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# Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park  
Falcon Heights / Lauderdale

parkbugle.org  
August 2025

## In Ward 4, it's four vying in special election

By Scott Carlson

Voters in St. Paul's Ward 4, which includes the St. Anthony Park neighborhood, will go to the polls on Aug. 12 to elect a new city council member.

Candidates seeking to replace Mitra Jalali, who resigned in March due to health concerns, are **Chauntyll Allen**, **Molly Coleman**, **Cole Hanson** and **Carolyn Will**. (The council appointed Matt Privratsky in April to serve as interim member until the special election.)

Ward 4 also includes Hamline-Midway, Merriam Park and parts of the Como and Macalester-Groveland neighborhood.

The following is a summary of each candidate and a brief look at why they are seeking election to Ward 4 council seat:



### Chauntyll Allen

Allen has lived in Ward 4 for 23 years and, on her election website, said, "I have personally experienced many of the most pressing issues our city is facing.

"From my family's displacement from Rondo to seeing my former students on the streets to difficulty finding affordable housing for me and my wife, I know what fellow residents are facing because I live it every day," she said.

Discussing her background, Allen said, "I've been in classrooms as an educator and on the streets as an organizer and have deep trust and broad connections to the communities who have been discon-

nected from political power and local politics. I recognize how these community members are not problems to be solved but people with the knowledge to effectively solve the challenges we face collectively."

Allen said her experiences and community connections enable her to see the system-level solutions needed to address key issues, and "I have the diverse relationships and proven leadership to work across sectors and jurisdictions to get the results that Ward 4 — and all Saint Paul — residents need."

Allen said her top priorities include promoting community safety, addressing the city's housing crisis with new ideas for more community-led and collective solutions and identifying new revenue streams "that can take the (property tax) burden off our low-income families and homeowners — and support the small businesses that make the Midway a culturally unique and vibrant place to live and visit."

She noted, "St. Paul is facing significant financial challenges and leaning too heavily on property taxes to generate the revenue we need for basic services and important programs. I believe that stra-

tegic investments and thoughtful policies can prevent displacement and promote development."

Another top priority for Allen is workforce and youth development.

"We can't build a united city while so many of our neighbors are living in poverty," she said. "We have to address the racial wealth gap in St. Paul and create pathways to living wage jobs for our youth. From Hennepin County Child Protection to the St. Paul School Board, I've been working for years to end the school to prison pipeline and instead create self-determined pathways to success for young people and their families.

"I'll work to advance policies that address the racial wealth and opportunity gap in St. Paul."



### Cole Hanson

Hanson is a public health educator and dietitian at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus and a long-time neighbor in Hamline-Midway, living there with his six-year-old daughter.

A labor and neighbor-endorsed candidate, Hanson is currently chairman of the Civil Service Sen-



Map of St. Paul's Ward 4.

ate at the university, where he currently represents more than 5,000 employees across the state.

Hanson is seeking election because he believes the council needs "bold leadership rooted in the daily realities of our neighbors. As a renter, a former homeowner, a parent, and a public health educator, I know how hard it's become for working families to get what they need from City Hall — whether that's safe streets, affordable groceries, or accountability from developers.

"I've spent the last 15 years or-

*Ward 4 Special Election to p. 3*

## Como Friends names Katie Hill new president

By Gwen Willems

Katie Hill began her presidency of Como Friends just before the organization's Sunset Affair summer gala on July 17.

Previously the vice president of engagement and chief innovation officer at Milkweed Editions, Hill succeeds Jackie Sticha, whose two decades of leadership transformed Como Friends into a nationally recognized model for public-private partnership.

Como Friends, the nonprofit partner of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, has delivered more than \$54 million in contributions. To become a member, go to [comofriends.org/support/membership](http://comofriends.org/support/membership).

"Katie brings a rare blend of creativity, strategy and heart," said Andy Davis, board chair of Como Friends.

Besides her work experience, skills and education, Hill brings a high level of excitement.

"As a lifelong St. Paul resident and champion of our city and state,

nothing brings me more joy and pride than working in support of the premier cultural attraction that is Como Park Zoo & Conservatory," she told the Bugle. "As a parent, arts and culture professional, animal lover, and curious nature enthusiast, I'm personally interested in the ways places like Como provide vital and necessary connections to the broader natural world."

Hill said she appreciates that Como Park Zoo & Conservatory has something for everyone. Her "favorites" changed during what she called the seasons of her life. One special plant at Como is "Frederick" the corpse flower, which Hill was delighted to have an official photo taken with.

"I currently have quite a few must-sees for every visit (which may be heavily influenced by my kids): Chloe the sloth, the arctic foxes and the gorillas. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory has long been my 'happy place' and gotten me through decades of Minnesota winters. And the stone bridge in



Katie Hill. Submitted photo from Como Friends.

the Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden has been a favorite for both of my kids!"

"I have also deeply appreciated the fact that Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is open 365 days a year," Hill added. "Any parent or caregiver of young children especially values the gift of a free, all weather, kid-friendly destination on those holidays or no-school days when everything else is closed."

Hill spent more than a decade in art museum communications, digital strategy and public engagement before joining Milkweed

*Como Friends to p. 10*

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## CITY FILES

## St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 12  
Community Council

## 'Buckthorn busters,' they're back!

If you've strolled along Robbins Avenue in St. Anthony Park lately, you may have spotted yellow ribbons tied around some oddly pruned trees.

That's not a forgotten art project — it's part of a neighborhood effort to reclaim the area's urban woods from one of Minnesota's most aggressive invasive species: common buckthorn.

These small trees and shrubs may look unassuming, but they wreak havoc on our local ecosystems, pushing out native underbrush and altering soil chemistry.

That's why the District 12 Community Council's Environment Committee, known affectionately as the "Buckthorn Busters," has returned to the site this summer with loppers, saws and a plan.

"Buckthorn doesn't give up easily," said committee member Kerry Morgan. "But we're using a technique called critical period cutting to keep it from growing back." The team strips the buckthorn of its leaves during the peak growing season, robbing it of the energy it needs to survive winter.

The process is repeated over two years — no herbicide needed.

"It's slow work," added Reid Jordan, another committee regular. "But by spring 2027, we're hoping to restore this area with native shrubs and pollinator-friendly pe-



Reid Jordan takes a saw to noxious buckthorn near Robbins Avenue in St. Anthony Park. Photo from District 12 Community Council.

rennials. It's about bringing balance back."

Thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers, the future of this little patch of green looks a whole lot brighter — and more biodiverse.

Interested in environmental issues or volunteering? The SAPCC Environment Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Visit [sapcc.org](http://sapcc.org) to learn more.

## Thank you 4th in the Park team!



SAP District 12 Community Council members participating in the 4th in the Park parade. Submitted photo.

A special note from the District 12 team and family: "This year's 4th in the Park celebration was unforgettable, and we're so grateful to the amazing team of organizers and volunteers who made it all happen.

Whether you were wrangling kids, tossing candy, guiding neighbors down the parade route, setting up sound or proudly holding your group's banner — you helped bring joy to hundreds of neighbors.

Thank you for keeping this beloved tradition full of heart and hometown pride. We're lucky to live in a place where folks show up for each other, year after year. See you next July, neighbors!

## Fall Community Garage Sale

The District 12 Community Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5 and 6. Neighbors are invited to register early for what promises to be a great weekend of

treasure hunting and community connection.

To register your garage sale or to get more information about the event, visit [sapcc.org/sale](http://sapcc.org/sale).

## Speed limit reminder

As you go through summer and fall, remember that city speed limits are 20 mph on all side streets, and most of the streets with traffic signals in *Bugleland* are 25 mph, including Como, Raymond and Cleveland avenues.

Only the largest and busiest streets, like University or Larpenteur avenues, are higher than that (30 or 35 mph).

## Upcoming District 12 meetings

District 12 encourages neighbors to attend monthly committee meetings, available in-person and online. Learn more and get involved at [sapcc.org](http://sapcc.org).

- **Land Use Committee:**  
7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 7
- **District 12 Board:**  
7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14
- **Transportation Committee:**  
7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26
- **Environment Committee:**  
7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27
- **Equity Committee:**  
7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.

District 10  
Community Council

## A shout out to volunteers

A little more than halfway through 2025, the District 10 Como Community Council is extending a big thank-you to everyone in the neighborhood who has volunteered in helping stage community events.

So far this year, District 10 has held more than 10 events. They include:

- Hosting the Blizzard Breakfast at North Dale Rec, where St. Timothy and Como Park Lutheran volunteers helped us serve a Pancake breakfast to 475 community members.
- Coordinating two Como Zoo blood drives, with nearly 100 donors.
- Partnering with St. Paul Parks and Recreation for an Earth Day Como Cleanup.
- Partnering with the St. Paul Art Collective on a Como

location for their Spring Art Crawl, hosting 23 artists, live music and over 800 community members.

