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April 2025

Luther Seminary pursuing partial campus property sale—again

By Scott Carlson

The on-again, off-again quest by Luther Seminary to sell a section of its campus grounds is back on again.

Seminary officials recently said their board of directors has contracted to sell its lower campus parcel to Edina-based developer Lifestyle Communities.

“The purchase agreement covers the entirety of the Lower Campus, which spans parcels in both Lauderdale and St. Paul,” the seminary said in a news release. “The property includes Northwestern Hall, Stub Hall and Breck Woods. A closing date is currently anticipated in 2026.”

Lifestyle Communities is a developer of multifamily, active-adult, and senior housing and is well known to St. Anthony Park. It previously built the Zvago Cooperative in St. Anthony Park, an active-adult community located next to Gullixson Hall at the east end of the seminary campus.

The seminary’s board of directors first approved a future sale of the Lower Campus in May 2018 as part of an overall campus redesign, with the goal of reinvesting the proceeds from the sale to support the seminary’s mission.

Information about the newest plans for the property and opportunities to learn more will be available as the project moves forward, the seminary said.

“At this time, we do not have a finalized concept or timeline for the site’s redevelopment,” said Heidi

Droegemueller, vice president for Seminary Relations. “Detailed information about the direction of the redevelopment will be shared as plans evolve.

“As we move forward, both Luther Seminary and Lifestyle Communities are committed to working closely with local officials and governing bodies to ensure a transparent public engagement process.”

One issue of major concern to the seminary’s residential neighbors is what happens to the Breck Woods, a natural forested area home to many kinds of birds and trees.

Cynthia Ahlgren and Ann Juergens, representatives for the citizens group Friends of Breck Woods, said in a statement, “More housing is needed in our community.” But they added the woods also need to be preserved, because they, among other things, help filter the groundwater, filter pollutants from the air and provide an essential green corridor for animal habitat.

In a statement to residents, Droegemueller said, “Lifestyle is committed to working with the city of Lauderdale on a redevelopment plan that preserves as much of the natural resources of the Breck Woods area as possible.



Luther Seminary could be in for a big change in the next couple of years. The religious education institution is trying again to sell its lower campus property as part of an overall campus redesign. Photo by Janet Wight.

She added, “As a reminder, Lauderdale zoning prevents development from occurring in the vast majority of the Woods.”

Last fall, the seminary noted it was looking to renew efforts to sell its lower campus.

“The board approved a future sale of the lower campus in May 2018 as part of an overall campus redesign. The current listing follows a period when the property was removed from active sale due to challenging market conditions. Any proceeds from a potential

sale (now) will be reinvested to support the seminary’s mission to educate leaders for Christian communities.”

For more information from the seminary, contact Rachel Farris, director of public relations, at farris@augsborg.edu or Ben Landhauser, executive vice president of Lifestyle Communities, at ben@thislifestyle.com. ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

Locally based federal worker fears the worst

“Our work has been denigrated constantly,” says government scientist

By Bill Brady

President Donald Trump’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has slashed thousands of federal government jobs in the first several weeks of his administration.

In some cases people have been quickly rehired. But in others, the cuts have been accompanied by promises of even more to come.

The situation has left many federal employees anxious.

Some of those employees live in St. Anthony Park and its adjoining neighborhoods and suburbs. The Park Bugle spoke with one of them,



A local federal worker said he’s uncertain if he will be able to hold onto his job in the wake of the Trump administration’s large-scale slashing of government spending. Photo by Bill Brady.

Federal worker to p. 3

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CITY FILES

Como and St. Anthony Park community councils news

District 10 Community Council

Spring cleanup at Como Park

District 10 will partner with the city of St. Paul to host a citywide spring cleanup on April 19 at Como Park. Meet at the Lakeside Pavillion from 9 to 11:30 a.m. that day.

Cleanup supplies will be provided to help get you going. For more information, check out District10 ComoPark.org/Cleanup.

Spring Art Crawl

The District 10 Como Community Council will host Como artists to

showcase their work at the Como Streetcar Station during the St. Paul Art Collective's Spring Art Crawl on Saturday, May 3. The streetcar station is located at 1224 Lexington Parkway.

Community garage sale coming

District 10 Council is once again coordinating a community garage sale from Thursday, May 15 to Sunday, May 18.

Sign up by May 12 if you would want to be included in the District 10 garage sale map. For more information or to sign up go to District10 ComoPark.org/GarageSale.

Orchard Recreation Center event coming

District 10 will host its annual free Pick Up & Party event from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 at the Orchard Recreation Center, 875 W. Orchard Ave.

Join the fun at the Orchard Rec for a free picnic dinner, kids activities, neighborhood cleanup, local organizations, community drain stenciling, and more! All are invited; for more info go to District10 ComoPark.org/SD4Event.

District 10 Community meetings/events schedule

- April 2 and 15, 7 p.m.—
District 10 Como
Community meeting

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. For meeting details, go to District10 ComoPark.org.

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public and allow time for community members to bring topics for discussion.

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee

District 12 Community Council

District 12 wins grant for Westgate Commons Park

District 12 has won a Good Neighbor Fund grant to launch its "Summer Activation Program" in 2025.

The \$12,500 grant for Westgate Commons Park, 717 Berry St., will fund a Park Activation coordinator, a bike safety instructor, native plants and basic equipment. The goal is to encourage neighbors to more fully use the park, boost safety along the adjacent bike trail and provide fun ways to connect to the outdoors.

"This grant is a huge boost for our plans," said District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill. "We can't wait to see folks enjoying the park, getting their hands dirty planting, and finding out just how easy it is to explore our neighborhood on two wheels."

As part of the planned activities, the District 12 Transportation Committee is gearing up to spotlight the Wabash bike trail, which winds around the park and connects to other paths in the area.

"We want people to know this trail exists," said Pat Thompson, co-chairperson of the Transportation Committee. "SAPCC partners and volunteers will be on hand at the park to help folks learn the route, practice safe riding, and discover all the ways our neighborhood is growing."

The Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) is an endowment managed by the University of Minnesota that's been helping local neighborhoods thrive since 2007.

District 12's GNF grant will help support two types of event days—"Activity Days" and "Pop-Up Play and Shade Days"—running from May through September.

On **Activity Days**, the SAPCC Environment Committee plans to

lead volunteers in planting native trees, weeding and beautifying the park in the mornings. In the afternoons, the Transportation Committee would team up with a Bike Safety Instructor to offer safety checks, group rides and trail etiquette tips.

On **Pop-Up Play and Shade Days**, the park will become a casual gathering spot—complete with shade structures, lawn games like cornhole and giant Jenga, and free art activities.

Kasota Ponds cleanup April 12

Lend a hand cleaning up litter from the Kasota Ponds wetlands from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 during this annual event hosted by Saint Anthony Park Community Council's Environment Committee. Located within the Bridal Veil Creek Subwatershed in North Saint Anthony Park, Kasota Ponds is home to a variety of turtles, migratory waterfowl, fish, songbirds, mammals, invertebrates, and pollinator-friendly plants.

Work gloves, safety vests, and trash bags will be provided. Learn more at sapcc.org.

This long-running volunteer effort has made a big impact. In past years, community members have cleared thousands of pounds of trash and debris from the area, improving both water quality and wildlife habitat. "It's amazing what a group of volunteers can accomplish in just a few hours," says Joy Gerdes, an event organizer.

City Files to p. 17



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Lauderdale continues pursuit of cannabis license

By Anne Holzman

In a process rushed by shifting state rules, the Lauderdale City Council recently decided to apply for a municipal cannabis license.

Preliminary approval will give the city 18 months to set up a cannabis business or decline the license.

At meetings in January and February, the City Council discussed three options: building and owning a cannabis dispensary; building one and then leasing it to a business

in exchange for rent; or negotiating a profit-sharing agreement with a lessee.

Not building anything at all remains an option as well. The rushed application came because city officials learned in early January that municipalities would have to apply at the same time as private businesses and faced a March 14 deadline to keep that option open.

At Lauderdale's direction, planning consultant Jennifer Haskamp last fall started viability research

for a municipal cannabis business. The city owns a small commercial lot at 2430 Larpenteur Ave., just west of Eustis, formerly the Roseville Service Garage. City leaders realized last summer that it might be an attractive spot for a cannabis business and began mulling whether they wanted to rent or sell that property.

At least two neighboring businesses have expressed interest in buying the lot for their expansion.

State law requires cities to allow one cannabis business for every

5,000 residents, so Lauderdale and Falcon Heights need to allow one.

Separately, Minnesota is among the first states to allow municipalities to host or run their own cannabis businesses; those do not count toward their allotments but can compete in the same markets.

Haskamp presented the market study from consultant Point7 at the Jan. 28 City Council meeting. She said the location and demographics of the area, including proximity to a large university and high commuter traffic, will likely attract a dispensary. The study proposed a "kiosk" model with a small building offering a walk-up window and one for pickup and delivery.

Based on that design, the study compared the ownership and rental business models. At the meet-

ing, Haskamp also elaborated on the possibilities for profit sharing, which she said "reduces risk while creating revenue potential."

