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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park
Falcon Heights / Lauderdale

parkbugle.org
August 2024

SAP meeting focuses on homeless shelter issue

By Josie Wise

Sixty community members escaped the gloomy weather and gathered at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church on June 27 to address housing insecurity and homelessness in the area.

The meeting was held after Luther Seminary canceled plans to lease its vacant Stub Hall to Ramsey County and Model Cities for use as a homeless shelter.

St. Anthony Park Faith Communities, a coalition of local churches, planned the meeting for residents in the aftermath of the seminary's canceled plan.

The meeting wasn't meant to settle on one solution to solve the housing problem but rather spur housing conversation and to consider steps to start taking action.

Organizations such as the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, Project Home and Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative were featured as avenues for community members to engage with the housing crisis.

MICAH's East Metro congregational organizer John Slade spoke about housing in a panel-style discussion to kick off the meeting. He addressed the pitfalls of the housing market and its contributions to the housing crisis.

"American capitalism as it stands right now has taken the housing market and made it a profit-making motive where people are drawing out the important things that we all need to go into their back pocket," Slade said. "The market

is not failing. The market is doing exactly what it is intended to do, which is concentrate money."

Slade said he wasn't there to give one grand solution to the housing crisis but offered ideas for action.

"Being politically aware at the city level is one thing that you can do," he said.

Three years ago, St. Paul considered enacting tenant protections that would have prevented people from using credit scores or 20-year-old convictions to turn people down for renting, Slade said. But these stable, accessible, fair and equitable (SAFE) housing protections were barred when landlords successfully sued to block this city legislation, he said.

Slade said the city has now moved toward new renter protection legislation. He noted that by engaging with the city council, community members can help move the legislation along and get better renter protections.

Local piano teacher Rebekah Richards was optimistic these changes could occur if conversations continued and community members worked together.

"We in this neighborhood tend to have some sway," Richards said. "How much are we willing to give up?"

Following Slade's panel discussion, meeting attendees gathered



Community members recently gathered at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church to discuss housing insecurity and homelessness in the area. Photo by Josie Wise.

in small groups of four or five people to discuss the issue. Community members huddled together to hear each other over the loud chatter of dozens of conversations in the church.

After the individual discussions, each group shared their most important points.

Common ideas shared by the groups included taking small steps such as community education efforts and putting pressure on the city council. Residents were also interested in addressing the underlying issues with the proposed Luther Seminary shelter and building a similar space, this time with proper procedure and community support.

Before participants departed for home to catch the evening's presidential debate, SAP Lutheran Church council president Kristin

Wiersma asked people to sign up to host future discussions on areas they were most interested in, such as tenant's rights and inventory of community assets.

"This is how change happens," Wiersma said. "People get in a room, they get excited, they sign up, they keep talking and they make change."

The hardest shift is turning worry into action, Wiersma said. The interest groups are a way to help make that shift happen.

"When good people bring their open minds and hearts to a hard set of circumstances and challenges, amazing things can happen," Wiersma said. ■

Josie Wise is an intern writer for the Bugle and will be a junior at the University of Minnesota next fall majoring in journalism and minoring in political science.

Community Park building replacement postponed

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights city leaders have postponed replacing the building at Community Park after bids for the project came in higher than expected.

The city had budgeted about \$3.5 million to replace the building and parking lot and add or improve other amenities. That would have required some additional funding to bolster what the city has saved, but as of January it appeared feasible.

When construction firm Kraus Anderson reported in early June that costs would run over \$5.5 million, with much of the increase due to the building, the City Council directed staff to reconsider the plan.

City Administrator Jack Linehan said the city's options include renovating the existing park structure

or paring back to a non-winterized outdoor pavilion with bathrooms. City officials previously considered renovating the existing building and decided that was not cost-effective. But now, they want to check those numbers again.

Linehan told the Bugle in July, "What's going against us is there's more demand—a lot of municipalities are building right now."

Linehan said a lack of hoped-for assistance from the state was also a factor. The city has repeatedly sought state bonding funds, but the first attempt failed to make the cut and the Legislature has failed to pass bonding bills in recent years.

Linehan said he has applied twice for grants from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, also without success.

The city has set aside funds that would have covered most of the

costs estimated in January for construction and updates but no new amenities.

Now, city officials must decide whether to try to raise the money for a new four-season building with meeting rooms, possibly by issuing bonds, or pare back their plans.

Linehan said he was content to postpone the project for a year in order to look at more options. He expects Kraus Anderson to return with some estimates for comparison in early fall, but that will be too late to start construction this year.

"We're evaluating our options," he said, "and making sure we're staying within budget and serving the needs of the community." ■

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights government news for the Bugle.

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CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 10 Community Council

Props to volunteers!

The District 10 Como Community Council would like to thank everyone in the neighborhood who has been participating with us!

To date this year, District 10 has:

- Held a Blizzard Breakfast at North Dale Recreation, where Bethel Lutheran volunteers helped us serve pancakes to 450 community members.
- Helped coordinate two Como Zoo blood drives, with nearly 100 donors.
- Partnered with St. Paul Parks and Recreation for an Earth

Day Como cleanup—another 100 volunteers.

- Joined forces with the St. Paul Art Collective to host a Como location for their Spring Art Crawl, hosting seven artists, a community dance and more than 150 community members.
- Hosted the second annual Pick Up and Party at Orchard Recreation, with 225 community members attending.
- Coordinated the Como Garage sale, with over 50 households participating.

With the year only half over, want to help with future community activities and events? Go to the District 10 website for information.

Reach out to info@district10como.org if you have any questions.

Students' Como history research project

St. Kate's Summer Scholars will present the results of their 2024 District 10 neighborhood history project at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway.

Since the end of May, students Madeline Bjonskaas and Olivia Lien, under the direction of Prof. Rachel Neiwert, have been interviewing community members and researching the history of the area between Dale and Victoria streets from Maryland to Larpenteur avenues (Subdistrict 3) as a part of

the Como Neighborhood History Project.

A question-and-answer session will follow the students' presentation.

D10 Community meetings/ events schedule

- District 10 Como Community 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7
- District 10 Como Community 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 20
- District 10 Como Community 7 p.m., Sept. 4.

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

Anne Gardner and Meredith Ver Steeg shared progress on the Play Area Improvements Project, addressing the park's needs based on age, accessibility and distance.

The 30-year-old play area is due for an update. The engagement process began in the spring and will continue through design and development. Bidding is set for winter, with construction planned for the spring of 2025, aiming to reopen by summer 2025.

A survey conducted from April to June drew 91 responses, most from people who live nearby and visit the park frequently. The community expressed a need for more equipment for younger kids, a desire for more inclusive equipment and concerns about sand cleanliness. Themes of nature and environmental awareness were highlighted.

Currently, the park features two areas for ages 2 to 5, one for ages 5 to 12, a swing set area and a basketball court. Preliminary designs propose options like enlarging the basketball area, consolidating

District 12 Community Council

Updates—South St. Anthony Park play area

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department recently presented improvement plans for the South St. Anthony Park Play Area to the Council.