- Hosting the annual Pick Up and Party at Orchard Recreation Center for 125 community members.
- Coordinating the Como Garage Sale, with nearly 60 households participating.
- Planting or planning 12 pollinator gardens in boulevards or public spaces, funded by the state Pollinator Pathway grant program.
- Helping coordinate the fourth annual Como Homo Pride Celebration, drawing a record 400 community members with Dock & Paddle contributing its space and food.

Want to help plan other activities? Check out District 10's monthly community meetings and its website for upcoming events. And if you have any questions, reach out to [info@district10comopark.org](mailto:info@district10comopark.org).

## Final 2025 Lake Como Cleanup

Join us for the final 2025 Lake Como Cleanup! The time and day is 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 20. This event, in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District, focuses on the shoreline and Lake Como itself.

District 10 provides trash-grabbers, rakes, buckets, nets, trash bags and nitrile gloves for those who need them. Or, feel free to provide your own gear. Registration is not required, but it helps us plan and communicate if changes come up.

For more information, check out District 10's website at [District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup](http://District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup).

## Upcoming District 10 meetings

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. You can find meeting details at [District10ComoPark.org](http://District10ComoPark.org).

- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public and include time for community members to bring topics for discussion. It's a great way to stay informed, ask questions and connect with neighbors — everyone is welcome!

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

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# District 12 forms task force on future of Luther Seminary property

By Zev Radziwill

With Luther Seminary recently putting its entire campus up for sale, the District 12 Community Council has now formed a citizens' advisory task force "to help ensure that neighborhood voices are considered in any subsequent land use changes."

Task force members include: Alex Bajcz, Allan Torstenson, Ann Wynia, Beth Magstad, Brian Jones, Deanna Seppanen, Eric Galatz, John Maurer, Kenny Niemeyer, Pat Thompson, Phil Carlson, Rog-

er Purdy, Sherman Eagles, Steven McCarthy, Tom Ososki, Wayne Sisel and Zev Radziwill (ex officio).

In June, seminary officials announced plans to sell the remaining 10-acre "upper campus" and relocate to a smaller location elsewhere in the Twin Cities.

This follows news that the "lower campus" is already under a purchase agreement with a developer, Lifestyle Communities, with the sale expected to close in 2026. Together, these sites include spaces like Stub and Northwestern Halls and the cherished Breck Woods.

The seminary has shaped the landscape of St. Anthony Park since 1904, and its departure will mark a major transition.

The task force will provide feedback to developers, advise the District 12 Community Council and "help ensure neighborhood voices are part of the conversation from the start." Over the coming year, the new group will share updates on any development plans.

Already, task force members have raised key questions to guide this work: What are the plans to address traffic along Hendon, Hoyt,

and Folwell avenues? Will there be underground parking, or improved access to Como Avenue? How does the recent Upper Campus sale impact the Lower Campus development? And how might issues like affordability, open space, or preservation of Breck Woods be incorporated into the design? These questions reflect the care and complexity neighbors are bringing to the process.

Any potential development would likely impact traffic patterns and public access around the Luther Seminary Lower Campus as

well. It also raises new possibilities for long-term infrastructure planning, including conversations about improved road access or a new street connection between key sites.

SAPCC will continue monitoring this location closely and will share updates as more information becomes available. ■

*Zev Radziwill is executive director of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council.*

## Ward 4 Special Election from p. 1

ganizing alongside community members to win changes that matter — from tenant protections and clean energy policy to better wages and food access," Hanson said. "I've seen what we can accomplish when we listen to our neighbors, not just consultants. Whether we're talking Luther Seminary or downtown St. Paul, I'm running to be a strong, present, and pragmatic advocate for our whole city."

Hanson said a big issue facing St. Paul is "a crisis of affordability and trust. Property taxes keep rising while services lag behind. At the same time, a lack of bold action on public safety, housing, and transit means more and more neighbors feel like the city isn't working for them."

His platform includes proposing a Co-PILOT program that asks private colleges to pay their share for city services and supporting municipally-run services like social housing and public grocery stores. He also wants to bring more city services under democratic control — through, among other things, in-sourcing contracts and properly staffing resident-facing teams.

Hanson vowed to be "your lunch-pail council member" for better handling such issues as road repairs and snow removal.

"I want to make St. Paul a leader in renter and homeowner protections," Hanson added. "That means passing a true Renter Bill of Rights, holding the city accountable for its delays or inconsistent application of city ordinances and protecting seniors and families on

fixed incomes from eviction and displacement."



### Molly Coleman

Born and raised in St. Paul, Coleman currently lives in the city's Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

For the past seven years, she has been running the People's Parity Project, a national legal advocacy organization that she co-founded in 2018 that aims to build a legal system that works for working people.

Coleman said city government needs to focus on how to help make citizens' lives better. "That starts by doing the basics really well: focusing on delivering high-quality public services, building truly affordable housing, and growing an economy that works for working people," she said.

The city's biggest challenge is overcoming its small and shrinking tax base. "Due to our large number of government buildings, churches, and universities, we have a city in which approximately one-fifth of the total value of properties are tax-exempt," Coleman said.

Because property values of buildings in downtown St. Paul have collapsed, the property tax revenue collected from the economic center of our city has plummeted, Coleman maintained. "To compensate for this loss, taxes have risen at unsustainably high levels in our neighborhoods.

"We need to raise more revenue to provide for the needs of our

community, but we must do that by encouraging responsible investment and development in our city, not continuously asking our homeowners and renters to shoulder more than their fair share of the cost of making our city run."

The dearth of city revenue, in turn, increases taxes for residents and hinders the municipality's ability to invest in, among other things, affordable housing and various essential community services.

Asked what she hopes to accomplish on the council if elected, Coleman said, "I intend to use my tenure on the Council to build a fundamentally more economically just city. This means continuing to raise the floor for all working people, enforcing our workplace standards, and using every tool at the city's disposal to fight for the rights of workers.

"I recognize that it is going to be of the utmost importance that we prioritize responding to the immediate needs of our community: balancing our budget in a way that meets our city's needs and building a social safety net that allows us to care for our most vulnerable community members and those currently under attack by the federal government."

Coleman said she hopes to see the city bring down housing costs, help weatherize homes to cut down on emissions and reduce utility bills, and invest in public transportation and safe, accessible bike and pedestrian routes so citizens can get where they need to go in affordable, climate-friendly ways.



### Carolyn Will

A former broadcast journalist and now the owner of CW Marketing & Communications,

Will has lived in St. Paul for the past 33 years including currently Merriam Park. She has an undergraduate degree from the College of St. Benedict and a master's from the University of St. Thomas.

"I have a passion for our capital city, and I believe my background in forming strategic partnerships and building community engagement will be two strong attributes I can bring to the city council," Will said. "I want to bring balanced leadership and pragmatic problem-solving to the challenges facing our city. As a moderate voice with a track record of results, I offer a grounded, inclusive, and forward-looking vision for Ward 4 and the city."

Regarding some of the biggest issues facing St. Paul, Will identified fiscal responsibility and public safety and crime.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people I am talking to in all the neighborhoods, people want to know how much higher property taxes can go," Will said. "That's a big issue."

As for crime, Will said, "We know that homelessness, drug addictions, mental health issues are all factoring into the threats to

public safety. What are we going to do about it?"

"We need to start small, try an approach, get input from all involved including the homeless, caseworkers, law enforcement and residents and let's start strategizing, implement, evaluate, revise as needed and continue until we have a methodology that's working."

If elected to the city council, Will said she wants to be strong advocate for constituent services.

"I want Ward 4 residents to feel confident that they can call the Ward 4 council office and they will have a representative that is listening to them, engaging and acting on their needs."

Will said another of her priorities would be to help Public Works department modernize the city's road construction techniques "so that our urban tree canopy is not falling victim so often to public projects that involve fixing sidewalks and updating roadways.

"Our tree canopy is extremely valuable — economically (storm water filtration!), environmentally (carbon storage, oxygen emitting, cooling), and emotionally (trees calm us)," she said. "We need to bring our best effort to this issue and pass a strong tree preservation policy for St. Paul." ■

*Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Park Bugle.*



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## Classified advertising

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Next deadline: Aug 13, 2025

Publication date: Aug 26, 2025

Distribution: 5 to 10 business days

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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The Park Bugle is published by Park Press, Inc, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization guided by an elected board of directors.

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## EDITORIAL

### From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

#### McKinnell, cloning and "Jurassic Park"

In this issue of the Bugle's "Lives lived" story, obits editor Mary Mergenthal shares the news of the death of, among several people, Robert Gilmore McKinnell.

McKinnell, 98, a longtime St. Anthony Park resident, died on June 21, 2025. He was an extraordinary man who made his mark in the field of biological sciences. And he even has a Hollywood-type connection with a popular movie franchise.

In the obits, Mary reports that McKinnell was a professor of genetics and cell biology at the University of Minnesota from 1970 to 1999.

He published several books on the subjects of cloning and cancer, and he authored or co-authored well over 100 articles published in scientific journals. Bob's research involved surveying leopard frogs in Minnesota from the 1960s to the 2010s, and he was consulted on deformed frogs in the 1990s.

