



Expanding Amber Union?

Page 3



Holiday Guide

Page 7



New: Library Corner

Page 18

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Park Bugle

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December 2023

Murray leaves District 12 Community Council post

By Scott Carlson

After a nearly six-year stint as executive director of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council, Kathryn Murray has left that post to become the creative placemaking specialist for the city of Bloomington,

"I'm excited to work alongside the talented and innovative team there," said Murray, who resigned on Nov. 1 and whose last day with District 12 was Nov. 15. "Serving community through the arts has been a longstanding passion of mine."

Looking back at her time at District 12, Murray said one of the best parts of her job was making partnerships with the Creative Enterprise Zone, St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and other district councils.

"The people behind these organizations made me want to be better," she said, noting she was proud of behind-the-scenes work to improve District 12's financial operations as she was of higher profile events such as cleaning up Kasota Ponds.

In the end, however, Murray contended, "A lot of the successes were not my own. I was fortunate to work with some great people on the board and committees—knowledgeable, passionate, hard-working individuals who made me look good."

A native of Iowa, Murray moved to the Twin Cities to attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. After graduating with a degree in photography, she joined the City of Lakes AmeriCorps.

During her service year, Murray

developed an interest in nonprofit administration. She returned to school and earned a master's degree in arts and cultural management from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

While living at the Carleton Artist Lofts, Murray started a nonprofit, creating pop up galleries in vacant buildings during the construction of the light rail Green Line in St. Paul. She was chair of the St. Paul Art Crawl and organized events in CAL.

Next, Murray worked as program assistant at Springboard for the Arts, serving other artists by providing resources and professional development opportunities. After leaving Springboard, Murray joined the District 12 Community Council, first working as a communications and outreach coordinator. She became District 12 executive director in 2018.

"The nearly six years since have been a whirlwind filled with everything from development projects and public meetings to murals and ice cream socials," Murray told the Bugle.

As a former SAP resident and



Kathryn Murray resigned in November as executive director of District 12 Community Council to join the city of Bloomington as creative placemaking specialist. Photo courtesy of District 12 Community Council.

board member, Murray said she was interested in making District 12 a better and more equitable place. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

U celebrates life work of food scientist Ted Labuza

By Ben Wagner

The University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences—St. Paul campus recently celebrated the illustrious 50-year academic and professional career of Ted Labuza.

One of the most influential food scientists of his generation, Labuza officially retired from the U's Department of Food Science and Nutrition in 2021. Among his many contributions, he is internationally recognized for his research into how packaging can slow down degradation rates in foods.

"He's leaving a great legacy to our profession in food science... for generations to come," said Dr. Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, director of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Georgia.

Labuza graduated from MIT in 1965, earning his doctorate in food science and engineering just two and a half years after earning his bachelor's in the same field. He then taught at MIT until 1971, when he was hired by the Univer-

sity of Minnesota, where he spent the rest of his career.

Over the course of his career, Labuza has authored or co-authored more than 289 research papers, 18 textbooks and 78 book chapters. In 2002, the International Statistical Institute named Labuza one of the most cited scientists in the agriculture and food sciences area.

Labuza's peers and colleagues have widely recognized his contributions to the food sciences field. In 1998, he won the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Nicolas Appert Lifetime Achievement Award, considered one of the greatest honors in food science. And in 2003, he was named one of 26 industry innovators in Food Engineering magazine's 75th anniversary edition.

Even with all of his scientific accomplishments, Labuza's legacy as an educator and as a leader is just as great. He was president of the IFT from 1988 to 1989, becoming the youngest person ever elected to the position at the time, and in 1988, he received the Horace T. Morse Award from the University of Minnesota Alumni Association



Ted Labuza honored for lifetime achievement. Submitted photo University of Minnesota.

in recognition of his contributions to undergraduate education.

Those who studied under Labuza remember him for his natural scientific curiosity and for challenging his students to be similarly curious and pursue their goals with confidence.

"He knew how to correctly engage in a way that was motivating, but helpful," said Jeffrey Stamp, a professor in the Department of Applied Economics who worked in Labuza's lab as an undergraduate and graduate student. "Ted was dedicated to making sure we were ready to go out into the real world."

Ted Labuza to p.6

CITY FILES

Como and St. Anthony Park community councils news

District 12 Community Council

Call for Land Use Committee chair

District 12 has a leadership vacancy on its Land Use Committee.

As the current Land Use Committee chair finishes out their term, District 12 is looking for community members in leading the Land Use Committee. Prior experience is not required—all you need is an interest in advocating for the community and six to seven hours to volunteer each month.

The Land Use Committee works with developers to provide community input on local projects and

ensure projects align with neighborhood interests.

If you're interested in leading the Land Use Committee or want additional information, please email info@sapcc.org.

Upcoming meetings

St. Anthony Park Community Council committee members discuss a variety of issues at their monthly meetings. All meetings are hosted via Zoom.

Meeting times are subject to change due to the holidays. Find the latest updates on facebook.com/St.AnthonyParkCommunityCouncil.

- **Land Use Committee:**
7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7

- **District 12 Board:**
7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14
- **Environment Committee:**
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27
- **Transportation Committee:**
7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 26
- **Equity Committee:**
7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 28

*Submitted by Hailey Dickinson,
District 12 Outreach and communications coordinator.*

District 10 Community Council

District 10 firming up 2024 calendar

District 10 committees have set preliminary dates for most of their 2024 outreach and cleanup events, to help plan and increase opportunities for collaboration with the city and other community partners.

District 10 is launching the new year with a Feb. 3 winter event at North Dale Recreation Center. Stay tuned for more details, or connect with us at our community meetings on the first Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. to help with planning.

If you have questions or want to learn more about upcoming events, you can view the latest info on our website at District10ComoPark.org/Events or reach out to organizer@district10comopark.org.

2023 Como Curb Cleanup report

The District 10 Community Council partnered with Capitol Region Watershed District on this year's Como Curb Cleanup program.

District 10 thanks everyone who participated in our 2023 curb-cleaning efforts.

When it rains, leaves on streets release nutrients into the water that flows into storm drains and the lake. There it becomes food for invasive algae. Your efforts to reduce this nutrient flow has a huge impact!

Tracking curb cleanup results helps District 10 in carrying out future cleanup campaigns. Once it collects all cleanup data, District 10 will share the results in the D10 newsletter as well on the D10 Como Park website.

If you participated in curb cleaning, even if you didn't register with us, you can report your efforts at District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup before Dec. 11.

Taking neighborhood honor roll nominations

Know someone who makes the Como Park area a better place to live, work or play? Nominate them for the District 10 Neighborhood Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll pays tribute to

everyday people who make a sustained and lasting impact in the Como neighborhood or St. Paul as a whole.

Submit your nominations by email to: district10@district10comopark.org. The District 10 office must receive nominations by Sunday, Jan. 7. Tell us who you are nominating and why. The District 10 Como Community Council board then selects three nominees to recognize for 2023.

District 10 Community meetings schedule

- **D10 Como Community meeting:** Dec. 6, 7 p.m., First Wednesdays.
- **D10 Como Community meeting:** Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Third Tuesdays.

D10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. You can find meeting details at District10ComoPark.org. All D10 community meetings are open to the public and have space for community members to bring topics up for discussion.

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

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Amber Union addition proposed

By Anne Holzman

The Amber Union apartments in the old TIES building could be poised for a big addition.

The Falcon Heights Planning Commission, at its Oct. 24 meeting, voted to support Buhl Investors' proposal to add 100 apartments in a new building it has dubbed Union Flats. The Amber Union complex is located at Larpenteur and Snelling avenues.

The commission's unanimous recommendation was expected to go to the Falcon Heights City Council for consideration at its Nov. 15 meeting. (That meeting occurred after the Bugle's December deadline).

Buhl Investors purchased the historic site from the city of Fal-

con Heights in 2019 and renovated the original office building, an architectural landmark, and the adjacent service building.

Amber Union, opened in fall 2022 with 125 apartments available at various income levels.

At that time, Buhl also acquired the TIES building's overflow parking lot to the west of those buildings. Buhl now seeks permission to build Amber Flats, a new apartment building, on that lot. These units, too, are proposed to fit with affordable housing guidelines.

After a proposal to include a coffee shop in a new building was rejected last spring, Buhl returned to the city a few weeks later with a plan including only apartments. Because of some remaining issues around building height and park-

ing, city staff referred the proposal to the Planning Commission.

In her memo to the planning commissioners for their Oct. 24 hearing, city development director Hannah Lynch stated, "The deviations from city code are not overly concerning."

At the hearing, neighbors voiced concerns about, among other things, parking, pedestrian safety and police calls to the existing Amber Union buildings.

The Amber Flats proposal includes a mix of underground and surface parking totaling 114 spaces, short of the 200 required by the city code. City staff justified the shortfall by citing access to multiple public transportation options close by.

The Amber Flats proposal,

which includes sidewalk improvements and landscaping, also reduces the overall amount of impervious surface from the current parking lot. Staff noted that affordable housing and reduction of impervious surfaces are two goals of the city's comprehensive plan.

The city council had the option in November of extending the consideration period into January.



Developers of Amber Union are planning an addition to the site called Amber Flats. Photo by Lou Michaels.

They are not required to conduct further public hearings. ■

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

SilverSky Auto coming to Lauderdale

By Anne Holzman

Lauderdale city leaders have expressed strong support for a new business set to open at 2520 Larpenteur Ave. as soon as building renovations are completed.

Hunter Sonnek and Levi Drudehoff appeared at the Oct. 24 City Council meeting to introduce their business plan. SilverSky Auto will obtain salvaged vehicles at auctions, rebuild them and sell them to customers from their space at the back of the building.

The shop owners said they expect to handle about 15 vehicles annually, working on them two or three at a time inside the building.

They said a "skate" mechanism will allow them to work safely indoors, moving the vehicles without starting the engines.

The young men said they're keeping the effort modest because of limited available work hours. They expect to do this work mostly evenings and weekends.

City staff said the business complies with all of the conditions for the light-industrial zone and a public hearing is routine to make sure benchmarks about parking, safety, and emissions are being met. No one from the public spoke at the hearing.

The building is owned by Brait Commercial of Edina. A renova-

tion has been underway there and appears to be nearing completion.

Council members noted that there have been "problems" including "parties" at that location and they are glad to have a new occupant.