City Files, District 12 news to p. 15

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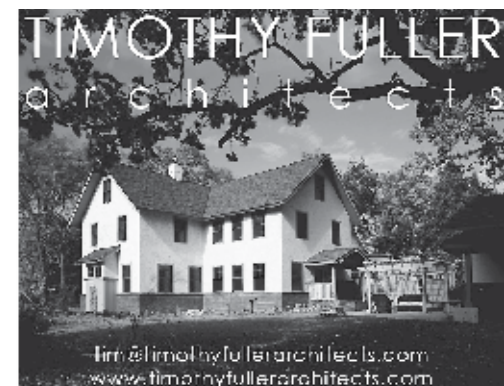
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Possible uses for U's Bolstad golf course discussed

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights city staff showed the City Council, at its June 12 meeting, some possible future uses of the Les Bolstad Golf Course, should the University of Minnesota decide to sell that property.

The city has hired WSB, a Twin Cities engineering firm, to study

the Larpenteur and Snelling avenue corridors and help city leaders anticipate future development needs. Ramsey County is funding the study and there are no definitive plans at this time.

The golf course is one of four areas under consideration for concept designs that could lead to rezoning. It is currently zoned P-1,

for public land that if sold could revert to single family classification.

That means new zoning would be needed if the city wanted to encourage multi-family housing or other uses. Taking care of the zoning ahead of time could help market the properties to developers and give the city some ability to guide types of development. Pri-

ate owners have to go through a lengthy process of obtaining variances if their intended uses fall outside of a city's zoning rules.

City Administrator Jack Linehan told the Bugle recently that the goal was to consider, "If stuff was developed, what would it look like?"

Linehan said the Bolstad golf course is a priority because the university described it in a recent study as an "opportunity zone," which cities regard as a signal that the property might go up for sale.

"We've been contacted by developers," Linehan said.

The other three areas considered in the study brought to the council on June 12 are 1871 Larpenteur Ave. W, a small lot at the corner of Lindig Street; the area including the Warners Stellian store; and the Falcon Crossing shopping center on the northeast corner of Larpenteur and Snelling. ■

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights government news for the Bugle.

Falcon Heights to license pedicabs

By Anne Holzman

As of July, Falcon Heights is following Minneapolis and St. Paul in requiring licenses to operate pedicabs on the city's streets.

Pedicabs, described as nonmotorized or electrically assisted three-wheeled bicycles with passenger cabs attached, operate in Falcon Heights mostly during the weeks of the State Fair, but licensure will be required year-round.

At \$50 for the vehicle plus \$25 for the driver, license fees will be lower than in the larger cities in recognition of the shorter season of operation. Operators must be 21 or older and have a driver's license in order to obtain a pedicab license.

The new ordinance includes rules about carrying insurance, where to load and unload passengers, vehicle safety standards and details such as what to do if a passenger leaves something behind in the vehicle.

City staff told the City Council that there have been numerous complaints in recent years about

a proliferation of pedicabs during the Fair, and they can't do anything about it if there are no rules to be enforced. The licensure clarifies rules, and the fee helps cover the

administrative costs of enforcing them. ■

Anne Holzman covers Falcon Heights government news for the Bugle.

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P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108
www.parkbugle.org
651-646-5369

Managing Editor

Scott Carlson
651-646-5369
editor@parkbugle.org

Freelance writers

Clay Christensen, Sarah CR Clark,
Eric Erickson, Anne Holzman,
Kathy Henderson, Janet Wight,
Gwen Willems, Jenni Wolf

Freelance photographer

Lou Micheals

Obituaries Editor

Mary Mergenthal
612-670-8510
mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

Subscriptions & billing

Fariba Sanikhatam
accounting@parkbugle.org
Subscriptions are \$30 for one year.
Send payment to P.O. Box 8126,
St. Paul, MN 55108

Event submissions

calendar@parkbugle.org

Copy editor

Bill Brady

Proofreader

Mary Hegge

Social Media Specialist

Laura Adrian

Webmaster

Jenny Plott

Graphics/Layout/Design

EH Design

Advertising Sales Representatives

Sonia Ellis
651-226-1274
sonia.ellis@parkbugle.org

Roald Sateren
651-468-4040
roald.sateren@parkbugle.org

Classified advertising

classifieds@parkbugle.org

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The Park Bugle is a monthly non-profit community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park. The Bugle covers community news and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions in these communities. The Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

A smorgasboard of stories

They say that variety is the spice of life. And where can you find more variety than in the pages of the Park Bugle?

In this issue, there is a plethora of stories reflecting the diversity and the vibrancy of St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. From library programs and new community services to photo galleries of the 4th in the Park parade and a mini-profile of another local business; we are an area on the go and on the grow.

Of particular interest, the non-profit Lyngblomsten Care Center is announcing the start this month of something it's calling a "Pop Up Arts Memory Café."

The program, open to all, is an opportunity for those living with memory loss and their care partners to come together in a friendly environment to connect, laugh, express their creativity and receive helpful information about caregiving. For more details, check out this story from Tricia Theurer, Lyngblomsten's marketing communications specialist.

In other news, the Bugle chronicles

the success of six Murray Middle School students who competed in National History Day in June. They were part of Minnesota's delegation of 64 participants at the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

For full details, read Janet Wight's report on our Bugle website in our latest Midpoint Report.

In addition, we have stories on, among other things, Falcon Heights' latest plans for its Community Park building, activities at the Hampden Park Cooperative and a meeting held by a coalition of local churches on ideas for ad-

ressing the issue of homelessness in the community.

We even give a nod to the upcoming Minnesota State Fair as Bugle food writer/dietician Jenni Wolf offers advice on how to handle the abundance of food temptations at the Great Minnesota Get-together. Her advice may surprise.

Whatever is your reading pleasure, there is plenty to feast on in this issue of the Bugle. Enjoy!

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

A special Bugle 50th anniversary appeal

Dear Bugle readers,

The members of the Park Bugle board of directors invite you to join us in celebrating the Bugle's 50th anniversary with a gift of \$50.

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Expand your reach with Bugle's new digital advertising options

By Laura Adrian

In today's digital age, a robust online presence is essential for businesses looking to expand their reach and engage with a wider audience.

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Laura Adrian is the social media specialist for the Bugle.

Bugle deadlines

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

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

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

September: Back to School

Copy/ad deadline: Aug. 14

Publication: Aug. 27

October: Food and Drink

Copy/ad deadline: Sept. 11

Publication: Sept. 24

November

Copy/ad deadline: Oct. 9

Publication: Oct. 22

Check out the
Midpoint Report
online at
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For the Flinks, deep roots in south St. Anthony Park

By Dave Healy

They live across the street from Hampden Park, but they remember it as Green Grass Park.

They went to a 1973 festival there sponsored by the Green Grass Grocery, a forerunner of today's Hampden Park Coop. That festival might have been considered a precursor of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, although the latter event has never included one feature of the former: a kissing booth.

Self-described south-siders, Karen and Steve Flink have lived in St. Anthony Park since 1965. Their first eight years were as renters on Manvel Street.

"By the time we were ready to buy a house, we already felt embraced by the neighborhood," Steve said.

The Flinks' older son, Matt, went to Baker School through second

grade. When Baker closed, Matt and the other students were obliged to walk to St. Anthony Park Elementary, which meant crossing the railroad tracks on the old Raymond Avenue trestle bridge, a journey that filled their parents with dread.

"We advocated with the school district for a bus," Karen said. "Although guidelines at the time put us just inside the boundary for walking, we persuaded the powers that be to give our kids a bus. It helped that a neighbor took photographs of the bridge highlighting its lack of safety for children."