The council discussed the matter briefly on Feb. 11 and directed staff to prepare a resolution to apply for the license. Council members on Feb. 25 unanimously adopted that resolution.

Council members noted the city is experiencing rising costs to provide public safety and should find other sources of revenue beyond property taxes. They also hope that if the city opens a dispensary, it will absorb the area market. ■

Anne Holzman is a freelance writer covering Falcon Heights and Lauderdale government news for the Bugle.

Federal worker from p. 1

a scientist who works for a federal agency. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Jamie" lives not far from a Roseville shopping district and works remotely. When interviewed in early March, Jamie still had a job but said, "There is no security. I think there is a reasonable chance that I will be fired in the next three months."

In February, department employees were told to expect mass layoff, Jamie said. Then weeks went by and only one person had been cut. But mixed messages from Washington continue to create anxiety.

"There is no clarity as to how many folks will be laid off," Jamie said. "Guidance has been confusing and contradictory. We continue to plan but it is hard to know what to prepare for, 10% reduction, 20%? Nobody knows and I am not confident anyone will let us know."

"Intentionally cruel"

Worse than the uncertainty has been what Jamie maintains is a callous and "intentionally cruel" tone to the pronouncements from the administration. It started with the first email from the new management team at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

According to Jamie, "It told us that we were all wasteful and had

to change. That we should leave the unproductive public sector and go be productive in the private sector. Our work has been denigrated constantly." (Calls and emails to OMB to confirm the email's content were not returned).

No one should be surprised at the disrespect, Jamie says, noting the new OMB director, Russell Vought, is a former Heritage Foundation executive who in the past has called not just for a smaller federal workforce, but for the demoralization of workers who remain.

"We want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected," Vought said in a 2023 speech at the Center for Renewing America (an organization he co-founded). "When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains ... We want to put them in trauma."

"Un-American"

Watching this speech on YouTube apparently had the desired effect on Jamie, who was left feeling dispirited and more than a little angry.

"I don't care what political affiliation you have, this is disgusting and really un-American," Jamie asserted. "I may not be particularly heroic, but I sure as hell am not a villain."

Jamie acknowledged the federal budget, as enormous as it is, undoubtedly has pockets of waste that should be addressed.

But at the same time, "there is a side to government where people are trying to do a good job and be good stewards of taxpayer money," he said. "I can't speak for the whole federal enterprise, but the people I see are working hard to get things done. They are smart and dedicated. For these folks, it's not just a job. It's a mission. To smash the whole thing with a sledgehammer is not a good approach."


"Look," Jamie continued, "I know RIFs happen, they happen relatively frequently in the private sector. (But) even the worst companies show some compassion for folks. I have never heard of a company taking such glee from doing something like this."

Jamie is looking at new job postings and may decide to leave before being fired.

Still, if that happens, "that would be very sad for me," Jamie said. "This has been a dream job. Everyone I work with is brilliant and dedicated to protecting the public. But I can't afford to be caught flat-footed." ■

Bill Brady is copy editor and occasional reporter for the Park Bugle.

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

An event worth watching

Did you see it?

No, I'm not talking about the recent State of the Union address or the Academy Awards or the kickoff to March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament.

I am referring to the total lunar eclipse that could be seen from many points in the Twin Cities skies, including Bugeland, during the early morning hours of Friday, March 14.

Astronomers note we get the chance to see—depending on cloud conditions—a total lunar

eclipse in north America about once every couple of years.

Quite by accident, I stumbled upon our most recent lunar eclipse. Credit my late-night push to wrap up writing and editing for the April Bugle to still being awake for the chance to see this amazing natural phenomenon.

At slightly after 1 a.m., my wife and I stepped out the front door of our house and gazed into the southern sky to see a black shadow starting to creep across the face of the full moon.

By about 2 a.m., the moon took on an orange glow as the color of the sun reflected on it.

We didn't stay up long enough to

see the total lunar eclipse come to an end. Still, we could legitimately say we had crossed off another life event off from our bucket list, as undoubtedly millions of people have over the centuries.

The beauty of the total lunar eclipse is it just happens. No disputing what it is. For all of us to see, no matter who we are or what status in life we occupy.

The total lunar eclipse allows us the opportunity to pause and marvel at the order and configuration of the world and, beyond us, the universe. We sense there is a higher power watching the wheels keep churning.

In this issue of the Bugle, you can read how three local poets took time to ponder life and reflect on life, the past, present and future. They are the winners of the Bugle's 15th annual poetry contest, a competition we hold locally recognizing April as national poetry month.

Meanwhile, please take the time to pause and reflect on the wide array of news and information that's packed in the other pages of this edition of the Bugle. We trust you will find good reading, whether you do it at 2 p.m. or 2 a.m. ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

Local agencies facing immigration funding crisis

By Jane McClure

President Donald Trump's extreme restrictions on immigration are having a major impact, especially at area agencies that operate refugee programs.

Trump signed an executive order halting the Refugee Admissions Program on his first day in office. The presidential act immediately disrupted efforts of refugee resettlement agencies around the nation.

The Refugee Admissions Program was established in 1980. It provides legal measures to help people who have been vetted to immigrate and find support.

Without the program's support, refugees who arrived in Minnesota within the last 90 days—who

were already extensively vetted, approved for resettlement and have work authorization—can no longer receive the critical services needed to begin new lives in safety.

The International Institute of Minnesota, like many agencies, had its federal resettlement contract cancelled.

"We're committed to trying to honor the promise made by the U.S. government to help the refugees already here with funding from donors and supporters," institute leaders said in a statement. "There have been no interruptions in classroom activities, workforce training or legal services. We're in a difficult moment right now, but clients and students keep showing up every day. If they can, we can too."

"The halt to existing funding

could be catastrophic for refugees who recently arrived in Minnesota. We will not abandon our clients, but community help is essential," said Jane Graupman, executive director of the International Institute of Minnesota.

The Institute welcomed 183 individuals in the past 90 days who are currently receiving services, as of late January. This number is significantly higher across Minnesota and the country.

"The goal of our work is to help clients become self-sufficient as quickly as possible," Graupman said. "Without providing support in these critical first months of arrival, people are essentially left stranded. We cannot abandon refugees as they adjust to a new life in a new country."

In mid-February, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota eliminated more than two dozen staff positions after the Trump administration's suspended the Refugee Admissions Program. LSS Minnesota aids refugees through services including housing and employment.

Senior Vice President of Services Alexis Oberdorfer said in a statement, "With no federal funding for refugee resettlement services, we are in the unfortunate position of having to reduce our staffing for this work." ■

Jane McClure is a Twin Cities freelance writer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Community Partners, The Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation has long recognized that our nonprofit partners are among the most essential agents and agencies of change in service to Minnesota. You not only share our aspiration for an equitable, just and vibrant Minnesota where all communities and people thrive, but you also work tirelessly to make this vision a reality.

These are challenging times. We understand the uncertainty caused by the shifting political landscape, executive orders and interrupted federal funding, and we share your concerns for our communities' safety and future.

It is in this context that I write to assure you that the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation remains unwavering in support of your work to build a resilient and inclusive community that advances our aspirations for everyone.

Together, with a strong community of donors, and in partnership with organizational, political and nonprofit leaders, we will demonstrate that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility are common-sense principles that when accomplished, create positive outcomes for our communities, organizations and nation.

Equity is an essential component of justice in our nation and remains a long-standing value of the Foundation. In that light we will continue to stand with immigrant communities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and the many who feel threatened by unprecedented challenges to their place in our community. We join our peers and partners who are working to protect democracy, civil liberties and everyone's right to peace.

I've often said that: One first step toward justice is the courageous recognition of injustice. Our next step is action.

Our actions to advance diverse narratives, dismantle hierarchies of human value, accelerate racial equity and support your work and values toward building the just and vibrant Minnesota we desire will continue.

Please know we will stand with you to protect the space, voice, capacity and actions needed to advance the quality of life for all Minnesotans. I've shared some of the current actions we are taking in a recent blog post, with full awareness that the months and years ahead will necessitate many more.

Eric J. Jolly
President of the St. Paul and
Minnesota Foundation

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.

May: Home & Garden guide

Copy/ad deadline: Apr. 9
Publication: Apr. 22

June: SAP Arts Festival

Copy/ad deadline: May 14
Publication: May 27

July: Graduation recognition

Copy/ad deadline: June 11
Publication: June 24

Some local churches take immigrant outreach underground

By Bill Brady

In the face of slashed federal funding and heightened deportation patrols, immigrant outreach by the local religious community is changing in ways visible and invisible.

Visibly, there is a renewed emphasis on activities such as the monthly prayer vigils outside the regional headquarters of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Ft. Snelling. Invisibly, a cone of silence has descended upon many church-sponsored activities aimed at helping recent arrivals to America.

Several faith communities and agencies contacted for this story

declined to comment on what they are doing, where they are doing it and when.

"Harriet Tubman didn't carry a trumpet, and neither do we," said one source.

Many of these organizations have halted written communication with their own constituents for fear of attracting unwanted attention.

One organization, Arrive Ministries of Minnesota, did send an email in early March to alert supporters that its contract with the U.S. State Department had been terminated. Arrive is one of 10 refugee resettlement organizations to be jettisoned from a program that had been in place for 45 years with largely bipartisan support.