Closing the hearing, Mayor Mary Gaasch said, "We're really excited to welcome you as neighbors." The council gave unanimous support to the effort and directed staff to bring a conditional use permit for approval at a November meeting. ■

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

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

Reprising 2023

The holiday season is a good time to pause and reflect on 2023, an extraordinary year of news.

It's been, as always, a year of tragedies and triumphs, comings and goings. New arrivals, and some departures.

First, the tragedies.

St. Anthony Park was sent reeling on May 6 when a teenage assailant gunned down Michael Brasel in front of his house as he sought to disrupt the theft of his wife's car.

Brasel's homicide rocked the tranquility of the quiet St. Anthony Park neighborhood. Since Brasel's tragic death, the Bugle has carried at least five stories about the incident.

Out of this terrible tragedy, the St. Anthony Park neighborhood has rallied to support his widow, Hilary Brasel, and her children. A GoFundMe page has raised more than \$200,000 for the family. Further, the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation has created a youth endowment fund in honor of Brasel, once an avid youth hockey coach.

Meanwhile, among the triumphs in 2023 there were real gains for SAP's Milton Square retail district. In our January issue we reported that Yes! Yes! Vintage Market & Boutique took space as a new retail shop in Milton Square.

Later in the year, Milton Square

became home to other new business arrivals including Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Practically Magical and the Almost Heaven nail salon.

Down the street on Como Avenue, Karta Thai left its St. Anthony Park location to focus on its Roseville restaurant. But it was quickly replaced by another Thai restaurant, this one called Lanna Thai, which opened in July.

The Bugle also carried an array of development news in 2023. The Amber Union apartments debuted in Falcon Heights, the Fern senior apartments opened for business in Lauderdale and the non-profit Creative Enterprise Zone in south St. Anthony Park formed a real estate investment cooperative, the Taproot Investment Cooperative, a move meant to protect local businesses from being priced out of their spaces and to promote small businesses in community-owned real estate.

Throughout 2023, the Bugle also covered a wide variety of community, government and school news, including the staging of annual events ranging from the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival to the 4th in the Park parade.

In sports, freelancer Eric Erickson chronicled the Cougar athletic teams at Como Park Senior High School while Sarah CR Clark kept readers abreast of interesting news stories at, among others, St. Anthony Park Elementary, Murray Middle School and the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Our breadth and depth of stories are meant not merely to inform readers but turn them into neighbors.

We hope our People in Your Neighborhood feature helps accomplish that goal. Neighborhood people feature subjects this past year included St. Anthony Park resident Regan Golden and Jim Kielsmeier, of Falcon Heights.

Another dimension of building community is knowing its history. In 2023, we kept you up to date on the monthly St. Anthony Park history series presented by professor Kristin Anderson at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. This series, now in its second year, covers development in St. Anthony Park since the community became a town in the 1880s.

2023 was also a year of some changes at the Bugle.

- In June, the Bugle and the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication created a journalism intern program which enables J students to write for the newspaper.

- We had a changing of our guard in contract staff. Copy editor Betsy Carlson (my wife) and proofreader Mary Mergenthal (still our obits editor) retired from those posts. In their places, we hired veteran PR man Bill Brady as copy editor and Mary Hegge as proofreader.

- In November, we announced the creation of a Readers Council. Currently, we are accepting applications. People interested in learning more about the council should contact Bugle board presiding officer Helen Warren at hbwarren65@gmail.com.

- And Bugle social media specialist Laura Adrian continued expanding our newspaper's presence on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. Laura conducted some readership contests to drum up interest in our growing social media activity.

All in all, 2023 has been a very eventful year. In the coming year, the Bugle will continue to look for inspirational tales to help fill our pages and provide news that connects readers, turning residents into neighbors.

Happy holidays!!

A closing note: As we gather around dinner tables this month to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and other holidays, the Bugle board and staff thank all of you for your continuing support. May your holiday season be filled with peace and joy. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: Mollie Hoben

By Janet Wight

After visiting England more than 20 times over many years through Books Afoot adventures, part of the BookWomen readers' community; Mollie Hoben had already logged hundreds of miles exploring England's countryside.

Hoben had walked across Kent from Dover to Whitstable, along the Cotswold Way and on the Thames Path. She does not recall how she came up with the idea to undertake a 70-mile walk to celebrate her 70th birthday, but Hoben ended up doing just that in England 10 years ago.

At that time, Hoben, of St. Anthony Park, wasn't sure she would be able to complete another milestone walk in her lifetime.

But as her 80th birthday approached in November, Hoben wanted to try another milestone walk. Although she would have preferred to go to England again, possibly to walk the 80-mile Dales Way, she was not able to make the trip this year.

Then, the idea for an 80-mile meander in St. Paul was hatched when Hoben decided to try an urban route rather than a stroll through the English countryside.

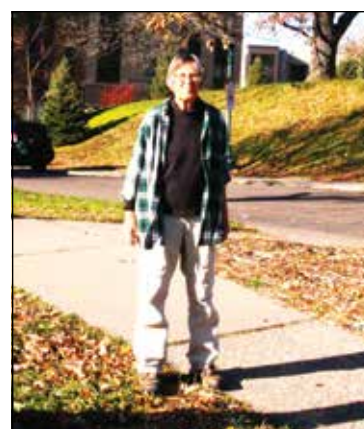
Initially, Hoben thought she would carefully plan her daily itineraries, but later she decided instead to simply wander through one or two neighborhoods each day. Her goals were to visit every branch library and independent bookstore in St. Paul, along with as many parks as possible.

In total, Hoben visited nine branches of the St. Paul Public Library. This excluded St. Anthony Park (which she regularly frequents) and Hamline (which was closed). She also checked out five independent bookstores and wandered through many parks.

Hoben made her 80-mile trek over a nine-day period in October, which included eight days of walking with one rest day.

"Knowing I could do it, giving myself that challenge and having the opportunity to try to meet it" was her favorite part of the endeavor, Hoben said. Hoben also found value in making unexpected discoveries and looking at familiar places from a new perspective.

Memorable highlights included hidden gem Willow Reserve in the North End, stumbling upon Walk for Water Twin Cities at Upper Landing Park and Phalen Poetry Park, a community space where



Mollie Hoben walked 80 miles to celebrate turning 80 years old.
Photo by Lou Michaels.

local residents are encouraged to write and submit poems. Also, she relished the opportunity to be outside all day regardless of the weather.

After completing the walk, Hoben realized that each St. Paul neighborhood has wonderful offerings as well as people who are engaged in their communities. This journey provided her with a richer sense of the city of St. Paul, she explained. ■

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

Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. As always, we appreciate when writers and readers submit their articles early.

Our publication dates represent when the newspapers go out for delivery. Mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days. And please note that mail distribution of the paper may take up to several business days with the holiday season also potentially slowing up deliveries.

Meanwhile, bulk drop-offs of the paper around town are usually completed two to three days after publication.

January 2024

Copy/ad deadline: Dec. 13

Publication: Dec. 26

February 2024

Copy/ad deadline: Jan. 10

Publication: Jan. 23

March: Wellness Guide

Copy/ad deadline: Feb. 14

Publication: Feb. 27

COMMENTARY

How is the Blue House Boutique connected to Bugleland?

By Karen Lilley

The Blue House Boutique is an annual holiday fundraiser in St. Anthony Park to support and educate vulnerable children in rural Uganda.

Hosted by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave, this year's boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.

An early bird session will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1. Cost is \$15 for limited online tickets. For further information, go to blue-house.org/boutique.

The boutique originated with Beatrice Garubanda, a Ugandan-American who lived in St. Paul. She launched it more than 20 years ago, after returning from a visit to her home village, where she had seen children in desperate need.

Beatrice and her family had moved to St. Paul when her husband attended the University of Minnesota. They lived at Com-



Blue House girls: Jenipher and Babrah. Submitted photo by Karen Lilley.

monwealth Terrace on the University of Minnesota-St. Paul campus and attended St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Beatrice made other connections with St. Anthony Park when she earned a master's degree in theology from Luther Seminary and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota.

After her family joined St. Mat-

thew's Episcopal Church, Beatrice started a tutoring program there for immigrant children. They then lived in the Como Park neighborhood.

In 2001, Beatrice visited her hometown of Kazo, Uganda. Upon her return, she shared the alarming news of the rapid spread of AIDS and the overwhelming number of orphans left in its wake.

Heartbroken by the sight of countless children living on the streets, Beatrice unveiled a vision for what became the Blue House, so named because, she said, "Blue is the color of hope."

Beatrice started a nongovernmental organization in Uganda and a nonprofit in Minnesota, with cooperating boards of directors.

In the summer of 2005, Beatrice invited the women of St. Matthew's Church to get together to craft and learn new skills. "What if we made so many things that we had enough to sell? We could donate the money we made to help support the orphanage."



New Blue House residents in their new dresses. Submitted photo by Karen Lilley.

And so the idea for the first Blue House Boutique was hatched.

Then Beatrice suddenly passed away in September that year.

But Beatrice's crafters decided to proceed with the one-day boutique sale. They sold a few items and made a few hundred dollars.

From that humble beginning, the boutique has dramatically grown into a three-day event at St. Matthew's.

In 2022, more than 65 crafters and gourmet goodie makers donated the fruits of their talents to sell items. Altogether the boutique raised more than \$22,000.

All proceeds benefit Blue House Uganda, funding operating expenses and education. Girls now go to school through secondary level and most go on to vocational schools or even college.

The Blue House also supports education for boys and girls who can safely live with relatives. Be-

atrice's vision still gives hope to children in Uganda. ■

Karen Lilley has managed Blue House communications and served on the board. Linda Lopez and Tracy Dunnwald were two of the original Boutique crafters and still make the sale happen. All three contributed to this article.

SCHOOL NEWS

Como Park High School news

By Eric Erickson

Seminar program and clubs

Generations of high school students have experienced "homeroom" or a variation of it. Beyond distributing school information or materials, efforts to support students in "advisory" became the norm at Como.

A shift last year rebranding advisory to "seminar" produced mixed results as a pass/no pass grade was attached to student effort in the daily 35-minute seminar time after lunch periods.

Recognizing areas for improvement after the inaugural year of seminar at Como, veteran teacher Allison Hartzell organized seminar programming and opportunities across the school.

A key element of Hartzell's initiative is a focus on student leadership. She created Como Council as an elective class open to juniors and seniors.