In the late 1960s, the Flinks and many of their neighbors worried that encroaching industrial development would squeeze out the residential sector of south St. Anthony Park.

The neighborhood was a project area for the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development, and Steve served as a volunteer member of the project area committee, whose goal was to stabilize housing and stop industry-creep.

"It was David vs. Goliath, and the older generation worked with younger people," Steve said. "It was a good example of neighborhood solidarity."

Steve noted the neighborhood supported both Section 8 development that went in on Hampden Avenue and the nearby Seal Hi-Rise because both of those replaced industrial buildings.

People involved with those early efforts doubtless never envisioned the extent to which housing—specifically, multi-family housing—would take off in the area.

Today, there are eight apartment buildings recently built east of Highway 280, and two new apart-

ment blocks and townhouses west of 280 on both sides of Franklin Avenue.

Two nearby junkyards are long gone, as are trucking companies and several heavy industrial businesses. In their place are light industrial companies, offices, medical clinics and a University of Minnesota research center.

Also gone are Johnny's Bar and the Triangle Bar, which once anchored the eastern and western boundaries of the neighborhood. They've been supplanted throughout the area by craft breweries, six

of which are within a mile of the Flinks.

Many neighbors have moved out, but the Flinks have welcomed new ones, including their son and his family. For the most part, they've been cheered by the changes all around them.

"But I still miss the old Raymond Avenue Dairy Queen," Karen said. ■

Dave Healy lives in St. Anthony Park and was editor of the Bugle in the was editor of the Bugle from 2000 to 2010.

Lyngblomsten offers memory loss and care partners enrichment program

By Tricia Theurer

Beginning in August, Lyngblomsten is launching the "Pop-Up Arts Memory Café" for those living with memory loss and their care partners.

The memory café, offered by the nonprofit Lyngblomsten Community Services, is an opportunity for those living with memory loss and their care partners to come together in a friendly environment to connect, laugh, express their creativity and receive helpful information about caregiving. The program is available to all.

The program is led by Lyngblomsten staff who are specially trained to understand the distinctive needs of people experiencing memory loss. Each session will include:

- Time to socialize over coffee and treats.
- A hands-on art project, led by teaching artist Harper Steinbach.
- A small-group gathering for care partners facilitated by Lyngblomsten social worker Lisa Brown.

The Pop-Up Arts Memory Café will be held at the Lyngblomsten Como Park campus, 1415 Almond Ave., twice per month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, starting Aug. 14 and ending Dec. 11. Participants will be asked to make a contribution if they are able.

"The Pop-Up Arts Memory Café is a great addition to our programming," said Julie Pfab, director of Lyngblomsten Community Services. "We're excited to offer an informal time for those living with memory loss and their care partners to socialize and do an art activity. Plus, care partners have the opportunity to share with each other and learn about resources.

And there's no long-term commitment required; they can attend as many sessions as they'd like to throughout the summer and into the fall."

For more information about the Pop-Up Arts Memory Café and to register online, visit www.Lyngblomsten.org/MemoryCafe. Or contact Lisa Brown with Lyngblomsten Community Services at caregiving@lyngblomsten.org or (651) 632-5320. ■

Tricia Theurer is a marketing communications specialist at Lyngblomsten.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Spring environmental field journey a rite of passage at SAP Elementary

By Sarah CR Clark

At St. Anthony Park Elementary School, going to the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center has been an annual rite of passage for each year's fifth-grade class for more than 40 years.

This June was no exception as 90 fifth graders, five teachers and about 20 chaperones traveled north to spend five days and four nights at the environmental learning center in Finland, Minnesota.

"Our wolf mascot (for SAP Elementary) came from Wolf Ridge," explained school principal Karen Duke, who participated on the same field trip as a student in the 1970s.

Wolf Ridge executive director Peter Smerud described his organization's relationship with SAP Elementary as "one of the oldest both in tradition and in maintaining the community's commitment in coming to Wolf Ridge for their children."

This year, that tradition and commitment of trekking to Wolf Ridge felt a bit strained as transportation costs rose, fundraising efforts increased, and still some students' families chose not to participate.

Nature's classroom

At Wolf Ridge, SAP students experience hands-on lessons about science, the area's natural environment and adventuring via rock climbing and ropes courses.

Students Louisa Lindfors, Harriet Zbacnik and Ejabo Hashi were

among the fifth graders who went on the Wolf Ridge trip.

"I learned a lot about Lake Superior and how and when it was formed," Lindfors said.

Zbacnik said that of the eight Wolf Ridge classes SAP students took, the one focusing on voyageurs and the fur trade was her favorite "because we got to have different roles and be someone else to learn what voyageur life was like."

Hashi's favorite class also focused on a specific local culture. "I really liked the Ojibway heritage class because we learned a lot about how Ojibway people lived and ate," she said.

Meanwhile, parent chaperone Samantha Cakir said it was special to see the students enjoying the Wolf Ridge program. "I saw lots of huge smiles, shrieks of joy, moments of wonder, students surprising themselves with what they were able to do and supporting their classmates to try new things."

Duke described Wolf Ridge as an important experience for students. "It's a really great experience for kids to be away. It's a safe, highly supervised environment for them to have their first experience away and they love it."

Student Atlas Laacouri agreed, noting, "I really enjoyed the ropes course. It was scary at first but it was really worth it. I hope I go again. I love how I got just a little bit past my comfort zone and now

I don't think I'm as afraid of heights as I used to be."

When asked to share something new he learned during his week at Wolf Ridge, Laacouri shared, "I learned how people mine for iron here."

A rare opportunity—and getting rarer

Laacouri and his SAP classmates are lucky. Currently, just 29% of Minnesota's kids currently get any kind of outdoor school experience, according to Smerud, who also leads the charge for Outdoor School for All, a legislative movement to fund equitable access to outdoor education.

Smerud considers his work essential to creating good Minnesotans for the future. And he sees a direct connection between his work and SAP's commitment to experiencing Wolf Ridge.

"This is what it means to raise a student from St. Anthony Park; community commitment," he continued. "Going to Wolf Ridge is about an outdoor ethic, a connection with nature, becoming a good Minnesotan. But it's also about becoming a good human being who then has all these traits and skills that we want to send out into the world."

"If you're a city kid and you aren't accustomed to seeing stars—to go on a night hike away from the buildings and just simply lay down and look up at the stars;—that can change people," Smerud concluded.

SAP science teacher James Schrankler (now retired) celebrated his 20th Wolf Ridge trip with SAP students.

"A lot of our students haven't been to that part of the state," he explained, referring to the North Shore. "I mean, when the bus goes by Lake Superior the kids start saying, 'Wow! It's the ocean!' And it's neat, you know, just that exposure."

And for some students, that appreciation is life changing. "I have had a couple of past students say that they went into environmental



SAP Elementary fifth graders explore the woods at the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

science and that Wolf Ridge spring boarded that," Schrankler added.

Fond memories

Rody Lageson was a SAP Elementary student in the 1990s and went to Wolf Ridge in the fall of 1995 (when the school included the sixth grade).

"I vividly remember sitting at Chickadee Landing and having birds land on my head and hands to feed. They were so small and light, and beautiful," Lageson, now a construction manager, said in an email.

Asked what impact his Wolf Ridge trip had on him, Lageson responded, "In hindsight, outdoor education experiences through the St. Paul Public Schools really built my confidence. When kids are able to do unfamiliar and hard things in the woods, they learn they can do other hard things in their lives too."