Despite the blow to their budget, Arrive's leaders maintain their mission is unchanged.

"We stand proud of and thankful for the 12,108 men, women, and children we have welcomed with the love of Jesus since 1988," stated the email, signed by executives Rebekah Phillips and Wendy Meyer. "We will not stop advocating for refugee resettlement as an expression of God's command to welcome the stranger."

Vigils continue

Similar commitment is evident with the Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, sponsors of the monthly prayer vigils outside the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal

Building at Ft. Snelling. The 7:30 a.m. vigils have been taking place on the second Tuesday of every month for at least six years, but are seeing a resurgence of interest this year.

People of "any faith and no particular faith" join for an hour of prayer and song, according to MNICOM's web site. A rotating cast of faith communities and social justice groups supply speakers, whose job is to provide attendees with "concrete opportunities" to advocate for immigrant detainees. The March speaker lineup featured Craig Loya, Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota. The next vigil is scheduled for April 8.

Postscript: As this story was going to press, the Minnesota Department

of Human Services announced a new Refugee and Immigrant Helpline to connect people to information, resources and supports in their local communities. The hyperlink is <https://mn.gov/dhs/refugee-and-immigrant-helpline/>. Callers to 1-800-814-4806 are promised to receive "guidance people can trust," with navigators ready to answer questions in English, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and other languages upon request. ■

Bill Brady is copy editor and occasional reporter for the Bugle.

COMMENTARY

Making St Paul affordable again

By Jane Prince and Gary Todd

St. Paul homeowners have endured steep increases in property taxes over the past decade, a new 1% increase in the sales tax over this past year and an increase in the franchise fees that all residents pay through their utility bills.

But wait, there's more. A decreasing property tax base downtown will shift even more of the property tax burden to renters and homeowners in coming years.

At the same time, proposals for giant new facilities like the River Balcony downtown, the Mississippi River Learning Center and a regional athletic center will require many millions of dollars to build and yet more property tax dollars to service, operate and maintain.

How are regular folks living in St. Paul going to cope financially with this?

Let's tell our elected officials to get a grip on the financial ability of residents to pay for all of these nice things to have as opposed to the things we need.

We need good roads and bridges and sidewalks, sewers and water lines, and park facilities that are well-maintained. We need good public safety—police, fire and emergency services. And we need

vibrant business districts in every community in St. Paul.

How do we make St. Paul affordable again?

Let's stop spending money on things we don't need. For example, we don't need a Mississippi River Learning Center when Fort Snelling State Park is nearby and provides the same opportunities.

We don't need a River Balcony when the nearby Kellogg Mall is under-utilized. We don't need a new regional athletic center when we can use our existing recreational facilities.

And we don't need to redo the Como Pavilion when residents have already said they don't want major changes in the building.

Let's pause investment in these large new facilities until we know more about whether we can afford

them. Let's direct our efforts and spending back to the core city services that serve all residents and businesses.

Let's secure payments in lieu of taxes from those large non-profit institutions within our city that don't pay property taxes. Why shouldn't they cover the cost of basic city services they use, such as police, fire and emergency services, and snow plowing and street maintenance?

Let's evaluate the city's use of Tax Increment Financing Districts that drain the city of property taxes and shift the tax burden to renters and homeowners.

Let's prepare ourselves to see reductions in funding coming from the state and federal governments. The city has been receiving significant funding from them. Any reductions will automatically mean

higher property taxes unless our elected officials cut unnecessary services and staff.

We need to get smarter and prepare ourselves for a financially uncertain future, but we have yet to see nearly enough concern from our mayor or City Council members about the rocky road that lies ahead. Call them and tell them to wake up! ■

Jane Prince and Gary Todd are co-chairs of In\$ight St. Paul, a non-partisan fiscal watchdog group concerned about the future of the city. Prince was a St. Paul City Council member from 2015 to 2023. Todd is chair of Save Our Streets in St. Paul and a retired project manager for Thomson Reuters.

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Bugle's 2025 Poetry Contest provides joy and perseverance

By Sarah CR Clark

First Place: "How to Ignore Math Homework"

Second Place: "Aubade: Starting Over"

Third Place: "The Caterpillar"

What an honor it has been to read and judge the poems submitted to the Bugle's 15th annual poetry contest.

In February, managing editor Scott Carlson challenged poets to write pieces inspired by the words "joy" and "perseverance."

In the 12 submitted poems JOY burst from roses, springtime, the divine, and baseball while PERSEVERANCE was revealed through mothers, lighthouses, trees and growing older. Some of this year's entries were praise poems, some

employed humor, and one played with the acrostic form.

(Editor's note: All poems were submitted anonymously to Sarah)

First place winner

I chose "How to Ignore Math Homework" as the winning poem because the poet masterfully incorporated—in a wonderfully understated way—both of this year's theme words.

The child-like speaker of the poem shows great perseverance in ignoring their math homework. As a reader, I was immediately drawn to the deep sense of joy found in the poem's list of ordinary distractions; a strand of hair, a Cheerio, ants, a garden hose, and a myriad of other charming things that in no way includes math.

The poet took me on a wandering ramble through their microcosm of house and yard and I immediately felt like I was 9 years old again, avoiding my own math homework, finding simple joy in everything except for the task at hand.

I appreciated this poet's use of simple language to create movement and wonderfully vivid images. And what a satisfying end; a mother's voice and the longing to be free.

Second place winner

Our second place poet immediately sent me to a dictionary to look up the word 'aubade' (a song or poem greeting the dawn). This morning poem captures a fleeting vibe that leaves a lingering, wistful kind of joy.

Phrases like, "I slipper through the house" and "the lustrous white ceiling ... summons all the sum-

mer porches" not only add a softness to the poem but also sound amazing when read out loud.

This gentle morning song feels like a fragile secret; quiet slipper-ing through the house, a solo mug of coffee, and the one present voice a whisper so that the neighbor will remain unaware. It's a quiet joy, indulgent and well-practiced.

Perseverance shows up in the end as the poet reveals that each aubade must end with "the petty imperfections/ of the coming day" and yet, the speaker will rise again and again to greet each morning anew.

Third place winner

The third place poem was simply a delight. How many times have I seen a caterpillar crossing the sidewalk? Many. How many times have I thought of that caterpillar as

either brave or obese? Never. But maybe I've been wrong to not.

This poet points out that nature demands incredible perseverance. Of the caterpillar, "there was purpose to his movement/ despite the dangers/ the unknowns/ the challenges." The poet concludes with a bit of self reflection, "I ponder if I would have taken the risk." And aren't we all asking the same question of ourselves, dear neighbors?

May we all find great joy and practice good perseverance. Happy National Poetry Month! ■

Sarah CR Clark lives in St. Anthony Park and is a regular contributor the Bugle. She recently took some time off from the Bugle to pursue a Poetry Apprenticeship through the Loft Literary Center.



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SCHOOL NEWS

School news around the town

Compiled by Khalid Mohamed

St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Student Read-a-Thon

Submitted by Sara Shepard, SAP School Association communications.

Students at St. Anthony Park Elementary School read 442,114 minutes during their 2-week Read-a-Thon in February!

By exceeding the schoolwide goal of 300,000 minutes, students earned an interesting reward—Frost the Wolf, the school mascot, will be principal for a day! He has already announced some popular policies, like extra recess for all classes.

PACER Center puppet program

Submitted by Principal Karen Duke.

In February, the PACER Center Puppet Program shared its show “Count Me In” for students in kin-



Principal Karen Duke, Library Teaching Assistant Tony Watson, and mascot Frost the Wolf. Submitted photo.

ergarten to second grade. The Puppet Program children actors shared scenes from schools in which they learned ways to be inclusive of all

students, learned more about others’ disabilities and learned that all students can participate in learning and friendships at school.



Puppet children showcased in the “Count Me In” show. Submitted photo.

Murray Middle School

Olsen is music grant winner

Murray Middle School is celebrating band teacher Danae Olsen for winning this year’s Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) Music grant.

A colleague described Olsen’s

work as “astounding,” especially in the face of limited resources and current St. Paul Public School District budget cuts.

“She has such a passion for bringing accessible music education to a

School News around the town to p. 13

Como Park Senior High School news

Como students take a ‘Close Up’ look at Washington, D.C.

By Eric Erickson
News analysis

Eighteen Como students, now studying AP Government and AP Economics, spent the last week of February in Washington, D.C., as participants in a national program facilitated by the nonpartisan Close Up Foundation.

This annual Como tradition brings students together from across the nation to engage in civil discourse while examining the cornerstones of our democracy. During their trip, the students visited monuments, memorials and citizen action sites, and also participated in a mock congress.

In school, Como students learn the U.S. contains a range of politi-

cal ideology much wider than the halls of their St. Paul school. But during the Close Up program, the Como students had face-to-face discussions that prompted critical thinking and analysis of issues.

Students learned to articulate why they believe what they believe, gaining knowledge and skills to preserve and impact the nation’s democracy.