"The students become leaders in our school and do a variety of activities including going into seminars," Hartzell explained. "They lead activities and circles (to facilitate conversation and relationship building) in seminar on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Another huge undertaking of Hartzell's initiative has been the formation of clubs that meet on Wednesdays during seminar. Teachers offer club activities that students can choose to join. Some of the 17 clubs currently operating include Anime, Gamers Club,



Como students touring the University of Minnesota Rochester as part of a Get Ready campus visit. Photo by Mai Chue Moua.

Knitting, Karen/Karenni Club and the Walking Club.

There are also clubs built on academic support such as AP Humanities and Math. The academic support offered during seminar time includes Mondays and Fridays when students can check in with their teachers for assistance and make-up work.

College visits

The federally funded Get Ready program offered at Como continues its mission of preparing students for education and career advancement after high school.

Supports include individual college and career advising, workshops and college campus visits.

For those who have never been on a college campus, visiting and picturing oneself as a student there is motivating. This fall, Get Ready

hosted trips to the University of Minnesota Rochester, St. Paul College for its manufacturer's tour and the National College Fair.

AP Government students fundraising for D.C. trip

Como seniors studying AP Government are preparing for a week of study in the Close Up Washington D.C. program.

Twenty-nine students are actively fundraising for a trip to the nation's capital in early March. Beyond working part-time jobs, participating students bagged groceries for customers at the Larpenteur Avenue Cub Foods on Nov. 18 and will repeat that effort on Dec. 16. ■

Eric Erickson teaches social studies at Como Park Senior High School and is a Bugle freelance writer.

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SCHOOL NEWS

School news around town

Compiled by Sarah Clark

Murray Middle School

Band/orchestra concert Dec. 19
Band and orchestra director Denae Olsen has announced that all of Murray's bands and orchestras will perform a one-hour concert in the Murray Middle School Auditorium at 6:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 19. No tickets are required and community members are welcome.

Murray has three bands: beginning, intermediate and advanced; as well as two orchestras: beginning and advanced. About 105 students participate in band and orchestra combined.

"We are playing a range of music including marches, jazz, original works, lyrical pieces and classical," Olsen said.

Bugle readers may recall Murray's successful Adopt-an-Instrument fundraiser last school year,



Murray Middle School's Environmental Inquiry Immersion students harvested over 100 lbs of fresh produce from their class garden this fall. Maintained over the summer by volunteer students and staff, the produce was donated to culinary classes at Como High School. *Photo courtesy of Murray Middle School.*

when community members "adopted" 85 of Murray's musical instruments in need of repair.

Olsen said, "At least half of the

instruments that have been fixed from 'Adopt-an-Instrument' are now being played in the concert."

The music groups also will be playing from 6 to 8:30 pm, Dec. 2 at Barnes & Noble in HarMar Mall, 2100 N. Snelling Ave, Roseville.

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Still openings for new students

The Twin Cities German Immersion School has spots open for the current 2023-24 year in kindergarten and third through seventh grades. TCGIS is a kindergarten through eighth-grade public charter school (no tuition or fees!) in St. Paul. Busing is available.

"We support learners of German at all levels," said Paige Yurczyk, TCGIS communications and community outreach coordinator.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, please email enrollment@tcgis.org.

Enrollment application for 2024-25 school year

TCGIS applications for the 2024-25 school year are now open. The enrollment window closes at 4 p.m. Feb 15. German language proficiency is not a requirement to enroll.

"Research has shown that second language proficiency has a

positive effect on first language skill development and that immersion students perform as well as or better than students in a monolingual setting," Yurczyk said.

Tours for prospective families

Prospective families are invited to visit Twin Cities German Immersion School during several tours now through February. The hour-long, in-person tour includes visits to classrooms and Q&A with an administrator and a teacher.

Tour dates are:

- Tuesday, Nov. 28, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 15, 3:30 p.m.

More information can be found at tcgis.org/school-tours. (Submitted by Paige Yurczyk) ■

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

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TCGIS harriers place fourth in state meet

By Paige Yurczyk

The Twin Cities German Immersion School boys and girls cross-country teams recently placed fourth in the inaugural Minnesota Middle School/Junior High State Cross-Country Championship.

The state meet, held on Oct. 28 at Wayzata East Middle School, featured 59 middle schools in competition. The Blue Class comprised large schools while smaller ones, like TCGIS, competed in the Green Class.

The TCGIS Loons put on their spikes and raced their hearts out, posting these results:

Running on course conditions that were soggy, muddy and even

frozen in spots; TCGIS seventh grader Ellison Frasch placed ninth with a time of 13:13.5 over the 3-kilometer course.

Eighth grader Sunnatillo Mammatkulov finished in eighth place at 11:46.6. He was the same runner who ran the 3,000 meters at USA Track-and-Field Junior Olympic Nationals in July at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.

Organizers of the new Minnesota state meet included TCGIS coach Chris Tabisz.

The German Immersion School's state meet results came on the heels of its teams' successfully defending their conference championships on Oct. 13 at the Muddy Water XC Conference Championship at Como Park.

The TCGIS harriers fall season began with the Como Relays each Wednesday in August with the largest team it has ever had: 67 harriers (27% of the middle school student body).

The TCGIS team's final race of the fall season was scheduled for Nov. 5 at 2023 USA Track-and-Field Minnesota Junior Olympic Cross-Country Championships. Results were not available at press time. Those who qualify will be able to race on Dec. 9 at the USA Track-and-Field Junior Olympic Cross-Country Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky. ■

Paige Yurczyk is a communications and community outreach coordinator at the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Ted Labuza from p. 1

Labuza's legacy will continue to be celebrated into next year, with a special session honoring his contributions to water activity to be held at the 2024 International Symposium on the Properties of Water.

A special issue honoring Labuza's contributions to the field of food science and technology in the LWT – Food Science and Technology scientific journal is also planned for a later date.

"Ted has always been a very giving guy," Stamp said. "His life has been really full of making sure that people had the right information, that he was the advocate for good science." ■

Ben Wagner is a University of Minnesota journalism intern writing for the Bugle.

Warm wishes for the holiday season

My team and I want to wish you happy holidays. We hope this holiday is joyous and peaceful for you and yours.



Jim Roehrenbach

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Holiday Guide

Hot book picks for the holiday season

By David Enyeart

Books are the perfect gifts. They provide hours of entertainment on long winter nights. They're easy to wrap. And you if you play your cards right you can borrow them back and read them yourself in January.

Next Chapter Booksellers is full of great ideas for everyone on your list. Here are a few, and you can always come in and talk to one of our friendly staff to get even more ideas tailored to your list.

For the reader who's read everything: This fall sees new novels from Jessamyn Ward, Naomi Alderman, Patrick Rothfuss, Nita Prose and Paul Auster.

The much-lauded Irish author Claire Keegan is back with a dazzling new collection of short stories, *So Late in the Day* (which debuted Nov. 14).

And Joanna Quinn's *The Whalebone Theatre* is now available in paperback. She calls it a novel that "touches every human emotion."

For mystery readers: *Twilight Falls*, the fourth installment of the Shady Hollow mystery series, is out now.

These cozy mysteries—in which all the characters are woodland animals—are perfect for anyone who wants to know that it's all going to be OK in the end. Mystery readers who want to test their sleuthing skills will love *Murdle*. The hit game is now available offline in not one but two books to test even the most experienced investigator.

For the nature lover on your list: If you (like us) were captivated by Merlin Sheldrake's bestselling book *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our*

Worlds, then you'll love the new illustrated edition. It's packed with photographs that will captivate and delight readers of all ages.

For (aspiring) optimists: David Brooks' latest book *How to Know a Person* is a clarion call for the value of empathy in our daily lives and our social institutions. It's also a roadmap of practical steps we can take to develop our capacity to truly see others and grow together into our best selves.

For the aspiring chef: New and veteran foodies will find inspiration in Molly Baz's second cookbook, *More is More*.

She brings her signature maximalist style to flavor-packed recipes ranging from Miso-Braised Chicken and Leeks to Earl Gray Scones.

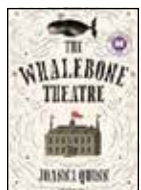
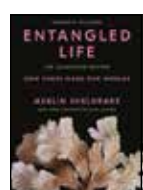
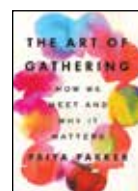
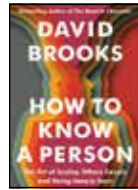
Andrew Rea's fun filled book *Binging with Babish* is like an entire cooking course in a single book, full of the useful advice and enthusiasm that Rea is famous for.

Priya Parker's *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* is full of practical ways to make

the season more meaningful and memorable.

The shelves at Next Chapter Booksellers are packed with great new books and our selection is at its largest during the holiday season. So, whether it's for a friend, family member, or a colleague, a well-chosen book is a thoughtful gift. Come on in and we'll help you find the perfect book for everyone. ■

David Enyeart has been in the book industry for more than 25 years and is the manager of Next Chapter Booksellers in St. Paul.



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Holiday Guide

Holiday & Winter Events in the Neighborhood

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

There are plenty of opportunities this month to shop local, enjoy holiday entertainment, savor festive treats and appreciate the season with friends and family. Browse all of the following happenings:

Music

Dec. 4

Community Carol Sing-Along
Centennial United Methodist Church,
1524 County Road C2 W., Roseville
Sing-along with the Roseville String
Ensemble. Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 7-8

Christmas Together

Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Ave.
Steven C will perform his annual
concert as a part of the Cathedral
Christmas Festival. Proceeds will
go towards ongoing Cathedral res-
toration and preservation projects.
Thursday-Friday, 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$10.

A festival service featuring the cho-
ral and instrumental ensembles of
Concordia University-St. Paul. Fri-
day, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 4:30 to
6 p.m.; Sunday, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free,
reserve tickets at csp.edu/ticket.

Dec. 11

Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra holiday concert

SAP Lutheran Church,
2323 Como Ave.
Community orchestra. Monday,
6:30-9 p.m. 651-645-0371.

Dec. 13

Star of the North Concert Band holiday concert

Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W.
The band of over fifty musicians
performs a festive holiday concert.
Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free.