Given his scientific research, Bob is thought to have inspired Michael Crichton writing his novel "Jurassic Park" in 1990.

In the University of Minnesota Biological Services website, its authors noted, "Just a year or two before Crichton's "Jurassic Park" was published (1990) McKinnell and lifelong colleague Marie DiBerardino (then with the Medical College of Pennsylvania) published a paper on possibility of cloning an organism from an adult blood cell transplanted into the nucleus of a donor cell."

DiBerardino came up with the idea for the research and McKinnell made key contributions in carrying it out. To their surprise and delight, the blood cell-derived clone developed further than any clone with a confirmed adult nuclear donor — until Dolly, the cloned sheep.

"When the "Jurassic Park" movie came out in 1993, Bob became a local media star for his expertise on cloning and gave numerous public talks on the subject."

You can find out other details about the amazing McKinnell on page 12 in Mary's obits column.

#### New to the Bugle

Among the many interesting articles in this issue of the Bugle is a new feature from the Como Community Seed Library.

Each month, the Seed Library folks will highlight a different native Minnesota plant. The new series is being presented in collaboration with the MN Seed Project.

We think this new column will be of interest to Bugle readers given that so many people in our coverage area are avid gardeners. Feel free to send us suggestions on any native Minnesota plants you would like us to feature.

#### Poem a blast for Fourth celebration

The activities staged by the 4th in the Park Committee are a cherished tradition that make St. Anthony Park's Fourth of July celebration extra special. Resident Emma Lee captures the spirit and excitement of the day in this poem she recently penned. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

### 'Twas the night before the Fourth

by Emma Lee

'Twas the night before the Fourth and all through the Park  
Folks were staking their claims before it got dark.  
They hammered their stakes and set out their chairs  
Assured that tomorrow it would all still be there.  
They made space for grills amidst the grass beds  
While visions of barbecue danced in their heads.  
Some wore bandanas and others wore caps  
And all anticipated postprandial naps.  
Then out in the ballfields there arose such a noise  
Fireworks already! Some pesky teen boys  
Were lighting off crackers with nary a care  
For dogs, sleeping babies, or singed eyebrow hair.  
No one called the police, no one batted an eye  
At this common occurrence for early July.  
The early tent-setters shook off the arousal  
And returned to their tasks with help friendly or spousal.  
Those still in their houses prepped coolers and lunches  
With refreshing drinks and all sorts of munchies  
While children taped tinsel all over their bikes  
And streamers, and pennants, so much glitter — yikes!  
The mower brigade gave polish and shine  
To their grass-eating pushers— I wish one were mine.  
Drivers of float cars filled up their gas tanks  
And wiped clean their windshields and mirrors and flanks.  
Musicians and bands had one final session  
To practice their tunes before the procession  
While runners and joggers chugged electrolyte drinks  
Knowing the weather tomorrow would stink.  
As dusk fell on SAP, we pondered our freedoms —  
In the next few years, we surely will need 'em.  
Meanwhile, I'll be up at 5:45  
To start on my run; I hope I'll still be alive  
To enjoy all the action at this year's celebration.  
Happy Fourth to all, and please partake in hydration!

## COMMENTARY

### Time for a downtown St. Paul municipal grocer

By Cole Hanson

As a registered dietician, public health educator and City Council candidate, I have spent the last few months knocking on thousands of doors, and one idea consistently lights up people's faces: A municipal grocery store in downtown St. Paul.

It's not just a good idea. It's a necessary one.

Downtown St. Paul is home to thousands of residents, many of them elders, immigrants and low-income renters.

It's also where thousands of state employees, from the State Capitol to the Judicial Center, have returned to work to spend their days serving Minnesotans alongside county and city workers.

Whether you live or work downtown, one thing is clear: There is nowhere to buy basic groceries. Not a single full-service option exists for blocks in any direction.

As state workers return to their offices, and as we try to reimagine downtown for a post-pandemic

world, we need to make a place where people can actually live and thrive, not just clock in and go home.

That starts with the basics: food access. A municipal grocery store would fill this gap. It could offer stable pricing, fresh produce and culturally relevant options.

It could serve downtown residents and returning workers, while partnering with local farms, co-ops and food shelves to build a local supply chain along with benefitting from the traditional strengths of a large grocery.

It doesn't need to run as a charity; it would run as municipal liquor stores have for decades, being revenue neutral or a boon to the city budget.

And it could model the kind of city we say we want — one that puts basic needs first.

We've built stadiums and parking ramps with public money. We have given away TIF dollars left and right to entice development.

In this moment, we should build

a grocery store that feeds our neighbors and pays its own bills too. We can do the right thing and be fiscally responsible at the same time.

We've already seen models that work. Cities like Chicago, New York and Milwaukee are running or exploring municipal grocery stores. And right here at home, programs like Nutritious U at the University of Minnesota show what's possible when we lead with the public good.

The city of St. Paul should step in where the private market will not, not to compete but to complete the work of building a city that works for everyone.

When a bag of groceries is out of reach, we aren't just failing people, we're leaving our city and our downtown half-finished.

A thriving city feeds its people. Let's make St. Paul a place that does just that. ■

Cole Hanson lives in St. Paul and is a candidate for the St. Paul City Council's Ward 4 seat.

### 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. 13

Publication: Aug. 26

#### October:

##### Food and Drink Guide

Copy/ad deadline: Sept 10

Publication: Sept 23

#### November:

Copy/ad deadline: Oct. 8

Publication: Oct. 21

## COMMENTARY

# The race is on for St Paul's Ward 4 special election

By John Horchner

"The best journalist — or adman, or editor — is someone who combines the enthusiasm of youth with the wisdom of age."

So said William Randolph Hearst, who bought the magazine where I got my first job, Good Housekeeping, for his empire in 1911.

Maybe it was the setting — the offices in Manhattan were originally a theater for his mistress — or maybe it was my eagerness to learn. But Hearst's quote has always resonated with me.

Lately, I've thought about how I can use that quote to evaluate St. Paul's City Council choices for Ward 4's special election on Aug. 12. Each candidate brings a certain combination of enthusiasm and wisdom to the table.

I met the candidates at a forum held May 27 at Hamline United Methodist Church, hosted by Unidos, a nonprofit advocate for climate equity funding. They are Chauntyll Allen, Molly Coleman, Cole Hanson and Carolyn Will.

Currently, the city has three programs aimed at housing, climate resilience and environmental justice: Healthy Homes, Power of Home and an Emergency Rehab Loan Program. All three were mentioned during the forum. However, the city spends far less than is needed to make these programs viable.

According to Mary Pat Dunlap from Unidos: "Climate resilience

and energy infrastructure currently make up less than one tenth of 1% ... of the city's budget." Yikes.

Allen grew up in the Rondo neighborhood and now lives in Midway. She knows her way around local politics, currently serving as a member of the St. Paul school board. She's focused on attracting more dollars to be spent in the city so we can reduce the burdens on homeowners.

To Allen, asking residents to "vote yes" again and again isn't a solution. "The long game cannot just continue to be referendums on top of referendums," she said.

Later, in answer to a follow-up question by email, Allen added, "The city should set certain ordinances for developers as a campaign to build a clean city. Developers could advertise as a clean development and the community would support the project."

Coleman is a lawyer, nonprofit leader and mom raising her family in Hamline-Midway. She's also the daughter of former St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman — a detail she didn't bring up at the forum.

What she did discuss was the possibility of using new revenue from the recently passed Xcel franchise fee agreement to fund housing and climate efforts.

"Unfortunately, last year, the city council made the decision to only collect those franchise fees for one month rather than two, impacting our ability to fully fund programs," she said.

Among all the candidates, Coleman offered the most technocratic and data-informed answers. She maintained we don't need to invent new programs — just invest in and expand what's already working.

This includes Healthy Homes, a pre-weatherization program that helps people lower energy bills and prepare homes for electrification, and Power of Home, a program that provides grants and assistance for full electrification, like switching from gas to electric heating and appliances.

Coleman said the city needs to scale these up and widen access:

"Right now, those programs are supporting homeowners. We have to build them out so that they're supporting renters, small businesses, churches."

Knowing what it costs to reroute a single home's gutters to prevent water damage, to dig up a basement floor for radon mitigation, to remove knob-and-tube wiring, and to safely remove asbestos that wrapped the basement pipes of our old St. Paul home — I couldn't help but feel a quiet kind of panic. St. Paul's aging housing stock will make climate upgrades a serious technical and financial challenge.

At the forum, Coleman did not seem deterred: "We know what that looks like. We just have to fund it. We have to get the job done."

Hanson grew up on a farm, where he learned an early lesson: You can do whatever you want — as long as you get your chores done.

For him, St. Paul is that farm now, and climate change is one of the chores the city has left unfinished.

For Hanson, climate change doesn't exist in a vacuum. He sees safety, public health and infrastructure as intertwined with environmental policy.

"If people don't feel safe taking the train, then that's an incredible investment in our green infrastructure that's gone to waste," he said.

