



People in your neighborhood

Page 7



SAP Library reopens

Page 12



New ice cream shop

Page 20

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September 2025

Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival set for sixth yearly celebration

By Aeden Evenson-McDermott

As summer winds down, the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival is right around the corner for its sixth annual celebration.

The festival will be held Thursday, Sept. 18 - Saturday, Sept. 20, featuring free artist-led tours and several new wall murals located in the Creative Enterprise Zone district of south St. Anthony Park.

A commissioned LEGO mosaic mural by artist Brian Kelley will be displayed at events in September. A LEGO mosaic mural community workshop with Kelley is scheduled for Sept. 9 at the MODA Apartments, 760 Raymond Ave.

Nine artists have been working throughout the summer on new wall murals. They are: Mariela Ajas of Argentina, Denver-based muralist Anna Charney and seven Minnesota artists—Biafra Inc., Mike Davis, Xena Goldman, Cadex Herrera, Pablo Kalaka, Christina Vang and Andres Guzman.

Goldman, a Minneapolis-based muralist, uses bold colors and large portrait features to convey her work through a lens of being someone who deals with neurodivergence and sensory processing problems. Through her art and poetry, Goldman has spread her work across the globe including the U.S., Columbia and Cuba.

Her mural titled “Mimosa Pudica,” also known as the “sensitive plant,” which closes its leaves for self-protection when touched, is



This untitled creation of Biafra Inc. at 2327 Wycliff St. is among several new wall murals being celebrated at this month's Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival. Photo courtesy of Creative Enterprise Zone.

also an expression of those same efforts of self-protection, according to Goldman.

“This piece is inspired by the experience of sensory overwhelm, which is why the subject is wearing sunglasses (for bright lights), covering their ears (for loud sounds),

and wearing gloves (for tactile overwhelm),” Goldman said. “I wanted to create a mural that was reflective of an experience I can speak to on a personal level, which is how this design was born.”

The Chroma Zone festival is run by CEZ, a city-recognized district

and nonprofit whose mission is to inspire creative artists while advancing representation for artists of color.

So far, Chroma Zone has commissioned 72 artists to produce 62 murals including 75% by local

Chroma Zone to p. 18

Minnesota State Fair to get feature film treatment

Local documentarian embarks on labor of love

By Bill Brady

In high school, Alec Fischer worked for Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar at the Minnesota State Fair, charged primarily with running supplies back and forth between what at the time were their two fairground locations.

More than a decade later, Fischer is again scurrying across the fairgrounds at a dizzying pace, but now he's got a film crew in tow.

For more than three years, the independent filmmaker has been piecing together “The Fair,” a documentary that hopes to “give a modern look at the traditions of the American Midwest, as told through the whimsical world of the Minnesota State Fair.”

Edited to take place over a single

MN State Fair documentary to p. 19



An independent film crew works to capture the magic of the Minnesota State Fair. Photo by Fischr Media.

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CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 12
Community Council

Sip & Stroll brings neighbors into "full bloom" at the SAP Community Garden

On Aug. 5, more than 75 neighbors gathered for the annual Sip & Stroll event at the St. Anthony Park Community Garden—a warm evening of music among blooming flowers, vegetables and prairie grasses.

This year, gardeners and their friends in the St. Anthony Park Community Council invited the wider community to take part in this tradition—welcoming nearby neighbors, new residents and community partners to walk the paths, enjoy refreshments and hear what's next for one of the neighborhood's most cherished green spaces.

Nestled along Robbins Street between Raymond Avenue and Highway 280, the SAP Community Garden is owned by SAPCC but entirely cared for by dedicated volunteers since 1982. It's one of the oldest neighborhood-run gardens in St. Paul and this year was designated an official USDA People's Garden, recognizing its commitment to sustainability, food access and community leadership.

The Sip & Stroll was inspired by the gardeners and brought to fruition by the garden's steering committee, chaired by Sue Conner and Kristen Olson, who have helped shape the space alongside a deeply committed team of neighbors.

Today, the garden includes more



On August 5th, more than 75 neighbors gathered for the annual Sip & Stroll at the SAP Community Garden—a warm, music-filled evening among blooming flowers, vegetables and prairie grasses. Submitted photo by District 12 Community Council.

than 90 plots, food shelf beds that grow produce for residents of the nearby Seal Hi-Rise, a unique heritage prairie plot and even a native plum grove, all thriving on this formerly desolate railroad property.

"This event is really about sharing the joy of what's happening here," Conner said.

Throughout the evening, guests explored the garden paths, talked with gardeners and enjoyed live music by Nick Jordan and Mike Wilson (on clarinet and guitar). District 12 provided refreshments.

"This garden is a space where people connect across generations and root into the land and each other," said Angela Casselton, executive director of the Creative Enterprise Zone. "I've loved watching it grow, year after year."

Also attending were Julie Drechsler, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community

Foundation, and Vince Netz, chair of the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund. Both have long supported community-led initiatives like the garden.

"The garden is a great example of what happens when local leadership and long-term partnerships come together," Netz said.

Behind the current garden plots lies a section of land that the gardeners and District 12 have slowly been preparing to remediate and expand into. The vision: A new native berry orchard, more growing space, expanded habitat for pollinators and more neighbors involved.

The soil alone will cost nearly \$20,000, but hope is strong to accomplish this work. Gardeners under the leadership of Sue, Kristen, Sherman Eagles and a dedicated team continue to lead the way.

Learn more at sapcc.org/

community-garden. To support the garden, go to givemn.org/organization/SAPCC.

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 fun.

To register your garage sale or to get more information about the event, visit sapcc.org/sale.

Ice cream social

Sept. 13 at Hampden Park

Get ready for a delightful afternoon of community, connection and free ice cream!

The St. Anthony Park Community Council invites you to its annual ice cream social at Hampden Park.

The event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, right across the street from the Hampden Park Co-op, 928 Raymond Ave. Meet your neighbors, enjoy a variety of ice cream flavors from Ben & Jerry's and learn about the local organizations that make our community so special.

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.

- **Land Use Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4
- **District 12 Board:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11
- **Environment Committee:**
7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24
- **Equity Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25
- **Transportation Committee:**
7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.

District 10
Community Council

Final 2025 Lake Como Cleanup

Join us for the final 2025 Lake Como Cleanup! It's from 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, bags

and nitrile gloves for those who need them. Or, feel free to bring your own gear. Registration isn't 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.

Fall Como Tree Trek Oct. 4

The District 10 Environment Committee hosts Como Tree Treks where community members can learn how to identify and appreciate the multitude of different tree species living in Como Park.

Stephanie Mirocha, a volunteer Tree Trek guide, will lead the program. Space is limited and registration is required.

In addition to the planned events each year, the Tree Trek program has created and installed tree tags on numerous trees around Como Park for self-guided tree treks, bolstered recently with a robust Meet The Trees write-up of all 41 species! Find out more at District10ComoPark.org/tree-trek.

Fall Como Tree Trek Oct. 4

District 10 is partnering with the Capitol Region Watershed District again for the 2025 Como Curb Cleanup.

When it rains, leaves on streets release nutrients into the water that flows into storm drains and the lake. There it becomes food for invasive algae. Studies have shown that sweeping up the leaves that sit against the curb where this stormwater/ice melt flows is surprisingly effective in reducing this damage.

Join more than 100 neighbors in sweeping your curb once a week during October and November to help keep Lake Como clean. To learn more and register as an "official" participant, which greatly helps us track our effectiveness, go to: District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup#curb.

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.

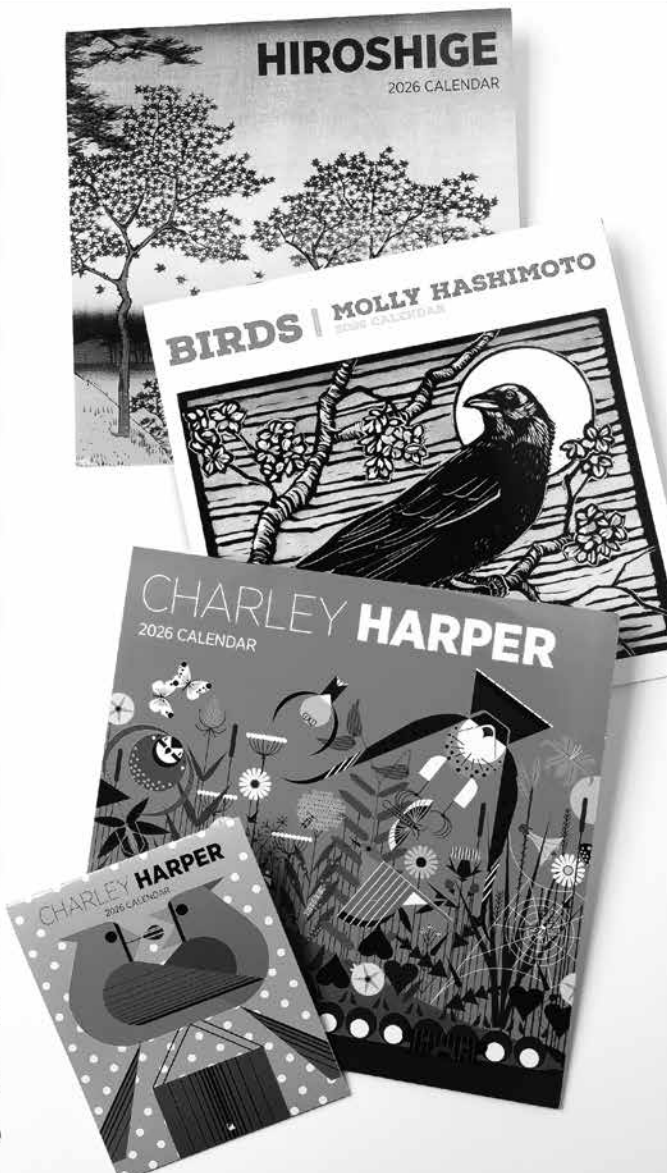
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public.

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

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COMMENTARY

Reflecting on 50 years of community district councils

By Zev Radziwill

Fifty years ago, St. Paul's District Council system was born from a powerful idea: That everyday neighbors should help shape the future of their neighborhoods.