Dec. 14

Holiday Sing-Along with Dan Chouinard

St. Anthony Park Library,
2245 Como Ave.
Join Twin Cities-based pianist, ac-
cordionist, storyteller and vocalist
Dan Chouinard for a holiday sing-
along at the library's Second Thurs-
day Forum on Thursday, 6:30 to
7:30 p.m. No registration required.
For a Zoom link to the program,
contact: sapbla.org.

Dec. 15-17

Celtic Holiday Hooley

Celtic Junction Arts Center,
836 Prior Ave. N.
Irish music, stories, sketches, step
dance, caroling and more. Friday,
7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 1 and 6
p.m. \$36-Free. Reservations rec-
ommended, celticjunction.org.



**Join Mama and Papa Claus
for the Tree Lighting
in the Courtyard**
More info at miltonsq.com
December 2, 3:30-5:30 p.m.



Milton Square
2323 Como Avenue • St. Paul, MN 55108



Early Bird Friday
Dec. 1, 4-7pm
Limited tickets.
Buy online, \$15.

Free admission Saturday & Sunday:
Dec. 2, 9am-4pm & Dec. 3, 10am-2pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2136 Carter Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108

Buy Friday tickets. Preview new gifts. Learn more:
Blue-House.org

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Dec. 8-10

Concordia University Christmas Concert

Buetow Music Center Auditorium,
300 Hamline Ave N.

Dec. 10

Lucia Celebration concert

American Swedish Institute,
2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis
A concert featuring the youth-
ful voices of the ASI Lucia Choir
singing traditional music. Sunday,
1 and 3 p.m. \$25-\$20. asimn.org.



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November 25 Small Business
Saturday

December 2
10:00 Holiday Porch Pot Class @ Tamarack Room
11:00 - 4:00 Drop-In Glass Etching @ The Makery
3:30 - 5:30 Tree Lighting with Santa

December 2 - 3
Pop-Up Holiday Shop
Sat 10-6 | Sun 11-5



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Wreaths will be placed at gravesite after Thanksgiving and removed before Spring by our staff.

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THE PARK BUGLE

Holiday Guide

Dec. 18
Community Sing-Along with Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed
 Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.
 The monthly St. Anthony Park sing-along, 7 p.m.

Dec. 1-2
Horse Crazy Holiday Market
 Minnesota State Fairgrounds, Warner Coliseum
 Equine-theme marketplace. Friday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free; donations accepted.

Dec. 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17
European Christmas Market
 Union Depot, 240 Kellogg Blvd. E.
 Enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of an authentic European Christmas Market while supporting local crafters and artisans who are selling unique, handmade holiday gifts and delicious European and festive foods. Dec. 1 and 8, 4 to 9 p.m.; Dec. 2, 9 and 16, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Dec. 3, 10, and 17, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free admission.

Handmade and heartfelt gifts and gourmet baked items. Egg coffee and cookies available all day. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nature Center, and all vendor fees go to support environmental education programs. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Markets

Dec. 1-2
Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar
 Landmark Center, 75 Fifth St. W.
 Find beautiful and unique handcrafted gift items sold by area artists, plus music and treats. Featuring over 60 vendors. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5/Under 12 free.

Dec. 1-3
Julmarknad Handcraft Market & Festival
 American-Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis
 Scandinavian marketplace. Friday preview party, 6-8 p.m., \$30-\$25; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., reserve half-hour time, \$18-\$15. asimn.org.

Dec. 2
Holiday Bazaar
 St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

Dec. 2-3
Holiday Craft Fair
 Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive
 More than 50 crafters on two levels. Free coffee and cookies plus a special Hot Cocoa Station sponsored by PNC Bank, Roseville. The Holiday Craft Fair is put on by volunteers from the Harriet Alexander

Dec. 7-9
Cathedral Christmas Festival
 239 Selby Ave.
 Festively decorated European-styled outdoor Christmas Market in the Cathedral Courtyard. The festival will feature delicious warm food, drinks, and unique gifts for sale. Thursday-Saturday, 5 to 9:30 p.m. Free admission.



Holiday Bazaar
 Handmade & Heartfelt Gifts and Goodies

Saturday, December 2, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
 2129 Commonwealth Ave, Saint Paul, sapucc.org

Join us for our one-day bazaar where you will find handmade items including:

- Holiday and home decor
- Christmas ornaments
- Woodworking items
- Soaps and body care products
- Hand knits and embroidery
- Wreaths
- Gourmet baked items, assorted cookies, peanut brittle and homemade canned goods

Egg coffee and cookies available all day.

Proceeds to support the ministry of the church and Assistance League Minneapolis/St. Paul which feeds and clothes children, enhances and enriches education, and supports community needs.



Christmas Trees and More

Nov. 17-19, Nov. 24-26, Dec. 1-3 and Dec. 8-10
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Hansen Tree Farm

Use our farm and forest as an escape from your routine. Visit and enjoy our forest, our fields of beautiful Christmas trees, the crisp fresh air and room to roam!

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SHOP | Boréal Gifts & Goods
 A creative boutique with unexpected gifts & local art.

Slow down to enjoy the *handmade home goods / pet-lover regalia / puzzles, games & crafts*, and find something for a special loved one *or yourself!* Don't forget to venture upstairs for a Minnesota-made art gallery while you're there...

BE JOYFUL | Spread the Love
 Explore the neighborhood.

Enjoy the seasonal displays while you spread the local love. Discover small businesses in your neighborhood that fulfill everyday needs year-round.




Scan QR code with smartphone camera for The Finnish Bistro menu.






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Holiday Guide

Dec. 16-17

Minnesota Merry Market

Minnesota State Fairgrounds,
Warner Coliseum

A brand new holiday market featuring over 70 local artists and makers, enjoy food, and fun family activities. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

And Much More

Dec. 2

Cookies & Cocoa with Kris Kringle

Cedarholm Community Building,
2323 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville

Bring your camera and capture a holiday photo of the kids (ages 2-10) with Santa. Enjoy hot co-

coa and create your own holiday cookies and crafts. Parents must accompany children throughout the event. Saturday, Session I, 9 to 10:15 a.m., or Session II, 10:45 a.m. to noon. \$12 per person. Pre-register in person, by phone at 651-792-7110 or online at cityofroseville.com/3391/Community-Events.

Dec. 2

Tree lighting, crafts, movie

75 W. Fifth St.

Saturday activities include: Winter Carnival button revealed, 5 p.m.; holiday musical performance by The Mistletones, free cider, photo ops, craft stations and lightup

wand giveaway for kids, 5:30 p.m.; tree lighting, holiday sing-a-long, fireworks, 7 p.m.; *Elf* movie viewing, 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Refreshments at various prices.

Dec. 2-3

Christmas in Germany

Germanic-American Institute,
301 Summit Ave.

German holiday traditions with food and drink, local vendors and fun activities for all ages. An outdoor food market will have beer, hot mulled wine, bratwurst and German cake. Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, refreshments at various prices.

Dec. 9

Holiday Bake Sale

Union Depot, 214 Fourth St. E.

Annual sale with local bakeries and food vendors and live entertainment. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments at various prices. uniondepot.org/bakesale.

Dec. 10

Pictures with Santa photo op

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory,
1225 Estabrook Drive

A holiday "Artist, Photographer & Family Photo Morning" featuring Santa. Guests are welcome to bring in their own camera and find the perfect spot for a photo. Sunday, 8 to 10 a.m. \$5 per person. Advance, online reservations required. comozooconservatory.org.

Dec. 10

Santa's Workshop

Landmark Center, 75 Fifth St. W.

Get a free photo with Santa and

stay for games and listening to an engaging story teller reading classic children's Christmas stories, all within a festive holiday setting. Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m. Free admission.

Dec. 14

Winter Wonderland

North Dale Recreation Center,
1414 St. Albans St. N.

Winter-themed activities for youth under the age of 12 along with a special visit from Santa. Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. Free. No registration needed.

Dec. 20

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church,
2323 Como Ave.

A special service to provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. Wednesday, 7 to 8 p.m. 651-645-0371

YMCA Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Roping

Celebrate the Holidays with a fresh cut, live tree from the only YMCA tree lot in St. Paul

Your support goes on to fund Y programs throughout the year

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Extended Hours on Nov. 24 10AM-7PM
After that Thurs/Fri 4-7PM & Sat/Sun 10AM-7PM

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Happy Holidays
from
our Salongorge family
to yours!

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www.salongorgestpaul.com



Ignite curiosity this holiday season.



Spotlight Science: Cancer and Community

December 9, 10 am – 2 pm

The University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center is bringing scientists, patients, and communities together to reduce the burden of cancer in Minnesota. Join in for games and hands-on activities that will help you learn more about the roles you can have in cancer research, treatment, and prevention!



Sensory Friendly Saturday

December 16, 8 – 10 am

Visit the Bell Museum to experience our Minnesota Journey gallery, temporary exhibits, the Touch & See Lab, and a brief planetarium show—all with lowered lighting, quieter sounds, and fewer visitors.



Bell Museum Holiday Hours

Plan your visit

Stay up to date on Bell holiday hours. Visit us December 26–31 and explore extreme environments on Earth in the exhibition *Life on the Edge*, experience the intimate connections between sound and nature in planetarium show, *Secrets from a Forest* and more!

THE PARK BUGLE

Holiday Guide

Dec. 20
Winter Solstice
American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis
 Mark the shortest day and longest night of the year with tours of the Turnblad mansion and special festival menu and warm glögg (Swedish mulled wine) available for purchase. Wednesday, 5:30 to 7 p.m., register for time entry. \$18-\$6. asimn.org.

Dec. 21
Festival of Lights
Alden Square Park, 1169 Gibbs Ave.
 Join the Neighbors of Alden Square in celebrating their Festival of Lights. Bring an ice lantern or luminaria to Alden Square at 5 p.m. and the lanterns will be lit during the evening. All neighbors are invited to walk through the park during the evening, whether they bring a lantern or not. The Neighbors of Alden Square will gather again at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31 to sing "Auld Lang Syne."

Dec. 31
New Year's Eve on Ice
Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive
 Skate indoors in the arena or outdoors on the oval on Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m. Face painting, 4 to 6 p.m.; magic show, 6 to 6:45 p.m.; photo buttons, 7 to 9 p.m. Admission, \$10. Limited skate rental, \$5. 651-792-7007.

Dec. 31 and Jan. 1
Noon Year's Confetti Dance Party
Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive
 A family event to ring in the "Zoo year" that's so fun, they're doing it twice. A countdown to noon, when colorful biodegradable confetti will rain down. Sunday and Monday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Ongoing December Events
Falcon Heights-Lauderdale Lions Club Tree Sale
Falcon Heights Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave.