Students spent three days with their mixed Close Up groups touring and examining the messages of memorials such as Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King, Jr., Lincoln, World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

The Como group also had time to explore the Smithsonian Museums, visit Arlington

National Cemetery and see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, plus stops in different Washington neighborhoods.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, Como students experienced a memorable day on Capitol Hill. They observed the Senate Agricultural, Nutrition and Forestry Committee discussing the impact of proposed budget cuts, with Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar speaking as the Democrats’ ranking member.

After touring the U.S. Capitol and rotunda, Como students had a policy meeting with Minnesota’s other Senator, Tina Smith, who responded to their questions and concerns. Then the Como delegation visited the House of Representatives chamber for a viewing from the gallery.

Como students to p. 18



Como AP Government students with Congresswoman Betty McCollum after their meeting in her Capitol Hill office. Photo courtesy of Congresswoman McCollum’s staff.

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Senior Living

St. Anthony Park program connects seniors

By Janet Wight

Lifelong learning, improved health and companionship are among key benefits of participating in programs offered by St. Anthony Park Area Seniors (SAPAS).

These activities afford residents the opportunity to connect with others and to build social relationships close to home.

Program Director Katharine Tondra explained, “Our activities not only provide the activity itself, but also a chance for seniors to meet and visit with other seniors in the community. Both are important!”

One of these activities is the Handiwork Group, formed in January 2024. It is the brainchild of SAPAS board member and long-time crafting aficionado Karen Gill-Gerbig. Crafters meet to work on their individual projects (including knitting, cross-stitch, crochet, embroidery and more) while enjoying wide-ranging conversation and mutual encouragement.

Gill-Gerbig relishes being a member of this group. “They are just a delightful group of people and they have all kinds of wonderful and interesting backgrounds,” she said.



The Handiwork Group enables seniors to work on various knitting projects and also build friendship connections. Submitted photo St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

The Handiwork Group meets on the second Thursday of the month in the basement of the St. Anthony

Park Branch Library, at 2245 Como Ave., from 10:00 am until noon. Crafters of all ages and skill



Pound Fit, also known as Pound, is a fast-paced, full-body cardio workout using Ripstix®, which are lightly weighted drumsticks. Submitted SAP Area Seniors.

levels are welcome to attend these gatherings.

Additionally, several wellness activities are offered by SAPAS. For example, Pound Fit is an exercise class taught by AFAA certified group fitness instructor Mike LimBybliw.

Pound Fit, also known as Pound, is a fast-paced, full-body cardio workout using Ripstix®, which are

lightly weighted drumsticks, LimBybliw said.

This free class meets each Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 W. Hillside Ave. This site is fully accessible and is equipped with an elevator and a wheelchair ramp.

This highly modifiable workout is suitable for all ages, fitness levels

SAP seniors to p. 12



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Senior Living

North Dale seniors take charge with activity programs

By Kathy Henderson

Older adult programs at the North Dale Recreation Center are unique because community members started those activities themselves.

The free weekly programs include Senior Fitness, knit and crochet, and Senior Gamers groups, all operating as self-directed, activities, said Ari Dahlager, community recreation director for the North Dale, Northwest Como and Langford centers.

While the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Center in the Como Park neighborhood provides space, scheduling and a check-in process, no staff members are assigned to lead or monitor the activity, Dahlager said. However, there is a \$3 fee for senior and adult pickleball, he said.

No matter what the activity is at



Older adults take the lead in directing and running a number of activities at the North Dale Recreation Center including Senior Fitness, knit and crochet and Senior Gamers. Photos by Kathy Henderson.



North Dale, the participants uniformly and emphatically agree that socialization is as important

to them as the activity itself. All emphasized their group welcomes new members.

The Senior Fitness exercise group acknowledges that they typically have one person who leads

them each week, but if she is away, they can keep going without her. "We're here to exercise, but we do lots of talking in this room, too," one member said. "We talk about what books we're reading, recommend restaurants to each other and provide shopping tips."

The knitting and crocheting group meets on the main level at the North Dale center. Participants good naturedly chat and laugh, as they spread out their individual projects and colorful skeins of yarn around a large table, each working on their own creation.

Their projects vary. One may be working on a scarf, another a baby blanket, and still another a tiny cap that a hospital will be able to have on hand to give to parents of preemie newborn. A new apartment for a friend inspires one to work on an afghan to celebrate the move.

It's a bit quieter during the action of Senior Gamers board games or cards playing. But between hands or games, there also is plenty of talking and laughter in this room.

Even though Pickleball is considered a competitive sport, the North Dale Tuesday noontime players are a friendly bunch. Between matches, player Renee offered a shout out to prospective players to give it a try: "You can show up with nothing and people will lend you a paddle and adjust their game to the level of beginners."

Paul Mccarrick, a pickleball enthusiast who recreationally plays pickleball with his wife at several area locations, joked, "We like to win."

But he added, "I sleep okay even if I lose."

North Dale's current schedule is available at stpaul.gov/facilities/north-dale-recreation-center. ■

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

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Senior Living

April SAP history talk features U's St. Paul campus

By Mary Mergenthal

The architecture of the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus will be the subject of Kristin Anderson's April St. Anthony Park history talk.

Anderson, professor emerita of Art & Design at Augsburg University, will conduct her free talk at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. She is a long-time resident of St. Anthony Park and has been taking neighborhood residents and friends on free monthly visual tours of SAP history for over two years.

In Anderson's next talk, attendees and viewers can take a photographic tour of the beautiful campus grounds, looking at old and new buildings. She will also point out how the campus has adapted to meet the changing needs of the university.

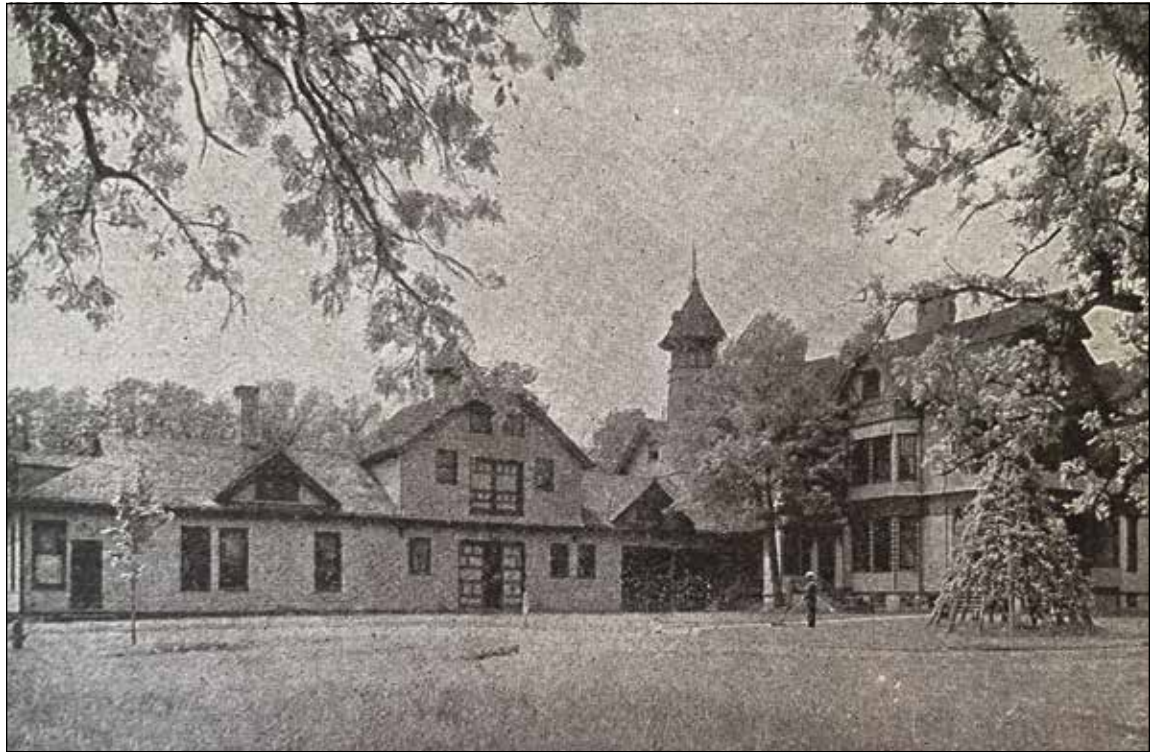
In the early 1880s, the Univer-

sity of Minnesota abandoned its initial plans for an agricultural school near its Minneapolis campus. With the purchase of a farm at Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues, the St. Paul campus got its start.

Over the next 140 years, the campus has grown alongside the adjacent St. Anthony Park neighborhood, which has provided housing and community for faculty, staff and students.

Besides Anderson's in-person session at the church, her talk will be accessible live online, with a recording available for one week after the session. Use the SAPLC youtube channel at [Bit.ly/Sap-history](https://bit.ly/Sap-history). You can also find the church's youtube channel by clicking through from [Saplc.org](https://saplc.org) to the Worship link, and then to the livestream link.

Anderson's history of Commonwealth Avenue presentation, postponed in January, has been rescheduled to 7 p.m. on Tuesday,



"Residence of the Agriculturist," in Cram's Superior Reference Atlas of Minnesota and the World (1907). From the collection of Kristin Anderson.

April 29. Live location and online access details are the same.

