

Kiwanis Spring Sprint for scholarships

by Alex Schlee

“Oh yeah, this is the kind of music that gets you pumped,” a runner commented on the choice of gentle ‘80’s synth music that accompanied the kickoff for the annual Spring Sprint 5K. The race, hosted by the Columbia Heights and Fridley Kiwanis Club, started in 2018, but this is only the second time it’s been held.

After a year sabbatical to make time for schooling, and then the pandemic right after, Kiwanis President-Elect Katie Landwehr is ready to finally make the Fun Run a proper yearly event starting now.

The Spring Sprint is a fundraiser for Kiwanis Key Club scholarships. The Key Club is a program within the Kiwanis family for high schoolers, and two seniors in Heights and Fridley are selected to receive a scholarship each year.

The race took runners around Sullivan Lake for four laps total, equating to a distance just shy of a 5K. Runners gathered at the pavilion in Sullivan Park around 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 14 to register and get numbers assigned. About 24 participants signed up ahead of time, and six more walkers joined. Some participants ran, while others took the time to enjoy themselves and walked the route. Columbia Heights High School senior Drake Pham, one of the scholarship recipients, finished the run first, clocking in at 17 minutes and 15 seconds. Cooper High School senior Samarion Robinson finished just behind him.



Left: Samarion Robinson and Drake Pham exploded across the starting line, and finished second and first in a race for all ages and speeds. Above: Racers along a shaded portion of the route.

(Photos by Alex Schlee)

Food & Fun



New Monroe traffic control measures

1 ◀ MONROE

been deployed at the four corners of 23rd Avenue, which jogs slightly to the north, as well the corners on 24th.

Monroe’s intersection with Lowry got plenty of attention. A hardened center line has been installed to prevent drivers from cutting corners when making left turns from Lowry onto Monroe. The bollards there are made of sterner stuff than

the ones used elsewhere and are painted bright yellow. The hardened center lines also increase sightlines for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Bumpouts have been installed on the two corners on the north side of the intersection, and traffic signals look as if they’ve had the retroreflective treatment placed around the lights.

(Photo by Cynthia Sowden)

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