The Lions Club annual Christmas tree sale starts on Nov. 24 and lasts until trees sell out. Note: The supply has sold out in as little as eight days in the past. Proceeds go to support, among other things, local block nurse programs. Weekdays, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 6 p.m.

Hill House Holidays
240 Summit Ave.
 Experience Christmas, 1910—both upstairs and downstairs—in the Summit Avenue mansion of railroad titan James J. Hill. Admission includes self-guided access to holiday-themed exhibits and a 60-minute guided tour highlighting holiday stories and memories

from both the Hill family and their staff. Thursdays-Sundays, Dec. 1-31, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tours start every half-hour based on availability throughout the season. \$20-free. Reservations mnhs.org.

Holiday Flower Show
Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive
 The Holiday Flower Show opens on Dec. 2 and continues through Jan. 7, 2024. Poinsettias accompanied by flowers and tropical foliage fill the Sunken Garden with warmth and light. Regular hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A voluntary donation of \$4 for an adult and \$2 for a child is appreciated, which helps care for plants and animals.

Twin City Model Railroad Museum: Night Trains
688 Transfer Road., Suite 8
 Holiday decorated model trains will run through the holiday season on Saturdays from 3 to 7 p.m. Santa visits Dec. 16 and 23. Holiday bonus nights Dec. 18, 20, 22, 26 and 29. Admission tickets available in two-hour time blocks: \$15 per guest, children 4 and under are free. Family rates available. While the Christmas decorations will be removed in January, Night Trains will run through February. tcmrm.org/special-events/night-trains. ■

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

When you are ready to fulfill your holiday dreams we are here for you. Please call us at (651) 646-8855.

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Holiday Guide

New meal options for holiday season hosting

By Jenni Wolf

It's the hosting holiday season! No matter what we are celebrating, many of us will take on hosting duties this month with what we are serving to eat taking the cen-

ter stage. With plenty of things to think through and plan, let me offer you an idea to make things easier: recruit your guests to help with the meal leaving you with less to do to get the party started. Read on below for a few fun, new meal op-

tions for holiday celebrating with friends and family. In my opinion, the gift of a delicious, healthy meal shared with the ones you love is the best gift of all. Now, let's get to celebrating!



When everyone brings their favorite cookies and treats, there are plenty to share and take home for later. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

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The Cookie Exchange

A classic for a reason—it's not the holidays without cookies! Take the pressure off yourself to bake everyone's favorites and invite guests to prepare and share their favorite holiday cookies and treats at your gathering. Because no one wants to eat a "meal's worth" of cookies—that would not feel good—prepare a few simple appetizers like crudites and hummus, cheese and salami, and breads with spreads to pair with the sweets for a satisfying meal.

Provide small boxes or ask each guest to bring an extra container to complete the swap and select their cookies to bring home.

Bonus: assign each cookie or treat a number and have guests vote on their favorite. Announce the winner at the end of the party.

The Soup Swap

This is a really great idea for a small group of friends or the neighborhood gang.

Invite each guest (or household) to bring a pot of soup to share. As the host, prepare your favorite soup as well, then also supply bread, crackers, cornbread and a green salad as sides.

Sides help to round out the meal

and also offer an opportunity for balanced nutrition.

Bonus: offer small pint or quart containers for guests to take leftover soup home for later.

The Progressive Potluck

Progressive dinners are common around the holidays, but who wants to go tromping from house to house in the icy, cold? Host a "stationary dinner" instead (ha!), potluck-style.

Assign each guest or family to a course and request they bring a dish that fits the bill. Courses to include might be appetizer, soup, bread, salad, vegetable, entrée, cheese, dessert and of course beverages! Ask guests in advance about what they are bringing and create a menu to set the stage for the evening.

Recreate the progressive feel by serving courses spaced apart with games or time to chat and mingle in between. Full-course meals are also a fun opportunity to tune into your hunger/fullness cues and notice how different flavors and perhaps a different pace of

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THE PARK BUGLE

Holiday Guide



Make this fun snacking board, using a Christmas Tree for inspiration! This charcuterie was made with sliced cucumber, sausage, red pepper, green apple, a variety of cheeses, grapes and crackers. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

eating impacts how you experience the meal.

Bonus: progressive dinners don't have to be fancy, but they can be! Invite guests to dress to impress and award a best-dressed prize.

The Bring a Board

This is great for any age group but works particularly well for kiddos as this allows for a very customizable meal. It is also a great option for a mix-n-mingle party as there is no set time the meal must be served.

Invite guests to bring a themed charcuterie board or snack-board. To make things easier, assign themes in your invite. Classics could include “veggies and dip,” “cheese and crackers” and “chips and dip” themes.

Some of my favorite out-of-the-box ideas include a “taco board,” a “rainbow board” and a “pickle board”—think all the pickle varieties plus pickle-flavored snacks like potato chips and nuts. A great opportunity for guests to have fun and think outside the box.

As the host, supply a variety of beverage options and the “dessert board.” When building your plate(s)—totally normal to be noshing throughout the night—

choose foods from each food group: protein, carbohydrate, fat and fiber (think fruit or veggie!) to create a balanced and tasty meal.

Cheers to getting some help with the hosting duties and having a fun and tasty time celebrating this holiday season! ■

Jenni Wolf, a registered dietitian, writes about food and nutrition for the Bugle.

Happy Holidays from The Little Wine Shoppe!

Join us Saturday, December 2, 1-4 p.m. and Thursday, December 21, 4:30-7 p.m. for our free in-store wine tastings.

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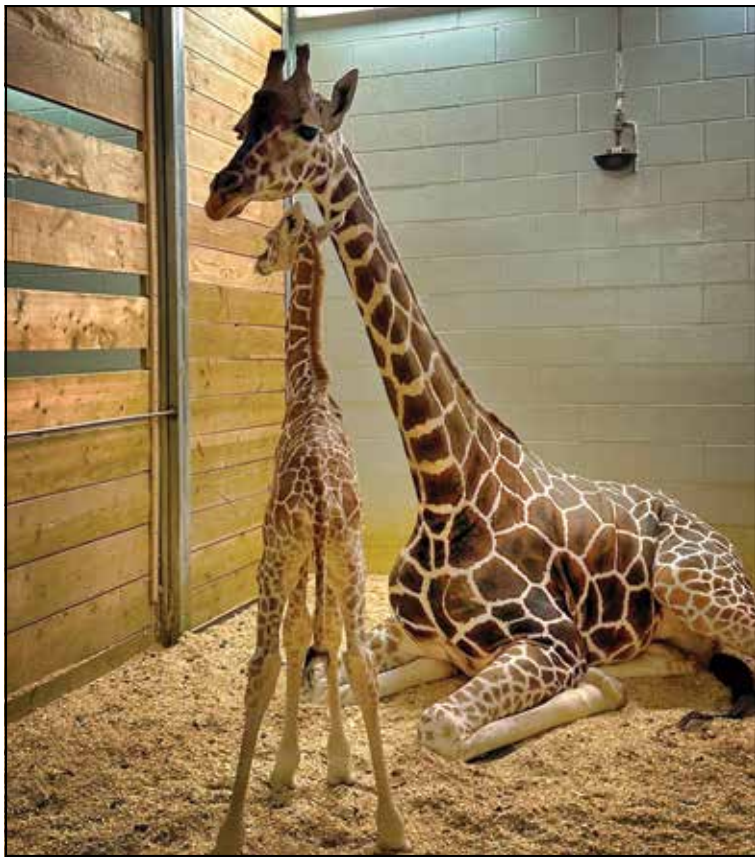
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EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson



A 6-foot, 132-pound baby giraffe. was born on Nov.6 to mother Zinnia. Photo from Como Zoo.

St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Guest speaker Linda Black Elk (Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Lakota nations), an ethnobotanist and food sovereignty activist who specializes in teaching about culturally important plants and their uses as food and medicine, presents “Perennial Perfection—Medicinal Foods for Your Garden.” Business meeting, 6:30 p.m.; social time, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall, 2323 Como Ave. Free. Zoom link also available. Membership, \$25–\$5 at stanthonyparkgardenclub.com.

Bell Museum

The Bell Museum is located at 2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. at Cleveland Ave. Regular admission, \$15–\$12;

free for University of Minnesota students with ID; reduced prices for qualifying guests, as well as waived admission for Indigenous peoples. bellmuseum.umn.edu.

December Star Party: Hands-on activities, demonstrations and high-powered telescope viewing (if clear skies) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and “Your Sky Tonight,” a short planetarium show at 7:10, 7:40 and 8:10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. Free with regular museum admission. Register online. Planetarium tickets will be in space available basis at the front desk.

Book launch: Photographer Travis Novitsky will give a talk about the book “Spirits Dancing: The Night Sky, Indigenous Knowledge, and Living Connections to the Cosmos,” which features his photographs and text by astrophysicist

and artist Annette S. Lee. 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13. Register online for hybrid in person or Zoom access. The program will also be available on the Bell’s YouTube channel at a later date.

Winter Camps: STEM Safari for grades 1–2 and Snow Much Fun! for grades 3–5. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 29. \$235–\$215. Registration required.

boréal Art Loft

Opening reception for “Shadow Falls Arts Holiday Art Show” from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at boréal, 2276 Como Ave. The show runs through December and features a variety of art in a group show from Shadow Falls Arts, a St. Paul neighborhood group that celebrates arts and artists.

Como Zoo and Conservatory

Senior Stroll: Time set aside at the Marjorie McNeely Como Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, exclusively for ages 55 and older. Senior Stroll, 9 to 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6; Sunset Stroll, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20. Admission is free, but registration is required for 30-minute time slots at comozooconservatory.org/como/senior-strolls.

Como Park Ski Center

“Mount Como” is scheduled to open on Saturday, Dec. 9 (weather permitting) and operates on various days and times through Monday, Feb. 19, at 1431 Lexington Parkway N. The ski center features two rope tows, a 150-foot vertical drop on 15 skiable acres, over 5K of groomed cross country trails, lessons for all ages and skill levels and ski and snowboard rentals.

The chalet is located inside the golf course clubhouse. Hours vary, are weather-dependent and subject to change. Also, a Saint Paul/Ramsey County mutual cross country ski pass is required for ages 13 and up. Purchase online or in person. Find more 2023-24 winter season details at stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/winter-activities/downhill-skiing-snowboarding.