The final SAP history session on Hampden Park is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13. ■

Mary Mergenthal, who lives in St. Anthony Park, is a former editor of the Bugle and is the Bugle's current obits editor.

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Senior Living

A senior moment from a Bugle poet

This year's annual Bugle poetry contest attracted various poems with a few reflecting on longevity and perseverance.

Besides our three winning poems on page 7 of this month's Bugle, here is one additional poem:

Getting Up There

Gail Peterson

I was young for 80 years,
But I'm growing old fast
now.
I can see it in my fallow face,

In my lined and wrinkled
brow.

I see it in my craggy hands,
My knobby knees and feet.
I hear it when my voice
runs dry.

And I need a bib now
when I eat!!

I stand up slow from sitting
down,
Then tend to shuffle when
I walk.
I blank on names I used to
know,
And on words I need to talk.

I forget, sometimes, what
day it is,
Or the month, or the time
of year.
I need to jot down memory
aids,
So keep a pen and Post-Its
near.

Can't work as hard as I once
could;
I get so doggone tuckered
out,
I have to go back in and
take a nap,

Or have a long timeout.

Don't care that much to
drive the car.
I hate to take long trips.
I'd rather stay home and
watch TV,
And eat potato chips.

I read the paper every day,
Check the names in the
obits.
Now and then, I see a
friend's;
So far, mine's not made
that list.

But it will someday, as
indeed it must,
That much is sure enough.
But 'til it does, guess I'll go
on just
Lovin' life and hangin'
tough.

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SAP seniors from p. 9

and backgrounds. No prior experience is necessary and there are no prerequisites.

"Everything is about inclusion and teaching to everybody and everybody," he explained.

LimBybliw invites anyone interested to "come as you are" and have fun while connecting with other seniors and older adults.

Equal Portions: Food, Friendship and Fun is a popular monthly social gathering for those interested in engaging with others. Participants enjoy a catered lunch followed by an enriching program with plenty of time for conversation and connection.

Recent programs have included musical performances, a crop art demonstration, a cybersecurity presentation and a discussion about Gibbs Farm, the Ramsey County Historical Society site located in Falcon Heights.

Equal Portions, which draws 15 to 30 participants, is held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., on the third Thursday of each month from noon until 1:30 p.m.

The meals are provided by Creative Catering at a cost of \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required and most dietary preferences can be accommodated.

SAPAS also offers a variety of essential services to area seniors. These include transportation to medical appointments, assistance with chores, blood pressure checks and computer support.

For further information regarding SAPAS programs and services visit sapaseniors.org. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

Library Corner
sponsored by
St. Anthony Park Branch
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LIBRARY CORNER

St. Anthony Park Library set for temporary closing

By Scott Carlson

The St. Anthony Park Library will temporarily close April 7 through mid-June for needed repairs and maintenance to both of the building entrances.

In a recent news release, library officials said the repairs are necessary to ensure the building is safely accessible to all patrons.

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

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

While the SAP library is temporarily closed, patrons can visit any library in St. Paul, including nearby Rondo Community and Merriam Park libraries. Starting April 7, Merriam Park Library will open at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

Any items checked out when the SAP library closes on April 7 will have their return date extended to June 30, 2025.



Entrances at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library are among items that will be repaired while the building is closed for several weeks until sometime in June. Photos by Janet Wight.



The St. Anthony Park Library is an Andrew Carnegie facility that dates back to 1917. Photo by Janet Wight.

For the moment, St. Anthony Park is not an option to select when choosing a location to pick up your holds, library officials said. Pick-up locations can be changed or holds suspended by logging into your account at sapla.org.

No used book sale, but SAP Arts Festival still on

One major impact due to the library’s closing: The SAP annual library used book sale, which was scheduled for June 7, has been cancelled.

“We greatly regret not being able to hold our annual used book sale this year,” said Rita La Doux, chairperson of the SAP Branch Li-

brary Association board. “But the logistics of moving this event to another venue: the months-long book collection and pre-sorting, the physical set-up that takes about 40 volunteers over a full week in the library auditorium, and finding a location that would allow us to take over their space for all that time, makes it too much of a challenge to move the sale to another location.

“SAPBLA looks forward to holding the next book sale in June 2026,” La Doux said.

However, the annual SAP Arts Festival will be held at the library grounds on Saturday, June 7.

“We are making a few adjustments of booth placement, but Festival Director Anna Gaseitsiwe is confident there will be little disruption to the Arts Festival,” La Doux said. “A few artists booths will be relocated for this year.”

The music stage on the library lawn will be in the usual location on June 7, and the library association will have a booth to welcome Arts Fest attendees ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle

School News around the town from p. 8

diverse student body in a way that is relatable and fun,” the teacher said.

The \$1,000 grant is dedicated to public-school orchestras and band programs and can be used for instruments, music and supplies. GTCYS received 170 nominations on behalf of 56 school music programs during its nomination period in January.

Murray Middle School Performances

Murray Middle School hopes to send students to state level com-

petitions for State History Day on Sunday, Apr. 27.

Murray Middle also had scheduled three student performances of Beetlejuice, Jr., for March 21-23.

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Third annual Festival of Cultures


The German Immersion school celebrated its third annual Festival of Cultures in February to great success with a high turnout of visitors.

The festival was highlighted by cultural displays from TCGIS families, nine cultural performances and a Henna artist. The event showcased the school’s commitment to educating children about different cultures to spread global awareness and appreciation. ■

Khalid Mohamed is a junior studying journalism at the University of Minnesota.




TGCIS students celebrating the Festival of Cultures in the school gymnasium. Submitted photo.



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Dr. Justa Heinen-Kay, MBA, co-director of BrightSide Produce, is a co-founder of the MidCity Farmers Market. This market hosts a mix of local farmers, food producers, chefs, artists, and musicians on Wednesday nights.





Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7-8pm
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More information at sapbla.org.

EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson



The artwork of Kurt Schulzetenberg, a Plein Air painter, will be featured at the boreal Art Loft in April. An artist's reception is set for 5 to 7 p.m. on April 4. *Submitted photo.*

Art**boréal Art Loft**

Kurt Schulzetenberg, a Plein Air painter, is the April featured artist.

Plein Air is artwork created outdoors on location, not in a studio, to reflect the time of day and sense of place.

View Schulzetenberg's work in the art loft at 2276 Como Ave. during boréal regular business hours: Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of Minnesota**Women's Club**

Spring art exhibit opening reception, 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 6, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. The exhibit runs through May 26 on the church's lower level. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Goldstein Museum of Design

"Old Type, New Ways: Work from the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum" continues through May 17 at the Goldstein Gallery, 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., University of Minnesota-St. Paul



Campus. Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Climate Resilient Gardening presented by Ramsey County Master Gardeners. 6:30 p.m. meeting; 7 p.m. social time; 7:30 p.m. program on Tuesday, April 1, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Enter the building via Luther Place door.

Bell Museum

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. See website for regular museum hours, planetarium schedule, admission charges and registration: bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Star Party

9 to 10:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4. Telescopes (weather permitting) and hands-on activities. Free planetarium tickets available at the front desk on first-come basis. Museum galleries are not open during this event. Free, but registration required.

Community Sing

Musician Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed lead a community sing at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 21, at St. Matthew's

Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Not a choir; all singing abilities welcome. Free.

Como Zoo and Conservatory

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

Spring Flower Show

Continues through April 27 and from May 2 through June 8. The first installation highlights flowers in shades of lavender, light blue, pink and peach.

Senior Strolls

New: online registration is no longer required. 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, and 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15. Special time reserved for adults ages 55 and older.

Blaze Sparky show

Daily at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in the KSTP Amphitheater.

Party for the Planet

Saturday, April 19, and Sunday, April 20. The two-day weekend celebration in recognition of Earth Day features crafts, games and educational programs. Sponsored by Xcel Energy.

Women's Drum Center Corrective Movement for Drummers

A one-hour session focusing on stretch and strength activities to enhance stick and hand drumming abilities. Led by American Council on Exercise (ACE) certified group fitness instructor Allie Birdseye-Hannula. 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at 2242 University Ave. W. \$25. Registration and details at womensdrumcenter.org.

Ramsey County Environmental Center

Open house on Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1700 Kent St., Roseville. Fix-It Clinic, Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The new facility, scheduled to open April 1, will include a household hazardous waste drop off; electronics, food scraps and household recycling; and a free product reuse room. Details at ramseycounty.us.

U of M Mini Medical School

The Heart of Health, an engaging three-part online series for the non-medical public, will be presented by University of Minnesota's leading experts in cardiovascular care and research. Online from 5 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 16, 23 and 30; recorded and available for viewing afterwards.

Topics: Lifestyle, Equity and Prevention in Heart Health, April 16. The Heart and the Body-Interconnected Health, April 23. Innovation and the Future of Heart Care, April 30. Free. Register at <https://clinicalaffairs.umn.edu/heart-health>.

Ramsey County Library

"Great Decisions" online events: "American Foreign Policy in the Middle East" with Henry Berman from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 11. "International Cooperation on Climate Change" with Edmund Downie from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 25.

The four-part online "Theodore Roosevelt" discussion with J. B. Andersen takes place from 12:30

to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 23 and 30 and May 7 and 14.

Register at rclreads.org or by phone at 651-724-6001 ext. 3.