Lageson is now a father of two small children, the oldest of whom currently attends SAP Elementary. When thinking about their future Wolf Ridge trips, he said, "I'm excited for them and I hope I'm able to go along!"

Many other SAP Elementary parents share Lageson's sentiment to keep the Wolf Ridge experience alive for future fifth graders. Case in point: The St. Anthony Park School Association this spring established the Jim Schrankler Wolf Ridge Endowment.

"This endowment creates a sustainable, enduring way to provide scholarships for kids in need of financial assistance to attend Wolf Ridge," said Breanna Mueller,

SAPSA treasurer and endowment organizer.

No SAP student is uninvited from the trip due to financial need. This year's trip cost approximately \$300 per student and SAPSA covered 21 full scholarships.

In addition, Smerud said Wolf Ridge awarded financial support for some students. The school also was awarded a No Child Left Inside grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to help defray the cost of buses.

Information about the new Schrankler endowment on givemn.org, written by parents of SAP Elementary students, states, "The school's tradition of visiting Wolf Ridge is essential to its identity. While we all hear and read of tight budgets and the need to scale back and lower standards, we hope to retain and celebrate this unique opportunity for all our students as a reminder to them of their worth and our belief in their futures."

Culture Gap?

But this long-standing tradition feels tenuous to principal Duke. She noted this year 10 families chose to not send their students to Wolf Ridge.

"Unfortunately, in the past few years, the large majority of families that have chosen not to send their kids are families of color," she said. "If we're spending a huge chunk of resources on this trip and for whatever reason, families are choosing not to go, what do we do? Environmental education has all these benefits, like outdoor education, experiential education, community building. But where's the line when that becomes me projecting my cultural values on you? I'm not comfortable continuing to offer it if we see a trend of more and more families opting out."

Wolf Ridge's Smerud spoke to the gap between Duke's role, SAP Elementary's changing student body and parents' passions to continue the Wolf Ridge tradition.

"You're right, it is really hard," he acknowledged. "But you have a community with decades of history here; and you can ask for help. Ask Wolf Ridge for help. Ask the community for help." ■

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

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Midtown Clay takes former drycleaners space

By Janet Wight

It has already been two years since ceramic artist Francis Pineda-Fischer moved his Sandwich Ceramic studio into the former Midtown Cleaners building on Hamline Avenue near Larpenteur.

The space, now called Midtown Clay, is shared with fellow potters Waylon Bemboom (Generic Ceramics) and Alex Swann.

A native of St. Cloud, Pineda-Fischer attended Cathedral High School. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a double major in global studies and art, along with a Spanish minor, he worked as a server and bartender.

Soon afterward, Pineda-Fischer landed a customer service position at Continental Clay and he also taught at several area studios. He has been a full-time ceramic artist since 2018.

Pineda-Fischer produces ceramic wares for both wholesale and retail customers. Most of his pieces are functional, including cups, mugs, bowls, plates, incense burners and spoon rests. The prices range from \$10 to \$200. He also creates sculptural items, he said.

"All of the glazes are in-house glazes that I have made myself out of the raw materials," he explained. These products are both microwave and dishwasher safe.

"The finished product is one that I am happy and confident to give to anyone," he said. "I make them with a lot of love, and I like being able to share that with people."



Midtown Clay is now home at the former Midtown Cleaners building at Hamline Avenue near Larpenteur. Submitted photo.



Francis Pineda-Fischer works on a clay pot. Photo courtesy of Sandwich Ceramic.

Although much of his work is for the wholesale market, including custom planters and vases for furniture retailer Room & Board, Pineda-Fischer said he is hoping to boost his retail offerings.

Neighbors and potential customers are welcome to stop by whenever the door is open, he said. Pineda-Fischer is planning to establish regular retail hours within the next few months.

Additionally, pottery classes will

be offered for both youth and adult students, he added.

Pineda-Fischer's advice to other artists is straightforward. "Follow things that you are interested in and that give you energy, and that will help," he said.

"If you enjoy what you are doing, I think that is the end goal," he continued.

An animal lover, Pineda-Fischer enjoys spending time with his pets. He and his partner have three dogs

(Gaucho, Pancha and Merlin) and two recently adopted cats.

Pineda-Fischer said he is looking forward to engaging more with the community. It is "nice to put a face with the person who is taking a pot away," he said.

Anyone interested in updates

regarding retail hours and pottery classes can subscribe to the Sandwich Ceramic newsletter. Visit sandwichceramic.com for additional information. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



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Dino-mite adventure: Como Town's Dinosaur Expedition

By Maya Betti

For \$14, guests of Como Town's newest exhibit can be transported back millions of years to the Mesozoic Era.

The Dinosaur Expedition, which Como Town is hosting this summer,

is a limited-time event that offers families and dinosaur enthusiasts alike the chance to see life-sized dinosaur models while learning more about their way of life.

The exhibit showcases a range of species, from baby dinosaurs to towering giants that stand over 35



(At left) Wooden archway sets the tone for visitors to Jurassic adventure while a life-sized T-rex greets guests as they enter the animatronics expedition. Photos by Maya Betti.

feet tall and span more than 85 feet long. As well, it features two small paleontological dig sites, where visitors can use tools to excavate fossils.

As visitors weave through the enclosed area, they are offered a look into the life of these giants, with fast facts about each species

posted along the pathway, forested scenery and close proximity with the moving animatronics.

While the exhibit itself is closed off to those without a ticket, dinosaurs can still be found throughout the rest of Como Town. These additional dinosaur displays enhance the prehistoric atmosphere

and create a sense of discovery as visitors explore the park.

One of the highlights is a new dino-riding attraction, which adds an element of interactive fun for visitors of all ages.

Como Town's Dinosaur Expedition, 1301 Midway Parkway, will be running daily until Sept. 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends from Sept. 7 to 29, also from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

Maya Betti, a journalism student at St. Olaf College, is a summer intern for the Bugle.

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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.

Thin ice, stormy seas: Hamline U documents warming of Lake Superior

By John Shepard

Our exceptionally warm winter, nearly without snow, was better suited to Missouri than Minnesota.

Already, summer has brought extraordinary storms and record-setting heatwaves.

These signs of our changing climate are having significant impacts on the largest lake in the world: Lake Superior is now among the fastest warming of the world's biggest lakes.

This provocative fact, and what it means for a famously frigid lake that holds 10% of the world's surface freshwater, became the focus of the recent public television documentary *A Sea Change for Superior: The Warming of the World's Largest Lake*.

To get the story, a small production team with Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education spent time with scientists, sailors, anglers, Ojibwe tribal members and other stakeholders.

We also filmed the exploits of some cold-water marathon swimmers—people whose idea of fun

includes full-body ice-cream headaches—as they undertook a record-setting 46-mile relay swim, without wetsuits, from Split Rock Lighthouse to Duluth. Throughout their 24-hour challenge, the water remained a balmy 60° Fahrenheit or warmer.

Jay Austin, a physicist with the Large Lakes Observatory at the University of Minnesota Duluth, is part of a team that studies the world's largest lakes and has been tracking Superior's temperatures.

"Since about 1980," he told us, "we've seen a dramatic increase compared to what happened the previous 40 years." The lake is "four to five degrees warmer now than it was 40 years ago. We are having much milder winters with less ice, and winter conditions wind up rolling forward into what happens the next summer."