In 1975, that idea became reality when the City Council officially established 17 district councils across the city, including District 12, which is now represented by the St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC).

Since then, SAPCC, an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3), has shepherded the work of District 12, holding the city's community engagement contract and serving as a bridge between residents and local government.

Through five decades of change, one thing has remained constant: Neighbors are the ones making it all work.

While the official history will point you to a citywide citizen participation effort between 1972 and 1975, St. Anthony Park neighbors were, unsurprisingly, already organized.

In 1969, the South St. Anthony Project Area Committee (PAC) was created by neighbors pushing back on top-down redevelopment plans and calling for greater transparency, accountability and neighborhood input.

That same spirit led residents to found the Park Bugle newspaper in 1975, launch the amazing Block Nurse Program in 1981 and form



Celebrating 50 years of St. Paul's district community councils. Pictured are (left to right): Joan Ballenger, Board Member, D2 Greater East Side; Jess Landucci, Community Organizer, D2 Greater East Side; Ianni Houmas, Executive Director, D1 Southeast Community Council; Board Member, D2 Greater East Side; Jens Werner, Executive Director, D8 Summit-University Planning Council; Shevek McKee, Executive Director, D10 Como Community Council; Zoë Bourgerie, District Council Program Coordinator, City of Saint Paul; Matt Keliher, Board Chair, D10 Como Community Council and Zev Radziwill, Executive Director, D12 St. Anthony Park Community Council. Submitted photo from District 12 Community Council.

the very foundation of what would become SAPCC.

It's simple. Neighbors make neighborhoods and the District Council system work. Every project, every cleanup, every committee meeting — all powered by people who care about where they live.

At the Aug. 6 City Council meeting, the St. Anthony Park Community Council joined other district council representatives from across St. Paul to celebrate the system's 50th anniversary. City leaders, including Ward 4 Councilmember Matt Privratsky, applauded the enduring role of district councils in shaping policy, connecting neighbors and building a stronger city.

District 12's VISTA tenant organizer, Lucid Thomas, reflected on

the milestone: "District Councils aren't just advisory bodies, they're places where neighbors come together, learn from one another and build the kind of city we all want to live in."

As I have led District 12 through renter forums, land use debates, youth programs, community cleanups and garden expansions, I often share this metaphor about our work:

"Sometimes, we're seen as nothing more than a pebble — small, perhaps easy to overlook. But I say, watch the pebble as it's tossed into the waters of our neighborhoods — pay attention to the ripples."

That's how we measure our work: by the ripples we create — touching lives, convening conversations,

shaping developments and making a lasting impact.

District councils make a bigger difference than many realize, and those ripples are felt far and wide.

Today, SAPCC remains one of the most active councils in the city, thanks to its dedicated neighbors, volunteers, committee members and funding sponsors. From the growing network of pollinator gardens and native tree plantings to tenant education workshops and community forums to the stewardship of the SAP Community Garden, the work continues, rooted in the same values that sparked action 50 years ago.

As SAPCC looks to the next 50 years, one thing is clear: The strength of the council has always come from the people who show up. Join us!

And to everyone who's served, volunteered or simply raised their voice — thank you. Let's keep the ripples going. Here's to another 50 years! ■

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



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Currently serving on the board are:

Beth Breidel, Jennine Duda,
Allison Eklund, Mark Gudmastad,
Moses Hungiapuko, Steve Plagens,
Seth Richardson, Andy Sackreiter,
Ian Wreisner

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

Comings and goings

It's hard to believe, but the Bugle is already more than a month into its new fiscal year, 2025–26, which began July 1.



With the end of fiscal 2024–25, we said “Thanks for a job well done” to Helen Warren, who served six years on our board of directors and was presiding officer this past year.

Helen brought great enthusiasm and dedication, challenging us to reach more readers in our circulation area and sustain the Bugle's long-term viability. She also strongly supported expanding our social media outreach.

We wish Helen the best as she gets more time for her other interests in life. Among other things, she is an avid follower of the Minnesota Lynx, Gopher women's basketball and other local sports teams.



Board member Steve Plagens is our 2025–26 presiding officer. He is a long-time St. Anthony Park resident and has been very active in the community and with the Bugle for many years.

Meanwhile, joining the Park Bugle board for 2025–26 are

Moses Hungiapuko and Mark Gudmastad.



Hungiapuko was born in Lagos, Nigeria, but has lived in the United States since he was three

years old. He grew up on Eustis and Carl streets, and spent most his childhood in Lauderdale and the St. Anthony Park community.

“I am happy to join the Park Bugle to be a voice of advocacy and stay connected to the local community,” Moses said. “Above all, I am always looking for opportunities to convey the importance of civic duty in our communities.”

Hungiapuko earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from Bethel University and a master's degree in global affairs from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

His professional experience spans federal government service, education (eight years with at-risk youth), legal administration, diplomatic liaison work, and public affairs.



Gudmastad brings family roots in St. Anthony Park that stretch back a century.

His great-grandparents, William “Billy” and Sophie (Stickney) Hedlund arrived in St. Anthony Park in the 1920s and made their home on Chilcombe Avenue. Billy worked

at a gas station at the corner of Como and Chilcombe, a site where Mark's mother now lives. Mark returned to St. Anthony Park in 2019 and is proud to call it home.

Gudmastad is a senior communications director in international development and global health.

Drawing on an early career in journalism, Mark develops strategies that turn complex evidence into stories that inspire action among policymakers, strengthen health systems and improve livelihoods around the world.

He said he believes strong local journalism builds trust and civic connection. “I'm honored to help steward a paper that has informed and united St. Anthony Park neighbors for generations.”

Welcome Moses and Mark!

The readers speak

The Bugle this summer conducted its first readership survey in several years and the results are in: Readers are generally pleased with the newspaper and its local coverage.

In the survey of 325 readers, 81% of respondents feel the Bugle is fulfilling its mission to strengthen our community by providing local news and stories that transform readers into neighbors.

Most survey respondents (69%) said they read seven to 12 issues of the Bugle a year.

The Bugle's efforts to strengthen its website and online presence are also gaining traction. Nearly 40% of respondents said they read the Bugle online either primarily (23.1%) or in combination with the monthly print newspaper (16.4%).

During the past three years, Bugle social media specialist Laura Adrian has been shepherding the growth of our online presence. Laura's latest monthly report tells the story of new successes.

“For the month of July, our Facebook page had approximately 120,000 views,” she told the board of directors. “We built strong momentum this spring, and engaging stories around Milton Square, Speedy, and Luther Seminary attracted a lot of attention.”

“The Milton Square post alone drew more than 600 likes, 24 comments, and 18 shares. Because of the new interactions, I was able to invite over 500 people to ‘like’ the Bugle page, bringing our total followers to about 1,650.”

We intend to always have a strong local newspaper. But as more and more readers continue gravitating to online and digital platforms for local news, the Bugle is well positioned to meet the needs of the public. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

COMMENTARY

Talking about Philando and me

Editor's note: Presented by Michael Robin at the Philando Castile Peace Garden memorial on July 6, 2025.

By Michael Robin

On July 7, 2016, I awoke to the terrible news that Philando Castile, a 32-year-old African-American man, had been killed the night before by a St. Anthony police officer during what was initially dubbed “a routine traffic stop.”

Philando's offense? Driving with a broken taillight.

Castile's death was one of many for African Americans who have fallen victim to police violence over the years.

What was particularly poignant for me was that I was stopped on the same road, Larpenteur Avenue, for driving with a broken taillight about three months before Castile's death.

I need not elaborate on the disparate police treatment given to Castile and me.

The difference in how Philando and I were treated shows that racial profiling is real, not just a myth. Philando was *driving while black*, a situation I am unable to experience. A black person was stopped for the same traffic violation I committed, yet he was killed while I was let go without a ticket or warning.

I am shocked by the idea that *driving while white* should be seen

as a privilege. I don't understand why my life is more important than Philando's.

The day after Philando Castile died, a manufactured image took hold to discredit his innocence. Castile was described as an angry, armed Black man, even though, by all accounts, he was a gentle and peace-loving man, known to be very kind to all the children in the school cafeteria he monitored.

Jeronimo Yanez, the St. Anthony police officer who shot Castile, said Castile died because of the “presence” of a gun. (Note, however, Philando was licensed to carry his gun.)

While the presence of a gun was used to justify the shooting, no one, other than Yanez's lawyer, claimed or implied that Castile took it out of his pocket or pointed it at Yanez. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension determined the gun was deep down in Castile's pocket and had no bullets in it.

In defending Yanez, St. Anthony Police Chief Jon Mangseth claimed the police officer had a “real sound ability when it comes to communicating and relating to people.”

In this Orwellian use of language, Castile's innocence is dismissed because the man who shot him supposedly had good “communication skills.”

The chief continued to speak on Yanez's behalf, saying he has a

“sterling reputation” and is often described as “energetic” and “intelligent.” This support from his chief completely ignores the fact that Yanez was videotaped yelling expletives in a highly agitated voice as he held his gun on Castile while he was bleeding out.

How Yanez's sterling reputation justified use of deadly force is anyone's guess. Yanez certainly did not exercise good judgment when he allowed Castile to bleed out before emergency services were called. A traffic violation should never justify capital punishment.

That Yanez “feared for his life” when he encountered Castile is what is called a post hoc rationalization for an impulsive, unjustified act of violence.

In a terrible twist of reason, logic and evidence, (Yanez defense attorney) Tom Kelly has been trying to claim that Castile was the “substantial cause of his demise.” The legacy of Castile's death will be that he died for legally carrying a gun, but had the wrong skin pigmentation to do so safely.

Thus, officer Yanez *felt* his life was “in danger” when Castile said he had a registered gun. Essentially, Yanez defenders argue that perception is reality, that if he felt threatened by Castile, he was threatened and therefore justified in using lethal force.

While Yanez might have been in fear of Castile, it does not logically follow that Castile was a threat to Yanez's life. There is no way to understand Castile's killing without taking into account its psychological, historical, social and political context.

Ultimately, Castile's death was not about his “race,” as race itself is a myth. The meaning of his death is about the willful blindness of white society to see the full humanity of people of African descent, which, in the words of James Baldwin, breeds a collective psychosis.