Hanson works as a public health educator and dietitian at the University of Minnesota — someone who takes a preventive approach to health. In the forum, he drew a clear parallel between prevention and climate.

For example, Hanson advocated for full electrification of the city's building code — no new buildings with gas infrastructure going forward. His message was that investing now prevents harm later — not just to the climate, but to public health as well.

Carolyn Will, who hadn't officially filed in time to make it to the candidate forum, was quick to respond to my questions by email — and in some ways, her absence made sense. She doesn't present herself as a typical activist or policy wonk. Instead, she leads with business pragmatism.

A longtime public relations professional, Will has kept her own

firm going for years in a highly competitive sector. In her view, that experience — budgeting carefully, managing projects, being accountable to clients — makes her well-equipped to help run a city that's long on ideas but short on execution.

"When I have less, I spend less," she wrote. "If I bid out a project for one fee, I need to deliver it for that price ... The city needs to start hustling."

She also believes the city needs to focus on fixing the basics before reaching for trendier projects:

"Residents want value for their taxes, and they want attention paid to getting the basic services running well first, before we add in the trendy new items."

After rewatching the forum on YouTube, I keep coming back to something one of them said — maybe the quote of the night, whether live or later by email. It wasn't lofty or ideological. It was a quiet reminder that residents want the basics done well first.

Whoever wins this seat will need to bring more than loads of enthusiasm, they'll need to get their chores done. ■

John Horchner is a professional writer who lives in St. Anthony Park.

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## LIBRARY CORNER

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# What would George Washington think of America today?

That's the intriguing question that some fifth grade students from St. Anthony Park Elementary School sought to answer in an essay contest sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association for this year's July 4 celebration.

Here are answers from the top three winning student essays:

## First place — Inaaya Ikram

About 250 years ago, the people of the United States chose George Washington to lead the Continental Army. After helping win the American Revolution, he became the first president of the United States of America.

But what if he never died in 1799? What if George Washington travelled to the future — to the times of 2025, in our world today?

It started on the day President George became president. As he finished his oath ceremony outside the federal hall in New York City, something strange happened. He saw two girls dressed in very unusual clothes and an aura around them drawing the president towards them. They looked like they were from the future.

"President George!" one of them smiled at him. "You don't really look like your paintings," said the other.

President George was confused and asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Michelle and this is Greta. We are scientists from the future," one girl said cheerfully. "And we need your help now more than ever."

President George didn't know what to say. The girls explained that they wanted to bring him to the future to learn about what America had become — and to see what he thought. To do this, he had to pretend to die back in his time. They would take care of everything.

After thinking it over, President

George agreed. Soon, he jumped into a time machine and landed in the year 2025. His first thought: "Everything is so fast, big and loud."

He saw tall buildings called skyscrapers, cars rushing by and people using tiny machines to talk to each other. He visited different states (there are 50 now), tried new foods and even met the President of the United States.

But President George was also surprised by a few things. Many people didn't seem to trust their leaders. Some were mean to each other on the Internet.

He was sad to hear about problems like pollution and climate change. President George loved nature and was shocked by how different the air and weather felt.

Michelle and Greta asked him lots of questions. "What do you think of our clothes? Our technology? Our world?"

George thought for a moment. "America has grown so much. I'm amazed by your inventions. People can travel far, learn fast and speak freely. That's wonderful.

"But I also see that some people are angry and divided. We must remember what unites us is our freedom, honesty and working together."

After a year in the future, George became sick because of the big change in climate. Before he passed away, he told Michelle and Greta, "Tell the people of America: Never forget how hard we fought for this country. Take care of it. Take care of each other."

So, President George would be proud of our accomplishments so far and he would be amazed by our inventions and innovations. But he reminds us to be kinder, more united and to protect the land we built together. Just like what he said back in 1776.

## Second place — Arnav Jagtap

If George Washington could come back and see America today, the first thing that would happen is his wooden teeth would probably chatter from shock — and not just because of the air conditioning.

He would have a lot of feelings: proud, amazed, confused and probably scared out of his colonial pants. But mostly, I think he'd feel proud of what America has become.

First of all, George would be super proud that America is still a democracy. People still vote and choose their leaders, just like he hoped. He will be amazed at how much America has grown.

Back in his day, there were only 13 states and now we have 50. That's a lot more.

He'd also be happy to see so many different kinds of people living here from all over the world — different colors, languages, foods (he would love pizza).

He would be stunned to hear that we even went to the moon! And now we are talking about going to MARS. George Washington probably would've fallen off his horse if he heard that.

Second, he would definitely be SHOCKED by progress in technology. Imagine his face when he sees a car drive by. He'd probably yell, "Where are the horses?"

He'd be stunned by airplanes, cell phones and the internet. He'd probably think texting was witchcraft. "What do you mean you don't need to send letters with ink and a feather?!"

And if he saw a dentist today, he'd be like, "Where were you when I needed real teeth?" He might even try to trade his wooden teeth for braces. Modern medicine would totally blow his powdered wig off. He'd probably think doctors were wizards — and let's hope he never sees Harry Potter or he'll think the hospital is run by Hogwarts.

He would also be amazed to see lights turning on with just a switch

instead of using fire. He'd probably stare at a lightbulb for 10 minutes and say, "Where's the candle?"

But not everything would make him happy. He might get mad seeing crime in parts of the country, He'd be really worried about how divided American politics can be now. George liked unity and compromise, not yelling and fighting on TV.

He'd also be sad to see pollution and litter on the ground — he liked clean nature and fresh air, not soda cans in rivers and chip bags on the ground. He might start a whole clean-up army.

George would probably be a little upset that so many people stare at glowing rectangular boxes instead of talking face to face. And if he saw that some people don't even take history seriously anymore, he might cry into his tri-cornered hat. He might say, "Do they know who I am?"

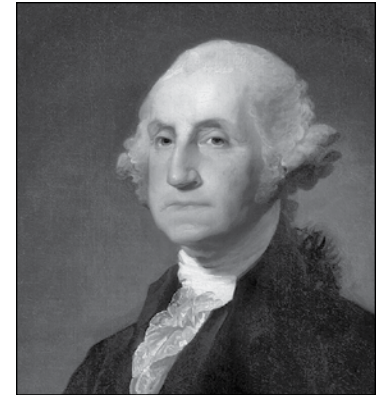
In conclusion, George Washington would probably think modern America is part amazing, part confusing and worried. But mostly, he'd be proud of the country he helped start. Even if he still couldn't figure out how use a TV remote.

## Third place — Adeline Moody

George Washington is one of the most important figures in American history. He helped build and create America 250 years ago. He fought for our country and led our people through difficult times. The question is what would he think of our country today?

I believe George Washington would have many thoughts on ways we could improve or amend our home. I believe he would have ways he would want to perfect us and strengthen us.

I think there are many things he would be upset about or disappointed. But most of all, I believe he would be proud of us in all the ways we've grown and developed over the years.



George Washington Portrait by Gilbert Stuart. *Public domain.*

The United States of America has become one of the most powerful and respected countries in the world, which was probably an absurd thought in Washington's time. Only in his wildest dreams could he have imagined that America would ever become something very much more than "that small country overseas." If only he could see us now!

Our country has some of the most respected universities and schools in the world, a result of their research and academic excellence! As a child who was mainly self-taught, George Washington would probably be exceedingly proud of our investment in learning.

George Washington once said: "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Our abundance of knowledge would mean very much to him.

One thing that we Americans are very proud of, is how we launched the only spacecrafts to land on the moon, as well as having the first airplane in the sky. This was an amazing accomplishment and I'm sure that Washington would be excited right alongside us if he were here.

Some other great engineering accomplishments are from when Eero Saarinen built the gateway arch and Gordon Kaufmann helped build the Hoover Dam, both of which are staggering creations to come by. We would never have been able to build these wonders if it weren't for our education helping bright minds along in their dreams.

The USA also created many game-changing technologies such as air conditioning, cell phones, email, refrigerators, typewriters, drones, personal computers, digital cameras and much more.

The United States has a known reputation for these inventions and become a global leader in science and technology particularly since the early- to mid-1900s.

Our education also played an important role in these advancements, seeing as we likely wouldn't be able to even begin exploring these inventions without a proper schooling.

Our country is filled with intelligence and talent, which has helped us grow our country little by little. George Washington would be very proud in all the progress we have made since July 4, 1776, nearly 250 years ago. ■



St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association

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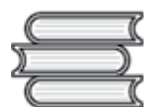
The SAPBLA Forum is planning a party on the library  
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# Como Community Seed Library sprouts new monthly column

By Dave Crawford and Dawn Lamm

*Editor's note: With this issue the Bugle launches a new column, the Minnesota Native Plant of the Month. The contribution comes from the Como Community Seed Library. CCSL was founded in 2015 to provide community access to free organic seed and garden education. CCSL is based in Como Park and serves all of St. Paul and its surrounding communities.*

**Blue Giant Hyssop**  
 Scientific name:  
 Agastache foeniculum  
 Dakota name:  
 Wahpe yátaṭ pi  
 Anishinaabe name:  
 Zhiishiigwaandag

The blue giant hyssop, also called anise hyssop, is native to most counties north of the Minnesota River and scattered counties in the rest of the state.