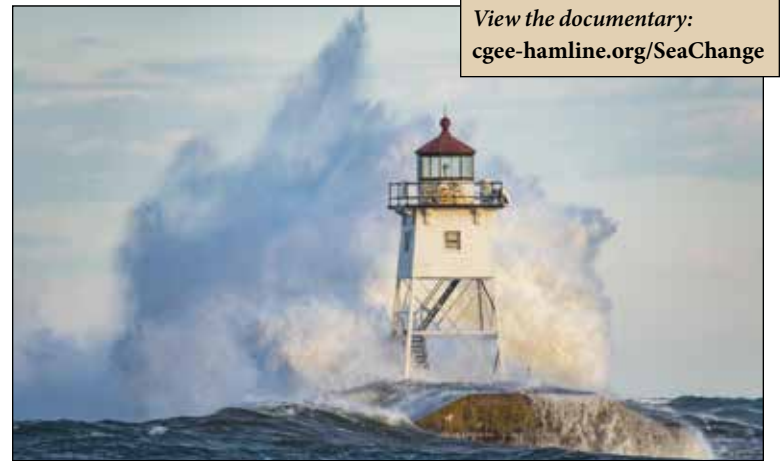
Mark and Katya Gordon, owners of Amicus Adventure Sailing near Two Harbors, now advise customers to bring swimsuits. A comfortably cool dip has become a regular feature of a summer's day sail—a ridiculous notion just a dozen years ago.

Commercial fisherman Stephen Dahl of Knife River finds his herring nets increasingly twisted by the crazy currents that occur when surface waters climb into the 50s and 60s while temps remain about 40° deep down. When that happens, the currents can keep his herring nets out of reach below the surface for days at a time.

The warm temperatures are now lasting into late October. Traditionally, the autumn herring runs are when he has brought in 40% of his annual catch, so the warming of the lake means fewer days when the fishing is at its best.

The state of the lake brings to mind a dear friend who started experiencing some unusual symptoms: fluctuating fevers, night sweats, fatigue. His doctors went to work, and among their possible diagnoses were two forms of cancer: Hodgkin's lymphoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The first can be treatable, the second you really don't want to get.

Unprecedented algae blooms; extreme storm events like those experienced this summer and the monstrous storms of 2012, 2016,



View the documentary: cgee-hamline.org/SeaChange

Extreme weather, unprecedented algae blooms and increasing invasive species are associated with the warming of Lake Superior. Photo by Travis Novitsky.

and 2018; and increasing impacts of invasive species are symptoms that scientists attribute to the rising lake temperatures due to our changing climate. They are the kinds of symptoms you would want to pay attention to—and do what you can to address—if the health of the world's greatest lake is something that matters to you. ■

John Shepard of St. Anthony Park is assistant director of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education and the producer of *A Sea Change for Superior: The Warming of the World's Largest Lake*.



EPA scientists launch a remote-controlled glider to study changing conditions associated with the warming of Lake Superior. Photo by John Shepard.



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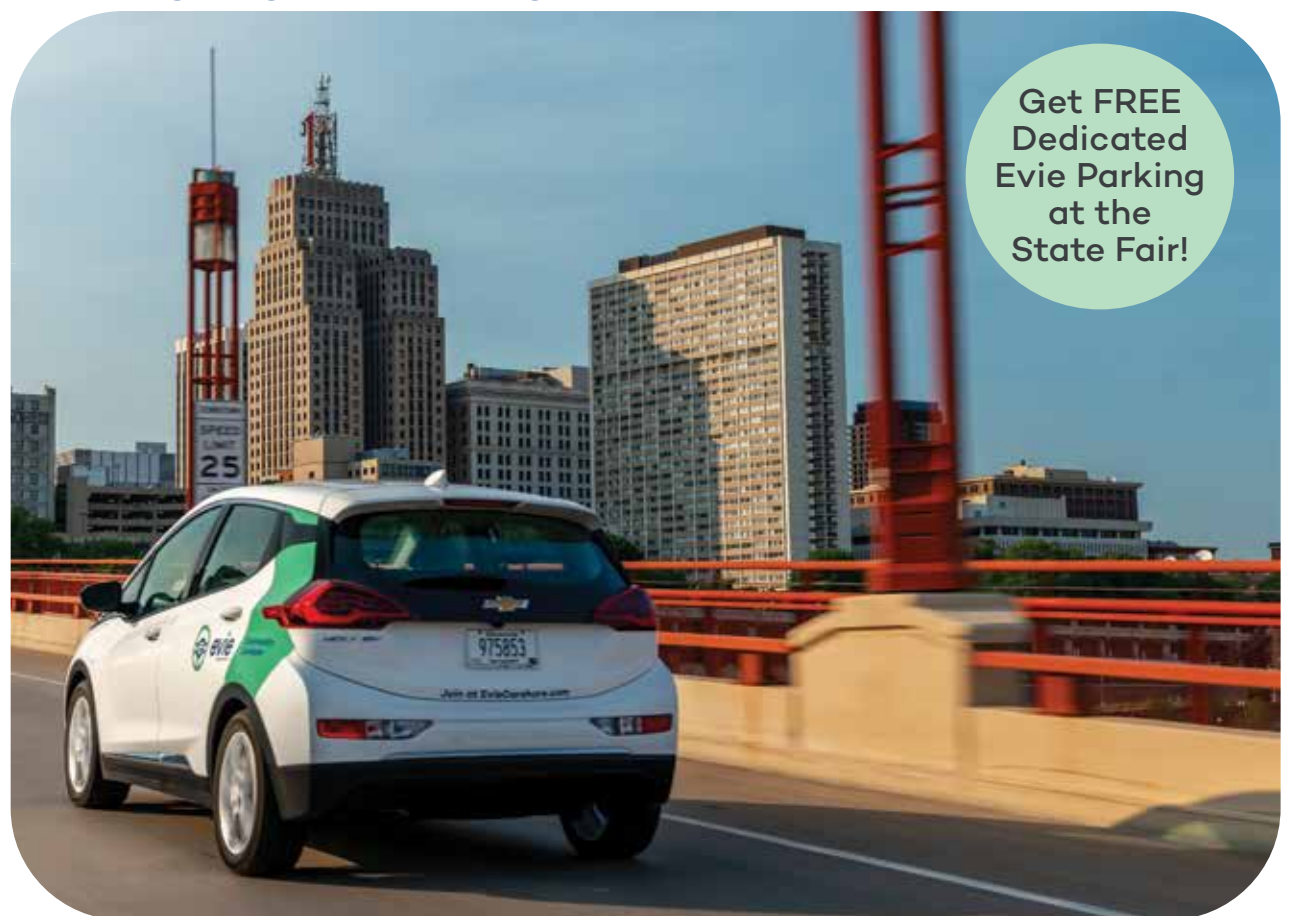
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At the Minnesota State Fair, appetite on a stick

By Jenni Wolf

Happy Great-Minnesota-Get-Together month!

As a native Wisconsinite, I admit I was skeptical of all the state fair hype (gasp!).

But ask me now with a few fair-going years under my belt and I am sold.

Like most Minnesotans I know, the fair eats and treats are what gets me most excited. While I imagine many of you have read up on the new must-try foods for this year, I'm here to offer you some tips on eating your way through the fair without feeling stuffed and uncomfortable.

