highways) that were regulated with only four-way stop signs. The Kinney Building, now mostly J’s Pizza and the Flower Shoppe, was occupied by the Cryer Newspaper and Dr. Anderson. Jack Ness and family ran the Laddie Lake Inn. Across the highway was Adam’s Drug Store and Johnson’s Red and White Grocery. Harold Rosen and Herman Jeffy purchased the Old Adams Drug Store which became The Market Center. Hank Springer owned the Spring Lake Park Hardware where on Christmas eve, children could see Santa Claus (Buster Humerich” hand out presents and candy. St. Timothy’s Church was a basement church where the current Wells Fargo Bank is located. Before it became a bank, it was a dance hall.

In 1956, Spring Lake Park Municipal Liquor (on and off sale) was constructed and managed by Ed Kubat. Spring Lake Park Lumber was owned by George Herda and Buss Francene. Gas stations along Highway 10 included Jack Brama and Fred Hartig’s, also the Johnson Brothers 66 across the highway.

Ernest and Lee Bumala and their daughter moved into their home at 82nd and Monroe, which was known as Fridley Township, in 1952. Monroe went north to Sanburnol with Terrace being the only street which went south to Osborne Road. There were big scrub trees and oaks in the sand dunes across Monroe. Lee and Ernie picked mushrooms and asparagus in the open fields. Their friends wondered why they wanted to live so far out in the “boonies”. All the land and roads were sugar sand. The Bumala’s sent a sample of the soil to the university and were told that it would make a good beach, except it was too dirty. Lee told that her clothes poles were getting shorter each time she used them until they were under 3 feet tall. Sand was blowing in and staying. When developments started, earth movers were brought in to remove the sand that had blown in. Some trees which had been partially buried by sand needed to be dug out. When lawns were started, people put up boards around them to keep the sand out. When the 1965 tornado hit Spring Lake Park, many residents had no power for a very long time. Ernie went to the store to buy dry ice, but when the storekeeper discovered he was from the tornado area, he gave them the ice for free. The Bumala’s lived in their house for 52 years.

Cele Winter and her husband Herb moved to Spring Lake Park in 1954. Cele shared many memories about the sandy soil, the tornado and her wonderful neighbors. Cele tells about the house parties where Oliver Hagen played the guitar and Wally Bayer played the accordion and they all danced and had a great time! They also formed a card club in 1954 and they are still playing today. When the tornado struck, Cele was home with her three children. They went down in the basement into a closet. Thank goodness they did because a roof hit the front of the house knocking the kitchen faucets on and causing huge amounts of debris. Cele's husband was active in Spring Lake Park politics and was the janitor at the Spring Lake Park High School.

Ma Barker II In the 1920's a very unusual house was built with no garden or out buildings in the space later occupied by the Laddie Lake Inn. South of this house was a speakeasy run by Ma Barker and her sons. At the time they were in the business of robbing banks, but when that became too dangerous they began kidnapping instead. One of the individuals they kidnapped was Mr. Hamm of brewery fame. He was held captive in the basement of this speakeasy in Spring Lake Park. Mr. Hamm had a watch to determine the time, could hear the trains, sensed he was near water and heard music and dancing. After a ransom was paid, he was released. He went to authorities with his information and an arrest of the gang was planned. Before they could be arrested, they burned the speakeasy down, never to be rebuilt, but to this day, some big stone pieces from the building remain by the lake.

Community Falls Right in the Middle

Census reveals Spring Lake Park is Minnesota's most "average" city.

By TODD NELSON, Pioneer Press - Wed., June 26, 2002

If you're looking for Minnesota's own Mayberry, consider the Twin Cities suburb of Spring Lake Park.

The city, home to 6,722 residents and occupying slightly less than three square miles of Anoka County, is as close to a demographic spitting image of the state as you're likely to find. Browse the latest data from the 2000 census and you'll see Minnesota's Mini-Me. Spring Lake Park stands out as a veritable cross-section of the state, average enough to make even Sheriff Andy Taylor or Garrison Keillor feel right at home.

The city, for example, matches up closely with the state in categories such as median household income (Minnesota, \$47,111; Spring Lake Park, \$46,646), percentage of residents with no high school diploma (12), for example, or family size (close to three) or the median number of rooms in a home (almost six).

In all, an informal, somewhat subjective comparison of roughly two dozen census categories of information released this month shows that when you want average Minnesota, you want Spring Lake Park. "It surprises me, but I never thought about it before," said Don Busch, 70, who served 26 years as city administrator before retiring in 1995. "It's not that big of a shock that we are. We don't have any large extremes either way."

Indeed, the compact city is largely made up of tree-lined streets with block after block of tidy ramblers, many built in the suburban rush of the 1950's and 60's. There's no room for exclusive gated subdivisions and there's no wrong side of the tracks.

"One thing I like about it is it doesn't have the real high-priced houses, the \$500,000 houses like they have in Minnetonka," said Ed Laun, who moved in 25 years ago and hasn't thought of leaving. "Here the average person can come and buy a home and live with their family."

What has drawn and kept such longtime residents, in part, is a quiet, small-town atmosphere that has persisted even as the surrounding Twin Cities metro area has boomed. The city has some commercial and industrial development along Minnesota 65 and County Road 10 but has no downtown, no post office, no big shopping center, no library and no hospital, though all are close by in neighboring cities, some just across the street from Spring Lake Park.

Bordered by Anoka County neighbors Coon Rapids, Fridley and Blaine and Mounds View just across the Ramsey County line, Spring Lake Park has changed little over the years, giving it a timeless quality, some residents said.

"I describe it as a small, friendly community that has access to either downtown Minneapolis or downtown St. Paul within 20 minutes, without the heavy traffic," Busch said. "It's quieter. The biggest noise we have out here is lawnmowers."

The city's most recognizable landmarks are its twin water towers, done up in Stars and Stripes for the U.S. bicentennial and namesakes of Tower Days, the citywide celebration that takes place at the beginning of each June.

"People here are friendly," said Marian Rygwall, who is the parks and recreation director and a 23 year city employee. "We try to promote that community spirit and caring."

One place where that has been evident, Rygwall said, is at Lakeside Lions Park at Spring Lake, which belongs to both Spring Lake Park and Mounds View. The Lions helped raise money to spruce up the park and Laun, a past president and avid woodworker, made two new signs to save the city a \$600 bill.

"The town just seems to be more community-centered," Laun said. "There are just so many things going for the community that I like to be a part of it."

Spring Lake Park 2003 City Staff



Administration Department Back row left to right: Rene Goertz, Kristine Pearson, Karen Sorensen, Peggy Anderson, Deborah Rollie, Wanda Brown. Front row left to right: Barb Nelson, Barry Brainard



Parks and Recreation Department Left to right: Sharie Linke, Matt Koehn, Ann Radichel



Public Works Department Pictured from left to right: Jay Kruger, Ken Prokott, Doug Himango. Not pictured: Steve Coyle and Glenn Bauer.



Police Department Back row left to right: Chief David Toth, Investigator Doug Ebeltoft, Officer Randy Brown. Front row left to right: Luann Larson, Lori Brahs

Partial funding for the
publication of this book
was provided by
Fridley American
Legion Post 303



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