One of the many native members of the mint family, this hyssop is a favorite of bees, butterflies and birds. Clustered spikes of pale purple flowers that bloom from July through October provide nectar and pollen for many species of bees and other pollinators. The seeds are a source of nutritious food for migratory and overwintering birds.

This perennial member of the mint family thrives in sunnier gardens and meadows that have regular soil disturbance (such as wind, rain, tillage and fertilizer application). It will tolerate a wide range of soil types, moisture and sunlight and will withstand periods of drought once established. It seeds itself freely, but doesn't spread aggressively by underground rhizomes the way that spearmint and other mints can.

At 2 to 5 feet, this plant can add height to any garden.

For the Dakota and Anishinaabe people, blue giant hyssop has a variety of medicinal and spiritual uses.

Harvest its flowers and leaves early on a dry morning when the flowers are in full bloom. Dry in a warm dark area with good air circulation. Blue giant hyssop is not the same species as the non-native, slightly bitter hyssopus officinalis found in herb gardens.

The sweet anise fragrance of the leaves makes a wonderful tea or

you can create this simple syrup from flowers and leaves plus vanilla that will have more of a root beer flavor profile. The tea can be very soothing to a sore throat.

### Anise Hyssop Vanilla Simple Syrup

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup filtered water
- 1 cup organic sugar
- 1 cup dried anise hyssop leaves and flowers
- 1 tsp vanilla extract or seeds scraped from 1 vanilla bean.

In a small saucepan bring the water and sugar to a boil then add the anise hyssop. Stir, then remove from heat. Steep while the syrup cools, then strain the leaves and flowers. Stir in the vanilla and store in a clean airtight jar in the fridge for up to 3 weeks.

This syrup can be used to flavor a variety of beverages or can be laced over ice cream, fruit or other deserts.

By including this soothing na-



The blue giant hyssop is found in most counties north of the Minnesota River. Photo by Dave Crawford.

tive mint in your garden and in your pantry, you are rooting yourself in a particular place and time that can be tapped throughout the year. The advantages of planting anise hyssop as well as other native plants and advocating for natives in the landscapes we steward is an act of kindness to our neighbors,

pollinators, the land and the planet on which we live. ■

*Dave Crawford is a former park naturalist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Dawn Lamm is the founder and organizer of the Como Community Seed Library.*

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## TRANSITION TOWN



A child runs under one of the great bur oaks in College Park. Photo by Eliza L. Swedenborg.

*Note from Transition Town: At this year's St. Anthony Park Arts Festival, Transition Town — All Saint Anthony Park displayed a map of the neighborhood by local artist Allie Rykken. Fairgoers were invited to take the map further, adding their beloved green spaces and "more-than-human" neighbors. Turkeys, swifts, woodchucks, chicken-of-the-woods mushrooms, deer and coyotes all came to cartographical life. Not surprisingly, love of our trees shone through on the map. Now that the entire Luther Seminary campus and the Les Bolstad Golf Course are set for sale, some of the neighborhood's green spaces and trees are at risk. This poem takes inspiration from the map, the land sales as a moment of transition, and the wider climate and ecological crises to ask: Whatever happens, this will change us; who do we want to be?*

# These are the trees

by Eliza L. Swedenborg

These are the trees whose great arms embrace  
The sun and give a shaded space  
A shelter for a world hard as this  
For a child's first steps, a couple's first kiss

These are the people who love the trees  
Their soft hushhhhhh in a summer breeze  
Their sharp rebuke of barefoot feet  
Guardians along these quiet streets

These are the trees who watch and wonder  
The people marching joyfully under  
Little bikes with ribbons, a lawn mower brigade  
Back row to a curious and heartfelt parade

And the trees listen, too, as the people sing under  
The great canopy arches (unless scattered by thunder)  
Kentucky bluegrass carpets an alt rock quartet  
It's safe here, under the trees, they say. Safe yet.

.....

These are the trees who remember deep  
In their rings  
Where the whippoorwill sings  
And how Mrs. Hall and her children listened  
From the doorway at night, back when stars still glistened\*

And before that, the people who walked through these hills  
Toward ricing grounds  
The trees know their footsteps still

Then the trees knew asters, May apples, and rue  
Bees, beetles, and fireflies, too  
Who lived in the drifts of leaves left standing  
Under a cradle of branches, a community, a soft landing

Before Music in the Park  
Birdsong ushering in the dark  
(You needn't cut to the core to know  
It really wasn't so long ago)

.....

These are the people who still reflect  
On the great Cleveland trees they couldn't protect  
To make way for bicycles  
Make way for road  
Make way for inevitable  
Progress! Behold!

And now there is more land in question  
Branching our place in a new direction  
A hidden woods, a great green lawn,  
A course of trees — blink and what's gone?

We need more housing (two things can be true)  
Can we see a bigger picture, like our great trees do?  
Imagine something more for the public good  
And together conjure magic into this more-than-  
Hundred-Acre Wood?

In a much wider frame, our concerns seem so small  
But if people don't care for where they are  
There isn't anything left at all

One question ringing loud to me:  
"This will change us.  
Who do *we* want to be?"

.....

Each beloved tree will fall someday  
May we tend to the decay  
Mourn the loss  
Nurture the new  
(As they say, cracks are how new light shines through)

.....

This is the squirrel who lost the seed  
And thereby did a very good deed  
For from that seed a great tree did spring  
Protected by our namesake  
Saint Anthony of Padua  
Patron Saint  
Of (all-but) Lost Things

\* In 1886, Mrs. Jennie Hall moved to St. Anthony Park, where she recalled listening to the whippoorwills at night: "It was a very pretty spot, right among the trees, and we had all the wildflowers that there could be found in Minnesota." Quoted in David A. Lanegran's 1987 book *St. Anthony Park: Portrait of a Community*, pp. 14–15.

# Lakeside Guitar Festival comes to Como Park

By Janet Wight

The Lakeside Guitar Festival will be held in Como Park on Aug. 8 and 9, with the family-friendly event boasting 15 feature acts along with a vendor village, a silent auction, a strum along/sing a song and meet-and-greets with the artists.

Food and beverages will be available at the Dock & Paddle restaurant located inside the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N.

This year's featured artists include singer-songwriter Mason Jennings, guitarist Hemma and composer-guitarist Ehekatl Arizmendi (from Guerrero, Mexico).

The festival will offer performances on four stages. The main stage is the picturesque promenade behind the pavilion. The café stage will be located inside the pavilion in Dock & Paddle. The waterfall stage, which serves as the experimental/collaboration venue, will be set up at the Hamm Memorial Waterfall across from the pavilion. The floating stage will be located on one of the swan boats on Como Lake.

The festival, organized by Todd Clouser and Molly Maher, was established in Mears Park beginning in 2013. At that time it was known as the Lowertown Guitar Festival. It moved to Como Park in 2018.

"Como Park is the perfect spot for this event, as the promenade is

one of the most beautiful stages in the state," Maher said. "Sit right up front, or bring a blanket and sit by the lake taking it all in."

One purpose of the festival is to bring attention to the nonprofit foundation Music Mission. It "began in 2015 to support underserved communities in creating and sharing their unique music," Maher explained.

Grants from the St. Paul Cultural STAR and Metro Regional Arts Council, as well as significant donations from area businesses, fund the festival and allow it to continue as a free public event, Maher said. "We have devoted volunteers and a great production team who really help pull it all off?"

Spreading the word is the main challenge of running this event. Advertising is done mostly through social media posts and

by placing posters in the windows of local businesses. Most festivals have marketing departments, but the Lakeside Guitar Festival relies on Clouser and Maher to handle



marketing and everything else.

"If it needs doing, one of us just does it!" Maher explained.

Maher said she enjoys many aspects of the festival. She relishes working on it year round as she builds the lineup for the next year. She also takes pride in seeing the reactions of the attendees as they appreciate the music.

Experiencing the connection between the artists and audience is rewarding. "I love bringing in new voices and witnessing them winning over audiences," Maher said.

The strum along/sing a song is another highlight. Attendees are invited to bring their guitars, banjos, mandolins or even air guitars and join in. At this year's festival the Kith + Kin Chorus will be leading the group.

"I think we need more singing

and strumming together," she reflected.

In 2023, singer-guitarist-songwriter Keb' Mo' drew a capacity crowd of 1,200 people.

This year's goal is for the festival to draw at least two thousand people over its two-day span. It will also be streamed so that guitar enthusiasts in other locations can enjoy the programming.

There will be a performance of "Minnesota's Last Waltz," a tribute to the Scorsese film "The Last Waltz," at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 9. Tickets are available for \$35 at [brownpapertickets.com/event/6675406](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/6675406).

Maher said she would like anyone interested to give the festival a try. "We invite you to discover the guitar. Maybe see it differently, or just continue to adore it."