As a dietitian, I hear a lot of comments about fair food this time of year. Typically, they fall on one side of the spectrum—either in regard to avoiding fair food all together or going all-out, similarly to a “cheat day”.

My response is always, “What



Sweet corn and a good ol' turkey leg are on Jenni Wolf's food favorites at the Minnesota State Fair. Submitted photo by Jenni Wolf.

about neither?” and that usually garners some confusion.

But what about living in the “middle,” having a more neutral mindset, rather than the black-and-white, all-or-nothing type of thinking?

When we live in the “middle,” we are naturally less likely to get too

much of or too little of something. At the fair, we are less likely to get so many pronto pups and fried pickles that might leave us feeling uncomfortable, but also less likely to get so few of Sweet Martha's cookies or deep fried Oreos that we are left wanting more, feeling restricted and deprived. After all, we do go to the fair to eat tasty food!

In my experience, this “living in the middle” idea can be a new concept for many people, especially when it comes to diet, food and nutrition. Read on for a few tips to strike a balance that allows you to have fun, enjoy every bite and leave the fair feeling satisfied and happy.

• **Don't arrive starving.** A common mistake for many people is limiting intake to “save up” in order to eat more later in the day. I think this always backfires. This leaves you too hungry to listen to your body's cues

and make rational decisions when it comes to food, which can quickly lead to overeating.

If you arrive at the fair feeling hungry for a meal and order mini donuts, there is a good chance you may eat a meal's worth of mini donuts even if you don't really want to.

So, eating some healthy food or a small meal a couple hours before you arrive at the fair will allow you to have some appetite but not so much that you are ravenous. You will be more inclined to enjoy a few donuts rather than eating a whole bag.

• **Split and share.** Going with a group is advantageous as it allows you to try many different items without feeling like you have to commit to a full portion.

If you're flying solo, look for half-portions and don't be afraid to ask if you don't see them on the menu. Many vendors may be able to accommodate smaller portions or kid's sizes.

If it is difficult for you to throw away food because you don't like to

waste it, I offer you this thought: If you are full and becoming uncomfortable, isn't choosing to eat more food and pushing yourself further into discomfort also a waste?

• **Identify must-tries before you go.** Make a list of the items you want to get before going.

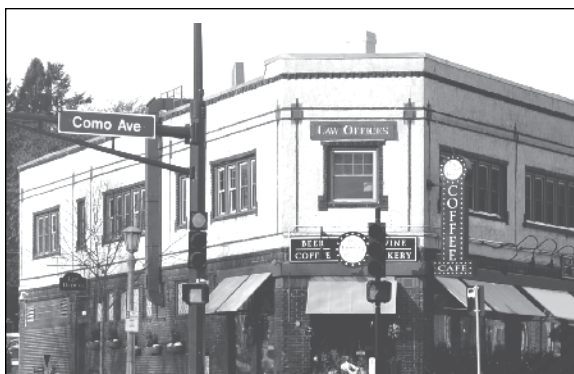
This helps cut down on impulse-orders and filling up on something nearby when it may not be what you want.

This can also help to identify priorities—you might decide to pass on a funnel cake because you can find these at many festivals throughout the year, leaving more room for the fried pickle pizza which is a once-a-year find.

My every-year picks are a turkey leg, sweet corn, a Dairy Building twist ice cream cone and at least one new item.

Here's to a safe, fun and tasty 12 days! ■

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



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THE BIRDMAN OF LAUDERDALE

The angry hummingbird

By Clay Christensen

I live in a house without a fenced yard. So, when it's time for my pup, Rocky, to go out to do what dogs have to do, I hook him up to a leash and we go out together.

Rocky has a unique routine when we go out. He stops and pauses to look around at three or four different spots on the front sidewalk or patio. He just stops and looks around, sometimes whines softly. I call it "The Stations of the Sidewalk."

I don't know what he's whining about. I thought he was complaining that he didn't see any of his friends, but I don't think that's it.

The other afternoon, we headed out and he paused at the corner of the house (Station One) to peek around the corner for chipmunks or squirrels (my guess, again). Then we moved to Station Two, the edge of the patio where the low-lying Lamium flowers come closest.

Suddenly I heard the burr of wingbeats. It was a female ruby-throated hummingbird coming right at us, across the lawn.

I think she was upset that the hummingbird feeder wasn't out in the yard yet. I'm sure she remembered it from last year and she was honked!

I overdosed on hummingbirds on a trip to Ecuador a few years ago and it seemed to me that the hummers expressed their anger or threatened one another by beating their wings in such a way that they made an audible churring sound.

I took the hint. As soon as Rocky

and I had finished our walk, I went to the garage and got the hummingbird/oriole feeder. It's a rather shallow plastic dish that holds the sugar water nectar.

There's a hook/hanger in the center and a tray that fits over the nectar dish. On that tray are four little cups that can be filled with grape jelly, and between those cups are little holes through which a hummingbird can insert its beak and drink up the nectar.

I started my preparations, putting a Pyrex measuring cup full of water into the microwave, then getting a quarter-cup of white sugar. When the water had heated up, I mixed in the sugar. No food coloring: it isn't good for birds. They don't need it to be attracted to sugar water.

I poured the cooled nectar into the tray, put on the cover and then squirted grape jelly into each of the cups on the tray.

My feeder came with little caps that fit over the inside ends of the holes through which the hummers put their bills. They fit on the underside of the hole and are split so they allow the bill through but stop the bees and other critters that try to get at the nectar.

I have a shepherd's hook pole in the yard and hung the feeder there.

I wrote an e-mail to my birding buddies about the scolding I'd just gotten from the hummer. My buddy Bonnie replied: "Gosh, Clay. You've got quite the demanding hummingbird! You could try having Rocky teach her the Zen of insistent patience to get what you want! Let me know how it goes."

I've told the group how Rocky totally stuns me by standing in front of me as I sit in my comfy chair, forcing me to guess what it is he wants! He just stands there! Very frustrating. I go through the list: Outside? A treat? Belly rubs? It seems if nothing clicks, a belly rub is always good.

We'll be looking for hummingbirds to visit our feeder this summer. I hope you have space to hang out a feeder for these remarkable birds.

Wild bird supply stores have a variety of types of hummingbird feeders including some that are nectar bottles upside down with feeding portals screwed onto the neck. If you have a lot of hummer



Photo by Harris Mallory

traffic, this might be a good choice for you.

Here in southern Minnesota, we most often see the ruby-throated hummingbird. The male has a red gorget on its throat that shines brilliantly when the sun hits it right. The female is less colorful, but she has white dots on the tips of her tail.

Hummingbirds are often aggressive to one another, guarding their food supply and chasing off rivals.

Another hummingbird, for which we have some 20 records reported in Robert Janssen's "Birds in Minnesota," is the rufous hummingbird. This bird breeds along the west coast all the way up to Alaska. Some may get blown into Minnesota on their biannual migrations. I haven't seen one yet, but I'll keep looking!

So far, I haven't seen any hummingbirds at my feeder since I put it out. Others in the neighborhood have reported hummers, but not me. Maybe it's another situation that requires Rocky's insistent patience! ■

Clay Christensen writes and lives in Lauderdale.

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LIBRARY CORNER

Library Corner
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Circus Manduhai coming to SAP's College Park

By Kathy Henderson

If you show up at College Park, 2223 Carter Ave., at 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 6 expecting Storytime in the Park, you'll be surprised to see that a circus is about to take place—and it is open to all.