Women’s Drum Center
Basic beginning drum class explores hand and stick drumming. Drums are provided. As always, the focus is on having fun. 5 to 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11, at 2242 University Ave. W. \$15. Register online at womensdrumcenter.org.

Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors host a mixture of activities throughout December. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. In-person activities include:

Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors host a mixture of activities throughout December. Unless specified, registration is not necessary.

In-person activities include:

- **Movie: Hitchcock’s “The Lady Vanishes”:** Monday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. Centennial

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United Methodist Church, St. Anthony Park Campus, 2200 Hillside Ave. Open to all.

- **Blood Pressure clinic:** Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 3 to 3:45 p.m., Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St.

December hybrid:

- **Caregiver Support Group:** Thursday, Dec. 7, from 10 to 11 a.m. In-person at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., or via Zoom. Call the office at 651-642-9052 for Zoom link.

- **Holiday concert with Elizabeth Lee:** Friday, Dec. 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. In-person at Centennial United Methodist Church, St. Anthony Park Campus, 2200 Hillside Ave., or streaming live at facebook.com/sapaseniors.

Virtual: Call the office at 651-642-9052 for connection instructions.

- **Chair Yoga:** Mondays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

- **Lunch Bunch:** Wednesday, Dec. 13, noon to 1 p.m.

St. Anthony Park Library

SAP Library events and activities can be found on the Bugle’s new Library Corner page (page 18).

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

SAP history series continues Dec. 12

By Mary Mergenthal

Free monthly presentations on the architecture and history of St. Anthony Park continue with a Dec. 12 program focusing on the 1890s and the first decade of the 20th century.

Sponsored by and held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., the monthly talks take place at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Augsburg University professor Kristin Anderson will lead the presentations.

In succeeding months through April, Anderson will talk about SAP history through the decades and conclude the series in May by

looking at strategies for doing a house history.

After each presentation, there will be treats and time to visit.

Besides the in-person session at the church, readers can also access the talk live online, with a recording available for one week after the session. Use the SAP Lutheran Church YouTube channel at bit.ly/Sap-history.

You can also get to the YouTube channel by clicking through from saplc.org. Go to the worship link and then to the livestream link. ■

Mary Mergenthal is a freelance writer for the Bugle.



The Commonwealth Avenue home of the Joerns brothers, built in 1905–06. Photo by Kristin Anderson.



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Bugle donors' fundraising update

As the Bugle's annual fall fundraising campaign continues, our healthy operations are greatly buoyed by the solid support we receive from scores of individual and business donors.

As of Nov. 15, the Bugle had received \$33,455 in donations for fiscal 2023-24. Our fall campaign continues in earnest through the end of December.

Thanks to everyone for your financial support and confidence to date as the Bugle

strives to produce great journalism that informs readers and supports the communities of St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale.

You can give online at parkbugle.org or with a check sent to Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul MN. 55108. Every gift matters.

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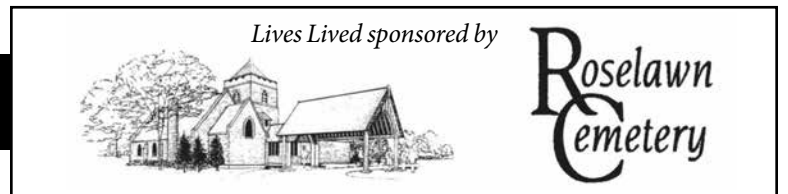


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LIVES LIVED

The Park Bugle prints obituaries free of charge as a service to our communities. Send information about area deaths to Mary Mergenthal at mary.mergenthal@gmail.com or call 612-670-8510.



A 104-year-old lifetime resident of St. Paul and a former attorney are among the people we remember this month in "Lives Lived."

Betsy Dueholm

Betsy Dueholm, 92, died March 19, 2023.

Betsy graduated from St. Paul's Washington High School in 1948, was a member of Girls State and the Quill and Scroll Honor Society. She attended Macalester College. She was an employee of St. Paul Public Schools for 46 years. She was a beloved secretary at Murray High School for many, many years. She received the WCCO Good Neighbor Award.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Neal Barnes and Clifford Dueholm; parents, William and Julia Driver; brother, William; sisters, Ruth Kittelson and Julia Erlitz. She is survived by children, Michael (Sandra) Barnes and Cynthia (Dr. Eric) Swanlund; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brother, James (Sandra) Driver.

Dorleen Hagerman

Dorleen R. Hagerman, 88, died unexpectedly Oct. 13, 2023. She was preceded in death by husband Richard and brother Daniel Clemmons, III. She is survived by sons Steven (Mary), Jeff (Monica) and Doug (Mary); two grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and sister-in-law, Elaine Clemmons.

Funeral was held at Como Park Lutheran Church, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Como Park Lutheran Church.

Mary Margaret Johnson

Mary Margaret (Delaney) Johnson, 104, died July 3, 2023, after a long, well-lived and immensely proud Irish Catholic life.

An enthusiastic Minnesota

sports fan and lifelong resident of St. Paul, Mary attended Central High School and married East Sideer Chuck Johnson, who was being deployed to France during WWII.

During the war, Mary's daughter Vicki was born, and soon after Chrissy joined the family that settled in Holy Childhood parish in the Como area.

Longtime members at Midland Hills Country Club, Chuck and Mary golfed, played cards and traveled with a large contingent of friends. But, even up until her last days, nowhere was she more at home than with her adoring family.

With her quick wit and sharp mind, Mary could have a clever or direct retort at any time during a conversation, keeping all listeners on their toes. She also was a great storyteller, sharing tales about her family including grandchildren.

Mary was preceded in death by her father Richard, mother Margaret, four siblings, husband Chuck, and daughter Christine Droubie. She is survived by her daughter Vicki, son-in-law Gary (Nancy), six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Mary's life was held at Carondelet Village, her home the last 10 years of her life. Memorials to Sisters of St. Joseph Retirement Fund, 1884 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Velma Kimsal

Velma 'Viki' (Roth) Kimsal, 80, of Falcon Heights, died Oct. 27, 2023, from multiple myeloma. Viki was born March 10, 1943, in Dryden, Ontario. Her family lived in several Minnesota communities where her father served as a Lutheran pastor.

Viki graduated from Gibbon High School (Minnesota) in 1960 and went on to Valparaiso University, majoring in theology and graduating with a bachelor of arts

degree. She worked as a deaconess in Long Island, N.Y., and married Ron Kimsal there. The couple moved to Michigan to raise their two children. She did coursework at the University of Michigan and became a licensed social worker. After a divorce, Viki moved back to Minnesota.

In the early 1990s, Viki returned to college at the same time as both of her children. She earned a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law and passed the bar in 1993.

Viki served as a staff attorney for Dorsey & Whitney, specializing in Indian law and governance. She left Dorsey in 1996 to pursue her interests in ethical leadership. She served as a program officer for the Northwest Area Foundation and later as an instructor and program director at St. Mary's University.

She met her love, Kent, in 1993 and married in 1998. They thoroughly enjoyed tennis, traveling, volunteering and socializing, always together.

Viki was always full of energy and ideas, generous and ready to jump in and lend a hand. She loved family time, cooking delicious meals and celebrating togetherness.

Viki was preceded in death by her parents Erhart and Nelda Roth and son James Paul. She is survived by her husband Kent Gustafson, daughter Jill (Craig) Sinclair, daughter-in-law Lora Horan-Kimsal, stepson Ross (Jen) Gustafson, and stepdaughter Kara Johnson, three grandsons, four step-grandchildren, brothers Ed (Ruth) and Paul (Denise) Roth, sisters Meta Krueger, Lyn (Ron) Tausen, and Kathy Roth.

A celebration of Viki's life was held. Memorials preferred to Central Lutheran Church (Caring Crew), Align Minneapolis, the International Myeloma Foundation (Twin Cities Support Group) or a charity of your choice.

Patricia Nygaard

Patricia Ann Johnson (Kratz) Nygaard, 88, of Hugo, died Oct. 25, 2023.

Patricia was born May 11, 1935, in St. Paul and graduated from Murray High School in 1953. Patricia married Clayton Johnson in 1954. They had four children and

enjoyed 44 years of marriage until his death in 1998.

Patricia later married James Nygaard in 2003 and welcomed six more children: Karen Hollingsworth (Stephen), Gary (Sue), Jerold (Jojie), Susie Schlosser (Pete), Darrell (Lisa), Dan (Vicki), and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the family.

She was an energetic member and volunteer at Trinity Lutheran of Lake Johanna (Arden Hills) and Southshore Trinity Lutheran Church (White Bear Lake).

Pat began her community service in the city of Roseville, where her tireless efforts helped to save Langton Lake Park, one of her proudest accomplishments.

She also served for several years on the Roseville City Planning Commission and the Roseville City Council, helping the community she loved to grow and thrive. Finally, Pat served as president of the Roseville Central Park Foundation.

Patricia is survived by her children, Michael Johnson (Kathleen), Deborah Hawthorne (Michael), Thomas Johnson (Shannon) and Kristine Salmi (Derek), as well as 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Ryan Johnson (grandson), Clayton Johnson (husband), Lucy Kratz (mother) and James Nygaard (husband).

Memorial service and interment have been held. Memorials suggested to Roseville Central Park Foundation, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113.

Gene L. Piché

Gene L. Piché, 95, was born Dec. 13, 1927, and died Oct. 7, 2023.

Gene's deep Minnesota roots date back to a voyageur forbear who wintered over on the rivière St. Pierre (Minnesota) in 1803 and 1804, and to Swedish immigrant grandparents, part of the exodus from Småland, who cleared the land to make a farmstead near Almelund in Chisago County.

Gene graduated from Mankato High School in 1945 and immediately enlisted in the US Navy, serving until 1949. He graduated from Macalester College, where he met Helen. They married in 1953 and Gene began teaching at Alexander Ramsey High School in Roseville.

Gene received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1967 and accepted a joint appointment there to the faculties of the Department of Speech Communication and the Program in English education. He taught until his retirement in 1992.

Gene divided his time between his lake home in Itasca County and his home, garden and woodworking shop in Falcon Heights.