For additional information visit [musicmissionmusic.com](http://musicmissionmusic.com). ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

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# Let's drink to these: 'mocktails' at Minnesota State Fair

By Scott Carlson

Urban Growler, the microbrewery in South St. Anthony Park, will be among the new food and drink vendors debuting at the Minnesota State Fair, serving up a new line of nonalcoholic beverages called Urban Glow Mocktails.

Urban Growler says its lineup of drinks will be served ice-cold, garnished with flair, and designed to turn heads and spark conversation.

The brewer's lineup includes:

- **Grilled Peach No Fashioned:** A golden glow of caramelization from flame-kissed peaches in a flat mocktail, served with a peach and cherry.
- **Bonspiel Blue:** A cucumber, lemon, and butterfly pea flower blue tea garnished with a lemon.



Urban Glow Mocktails, a new line of nonalcoholic drinks, debuts at the Minnesota State Fair. Photo courtesy of Minnesota State Fair.

- **CosNo:** A vibrant refreshing mocktail that balances tart and sweet, blending cranberry, orange, and lime for an elegant sip, garnished with an edible flower.
- **Dirty NoTini:** An elevated twist on the classic dirty martini, blending smooth flavors of lemon, tangy dill pickling spices, and olive brine, garnished with an olive and pickle slice.
- **NoJito:** A crisp minty-lime flat mocktail with a hint of molasses, garnished with mint and lime.
- **Autumn Mule:** A sparkling fusion of apple, warm cinnamon, and spicy ginger and cranberry

for a crisp, cozy mocktail garnished with an apple slice.

Urban Growler will serve tasty bites to pair with its new mocktails at the State Fair, including "Cheweenies," Kramarczuk's mini all-beef hot dogs in sweet Hawaiian rolls paired with mocktail-inspired mustards.

Fairgoers can find the Urban Glow mocktail booth in the North End near The Hangar, off Murphy Avenue and Underwood Street. It will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Aug. 21 through Labor Day, Sept. 1.

Founded in 2014 by Master Brewer Deb Loch and Jill Pavlak, Urban Growler® is Minnesota's first women-owned microbrewery. ■

Story material is from the Minnesota State Fair. Scott Carlson is Bugle editor.

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### Como Friends from p. 1

Editions — a nationally respected independent publisher of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. While there, she has consistently reimagined how the public connects with such treasured civic institutions as the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. She said her background in en-

gagement, public programming and strategic management at other local cultural institutions gives her a unique perspective in leading a fundraising organization like Como Friends.

Public-private partnerships like Como are nothing new to Hill. "I have a strong track record in build-




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ing cross-sector relationships," she noted. "As a St. Paulite, I am excited to work with the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, and the City of St. Paul to inspire generosity for the best possible future of this essential entity."

"This kind of public-private partnership allows for mutual flourishing at the highest level—we are better together," she added. "Como holds a special place in my heart as a local nature-loving parent with my own childhood memories of Sparky and the Sunken Garden — meaningful experiences that I want to help steward for generations to come." ■

Gwen Willems lives in Falcon Heights and is a freelance writer for the Park Bugle.

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## EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

### boréal Art Loft

Two Roseville artists with two different approaches to art are the August featured artists at the boréal art loft, 2276 Como Ave.

Chris Deroski's watercolors are inspired by the daily landscapes around him. His lighthouse and country scenes are recognizable.



Detail of a Chris Deroski watercolor. Submitted photo.

Breanne Sallee is a ceramic artist who creates her pieces in her backyard studio. Look for her free-flowing, plant-inspired forms.



Breanne Sallee is a Roseville ceramic artist. Submitted photo.

View their work during boréal regular business hours: Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Larson Art Gallery:

**Minnesota Flavors:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday-Friday continues through Aug. 15 at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave. The exhibition showcases a variety of art created by professional Minnesota artists. See artist list at [sua.umn.edu/minnesota-flavors](http://sua.umn.edu/minnesota-flavors).

### Community Sing

Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed lead a free community sing at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 18, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

### Dock and Paddle

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N.

- **SAP Community Band**, 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29.
- **Lakeside Guitar Festival**, 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8 and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9. Details: [musicmissionmusic.com/lakeside-guitar-festival-2025](http://musicmissionmusic.com/lakeside-guitar-festival-2025).
- **Como Pops Ensemble**, 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17.

Find the full summer music and entertainment schedule online at [dockandpaddle.com](http://dockandpaddle.com).

### Music Mondays

Jack Brass Band welcomes visitors at Como Zoo and Conservatory to watch, dance or follow along in a mini-celebratory parade through the zoo at 9:50 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and noon on Mondays, Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 1225 Estabrook Dr.

### Women's Drum Center

Beginning drum class for women: 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 11, at 2242 University Ave. W. Explore both hand and stick drumming using easy, energizing rhythm exercises to build skills. Instructor: Jo Klein. The focus is on having fun. Drums provided. \$15. Register at [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

### Gibbs Farm

2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. Free parking

**Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life:** Noon to 3 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Guided tours available on the hour, or independently view. \$10-\$5; free for children 3 and under and members.

**Make a flower press:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2. Geared for adults and youth over 12. No experience necessary. \$30. Register [rchs.com/gibbs-farm](http://rchs.com/gibbs-farm).

**Tree tour:** 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. Master Naturalists Cathy Croghan and Kathy Robbins lead a 45-minute walking tour. Geared for adults and youth 12 and older, but all ages are welcome. Register: [rchs.com/gibbs-farm](http://rchs.com/gibbs-farm). Included in regular admission price.

### St. Anthony Park Library

Remains temporarily closed for repairs and maintenance to entrances. Anticipated reopening in early August. All St. Paul Public Libraries will be closed Sunday, Aug. 31 and Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day. [spl.org/locations/sa](http://spl.org/locations/sa).

### Bell Museum

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. See website for regular museum hours and registration: [bellmuseum.umn.edu](http://bellmuseum.umn.edu).

**Solar observing:** Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23. Drop in to safely observe the sun at the museum's outdoor solar station. Included in regular admission.

### Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily at Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive. Free. A voluntary donation of \$4 for an adult and \$2 for a child is appreciated. Free shuttle service from 9:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 17 at 1930 Como Ave. [comozooconservatory.org](http://comozooconservatory.org).

**Japanese Obon Festival:** 3 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17, on the Conservatory grounds. Enjoy music, martial arts, singing, dancing, drumming, games and Japanese food. Culturally themed items available for purchase. Traditional lanterns released onto the water at dusk. Free shuttle service extended to 10 p.m. (1930 Como Ave.) Admission: \$5-\$8; free for kids under 3. Advance online ticket purchase required: [comozooconservatory.org/como/obon-festival-2025](http://comozooconservatory.org/como/obon-festival-2025). Visit the site for entertainment schedule, vendor list, and map.

**Senior Strolls:** 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5, and 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Special time reserved for adults ages 55+. Online registration is no longer required.

**Summer Flower Show:** Brightly colored assortment of tropical annuals continues in the sunken garden through Sept. 14.

### Minnesota History Center

Free Thursday nights with free parking: 4 to 8 p.m. on Aug 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 345 Kellogg Boulevard W.

### Minnesota State Fair

The Great Minnesota Get-Together runs Thursday, Aug. 21 through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. Details at [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org).

### St. Paul Parks and Rec Camps

Limited space, registration required: [stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation). Resident fee: \$140. Non-resident fee: \$210. Bring a nut-free snack and drink each day.

### T. Swift Era with Kidcreate Studio camp:

For ages 5-12. 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, July 28, through Wednesday, July 30, at North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N. Art camp creativity inspired by Taylor Swift's music and style.

### Robotic builders: Battlebots camp:

For ages 6-10. 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, through Thursday, Aug. 7, at Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 Hamline Ave. N.

### Game coding and robotic engineering camp:

For ages 5-9. 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 11, through Thursday, Aug. 14, at Northwest Como. Students working in pairs will explore the exciting world of robotics.

### End of Summer Bash with Kidcreate Studio camp:

For ages 4-9. 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Aug. 18, through Wednesday, Aug. 20, at North Dale.

### Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors offers a mix of in-person and virtual activities in July. Unless noted otherwise, no registration is required. For additional details, call 651-642-9052 or email or email [sc@sapaseniors.org](mailto:sc@sapaseniors.org).

Unless another location is listed, in-person events are held at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. W.

In-person activities include:

**Game Day:** Coffee and board games. 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1., and Tuesday, Aug. 26.

**SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life):** Exercise class focusing on balance, strength and flexibility. 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25; Wednesdays, Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27; and Fridays, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Call or email to register.

**Pound Fit:** A full-body movement class inspired by the energizing fun of drumming. 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Call or email the office to register.

**Lunch outing:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Meet at Pizza Lucé, 2851 Snelling Ave., N., Roseville. Call the office or e-mail to register by Monday, Aug. 4.

**Handiwork Group:** 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Aug. 14. Bring your own supplies and drop in to socialize with your neighbors.