The rhetoric surrounding Castile's death is immoral, designed to legitimize the reign of terror visited upon African Americans over the last 400 years. The logic of Yanez's defense is that Castile “chose” his fate when he dared to exercise his Second Amendment rights.

That so many are unwilling and unable to confront the truth of Castile's death does not speak well to those who claim that we have already achieved Martin Luther King's dream of a moral community. Philando Castile most certainly was not judged by the content of his character.

While race itself is a mythic category, not so the reality of racism. ■

Michael Robin, a long time St. Anthony Park resident, can be reached at mrrubin@comcast.net

Coleman wins St. Paul City Council special election

By Aeden Evenson-McDermott

Molly Coleman wins Ward 4 seat for the St. Paul City Council.

There will not be a reallocation process as Coleman won by more than half the vote with 52% of the vote and by nearly 2,000 votes at 3,359. Carolyn Will comes in at second with 21% at 1,369 votes. Cole Hanson comes in at third with 18% at 1,124 votes. Chauntyll Allen finishes

in fourth with 9% at 552 votes. The election was held Aug. 12.

"I really just wanted to say a huge thank you to the community," Coleman said. "We've had an incredible coalition of people who believe in St. Paul and a brighter future in front of us."

On the minds of many voters were issues of affordable housing, property taxes and city infrastructure.

"A top priority for me is to build an economic just city as we can't expect folks to pay more and more when they are already stretched to their limit financially. We know we need to know that funding of critical social services that uplift our communities," Coleman said.

Coleman will serve the three remaining three years of the term of former council member Mitra Jalali, who resigned earlier this year

due to health issues. Since Jalali's resignation, her seat has been filled by interim city council member Matt Privratsky, who agreed not to run in the special election. ■

Aeden Evenson-McDermott is a University of Minnesota journalism student and a freelance writer for the Bugle.



Molly Coleman. Submitted photo.

Full closure of Highway 280 in summer 2026

By Anne Holzman



A section of Highway 280 is slated for construction closure during the spring to early fall in 2026. Map by Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The Lauderdale City Council heard a presentation on July 8 about the plan to close Highway 280 for repairs from April to October next year.

The entire stretch will be closed, except for a temporary reopening during the staging of the Minnesota State Fair.

Minnesota Department of Transportation engineer Chris Bower, a Lauderdale resident, explained that in order to prevent traffic flowing onto city streets, MnDOT will not open any stretches of the roadway until they can reopen the whole thing.

The 2026 construction work will include repairs to storm drains, bridges and pavement.

Bower said that work near the I-94 interchange will be a light repaving, since major realignment of that interchange is expected once work on that section of I-94 begins in about five years. He said the northbound off-ramp at Energy Park Drive will be realigned to improve visibility to the left at Energy Park.

Other parts of Highway 280 will be more thoroughly rebuilt. Bower said the most complex and time-consuming portion will be repairs to the bridge over the University of Minnesota transitway and the Burlington Northern rail

yard. He said work stops there every time a train passes. The U of M Transitway will close briefly to motor traffic but will remain open for bikes and pedestrians.

Cross streets will remain open while Highway 280 is closed. In 2028, MnDOT and the counties and cities will improve the street crossings along 280 for bike and pedestrian as well as motor vehicle use.

Bower acknowledged the inconvenience of multiple road projects for motorists and assured the Lauderdale council, "There is a strategy. We do think about this."

Bower said MnDOT has begun working with businesses along the highway to plan alternate routes for them. The most affected is the PACAL industrial site, which has long relied on the Broadway entrance for access to area highways. Because of a median that blocks left turns from the eastbound lanes of Broadway into PACAL, MnDOT will build a temporary truck turnaround there.

Patrons and employees of other businesses along the route will be encouraged to use established truck routes. In an interview in early August, Bower told the Bugle that county and city roads have various weight limits posted that will help guide truck traffic.

"Energy Park and Snelling are great roads designed for truck traffic," he said. "We will be encouraging businesses to use those roads."

Bower added that about 50 trees will be removed next summer in the Highway 280 construction area and won't be replaced because they've sprung up in undesirable locations.

Bower said anyone who's interested can find construction updates and contact information on the MnDOT website. There is also an email list signup for project updates.

He said neighbors concerned about traffic during construction can start by calling or emailing MnDOT, and they will assess whether city, county or state jurisdictions are involved and direct the caller to the best entity.

For MnDOT project updates visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy280stpaul-roseville/index.html. ■

Anne Holzman is a regular Bugle freelance writer who covers Falcon Heights and Lauderdale city news.

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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.

October:
Food and Drink Guide

Copy/ad deadline: Sept 10
Publication: Sept 23

November:
Copy/ad deadline: Oct. 8
Publication: Oct. 21

December
Holiday guide
Copy/ad deadline: Nov. 12
Publication: Nov. 25

Reader survey says Park Bugle still on track

By Seth Richardson

The Park Bugle continues to fulfill its mission — at least, according to readers.

A big thanks to the 325 respondents to the 2025 Park Bugle reader survey. Reader input helps the board guide the Bugle on its mission: To strengthen our community by providing local news and stories that transform readers into neighbors.

Your survey submissions helped the board understand that 81% of readers feel the Bugle is fulfilling its mission, giving us a ranking of between 8 and 10.

We also gained valuable insight into how readers consume the Bugle. Sixty-nine percent said they read between 7 and 12 issues of the Bugle a year. The front page was readers' favorite section, with 80% saying they read it always or on occasion. Events narrowly came in second with 79%.

And our website resonates with many of you. Nearly 40% of respondents said they read the Bugle on the website either primarily (23.1%) or in conjunction with the monthly print newspaper (16.4%).

More than 47% of you are between the ages of 25 and 54 while just under 47% of you are 55 and

older. Fifty-nine percent own their own home.

Your personalized feedback also helps us better understand what we got right.

"I really appreciate the stories about people in the neighborhood and their particular interests and accomplishments," read one comment. "Social cohesion is a value for our community and I think these stories support that value."

But it also provided us guidance on elements we could include in the future. Several mentioned wanting more photography and graphics. One mentioned including local gardening tips, a monthly

book club or a "tech-savvy" column to broaden our audience. Many of you wanted more coverage of crime and policing.

Still, we were thrilled that so many neighbors said the Bugle holds real importance for them.

"Even the features I don't read every issue are important to me as a part of the Bugle's community coverage," one reader said.

As always, we continue to solicit input from the community any chance we get. We will always work toward making the communities of St. Anthony Park, Como, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and the wider Twin Cities the best they can be.

Stop by one of our event booths to give us suggestions. Or reach out to editor@parkbugle.org to share your feedback.

Respondents to the survey had the chance to win a \$50 gift card to Bolé Ethiopian Cuisine. Congratulations to survey participant Ryan Power-Theisen for winning the gift card! And a big thanks again to everyone who took the time to share your feedback — your voices truly help guide the Bugle's work in the community. ■

Seth Richardson is a journalist, lives in St. Anthony Park and serves on the Park Bugle board of directors.

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Seminary history provides timely start for next SAP history series

By Mary Mergenthal

St. Anthony Park resident Kristin Anderson will present the first in a new season of her architectural history talks at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

The church plans to host Anderson's monthly presentations on the second Tuesday of each month through May.

Early in the summer, Luther Seminary announced plans to sell its campus, concluding over 120 years of operation in St. Anthony Park. Even with its long tenure, Luther was not the first seminary in the neighborhood.

That honor belongs to the Stryker Seminary, established here in the late 19th century. The most recent addition to the roster was Northwestern Seminary, which landed here in the mid-1960s



Stryker Seminary, on Doswell Avenue, west of Como Avenue. Illustration from the St. Paul city directory, 1889.

and was later merged with Luther Seminary.

There is a lot to see! We'll look at their buildings and campuses, both in St. Anthony Park and elsewhere, because (of course) there's a complicated and wide-ranging history here.

Anyone unable to attend in person can view the presentation live online, with a recording available for one week following Sept. 9. Use the SAPLC YouTube channel at bit.ly/Sap-history.

You can also get to the church's YouTube channel by clicking through from saplc.org to the worship tab, and then to the livestream link for services and other events.

All are welcome to attend — whether in person or online. Presentations remain free of charge, but organizers will be trying a tip jar to help support on-going program expenses. ■

Mary Mergenthal lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former Bugle editor.

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PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: **Leslie Everett** He's helping to develop commercial hazelnuts

By *Gwen Willems*

Leslie (Les) Everett, who has lived in Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Park for more than 30 years, has led a fascinating career in agronomy in Africa and at the University of Minnesota.

In retirement, Everett is turning his expertise toward a new passion: pioneering Midwest hazelnut crop production through a joint effort of the universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Within a few years, Midwest hazelnuts could be available.

"Planting of the first commercial demonstration farms with the clonal varieties began two years ago," Everett explained. "Nut production begins at about year four with full production by year eight. The expansion of commercial plantings will depend on how quickly the two nurseries (Gertens in Minnesota and Hausers in Wisconsin) can ramp up propagation."

"The volunteer work is rewarding, both at the end of a day in the field when you can see physical progress in that day's operations, and in the plant-breeding sense, when you see new clones that are more productive than previous varieties. It keeps me actively using skills developed over a lifetime, without the administrative burden of being a project manager."

The drawback to cultivating the two species of hazelnuts native to the upper Midwest and Canada is the small nuts they produce on bushes, he noted.

"Commercial hazelnuts are primarily a European tree species, grown in Oregon and Europe," Everett noted, "which does not survive in the upper Midwest cold and is susceptible to a fungus that is endemic here and to which the native bushes are largely resistant."

Some cross-pollinated species of European and American plants have intermediate size nuts, survive the cold winters and are resistant to the fungus.

Everett added, "The UM-UW project began in 2008 by my life partner, Lois Braun, at Minnesota and Jason Fischbach at Wisconsin, systematically evaluating existing hybrid bushes and making new crosses. The best producing bushes are cloned, further evaluated and ultimately turned over to two nurseries for production of plants for sale."