He was preceded in death by parents Maurice Piché and Eleanor (Peterson) Piché and granddaughter-in-law Claire Kelly Jansen. Survivors are wife of 70 years, Helen (Bergstrom); daughters Laura Piché of Livonia, N.Y. and Michelle Jansen (Joe) of St. Paul; and three grandchildren.

Anna Mary Sokolofski-Tracy

Anna Mary Sokolofski-Tracy, 81, died Oct. 31, 2023, at St. Anthony Park Home. Anna was a resident there since August 2022 and had been previously diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Anna was born Sept. 5, 1942 in Danville, Illinois, to Edward and Eleanor Sokolofski, the eldest of three children. Anna grew up in Westville, Illinois, attending Schlarman High School and the University of Illinois, majoring in piano performance. Anna was an accomplished musician who played piano, violin and organ.

After college, Anna joined the Sisters of St. Benedict in Nauvoo, Illinois, and while she ultimately left before taking final vows, she befriended Mary Keefe Kelly and they remained friends for the rest of Anna's life.

In 1975, Anna enrolled at George Williams College in Illinois for her master's in social work. While there, she met Chuck Tracy. They moved to St. Paul in 1977 and were married Sept. 20, 1980. She spent the last 40 years of her life in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

Anna was a dedicated social worker both in private practice and at nonprofits, including Catholic Charities, North End Medical Center and Chrysalis Center. She was also especially devoted to her children, spending hours attending their activities, cooking meals, baking and creating a supportive environment for them. Anna, a kind and gentle soul, enjoyed knitting, weaving and studying meditation; but being a mother was her true passion.

Anna is survived by husband Chuck, daughter Megan (Tom Koretz), son Nathan (Emily) of St. Paul, three grandchildren, brother Ed (Diane) of Evanston, Illinois, and sister Jean (Wayne Heiser) of Winterville, North Carolina. Her parents preceded her in death.

Anna donated her body to the Anatomy Bequest Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School. A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Anthony Park Home and Midwest Hospice for their care of Anna.

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Author D.H. Crammer

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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.

St. Paul's first public school goes greener with geothermal energy

By George Zan

As the climate changes, St. Paul's public schools can help change how our city chooses its energy systems.

Various types of environmentally friendly energy sources, such as geothermal heating and cooling, are being implemented in our communities, and schools can take the lead.

I'm a student at Johnson Senior High School on the East Side of St. Paul. During the summer of 2021, the school started an \$18 million project to upgrade and redesign its heating system to an energy-efficient geothermal HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system.

This fall, the project team finally completed the installation of the first renewable heating and cooling system in the St. Paul school district.

The system consists of 160 vertical wells dug 300 feet into the ground below the baseball field, with the HVAC system located in the boiler room below the school.

It functions by taking water from the ground and filtering it through a heat exchanger to change temperature, depending on what temperature it's set to.

"It's using the ground as a way to reject the heat in the summertime and pull heat from it in the wintertime," said mechanical engineer Angela Vreeland in a Fox 9 news story on Sept. 7. You can see that report at tinyurl.com/spps-hvac.

Why was investing in this project important?

- St. Paul public schools, including Johnson in previous years, have only had heating systems, no air conditioning. Now that there's an AC system that combats summer heat, students can comfortably focus on their studies at any time of year.
- The transition is a good first step to reducing the school's carbon footprint.
- It doesn't require as much space, as the systems are very compact compared to the traditional system.
- It saves 63,000 therms of natural gas yearly, equating to 330 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

The system isn't beneficial only environmentally but financially as well. Although the system still relies on natural gas for heat on very cold winter days, it is expected to reduce natural gas use by 60%, cutting that cost in half.

Installing the new geothermal system had little to no cost difference compared to upgrading the traditional system.

However, the most significant reason for a geothermal system is its efficiency and long-term cost-effectiveness. It can operate year-round and run up to 30 years with less maintenance, due to the nearly infinite availability of geothermal energy compared to traditional systems, which demand nonrenewable sources of energy.



Kevin Davis, assistant principal at Johnson Senior High School, stands next to the new geothermal HVAC system in the school's basement. Photo by George Zan.

Expanding renewable energy in the community

If more schools could set an example with geothermal energy, it could help influence individuals from local communities to recognize the concern at hand and unite together to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions.

We can help change how St. Paul and all of Minnesota heats,

cools and powers its buildings. We should rely less on carbon-based energy sources on a city level and eventually on a statewide scale, but this can only be accomplished through effort and participation in our communities.

Buoyed by news coverage already on geothermal heating, schools and communities in St. Paul and everywhere can be inspired to lower

More ways schools can respond to climate change

- **Solar for Schools:** The state of Minnesota has a grant program to install solar power arrays for public schools: tinyurl.com/mn-solar-schools
- **Electric school buses:** Several Minnesota school districts have already gained state funding for all-electric buses, and the St. Paul district has applied for it. WCCO story: tinyurl.com/wcco-solar-buses
- **Fossil fuel divestment:** Last year the St. Paul School Board voted to divest from fossil fuel companies. News coverage: tinyurl.com/spps-divests

our anthropogenic carbon emissions and maintain a practice of sustainable energy conservation. A safer and cleaner environment is essential to our future. ■

George Zan, a senior at Johnson Senior High School, is interested in how St. Paul Public Schools can help reduce the carbon footprint in our communities.

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❖ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

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2323 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371
 Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen and Pastor Jill Rode
 Web, Facebook & Instagram: *SAPLC*
 Sunday Worship in-person: 9:30 AM
 Wednesday Community Dinner: 5-6:30 PM
 Longest Night/Blue Christmas: Dec. 20 7 PM
 Dec 24, Christmas Eve: 3:30, 5:00 & 10:00 PM
 Dec 25, Christmas Day: 10:00 AM
 Live stream on YouTube Channel: bit.ly/3nWjIDD

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford), 651-646-7173
www.sapucc.org
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 Dec 24, Christmas Eve: Family Service: 4:00 PM,
 and Candlelight Service: 8:00 PM
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 Friday, Dec 8, Mass for Immaculate Conception: 12:05 PM
 Sunday, Dec 24, 4th Sunday of Advent: 9:00 AM
 Sunday, Dec 24, Christmas Carols: 4:00 PM,
 with Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30 PM
 Monday, Dec 25, Christmas Day Mass: 9:30 AM
 No Mass Jan 1: It will be observed on Sunday, Dec 31

❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Thanksgiving worship: 11/23, 10:30 AM followed by feast
 Christmas services: 12/24, 4PM & 10PM, 12/25, 10:30 AM

To add your place of worship to the directory, contact Roald Sateren at 651-468-4040 or roald.sateren@parkbugle.org

LIBRARY CORNER

Library Corner
sponsored by
St. Anthony Park Branch
Library Association



Discovering the SAP library's legacy — the gift from Virginia Sohre

By Sarah CR Clark

I first noticed Virginia Sohre's name in a book at the St. Anthony Park Library about 10 years ago when my oldest child, Norah, was a toddler.

Snuggled on the couch to read together, I saw a nameplate on the inside front cover of the first book Norah handed me. It stated, *Donated to Saint Paul Public Library in honor of: Virginia Sohre.*

It turned out that every single book in Norah's stack of St. Anthony Park branch library books had the same nameplate.

Since that day I've wondered about Sohre's story. Who was she and what motivated her to give such a generous legacy to our neighborhood library?

Ten years, two children and thousands of library books later, my gratitude to Sohre is immense. She helped my children learn to love books and gain new perspectives on life.

I hope this story sparks in you some of the same sense of gratitude and wonder my family feels whenever we see Virginia Sohre's name in a fresh stack of library books.

It has been difficult to find much illuminating biographical information on Virginia Sohre, or to identify neighbors who remember her well. If you, dear reader, have any information or insight on Virginia Sohre, please reach out to me via the Bugle!

Anne Schroeder and her family are loyal visitors to the St. Anthony Park branch library. During an average month of the school year,



One of the thousands of bookplates bearing Virginia Sohre's name at the St. Anthony Park branch St. Paul Public Library. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

the Schroeder family makes up to eight trips to the building on Como Avenue.

"I remember distinctly seeing the name plates for Virginia Sohre in the children's books we first started bringing home," Schroeder recalled. "At first I thought she had just donated some of the books, but quickly realized she was the patron for all of them!"

Schroeder's observation, as stunning as it sounds, is correct.

"Virtually all kids' materials at SAP—including books, movies, CDs and world language items—come from the Sohre endowment," said Claire Huber, SAP Library marketing and communications specialist.

SPPL's 2022 annual report states the St. Anthony Park branch library counted 41,218 juvenile items in circulation. Sohre's legacy is immense both in number and in its impact on our neighborhood.

Still, for as significantly gener-

ous as Sohre's endowment remains, not much is known of the woman herself.

Virginia Sohre, née Gillespie was born in 1900 in Cresco, Iowa.

A Friends of the St. Paul Public Library and SPPL 2013 annual report stated, "Due to the time she spent in the local library, [Gillespie] considered the town's librarian her closest friend. Her passion for reading started at a very early age."

Gillespie trained as a teacher at Miss Wood's Kindergarten and Primary Training School in Minneapolis, a prestigious institution that eventually became affiliated with Macalester College.

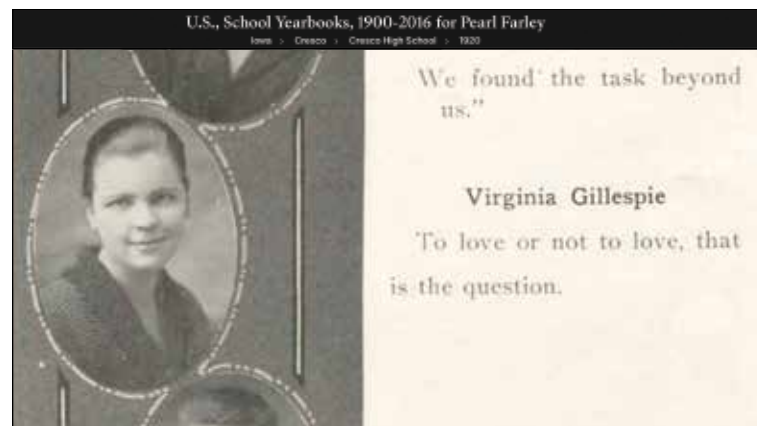
Gillespie became a teacher in Good Thunder, Minnesota, where she eventually met and married Walter Sohre, the town's banker and mayor. Eventually the couple moved to the SAP neighborhood in St. Paul.