**Poetry Group:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15.

**Equal Portions:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Catered luncheon and presentation, "Beyond Your Home: Basic senior living overview for preparing your search," which is about planning and understanding the current senior living landscape. \$15. Contact the office to register by Aug. 13.

Virtual:

**Lunch Bunch:** Socializing and BINGO. Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27. Call the office or email for Zoom link. ■

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

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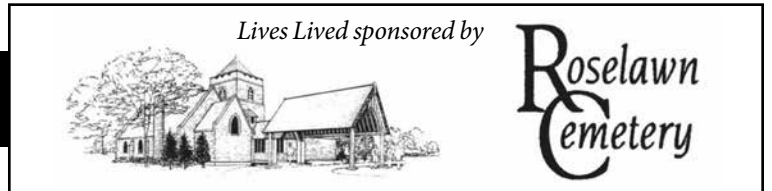
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## LIVES LIVED

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](mailto:mary.mergenthal@gmail.com) or call 612-670-8510.



### David Brostrom

David (Dave) Brostrom, 75, died June 19, 2025. He was born March 15, 1950 to Marian and Donald Brostrom. He was a graduate of Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, where he obtained his master's degree in geography.

Dave served on the team of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to address pollution in Lake Superior. After a long court battle, the State of Minnesota prevailed against the Reserve Mining Company, winning a landmark legal decision that set the precedent that the government could regulate pollution.

For the rest of his career, Dave worked independently on environmental projects, especially clean drinking water.

He volunteered at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, where he served as congregational president.

Dave is survived by his wife Sue, daughters Carolyn (Rory) Philstrom and Anna (Eric) Christen, four grandchildren, brother John (Stephanie), and sister-in-law Karen Brostrom. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Jim and Dennis.

A funeral service was scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., St. Paul, with visitation one hour prior. Memorials preferred to St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, Friends of the Mississippi River or donor's choice.

### Dennis Dolan

Dennis Michael Dolan, 81, died June 15, 2025. He was the youngest of seven children, son of Leo and Irene Dolan. Denny was raised in Como Park. He attended St. Andrew's grade school, St. Thomas Academy and the University of St. Thomas.

Dennis was a competitive

speed-skater in his youth, skating for the St. Paul Midway Club, even setting a national record. He was also known for his speed on the baseball and football fields. He was a proud member of the STA Crack Drill Squad.

Denny served in the Peace Corps in Bogota, Columbia, and was a captain in the Marine Corps, serving a tour in Vietnam as a jet navigator flying an A-6 plane.

Denny was a successful business owner and partner of Minnesota Computer Supply and apartment owner of Olympic Properties, each for over 20 years.

Dennis was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Shirley; infant daughter Kathleen; parents, Leo and Irene; brothers Fr. Leo Dolan and Pat Dolan (Joan); and sisters Colleen McDonald (John), Mary Ann Wier, and Rose Doane (Bob). He is survived by his children: Steve Dolan (Nicole), Susie Laird (Chris) and Katie Fitzpatrick (Matt); nine grandchildren; his sister Renie Molitor; brothers-in-law Tom Wier and Wayne Enos; and sister-in-law Dru Enos.

Memorials preferred to Academy of Holy Angels or Benilde-St. Margaret's.

### Janet Engeswick

Janet S. Engeswick, 93, died June 12, 2025. She was born July 7, 1931, to Harry and Erika Strane in St. Paul.

Janet attended Wilson High School and Macalester College, where she majored in education and met her husband, Bruce. Janet and Bruce were married in 1956, had three children and lived in Falcon Heights.

Janet was a lifelong member of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. She was also a lifelong educator and learner.

Janet was preceded in death by husband Bruce, and siblings Do-

ris Schleiter, Carol Cross and Cort Strane. She is survived by children, Jill Engeswick, Beth Jagger (Norman), Jon Engeswick (Lisa Marais); ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held. Memorials preferred to Central Presbyterian Church or Macalester College.

### Erika Hovland-Bahij



Erika Christine Hovland-Bahij, 52, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, died June 7, 2025, surrounded by

her loving family and friends.

Born on July 24, 1972 to Keith and Karen (Newell) Hovland, Erika lived a life that was a testament to kindness, curiosity, her faith and a deep commitment to those she loved.

Erika grew up in St. Anthony Park, where she attended SAP Elementary and Murray Middle School. She was a member of SAP Lutheran Church, where she was confirmed.

Erika graduated from Central High School in 1990. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Minnesota, where she served a six-month internship with U.S. Congressman Martin Sabo in Washington, D.C.

Erika earned her MBA with honors from Temple University, where she later returned to teach as an adjunct professor. She also became a certified forest therapy guide, sharing her love of nature and mindfulness with others.

Erika was married to Abdelaziz Bahij and was a devoted and nurturing mother to Matsson and to Abdel's son, Alex Bahij, whose lives she enriched with her warmth, wisdom and unwavering support.

Erika was a marketing director at GSK Pharmaceutical and a

vice-president at Tri-State Imaging. Afterwards, she founded her own consulting firm, Iolite Global, and launched Rose & Redwood, a non-profit organization devoted to teaching leadership skills to children.

Erika found joy in the outdoors, hiking in the forests and in tending her garden. She was an avid reader, a gifted writer, a creative cook and a world traveler who embraced new cultures and experiences.

Above all, Erika treasured time spent with her family and friends, whose lives are forever touched by her compassion, humor and grace. She is deeply missed by family and friends.

Erika is survived by her parents, husband, Abdelaziz, children Matsson and Alex, brother Matt and a wide circle of cherished friends.

Memorial services were held in both Wayne, Pennsylvania, and at SAP Lutheran Church. Memorials may be directed to the fund for Matsson's education. Please send contributions to Erika's parents, named above.

### Robert McKinnell



Robert Gilmore McKinnell, 98, longtime St. Anthony Park resident, died June 21, 2025.

Bob was born in Springfield, Missouri, and served in the Navy during both World War II and the Korean War. He was a professor of genetics and cell biology at the University of Minnesota from 1970 to 1999 and received the Morse-Alumni teaching award in 1992.

He published several books on the subjects of cloning and cancer. Bob's research involved surveying leopard frogs in Minnesota from the 1960s to the 2010s, and he was consulted on deformed frogs in the 1990s.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly. He is survived by his children Nancy, Robert (Tonya) and Susan (Charles), and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

### Thomas Miller

Thomas Magnus ("Pops") Miller, Falcon Heights, 83, died Nov. 12, 2024.

Tom loved animals, fly tying and trout fishing, wood working, snorkeling and listening to slack key guitar music on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. He also loved the northern woods of Wisconsin and Minnesota and the Green Bay Packers. He was an avid reader of books and newspapers.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Julie. Tom is survived by his three children: Tom (Cathy), Jean (Jim Lee), Peter, and five grandchildren.

### Rita Ann Muggli

Rita Ann Muggli, 92, died June 2, 2025. She was born June 8, 1932, in Richardton, North Dakota.

Rita lived a full and active life despite critical brain tumor surgery at age 20.

She coped with many barriers during her long life, but managed to achieve multiple degrees, a long successful career as a librarian and an admirable zest for life.

She was preceded in death by parents Isidore and Anna (Fleck) Muggli; brother Edward; and baby sister Mary. She is survived by siblings James (Noemy), Richard (Susan), William (Imelda), Jerome, Marguerite Prados, MaryAnn Hansen, Jocelyn, Barbara Yerich (Al) and Michael.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Childhood Church.

Lives Lived to p. 13

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### ❖ ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford), 651-646-7173  
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[www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org), Facebook: *stmatthewsmn*  
Sunday outdoor Eucharist 10:30 am in College Park  
Wednesday Eucharist 12:00 NOON followed by lunch

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

# Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ads are \$1.15 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for \$11 each. Next deadline: Aug 9, 2025.

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**Lives Lived from p. 12**

**Kathleen Rothstein**  
Kathleen Gail (Jaderston) Rothstein, 81, North Branch, died June 6, 2025. She was born Feb. 24, 1944, in St. Paul to George and Vivian (Early) Jaderston.

She graduated from Alexander Ramsey High School in 1962 and received a certificate in key punch from Globe School of Business.

She married Gerald (Jerry) Rothstein on April 13, 1968, in her childhood home in Lauderdale. Jerry brought with him his son, Gerald (Jay), whom Kathy loved as her own. Together they had three daughters: Lynn, Julie and Deborah.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son Jay, one grandson, and sister Marjorie Krinke (Larry). She is survived by her daughters: Lynn Kubacki, Julie (Kevin) Mahowald, and Deborah (Chris) Mahowald; siblings: Carole Cady, George (Bev) Jaderston and Steven (Jane) Jaderston; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Charles Smith**  
Charles J. "Charlie" Smith, 90, St. Anthony Park, died June 17, 2025.

He joined the Air Force as a teenager and spent four years at a remote site in Turkey. After returning home, he graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and later served as an Army officer during the Vietnam War.