Everett's interest in agriculture began when he grew up on a farm where he and his brothers did livestock chores before and after school as well as field work in the summer and on weekends. As an

undergraduate in agriculture at Iowa State, Everett joined ROTC and after graduation, was commissioned in 1970 into the Army Medical Service Corps, where he was an administrative officer at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Everett joined the Peace Corps in 1973 to see if international agricultural development was a good fit for him. He worked for two years speaking French and Swahili in Zaire (now Congo), gaining experience in tropical agriculture and becoming acquainted with the work of international agricultural research centers.

Subsequently, Everett went to graduate school at Cornell and then the University of Minnesota, focusing on crop physiology and plant breeding.

"Major advancements were being made in agricultural research for developing countries through the work of scientists like Norman Borlaug with his wheat breeding in Mexico and others in rice breeding in the Philippines," Everett told the Bugle. "Plant breeding provides

tangible results (new varieties) that can improve lives and livelihoods."

Upon graduation in 1982, Everett began a decade of work with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), based in Nigeria and Cameroon. There he developed new corn varieties adapted to tropical growing conditions and devoted much of his time to training young Cameroonian researchers and technicians.

The last 25 years of Everett's work was as a conservation agronomist at the University of Minnesota, where he worked on projects including conservation management of tillage, fertilizer, manure and agricultural drainage.

A researcher at heart, Everett recently wrote a letter to the editor of the Minnesota Star Tribune, saying, "the current U.S. Administration's approach to research is what an African farmer would call 'eating our seed.' Those farmers know that if you eat the seed now that is needed to plant the next crop,



Leslie Everett with a hazelnut bush. *Photo by Lois Braun.*

you will starve next year. Without research investment now, there are no new discoveries in medicine, agriculture or any other sector." ■

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

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Jack's woodworking journey

By Janet Wight

Long-time St. Anthony Park resident Jack Neely has been honing his woodworking craft for the past 20 years.

It all started when he began making wooden toys for his grandchildren. Using wood from maple trees that came down at his cabin, Neely crafted dozens of pieces of toy machinery including trucks, fire engines and digging equipment.

"In some ways I made them for myself, I guess," reflected Neely. He was often asked where he found the plans for these toys.

"I never started out with plans," Jack said. "The fun is just doing it without thinking it through too much."

In more recent years, Neely has snagged curbside castoffs, (including a unicycle and scooter), and built engaging wooden figures to fit them.

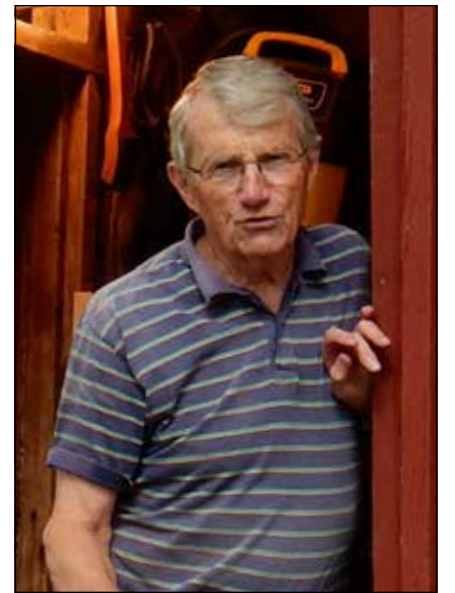
"I look at it as just a bit of whimsy. We all need a little whimsy in our lives," he said. "It doesn't take a great deal of talent."

"The process of figuring out how to make something is as important as the outcome," he added. You just have to like doing it.

A few years ago, Neely decided to design a "musical fence" for his backyard. He went to nearby Murray Middle School and asked if he could trace all of the instruments. This led to his themed fence decor



Jack Neely's da Vinci bridge. Photo by Ann Sisel.



Jack Neely. Photo by Ann Sisel.

which includes a keyboard, saxophone, violin, trumpet and a few guitars, among other instruments.

Creating tangible items is what Neely enjoys.

"I think (wood)working, like carving, painting or any craft work gives the person immediate satisfaction, and it lasts, versus pressure washing one's deck!"

Neely indulges in his woodworking hobby year-round down in his basement.

"You gotta have something to do in the cold Minnesota winters," he said. "Being in the basement, listening to Garrison Keillor 'Prairie Home Companion' tapes is a great way to spend an evening. What better retirement could there be?"

Neely has been known to source scrap wood by dumpster diving. "You cannot believe the amount

of good wood that is thrown away on construction projects," he said.

Jack's favorite woodworking tool is his 1950s bandsaw. He uses it to cut many different thicknesses of wood and also to make curved pieces.

Neely and his wife Raita have lived in St. Anthony Park since 1964 and in their current home since 1967. Originally from Nebraska, they moved to the Twin Cities in order to be close to the Shell Lake, Wisconsin, cabin they inherited from Neely's grandparents.

Prior to his retirement 30 years ago, Neely's career included stints as a juvenile probation officer, adult probation officer and school social worker.

The couple has two children and five grandchildren, all who live locally.

Looking back, Neely said he was influenced and encouraged by his Irving Junior High shop teacher. He still has a cutting board that he made in that woodshop class.



Jack Neely's musical fence. Photo by Janet Wight.

Jack's father acquired a versatile Shoptooth tool when Neely was a child, which also piqued his interest in working with wood.

Another source of inspiration has been his cousin Ann's husband, Wayne Sisel, who is also a skilled woodworker.

Jack's advice for fellow wood-

working enthusiasts is straightforward: "Do whatever makes you smile. Don't worry about other people's expectations. If it's fun for you, it's good enough." ■

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

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Langford Park upgrade to add bigger ball field, new lighting and green space

By Bill Brady

Langford Park is getting an outdoor makeover.

What were once two small baseball diamonds — so small that even the littlest of kids could swat balls over the fences onto the adjoining field — will become one larger field and a smaller “multi-use lawn.” Coupled with the pristine new tennis courts installed last year, the improvements mark a new chapter for a park that has long been at the heart of neighborhood life.

Construction on the field improvements began in early July.

“We anticipate construction to be completed this fall,” said Alice

Messer, manager of design and construction for St. Paul Parks and Recreation. “New field lighting might be a bit behind, but otherwise October is a good estimate. Fortunately, there have been no significant weather delays, just a few rainy days which is typical.”

The ball field will have new player benches, backstop fencing, athletic field lighting, a much-improved irrigation and storm water management system and a new pavement layout on the south and west sides of the Recreation Center building.

The wintertime ice rinks will remain completely unaffected by the project, ensuring uninterupt-

ed recreational use, and all the existing trees will remain in place.

The project is funded by the so-called “1% Common Cent Sales Tax,” a one-cent increase in the city sales tax approved by voters in 2023. According to the City of St. Paul website, revenue from the tax increase should generate \$1 billion over 20 years, earmarked for “improvements to the city’s regionally significant roads and nationally acclaimed parks and recreation facilities.” ■



Construction crews and earth-moving machinery are a common site at Langford Park as it undergoes a major facelift. Photo by Bill Brady.

Bill Brady is the Bugle copy editor.



Langford Park field improvements site plan. Image from stpaul.gov.



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Summer programs enhance athletics and community

By Eric Erickson

As the “fall” sports season for Minnesota high school athletes commenced on Aug. 11, one can’t help but wonder where the summer went.

For student athletes, the break between academic years is a chance to improve skills, fitness and strength, and in the case of many Como Park Cougars, to build community and give back to it.

Several programs ran camps and events as usual, while a couple of newer initiatives were implemented successfully with room for growth. From a wrestling camp to volleyball, basketball and beyond; feeder programs to connect with neighborhood youth were evident at Como Park High School and in the Como area.

Como Tennis Club – With the goal of supporting tennis in St. Paul and maximizing Como’s eight fresh, high-quality tennis courts gifted by retired teacher Kathy Dumas, athletic director Koua Yang and Como alum Matt Olson established the Como Tennis Club.

Operating in partnership with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the club provided coaching, activities and fun for three different age groups, four days a week, for six weeks.

There were 27 participants each morning in the under-10 age group and 12 players in the 10-14 age group. Afternoon sessions were



The Como Tennis Club was launched this summer on the Dumas Courts at Como Park High School. Photo submitted by Koua Yang.

for the high school kids, many of whom coached in the morning. Altogether, there were 30 high schoolers involved in the Como Tennis Club. Boys and girls from the high school group competed in matches on Thursdays against other clubs as part of the USTA Junior Team Tennis program.

The inaugural season of the Como Tennis Club was positive across all levels and is ready to host more players next summer. No youth will be turned away due to finances. Scholarships from the USTA and external sources are available.

Cougar strength and conditioning – The weight room at Como donated by the Thielen Foundation is another outstanding resource for current and future Cougars.

This was the second summer

that Como offered a strength and conditioning program, but the first featuring a full two months of access to the new equipment and renovated space.

Administered by Como parent Corey Klinge and coached by former Cougar three-sport athlete Gabe Napierala (now a University of Minnesota physical therapy major), 40 student athletes participated in lifting sessions followed by speed work and agility training on the track. That included several middle schoolers.

Several Cougar teams conducted their own workouts in the weight room, but the summer program aims to serve everybody. Athletic Director Yang explained, “This first-class space is for ALL of our students. So, we’re working on developing this resource and utilizing it with an organized program that serves our community.”

Como Ball – This was also the second summer of Como Ball, a youth baseball and softball association. Klinge spearheads this operation too, along with Cougar head baseball coach Ian Zangs.

There appears to be a resurgence of the national pastime in the neighborhood.

With levels ranging from T-ball and coach pitch for five- and six-year-olds, to a 12u (under 12) traveling softball team, to a 15-year-olds’ baseball team and everything in between, Como Ball had 170 registered participants across all its programming.

Como Ball is focused on nurturing a love for baseball and softball where youth can learn, play and grow. To fulfill that purpose, many community volunteers have stepped up to coach and umpire, including current Como Park High School players and alumni.

“We are grateful for the support and trust of our community partners and sponsors who help provide affordable, local opportunities for our youth,” Zangs said.

Soccer Stars – Coach Jonah Fields has been facilitating four summer evenings of joyful soccer in the neighborhood for over a decade.