Her obituary states, "[Sohre] had a life-long interest in children, including many of those of friends and neighbors. She has said, 'My greatest treasures have been my faith, friends and my fond memories.'"

Some sources say Sohre had a son, while others—such as the 2013 annual report—claim, "Mrs. Sohre loved children, although never had any of her own."

"Considered a very private person, she played 'substitute mother' to the neighborhood children of St. Anthony Park. ... She taught the children to appreciate reading and to love the nature around them."

The same annual report stated that toward the end of her life, Sohre was mostly blind but remained an avid reader via audiobooks.



A school yearbook photo of Virginia Gillespie, who later became Virginia Sohre when she married. Photo found on Ancestry.com by Sarah Clark.

Sohre died in October 1995 at age 95. Through her generous endowment, Sohre's love of reading and spirit of teaching endures.

Beth Burns, president of the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, said Sohre's endowment fund averages about \$25,000 annually.

"The Virginia Sohre endowment ensures that generations of St. Paul children and their families will have access to books and material," Burns added.

Ruth Krider, a teacher at SAP Elementary School, said the SAP branch Library has been "unwaveringly supportive of SAP Elementary students" for the 20 years she's taught there.

"From my lens of a public educator, this is a lovely example of what is best about strong community engagement," Krider said. "For someone to create an endowment promoting literacy as well as a means for children to build personal relationships with new, multifaceted viewpoints and perspectives in order to be critical thinkers is farsighted and positive for all of us."

Library associate and beloved

storytime leader, Alisa Mee, never knew Virginia Sohre, but wishes she had. "For one woman to have had the vision and means to put thousands and thousands of those precious books into the hands of generations of children is awe inspiring," Mee said. "I'd like Virginia to know that her gift sparks magic. That it builds relationships. That it helps children learn. That it adds beauty to our community."

Anne Schroeder noted that a plaque hangs on the wall in the children's wing of the SAP branch Library.

It states, "In recognition of her generous bequest to create an endowment to purchase children's books and materials at the Saint Anthony Park Branch Library, the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library is honored to thank Virginia Gillespie Sohre."

Schroeder agreed with the plaque's sentiment. "Her devotion to helping children become lifelong readers is quite the special legacy." ■

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



Holiday Sing-Along with Dan Chouinard

St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association
2nd Thursday Forum

Join Twin Cities-based pianist, accordionist, storyteller, and vocalist Dan Chouinard for a community holiday sing-along.

Thursday, December 14, 6:30–7:30 pm
Library Auditorium | 2245 Como Ave.

More information can be found at sapbla.org.
Email us at info@sapbla.org to get the zoom link.

St. Anthony Park Library events

Editor's note: This month marks the initial appearance of the St. Anthony Park Library events on our new Library Corner page.

Familiar and favorite activities, along with special winter holiday events, fill the December calendar at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Unless specified, registration is not required.

Library closings in December

The library will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 7, for staff training, and on Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday.

Winter outerwear clothing drive

Monday, Dec. 11, to Saturday, Dec. 16, during regular library open hours. Help keep children

and adults in St. Paul and the surrounding areas warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, boots and blankets. The donation box will be on the lower level of the library.

Special events

Ornament-making workshop for adults: Saturday, Dec. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. Create a felt ornament using embroidery, buttons and ribbon. All materials provided. Beginning sewing skills are necessary for this class. Registration required: 651-642-0411 sppl.org/locations/sa.

2nd Thursday Forum: Holiday Sing-Along with Dan Chouinard: Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join Twin Cities-based pianist, accordionist, storyteller

and vocalist Dan Chouinard for a community holiday sing-along. The Second Thursday Forum, sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Library Association, explores topics relevant to the community on the second Thursday of each month in the library auditorium. No registration required. For a Zoom link contact sapbla.org.

Kaleidoscope performing arts for the very young: Interactive dance program with TU Dance: Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 2 p.m. Children ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers are invited to join dancers from TU Dance for an interactive dance program designed to build artistic confidence in young children. No registration required.

SAP Library events to p. 19

Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ads are \$1 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for \$10 each. Next deadline: Dec. 13, 2023.

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SAP Library events from p. 18

ID8 Three-Session art club for kids: Wednesday, Dec. 27; Thursday, Dec. 28; and Friday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. During this three-session workshop, kids, ages 8 to 12, will design, plan and build a papier mâché creature or sculpture and have fun watching it go from an idea into an amazing piece of art. Registration required: 651-642-0411, sppl.org/locations/sa.

Ongoing events

Shake Your Sillies Out! playtime: Fridays, Dec. 1, 8, and 15, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Story, stretching, movement and lots of fun in the library auditorium for children ages 2 to 5 accompanied by an adult.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo or Sadie: Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Youth ages 5 to 12 are welcome to read to the two friendly dogs that will be in the children's room. Each child's reading session is limited to 15 minutes, which ensures that as many children as possible have the opportunity to read to Enzo or Sadie. Face masks are welcome but not required.

English Conversation Circle for adults: Thursday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Join the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice at the library. All levels of English

language skill are welcome. Please note: The English Conversation Circle in December will only be on Dec. 14; it will not take place on Dec. 7, 21 and 28.

Book Sampler for Kids: Join library staff on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. to listen to the first chapter of several books, meet other kids who like to read and share your recommendations. Appropriate for all kids who read or listen to chapter books.

Submitted by Alisa Mee, SAP Library associate; compiled by Kathy Henderson, Bugle freelance writer.



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CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

A special fall sports season for Como

By Eric Erickson

Two-hundred-fifty student athletes represented Como in competitions this fall across levels ranging from freshmen squads to varsity. Here's a summary of accomplishments.

Boys cross country: For the first time since 2010, the Como boys won the St. Paul City Conference title. It was earned by a young roster anchored by senior **Mason Aarness**, who was the individual city champion, finishing the 5K course (3.1 miles) in 16:16.

Also earning all-conference honors were sophomores **Hazel Small** and **Ben Clark**, and freshmen **Arthur Anderson** and **Charlie Loth**. Senior **Garrett Seppanen** battled injury but still competed. Junior **Niko Turnure** and Murray eighth graders **Jamal Monibah** and **Luna Small** were also key varsity contributors.

A week after securing the conference crown, the Cougars qualified for their third straight state meet by placing second in Section 4AA. (The top two teams from each section qualify.) Out of 16 teams at state, Como finished 11th as Mason Aarness concluded his career with all-state honors for a second consecutive year.



The Como cross country program had a spectacular season. Photo by Eric Erickson.

Girls cross country: The team experienced a revival with several young runners. A complete roster with depth delivered a solid third place finish in the conference and an impressive fourth place finish in Section 4AA (out of 11 teams).

Junior **Margaret Spray** earned all-conference honors. In the section meet she qualified as an individual for state.

Even better, Spray was joined at state by seventh grade teammate **Lu Beckman**, who qualified in her first year of running cross country. The state meet was a celebration for the entire Cougar program and could be for years to come.

Girls swimming: The "Jomo" co-op team (St. Paul Johnson and Como)—featured in a Bugle article earlier this season—earned second place in the city conference,

their highest finish since 1990. To attain that milestone, they passed the Highland Park/St. Paul Academy co-op team at the city meet.

Two Como relay teams became conference champions while also setting new school records: the 200-medley relay team with sophomore **Aleia Lueck** and seniors **Mia Trifilette-Simons**, **Sophie Warner** and **Alice Wagner-Hemstad**; and the 200-freestyle relay team with senior **Maddy Schilling**, **Lueck**, **Warner** and **Trifilette-Simons**.

In individual events, Trifilette-Simons was the conference champ in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. **Lueck** was the conference champ in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. **Warner** and **Wagner-Hemstad** earned individual medals at conference as did **Hattie Miller** and **Adeline Hanson**.

Volleyball: For the first time in program history, the Cougars advanced to the section final in consecutive seasons.

It was a fun run through the Section 4AA Tournament with a home win versus St. Anthony Village in the quarterfinals before a road trip to Chisago Lakes for the semifinal on a Friday night. Como filled a fan bus of student supporters.

There was plenty to cheer as the

No. 4 seed Cougars came back to win 3-1, upsetting the No. 1 seed.

Another fan bus accompanied the Cougar team to the section championship at Mahtomedi. While the dream of a state tournament didn't materialize for Como in the 3-1 loss, outstanding effort and skilled play produced pride and a second-place section trophy.

Seniors **Ellery Tennison**, **Julia Pletch**, **Mairin Blank** and **Greta Seppanen** were all-conference selections while **Xee Lee** received honorable mention.

Girls soccer: The Cougars held onto their third place standing in the St. Paul City Conference and finished the 2023 campaign with an overall record of 6-5-2.

All-conference performers included senior defender **Kora Becker**, senior goalkeeper **SaySay Hinton**, junior midfielder **Ava Lopez** (who recorded 11 goals and 12 assists) and freshman forward **Nini Modisett** (17 goals).

Honorable mention was earned by juniors **Giselle Sanchez-Esparza**, **Jailyn Walker** and **Hser Paw**. **Allana Skoogman** was chosen Section 4AA assistant coach of the year.

Girls tennis: The team's record was 3-3 in the city conference and

5-10 overall. **Poem Vang** was voted St. Paul City coach of the year. Seniors **Ashley Hartwich** and **Angie Jimenez-Valerio** earned all-conference as did sophomore **Sofia Gonzalez**. Honorable mention was earned by freshmen **Ela Cantellano** and **Aurelia Haycraft**. Senior **Lisa Truong** won the sportsmanship award.

Boys soccer: The boys finished third in the St. Paul City Conference with a 4-2 record. The overall record was 6-9-2. Seniors **Baw Reh** and **Ku Reh** and junior **Takato Muramatsu** were all-conference. Senior keeper **Liam Donegan**, senior **Kwai Lay Lo** and junior **Soe Reh** received honorable mention.

Football: Como rattled off four straight wins during the season before a close first round playoff loss.

All-district players included seniors **Matthew Corniea**, **Will Stiles**, **Luke Glad** and **Thierry Tetevi** who was also voted the sub-district most valuable defensive lineman. Honorable mention was earned by seniors **Oscar Ward**, **Denzel Schuna**, **Bruce Blaisdell**, **Yer Guide** and sophomore **Jeremiah Ranson**. ■

Eric Erickson is a longtime coach of school and youth sports in St. Paul.



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