U of M St Paul Campus future strategy

In May, a University of Minnesota advisory task force is scheduled to deliver a comprehensive strategy for the future of the U's St. Paul Campus. The scope includes "land use; student services; green, retail and event space; and facility changes to be a catalyst for new opportunities and effectively position it as a destination of innovation."

In anticipation of the upcoming strategy presentation, the U provides an online pictorial history of the St. Paul campus, including that "In 1882, the University bought 155 acres of farmland in St. Anthony Park to have one dedicated site for agriculture, forestry, home economics and extension services." Take a look at <https://brief.umn.edu/feature/beginnings-our-metropolitan-meadow>.

Ramsey County Historical Society**History Revealed—Selma 70**

Panel discussion with some of the 70 people who traveled in 1965 from St. Paul to Selma, Alabama, to fight for civil rights and justice.

"Bloody Sunday," named for the landmark march by over 500 civil rights demonstrators that was violently broken up at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, became the foundation for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of that year. Find out firsthand about their experiences, reflections and lessons learned. 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, at Landmark Center, 75 Fifth St. W., downtown St. Paul.

Free, but ticket registration required at rchs.com.

Senior activities

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors (SAPAS) offers a mixture of in-person and virtual activities during April. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. Office phone number: 651-642-9052.

In person activities include:

- **Pound Fit:** exercise class. 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Email sc@sapaseniors.org to register.

Events to p. 15



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[parkbugle.org/
event-submission](http://parkbugle.org/event-submission)

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.

Collaboration Lab launches neighborhood projects

By Tracy Kugler

Exciting new projects are underway thanks to the Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park Collaboration Lab.

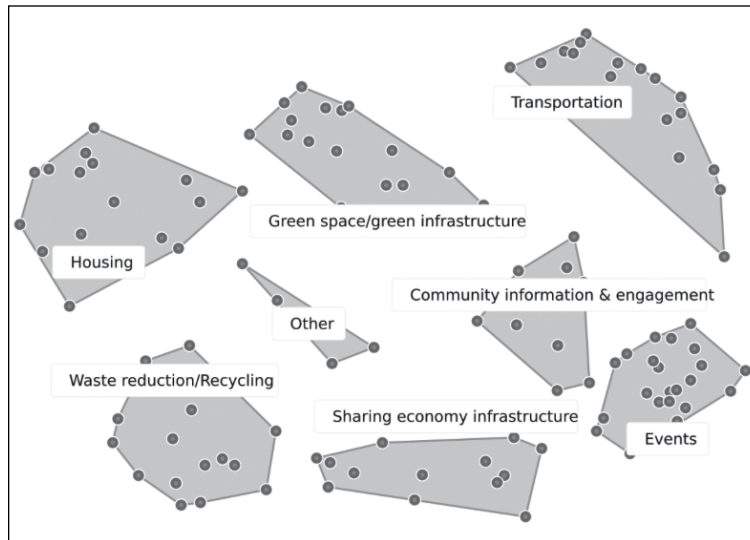
Last winter, community members gathered twice to develop ideas for neighborhood projects that foster better relationships with each other, with our more-than-human neighbors and with broader social and ecological systems.

Participants brainstormed over 100 project ideas. Each person then organized the ideas into related groups and ranked them in terms of impact, feasibility and their own personal commitment.

Group concept map

The individual groupings were summarized to create a “group concept map.” Each point on the map represents a project idea. The more individuals placed two ideas in the same group, the closer those two points are to each other.

Clusters of nearby points are grouped together to identify overall themes. Our group concept map includes eight themes: 1) housing, 2) green space/green infrastructure, 3) transportation, 4) waste



A group concept map organized the brainstormed ideas into eight themes. *Graphic courtesy of Transition Town-All St. Anthony Park.*

reduction/recycling, 5) sharing economy infrastructure, 6) community information and engagement, 7) events, and 8) an “other” category including ideas that tended to be grouped inconsistently.

Working groups

Groups then organized themselves around themes they were interested in and began planning selected projects. Four working groups emerged. If you are interested in getting involved with their work,

please contact the person listed for the group.

Housing: This group is exploring options for networked geothermal systems to provide carbon-free heating to clusters of homes. Ideas include working with Cooperative Energy Futures on a bulk purchase of groundwater source heat pumps for homes along Cleveland Avenue, or considering networked geothermal for new development on the Luther Seminary lower campus.

The group will also continue on-going TT-ASAP work around education and resource sharing for home electrification. Contact Tim Spanier, tspanier11@yahoo.com.

Green space: This group aims to cultivate the biocultural uniqueness of St. Anthony Park by enhancing tree canopy and other green spaces. The first step is to identify areas around the neighborhood where new trees or gardens could be planted.

The group is also continuing efforts to advocate for more eco-friendly options for the University’s Les Bolstad golf course. Contact Mark Robinson, markarobinson@hotmail.com.

Transportation: This group is working to make transit, biking and walking more approachable. Initial projects include creating posters to be displayed at local businesses showing where you could get to in 30 minutes using transit, walking and biking; and hosting a program to let community members experience an e-bike lifestyle by borrowing an e-bike for a week.

Other ideas include identifying sites in front of local business for city-installed bike racks and orga-

nizing group bus/and train rides to help people get familiar with transit options. Contact Pat Thompson, pat@marksimonson.com.

Waste reduction and recycling: This group plans to talk to local restaurants and groceries about their food waste practices; establish Terracycle sites in the neighborhood (sites for recycling hard-to-recycle products); and organize tours of recycling facilities such as Eureka, WestRock cardboard recycling, and St. Paul’s municipal compost processing. Contact Margot Monson, mpmonson.insx@gmail.com.

Explore the full set of brainstormed ideas and the impact, feasibility, and personal commitment ranking data on the TT-ASAP website at www.transitionasap.org/collaboration-lab. If you are inspired by another project idea and want to connect with others to work on it, contact Tracy Kugler, takugler@gmail.com. ■

Tracy Kugler lives in the Como Park neighborhood and loves trees, birds and maps. She is a research scientist in the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation at the University of Minnesota.

Events from p. 14

- **Game day:** Coffee and board games. 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Friday, April 4, and Tuesday, April 22, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W.
 - **Handiwork:** Note: Change from library location: 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 10, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Bring your own supplies and drop in to knit, crochet, embroider and socialize with your neighbors. Contact the office for more information.
 - **Poetry group:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 11, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Contact the office for more information.
 - **Healthcare directives drop-in workshop:** Complete your own healthcare directive. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.
 - **Equal Portions:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Catered luncheon and presentation. \$15. Contact the office to register by April 9.
- Virtual:
- **Lunch Bunch:** Socializing and BINGO. Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9. Call the office for Zoom link.

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



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LIVES LIVED

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

Dolores Burtness

Dolores Leiseth Burtness, 96, died Feb. 16, 2025, in Redmond, Oregon.

She was raised in Fargo-Moorhead and moved in high school to the wartime public housing city of Vanport, Oregon. She was the first in her family to attend college, and met Jim Burtness early in her first year at St. Olaf.

Dolores taught Latin for a year in Portland, Oregon, then moved back to Minnesota after marrying Jim. She taught and was a school librarian in Edina.

After taking time off to raise her family, Dolores earned a Master of Arts in Bible at Luther Seminary. She taught Greek and worked at the Luther library while teaching religion classes at Augsburg College.

Dolores and Jim were long-time members of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. She made Norwegian meatballs every Christmas with the special ground mix from Speedy Market. Their homes in St. Anthony Park were warm gathering spots for their wide circle of friends, family and seminary colleagues. Dolores moved back to Oregon in 2018.

Dolores was predeceased by husband Jim and son, Steve. She is survived by Eric Burtness (Margaret), Redmond, Oregon; Deborah Hille (Wally) Gem Lake, Minnesota; and Peter Burtness (Michele) Westfield, New Jersey; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Eugene Bush

Eugene Michael "Mike" Bush, 80, Falcon Heights, died Feb. 26, 2025.

Born Aug. 8, 1944, in St. Paul, Mike grew up in Northeast Minneapolis and attended John Marshall High School. From 1962 to 1966, he served in the U.S. Naval Air Corps aboard the USS Ticonderoga CVA-14.

Throughout his career as a documentation specialist, Mike wrote a variety of technical manuals, but his true professional love was photography. A consummate traveler, Mike was always seeking beauty through the lens of his camera.

Through his business, Adventure Photos, Mike won numerous local and national awards. He displayed his photos throughout the Twin Cities. His photographs were also shown on A & E's World of Photography and other TV programs.

In his younger years, Mike loved racing his 1967 Camaro and his 1969 Corvette. His love of sports cars was a constant throughout his life. But more than cars and photography, Mike loved his family and friends.

Mike is survived by his wife of 16 years Rochelle Christensen, two daughters Breanna Sturgeski and Amanda Natzel, four grandchildren, and his brother, Joseph Bush. Mike was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Griffith, and his sister, Donna Ringness.

Memorials can be made to the National Park Foundation at give.nationalparks.org.

Sharon Collins

Sharon Rose Collins, 64, Falcon Heights, died March 3, 2025. She retired as program director at the

School of Radiologic Technology at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where she worked for over three decades.