Boys and girls from Como’s soccer teams guide young players from the community in fun, developmental and competitive soccer activities through the Soccer Stars program.

One change this year was the location. Soccer Stars partnered with the sparkling new North End Community Center on Rice Street to host sessions for 75 players across two age groups (4-7, 8-12) on the spacious turf fields.

One constant was happy kids — young ones building community and teenagers giving back to it. ■

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

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Cell phone policy in place for new school year

By Eric Erickson

Students throughout the St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) will be expected to comply with a new district policy concerning cell phone usage during the 2025-26 academic year.

While there may be slight variation in protocols among the St. Paul high school buildings and nuances among implementation methods, the goal is the same — limit distractions to improve student learning.

SPPS adopted its cell phone policy last February, as directed by a 2024 Minnesota state statute: “A school district or charter school must adopt a policy on students’ possession and use of cell phones in school by March 15, 2025.” (121A.73 School Cell Phone Policy.)

The state directive gives districts wide latitude, but educators, school boards and lawmakers point to the same challenges that have impacted student learning, including decreasing academic attainment and mental health.

Staff and leadership in SPPS have known this for years and made many attempts to curb student usage, and in some cases, dependency on their personal electronic devices. Enacting initiatives to educate students about harm and encouraging and reminding students to keep their phones turned off during classes had moderate success before the pandemic. But distance, or virtual, learning put a dent in those endeavors.

When SPPS students returned



Stock photo.

to their classrooms after a year of virtual learning, the challenges of keeping cell phones — those magical, hand-held computers and social connectors — away for an entire academic period, let alone a seven-hour school day, were overwhelming.

Many students couldn’t resist accessing their phones in class, while teachers felt incapable of enforcing a phone-free classroom. Hence, the quest for clear policy to guide students, parents and educators.

The new SPPS policy (550.00) is two pages long and covers purposes and values, definitions and, most directly for stakeholders, a general statement found in Section III:

“Personal electronic devices are not allowed during school hours. They should remain at home

or locked in lockers. If students choose to carry their personal electronic devices, they must be completely turned off and out of sight.”

That cell phone policy statement is followed by acknowledging that high schools can develop a documented plan to address areas such as lunch or between class periods. Individual schools will also need to craft their systems of enforcement.

Like any public policy, its effectiveness will depend on the effort and commitment of the implementing population and the cooperation of all stakeholders. Fortunately, there was progress throughout SPPS in the 2024-25 school year as administration responded to the Minnesota statute and anticipated the formal passage of SPPS policy.

At Como Park Senior High School, “out of sight, out of mind” was a simple expectation about cell phones that made a difference. Backed by an official district policy, Como principal Diana Brown anticipates further success.

“Establishing a clear and consistent policy has helped set expectations for students and staff, creating a more structured environment,” Brown said. “With a strong vision and thoughtful execution, I’m excited to see the benefits for students’ focused academic engagement. I believe the long-term outcomes will be even more impactful.” ■

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School and is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

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LIBRARY CORNER

Library Corner
sponsored by
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Library Association



St. Anthony Park Branch Library reopens

By Scott Carlson

After about a five-month hiatus, the St. Anthony Park Branch Library reopened to the public on Aug. 18.

The library, 2245 Como Ave., offered limited library services until the end of the month when programming and meeting rooms were expected to be available again.

The building closed in April 2025 for needed repairs and maintenance to both entrances of the facility in order to ensure its accessibility to all library users

“With work expected to be complete by the end of August, the lower-level entrance now meets accessibility standards with adequate access,” said Stacy Opitz, marketing and communications manager for the St. Paul Library. “Additionally, the water intrusion issues have been resolved, and the stairs to the main entrance have been repaired and updated.”

Rita La Doux, president of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association, hailed the library’s re-



The St. Anthony Park Branch Library recently underwent repairs and maintenance, including a new sidewalk and steps. Photos by Rita La Doux.

opening. The library association plans to celebrate the reopening with a celebration from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, she said. “The event will be a party to

mark the end of summer (back to school for those who celebrate such things), the planting of two new oak trees on the front lawn and a celebration of our commu-

nity library,” La Doux said. “We are planning a poetry slam, lawn games, treats, art projects and entertainment.

“The event will be inside in

the auditorium in case of rain,” La Doux added. ■

Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.

St. Anthony Park Library events

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

After being closed for much of the summer for repairs and maintenance, the St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., reopened to the public on Aug. 18.

Holiday closing

All St. Paul Public Libraries will be closed Sunday, Aug. 31 and Monday, Sept. 1 for the Labor Day holiday.

Special event

Party on the Library Lawn

2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, on the library lawn. Join us in celebrating the reopening of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library and the new tree plantings. A free gathering for all ages with music, a poetry slam, lawn games, art projects and treats. (If it rains, the event will move indoors.)

Ongoing programs

Familiar favorites return to the September calendar at the St. Anthony Park Library. Unless specified, registration is not necessary.

English Conversation Circle for Adults

4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25. Join the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice in the library’s lower-level auditorium. This program is designed for adults to improve their English skills through conversation. All levels of language skill are welcome.

Shake Your Sillies Out

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, Sept. 12, 19 and 26. This early childhood playtime in the library auditorium includes stories, stretching, movement and lots of fun. For children ages 5 and younger, designed to nurture a love for books and encourage new friendships. Adults must remain with their children for the entire playtime.

Adult book club

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22. Join library staff and fellow book lovers in the lower-level auditorium for conversation and refreshments.

Financial Literacy @ Your Library

2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24. Co-hosted by the St. Anthony Park Library and Sunrise Banks, this series of presentations is designed to increase financial wellness by providing information on topics such as fraud prevention, home buying, legacy planning and protecting your credit. Each presentation will focus on a different topic.

For details on the upcoming topic, visit the library or Sunrise Banks, 2300 Como Ave. Free and open to the public.

Changing Times Book Group

3 to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 27. Fall 2025 book selection: “The Message” by Ta-Nehisi Coates. In three intertwining essays, Coates explores



the urgent need to untangle ourselves from the destructive myths that shape our world — and our own souls — and to embrace the liberating power of even the most difficult truths.

This reading group is open to all and co-hosted by Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park and the St. Paul Public Library. Next meeting: Saturday, Nov. 22.

More details at TransitionASAP.org/changing-times-book-group.

Library Picks & Posts

St. Paul Public Library: SPPL on a Stick!

If you are a Minnesota State Fair foodie, you’re going to want to check out this fun blog that pairs Fair favorite foods with cookbooks available at the library.

For example, Sweet Martha’s Cookies is paired with “The Great Minnesota Cookie Book” that features award-winning recipes from the Star Tribune’s Holiday Cookie Contest.

Richie’s Cheese Curd Tacos is paired with “Truly Madly Pizza” by Suzanne Lenzer. sppl.org/blogs/post/sppl-on-a-stick.

Staff-created list: The Great Minnesota Get-Together

This Fair-themed list includes 59 histories, memoirs, cookbooks, novels and children’s books available at the library. www.sppl.bibliocommons.com/v2/list/display/2018844229/2352860639. ■

Compiled from the library website by Kathy Henderson.



St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association
invites you and your family to

Party on the Library Lawn!

—

Celebrate the SAP Library,
the planting of new oak trees,
and
turn a page on the new school year
with

Music, Games, Art Projects & Treats!
Bring a tree-themed poem to share!

—

Saturday September 20, 2-4 pm
On the Library Lawn (or inside if it rains)

—

More information can be found at sapbla.org.



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MINNESOTA NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH: New England aster

By Abby Fenton

New England aster

Latin name:
Symphyotrichum
novae-angliae

Anishinaabe name:
Wiiniziikens /
waanisikensiwang

New England aster is one of the showiest of the fall flowering asters with deep pink and purple daisy-like blooms.

When other flowers in the garden are browning into seed, the New England aster blooms like a beacon, drawing a myriad bees, butterflies and birds with the gift of late season nectar, pollen and winter seed.

This Minnesota native perennial blooms from early to late fall along with goldenrods and other asters, adding color and critical pollinator habitat in dry to wet soils. Growing up to five feet tall, the New England aster competes well with most weeds and is a resilient species in a wide range of environmental conditions.

Known as wiiniziikens, or waanisikensiwang, by the Anishinaabe people, New England aster has traditionally been used for a wide range of purposes including pain relief, fevers, and skin care. Both

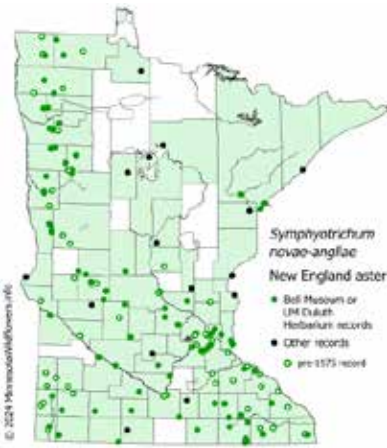
leaves and flowers are edible and can be used for soothing teas or chewed to ease discomfort caused by indigestion and stomachaches.

As backyard beekeepers, my husband and I pay close attention to the interaction between honeybees and the plants that grow in our yard and surrounding neighborhood. Honeybees typically travel one to three miles in search of nectar and pollen. The sources they find directly impact the color and flavor pallet in the honey they make.

For many years we lived in the south Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis where our honey was notably light and floral. This spring we moved to St. Anthony Park and started a new colony. It's anyone's guess what the neighborhood flavor will be! One of many contributors will certainly be the New England aster.

Not only do honeybees gravitate to this fall beauty, but the flowers attract many native flies, moths, skippers and butterflies as well, including the monarch butterfly and the endangered rusty patched bumblebee. New England aster is the larval host plant for the pearl crescent butterfly and the Canadian sonia moth.

In addition, 12 species of specialist bees require the plant's pollen for their larvae, including seven species of mining bees, two long-horn bees and three plasterer bees.



New England aster distribution. Map from minnesotawildflowers.info.

For readers who are not yet enthralled by this powerhouse pollinator plant, it is worth noting that native bees are estimated to pollinate 75% of all fruits, vegetables and nuts in the United States. Planting pollinator-friendly plants native to the local ecosystem has a far-reaching ripple effect, providing mutual benefit for plants, insects and humans alike.