Circus Manduhai features a four-person Mongolian circus that



will deliver a 45-minute performance, showcasing feats of balance and flexibility with hula hoops, foot juggling and contortion.

This special library program is generously supported by the St. Anthony Park Library Association. In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved indoors. The decision to move inside will be posted to sppl.org/calendar.

Circus Manduhai founder Chimgee Haltarhuu came to America from Mongolia in 1991 to work for Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus.

She has been teaching circus

skills to Twin Cities children for more than 20 years at Circus Juvantas, a local circus school. Haltarhuu continues to share her Mongolian culture through Circus Manduhai and Mission Manduhai, a nonprofit organization that focuses on domestic violence prevention.

Storytime will resume in College Park on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Meanwhile, here are two other special SAP Library programs and some of its regular offerings:

Special events

Rap, rock and read with Miss Nina

10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, July 30, at College Park, 2223 Carter Ave. This interactive performance will have children ages 8 and younger stomping, clapping, jumping, singing and dancing along with Miss Nina. The program is supported by the St. Anthony Park Library Association. In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved indoors. The decision to move inside will be posted to sppl.org/calendar.

HANDIWORK at the Library

10 a.m. to noon. Thursday, Aug. 8. Drop in to knit, crochet, embroider

and socialize with your neighbors. Bring your own supplies. This program is designed for adults and is co-hosted by the St. Anthony Park Library and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

Ongoing programs

Paw Pals

Read with Sadie: 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Friday, Aug. 9. Read with Enzo: 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. Youth ages 5 to 12 can read to a friendly dog that loves to sit and listen to stories. A single reading session will be a maximum 15 minutes long (to give opportunities for others to read.) Call 651-642-0411 or stop by the circulation desk at the St. Anthony Park Library to register your young reader.

St. Anthony Park Library Book Club

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26. Join library staff and fellow book lovers in the lower-level auditorium for lively conversation and refreshments.

The August selection is "Brotherless Night" by V. V. Ganeshanathan, a work of historical fiction set during the early years of Sri Lanka's three-decade civil war.

Stop in or call the library at 651-

642-0411 for more information. All are welcome.

FunLab

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Hang out in the library auditorium and make cool stuff.

This STEAM drop-in program for ages 7 to 11 features art, crafts, science experiments, engineering projects and more. Aug. 7 (the first Wednesday of the month) is LEGO.

English conversation circle for adults


4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. 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.

Storytime in the Park is taking an end-of-summer break. It will resume in College Park on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Kathy Henderson, is a Bugle freelance writer who has compiled the library events submitted by the St. Anthony Park Library.



Mongolian acrobats are coming Aug. 6 to College Park. Photos courtesy of Circus Manduhai.



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The circus is coming to College Park!


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Circus Manuhai


Join us as Circus Manduhai—a four-person Mongolian circus—delivers dazzling feats of balance and flexibility with hula hoops, foot juggling, and contortion. All are welcome!

In the case of inclement weather, the program will be moved indoors. The decision to move inside will be posted to sppl.org/calendar.

Tuesday, August 6 | 10:30-11:30 am
College Park | 2223 Carter Ave.



In partnership with the SAP Library



EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Minnesota State Fair

Aug. 22–Sept. 2, Falcon Heights. Find full details on new foods, Grandstand concerts, animal judging and much more at mnstatefair.org.

boréal Art Loft

“With a Wink and A Nod: The Photographic Images of Rick Southern” will be on display through Aug. 30. The Art Loft is open during regular store hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, at 2276 Como Ave. <https://shop.boreal.life/>.

Como Park

Japanese Obon Festival

Celebration of Japanese culture and tradition from 3 to 9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 18, on the grounds of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive. The festival ends at dusk with the lighting of six stone lanterns and several floating paper lanterns at the Japanese garden pond and the Frog Pond. Advance admission tickets required: comozooconservatory.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory. Register for a time slot at redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time.

Senior Strolls

9 to 10 a.m., Aug. 13, Conservatory and Zoo; 6:30 to 8 p.m., Aug. 27, Conservatory only. Special time reserved for adults ages 55 and older. Check-in at the main Visitor Center entrance. Admission is free, but reservations are required: comozooconservatory.org/como/senior-strolls/.

Summer flower show

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Sept. 22, in the Sunken Garden area of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Expect to see floral favorites such as petunias, begonias, impatiens, coleus, salvia and verbena on display.

Dock & Paddle’s Summer Series

St. Anthony Park Community Band: 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27, Como Park Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N. The Dock & Paddle summer music calendar is available at dockandpaddle.com.

Dinosaur Expedition

10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sept. 2 at Como Town, 1301 Midway Parkway (adjacent to the Zoo). Online tickets: \$10. Book timed tickets at comotown.com/rides/dinosaur-expedition/.

Neighbors of Alden Square Park

National Night Out: Tuesday, Aug. 6, Alden Square Park, 1169 Gibbs Ave. The Neighbors of Alden Square’s annual ice cream social fundraiser starts at 6:30 p.m. \$1 per scoop, cone or bowl, toppings provided. St. Anthony Park Community Band concert begins at 7 p.m.

Gibbs Farm

Gibbs Farm, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W, is open to the public from noon to 3 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays during August. Tours available on the hour or explore the site on your own. \$5-\$10; free for children 3 and younger, Dakota and Indigenous visitors and Ramsey County Historical Society members. Free parking in lot off Cleveland Avenue.

Make a flower press: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 10. \$25. Register at <https://rchs.com/event/make-a-flower-press-august/>.

Women’s Drum Center

Drum Basics: 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, at 2242 University Ave. W. Explore both hand and stick drumming using easy, energizing exercises to build skills. The focus is on having fun. Instructor: Jo Klein. Drums provided. \$15. Register at womensdrumcenter.org.

Next Chapter Booksellers

Author Ernesto Londoño (“Trippy: The Peril and Promise of Medicinal Psychedelics”) in conversation with Curtis Sittenfeld. 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 14, 38 Snelling Ave. S.

Community Sing

7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 19, at 2136 Carter Ave. Join musician Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed for a sing-along on the third Monday of the month in the parish hall at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. All voices welcome. Free.

Senior activities

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors’ calendar for August features a mixture of in-person and virtual activities. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. Office phone number: 651-642-9052.



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In-person activities include:

- **Luncheon:** Twin Cities 400 Tavern: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis. Contact the office to sign up.
- **Handiwork group:** 3 to 3:45 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8, at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave.
- **Poetry group:** 9 to 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 9, at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.

- **Blood pressure clinic:** 3 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Seal Hi-Rise, 825 Seal St.
 - **Game Day:** 10 to 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 2200 Hillside Ave.
- Virtual
- **Lunch bunch:** noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 21. Call the office for connection instructions.

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

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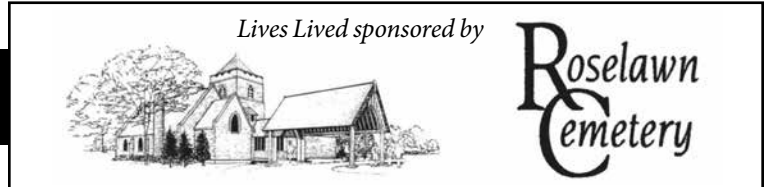
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Joanne Cushman

Joanne Marie (née Fay) Cushman, 91, died June 16, 2024. She was born in St. Paul on July 8, 1932, to Ruth (née Anderson) and Harry B. Fay.