Having earned a Master's in Education along with a Master's in Organizational Leadership from the University of Northwestern, she was passionate about teaching at work and church.

She spent her retirement traveling, reading and doting on her grandchild.

She was preceded in death by Preston, and by her parents, the Rev. Dr. Edward and the Rev. Ellen Drewa; sister Maryanne (the Rev. Dr. Clyde) Root; and sister-in-law Marcia Drewa. She is survived by daughter Sabrina Crews (Simon Groebner) and granddaughter Petra; and siblings Gary, Faith and Laura.

A service was held at Lakewood Cemetery Memorial Chapel.

Heath Henjum

Heath Lawrence Henjum, 55, Falcon Heights, died Feb. 21, 2025. He was born June 19, 1969, in Sioux Falls to Janet and Jim Henjum, who preceded him in death.

Heath was a talented musician who played bass guitar in many local bands including The Hopfuls. Their song, "Let's Go!" was featured on the television show The O.C. in the mid-2000s.

Heath was a senior database engineer at Surescripts. He graduated from O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, in 1987. He held a bachelor's degree in political science and mathematics as well as a mas-

ter's degree from the University of South Dakota.

Heath is survived by sons Henry and Everett of Minneapolis, and their mother Jennifer Schweitzer; son Jeff (Leonore) McGuire, Jeff's mother Kathy Godfrey; two grandsons; and his sister Kirsten (Irene) Henjum.

Memorial donations can be made to Friends of the Boundary Waters.

Gregory Mitton

Gregory B. Mitton, 70, died Feb. 22, 2025. Greg was born on Nov. 22, 1954, to Magdalene and William Mitton, and spent the majority of his life in St. Anthony Park. He earned a bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University and worked as a hydrologist for the United States Geological Survey.

Greg loved the outdoors and hunting with his beloved golden retrievers. He was also an active member of the Neighbors for Alden Park in St. Anthony Park.

Greg is survived by his brother Steve (Pat) of Jordan and sister Linda (Paul) Imbertson of Inver Grove Heights.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sun., April 27, from noon to 3 p.m. at Alden Square Park, 1169 Gibbs Ave.

Marcia Olson

Marcia L. (Gower) Olson, 86, died Feb. 2, 2025. She was born Sept. 2, 1938, to Ralph and Edna Gower, St. Paul. A graduate of Murray High School, she continued her education at the U of M and Metro State University.

For many years, Marcia was office manager at Kaplan, Strangis and Kaplan law firm. Her love of travel, family, friends, music and political causes filled her adventurous spirit. She loved choral singing and cherished being a member of the choir at Mt. Olivet Lutheran

Church, where a service in her memory will be held in the spring.

She is survived by her children, Julia Olson, Mark (Sue) Olson, Eric (Christy) Olson; six grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and sisters Linda Lee and Gail (Ed) Wenner.

Kathleen Ann Rabie

Kathleen Ann (née Brownlow) Rabie, 90, St. Anthony Park, died Feb. 25, 2025, in her home, surrounded by her husband and four children.

Ann was born on the family farm in Wild Rose, Wisconsin, on Dec. 21, 1934. She attended Wild Rose High School and graduated from St. Olaf College in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She completed her master's in of education at the University of Minnesota.

Ann was called to serve as a missionary nurse with the American Lutheran Church and spent nine months in Paris learning French anticipating a commission to Cameroon, but ultimately was deployed to South Africa, where she served for 20 years.

She served as a nursing educator at Hlabisa Lutheran Mission Hospital where she met and married her husband, Sieg. They had four children together. She later completed a program in nurse midwifery at Addington Hospital in

Lives Lived to p. 17

Community  Worship Directory

❖ CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS

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www.centennialumc.org

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❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford), 651-646-7173

www.sapucc.org

Sunday worship: 10:30 AM in person and via Zoom

Easter Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday: 4/17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday: 4/18, 12:00 NOON

Easter Sunday: 4/20, 10:30 AM

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❖ ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2136 Carter Ave. (at Chelmsford), 651-645-3058

www.stmatthewsmn.org, Facebook: *stmatthewsmn*

Sunday Eucharist 10:30 AM | Faith formation 9:15 AM

Wednesday Eucharist: 12:00 NOON followed by lunch

Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday: 4/17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday: 4/18, 12:00 NOON and 7:00 PM

❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

2323 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371

Pastor Jill Rode and Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen

Web, Facebook and Instagram: *SAPLC*

Live stream on YouTube Channel: *bit.ly/3nWjLDD*

Sunday worship in-person: 9:30 AM

Easter Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday: 4/13, 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: 4/17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross: 4/18, 12:00 NOON

Tenebrae: 4/18, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday: 4/20, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (note time)

Wednesday Community Dinners return: 4/23,

Music for all ages: Wednesdays starting at 5:00 PM

❖ ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502

info@stceciliasp.org, www.stceciliasp.org

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Pastor John M. Hofstede

Worship: Saturday 4:30 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM

Weekend Mass online (on our website)

Holy Week Worship Services

Holy Thursday: 4/17, 7:00 PM, *Mass of the Lord's Supper*

Good Friday: 4/18, 3:00 PM, *Passion & Death of Christ Service*

Holy Saturday: 4/19, 8:00 PM, *Easter Vigil*

(*No confessions on Holy Saturday*)

Easter Sunday: 4/20, Mass 9:30 AM

Reconciliation: Saturdays, 4/5 and 4/12, 3:15–4:15 PM

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

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Lives Lived from p. 16

Durban, South Africa, where she earned a gold medal for top marks in the Natal Province and a gold watch for top clinical skills in her midwifery program.

When she returned to America with her family in 1981, Ann worked as a labor and delivery nurse while pursuing her USA nurse midwifery credentials, and then worked as a nurse midwife at Hennepin County Medical Center until she retired.

Ann was active in several committees at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church and was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award from St. Olaf college in 1994.

She was a skilled knitter and won a blue ribbon for each of the several knitting projects she submitted at the Minnesota State Fair. Ann loved traveling and achieved her goal of visiting all 50 states and seven continents.

More than any of that, Ann was known for her warmth and unforgettable laugh. She developed deep and strong connections in every group she joined, including the Order of the Ewe knitting group in St. Paul, the Golden Girls group of retired Hennepin County Medical Center nurse midwives, the swimming group at the YMCA and the St. Olaf Nursing Alumni.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Leland (Lee) George Brownlow. She is survived by her husband Siegfried Rabie; sister Ruth (Tom) Cerull; sister-in-law Barbara Brownlow; children Lisa (Charles) Clark, Kari (James Dungan) Rabie, Sara Rabie, and Paul (Samantha Weatherston) Rabie; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. Memorial gifts preferred to Global Health Ministries.

Jo Anne Rohricht



Jo Anne Smith Rohricht, 89, died Feb. 26, 2025. She had been a resident of The Heritage at Lyngblomsten for the past two years. Prior to that, she lived in and was an integral part of St. Anthony Park for more than 50 years.

Born June 17, 1935, in North Carolina, to Charles and Pauline (née Moffit) Smith, Jo Anne attended Duke University, majoring in sociology. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1952. After graduation, Jo Anne traveled in Europe before working in her field of study in Jacksonville and then Panama City, Florida.

Jo Anne and Tom Rohricht met at a gathering at Elmhurst College in 1955. They married on Nov. 23, 1958.

The couple moved from North Carolina to Minnesota in 1963 after Tom earned a law degree at Duke University School of Law. Tom accepted a position with the Doherty Rumble and Butler law firm in St. Paul, where he remained until his retirement in 1998.

After raising their children Sue and Tom, Jo Anne enrolled in United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, from which she

graduated with a masters in theological studies.

Jo Anne was active in the St. Anthony Park community, believing passionately in its capacity to serve its citizens. She served on the board of Park Press, publisher of The Bugle. As someone deeply concerned with the needs of the elderly, she joined with others in founding the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program (now known as St. Anthony Park Area Seniors).

Her fervent interest in environmental issues compelled her to join the regional Land Stewardship Project, becoming its board chairperson and an emeritus member. She and Tom cherished the wide network of friendships they developed within the St. Anthony Park community and beyond.

A deeply spiritual person, Jo Anne was active in her church, inherently grateful for the friendships she made there and for its commitment to community service.

Jo Anne loved nature and adored her dogs and cats. She genuinely believed in the power of their love to enhance one's life. Jo Anne truly enjoyed the life she and Tom had together, and the life she had for over 10 years after his passing.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Tom Rohricht. Jo Anne is survived by children Susan Lockwood (Greg) and Mark Thomas (Summer), and two grandchildren, as well as her beloved dog Lucy.

An in-person and live-stream Celebration of Life service is planned for 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, at First Congregational Church of Minnesota, 500 S.E. 8th Ave. in Minneapolis. For live-streaming information visit <https://firstchurchmn.org/>.

Deborah Watson



Deborah J. Watson, 71, Lauderdale, died Feb. 20, 2025. She was born March 20, 1953, in Hibbing.

She was a 1971 graduate of Hibbing High School and attended the U of M in Child Development and the University of Northwestern in pastoral studies. She earned ministry certificates with Doug Stanton Ministries and Joan Hunter Ministries.