For the backyard birders out there, it's important to note that New England aster also provides a critical winter food source for birds, including American goldfinches, black-capped chickadees, blue jays, dark-eyed juncos, eastern towhees, northern cardinals and white-breasted nuthatches. Seed-heads act as bird feeders on stalks, and pithy stems house protein-rich insects overwintering inside.



The New England Aster, which, despite its name, is native to Minnesota. Photo by Dawn Lamm.

New England aster seeds are easy to collect. Wait until the seed heads fully dry on the stem and the fluffy seed heads are visible. To germinate your own plants from seed, broadcast them on top of the soil in late fall, or use the winter sowing method to create a small 'milk jug' greenhouse placed in a sunny outdoor location two months before last frost.

Be patient, as many native perennials take three years to fully establish. Whatever your method, we hope you will add this fantastic perennial to your garden and watch to see who comes to visit! ■

Abby Fenton is a naturalist and seed librarian for Lake Country Montessori School. She is a volunteer with the Como Community Seed Library, board member for the MN Seed Project and co-founder of the Zinnia Collective. She lives in St. Anthony Park with her family and 10,000 honey bees.

Note: To learn about and collect native plant seeds responsibly in community, sign up for a MN SEED Project event at mnseedproject.org/events. Como Community Seed Library is a MN SEED Community Partner.



Mammoth-sized fun for Fall



Statewide Star Party

Aurora Voyage: Chasing the Northern Lights

Join thousands of star gazers across the state September 18-20 to celebrate the beauty of Minnesota's northern skies and learn more about this beloved phenomena!



Curious Allies: Exploring Relationships in Fungi, Parasites, and Carnivores

On view September 27

Join us for an exhibition about fascinating plants and the relationships that sustain them! Check out artwork of fungi, lichens, and plants submitted by artists around the world. Visitors are invited to explore their inner illustrator with opportunities to draw real specimens in the gallery.



Spotlight Science: FungiFest

September 27, 10 am - 2 pm

Spotlight Science is a regular program that shines a light on current science conducted at the University of Minnesota. Uncover the hidden world of mushrooms with the Minnesota Mycological Society when you drop by the Bell Museum for a day of fungi fun! Explore unique mushrooms, identify common edible species and more!

EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

boréal Art Loft

"Our Favorite Colors," the Art Loft's September exhibit, features paintings from 13 artists who are members of OT Artists, a studio artists' cooperative located at 106 Water St. in the FOK Studio building near Harriet Island.

Discover the favorite colors of artists Sarah Boyle Carmack, Pat Cleary, JoAnn Frekot, Katharine Gotham, Vera J. Kent, Tom McGregor, Claire Stokes and Christine Tierney. An artists' reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 2276 Como Ave.

The Art Loft is open during boréal regular hours: Monday–Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Blood drive set Sept. 2

The St. Anthony Park Community Blood Drive will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.

You can sign up online for a time to donate at redcrossblood.org and use the code SAPL. Thanks for your consideration and Happy Labor Day.

Dock and Paddle

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N. Music from 7 to 8:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted

- **The Everly Covers**, Saturday, Aug. 30.
- **Junior and the Jukes**, blues trio, Sunday, Aug. 31.
- **Legacy**, traditional Irish music, Wednesday, Sept. 3.
- **Café Accordion Orchestra**, Sunday, Sept. 7.
- **Big Woods Brass Band**, Friday, Sept. 12.
- **Riff Rangers**, Saturday, Sept. 13.

Find the full entertainment schedule online at dockandpaddle.com.

Community Sing

Join pianist, accordionist, storyteller and vocalist Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed for a sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

Next Chapter Booksellers

The following book launches and author conversations take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at 38 Snelling Ave. nextchapterbooksellers.com.

- "Abducted" by St. Paul author Patrick Barb (true crime meets the paranormal), Thursday, Aug. 26.
- "Pushing The River: An Epic Battle, a Lost History, a Near Death, and Other True Canoeing Stories" by Minneapolis author Frank Bures, Tuesday, Sept. 2.
- "Blue Earth River" author William Loving (former Minneapolis Star Tribune reporter) in conversation with James C. Nelson, Thursday, Sept. 4.
- "We Talked About New York" poetry collection from Twin Cities award-winning poet and master baker Klecko (Dan McGleno) in conversation with Patricia Hample, Sunday, Sept. 7.
- "Apostle's Cove" by William Kent Krueger, the St. Paul author of the bestselling Cork O'Connor mystery series, Monday, Sept. 8.

Women's Drum Center

Introduction to Washboard workshop led by Mikkel Beckmen from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, at 2242 University Ave. W. Discover why the washboard is the perfect percussive accompaniment for acoustic music. Learn through playing, listening and composing short percussion pieces.

Washboards provided, or bring

your own. No experience necessary. Open to all genders. \$35. Space is limited; register online at womensdrumcenter.org.

Gibbs Farm

2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. rchs.com/gibbs-farm.

Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life:

Noon to 3 p.m. on Fridays ends on Aug. 29. Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. continue Aug. 30, Sept. 6, 13 and 20, and Oct. 4, 11 and 18. Guided tours available on the hour or independently view. Admission: \$10-\$5; free for children 3 and under and members.

Apple Festival:

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. Crafts, treats, music, history and nature activities for all ages are included with regular admission. Bring your own picnic lunch or purchase refreshments from the Trickster Taco food truck, a Native family-owned mobile unit featuring frybread tacos, sides and Tricksters dessert frybread fries.

Bell Museum

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. See website for regular museum hours and registration: bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Curious Allies: Exploring relationships in fungi, parasites and carnivores runs from Sept. 27, 2025, through Jan. 4, 2026. Learn about fungi, lichens and other fascinating plants and the relationships that sustain them.

Featuring 50 artworks, the show is a collaboration between the American Society of Botanical Artists and the New York Botanical Garden. Contributing artists represent the United States, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The museum also explores how University of Minnesota scientists collaborate with artists to document new species and showcase fungi, lichens and other specimens from the Herbarium and the College of Biological Sciences Conservatory.

Hands-on activities include a weaving project and a carnivorous plant touch-and-feel game for kids. Artists of all ages can test their skills by sketching real specimens in the gallery.

Spotlight Science: FungiFest: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. Join researchers, students and special guests for conversations and hands-on experiences. Learn about Minnesota's edible and common mushrooms with the Minnesota Mycological Society. Children can build take-home fungi dioramas and make paper crowns decorated with fungi-covered logs.

"Finding Fungi," a short planetarium show by the Minnesota Mycological Society, will be presented at 11:15 a.m., noon and 12:45 p.m. Free tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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. comozooconservatory.org.

Senior Strolls: 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, and 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Special time reserved for adults ages 55+. Online registration is no longer required.

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

Fall Flower Show: Two parts: Bright candy colors featured from Sept. 19 through Oct. 19. Moody (dark colors with creamy accents) from Oct. 24 through Nov. 30. The garden will be closed Oct. 20-23 for the mid-show change.

Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors offers a variety of activities. Unless otherwise noted, registration is not required. For more information, call 651-642-9052 or email sc@sapaseniors.org.

Pound Fit: Full-body movements with drumsticks set to music. 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Limited class size. Call the office or email to register.

Walk with Ease: 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, and Thursdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 15.

Meet at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N. Call or email the office to register.

SAIL: Stay Active and Independent for Life: A fitness class for balance, strength and flexibility. 10 to 11 a.m. The next session runs Mondays, Sept. 15, 22 and 29 and Wednesday, Sept. 17 (no class on Sept. 24), at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Call the office or email to register.

Game Day: Coffee and board games: 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, and Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 2200 Hillside Ave. W.

Handiwork Group: 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Bring your own supplies and drop in to socialize with your neighbors.

Concert in the Park: "Swingin' on a Star band" 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Lauderdale Community Park, 1885 Fulham St.

Equal Portions: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Catered luncheon and presentation, "Beyond Your Home: Basic Senior Living Overview for Preparing Your Search," covering planning and understanding the current senior living landscape. \$15. Register by Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Poetry Group: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, at 2200 Hillside Ave. W.

Chanhassen Dinner Theater: "Grease": 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24. Free to attend; transportation, lunch and show included. Registration is mandatory due to limited seating. Priority given to people age 60+ in the St. Anthony Park Area Seniors service area. Email sc@sapaseniors.org to register.

Lunch Bunch: Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Socializing and BINGO. Call the office or e-mail for Zoom link.

Chair yoga: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays, Sept. 12, 19 and 26. Virtual via Zoom. Contact office to register. ■

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

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TRANSITION TOWN

This is a monthly column from Transition Town — All St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood-based group working for a local response to climate change: a smaller carbon footprint and a stronger community. Learn more about Transition Town at TransitionASAP.org.

Composting at scale: Join a tour to see how it's done

By Kathy Magnuson

In Ramsey County, 20 percent of our trash is food scraps.

There's a better option to manage this waste and keep it out of landfills. Even if you don't have a backyard compost bin, you can collect your food scraps for large-scale composting at an industrial facility.

The final product is used in gardens, landscaping and construction projects. It can help soil retain water and nutrients, support more living organisms and control erosion and stormwater runoff. Get started today!

Still: Why would anyone want to collect rotten food in their home?

Some people say yuck to that.

But many St. Anthony Park neighbors find it both easy and tidy. I asked a few of them about it.

Mary Yee said, "Every yard I've ever lived in had terrible soil, so creating plenty of compost to incorporate into the gardens was a must.... [I] have grown up in the same household as my grandparents — I learned from them not to waste anything. Now, in addition to home composting of leaves and garden debris, I take our food scraps to one of the county collection sites. All this has become second nature."

Many neighbors said they want to reduce the amount of trash going to landfills and create a final product to nourish our gardens.

"Our reasons for composting: 95% is motivated by our interest in reducing our carbon footprint (and creating) less for trash collection or recycling to haul away," said Debbie Smith. "Five percent is our interest in feeding hungry wildlife who live in our ravine."



Aerial view of the Specialized Environmental Technologies composting site in Minnetrista. Submitted photo by Specialized Environmental Technologies.