Joanne grew up in Como Park, attending Chelsea Heights Elementary and Murray High School. She went to the University of Minnesota, the first of her family to go to college, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics education. She then taught school in Anoka and later Thief River Falls. She was an excellent cook and seamstress.

Joanne and Bill Cushman married in 1955. Shortly thereafter, Bill was drafted and stationed on Staten Island, New York, and Joanne began working in recipe development and food photography at the Borden Company in Manhattan. After Bill left the Army, they moved to northern Minnesota. In 1961 they moved to Roseville.

Once all of her children were in school, Joanne began working as an administrative assistant and eventually partnered with husband Bill as they began a real estate appraisal business.

Pursuing her commitment to quality public education, Joanne became president of Lexington Elementary School PTA and subsequently ran for and served three terms on the Roseville Area District 623 School Board. She was proud that Title IX was implemented during her tenure.

She then served two terms on the Roseville City Council and was instrumental in obtaining state funding for the John Rose Oval.



Joanne was a life-long member of Como Park Lutheran Church.

Joanne was an avid sports fan. She spent countless hours on the ice and in the concession stand at Lake Como in support of her family's involvement in local speedskating.

Joanne enjoyed reminding her family that she was the Blue Ribbon Reserve Champion in the U of M 1954 Kitchi Geshig Sheep Showmanship contest. "A city-slicker showing the farm girls how it was done," she would say.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Cushman. She is survived by her daughters, Fay Cushman, Linda (John) Fearing; son Thomas Cushman; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at Como Park Lutheran, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

Kathleen Dunlap

Kathleen Irene (Schmidt) Dunlap, 79, died May 12, 2024.

Kathy was born in Rochester, Minnesota, on July 3, 1944. She attended John Marshall High School and Rochester Junior College.

She and her husband, Walter Dunlap, moved to Northfield, St. Cloud and Minneapolis while Walter finished college and Army service. They lived in Germany for two years.

After years living in northern Minnesota, Kathy and Walter moved to Falcon Heights in 2012. Their new home was within walking distance of the Minnesota State Fair and they enjoyed attending each year and watching the nightly fireworks from their front lawn.

After a life of adventure, travel, volunteering and family, Kathy spent her last days at Our Lady of Peace Hospice. Consider donating to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory (comofriends.org) or Our

Lady of Peace Hospice (ourladyofpeace.org) in memory of a wonderful life well lived.

Norman Ecklund

Norman W. Ecklund, 91, died at home on June 29, 2024.

Norm was born Nov. 5, 1932, in St. Paul, to Carl and Cecelia Ecklund. He married Lois Olsen on June 4, 1955. Norm and Lois lived in the Falcon Heights area before moving to St. Cloud in 1977 and returning to Roseville in 2017.

Norm worked for Northern States Power for 35 years. In addition he served in the Army and as a deputy sheriff, volunteer firefighter and city councilman. He was an avid golfer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Lois; brother Cliff Ecklund; brother-in-law Don Olsen; and granddaughter Kaitlin Mestnik. Norm is survived by his son Craig (Darla); daughter Linda (Tim) Connolly; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister Janet (Alt) Johnson; and brother-in-law Jim (Linda) Olsen.

Service was held, with inurnment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Peter Loveland

Peter Alan "Pete" Loveland, 90, died July 4, 2024. He was born in St. Paul.

Pete attended Cretin High School and Metro State College and had a lifelong career at Ford Motor Company. He was a member of the Holy Childhood Schola (a choir for Gregorian Chant and plainsong) for 40 years. He was also on the Holy Childhood School Board, president of Northwest Como Boosters and a prestigious member of the Como Men's Golf Club.

Pete was preceded in death by parents Ted and Mary and stepmother Lucy, brother Ted Jr, sister Jacqueline, and stepbrother

Pat Murphy. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marilyn; children Mary Beth (Brian), Michelle (Ben), Monica (Paul), Pete Jr. (Christine) and Phil (Ann); 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial has been held.

Judith Monson

Judith Rochelle Monson, 84, of Como Park, died June 17, 2024.

Judith (aka Judy, aka Jude) was born May 24, 1940, in Oakland, Neb., to John and Ethel Monson. She was proud of her Swedish heritage and her Nebraska farm roots and how they influenced the person she became.

Upon graduating from Oakland High School, Judy attended college in Nebraska and Hawaii before eventually graduating from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in humanities. She later received a graduate degree in English from Claremont Graduate University in California, and still later a degree in counseling from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

She had several careers in her life. She was a professor of English at Northern Illinois University and then at Northern Iowa University. After moving to Minnesota, Judith worked for the postal service in St. Paul for more than 25 years, first as a letter carrier, then as the first woman to manage a branch office in St. Paul. Later she became a tax preparer for H&R Block. She loved all three of these careers in different ways.

She is survived by her sister, Myrna (Charlie) Smith, and many, many dear friends.

A Celebration of Life party was planned for July 27.

Richard Slind

Richard Lee Slind, 89, of Woodbury, died June 10, 2024.

He grew up in St. Anthony Park and graduated from Murray High School and the U of M. He was a member of the Mayflower Society, as well as commissioned and active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Rich had an eclectic business career at Honeywell, Marquette Mfg., Commodity Futures Mkt. and as a life insurance wholesaler.

His avocation was singing with Great Northern Union Chorus, church choirs and the Roadrunners barbershop quartet. He loved to sing!

He was preceded in death by daughter Melissa; parents Orrin and Dorothy Slind; and brother, Orrin Slind. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Margaret Mary Savoie Slind; children, Michael (Donna), Mark (Elizabeth), and Mary Olson (Peter); six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and sister, Karen Slind Johnson.

Mass of Christian Burial has been held at St. Ambrose Church of Woodbury. Memorials preferred to Woodbury Options for Women and St. Ambrose Church of Woodbury.

Donald Stary

Donald J. "Don" Stary, formerly of St. Anthony Park, died June 20, 2024, in Milltown, Wis.

Don was a Teamsters member and was employed by Murphy Rigging & Erecting. He served in the Minnesota National Guard 47th Infantry Division Band and Knights of Columbus in Florida and Wisconsin.

He is survived by wife, Peg (Margaret Gockowski); children, Kathy (Jeff) Weeks, Linda (Mark) Ficcardenti, Mike, Bob, Ron (Dawn), and Laura Mussehl; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held in Balsam Lake, Wis.

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City Files, District 12 from p. 2

age-specific play areas and adding plazas with seating and shade. Another option focuses on organic shapes for the play areas, with circuitous walks connecting them.

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting transformation of the South St. Anthony Park Play Area, aiming to create a more inclusive and engaging space for all community members to enjoy. Learn more at: bit.ly/southsap.

Upcoming Meetings

If you're interested in attending, please RSVP at bit.ly/sapccvoluter to receive an agenda and Zoom link before the meeting.

- Land Use Committee, 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 1
- District 12 Council, 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8
- Transportation Committee, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Environmental Committee, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 28
- Equity Committee, 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 29

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It was a soggy Fourth of July morning this year. But spectators and marchers in the annual 4th in the Park parade mostly dodged rain drops. Photos by Lou Michaels.

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