Deborah was a lifelong advocate for those with any disabilities and a passionate advocate for the unborn.

Deb prayed for and with people around the world as part of her life's ministry as a follower of Jesus Christ. She offered prayer counseling over the phone for Love Lines and for Billy Graham Ministries. She ministered through the Heal-

ing Rooms of St. Paul at the Redeeming Love Church for many years.

Deborah was a founding member of Sojourn Campus Church in Minneapolis and beloved friend there for over 40 years. She was also a part of the Fraternity of Mary, Queen of Peace, part of the secular Franciscan Order in the Twin Cities. She poured out her heart to God in poetry and journals.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth Watson and Edith Kosola Watson, of Hibbing, and brother David Watson. She is survived by sisters Priscilla Larson of Morro Bay, California, and Kathleen Watson of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Her memorial service at Sojourn Campus Church, 310 18th Ave. SE, Minneapolis; was set for 3 p.m. on March 30 with visitation one-half hour prior. Park in Lot 58 next to church for free validated parking.

Memorials may be made to the Unto Me fund (fund dedicated to helping people with food, shelter and basic needs) at Sojourn Campus Church or to the charity of your choice.

City Files from p. 2

District 12 meetings

District 12 encourages neighbors to attend committee meetings, which are held both in-person and online each month. Learn more about the meetings and how to get involved at sapcc.org.

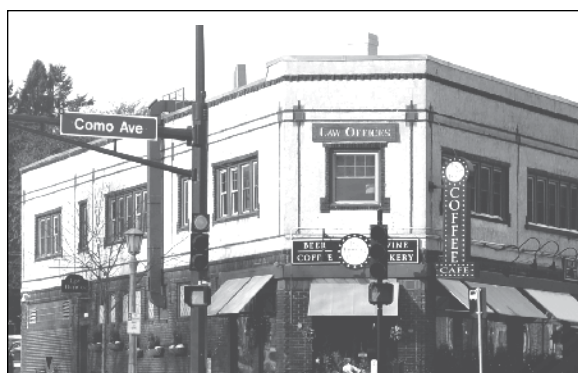
- **District 12 Board:** 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 10
- **Transportation:** 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29

- **Environment:** 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23
- **Equity:** 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24
- **Land Use:** Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Zev Radziwill, District 12 executive director



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Allison Forbes, DDS
Paul Kirkegaard, DDS
Nadine Yacoub, DDS
651-644-9216 (call/text)
frontdesk@sapdentalcare.com

Skon Chiropractic
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To add your business to this listing, contact Sonia Ellis:
sonia.ellis@parkbugle.org or 651-226-1274 (voice message/text)

Annual Bugle donations still rising

The Bugle's annual fall fundraising campaign is over, but much-appreciated donations continue to pour in to support the newspaper's ongoing operations.

As of March 6, the Bugle had received \$48,900 in donations from individuals, businesses and grants in the first 8½ months of fiscal 2024-25.

Each month the Bugle staff strives to keep you well informed on a wide array of community news and information. We are eager to build community by turning readers into neighbors.

We thank you all for your financial support and con-

fidence. There is always time to join in supporting your community newspaper.

You can give online at parkbugle.org or with a check sent to The Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul MN. 55108. Every gift matters. Here's a list of our most recent donors:

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CEZ Spring Cleanup set April 19

Help clean up the Zone with CEZ's annual Spring Cleanup from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. Celebrate Earth Day and the environment by picking up litter in our parks and on the streets. Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome!

Just stop by one of these three locations to pick up supplies (trash/recycling bags and gloves) before heading out with friends and neighbors:

- CEZ tent @ 800 Raymond Ave (just south of SEAL Hi-Rise

and between Charles St and Territorial Rd.)

- CEZ tent @ the Wright Building, 2233 University Ave W. at Hampden Ave.
- Grain Bin @ Bang Brewing, 2320 Capp Rd. Hosted by brewery co-owners Jay and Sandy Boss Febbo.

Full bags of trash will be collected at these same sites. This event will be held rain or shine so dress accordingly. No pre-registration is required.

Get outdoors, meet your neighbors, and enhance the health and beauty of the Zone. For more about this event, <https://www.creativeenterprisezone.org/events/citywide-spring-cleanup-m7sgf-w6l9e>. ■

Submitted by Creative Enterprise Zone, a nonprofit organization in south St. Anthony Park that pushes initiatives for advancements in arts, culture and economics.

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Como students from p. 8

Next, a brief stop in the Supreme Court allowed students to see the chamber during oral arguments, before a walk down Capitol Hill to the Rayburn House Office Building.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum, D-Minnesota, hosted a 45-minute policy meeting for the Como students in her office. She shared her views on the current situation in Washington and the federal government. Students were grateful for her insights and how she addressed their inquiries about climate change, Israel and Gaza, the actions of DOGE and education. ■

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



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Cougar athletes compete in three state meets

By Eric Erickson

Here's a roundup of Como highlights from the 2024-2025 winter sports season:

Boys swimming—For the fifth consecutive year, multiple Cougar swimmers qualified for state. Overall, Como earned third place in the St. Paul City Conference and placed third in Section 4A, out of 10 teams.

Sophomore co-captain **Noah Williamson** was the individual conference champion in both the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly. Junior co-captain **Joey Schumacher** was the individual conference champion in the 100 freestyle and took second place in the 50 freestyle.

Building on those performances, the co-captains each qualified for state in those events at the Section 4A Meet, punctuated by Schumacher earning his second consecutive section title in the 100 free.

They also joined sophomore **Arthur Anderson** and freshman **Emilio Kennedy** to form a 400-yard freestyle relay team which qualified for state by placing third at sections (top three finishers in each event advance).

The State meet at the University of Minnesota concluded with Schumacher on the podium receiving a ninth-place state medal for the 100 free. He finished 12th in the 50 free. Williamson qualified for the finals (top 16 of 24 advance) in the 100 Backstroke and finished 12th.

All the state meet participants will return for next season along with a dedicated core of other young swimmers. Como boys swimming continues to be an inclusive sport for all comers while tailoring training to maximize talent.

Nordic skiing—Junior captain **Henry Simmons** was the boys individual champion of the Twin Cities Nordic Ski Conference. Junior **Ben Clark** earned all-conference honorable mention. The boys team finished fifth (out of 12 teams in the Nordic conference).

At the Section 4 meet, Simmons qualified for his second career state meet when he finished as the fourth individual across the line. The state meet is held at Giant's Ridge (north of Duluth). There were 112 boys who raced in state as individual qualifiers or as representatives of their full teams that

qualified. Out of all those competitors, Simmons placed 27th overall.

The Como girls are young but fearless and represented the program well by competing at the Section 4 meet and finishing 10th. **Nora Simmons** and **Maeva Callahan Schreiber** won the team's Leadership Award. **Addie Power-Theisen** and **Paloma Dashevsky** won the Cougar Award for exemplifying team values. All four award winners are freshmen.

Girls basketball—The Cougars won their 11th consecutive St. Paul City title and stretched their conference winning streak to 92 games. The non-conference games were challenging as Como scheduled the toughest competition available.

The team lost a nail-biter in the Twin Cities Championship against Minneapolis North in an electric atmosphere across the river in North's home gym. In the Section 3AAA Tournament, Como was the No. 3 seed and advanced to the semifinals before falling to the No. 2 seed Two Rivers.

Senior captains **Makya Kenney** and **Cecelia Davis**, sophomore captain **Ahmani Crump**, and sophomore **Naijiona Shaw** were

selected all-conference. Juniors **Kenia Arnold** and **Aletha Keizer** received honorable mention.

Boys basketball—The Cougars finished the season with a record of 11-15. For the second consecutive season, they were the No. 8 seed for the section tourney, hosting a play-in game versus No. 9 Simpley. And just like last year, Como came out on top and advanced to the quarterfinals.

One of the season's highlights was a home win over Johnson, a perennial city power whom Como had not defeated in over 20 years. A packed gym witnessed the Cougars execute clutch plays down the stretch to secure an 84-76 victory.

Four seniors set the team's tone with energy and athleticism including all-conference selections **Dejaun Jones** and **Jahari Hill**, honorable mention recipient **DeShawn Robinson** and **Braylon Felton**. Junior **Contrell Jenkins** also earned honorable mention.

Wrestling—As reported earlier in the Bugle, girls wrestling is growing quickly and includes individual state tournaments by weight class on the big stage at the Xcel Energy Center.

Como junior **Makiya May** became the first female Cougar wrestler to qualify for state when she won the section title.

As one of eight state qualifiers in her weight division, May was seeded fourth. She pinned her opponent in the quarterfinals and went on to upset the No. 1 seed in the semifinals, advancing to the state championship match.

May finished as the state runner-up and took the entire Como wrestling program on a thrilling ride. She also clinched a home victory for the boys' team by defeating her male opponent in the final match of a dual meet.

The Cougar boys improved throughout the season, evidenced by their success in the St. Paul City Meet. In their respective weight classes, sophomore **Jere Miah Saw** finished fourth, junior **Johnny Hudson** was third, junior **Htoo Htoo** was second and junior **Hser Poe** earned a conference championship. ■

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

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