"It only makes sense to take fruit and vegetable waste... and recycle them back into the earth," wrote Rebekah Richards.

Steve Townley noted, "I generally get 10 to 15 buckets of composted soil each spring (from the county compost site) and work it into my existing soil to kick-start my garden. Last year we got over 3,000 cherry tomatoes from three plants, so I know it works!"

There are many ways to collect the food scraps. Marilyn Benson said she has "a stainless steel container, a bit larger than a gallon in size, that lives under the kitchen sink and gets emptied (into a backyard bin) most days."

Other people, like Pat McKay, keep an ice cream bucket with a

compostable bag in the freezer. Because the food scraps are frozen, there's no odor.

If you can compost in your backyard, great: there are plenty of resources.

But many people simply deliver their scraps to a Ramsey County Food Scraps Collection Site. There's one in Como Park and one in Falcon Heights, open 24 hours year-round, with free compostable bags on site. For more details, check out the sidebar "Behind the Scenes."

From these collection sites, the scraps are brought to industrial

composting facilities, where the process is completed in six months. Finished compost is made available to the public at the county's municipal yard waste sites.

On Oct. 1, join neighbors to visit one of those large-scale sites and see how it's done. Consider joining a Nov. 6 tour of the Ramsey County Environmental Center, too. See sidebar for details. ■

Kathy Magnuson lives in St. Anthony Park and loves compost. She is a former Bugle staff member and co-published the Minnesota Women's Press.

Behind the Scenes

Group tour: Specialized Environmental Technologies

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m.
4250 Creek View Circle,
Minnetrista

See how Ramsey County's food and yard waste is transformed to support environmental health in our community. Join neighbors for a 2.5-hour tour of one of the largest processors of residential food and yard waste in the Midwest. Wear sturdy shoes — gravel and possibly mud underfoot. Free. Limit 25 people.

Group tour: Ramsey County Environmental Center

Thursday, Nov. 6, 1 p.m.,
1700 Kent St., Roseville

Visit this new facility where residents can drop off household hazardous waste, electronics, recycling, food scraps, scrap metal, plastic bags and plastic film — all in one stop. (If you're driving, bring items along!)

We'll see the Product Reuse Room, where free leftover products are available first come, first served: paint, automotive fluids, household cleaners, camp stove fuel and more. Free. Must be 18 or older.

To register for either tour, contact ginnerruddy@gmail.com or kathydmagnuson@gmail.com. Please indicate if you can drive for a carpool or if you need a ride.

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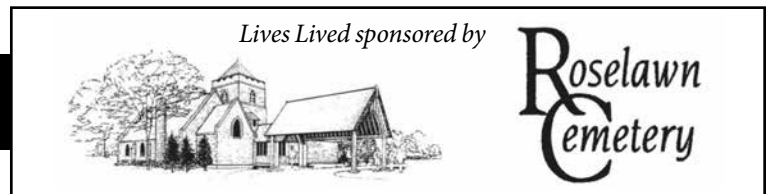
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Roger Aiken

Roger George Aiken, 92, Falcon Heights, died July 30, 2025. He was raised on a sheep farm near Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Roger chose to leave his rural roots to study electrical engineering at Canterbury University in Christchurch. After working in England and Canada, he pursued further training in mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota, where he became a passionate pioneer for renewable energy. A devoted steward of God's creation, Roger loved being outdoors.

Roger completed 53 marathons, with his last at age 80. He was a member of Emmaus Church, White Bear Lake, and faithfully participated in Bible Study Fellowship for 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; children Andrew (Jennifer), David (Emiko) and Julie (Kenneth) and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held. Memorials to Wycliffe Bible Translation or Minnesota Renewable Energy Society.



Daryl Cox

Daryl Gene Cox, 91, was born Dec. 2, 1933, and died July 22, 2025.

Daryl was born prematurely on a farm in Alpha, Minnesota, the seventh of nine children. He grew up with three brothers around the same age and had hilarious adventures. Daryl loved to relive the crazy things they did as kids.

After serving in the U.S. Army following the Korean conflict, he became a refrigeration engineer, designing cooling systems for indoor ice arenas (although he never

liked to skate). His work took him around the world. Daryl sold ice in Alaska and sand in Saudi Arabia. He built systems in Siberia, China and Australia.

He lived and raised his family in St. Anthony Park for over 40 years. In his later years, he enjoyed wintering in Mesa, Ariz. Daryl loved going for "breakfast with the guys" wherever he was.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Glenyce; son Darwin; brother-in-law Clifton Toenges; sister-in-law Colleen Politz; parents Leo and Mildred and eight brothers and sisters: Leona (Chuck) Anderson; Luella (Floyd) Johnson; Beverly (Donovan/AJ) Wyatt; Duane "Bud" (Janice) Cox; Marvin (Laurabell) Cox; Melvin (Marilyn) Cox; Marlene (Bob) Strampe and Keith Cox.

Daryl is survived by daughters Darlette (Dan) Luke; Danielle (Patrick) Steffen; three grandchildren, and two great-grandsons, as well as companion Jennifer Benson.

Funeral has been held. Memorials preferred to donor's choice.

Barbara McMahon

Barbara June (Lind) McMahon, 85, Roseville, died May 2, 2025. She was a longtime nurse at Highland Family Physicians.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harley and June Lind; and brother, Rush Lind. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Larry; children: Kevin, Brian, Becky (Mike) Ronan; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 22 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church. Memorials preferred to the Down Syndrome Center of Puget Sound or Minnesota Colorectal Cancer Research Foundation.

Peter Olin

Peter J. Olin, 87, of Falcon Heights, died June 30, 2025.

Peter was a friend and mentor to gardeners and nature-lovers across generations and throughout the world. He served as director of the renowned Minnesota Landscape Arboretum from 1984 to 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie (Eidsmoe); daughter Zubi Olin (Michael DeFalco); and brother David (Linda) Olin.

Memorial service has been held. Memorials are preferred to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum or Olivet Congregational Church.

Jane Skovholt

Jane Anna Skovholt, 76, died July 14, 2025.

Born on Valentine's Day, 1949, she grew up in St. Anthony Park, where she attended Murray High School. At Murray she was the editor of the school newspaper, played in the high school band and started her athletic career. Jane participated in every sport that was available to her at a time when equality and access in sports were very limited for women — before Title IX.

At the University of Minnesota, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees and lettered in basketball, eventually becoming a proud member of the M Club. She was a fierce competitor and played softball, volleyball, broomball, flag football, basketball, and curling throughout her life.

Jane put her heart into everything she did — whether it was playing or championing women's sports; teaching for 35 years, 28 of those at Maxfield Elementary in St. Paul; cheering for Minnesota sports teams; or being a treasured aunt who poured love and care into each niece and nephew.

Jane adored being a physical education teacher and impacted the lives of thousands of children. It was common to hear her boasting about "her kids" with care and pride in her voice.

Jane retired from teaching in 2006 and spent her time doing more of the other things she loved: gardening; spending time at her cabin up north; caring for her dog, River; cheering on her great-nieces and -nephews; and being with family and friends.

Jane is survived by her spouse, Anne Beers; brothers Glen Skovholt (Anna) and Tom Skovholt (Lisa Yost); and brother-in-law George Beers (Ann). She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Elvera Skovholt.

A service was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. Memorials can be made to the English Springer Rescue America, Midwest Region.

Jane Ann Sweeney

Jane Ann (Mortenson) Sweeney, 77, of Stillwater, died July 27, 2025. Jane was born Nov. 14, 1947. She grew up in Falcon Heights, and attended Alexander Ramsey High School.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents Al and Jo Mortenson; sister Mary Giles and brother-in-law, Jim Sweeney. Jane is survived by her husband of 53 years, Dr. John E. Sweeney; brother Tom Mortenson (Mary Ellen Becker); and in-laws, George W. Sweeney (Jim Chotas), Cynthia Kindlien (Larry Underkoffler), Bob Sweeney (Laurie), Kathleen Daniels (Frank), Jayne Sweeney (Jim), Jim Harris (Mary).

She graduated from Mankato State College with a degree in education. Jane taught for 30 years

in the Stillwater Public Schools, including many of those years at Stonebridge Elementary School.

Besides being a beloved teacher, Jane was a brilliant artist. Her keen eye for design, color and beauty not only created their lovely home, but produced many mosaics, drawings, paintings and more.

John would like to thank those who have helped and supported him during the many years of Jane's cancer journey and for the days to come. Jane was a fighter and survivor and made the most of each day.

A celebration of Jane's life will be Oct. 6 at Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center, 2800 Curve Crest Boulevard, Stillwater. Visitation is 4-5 p.m., with a short service at 5 p.m., followed by refreshments. Memorials preferred to the Mayo Clinic Development Foundation or Family Means of Stillwater.

Philip Tichenor

Phillip James Tichenor died March 12, 2025, Crosby Minn.

Phil was born on July 31, 1931, in Sparta, Wisconsin.

The son of Victor and Esther (Wegner) Tichenor, he grew up on a small farm near Sparta and graduated from Sparta High School in 1947. Following high school, he worked as a farm hand for his brother for a year, after which time he gained admission to the University of Wisconsin (Madison), graduating with a degree in rural sociology and journalism in 1951.

Philip was commissioned, through ROTC, into the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant following his graduation. He served in the Toul-Nancy region of France in a combat engineering company.

Following his tour in the army, Philip rejoined the college academic environment gaining a master's

Lives Lived to p. 17

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Lives Lived from p. 16

degree, writing and publishing agriculture-related science articles, and ultimately earning a doctorate degree from Stanford University.

Phil and Eileen Woodworth were married in Shamrock, Wisconsin, on June 16, 1956. Following the marriage, they settled in Falcon Heights, and later Shoreview.

Phil was a professor at the University of Minnesota, in both the departments of rural sociology and journalism. He published many books and articles in the fields of mass communication, public opinion, rural sociology and science writing. He also co-authored as part of a triumvirate that produced and patented the Knowledge Gap Thesis.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Eileen and second wife Joan (née Donaghy).