He went on to become director of Washington State Pathology Lab before returning to Minnesota to earn a doctorate in microbiology.

A veterinarian and inveterate dog lover, Charlie often helped colleagues with their veterinary practices and tended to the dogs.

Charlie was fond of living in St Anthony Park and near the University of Minnesota campus.

He was most grateful for the kind and caring help of the St. Anthony Park Home staff—above all, Almaz. Charlie lived there the past year.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Myrna. He was laid to rest at Fort Snelling, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made to the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, the Animal Humane Society, the St. Anthony Park Senior Program, Norway House or the American Swedish Institute.

**Lawrence Tunell**  
Lawrence Glenn Tunell attended Murray High School, where he was a leader in athletics. He attended Bemidji State University for his bachelor's degree and the College of St. Thomas for his master's degree. It was there he met his future wife, Sandy (Sam) Mann. They married in 1977 and had two daughters, who were the delight of his life.

Larry survived a traumatic brain injury in 2002 that left him unable to work, but he showed tremendous resilience in the past 23 years.

Larry was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife; children Stephanie (Chris Damlo) and Amy (Luke Fraser); five grandchildren; and sister Cheryl Robson. ■

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# Rock 'n' roll butchers a cut above the average

By Sarah CR Clark

Readers of the Park Bugle might very well know Mike Andrade and Glen Wadie from their work behind the meat counter at Tim & Tom's Speedy Market in St. Anthony Park.

Perhaps lesser known is that the two butchers make up 50% of the rock 'n' roll band The Grande Machine. (Grande is pronounced 'grand'.)

Wadie described The Grande Machine's sound as "dumb, loud rock 'n'

roll." Wadie plays guitar and sings while Andrade rocks the bass.

There are two other band members: Matt Potts on guitar and Walter Baumann on drums. The four have played together for eight years and have released three albums.

Andrade and Wadie have worked together in a variety of locations. Before coming to Speedy, they were employed at O'Gara's Bar and Grill (which closed in 2018, except for its presence at the Minnesota State Fair) and before that

the two worked at Guitar Center in Roseville.

Wadie began working at Speedy in 2018, "It was right after O'Gara's closed and about the time Tim (Faacks) was floating the idea of retiring," Wadie said. "So it was kind of a lucky accident."

Andrade started working at Speedy six months later, in the spring of 2019.

According to Andrade, 90% of what The Grande Machine plays is original music, written by various members of the band. Wadie called the band's creative process a collective effort.

"A lot of times what happens is that our other guitar player will show up and he'll share one or two parts of a new song and we'll all start playing with that, adding to it and changing it together," Andrade said. "Still, Glen writes most of our lyrics."

Occasionally The Grande Machine will play songs by other artists, though usually they're lesser known. "Any covers that we play, you wouldn't necessarily know they're covers. Except for [Prince's] 'Little Red Corvette,'" Wadie said.

When asked for their favorite summertime music vibes, Andrade chose "old emo rock" and recalled seeing Papa Roach perform in the spring. "It was actually fantastic," he said.

Wadie also plays in a second



Mike Andrade and Glen Wadie are not only butchers at Tim & Tom's Speedy Market, but also musicians in rock band The Grande Machine. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

band called My Famous Mistake. He is a self-described Bruce Springsteen fan and, in the summer especially, he loves to listen to anything that reminds him of being a teenager. "That's when I bust out all the old 90's hip-hop and R&B kind of stuff, like Boyz II Men."

As for products from behind Speedy's butcher counter, Wadie said that butter steaks are his favorite. And, not only is Speedy's chorizo verde Andrade's favorite, it's his own recipe.

Alas, The Grande Machine doesn't have any songs about the art of butchery. Andrade's favorite song by the band is a garage rock piece about unrequited love called "Rock N' Roll Mags." Wadie's favorite is the Ramones-esque "All Night Long (With the Radio On)." The Grande Machine's music (as well as My Famous Mistake's) can be found on streaming platforms like Bandcamp, Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

Wadie noted, "We like it best if people download music from Bandcamp, because Bandcamp takes a very small revenue share whereas all the other big services take a bigger cut."

For readers looking for live music this summer, The Grande Machine invites you to a show they're playing on Aug. 15 at Heritage Days in St. Paul Park. ■

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



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# At Como Conservatory, Frederick the corpse flower raised a stink!

By Janet Wight

Earlier this summer, a weird smell emanated from inside the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at the Como Zoo.

Call it putrid, rancid or foul, the smell was not reminiscent of the usual beautiful fragrances wafting through the air at the venerable botanical gardens.

No, for a few glorious days in late June, conservatory visitors were feted to the putrid smell from Frederick the Corpse Flower, a plant native to the rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia.

From a tiny seedling, this corpse flower slowly grew over a period of several years and then finally bloomed in late June, releasing a foul-smelling odor.

To learn about the story of Frederick the Corpse Flower, the Bugle conducted a Q and A interview with Matt Reinartz, marketing and public relations manager for Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. The transcript has been edited for clarity and brevity.

**Q: How long has the Conservatory had Frederick the Corpse Flower and where did it come from?**

A: We have had Frederick since 2017 when he arrived as a seedling donation from the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

During our more than 100-year history, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory has had a few corpse flowers come through our collection.

Frederick and sibling Horace are the first to bloom here in recent memory, which makes them very special residents. They were each only a few months old when they arrived.

**Q: What's the story behind the name Frederick?**

A: We chose the name Frederick to honor Frederick Nussbaumer, a visionary who played a key role in the development of Como Park.

Nussbaumer worked as a gardener before being elevated to superintendent of the City of St. Paul park system in 1891, a role he held until 1922.

He helped shape Como Park into the iconic urban green space it is today. Naming such a rare and majestic plant after him felt like the perfect tribute.



Frederick the corpse flower in bloom. Photo courtesy of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.

**Q: Who was responsible for caring for Frederick?**

A: It was a collaborative effort by our horticultural team. Jen Love, one of our many horticulturists, was especially involved in the care and cultivation of Frederick. That said, bringing a titan arum to bloom is a true team accomplishment, from repotting and monitoring growth to managing public viewing and education.

**Q: Where are these plants found in the wild?**

A: The corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is native to the rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia. This plant is incredibly rare in the wild. It is currently listed as endangered, primarily due to habitat destruction from logging and the expansion of palm oil plantations.

**Q: How often does it bloom and how long does the smell last?**

A: A corpse flower usually takes 7 to 10 years to bloom for the first time. After that it may bloom every 2 to 3 years depending on condi-

tions. The bloom itself lasts only 24 to 48 hours, and the notorious smell is strongest during the first 12 to 24 hours after the spathe begins to open. Frederick bloomed for one day, then quickly began to close back up — right on schedule.

**Q: Can you describe the smell?**

A: The smell has been described as a combination of rotting meat,

dirty diapers, gym socks and garbage left out in the sun.

It is all part of the plant's strategy — the odor mimics decaying flesh to attract carrion beetles and flesh flies, which serve as pollinators in the wild. When Frederick's odor was at its peak it was not necessary to be close by to notice the stench. As the bloom faded, the odor lingered faintly but no longer filled the space.

**Q: How many visitors have experienced this unique event?**

A: Thousands came in person to see and smell Frederick. We likely would have welcomed even more, but rainy weather during the bloom window may have deterred some visitors.

However, the interest was truly global. Our live "Corpse Cam" feed received over 64,000 views from people in 35 different countries.

**Q: How common are corpse flowers in the United States and around the world?**

A: A limited number of botanical gardens and conservatories around the world maintain them and even fewer have managed to bring them to bloom. That is part of what makes a bloom event like Frederick's so exciting — it's a once-in-a-decade moment for a plant, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many visitors.

**Q: Does the entire Conservatory take on the smell of the corpse flower?**

A: Thankfully, no! The Palm Dome, where Frederick was on display, definitely took on the smell, especially at the peak of the bloom. But

the rest of the Conservatory stayed mostly unaffected, much to the relief of our other plants (and guests!).

**Q: What else is important to understand about corpse flowers like Frederick?**

A: It is important to highlight the conservation story behind the spectacle. Corpse flowers are endangered in their native habitat due to the rapid loss of tropical rainforest.

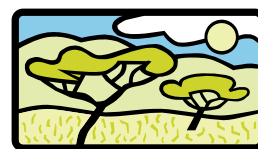
By showcasing this plant, we are not just giving visitors something wild and wonderful to experience, we are also raising awareness about habitat destruction and the importance of biodiversity.

We also encourage visitors to make sustainable consumer choices, like choosing products made with sustainable palm oil, to help protect the corpse flower, orangutans and many other rainforest dwellers. The WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) PalmOil Scan app helps to identify brands that use certified sustainable palm oil.

**Q: What has Frederick's recent bloom meant to the Conservatory community?**

A: This event has been a deeply joyful and educational experience for our staff and community. From live cams to curious kids to guests pinching their noses with laughter, Frederick delivered on every front. We are already looking forward to the next bloom. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



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# All around the park at the 4th in the Park celebration



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