Phil is survived by daughter Lani (Bob) Beall; sons Terry (LeAnn) and Michael (Becky); stepsons Randall (Karen) and Jon (Rachel) Huyck, 17 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. ■

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— Emily Dickinson




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Chroma Zone from p. 1

artists, 77% by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) artists, and 50% by women/nonbinary artists.

Cadex Herrera, a multidisciplinary artist from Belize who now resides in White Bear Lake, is an arts teacher with the St. Paul Public School district who teaches traditional art disciplines such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and illustration, as well as media arts, including photography and filmmaking. He expected to have his mural completed in August.

Herrera's mural showcases Pok-a-tok, an ancient Maya ritual game played with a heavy rubber ball and involving hip, elbow and knee contact to propel the ball. It is believed to have had both sport and ritualistic significance and was to prevent war between antagonistic kingdoms. It was played by the Aztecs, the Mayans and many other Mesoamerican cultures.

"This (mural) for me is to honor my Mayan heritage and to honor our people," Herrera said.

As of now the itinerary for the mural festival is:

Thursday, Sept. 18, will have a pre-show artist meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m. before the moderated panel and Q&A session at 7 p.m. at Bang Brewing with food and beverages available for purchase.

Friday, Sept. 19, will feature an outdoor block party at 2370 W. Territorial Road with live music, a LEGO mural and art block activity with Brian Kelley, along with options to drive or walk for mural tours from 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20, will have bike and bus mural tours. The bike tours depart near Raymond Avenue and Charles Street at 9 a.m., while bus tours depart from the Creative Enterprise Zone in St. Paul from 1 to 4 p.m. Bus tours will be in English and Spanish.

Among the featured murals are those created by Mariela Ajras, an Argentine visual artist, muralist and an alum of Chroma Zone. She has explored contemporary topics over the course of her career and also examined the scope of art in public space through a gender perspective.

Ajras's "Motherhood and Migration" mural, originally done in fall of 2019, expands with two new murals called "LET HER PAINT: From Subject to Authorship—Latin American Women Muralists." This is the festival's first triptych, a type of artwork that is divided into three sections and hinged together. She completed the work for these new murals in early June at the Wycliff building in St. Paul. ■

Aeden Evenson-McDermott is a journalism student at the University of Minnesota and is a freelance writer for the Bugle.



Two new murals by Mariela Ajras extend her 2019 Motherhood and Migration mural on the Wycliff building, creating the first Chroma Zone triptych. Photo courtesy of Creative Enterprise Zone.



Cadex Herrera's Ancient Maya Ritual Pok-a-tok mural is at 807 N. Hampden Ave. Photo by Aeden Evenson-McDermott.

4th OF JULY THE FOURTH IN THE PARK

— THANK YOU FROM THE 4TH IN THE PARK COMMITTEE! —

A huge THANK YOU to our many generous neighbors and businesses that made the 78th Fourth in the Park a success this year! We would not be able to put on this event without the financial support from those named below and all the amazing volunteers that help year after year. A very special thank you to **The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation** and **Langford Park Recreation Center** as well for making this day possible. It is with sincere appreciation that we thank all individuals and organizations that contributed.

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We attempt to include the names of all who contributed to 4th in the Park.

If your name has not been included, please excuse the omission and let us know so we may properly recognize your gift. Please email 4thinthepark@gmail.com.

Carter Ave. Frame Shop marks golden anniversary

Carter Ave. Frame Shop in St. Anthony Park is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The business' roots date back to 1975 when Mark Frederickson opened the custom frame shop as a one-man operation in Milton Square. The shop officially opened on Sept. 29, 1975, in a 350-square-foot basement space tucked off a parking lot.

Growing and moving

Ten years later, Tim Smith and business partner Tom Lind purchased the business in 1985. Tim bought out his partner in 1989 and moved the store to 2278 Como Ave. for more space and greater visibility.

More staff was gradually added as the business grew. More gallery space and art were added to the larger space.

In 1994 Tim purchased the building at 2186 Como Ave., the shop's current location. The run-down, flat-roofed duplex with a billboard on top needed extensive remodeling, including a new roof structure. The work was completed



Original logo for the Carter Ave. Frame Shop.



Tim Smith is pictured outside the basement entry of the Carter Avenue Frame Shop at its original Milton Square location. Submitted photo.

by the fall, and Carter Ave. Frame Shop moved into its new location over a weekend.

Because the shop couldn't move AND change its name at the same time without risking customers, it remains Carter Ave. Frame Shop — now on Como.

Keeping it in the family

Tim's son Michael joined the business on March 2, 2016, Tim's and Michael's shared birthday. Michael became part-owner in 2017, on their birthday.

Michael became sole owner of the business in 2019, on Tim's 60th and Michael's 30th birthdays.

After surviving and thriving

during COVID-19, Carter Ave. Frame Shop continues to serve St. Anthony Park and the larger Twin Cities metro area with professional framing design and quality framing and materials.

The gallery offers a wide range of art, from original graphics to



Tim Smith (left) and son Michael Smith, current owner of the Carter Avenue Frame Shop. Submitted photo.

paintings by regional and national artists.

Michael is active in St. Anthony Park neighborhood organizations as a donor and volunteer.

"Being part of what my dad created has been a blast!," Michael said. "We didn't know if we could work together, but we got along well, and I learned a lot.

"And we still like each other,"

Michael added. "I'm thrilled to be part of this amazing community. I love being able to help people make their homes and lives more beautiful." ■

Story submitted by the Carter Ave. Frame Shop. For more information about the shop, visit carteravenueframeshop.com.

MN State Fair documentary from p. 1

day from dawn until dark, in actuality it contains footage from the 2024 and 2025 fairs shot over several days. Fischer and his team expect to spend most of 2026 editing the footage in hopes of having a finished product ready to hit the film festival circuit and possibly even a theater near you in 2027.

The film is the brainchild of Fischer and his co-producer, fellow local filmmaker Christine Delp.

"We were brainstorming ideas for observational documentaries," Fischer recalled, referring to a fly-on-the-wall filmmaking style that captures real-life events as they unfold, with minimal intervention from interviews or narration. (Think "Hoop Dreams" or "Hard Knocks.") "We were searching for a Minnesota theme, and Christine brought up the fair. I have vendor-side experience there, so I said 'Let's go!'"

Not so fast there, big guy. First they had to get permission from the State Fair to film on site.

"It took 8-to-12 months of pitching the (State Fair) leadership," Fischer said. "They needed to trust that this young, independent film crew knew what it was doing. But ultimately we got official green light."

In 2024, Fischer and his eight-person crew shot about a third of what he believes they will ultimately need, from cattle shows in the coliseum to the brightly lit midway at night.

They even captured Sunday morning Mass at the Family Fair Stage, sponsored by Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Roseville, at which Father Robert Fitzpatrick admonished attendees to "be patient" with other fair-goers that day, especially in the doughnut line.

This year, filming was scheduled for all 12 days of the Fair's run.



Film crew captures the magic of the Midway at the 2024 State Fair. Photo by Fischr Media

The result, Fischer hopes, will be enough footage to create "a selection of carefully interwoven stories showcasing the vendors, competitions and traditions that make the Minnesota State Fair intriguing and magical...to capture Midwestern culture as high art."

Fischer needs to accomplish all of his project's work on a modest \$50,000 budget, most of which is being raised privately by the film's fiscal sponsor, FilmNorth, a non-profit dedicated to "empowering artists to tell their stories and sustain successful careers."

To learn more about "The Fair" and donate to the project, go to thefairdocumentary.com. ■

Bill Brady is copy editor and occasional contributor to the Bugle.

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New scoop in south St. Anthony Park

Sarah CR Clark

Parkview Ice Cream Shop, 898 Raymond Ave., planned to greet its first customers in mid-August.

At the Bugle's latest press deadline, owner Andy McNattin was putting finishing touches on the shop.

McNattin is also a licensed contractor whose home improvement business, Homemasters, has done steady work throughout the Bugle's neighborhoods for 15 years.

With that experience, McNattin has spent the last couple of years transforming Parkview's building from a hair salon into space for an ice cream shop.

"Ice cream really suits this space," McNattin said. "It's a small space without a full commercial kitchen. And there are not a lot of ice cream shops nearby."

Born and raised in St. Paul and Roseville, McNattin remembers the Parkview Cafe (once located where the Hampden Park Co-Op is now).

"The name is an homage to the cafe," McNattin explained. "It was a truck stop and my dad was a truck driver. My family would meet him there sometimes for breakfast when he was working."

Hampden Park also happens to be visible just across the street from the shop. "The park is right there! You can just walk across the street to sit with your ice cream," Mc-



Parkview Ice Cream Shop owner Andy McNattin prepares to open his Raymond Ave shop in September. Photo by Ben Lancette.

Nattin noted. "Which I really like, because if you look around at other ice cream shops, their options for outdoor seating are limited to sidewalks."

McNattin hopes Parkview's lo-

cation will invite connections to other local businesses, like Bang Brewing Company.

"I can totally see someone grabbing a pint from Parkview and walking over to Bang to enjoy a



Parkview Ice Cream Shop is scheduled to open in September in south St. Anthony Park. Photo courtesy of Andy McNattin.

beer and ice cream. South St. Anthony Park has a lot going on and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Parkview will sell Minnesota-made Bridgeman's ice cream, another significant connection to McNattin and the neighborhood.

"The Finnish Bistro used to be a Bridgeman's, which I remember — even when I didn't live in the neighborhood — because I had friends here. It's good, chunky ice cream with lots of flavors.

"I'm planning to keep it simple for now. As we get more experience and figure things out, there will be ways to expand."

McNattin said he is also excited to share the experience of running an ice cream shop with his daughters, who will be in 11th and 9th grades at Central High School.

While Parkview will offer all the

standard favorites, McNattin also intends to serve black licorice ice cream, which he promises is "surprisingly delicious," as well as the brightly blue hued, kid-favorite Superman flavor.

McNattin said he expects the ice cream shop will be a respite during the dog days of summer.

"Some evening when it's hot and maybe you're done with whatever work you've been doing, someone in your house might say, 'Let's walk over to get some ice cream!'" McNattin said. "Parkview will be there, ready for you."

Updates on hours, flavors and more are available on Instagram, @parkviewicecream. ■

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

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